

NEWSLETTER 313 June 2017

Date for your diary

11 July The Society is organising a trip to the Brighton Little Theatre to see 'She Stoops to Conquer' on Tuesday July 11th at 7.45pm. The play, by Oliver Goldsmith, is described as "uproariously funny".

Tickets are £10.00. Send a cheque (payable to Regency Square Area Society) or cash to:
Nicola Floyd, 1 Queensbury Mews by Monday 20 June.
Non-members welcome.

A committee member will host a short pre-performance drinks party in their home - but book soon as there will be only four performances at the Little Theatre.

Support "Regency Square 200"

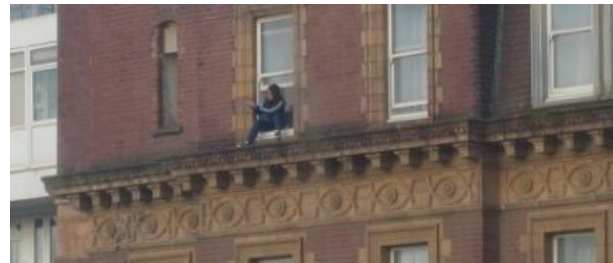
Two members of the Society are busy beavering away at putting together a commemorative book on the 200 years of Regency Square. How can you help?

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(a) Can you lend any memorabilia or chat to one of the authors about your memories of the square?

(b) The Society will be self-publishing the book. The organisers will, of course, be seeking funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources. But you can help by contributing to the new Bicentenary Fund set up by the Society. Any contributions should be sent to our Treasurer, Nicola Floyd (details in box overleaf).

People do the darndest things



A guest at a well-known local hotel took a room on the sixth floor. She decided that she wanted some fresh air. She perched on the windowsill - thus causing the resident who took this photo to have palpitations in case the woman fell. The General Manager of the hotel was alerted and responded promptly!

The woman in the photograph was a risk only to herself. Alas, motorcyclists are daily endangering the health and safety of all members of the public who use the lower green of Regency Square.



Recently, a gaggle of motorcyclists, finding a van blocking their (illegal) access onto the garden, decided that it was quite OK to drive between the bushes and across the grass to get to their (illegal) parking space.

Planning applications

9 Clarence Gardens (The Little Theatre): Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey rear extension and first floor front extension with revised access.

It is good to note that the Little Theatre is thriving. The Committee of the Society have two concerns:
(a) the windows proposed on the south of the building will project and be very close to the rear windows of 7 Castle Mews;

b) in the application, a proposed "directors box" appears to extend above the parapet of the facade in Clarence Gardens. This could cause both intrusive overlooking into houses in the Gardens and a considerable amount of additional light from the box when in use.

23A Preston Street: Construction of an additional storey to create two additional bedrooms. Erection of a second and third floor rear extension.

In both Preston Street and Little Preston Street, this would give an acceptable stepped effect down from the four storey building to the north and the two storey building to the south.

60 Western Road (corner of Castle Street) Change of use of 1st and 2nd floors from retail to one 1-bed flat and two 2-bed flats with extension at second floor level.

The frontage on Western Road would remain virtually unaltered. However, the frontage on Castle Street will be increased in height and may look overwhelming.

135-6 Kings Road (West Beach Hotel): Erection of a single storey extension at fourth floor to provide eleven additional bedrooms.

All four applications have been discussed in detail by the Conservation Advisory Group who are experts in such matters and have advised the council accordingly.

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Enforcement requests

22, 23 and 25 Regency Square: You've seen the dangerous-looking balcony propped up by a jack at No. 22, you've seen the dilapidated state of No. 23 and you've seen the incorrect colour of the window frames in No. 25.

The Society has requested that the City Council enforce the correct maintenance of these building which are an eyesore. In that top corner of the square, matters had been improving.

The owner of No. 20 has recently put a great deal of effort into making his property look spruce and an asset to the Square. Even No 21 (67 Preston Street) is no longer the derelict property it used to be.

In fairness to those property owners who make every effort to enhance the square, the Society looks to the City Council to enforce the rules that it imposes.

Imagine the surprise of the Society on being told that there was already an enforcement order against the white window frames of No. 25. And the date of that order? September 2014. The Council has simply not been able to do something as simple as to get a property owner to respect the Article 4 Direction which all the rest of us have to respect.

Floodlighting in Regency Square: The Society has reminded the planning department that the Council itself has already clearly established that floodlighting in Regency Square should be both of a neutral colour and subdued.

Society Contacts

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Art, Graffiti or Advertising?

ART+BELIEVE is a team of artists who "paint large scale bright, colourful, geometric murals to bring forgotten communal spaces to life". Is the top of Bedford Towers a "forgotten community space"?

. How does this sit against the Regency and Victorian terraces at the top of the image below?



Ground-based mortals can just about see the lettering. Is this advertising on a grand scale. If so, it needs planning permission - which it does not have.



Are your plants hungry?

Remember there are two compost bins in the north gardens of Regency Square? The compost in the one unlocked bin is of very good quality and free to anyone who wishes to go along with their bucket and spade. No need to join the composting scheme, but if you want to do so or want more information, contact Gill Wales: gillwales@virginmedia.com

Quaint corner / urban clutter?

There were some hopes that the chairs and tables in the twitten between Russell and Regency Square would deter cyclists. Alas, this was not the case last week when a cyclist, riding the wrong way along the south of Russell Square, decided it was too much effort even to slow down.

He mounted the pavement at the entrance to the twitten at speed, narrowly missing one of our neighbours, who was walking through the twitten with a stick at the time.



Share your thoughts with the Society via the Facebook page or the website: www.regencybrighton.com