



REGENCY SQUARES COMMUNITY

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2022



THE GARDENS

We hope everyone has had a great autumn in the community as we now find our way dancing towards winter. Gill Wales has provided some fantastic news and updates regarding our beautiful garden spaces.

Gill and her group of volunteers have been working incredibly hard to maintain the gardens for us to enjoy.



RSC's plans to restore the Regency Square garden borders include four targets to be met by the end of 2022. With help from the Cityparks Ranger's volunteers, we've hit three of these: re-planting the two south borders and tackling the round bed in the middle of the upper lawn.

We'd hoped to save the round bed, but this summer's heatwave killed off all but two of the remaining shrubs. Instead, the bed has been cleared and re-grassed. One of the surviving shrubs and all surviving small plants have been transplanted within the garden.

Some parts of the Regency Square garden seem little affected by heat and drought. Shrubs in the top border and in the middle garden pocket plots do little more than wilt. Other parts of the garden, especially the central sections, turn to dust. They bounce

back as soon as it rains, but look like a wasteland in the meantime.

This summer's heatwave was the second in three years. We have to assume that it won't be the last. Following advice from Cityparks' wildflower expert, we are experimenting with wildflower planting as a possible solution. We're trialling a selection of species that thrive on the cliffs at Black Rock: red and white Valerian, Tufted Vetch. *Fingers crossed!*



REGENCY SQUARE'S PARCHED BORDERS,
SUMMER 2022



IF VALERIAN GROWS OUT OF CRACKS IN THE
PAVEMENT, SURELY IT CAN SURVIVE IN
REGENCY SQUARE?





We bring to you news highlights from the local community this autumn.

We'd also love to hear from you directly in the community so if you have any local news or events please let us know! We're always eager to know what's happening in the local areas!

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT?

No. Or rather, soon not to be. Plans have been proposed and two government grants received by the Council for “improvements” to Western Road between Montpelier Road and the Clock Tower.

The improvements “are designed to make the street a more attractive place to shop and spend time in, as well as make it easier for people travelling through”. Work is scheduled to last 2 years.

Some highlights may be:

- A central strip for pedestrians and improved crossings
- Removal of unnecessary street furniture
- More cycle parking, benches and trees



Artist's impression
Indicative and subject to design development

RSC notes that the published plan drawings are labelled by the developers and chosen by the Council as the “DO MINIMUM OPTION”. We wonder what “Do Maximum Option” drawings would reveal?

You can check out what the Council proposes at:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/onejourneybetter/western-road>

and view the development plans here:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/parking-and-travel/western-road-improvement-project-plans>

DIGITAL OUT OF HOME

Dooh!

You cannot fail to notice them ... that's their job
- **to be in your face!**

Digital Out-Of-Home (DOOH) advertisements have popped up all over our city. On the public pavements and in the public bus shelters. In other words, on the public highway - controlled by our council.

This blatant forcing of advertising onto the Brighton and Hove public is purely a revenue generator for the advertising company. It is sold to councils for a cut - 5% of revenue to the council (that is, 95% of revenue to the advertising company).





Greenwashed as social and environmental enablers -

- They are not necessary as information hubs - the majority of the public carry one (smartphone) in their pocket already.
- And solar-powered? They are not. The solar power is just for the courtesy light.
- Powering one hub is via the mains grid and is the **same as powering four households.** (Per day, household uses less than 8 kW/H. A hub consumes 28 kW/H).

