



## NEWSLETTER 301 December 2015

### NEW YEAR'S BREAKFAST, ANYONE?

1<sup>st</sup> January, 10.00 am. Surely, you will be up by then! Then come along to the Regency Restaurant, take a seat at the Society's reserved table in the main area, order your breakfast, chat, relax and pay at the counter on your way out. It's as simple and as fun as that.



There are 22 seats at the table. Let's see if we can fill every one of them this year. Most of the committee will be there. Come and tell them what you would like the Society to do in 2016.

Friends and family very welcome. It's not just for members.

### THE REGENCY SQUARE CHRISTMAS TREE

Many thanks to all who came out on that most blustery night to sing Carols with the Salvation Army and cheer on the lighting of this year's Christmas Tree. The music filled the square and neighbours were opening windows to listen.

When the 1- foot tree was lit there was a unison of "oohs" and "aahs". One caroller said the 16-foot tree looked like a Christmas Tree jelly as the strong winds were making the flashing lights have a strobe like effect!



There are many people to thank: The Salvation Army; the hoteliers who donated money for the tree and lights; Father Jerome Lloyd for leading the Carols and prayers at the event and, for the mulled wine and mince pies, many thanks to Cherubs Kitchen at the Regency Tavern.

The tree would not have been erected without the hard work of Nigel Rose, Robert Webber and Steve Brookes who braved horrible weather to cement and rope in the tree and secure the new low energy LED lights. All of the committee members had a part to play in advertising it making it a well-attended event. Look out for it for next December.

### WE MET THE COUNCILLORS

On 24 November over 25 members of the Society, friends and neighbours formed the audience to question Regency Green party ward councillors, Tom Druitt and Alex Phillips. Tom stressed that they had become councillors of this busy and compact ward only in May. It was a steep learning curve but Tom, as the owner of a small local business (The Big Lemon Bus Company) and Alex (formerly ward Councillor for Goldsmid ward) were taking it their stride and particularly enjoying meeting their constituents.

Tom then pointed out that much of a councillor's work involves trying to help people with their problems and, wherever possible, putting them in touch with the relevant council officer.

Alex reported that she had recently been involved in ensuring that the traders in the Arches shops on the lower promenade had adequate street lighting so that they could carry on trading after dusk. For some private individuals she had been trying to solve the problem of noise, in particular from a "party house" in Dean Street.

We all enjoy living in a lively town centre environment. We all accept a certain level of noise and inconvenience. However, when it was time for the audience to question Alex and Tom, it was evident that certain problems in our area can occasionally go beyond what is tolerable. Here are some of the major problems that Tom and Alex hoping to help solve:

**St Margaret's Place:** Since the placing of an on-street loading bay outside the Metropole loading-bay doors, local residents have suffered from parked lorries causing noise, pollution and congestion. There are concerns that the police / fire services could be hampered if required urgently.



Neither the Metropole Hotel nor the council traffic wardens seem to be able to prevent long-term parking on the loading bay or pavement parking. Access to the Sussex Height car park can be fraught with difficulties.

A resident of **Clarence Gardens** brought up the huge number of refuse and recycling bins in Clarence Square (see Newsletter 300) and a similar point was raised by a resident of Stone Street where local traders are 'hogging' the refuse bins (see overleaf).

Tom revealed that traders have to pay £7.00 each time a commercial bin is emptied and so shopkeepers put their refuse in public bins, illegally. Tom reassured the audience that City Clean is bringing in more enforcement officers to clamp down on this practice. The penalty for illegal dumping can be up to £5 000.

In **Queensbury Mews**, early morning commercial refuse and recycling collections continue to wake residents at 6.00 am on at least three days a week. Can you imagine all the bottles cascading into the lorry, and then that wonderful 'health and safety feature' - the beep, beep, beep of a reversing vehicle.

Have you ever wondered why there is no all-year-round **bus route along the seafront**? Tom gave one plausible explanation: bus companies are subject to swingeing fines if they do not keep to their timetable. Given the congestion along the seafront, it would be impossible to keep to any published timetable.

In the audience were Regency Team PCSOs Bobby King and Sharon Baker. In a response to a query about the high level of **drug dealing** in Stone Street, Sharon and Bobbi reported that there had not been enough complaints from the public to enable the Police to take more action.

The PCSOs therefore encouraged the other members of the audience to call 101 (the Police non-emergency number) as soon as drug dealing was suspected. Action against drug dealing is very much intelligence lead and the police are always glad to receive descriptions of times, people and places where drug dealing is taking place.

Thank you to Alex and Tom for coming to the meeting. If you wish to contact either of your councillors, e-mail: [alex.phillips@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:alex.phillips@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or [tom.druitt@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:tom.druitt@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or phone 01273 294539 (for Alex and Tom).

## WANT TO RECYCLE, CAN'T RECYCLE



Commercial waste bin wedged in between two Council recycling bins - Stone Street

The City Council has provided law-abiding residents with a very adequate number of recycling bins. They might look hideous, but they are there. However, not only do traders tend to fill them with commercial recycling, at least one trader had gone one better. He or she is preventing other people from using the bin by placing a commercial bin in a most anti-social place - between two recycling bins. A committee member is pursuing this problem with City Clean.

And if you want to walk two abreast (or with a double buggy or wheelchair), well there seem to be traders who do not seem to want you to do so easily (see below):



Preston Street, November 2015

## PLANNING

**18 Stone Street:** Despite the Society expressing approval that this run down property was to be given a complete make-over by developers, the Conservation Advisory Board (CAG) has recommended to the City Council refusal of the application. The grounds are that 'from what can be seen the proposed building appears to do little to improve the character of a street which has suffered significant degradation over the years'. The Council will consider the application in the near future.

**30 Little Preston Street:** An application to build a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor rear extension: approved.

**8C Clarence Square:** Permission to extend at roof level: refused.

**Flat 10, 65/66 Regency Square:** Despite the Regency Square Area Society having no objections to the application, CAG has provisionally refused of permission to open up one set of windows in the wall overlooking Queensbury Mews. However, CAG made recommendations for the type of windows which might be acceptable in this Grade II\* listed building.

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*All of the Committee wish you a very happy festive season.*

*See you at the Regency Restaurant*



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