



NEWSLETTER 320 April 2018

Society AGM: 19 March 2018

In addition to the three committee members whose details are in the box below, the following were elected to the committee of the Society. Thanks to all of them for agreeing to support the Society so actively:

Ros Boulden (Kings Road)
Paula Brookes (Stone Street)
Mary Hunter (Regency Square)
Julie Wright (Stone Street)

Society Contacts

Chair: Diana Dunn

✉ dianafdunn@googlemail.com

Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 07833 527270

✉ nicola.floyd@yahoo.com

Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 01273 321794

✉ s@hinton.clara.net

Website: www.regencybrighton.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/regencybrighton/>

A very warm thank you to all those businesses who donated prizes for the very successful raffle:

Artists' Residence (Regency Square)
BA i360 (Kings Road)
Brighton House Hotel (Regency Square)
Hotel Pelirocco (Regency Square)
Hotel Una (Regency Square)
Regency Restaurant (Kings Road)
Regency Tavern (Russell Square)
Scandecor (Castle Street)
Waitrose (Western Road)
YoYo Hair Designs, (Preston Street)

The talk given by Steve Bax, Managing Director of the Bai360 company was informative and entertaining. Steve himself described the BAi360 as a Marmite attraction as you either love it or hate it. Either way, we all have an interest in the success of the venture as this area does not want another derelict structure on its doorstep

It was good, therefore, to hear that despite the unfortunate breakdown in March 2017, customer numbers are back on track. Steve wants to put much more activity in the wasteland that is the upper deck and, in answer to a question from a Society member, he reported that plans are underway to put a final at the top of the tower. Many of us have commented that the tower looks far too much like a chimney.

Steve confirmed that the floodlighting of the West Pier island site was turned off when it was discovered that the starlings were distressed by it. Ironically, that same lighting was much appreciated by the seagulls who settled in large numbers on the site. The lighting will be turned back on when murmurations have ended for the year.

Keep an eye on the BA i360 website for the events being planned for 2018:

<http://britishairwaysi360.com/latest-news/>

Last chance to become a subscriber

After nine months of painstaking research at The Keep, of trawling through the Newspaper Archive and of chasing down copyright permissions, the co-authors of the Bicentenary book have finally sent their text to the printers.

If you wish to subscribe to the book and have your name listed in it, please send £10.00 (and preferably more) to the Society's Treasurer (1 Queensbury Mews) by Tuesday 1 May. Cheques payable to "Bicentenary Fund". Subscribers will receive one free copy of the book.

The cover price of the book after September will be £12.95.

We are delighted that our very own ward councillor, Alex Phillips, in her capacity as Deputy Mayor, has agreed to be our guest of honour at the launch event at 11am on Saturday 22 September.

You can step safely but ...

Following a meeting between Paul Campbell of the City Council and the Society's Secretary, the steps and 'round point' in the Regency Square gardens were soon repaired. Unfortunately, the mortar used was of a very light colour, so although we are now all safe, the aesthetic effect leaves a lot to be desired.

Happy campers

The Society has contacted the City Council and two charities that deal with rough sleepers to request that the tent that has been in Regency Square for over two weeks and its occupants be moved on. We were assured on 9 April that "that this will happen, though it is likely to be in the second half of the week.". Watch that space.

Lock up your ... motorbike

In an attempt to stop motorcyclist driving across the south green of Regency Square so that they can lock their bikes to the railings, the Society has asked the council to fit locking points to the motorcycle bay outside Abbots.

'King Charles III'



No, the queen has not yet died. Mike Bartlett's controversial and critically acclaimed play will be on at the Little Theatre and the Society has organised a visit on

Tuesday 8 May

The play starts at 7.45pm but you are also invited to have a drink at the home of a committee member beforehand. To book, send a cheque (Payable to Regency Square Area Society) for £11.00 (includes pre-performance drink) to Diana Dunn, 5, Clarence Gardens.

Book by Saturday 21 April as tickets are selling fast.

Another Theatre Date

The Society is also organising a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Theatre Royal in New Road on

Saturday 2 June at 11.30 am



To book, send a cheque (Payable to Regency Square Area Society) for £7.50 to Diana Dunn (5 Clarence Gardens) by Saturday 6 May.

UPVC or not to UPVC

A house in Clarence Square has just been refused (on appeal) permission to install UPVC windows, although several other properties in Brighton which are in conservation areas have been given permission to install them. The Society was one of the objectors.

The argument has been that UPVC can now replicate perfectly 19th century designs and is therefore indistinguishable from original designs. UPVC is a great boon as it can easily accommodate double glazing and usually fits very snugly. Saving on heating can be significant.

On the other hand, there are two major drawbacks to the use of UPVC: firstly, it still tends to yellow after several years and dirt penetrates deep into the plastic – they are efficient for far longer than they look good; secondly, UPVC is a plastic and not biodegradable as wood is. They are a long-term environmental hazard.

Do let the Committee know if you are pro- or anti- UPVC in our area. This will inform our reactions to planning applications.

Planning

58 Preston Street: A part-retrospective planning application has been submitted to improve this property. That is the good news. The bad news is that the restaurant wants to create outdoor storage space at first-floor level. This would directly overlook properties in Stone Street.

More worrying is that the applicants are claiming that a huge new vent at the back of the property is a 'replacement'. A photograph taken of the rear of the building in December 2016 shows no sign of a previous vent and no planning permission has been given for any previous vent in the last 21 years. The Society is therefore objecting to the application on the grounds of overlooking and of nuisance from the new vent (smell etc).

BAi360: 'Erection of a free-standing wall underneath existing security canopy to provide a green screen backdrop for photocapture concessionaire.'

In August 2017, the Society wrote to Julia Barfield criticising the security shelter. Julia Barfield's reply is printed in Society Newsletter 316 – see the Society's website. Now the BAI360 want to add a semi-permanent wall to the back of the shelter, further detracting from the MarksBarfield's fine restoration of the two toll booths.

Both the Regency Society and the Regency Square Area Society have objected to this application.

Regeneration of Regency Square?



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As reported in the February, (Newsletter 318), several members of the Society had met with Mr Nick Hibberd in February. Mr Hibberd had reassured the Society that the Regeneration Partnership would receive funds to improve the gardens (see Newsletter 219).

The City Council has not yet confirmed that any funds will be paid to the Regeneration Partnership.