



NEWSLETTER 339 SPRING 2020

The RSAS 40th AGM



The Committee were really sad not to be able to hold our 40th AGM on 31st March. The AGM is usually a great evening where we get lots of helpful feedback from our members about priorities for the upcoming year, and is an opportunity for everyone to meet up with neighbours and friends. We also usually hold a raffle with amazing prizes from our local businesses – and we are pleased to say that all of the businesses have said we can roll over their donated prizes until we can hold the raffle.

Given the very unusual circumstances, for now we are going to move forward as if the AGM took place

and you all voted in the Committee for another year of work. So, here is your current Committee, what each of us specialises in on the committee, and the street we live on:

- Diana Dunn – Chairperson (Clarence Gardens)
- Julie Wright – Secretary (Stone Street)
- Nicola Floyd – Treasurer (Queensbury Mews)
- Mary Hunter – Business liaison, Events and Marketing (Regency Square)
- Mike Davies – Planning and Conservation (Stone Street)
- Annabel Watson – Social Secretary and Events (Clarence Square)
- Nigel Massey – Clarence Square liaison and planning (Clarence Square)

As always, you can contact any member of the Committee about any issues you are facing and we will do our best to help.

RSAS COVID-19 Community Initiative

Thank you to all those who have responded to our initiative putting helpers in touch with those needing help during these exceptionally challenging times.

We have already been busy matching those in need in our community to those able to give help. One of our big success stories is helping a 76 year old gentleman with respiratory problems, who lives alone. His only other potential carer is his niece, who lives in London and is a consultant respiratory physician on the front line. We are delighted that one of our volunteers is now making sure he gets food delivered regularly.

So remember:

If you need help? With basic shopping, pharmacy collection, dog-walking etc.

OR

Can provide help? To those RSAS members who need it

Then please email us at rsascommunity@gmail.com or phone Mike Davies and Julie Wright on 01273 028787.

For more information about this initiative, please see our website.

Annual fees: every little helps...



In these very difficult times, we feel it is important that we all do our bit to help, and the RSAS Committee has been trying to find ways to help our members and the local community. Therefore, the Committee has taken the decision **to suspend RSAS subscription fees** for this year. We will roll forward everyone's RSAS membership free of charge until March 2021.

We know in the grand scheme of things the RSAS fees are small, but right now we have no doubt that you can find a more important use for that money.

For those who have already paid their membership fees for 2020/21, we can roll forward your membership until March 2022 or repay your fees –

just let us know what you would like to do either via email or call Nicola (07833 527270) or Julie (07837 520911)

We also want to make sure we can reach out and support as many people in the local community as possible in these difficult times. Therefore, **we are offering a year's free membership** to anyone living in the area who wants to join RSAS. If you know of anyone who would like to join, please pass along this offer and ask them to contact any member of the Committee.

Our Community responds

We all know that the area we live in is pretty amazing!



But thank you and well done to all who have joined in recently with the "CLAP FOR NHS WORKERS AND OTHER KEY

WORKERS" each Thursday evening at 8pm. We have had feedback from neighbours working at the Royal Sussex County Hospital that the sentiment and support is really appreciated.

If you want to see just how fantastic the support is in our area, go to our website to see a video of the clapping on Regency Square. If you have videos of other streets in our area send them to us and we will upload them onto our website.



Clapping for our carers on Stone Street

Local food deliveries

We know that getting a home delivery slot from one of the major supermarkets is less likely than winning the lottery at the moment, and this is proving to be a problem for those of us who are social distancing for 12 weeks or who suddenly find ourselves in self isolation for 14 days.

In response to this crisis, many local businesses are now offering contactless, free, delivery.

The webpage <https://www.brightonquarantine.co.uk/> and the Facebook page Support Local: Independent Shops Delivering in Brighton and Hove (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1558345741007742/>) both contain webpages, email addresses and phone numbers for local grocery stores, fishmongers, butchers, bakers, and yes, candlemakers! Many will deliver next day, all offer contactless delivery.

If you are unsure about using any of these services, or don't have internet access, or if you just want a personal recommendation please contact any member of the Committee who will help (Nicola, in particular, is trying to sample every baker on the list – everyone needs cake when social distancing!)



And don't forget that many of our local businesses are open for take-away through this crisis: The Regency Restaurant for fish and chips, Casalingo for Italian food, Sushi Garden for Japanese food, Nanninella for pizza, The Regency Tavern is offering its pie menu, and of course Waitrose for groceries. The Set restaurant is also selling gift vouchers with a 18 month validity and adding an extra 10% value to the voucher price.

Using one of these services might help to keep a local business alive.

Conservation continues!

Whilst restrictions on gatherings are in place, the Brighton & Hove City Council Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) is determined to keep up its essential voluntary work. Did you know there are 34 Conservation Areas in our city? A Conservation Area is an area considered to be of:

"special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance"

(Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990)

Each one has the opportunity to assess planning applications for new developments and for existing buildings. Planning controls are tighter in conservation areas. The voluntary work involves in-depth reading of the many documents associated with each proposal – plan drawings, Design and Access Statements, Heritage Statements, Officer's reports etc. All is then considered for suitability under conservation and preservation laws.

