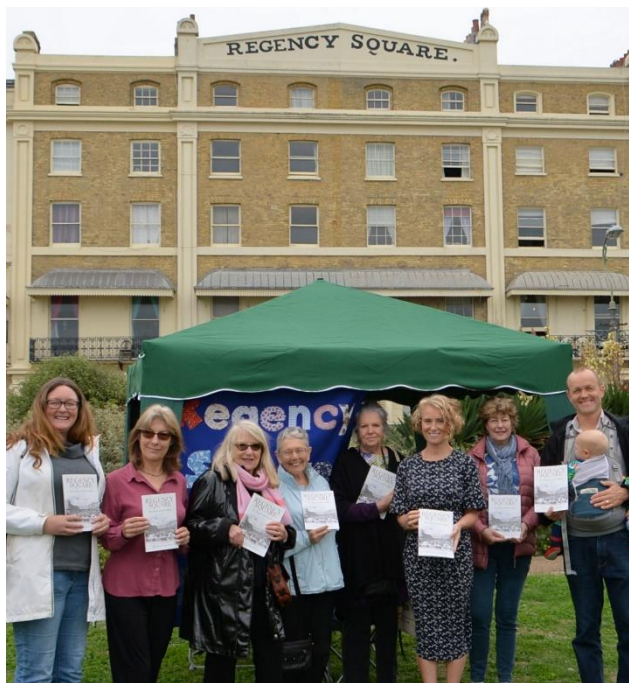


**NEWSLETTER 324
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Happy Birthday, Regency Square



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(1 to r) Nicola Floyd, Gill Wales, Diana Dunn, Suzanne Hinton, Ros Boulden Cllr Alex Phillips, Julie Wright, Cllr Tom Druitt and Raphael launch the Bicentenary Book

Launch Day Thanks to ...

- Cllr Alex Phillips who officially launched the book;



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- Julie, Mike and Rory Wright for fantastic catering;



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(1 to r) Suzanne Hinton, Cllr Alex Phillips, Gill Wales

- Simon Bannister of B+H City Council for supplying and erecting the large gazebo;
- Roger Hinton for organising the music;
- Tony Mould, official photographer of the My Brighton and Hove website who took all the photos;
- Mary Hunter for staffing the bookstall;
- Ros Boulden for funding publicity materials;



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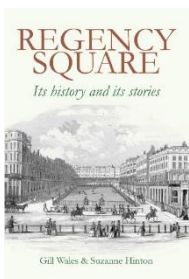
Co-authors Suzanne Hinton and Gill Wales with Society Chair, Diana Dunn, admire Regency Square

- And most important of all, thank you to everyone who came to support the event on a grey, drizzly day;



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Young Raphael (son of Cllr Druitt and Cllr Phillips) takes his mother's official duties all in his stride.



Of the 500 copies printed, over 130 have been sold or distributed to shops. To get your copy (£10.00 for Society members) contact Suzanne Hinton (see panel in next column). An excellent Christmas present – or tell your friends that the book is available in City Books, Amazon and by order from Waterstones.

Theatre outing

Tuesday 11 December at 7.30pm. Book early for a Society visit to the Little Theatre to see an adult-friendly version of

Grimms Tales

Please contact Suzanne Hinton (details in next column) for details. £10.00 per person (includes pre-theatre drinks at the home of a committee member). All welcome

The Society's Secretary on the tele

Society Secretary and co-author of "Regency Square, its history and its stories" was invited to appear on Latest TV. Watch the interview with Andrew Kay on: <https://thelatest.co.uk/brighton/2018/09/19/regency-squares-unknown-history/>



In her interview, Suzanne stressed that local property owners were investing large amounts of money to maintain and even improve the appearance of the iconic Regency buildings in the three local squares. The council, on the other, hand is seriously neglecting the public realm, be it the pavements (more next month) or the historic gardens.

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Planning

57 Regency Square (Keehan's Hotel): The Society had objected to an application for a Lawful Development Certificate to convert the property into three self-contained flats at basement and ground floor level, and a large twenty-bedroom HMO. If granted, this Certificate would have allowed a change of use with no further planning application.

The application for the Certificate has been refused.

Over the last few years, there have been concerns locally that, if this property were turned into a hostel (ie. 20 room HMO) similar to the properties used by the West Pier Project on the west of the square, anti-social behaviour problems might arise.

Since 2005, the Society has been prompting the Council to inspect 57 Regency Square from time to time. The Council has always confirmed that the property is being run as an hotel – albeit now housing homeless people.

The Committee's reason for making the objection to the granting of a certificate is this: there have been cases in the area where a hotel is either struggling to make ends meet or the owner wishes to retire but cannot sell the hotel as a going concern.

These 'legitimate' hotel owners have to submit a full change of use application. Such applications are rarely granted. It would seem only fair that the owner of 57 Regency Square should follow the same legal process as their neighbours.

