



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 297
MAY 2015

JUNE 11 - THE CANS ARE COMING

June 11 will be a day to remember. If you don't have grandchildren, borrow a local infant - for they will be able to say to their grandchildren: "I remember when the day I saw the tower of the i360 arriving on giant barges and being off-loaded onto the beach."

In the meantime, Ruth Chapman, the Public Liaison Officer of the i360 has recently sent out these details of weekend working:



© Photo courtesy of the Brighton i360

"Our major concrete pour is on Saturday 30th May and as the process requires us to jet wash the day afterwards, we unfortunately will need to work on Sunday 31st May.

The work required is not noisy but you may notice people on the site. Once again, we thank you for your patience with the i360 build."

PLANNING

39 Clarence Square: What's going on behind all that hoarding? There is permission for the owners of the property to convert the lower ground floor from shop storeroom into a self-contained flat. The permission also allows for "excavation to form a new staircase with new piers and railing to courtyard surround." Sounds as if it could look very attractive. Three self-contained flats are also being developed, as reported in the April Newsletter. The Society is always keen to welcome decent accommodation to the area.

Both **Sussex Heights** and **Bedford Tower** are due to be re-clad in the near future. The Society welcomes the improvement that this should bring to the area. Bedford Tower, in particular, has been too much of a patchwork of patches for too long.

18 Stone Street The Society and the Conservation Advisory Group have objected to the horizontal, industrial style windows as proposed in the planning application for this property.

122 Kings Road / Queensbury Mews The Society has asked the City Council to confirm that the development conforms to building regulations. Planning permission for the development lapsed in 2010.

Society Contacts

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ROUNABOUT TENT

It was good to see many people enjoying the sunshine outside the Roundabout tent ... when it was sunny.



Congratulations to the Roundabout Tent for surviving the few days of unseasonable high winds and rain this month. Unfortunately one performance had to be cancelled and at one point, the bar tent was conspicuous by its absence for 24 hours - missing, presumed blown away.

As reported in the April Newsletter, the Society has expressed some concern about the fate of the grass under the tent. A Freedom of Information request brought the following reply from the City Council: "The council are being paid £2500 for the hire of Regency Square by Brighton Festival.

As part of the terms and conditions for the use of the site, they guarantee to provide full site reinstatement and grounds reparation to the satisfaction of the Council. Therefore, there is not a sum of money budgeted for such repairs, but the hirer meets the cost of any repairs that are required."

The Committee of the Society will continue to monitor the situation now the tent has been removed.

BARBER'S POLES?

The cause of the disappearance of the railings from around the basement steps of **2 Clarence Square** remains a mystery. So far there is no enforcement order registered with the City Council for their replacement. Do let any of the Society contacts (see panel on previous page) know if you can throw light on the mystery.



No. 2 Clarence Square awaiting some TLC

WHAT WERE WE DOING IN MAY 2000

Here's a Newsletter report from 15 years ago:

"On Sunday 14 May, led by a member dressed as a rodent, we will collect the rubbish bags on our streets and dump them on the steps of Brighton Town Hall.

Join Us!

"We have arranged a truck and will meet at the north end of Regency Square at 9am. We will dump the rubbish at the Town Hall at 11am and are planning for press coverage."

It did happen. A mound of rubbish was dumped on the Town Hall steps ... only to be removed instantly by Corporation operatives. If only they could have removed the rubbish from our streets in the first place!

MRS TRELLIS OF REGENCY SQUARE

The Society, as well as a local resident, has requested an enforcement order for the removal of the ugly trellis that has been erected between Nos 28 and 29 Regency Square. Such a structure is certainly a "first" for the square.



Trellis erected between 28 and 29 Regency Square

GARISH FLOODLIGHTS TO FADE OUT?

The Society has recently drawn the attention of the City Council to inappropriate coloured floodlighting on several premises in Regency Square. This is the reply from the City Council:

"...the actual lighting fixtures and associated wiring are acceptable in principle, as long as they are located discreetly.

"However, (the Heritage Officer) agrees that the coloured lighting is garish and detracts from the aesthetic significance of the listed buildings and their settings. She therefore recommends that these lights should be changed to a more neutral colour such as 'warm white.'

"I will therefore write to the owners of the properties concerned advising them of our concerns along with our recommendation for a suitable lighting colour."

The Committee of the Society welcomes such "warm white" floodlighting and would like to encourage local property owners to retain their floodlighting, but in a more appropriate type of light.

POLICE TO BE INTERROGATED

The Committee of the Society frequently invites a PCSO or PC to attend committee meetings. Are there any questions that you would like the committee to ask on your behalf?

Is anti-social behaviour still a problem? Has it increased or decreased since the arrival of the Roundabout Tent (which has a night watchman). Are the residents or clients of any local premises causing you concern. Let us know, either via the website or by contacting one of the officers listed in the box overleaf.



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