



**NEWSLETTER 278**  
**APRIL 2013**

## SUCCESSFUL AGM



Councillor Jason Kitkat (above) was this year's Regency Square Area Society's guest speaker at their AGM. Attended by a record number of members and non members, After Jason's talk members were keen to ask about the i360 plans. Jason told the AGM that the council have agreed the loan to fill the funding gap but

so far the West Pier Trust has not asked for it. His understanding is at this time the i360 is going ahead and that building work will be starting Spring/Summer. The question was asked if the council could give the West Pier Trust a deadline to either build the i360 in a certain time or lose its charitable status. Cllr Kitkat said that it was not the councils place to dictate to businesses nor do they get involved with charity status. The questioner addressed the meeting and said that the Society and its members could approach the charity commission.

The Society would like to thank Cllr Kitkat for his illuminating talk and giving up his time for us.

## RECYCLING BINS

Brighton and Hove City Council want to take away our black bin recycling weekly collection and replace with on the street recycling bins. They have sent a consultation document to properties in our area enclosing a questionnaire for return by May 6. We are in a Conservation Area. We already have the very unsightly black refuse bins. The Council now want to place black recycling bins in our squares and streets. The Council will not place the recycling bins in Brunswick Square and Adelaide Crescent because they are deemed to be Regency squares in a Conservation area. The Council have set a precedent and are treating us differently.

We are proposing that recycling bins are located only in Preston Street (see map in the consultation document), on Western Road opposite Cafe Nero (see map) and that the recycling bins are moved from Russell Square (see map) to the top of Cannon Place where there are already bins located. Residents in the area of Castle and Stone Street can use Western Road, Regency Square use Preston Street, Clarence and Russell Squares use Cannon Place. Apart from the recycling areas mentioned above we do not want any more bins in our area. We are a Conservation area with beautiful Regency squares. The proposed i360 will bring large numbers of visitors to our area. They and we do not want to have to look at black recycling bins littering our squares and streets.

Please make your views known to the Council.

If you do not have a questionnaire or wish to resend a questionnaire to the Council please ask Nigel Rose on [rosenigel@btinternet.com](mailto:rosenigel@btinternet.com) for another copy.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Theatre Trip to Brighton Little Theatre on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May to see The Boyfriend (musical) by Sandy Wilson. Tickets cost £9 starts at 7.45pm. If you would like a ticket please phone Julie White on 01273 710906 by 3<sup>rd</sup> May.



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## NOW YOU SEE IT. NOW YOU SEE IT.



Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) were very responsive when the Society rejected the Council's plan to erect a large glass entrance to the Regency Square car park. A new plan was developed for a lower structure which has now been completed. It is discreet and serves its function.

What the council overlooked was that youngsters, drunkards and other idiots could climb on the roof of the structure and then fall 30 feet onto the lowest parking floor. Solution? You have seen it. A large, inappropriate sign. The Society objected to the sign when it was first proposed. To no avail.

The sign is just below the dimensions which require planning permission. Does this sign stop youngsters, drunkards and idiots climbing over / through it? No. Does this sign stop the aforementioned falling onto the entrance stairs? No. Is this sign appropriate to a conservation area? No. The Society will now ask the City Council to find a less visually unsympathetic and obtrusive solution to the problem.

## LIVE WEB CAM TO PEREGRINE FALCONS NEST



Peregrine Falcons have been nesting on the roof of Sussex Heights from spring 1998 when a nesting box was put 334 feet up on the top of Sussex Heights. The first pair was believed to be the first pair to breed in an urban environment in the south of England for three years running.

The latest pair has recently laid eggs and can be viewed by web cam. Go to [www.sussexheights.co.uk](http://www.sussexheights.co.uk) to watch these fascinating creatures live.

## THE NEW CLUB



The New Club built in 1876 was a private members club for "gentlemen and ladies in of an approved social position". It was pulled down in 1938 to make way for the current building Astra House which is said to have been used as a convalescent home for pilots during WWII. The mixed styles of Georgian and Art Deco are in evidence especially the Art Deco entrance to Astra House.



But the New Club is back (well the name anyway). Catherine Smith and her partner have refurbished the seafront end of what was China Garden to bring a New York Diner to Brighton.

Catherine said that Astra House has the feel of many buildings in New York City which were built in a similar style. She and her partner have restored the original pilasters and fascia to match the current restoration works to the exterior of the building.

At the moment the scaffolding is still in place until mid April we are told but will be dismantled and moved to continue with the refurbishments to the Preston Street side of Astra House.

The New Club an "LA indie coffee house meets lively New York bar and diner" is open Monday to Saturday 10am – 11pm and Sunday 10am to 6.30pm.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you for the generous donations from our business members for our AGM raffle which were:-

A night for two at Hotel Pelirroco (voted the Sexiest Hotel in Britain)

A night for two at Una Hotel (listed in the Cool Hotel guide)

A night for two at The Artists Residence (Revamped by TV's Alex Polizzi)

Brunch for 2 at the New Club (see above editorial)

Tapas at Vinos y Tapas (reviewed as terrific by committee members of RSAS!!)