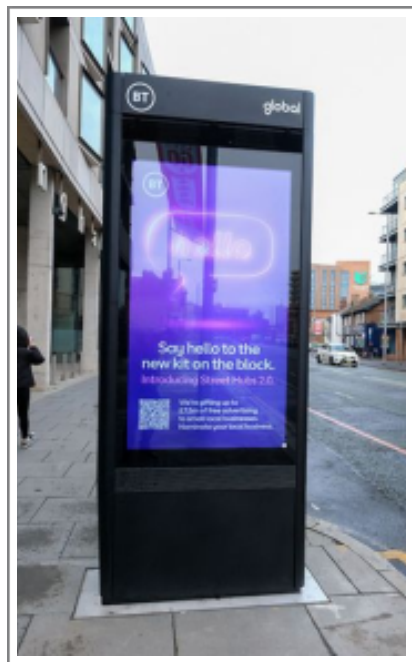
BUT it did not have to be this way. Plymouth, Derby, Watford, Ipswich, Edinburgh, York, Bristol, Oxford and on and on ... **many UK Councils have flatly turned down these advertising units**, refusing on a number of grounds.

Each advertisement hub includes "geofencing", described as *"the use of GPS or RFID technology to create a virtual geographic boundary, enabling software to trigger a response when a mobile device (in other words, your smartphone) enters or leaves an area"*, tracking, retargeting, personalisation and measurement. In a word, **surveillance.**

Each advertisement hub includes cameras that the advertisers reassure the public *"are yet to be put to use in the UK"*. In a single word, **surveillance.**

RSC is in active contact with Adfree Cities, a network of groups across the UK who are concerned about the impacts of corporate advertising on our health, wellbeing, environment, climate, communities and the local economy

RSC has lodged objections to each current application using planning matters as reasons.



MY POLICEMAN - THE FILM

Can you cast your mind back to early 2021? There were parking restrictions all along the North East section of Regency Square and also in the streets around the Band Stand.

The reason was a film was being shot based in the 1950's. Home owners were asked to remove any signs of the 21st century from the front of their properties. Lots of talk at the time that it was a film starring Harry Styles (I had to google him!) That film has just been released - *My Policeman* - which details the story of a love affair between a married policeman (Styles) and a museum curator.

The film is based on Bethan Robert's novel *My Policeman*, though the 2012 tome was itself

inspired by the life of E.M. Forster, who'd been in a long-term relationship with a policeman while also being friends with his wife. The book is currently on sale at the i360 gift shop.

At the time the Regency Squares Community wrote to the production company asking would they like to make a contribution for the disruption caused. Many emails later we finally received £500. So thank you Peacehaven Productions.

You can watch the film on Amazon Prime and though it hasn't had terrific review, I for one am eager to spot our locality.

WATCH THE TRAILER HERE:

[https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3394355737/?
playlistId=tt13139228?ref_=ext_shr_lnk](https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3394355737/?playlistId=tt13139228?ref_=ext_shr_lnk)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=rG532GzM1fc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG532GzM1fc)





