



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 315  
September 2017

### Date for your diary

**3 October at 7pm for 7.30 pm**

RSAS Quiz night at the Hotel Una at 7pm for 7.30pm

???

How well do you know our area? Come along and test yourself against some very local questions. Come alone or in a group. If your team wins, the prizes are TINY, but your pride will be ENORMOUS.

Bar 55 at the Hotel Una will be open throughout the quiz.

### Support the "Regency Square 200" publication

While we are on the matter of quizzes, do you know...

- how a schoolmaster managed to start developing Regency Square in 1818?
- the connection between Welsh coal and Regency Square?
- who was the most famous person to live in the square?
- what dire crimes were perpetrated in its houses?
- What's missing from the b/w photo in the next column?

???

Answers to all these questions and many, many more will appear in the illustrated book now being researched and written by two long-standing residents of the square.



If you would like to have your name listed in the book as a 'Subscriber', just send a minimum donation of £10.00 to 'RSAS Bicentenary Fund' (cheque or cash) to Treasurer, Nicola Floyd, 1 Queensbury Mews.

The fund already stands at £150.00. All Subscribers will receive one free copy of the book on publication in August 2018.

### Tai-chi heaven

A warm September day. Perfect for having a Tai-chi lesson in Regency Square.



### Not so perfect in Clarence Square

Anti-social behaviour continues to blight Clarence Square despite the efforts of a stalwart of the square, Nigel Massey, and several other residents, supported by council officer, Simon Bannister. The locks on the gates supplied by the council are consistently and deliberately broken – by the same youth. His identity is known, but the police are unable to act without a very high level of concrete evidence. (photos etc) from witnesses.

The neglected state of the back entrances of the shops in Western Road seems to encourage other forms of anti-social behaviour. Gangs of youths match their behaviour to the state of the buildings. Heavy drinking and drug taking / dealing is common on the rear steps of the shops. This is accompanied by a high level of noise nuisance

The Council are finally about to install permanent signage restricting the opening hours of the park space to 9am to 6pm. However, volunteer residents who lock up in the evening are regularly harassed and abused while asking people to leave to allow the volunteers to lock up.

There is much that Society members can do:

1. If you see any signs of anti-social behaviour please, to support the residents of Clarence Square, contact the police immediately (☎101 for non-urgent, ☎999 if you believe a crime is being committed).

Even if police do not attend, the incident has to be logged by them. The more incidents that are logged, the more likely it is that police will become proactive to improve the situation.

2. Support any planning applications which plan to bring more residential property into existence above and behind the Western Road shops. This should make the square look more 'lived in' and less appealing to vandals, fly tippers and people littering (and worse).

Living in the city centre is a joy for most of us, but a few youths can turn that joy in to nightmare in some parts of our area.

## i360 Security Shelter

The Society has received the following letter from Julia Barfield, joint architect of the i360:

“I write in response to your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> August in which you highlight your concerns regarding the installation of the security canopy and green screen arrangements.

“Can I begin by saying that the Society’s support for the i360 project has been of great comfort to Marks Barfield since the early days of the project in 2005-6 to the current day.

“For clarity, it is worth re-counting a brief background history of this element of the project. In 2006, we were consented approval for two security canopies at the upper esplanade level to service each of the re-constructed Toll Booths in addition to a continuous glazed canopy which covered the queuing area.

“At that stage of the project it was envisaged that customers would be boarded through both Toll Booths with one catering for groups and VIP ticket buyers and the other for general ticketing.

“However, during 2014 the operational plan was firmed up and it was determined that all passengers would be boarded through the west Toll Booth only. At the same time, it was decided to utilise the eastern Toll Booth, and the boarding platform area to the south of it, for commercial use as a Tea Room.

“Therein the second canopy and queuing area had no purpose and we rightly decided to remove them from the building footprint.

“With regard to your comment regarding the ad hoc measures being put in place to provide the green screen can I say we wholeheartedly agree with your observations and re-assure you **that we are in the process of implementing a more fitting and permanent solution which will complement the Toll Booth.**”

Ms Barfield is correct in stating that there were originally two security canopies marked on the 2006 plans. These were of a simple, elegant ‘butterfly’ design. However, as late as October 2015 Ian Crockford, a director of Marks Barfield, wrote a very brief letter to the planning officer. This letter stated:

“I also attached the revised drawings for the security canopy as discussed which replaces the glazed roof version submitted. The canopy is a simple structure formed with louvred roof supported on 4no. columns the finishes in polyester powder coated aluminium cladding.”

Despite two objections from the Regency Square Area Society in January 2017, this amendment was approved by the city council.

Given the huge number of conditions imposed upon the i360 relating to colour schemes, materials and heritage impact, it still seems that the i360 has spoiled the ship for a halfpenny of tar.

The only good news is that the detested green screen might soon disappear.

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### Mary Hunter joins Society Committee

The Committee is delighted to report that Mary Hunter of Regency Square has agreed to be co-opted to the Society committee.

## Planning

**Sussex Heights:** Permission has been granted for the building to be rendered. The council planning website shows that there were 11 objections but 16 expressions of support for the plans from the public. There were two ‘general’ comments.

Former HMV shop in **Western Road / Castle Street:** The building is looking very derelict. Despite the fact that the developers had applied to convert the building to 9 flats in August 2016, they have only just received planning permission. Let’s hope that development work starts soon.

## New gallery

Congratulations to former Society committee member Nigel Rose on the opening of his new gallery. The gallery is located in the Arches to the east of the i360. Nigel is selling work from 20 Brighton postcode artists and his antiques/artefacts. Do have a look at the website <http://www.nigelrosegallery.com/> or even better, pop down to the gallery and have a look. Nigel will make you very welcome.



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