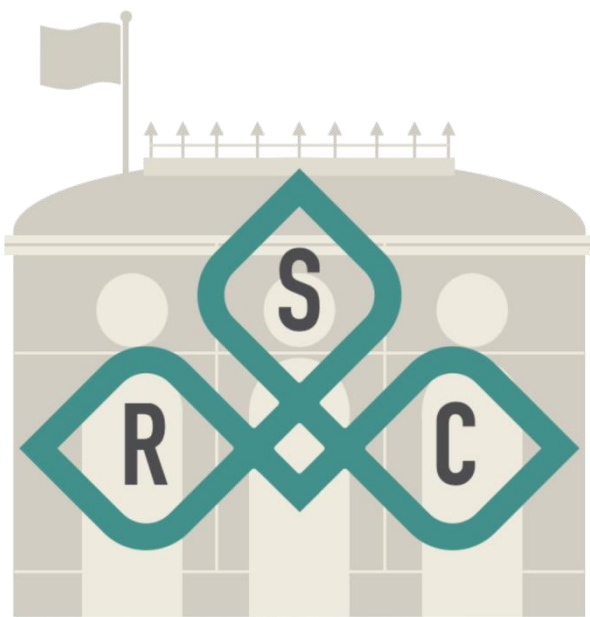




NEWSLETTER 346 Summer 2022



In and Around Regency, Clarence and Russell Squares

Welcome to the first Newsletter under our new logo and name: Regency Squares Community is "In and Around Regency, Clarence and Russell Squares".

A more inclusive name for all our community, continuing over 40 years of bringing together residents and businesses to deal with the challenges of a very busy area in central Brighton.

We showcased the new logo, name and website

<https://regencybrighton.com>

at our 2022 Annual General Meeting, where the following Committee members were elected:

Committee

Chair: Julie Wright (Stone Street)

Acting Secretary: Annabel Watson (Clarence Square)

Treasurer: Julie Wright (acting); Nicola Floyd (Queensbury Mews)

Planning and Conservation: Mike Davies (Stone Street)

Clarence Square: Nigel Massey (Clarence Square)

IT and Gardens: Fran Coates (Regency Square)

Gardens: Sue Dawes (Kings Road)

Design: Hannah Murphy (Regency Square)

Only 29 Subscriptions Received!

After suspending fees for RSC members for the last two years, in order to help out during the pandemic, we had to start collecting subscriptions again from 1 March this year. The subscription renewal form went out with the Spring Newsletter, however ...

... only 29 members have paid!

<https://regencybrighton.com/society/join/>
lets you pay by card or cheque or bank transfer.

While we would dearly love to be able to operate as a permanently free resource for the community, we do incur running costs: gardens, website hosting, insurance, Christmas and so on. All of our committee members work on a volunteer basis, so every penny we collect goes directly to running RSC. Membership for the first year remains free.

Gardens of the Squares

The gardening volunteer group has been working every week since April, on alternate Sundays and Mondays. We weeded the Clarence Square garden in early July, but most sessions take place in the Regency Square garden. The newly planted south borders were in good shape in spring and early summer, but the July heat wave has taken its toll.



Things are not quite as bad as they seem: underneath the singed and wilted foliage, many of the new plants are alive and well. But we have sadly lost a lot of the new plants: some because of trampling, some because well-intentioned mystery gardeners have mistaken new young plants for weeds and replaced them with something else. And some, it has to be said, because the new plants proved unable to cope with Regency Square's uniquely challenging conditions.

Last autumn's planting scheme was inspired by new beds created by volunteers at Hove Lagoon.



We planted many of the same species, including tall ornamental grasses and prairie plants such as Echinacea. One year after planting, the Hove

Lagoon beds are spectacular, but the same plants have struggled to establish in Regency. The difference is that, while both are seafront gardens, Hove Lagoon is a sunken garden, sheltered from the sea winds by a high wall; and Regency Square's exposed borders sit on top of a concrete slab, heated by the car park below.

We've consequently amended our plans for autumn 2022. Instead of transforming the central round bed into a herb garden, we'll focus our energies on filling gaps in the south border. We'll aim for plants that are more 'obvious' and therefore – we hope – less likely to be trampled or dug up.

We'll be taking advantage of a £200 grant for insect-friendly plants from Stanmer Park's One Garden. And we're consulting with Cityparks about wildflower planting. Lots of Brighton & Hove's public gardens and green spaces are experimenting with leaving areas of lawn unmown and allowing wildflowers and wild grasses to take over. We're going to see if that idea can be applied to the borders in Regency Square.

Gill Wales, RSC Gardening Group Leader.

Tool Store



Our volunteer gardeners now have a permanent and safe home for their tools. We have used funds from RSC to purchase a Keter Store-It Out Tool Shed. And thanks to the Directors of Regents Court it has a safe and secure location at the back entrance to their building. Prior to this *the tools were cleaned off and then stored in Gill's front room!* Far from ideal.

We are now looking for a means to transport the forks, hoes and spades to our gardens. Does anyone have a tall shopping trolley or similar with big wheels which we could use please?