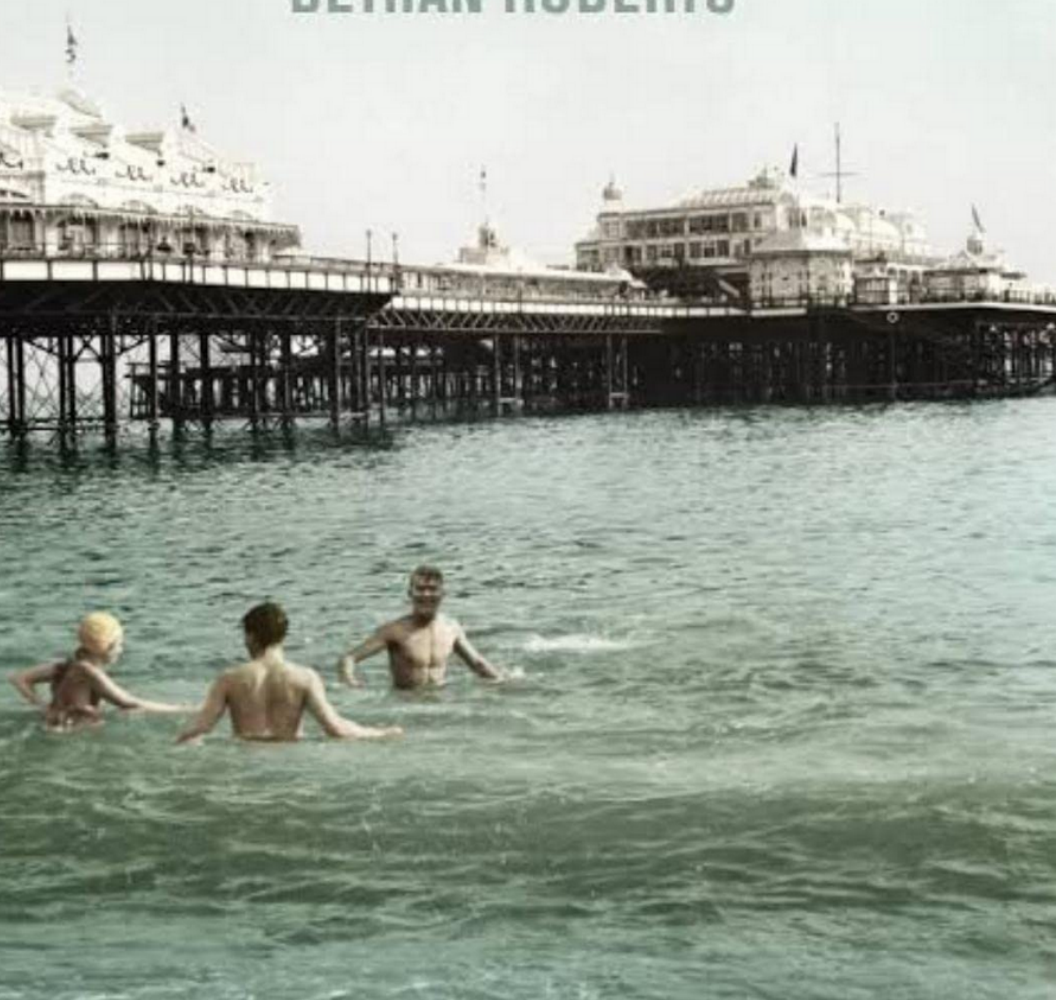


SPOT THE LOCAL AREAS INCLUDING THE
REGENCY TAVERN!



My Policeman

BETHAN ROBERTS



SUSSEX POLICE REPORTING

Sussex Police have changed their reporting process so the **101@sussex.police.uk** email is no longer operational and reports made via that route are not being responded to.



Go to **www.sussex.police.uk** and follow the links instead. You can still phone 101 to report non-emergency crimes and 999 for all emergencies.



THE i360 RELAUNCH

The Future's Brighton, The Future's Pink

1st November saw the relaunch of our local landmark as Brighton i360. Your RSC committee was invited to the launch flight where pink English sparkling flowed and rainbow canapés fed the assorted guests. We were especially thrilled to be joined by the very personable Julia Barfield, architect with late husband David Marks of both the London Eye and Brighton i360.

They were committed to maximising the social benefit derived from their work. In addition to planning obligations required by Lambeth Council, they initiated the decision to grant 1 per cent of London Eye ticket sales to the local community in perpetuity, to pay

for improvements to the local area. They made sure of the same social commitment to the community local to the i360 and Julia is firmly for this still to play out here in Brighton.



Also on the flight were Tom Druitt, Regency Ward Councillor, plus representatives from local businesses and charities.

The rebrand of the attraction includes large scale external signage, new staff uniforms and a new lighting scheme for the tower and pod. And yes, the new uniforms are PINK, thanks to

a collaboration with local designer Gresham Blake.

A new Residents Membership (free) has been unveiled which entitles you to half price tickets along with other discounts.

Visit for details: <https://brightoni360.co.uk/tickets/resident-membership/>





PIER PRESSURE

A close up of West Pier which was damaged by high winds over the recent weekend. We are wondering what happens about the debris falling into the sea and whether it poses a danger to swimmers and other water sports?

