



REGENCY SQUARES COMMUNITY

SUMMER NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2023



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Regency Squares Community newsletter.

The summer has been a few great months and we hope you've filled them with enjoyment!

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you enjoy our community updates!

SUMMER THEATRE EVENTS

Even if the weather hasn't been too clement, it has still been a summer of many events including the Brighton Festival with Regency Square hosting the Rotunda Theatre.



Now the autumn is coming there is still a lot of things to do and see and one jewel, set in Clarence Square, is Brighton Little Theatre who have a full programme up to the end of the year and beyond.

For those interested in their upcoming productions, the website is <https://www.brightonlittletheatre.com> and hope to maybe see you there.



BRIGHTON'S BABY SEAGULLS

After all the bad press seagulls have been getting recently, it is sad to see that there hasn't been the normal amount of youngsters capering around on the rooftops this year.

It is always amusing to watch these grey, fluffy little beings and then to watch them as they start to preen and stretch their wings before taking that first flight - often with disastrous results.

Bird flu has taken its toll on many marine birds and earlier in the year there were several reports of dead birds around Brighton. It would be very sad to lose one of Brighton's most iconic residents so be kind and remember they are trying as hard as we at getting by at the present time ...



ANI WATSON

THANK YOU NICOLA!



Nicola Floyd has been our Treasurer and Membership Secretary since 2015 and has taken on many other RSC jobs beside. You may know her as the coordinator of the i360 Christmas Light-Up ride or spear-heading our response to atrocious noise from the promenade in lockdown.

The council will remember her tireless communication on the i360 s106 monies allocated to the Regency Square area but yet to be received. It was Nicola who designed the new version of the RSC website launched after last year's RSC Annual General Meeting - a task that included reviewing over 40 years of legacy content and articles.

Her legal and business management skills came to the fore whenever needed and society administrative documentation flowed from her reservoir of knowledge. What would we have done all these years?

Sadly for us she, together with her husband Dave and ever faithful dog Bandit, have decided to move on from England.

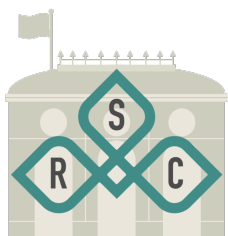
They have spent the last 2 summers looking for the perfect place to relocate, be it Belgium, Germany or France. We understand Nicola is finding the task rather daunting – liking each place more than the last!

Nicola has been a tireless worker, advocate and completer-finisher for RSAS and RSC. The rest of us in the committee have always seen this and now she is moving on, have come to appreciate it even more. We're sure you will all want to join with us in a huge heart-felt "Thank You" for everything she has done for us, the committee and residents of the Regency Squares Community.

Her Treasurer position is being filled by committee member Fran Coates, whose job will be made easier by Nicola's amazing spreadsheets.

THANK YOU SO MUCH NICOLA FOR ALL
OF YOUR HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION!

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR NEW
ADVENTURE!





NICOLA & BANDIT



NEW REGENCY WARD COUNCILLORS

ALISON THOMSON

Alison, a journalist, and her husband, Jez, an osteopath, have lived in Brighton & Hove since 2002. Alison studied languages at Sussex University in the 1980s, before heading off to the States with student travel company EF, who she first worked for at their Farm Road office in Hove. She's since worked in travel and the arts as a writer and editor, and also volunteers at Citizens Advice.

Since getting elected in May - and winning by one vote! - I've been busy working on issues that affect the ward and beyond, from bin collection to street art, from public transport to our enviable green spaces. I'm on two committees- Culture, Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Economic development, as well as Licensing. I'm also City Centre Renewal Lead, so I'm working hard to see how we can reinvigorate the high street and create an urban environment we can be proud of.

A top priority when I got elected was to address the misery and upset inflicted on so many residents by the bus redirection. As the Western Road Improvement Scheme continues apace, I was happy to report that the buses would go back onto Western Road on August 14, several months ahead of schedule, much to everyone's relief.

