



NEWSLETTER 263 July 2011

What did you think?

Many thanks to everyone who returned the questionnaire about our plans for improving the gardens in Regency Square.

We had 70 responses. 60% were from people in Regency Square and Queensbury Mews.

There was a majority in favour of each of the separate proposals listed in the questionnaire. The largest majorities (over 80%) were for:

- removal of broken seats;
- provision of new seats;
- new path to car park entrances;
- new flower bed on the top green;
- new litter bins.

Black rather than green is the preferred colour for painting the railings. Cream was preferred to green for the concrete and about 80% were in favour of a hedge to hide it from view.

The proposal for wild flowers and grasses on parts of the lower two greens was supported by just over 70%.

More doubts were expressed about the plan for tables (52% in favour) and low level lighting (61%) on the top green.

The idea of a monument to the West Pier on the bottom green was supported by 55%.

Most people added comments to their questionnaires and some offered practical help. Here are just a few of the comments:

- Love the square.
- A great idea.
- Low level lighting will attract late night revellers.
- Wild flowers and grass can easily become unkempt.
- Please install a composter for kitchen waste.
- What about a secret vegetable plot?
- Remove some shrubs in the middle of the sea end of the upper garden to create a vista to the sea.

What now?

We are submitting the results of the questionnaire to the Council. Hopefully they will be satisfied that there is good support for those parts of the plan that clearly got a favourable response.

If so, we will try to pursue these ideas as quickly as possible.

Ideas which were less popular such as tables, low level lighting and the West Pier monument may need further thought.

Meanwhile, what about the litter?

Lots of people use the gardens in Regency Square at this time of year and as a result quite a lot of litter accumulates. The Council does try to keep it under control but not entirely successfully.

Jen and Matt, who work at the Alive Fitness Centre in Castle Street, sometimes brings clients into the square to do some open air training. They also like to sit there during their breaks.

What they don't like is the litter: bottles, cans cigarette ends, etc. etc.

So they have decided to take things into their own hands and carry out litter picks whenever possible. Society chairman, Roger Hinton joined them recently and helped to fill three bags with rubbish, including an abandoned computer!



Jen and Matt call themselves Brighton and Hove Wombles and you can read more

about their activities at www.litteraction.org.uk/brighton-hove-wombles.

They deserve our support, so if you see them out on the green, why not go and lend a hand (preferably wearing good strong gloves!)

Recording memories

You may have seen the video interview in which the late Ken Kennar talked about his life in Russell Square (www.regencybrighton.com/history).

We would like to produce more of the same. Do you know anyone who has lived in or near Regency Square for many years and might be interested in putting their memories on record? If so, please contact Don Boyle (djob100@orange.fr).

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Late night drinking in Preston St.

A company called Mixology Ltd has applied for a new license for the premises at 15 Preston Street.

The license would allow the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises and the performance of recorded music between 12 noon and 1am daily. It would also allow "late night refreshment" between 11pm and 1am daily.

The Society has objected to this application. We believe that there is already too much late night noise and rowdy behaviour in Preston Street. People living nearby, for example in houses on the west side of the square, are often disturbed.

It was not easy deciding whether to object. We are conscious that there are many empty premises in Preston Street and it would be good to see one of them brought back into use.

On balance we felt that preventing further increases in late night disturbance was the higher priority.

The application is also opposed by the police and by Councillor Jason Kitkat.

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Brighton Little Theatre is presenting Shakespeare's hilarious comedy next month. They've decided to set it in the 1920s; dance and music from that decade will be used. The production is being staged at Lewes Castle.

We are planning to go on Thursday 18th August. The performance starts at 7:30pm but the doors open at 6:30pm for picnics.

Lifts may be available. Alternatively there is a good train service to Lewes.

If you would like to come please send your name, telephone number and £12 per ticket (£10 for over 60s) to Ros Boulden, Flat 8, Abbots, 129 Kings Road BN1 2FA, by **28 July**. Let us know if you can offer a lift.

Counting the parking permits

The Council has given us some interesting figures:

Valid resident permits	
Street	No.
Castle Street	12
Clarence Square	21
Preston Street	25
Queensbury Mews	5
Regency Square	66
Russell Square	19
Stone Street	3
Total	151

One thing this makes clear is that many people who live locally don't have a car. Very few properties have their own parking spaces and yet only 66 people in Regency Square (for example) have permits; that is one per house.

Of course, many more people, who live outside our immediate area, are entitled to park in resident spaces in these streets.

More bins on the streets?

The Council has confirmed that they are considering replacing the weekly re-cycling collections with permanent bins in the street.

This change to the re-cycling system aims to encourage people to re-cycle more. The idea is that bins in the street will make it easier for people to re-cycle, particularly those living in small flats who can't store rubbish easily.

The project is still at an early stage. A trial will be run but there is no decision yet about where or when. The Council has promised to consult residents.

What do you think? Do we want more large and unsightly bins in our streets? Will re-cycling bins in the street result in more re-cycling?

Burglars pinched!

In our last issue we reported a burglary in St Margaret's Place. The police have told us that those responsible were arrested in the area and are now awaiting trial.

Bikes removed!

Thanks to our local PCSO, Aileen Norbury, two of the bikes pictured in our last issue blocking the pavement in Clarence Square have now been removed. Aileen sent a copy of our picture to the relevant Council department who put official notices on the bikes before they were removed.

A day out in Sussex

The next M&M coach outing will be a trip to the Priest House at West Hoathley and then Standen near East Grinstead. It will be on Sunday 24th July. Full details and a booking form are on our web site or are available from Roger Hinton (✉ hinton@clara.net ☎ 01273 321794).

Is Regency Square falling down?

Well it has been standing for almost 200 years, so it could be.

Neil England is well qualified to tell us how to make sure it stays standing. He is a builder who specialises in historic buildings and has many years experience working in the Brighton area.

We have invited him to talk to us about the buildings in the Square and to lead us on a walk around it. The event will be at 10:30am on Saturday 27th August and will last for between 2 and 2½ hours.

Places will be limited so if you would like to come please contact Roger Hinton (✉ hinton@clara.net ☎ 01273 321794).

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