Let us know at rsascommunity@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP

We are busy working with Ian Hart of Brighton i360 and Mel and team at Artist Residence towards this year's annual Christmas Tree and Light-Up experience. **Watch out for your invitation email message shortly.**



METROPOLE HOTEL

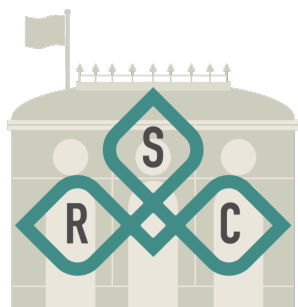
Many thanks again to our hosts of the RSC Annual General Meeting in April. We learned that the Metropole Hotel has been undergoing a full scale internal refurbishment of all the guest rooms and public areas.

At the time Director of Asset Management William Davies said *"The plans will support the city's intention to enhance its reputation as a top tourist destination and help its economy to evolve from being seasonal to one that is sustainable throughout the year."* Given Brighton's year-round conference scene was invented by the Metropole in the 1960s and 1970s, Mr Davies was conjuring up a historical echo.

Inspired at the AGM by speaker Kevin Newman's fascinating talk on the history of the Metropole hotel, RSC has arranged that

members will be invited early next year for a look-see tour.

DETAILS TO FOLLOW BY EMAIL!



POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Questions for Your Police Community Support Officer.

PCSO Alex Kartanos works closely with our regular PCSO contact and leader Caroline Batchelor. Alex has already supported a number of specific topic gatherings in the last year and will be joining your RSC committee at our January 2023 meeting.

**Please do be in touch with us with any
questions or feedback for Alex via:**

rsascommunity@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP FEES

Moving into the digital age - Have your say!

Many members now pay their membership fees directly via bank transfer or direct debit (RSAS A/C No. 30071320, Sort Code: 09-01-29), which makes payment easier for members and for us.

However, we have also heard from several members recently that our membership categories are complicated – and we agree! And the membership categories are also causing us some real practical headaches when it comes to payments on our new website.

The Stripe system that allows people to pay us via the website is not great at handling multiple categories of members, especially

with donations, which account for a large proportion of RSC's annual revenues. The committee is obviously aware that the membership fee structure is one matter that is not devolved to the committee, and should go to the AGM before any changes are made.

However, we would like to ask permission from members to restructure our fees **now**, ahead of the next AGM in order to resolve these practical issues with the website. We would like to offer a simple £5 household membership and £15 business membership structure, and if this solution works we would bring it forward for a vote to make this change permanent at the next AGM.

We hope that this change will have little practical impact for most of our members: the majority of members have already paid their subscription fees for this year; and most years most members pay us more than the basic membership fee by adding on a donation. But it will have a big impact on getting our shiny new website working properly!

We would really like to hear from you on this change, especially if you are concerned that the change would cause you any hardship.

As always you can contact us at rsascommunity@gmail.com to let us know what you think.

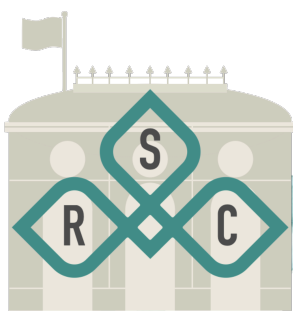




Admit it - you noticed.

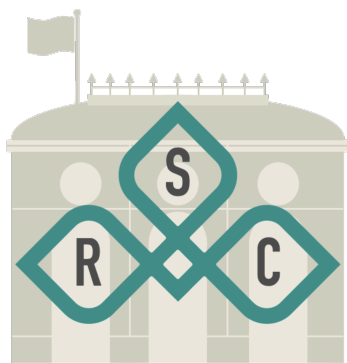
This Autumn 2022 edition of the Regency Squares Community Newsletter is a big lift from our old style. Thank you art-loving committee member Hannah for working your magic.

The new look & feel means our local updates reach members in a clear and friendly format - irrespective of where you are reading - smartphone, laptop, printed or as catch-up in the Newsletters section of <https://regencybrighton.com>



REGENCY SQUARES COMMUNITY

Thank you for your continued support.



NOVEMBER 2022