

## NEWSLETTER 299 September 2015

### LOVE AT SECOND VIEW?



*A reminder of the fabulous evening skies to be enjoyed from atop the i360. © Regency Square Area Society*

Last month we had a view from the ever-growing i360. This month, the tables are turned and we are looking at the structure photographed in early July from a window in Sussex Heights.

Many thanks to Cllr Robert Nemeth for his excellent article on the Regency Square Gardens regeneration scheme. This article was published on 11 August in "The Latest Homes" magazine following an approach by two Society Committee members.

### THE SOCIETY AND 'THE LATEST TV'

Want to hear and see more about the regeneration of the Regency Square gardens? Committee member Julie White was interviewed in early August by Latest TV's anchor man, Andrew Kay:

[https://youtu.be/IqsP1ZI4\\_qU](https://youtu.be/IqsP1ZI4_qU)

Or watch Society Chairperson, Trix Webber chat to Latest TV's reporter, James Dunham in the gardens themselves: <https://youtu.be/cdJBBjpM8U8>

James can be forgiven for thinking that Regency Square is in Hove.

Both interviews feature on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/regencybrighton>

### ALEX PHILLIPS AND TOM DRUITT

Husband and wife team Alex and Tom are the two ward councillors for Regency. In late July, they both took time out of their busy schedules to spend an hour with the Society's committee. They listened carefully to the Society's plans and worries.

Alex and Tom have since been very active in trying to solve a serious noise problem in Queensbury Mews. This disturbance is being caused by early morning refuse collection by a private refuse collection company. If you are being troubled by this noise, please contact any officer of the Society or the Environmental Protection Service of the City Council: [EHL.environmentalprotection@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:EHL.environmentalprotection@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

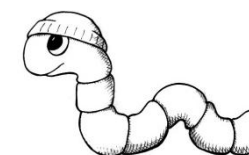
Tom and Alex have agreed to come and meet all Society members in mid-October or November. As soon as a date can be found, it will be advertised and all members and friends will be welcome to attend.

### WASTE NOT

Thanks to all those hardy souls who struggled into the bushes at the top of Regency Square Why? Because their old tea bags and cauliflower leaves now form a rich bed of compost. This compost is available to any key holder of the compost bin. The remainder will be used by the residents of Brighton Housing Trust's Shore House.



If you would like to join the local composting scheme, contact Trix Webber (e-mail address panel overleaf). And don't forget to thank all those busy worms who are doing the really hard work of composting.



## FRYING PAN → FIRE?

The forty-three vulnerable adults in the care of the City Council in numbers 14,15 and 19 Regency Square are about to be moved. Most of them have been unobtrusive neighbours. There is no denying that a tiny number have caused a disproportionate amount of trouble over the last few years.

The Committee of the Society is having great difficulty in trying to persuade the City Council that the buildings are unsuitable for a hostel for adults with complex needs. There is no outside space; communal areas are cramped and the number of times the fire brigade is called to one or other of the houses implies that there is an unusually high risk of danger to life as well as property.

The Society can have no direct influence over the use of private property. Only the City Council can do that via the granting of licences, planning permissions etc. However, as the area is about to become the setting of a major tourist attraction, the Committee feels that the City Council has some responsibility to try to persuade the owners to contemplate conversion to flats, use as a hotel or even a hostel for the homeless people who do not have complex mental health problems.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**17 Stone Street** (BH2015/01841) Plans to build two flats have been improved. At present, the site is a parking space for two cars. The "infill" building should be an improvement of the streetscape.

**18 Stone Street** (BH2015/00938) An application to add a flat to this building was refused for several good reasons. One reason was that "The development, by reason of its scale ... would have an adverse impact on the appearance and character of the host building (thus) detracting from the character and appearance of the Regency Square Conservation Area."

However, the application would have involved "tidying up" the scruffy facade of the building. Let's hope that the property owners might consider removing the ugly air conditioning units and pipes from the front of the building. That would add immensely to the character of the area.



**35 Russell Square / 9 St Margaret's Place** (BH2015/01820) This is an exciting application as it includes the reinstatement of the shop-front in Russell Square. Two new flats will be created, one on the ground floor, one in the basement, thus providing much needed new homes in the area. The Committee of the Society has welcomed the application but has expressed a strong desire to see the shop front plans carried out and not simply shelved.



*The notes on the application state:  
"Shop front as shown on historic drawing from 1897 reinstated, exact details to be agreed by condition."*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3 September at 8.00pm. Old Tyme Music Hall at the Regency Tavern. Fundraising event for the "Our Brighton Hippodrome" campaign.

Wednesday 16 September at 7.30pm. Wine tasting at the Regency Tavern. Donations to a charity named on the evening will be welcomed.



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