The brilliant team behind the i360 have been working hard on new projects. These include the cricket-themed Sixes bar, which opened in early July and quickly proved a hit. Meanwhile, part of the top deck on the prom has been given over to a roller-skating rink. Expect more exciting developments soon!

In mid-July I took part in the Big Tidy Up initiative, where, together with the excellent charity Leave No Trace, we collected 21kg of litter off the beach. Other achievements include repairing and repainting our heritage lampposts. These are an important part of our city's image, so I'm glad we were able to fund this important work.

Works in progress include revitalising empty retail spaces such as Imperial Arcade and seeing the iconic Hippodrome brought back to life, as well as addressing issues such as improvements in health and education and sustainable travel.

I've met a lot people in the past four months - more, I'd say, than I've met in 21 years living here! - and that includes the lovely members of the Regency Squares Community. I've really been impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of so many of you - and it's the case across the ward, with volunteer groups looking after our parks, our beaches and our environment.

This is a great city - with great people - and I hope as your Labour councillor I can continue to do you proud.





ALISON THOMSON

PLEASE DROP ME AN
EMAIL: [ALISON.THOMSON@BRIGHTON-
HOVE.GOV.UK](mailto:ALISON.THOMSON@BRIGHTON-
HOVE.GOV.UK), OR FOLLOW ME ON
FACEBOOK: CLLR THOMSON

I HOST A SURGERY ONCE A MONTH AT
BRIGHTON TOWN HALL, ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. PLEASE
DROP IN AND SAY HELLO, I'D LOVE TO MEET
YOU!



CHLOË GOLDSMITH

I grew up near Brighton and spent a huge amount of my childhood visiting the city. Having now lived here for the past 6 years, I can't think of anywhere else I would rather call home. For work, I'm an Editor in factual television and I've worked for many of the independent production companies in and around Brighton & Hove.

In addition to having the pleasure of being one of the ward councillors for Regency, I sit on the Children, Families, and Schools Committee and am the Opposition Spokesperson for the Equalities, Community Safety, and Human Rights Committee. I'm also the Green Group Spokesperson for Equalities and Workers Rights.





CHLOË GOLDSMITH





THE GARDENS

Thank you to the volunteer gardeners for their continued hard work to keep our gardens looking beautiful.

The volunteer gardeners have been working every week, weather permitting, throughout spring and summer. Clarence Square's garden was weeded in mid-summer, all other sessions have been in Regency Square.

With an average turnout of only three volunteers per session, it is impossible to keep Regency Square's borders weed-free. So we focus our efforts on weeding around the healthiest ornamental plants and along the paths. We also take a pragmatic approach: if a weed is attractive and isn't crowding the ornamental plants, we leave it alone. After all, weeds are merely wildflowers in the wrong place. This year, an enormous hemlock seeded itself at one end of the south border. We let it be, only removing it when it threatened to collapse across the path.

The long south border that we re-planted in October 2021 was in reasonably good shape in spring 2023. We planted wildflowers, from the Wildflower Conservation Society at Stanmer, to fill gaps left by two elderly shrubs that died during the winter. Within a mere four days, half of the wildflowers had been dug up by dogs.

Wildflowers are proving generally hard to establish, because the garden borders are so vulnerable to trampling. None of the carefully chosen wild species that we planted last autumn survived beyond the first few weeks of spring. But we have also filled gaps by transplanting, including offshoots (baby plants) of the spiky yellow Yucca.

The Regency Square garden is at its best in spring, when the shrubs are in flower. In high summer it is largely devoid of colour, and looks tired and tatty.





REGENCY SQUARE SOUTH BORDER, RE-PLANTED BY VOLUNTEERS OCTOBER 2021, PHOTOGRAPHED MAY 2023. THE TALL, WHITE-FLOWERED PLANT AT THE FAR END IS A SELF-SOWN HEMLOCK.





