



## NEWSLETTER 317 December 2017

### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 at the Regency Restaurant



Our traditional Communal Breakfast at the Regency Restaurant is the best opportunity of the year to come along and get to know the Committee and our neighbours.

**10 am.** Just walk in and say 'hello' to everyone sitting at the central table. Order your breakfast ... or just coffee, chat, pay your own bill at the end. It's easy. It's fun.

### Society AGM: 19 March 2018

Slightly more formal – but still a good way to meet the neighbours. More information nearer the time.

### Bench

Where's that bench from Regency Square gone? Rest assured, it is in good hands. The Society has commissioned the City Council to refurbish the bench at a cost of just over £500. In effect, there will be a brand-new bench (normal cost in excess of £1,000) in the garden within a few months.

### Congratulations



Society Committee member Paula Brookes and her partner Steve recently enjoyed a fantastic humanist celebration in Greece. Their friend and Celebrant Monica Flynn led the ceremony. Pavlos Faroupos and his wife Eleni Kriyitou, best man and best lady (or the *Koumbari* in the Greek tradition) hosted the ceremony and sunsequent party at their cafe with Greek wine, food, music and dancing. The Society sends Paula and Steve all best wishes.

### Society Contacts

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### Society meeting with PCSO Tom Appleby

At the Society Committee meeting on 4 December, Sgt Chris Durrant and PCSO Tom Appleby listened carefully to concerns raised by members: namely tents; drug dealing; general anti-social behaviour.

Most police intervention is now reactive to information received. Sgt Durrant stressed that if we witness a crime in progress, it is vital to phone 999. If the crime has been seen but is over, contact 101, either by e-mail or by phone.

For members of the Society who do not wish to contact the police directly, Sgt Durrant recommended keeping a diary of what has been seen. Members can pass the diary to any member of the Society's Committee who will ensure it reaches the police.

Below is an outline e-mail that members can use to send to [101@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

*"At (time) today in (where the incident happened) I saw (description of the person you saw) (say what you saw).*

That is all that is needed – but we must keep up the flow of information to the police to help protect our area and to support the police in doing their job.

Please contact any members of the Committee if you would like help with reporting crime.

### Harm spots

Sgt Durrant outlined a 6-month police trial of 'Harm spots'. A police officer will be posted at any identified crime 'Harm Spot' for between 12 and 15 minutes, three times per day. Research has shown that this significantly reduces crime in that area. Stone Street had been identified as such a 'spot'.

If you see a very cold PCSO or officer lurking, say hello, have a chat. All communication with the police is useful.

## Tents in public gardens

At long last, the large tent in Regency Square has gone. The Society has complained about this particular tent as has our Ward Councillor Tom Druitt and other local residents and businesses. It seemed to take the City Council a very long time to act according to their own guidelines. On 1 January 2017 the following became prohibited in parks and public gardens / spaces:

- Occupying any vehicle, caravan, tent or other structure
- Driving any vehicle on grass
- Littering or fly tipping
- Lighting or maintaining a fire
- Defecating or urinating

This prohibition relates to most city parks and the seafront. The three squares in our area seem to be excluded. However, there is a blanket by-law which states: 'Erecting tents without permission is against local bylaws'.

The City Council is, like the police, overstretched. Council officers and will respond only to multiple complaints. If you have any concerns about the green spaces in our area, please contact City Parks who are responsible for these:

<https://tinyurl.com/v9conxgi> or phone 01273 292929

Although the police will assist the city council in moving on rough sleepers, it is not a police matter, so it is best not to contact the police directly. You can always pass on your concerns to any Committee member of the Society.

## Planning

**51 Regency Square:** Erection of a three storey two-bedroom single dwelling to the rear (ie facing Queensbury Mews and with opaque windows facing onto Regency Square opposite Nos 40-43).

The Society is keen to encourage the creation of new homes (eg. new flats in Clarence Square), but has objected to this development on the following grounds:

- the plans involve punching a new door through the original 19<sup>th</sup> century brick garden wall on the north boundary. Our area is gradually losing its 19<sup>th</sup> century character. This would be a sad blow for Regency Square;
- The new building will overpower the junction of Queensbury Mews and Regency Square, creating a very cramped feel to the pedestrian entrance to the Square;
- the design is unsympathetic to the 19<sup>th</sup> buildings to the west, east and north of it.

## Composting

Following the success of the newly positioned composting bins in Regency Square, the bins are filling quickly. Bins come only in pairs, so two new ones are needed. As there are residents in Russell and Clarence Squares who keen to recycle their vegetable kitchen waste, it is suggested that the two new bins are placed in the Russell Square Gardens. Please let us have your thoughts on this.

If you would like to join the scheme, or if you would like to take some compost for your garden or pot plants, please contact Gill Wales : [gillwales@virginmedia.com](mailto:gillwales@virginmedia.com)



## Regency Square Centenary Book

The Regency Square Centenary Fund has now reached £210.00. Subscribers to the fund who contribute £10.00 or more will receive one free copy of the book on publication in August 2018 and have their name listed in the book. Please make cheques payable to "Bicentenary Fund". Cheques or cash to Nicola Floyd, Treasurer, RSAS, 1 Queensbury Mews, BN1 2FE

What will the book contain?

- several colour plates of images relating to the square;
- black and white historic pictures of the square;
- original information about the building of the houses;
- details of who lived where (perhaps there's the ghost of someone famous in your house);
- the fictional diary of a lady's maid based on 1821 newspapers and documents.

## Thanks to MailBoxes etc

MBE in Western Road have generously supported the Society throughout the year by setting and printing this newsletter free of charge. Many thanks to the Manager and staff at MBE.

## And Thank You to our members

The Society exists only because of its members. Without your continued support, the Society would not be able to do all the work that has been listed above. The Committee wishes all Society members and friends a happy

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