



Regency Square Area Society

**NEWSLETTER 288
MAY 2014**

A New Treasure(r)

Many thanks to Nicola Floyd of Queensbury Mews who stood for the post of Society Treasurer. Nicola was voted in unanimously and warmly welcomed within the Committee, not least by Chairperson Trix Webber. All members will want to thank Trix for having taken on the task of managing the finances of the Society over the last couple of years as well as guiding the Society as Chair.

Society Contacts

Chair: Trix Webber ☎ 321858

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Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 078 3352 7270

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Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 321794

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The Committee members are:

Paula Brooks	Stone Street
Margaret Brisley	Sussex Heights
Duncan Cameron	Regency Square
Angelo Martinoli	Preston Street
Nigel Rose	Regency Square
Julie White	Regency Square

Other AGM news

The two main concerns of the members present were the impact of the i360 and anti-social behavior (ASB). These points were taken up by the Committee and are reported on below. The evening started with a fascinating talk and short video about the Little Theatre in Clarence Gardens and ended with a raffle.

Many thanks to the local businesses who generously donated superb prizes including meals, hotel stays and theatre tickets:

- ☺ The Artists' Residence, Regency Square
- ☺ Casalingo, Preston Street
- ☺ The Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens
- ☺ Mad Crush, Preston Street
- ☺ The Metropole Hotel
- ☺ The New Club, King's Road
- ☺ The Regency Tavern, Russell Square
- ☺ Hotel Una, Regency Square.

Many thanks also to the Metropole Hotel who not only provided a free room, drinking glasses and plates but also generously provided the equipment and expertise to ensure that the sound system worked for the video show.

Theatre trip

Wednesday 25 June: Come to a performance of "Don Juan in Soho" by Patrick Marber. Full details on the theatre's website: <http://www.brightonlittletheatre.com/> Performance starts at 7.45pm and costs £9.00. Please send cash or cheque to: Suzanne Hinton, 39 Regency Square by Wednesday 14 May if you would like to buy tickets to go in a group. Tickets are selling fast.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Local police officers and PCSOs have attended several committee meetings over the last few months. They have the powers to remove alcohol from anti-social drinkers in the area and have started to implement this in addition to enforcing "zero tolerance" on other forms of anti-social behaviour. The Society has erected signs (see next column) in Regency Square to make the position clear.



The RSAS log of ASB

Much, but far from all, ASB originates with residents of the West Pier Project hostels. The Committee is in constant contact with the managers of the hostels. If you are worried about ASB, please do not hesitate to dial the police non-emergency number **101**. Even better, send an e-mail to the police (contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk) with a copy (or blind-copy) to the Society's central address. Committee members will log all reports to the police of ASB : rsasreportantisocial@gmx.co.uk

Other ways to help combat ASB

The police have provided two members of the Committee with confidential, anonymised photographs of known trouble-makers in our area. These two members will be able to identify to the police, by a number, any of the photographed individuals seen behaving anti-socially. If you think you might like to join in this scheme, please contact Nigel Rose: ☎0785 003 1082 ✉ rosenigel@btinternet.com

Meeting with Cllr Bill Randall

Three members of the Society met Cllr Bill Randall, Chair of the Housing Committee & Lead Member for Communities & Equalities, to discuss problems associated with West Pier Project. Cllr Randall will be inviting representation by the Society at a forthcoming strategic review meeting of the Housing and Social Care departments of the City Council. More later.

i360

The funding, thanks to Brighton and Hove City Council, is in place. The work will begin to erect the 175-metre high observation tower in June 2014. The Committee will now:

- ensure that present prevalent noise levels are monitored and try to ensure that noise levels caused by the erection and running of the tourist attraction do not exceed them;
- liaise with the traffic department of the City Council to ensure that increased vehicle movement in the area does not disadvantage residents more than at present;
- ensure that some of the funds earmarked from the income of the i360 for community use are directed towards the Society's area;
- liaise with the West Pier Trust to find out more about the environmental impact caused by the increase of the capacity of the pod from 100 to 200 people.

Bins, bins, bins

The Society has complained to City Clean about the appallingly filthy condition of the rubbish bins in the area.

There is still no news of the arrival or positioning of the new recycling bins. The Committee is monitoring the situation to ensure that the new bins are placed to suit residents and not just to suit City Clean

Planning

Stone Street / Castle Street: The Planning Committee of the City Council rejected the plans for a student hostel and refurbishment of a fly-proprietors yard. Voting was nine against and three abstentions. The majority of residents in the two streets had been against the design of the student residence and welcomed the decision.

67 Preston Street: this property is becoming ever more dilapidated. The committee is dedicated to fighting to remove the blight and has requested a Section 215 notice. And that is? Section 215 of the Town and Country Act allows a local authority to require that land / building "be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity

of the area." We can probably all agree that is the case as far as 67 Preston Street is concerned.



43 Russell Square: The owners of this property are continuing to apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness and are also appealing against refusal for use of the house as a house in multiple occupation (HMO). The Society is against conversion of such an old and fragile building but may not, by law, object to the Certificate, but the committee will be objecting to the appeal against refusal of permission.

House colours: Clarence, Russell and Regency Squares are subject to an Article 4 Direction. What's that? Amongst other things, it means that when its property is repainted; the colour must be the same as existing or the standardised colour for that particular area. The Committee is investigating the status of a house in Russell Square which seems to have been repainted from standard cream to white.

Gardening News

The 1000 sedums planted by the City Council look very sorry for themselves – but they are extremely tough guys and despite all the ill-treatment meted out to them, they have been watered regularly by members of the Society's committee and should soon look more sprightly.

On the other hand, members of the committee are having to work extremely hard to galvanise the City Council into re-turfing the lowest garden before the "turfing window" (April-May) closes.

Two communal composting bins have been discretely placed in the top garden of Regency Square. Have you spotted them yet? If you wish to use them, you will need an access code. Please contact Trix Webber for details.



More thanks... and a request

"Mailboxes etc" in Western Road very generously print copies of the Newsletter at no charge to the Society. We are very grateful to them for their continuing generosity.

However, if you would consider having your Newsletter "delivered" by e-mail, the Society would save on labels, envelopes and the volunteer "postman's" shoe leather. Please contact Trix Webber if you wish to change.

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