The Regency Square Conservation Area is represented by RSAS committee member Mike Davies. After assessment of all new proposals in our area, those needing further consideration are raised at the CAG meeting monthly at the Town Hall. However, under lockdown, and with too many representatives to all appear on an on-line meeting (Zoom), the latest session lasted five hours with pre-prepared presentations and email voting on outcomes.

If you want to check what's being planned in our area, try typing in your street name in the B&HCC Planning Portal search which is at: <https://planningapps.brighton-hove.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Planning enforcement also continues

Although a face to face meeting with the Council is now impossible, Committee member Nigel Massey is still working hard to sort the issues relating to the development of 26, 27 & 28 Clarence Square. He is working with our councillor Tom Druitt to try to find a sensible solution to the heritage railings/refuse bins debacle, and most importantly to find a way to ensure such errors in the planning process do not occur again.

Our brave area PCSOs

Members will be aware that we have our own allocated PCSOs for the Regency Square area.

Rebecca Lovell and Katie Bothwell, who recently met with the RSAS Committee, have both been out and about most days patrolling our area, reminding the public of the importance of maintaining a 2 meter distance from others not in your household when you are out and about. We are incredibly lucky that these brave ladies are out day in day out keeping our outdoor spaces safe for us to use.

Sussex police is keen to stress that they are still 'open for normal business.' So if you have concerns about crime or anti-social behaviour do still continue to report it, but during the current crisis they are asking you please to only call 999 if it is an emergency and 101 if it is urgent. Otherwise, please use their online services at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/>

Our gardens: looking well in lockdown

For many of us the gardens in Regency, Russell and Clarence Square are the only outside space we will see for some weeks. Therefore, we are very lucky that our fantastic gardening group put so much work into making our gardens beautiful over the past few months.

Just before the lockdown, the volunteers tackled the rampant ivy in Russell Square. As a result, they have hopefully salvaged the ornamental shrubs and other plants that were being smothered and that these will recover their vigour as spring and summer progresses.

In Regency Square, we funded 10 Agapanthus plants which have recently been planted in the sunny side

of the round bed. They are under the soil at present, but they will grow into sizeable summer flowering plants.



We can all look forward to some fabulous Agapanthus soon

Other donated plants have also been planted in that bed, and in the cleared areas of the south bed.

There's now a small notice in the circular bed in Regency Square, asking people not to dig or plant things there. Unexpected shrubs have recently been planted in spots the volunteers had cleared, which is lovely, but we don't want people planting things in what they think is an empty space but which is in fact full of babies!



Finally, I'm sure you'll all agree that the beautiful splash of red tulips in Regency Square was a real delight amidst all the terrible news about

coronavirus.

Thank you so much to all our volunteer gardeners and the Council's ranger team!

A facelift for our war memorial



The Building Survey team from Brighton and Hove council have been in touch with RSAS. They are shortly going to undertake some much needed maintenance to the South African War Memorial on the south of Regency Square. We were pleased to hear that this work will include the railings which are in a very sorry state.



Brighton authors and local books

Gill Wales and Suzanne Hinton, famous local authors of our Bicentenary book *“Regency Square: Its history and its stories,”* were treated to (a pre-lockdown) afternoon tea at the Grand as a thank you from an

anonymous donor. Members will be aware that both Suzanne and Gill contributed all their time and effort on the Bicentenary book for free, so this really was a well-deserved thank you.

The ladies couldn't manage to use the full donation on afternoon tea so they donated the remaining money to the Bicentenary book fund!



For those looking for something to fill the time at home, another Brighton author, Kevin Newman, is having his writings serialized weekly on the Visit Brighton Website. His book *“Beef Every Day But No Latin”* is a historical novel based on the real life activities of James Bernard Clifton who set up a school in Hove in 1925 at the age of 11, whereas *“Chronophobia”* is a time-travelling adventure set in Brighton during the 1990s.

You can find the first few chapters of both books here:

<https://www.visitbrighton.com/blog/blog-post/2020/04/brighton-book-serialisation-b220>

There are also plans for a virtual Brighton Book Festival, based in Regency Square – mind boggling! Watch this space for more details!

Good news on graffiti

It seems that one piece of good news that is coming out of this awful coronavirus situation is that graffiti is down in lockdown! The advertising hoarding on the corner of Stone Street was re-plastered in late February – and it's still pristine!



The Society's logo, newsletter and website

Work on changes to the Society's logo and newsletter is on hold for now, but we hope members have found our website (<https://regencybrighton.com/>) easier to use lately, with more timely and relevant information. Any feedback on the changes already implemented or thoughts on what you would like to see on it in the future would be very welcome.

Thank you all, and stay safe and well

The RSAS Committee

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