



## NEWSLETTER 261 May 2011

### Royal Wedding Decorations

What a pity that Regency Square was littered with uncollected recycling on the day of the Royal Wedding.



The previous Monday was a public holiday, so there was no collection on the Thursday. It's obvious if you think about it.

The problem is that most people had more important things to think about, such as the Royal Wedding, or avoiding the Royal Wedding.

When will Council officers, who live and breathe refuse and recycling, realise that the rest of us don't?

We've learnt to put out our glass and paper on Thursdays, but we just can't get it into our heads that collection days change after a holiday. It's all on the Council web site, but we just don't look.

Surely it's time for the Council to realise that we just aren't up to it. They need to find a way of avoiding changes to collection days after each public holiday.

### Garden Improvements – your views

Many thanks to all those who gave us their views about plans for improvements to the gardens in Regency Square.

The majority of responses were in favour and there were some very useful suggestions and ideas which have helped us to develop the project further. Here are just a few of the points made:

- What a wonderful project
- Dreadful ... why do we need wild flowers and grasses? Why do we need picnic tables and chairs?
- I would like to vote for black for the railings – I recently noticed how smart the black railings look round London parks.
- The gate at the top of the gardens on the east side should be opened up. Many visitors follow the path to it and then have to climb over the railings to get out.
- The flowerbed in the middle of the upper garden adds formality to what is a formal square and provided that it is maintained and watered it could be an attractive addition.
- The middle garden is already showing signs of wear. If this is to be the **only** playing lawn (for football) it definitely will not survive the summer.
- In any 'wild flower mix' there is a natural tendency to degenerate into dominant weeds.
- Forest green for the concrete, to blend in with the colour of the grass, when it's not dried up.

### Not more consultation?

Council officers have been very supportive of our proposals. However, they have insisted that we must consult *all* local residents before any changes

can be made. So far, we have only asked for views from members of the Society.

So we are preparing a leaflet setting out the plans, together with a questionnaire. This will be distributed to as many households as possible in Regency Square and nearby.

Even if you have already told us your views, please do send in the questionnaire because the results will be reported to the Council in statistical form – in other words how many people are in favour and how many against each of the changes.

Apologies for asking twice!

### Adults Only!

The next production at the Little Theatre is 'Festen' by David Eldridge. The publicity describes it as having "scenes and themes of an adult nature".

A family gathers to celebrate the father's sixtieth birthday, but a traditional party night of food, wine and song is shattered by some truly shocking revelations. By the time the eldest son has completed his speech in praise of his father nothing can ever be the same again.

We are planning to see the play at 7:45pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets are £8.50 (£7.50 for concessions). If you would like to come, please send your money, with your name and telephone number to Ros Boulden, 8 Abbots, 129 Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2FA, by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton:

✉ hinton@clara.net, ☎ 01273 321794

Secretary: Paul Smith,

✉ paddingtonfilms@aol.com ☎ 01273 325652

Treasurer: Trix Webber:

✉ tew100@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 01273 321858

**Web site: [www.regencybrighton.com](http://www.regencybrighton.com)**

## Planners say “No” in Stone Street

Planning permission has been refused for a four storey, residential development at 18 Stone Street.

We objected on the grounds of appearance. In the application there is a suggestion that Stone Street is of “dubious architectural merit”.



We disagree. The street is a vibrant mix of modest, but interesting, properties; many have been sympathetically re-furbished. The picture shows a good example.

The planned development would not have been sympathetic to what is there already. It would have been one floor higher than its neighbours and its style would not have matched existing features such as doorways and window sizes.

We therefore welcome the decision to refuse approval. However, we are concerned that the reason given relates only to the internal layout of the flats. This suggests that the external appearance would be acceptable.

## And in Clarence Square

Planners have also refused an application for cable ducting on the façade of 31 Clarence Square.

The reason for refusal was that the ducting would have been highly visible and unduly discordant within the street scene, adversely affecting the character and appearance of the conservation area.

We objected to this application and welcome the decision, which should set a precedent for the future.

## Virtual i360 unveiled

The latest newsletter from the West Pier Trust announces that they still can't announce a start date for construction of the i360.

However, there is a new web site at [www.brightoni360.co.uk](http://www.brightoni360.co.uk). It forecasts that the observation spire will be operational by 2013. It also gives some interesting new views of what the site will look like when it is finished.

The optimists amongst us will be encouraged by this show of confidence by developers, Marks Barfield. The pessimists amongst us will comment that a web site is not steel or concrete, and bemoan the increasing dereliction of the existing site.

We have decided that it is time to start thinking seriously about alternative futures for the seafront site at the southern end of Regency Square.

We are planning to organise a round-table discussion between the various groups with an interest in the future of the site. The aim is to look at options for where we might hope to be in one year's time and in five year's time.

## Heritage Board Delay

Last year we obtained a grant of £2,200 to place a heritage board in Regency Square. “Where is?” it you ask. The answer is, a bit nearer than it was a couple of weeks ago.

The board needs to be installed on land owned by the Council, which is both a garden and the roof of a car park. We have had quite a problem finding someone in the Council bureaucracy who could give approval for the scheme to go ahead.

Thanks to significant support from Councillor Jason Kitkat it looks as if that particular problem has now been solved. Gillian Marston, the Council's Head of City Infrastructure, has said that her department will adopt the board.

This seems to offer a solution to the problems we have been having. Hopefully we can now focus on the job of actually getting the board in place.

We had hoped to have it in place in time to be unveiled by the Mayor on Civic Day (June 25<sup>th</sup>). That now seems unlikely.

## Squatters Again

Squatters have once again broken into the house at 43 Russell Square. The front door was damaged, but has been repaired since our picture was taken.



The house belonged for many years to the late Ken Kennar, a long standing member of the Society. His family are hoping to place a bench or a tree in the square in his memory. The Society has offered to make a contribution to the cost.

We are very grateful to  
**Mailboxes etc**  
in Western Road for their support by sponsoring the printing of our newsletters.