



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 332
July 2019



The Regency Square Area Society was founded in 1979. Come along to celebrate the Society's 40 years with us.

**11 August in Clarence Square
noon to 3pm**

You bring your picnic. We will bring games, balloons and music. Look out for the big, big balloons in the square. Our local councillor, Tom Drutt will be there, other duties as Mayor's consort and Rafi's dad permitting.

Co-opted committee member

The committee is delighted that Mike Davies has agreed to be co-opted to the committee. But let him introduce himself:



I am a lucky man.

I was born in the centre of Manchester and grew up in that city of industrial achievement. The city shaped me - I started out developing computers when they were the size of 6 IKEA PAX wardrobes. But I soon found I liked talking about the design more than doing it.

My career path was to be in engaging large organisations to learn their needs - Rolls Royce, Construction Industry Training Board, in Sweden based at SAAB. And latterly being a representative of Europe for Ford Motor Company. My fabulous wife Julie graduated at the Manchester University Dental School. Lucky for me she also moved from London to take up practice in the Manchester area

Julie's recent retirement meant in 2017 we could make the move to the south coast; to the vibrancy and inclusivity that is Brighton. We now live in what was once a "Fly Stable" – effectively the cab firm for Regency Square Area in the early to mid-1800s.

Then I had a **Life Changing Event** - I should have died.

With the NHS's help I survived and have appeared on television and radio to tell that story. I am a lucky man. Stop me and ask – I am fairly easy to spot now as I go about the Regency Square Area. Or see my story at: <https://www.meningitis.org/the-book-of-experience/mike-davies>

Or at the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-48028721>

Graffiti and Cityclean

At its last meeting, the Society's committee met two City Council officers about the City's plans for tackling graffiti.

The good news is that the Council now has more funds for graffiti removal and will be employing one additional and possibly two operatives. The bad news is that there is only one operative at present, so the total will not exceed three.

This means that the Council are looking for other ways to combat graffiti. These include

- speeding up the rate of graffiti removal by using more modern technical methods,
- setting up a paint and material repository and training for local groups;
- imposing more Community Protection Notices fines (£75.00 at present) on graffitists they catch
- More pressure (including fines) on businesses and to some extent private owners to remove graffiti.

However, many of these plans have to be approved by the legal department of the Council. The last item (above) being the main one. Does anyone want to be a victim of graffiti and of the Council demanding that they remove it?

The problem is not going to be solved in the near future.

Communal Bins

The communal rubbish bins in the area are a disgrace. According to Cityclean, new bins are on order. They are stuck in Italy. No comment.

Planning

After several years during which the Society was not represented on the Council's Conservation Advisory Group (CAG), we are now extremely fortunate the Mike Davis has offered to take on this role. CAG scrutinises planning applications in conservation areas across the city, but Mike will, of course, pay particular attention to applications in this Society's area.

BH2019/00286 – 28 Clarence Square: the ugly electrical box (a crazy few inches taller than the one next door) has been approved. However, Condition 2 of the approval states: "The reinstatement of the railings and gate shall be fully completed within nine months of the installation of the electrical equipment enclosure hereby approved."

The Society will make sure that they are reinstated.

Bedford Towers: Five residents have contacted the Society expressing their dislike of the Art+Believe painting on the roof of Bedford Towers. The committee will discuss this at the next meeting in early August.

Goodbye, Goodbye

The Aberdeen Steakhouse closed and vanished this month.



In which year did the Aberdeen Steak House first appear in a Brighton telephone directory at 27 Preston Street?

Alas, no prizes for the answer. Find out in next month's Newsletter.

Licensing

Many of you will already know that the licencing authorities took a very hard line with the Pelirocco Hotel after complaints of noise from the premises. Such stringent conditions were placed upon the hotel that many music events were cancelled and there has been far less disturbance to local residents.

Two months ago, the Artist Residence was due to renew its licence. Two Society committee members attended the licensing meeting and represented some local residents who had been disturbed by noise from the hotel and bars.

One upshot of the meeting was that the hotel voluntarily gave up its licence to put chairs and tables on the pavement. This was very much welcomed by the Society.

The other outcome was that the hotel was not permitted to obtain an off licence. All the other elements of the application, relating to internal bars, were granted, but again, with strict condition relating to the control of noise

The Artist Residence is generally a good neighbour and indeed a long-standing member of the Society. Just for a while it had let its standards drop. The Society looks forward to continuing its good relationship with the hotel.

In the unlikely event of any problems, Lucy Bayliss, the Designated Premises Supervisor can be contacted on **01273 855574** (24 hours) / lucy@artistresidence.co.uk

Society Contacts

Chair: Diana Dunn

✉ dianafdudd@googlemail.com

Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 07833 527270

✉ nicola.floyd@yahoo.com

Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 01273 321794

✉ s@hinton.clara.net

Website

www.regencybrighton.com

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

Twitter

[@RegencySquareAS](https://twitter.com/RegencySquareAS)

A huge "Thank You"



Park Ranger, Neil Doyle (kneeling, centre) brought his team of volunteer (yes, volunteer) gardeners to Regency Square on three Fridays this month. They weeded, they painted railings, they trimmed, they Strimmed. What a huge difference they have made to the the north garden.

Two local residents were in the group. One of them, Gill Wales, will be attending, on behalf of the Society, a Council-run Leading Practical Volunteer Tasks training course. This will enable her to set up a volunteer garden group of residents for Regency, Clarence and Russell Squares.

If you, or any of your friends, are interested in doing some basic gardening, whether you are a member of the Society or not, please contact Suzanne Hinton- contact details in box to the left.