ROCK ROSE AND GORSE, REGENCY SQUARE MAY
2023 & PHLOMIS, REGENCY SQUARE MAY 2023



The borders in the upper garden are 20 years old. Much of the original planting is still healthy, but something makes it difficult for garden plants to thrive in the middle sections of the side and south borders.

Under advice from Cityparks, we plan to clear these mid-sections in the autumn so that they can be returned to low maintenance lawn. Clearing the mid-sections is too big a job for our group, so the Cityparks Ranger's volunteer group will be making a welcome return to the garden to help us.

GILL WALES



TRAUDI TAPPIN & REGENCY SQUARE

We have learned of the death of Traudi Tappin who served on the Committee of the Regency Square Area Society from 1984.

Traudi ran a milliner's shop in Imperial Arcade and she and her husband Stan later converted the shop into a dry cleaners. Traudi was a very active member, getting local people to contribute to the Regency Square Improvement Fund which was instrumental in the successful "Save our Seafront" campaign, stopping the development of 3 storey buildings either side of West Pier. Other fundraising activities bought new benches for the gardens, contributed to the heritage board and gardening equipment.

Traudi leaves a son and a daughter to whom we send our condolences. The photograph shows Traudi on the left, Ros Boulden on the right and a park policeman between them!





TRAUDI TAPPIN (LEFT), ROS BOULDEN
(RIGHT) & PARK POLICEMAN



NOTICED ANYTHING DIFFERENT ON WESTERN ROAD?



Back to 2-way traffic! Mike and I attended a meeting at the Metropole, now Double Tree by Hilton, organised by our new ward councillor Alison Thomson. The meeting was about the roadworks on Western Road but primarily about the bus diversions along Montpelier Road, Montpelier Terrace, Upper North Street and Regent Hill. Also at the meeting was Bella Sankey, leader of the council and Trevor Muten, Chair of the council's Transport Sustainability committee.

The meeting took the form of a Q&A, the new labour council wanting to fully understand peoples' concerns. I have never seen so many angry people; not surprising as buses run from 5am to 2am each day and road closures have lasted many months.

There were no easy answers on the night but the councillors said they would go away and seek solutions. Their plan was to include accelerating the construction work timetable so that the Western Road improvement scheme would restore 2-way traffic 6 months earlier than the previous administration planned and that 14th August would see the opening of both carriageways on Western Road. *So far, so good, as the first pledge has been met!*

IT'S IN THE POST

Are you like me? I receive no post for several days then suddenly 5 or 6 letters arrive together. I've had messages from others in our community saying similar, that the postal service is very erratic and they no longer get their regular Postie. I decided to email Royal Mail's complaints service to find out why. As an example I gave the instance of our son's Father's Day card posted in Leeds on a Thursday with a 1st class stamp - £1:10 which didn't arrive until the following Wednesday, after Father's Day. The reply was that "while Royal Mail take all complaints seriously and would like to answer your concerns we can only respond to specifics" (?)

One of our members suggests phoning the Royal Mail General Enquiries number 03457 740 740. After pressing a few buttons, you should get through to a person to whom you can complain. I did see our regular Postie in late May; he said he had been off for 6 weeks with an ankle injury and that he was now in a van delivering parcels. A Google search reveals this situation is occurring all across the UK, so not just locally. Royal Mail's response is? ... to increase the price of a 1st class stamp to £1:25 from October 2023.



THIS YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder if you have not paid your membership for this year.

- ❖ £5 for Household Membership,
- ❖ £15 for Business Membership.

Optional Donations have also proven a popular way of helping RSC do more for you and the local community. There are lots of ways that you can pay your membership:

- ❖ Membership form attached, send cash or cheque payable to Regency Squares Community, to 14 Stone Street BN1 2HB.
- ❖ Bank Transfer to Regency Squares Community Account No. 30071320 Sort Code 09-01-29
- ❖ Credit card on our website at <https://regencybrighton.com>

Thank you - we value your support

REGENCY SQUARES COMMUNITY



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT!

SEPTEMBER 2023