New Signs

Watch out for the all new signage to be displayed in our three Squares. Thanks to tremendous work by committee member Ani and backed by the council we have approval for signs in each of the three gardens. The designs match those in a neighbouring Square and we thank the Friends of Norfolk Square for their advice.

Not only will this help visitors to enjoy, conserve and respect these great communal outdoor spaces, it means our PCSOs will have public instructions to point to when dealing with anti-social behaviours.



More Reports = More Action

It helps everyone in the community if we all report incidents to the police. More reports mean the police know where to act.

Remember, 999 in an emergency, otherwise always to email:

101@sussex.police.uk

Members representing Abbots, Bedford Towers and RSC met recently with PCSO Caroline Batchelor plus new PCSO Alex Kartanos. We were assured the police and council were working to get ahead of any noise problems on the promenade this year after our series of meetings on the topic in 2021.

Did you know that post-pandemic rules on our seafront now include:

- No drums or amplifiers.
- Buskers can only busk for 1 hour slots.
- No disposable BBQs or release of lanterns.
- eScooters are illegal in public and will be confiscated

Brunswick Festival 2022 – 40th Edition

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st August

We are delighted to confirm that after a 2 year pause due to Covid-19 Brunswick Festival Group will be bringing people back together in Brunswick Square for a fabulous and fun weekend of free music and entertainment for the whole community.



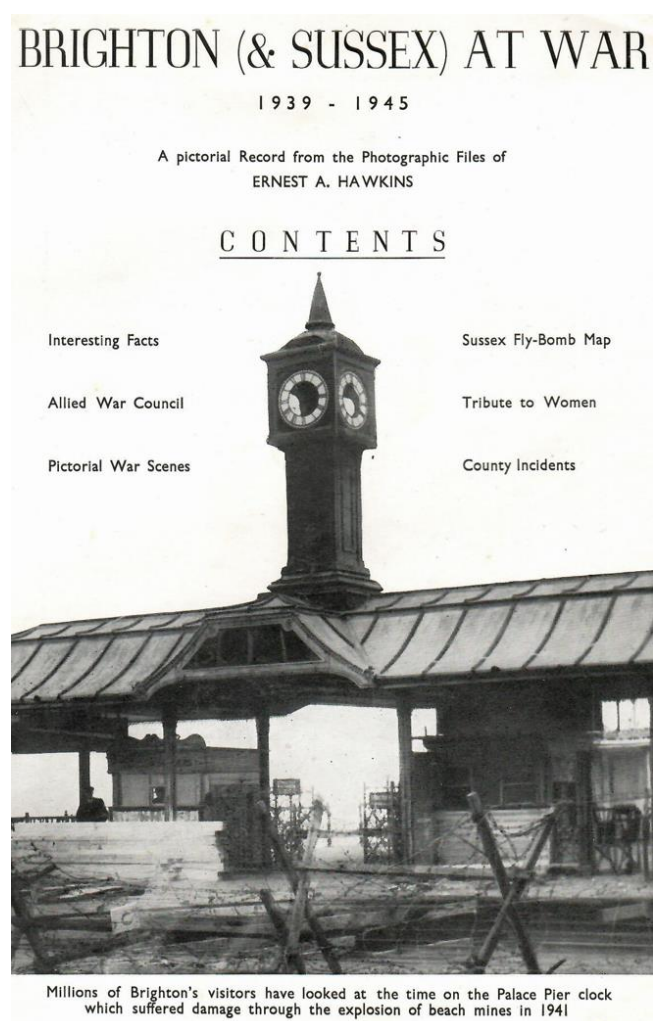
www.brunswickfestival.org.uk

Brunswick Festival is one of the longest running community festivals in the city. This year is supported in partnership with Brighton and Hove Heritage Commission and is especially special, celebrating its 40th edition!

Watch out for the grand opening with the deputy Mayor of Brighton on the Saturday 20th and the spectacle of the children's art parade Sunday 21st August afternoon.

Brighton (& Sussex) at War

Many thanks once again to Brenda and Richard Healy who gave RSC this fascinating pamphlet. It contains many photos of our region from 1939 to 1945 with anecdotes from locals.



Our 2 piers were mined and blown in two to prevent invasion. Many of the sea front hotels including the Metropole were requisitioned. Brighton suffered 370 bombs killing 198 and seriously injuring 375. And reports are that many bombs were dropped without priming – left over from strategic raids on London, dropped to save weight/fuel, but not detonating in our city.

Hitler boasted that he would be living in the Royal Pavilion by 1942 but thankfully that never happened.

We have a the pamphlet in pdf form so anyone wishing to receive a copy please email rsascommunity@gmail.com

A Bird's Eye View from Clarence Square

The sun has come out and summer is full on. The resident peregrine falcons at the top of Sussex Heights had chicks and as far as I know two fledged successfully, hopefully the third did too. Luckily the disruption below hasn't seemed to affect them and sometimes early evening one can hear that distinctive 'mewing' and see them soaring high above. They can also be spotted sitting atop Chartwell Court, on the lookout for some pigeon supper that unwittingly flies into their path.

However, the gulls are not having such a successful time this year. It has been noted that there are fewer nests around. On the roof tops around Clarence Square, which are normally heavy with nesting pairs, the numbers seem lower than normal. This is apparently due to an avian flu they are succumbing to but hopefully this will come and go and their numbers will recover. I love watching these grey, gauche creatures leaping up and down on the roof tops, flapping madly in an attempt to take off, while their mothers look on admiringly at their prodigy's efforts, a lovely summer sight.

After a bleak couple of years, it seems that human life has eventually got back to normal and accordingly there are now lots of events taking place in and around Brighton for people to enjoy. **Brighton Little Theatre** has an interesting schedule and is always a great evening www.brightonlittletheatre.com/events

and if you want an spend a relaxed evening with friends and a picnic, **Brighton Open Air Theatre (BOAT)** has a full schedule of events found at www.brightonopenairtheatre.co.uk/whats-on/

The i360 also has a list of events coming up all of which can be found on their website and of course PRIDE is upon us, which looks to be a humdinger with many venues taking part.

We're on the Telly



No. 2A Regency Mews ...

... is featured in **Channel 4's George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations** - Series 2 Episode 3 "The Glass Works Brighton" available on Catch-Up.



2A Regency Mews 1961

Many thanks to the Regency Society for the use of this picture. See all at regencysociety-jamesgray.com

The 200 year old property, formerly a stables, then a horse hospital, went on to become a Leaded Glass factory. The owner bought the property some time ago but due to various factors including the pandemic the renovation has only just been completed.

The property was empty for 10 years and severely damaged by rain water but the owner was determined to salvage and re-use every bit of the original building, including dropping the original top floor by half a meter intact.

Interested in a bargain? It is currently on the market with Brand Vaughan at £2,500,000!

Planning and Enforcements

Have you noticed commercial red or blue bins popping up in unwanted places since rule changes in April? One example, of many, is **Mikel Coffee** 79-80 Western Road, yet another fast-food / hairdressers / coffee [*delete as appropriate*]. It has been running for two years. However, since council bin rules changed in April 2022, the premises have taken to hiding their commercial bins, not on Western Road, but at the rear on Stone Street. Blocking a fire exit and parking bays. To be emptied noisily at 4am each morning, but never taken back indoors until way after the new 9am curfew. RSC has worked with Environmental Health Officers to get this commercial arrangement reverted to commercial Western Road.

Please let us know if you are experiencing similar commercial bin issues:

rsascommunity@gmail.com

Former NatWest Bank 86 Western Rd will be more familiar as "**Creams**". It is an important historic building constructed of Portland stone. That did not stop the business deciding to paint the listed exterior, using paint colour ... you guessed, cream. To their credit, the business ceased painting as soon as we alerted and indeed removed most of the paint. The resulting paint damage will need specialist recovery.

We thank **Etc Kitchen** on Preston Street as responsive good neighbours, recently fixing their smoke-billowing chimney.

Poor neighbours? 76 Western Road has become yet another fast-food / hairdressers / coffee [*delete as appropriate*]. **Antep Doner House** has opened but customers using the shiny Western Road premises will have no idea of the anti-social and to be honest repulsive outcomes for Stone Street at the rear of the premises. These include dumping 20 bin liners of fetid food waste and glass bottles on the street under cover of darkness, using local residents' doorsteps as smoking stations, littering and blocking one resident from leaving her own house, allowing overnight sleepers into their shared access requiring removal of human excrement **by their neighbours** the next day ... and on and on. All issues reported to their landlord, Moretons Investments, who say they "*will continue to monitor their behaviour*". A frankly laughable response if it wasn't that the situation is so dire.



Former **Hotter Shoes** (above) was to become flats on Western Road at shop level – taking advantage of government relaxation of planning guidance. Imagine; the only residence in amongst all the shops and with a goldfish bowl of a shopfront as the street level window? RSC resisted and also ensured inclusion of heritage railings in-keeping on Clarence Square to the rear

of the building. There is more to fight though. The owners, Moretons Investments again, still want to build even higher on the Clarence Square facing elevation of these premises.

Fortune of War 157 Kings Rd Arches, on the seafront. An application was made for a substantial permanent 2-storey glass structure. With our help the application was refused. RSC commented that it would set an unwanted precedent for 2-storey giant greenhouses all along the lower Esplanade.

Working with our friends the Norfolk Square Group, we have won rebuttal of plans to have motor scooters and other take-away delivery vehicles queuing up on the pavement at the corner of Norfolk Square, outside 110 Western Road **The Boudica**. We were less successful in asking rebuttal of their request for tables and chairs outside – the pavement licence had already been granted ... for eighteen (yes 18) tables and thirty-two chairs. Honestly, where?

RSC has joined many local residents to say yet another fast-food / hairdressers / coffee [*delete as appropriate*] take-away on the corner of Western Terrace (former **Cellys Hair Salon**) would compound the blight of queueing delivery riders already present due to **Taco Bell**. Western Terrace contains not one but four important listed buildings, including the delightful 1827 Amon Henry Wilds 'Western Pavilion'.

What plans are there in your street? Just type your street name or postcode in the search box:

<https://planningapps.brighton-hove.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Thank you all - stay safe and well.

The RSC Committee

