

REGENCY SQUARES COMMUNITY

WINTER NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2025



LOCAL NEWS

As we wrap up another winter, we are pleased to present the Winter Edition of our newsletter. Inside, you'll find local news and updates from the past few months. We hope everyone is staying warm and healthy as we look forward to the promise of Spring and the first flowers blooming.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful start to the season ahead! Thank you for your continued support! Your contributions play a vital role in helping us strengthen and uplift our local community.



THE i360

Since the original writing, the i360 has been sold to Nightcap Limited, a company now under the leadership of Sarah Willingham, a Brighton native. With her local insight and fresh leadership, there's renewed optimism that the i360 will finally fulfill its potential as the iconic landmark it was always meant to be.

The move has sparked hope among residents and visitors alike that this ambitious project will undergo a much-needed transformation. As the future of the i360 now lies in new hands, we can only wait and see how things unfold.



We hope that the upcoming summer will rekindle interest in the local landmark, turning it into a greater attraction, drawing more visitors.



CAPTIVATING PHOTOS FROM THE
LOCAL AREA 2025



FIREMEN TO THE RESCUE

A very large aerial was hanging off the side of 69 Regency Square. With high winds forecast, the fire and rescue service took no time in coming to 'rescue' service it before it got blown down onto a car, or worse, a pedestrian.

It was fascinating to watch the two huge fire tenders parked in Regency Square, and even more so to see the two firemen being wafted up to roof level and 'rescuing' the aerial.



SUZANNE HINTON, DECEMBER 2024





CHRISTMAS 2024

Well this may be remembered but not for the reasons we hoped...

We were looking forward to getting a Christmas Tree in place in Regency Square in time for the annual i360 flight and expectations were high and all seemed to be going well then everything slowly fell apart....

Each year the tree is delivered to the i360 who very kindly deal with the erection and lighting for RSC and this year we thought would be no different.

At the end of November a tree was bought and then delivered to the i360 where it could be stored until they could put it up. As you can imagine it is a fairly large tree so needs a few strong people to deal with it with so each year the i360 kindly help by erecting the tree for us and they then affix the lights as these need to be cable tied to the tree, so quite a bit of work. The tree was erected and we were delighted as it was a very bushy handsome example and it would look magnificent when the lights were on and shining.

Each year the i360 also take the tree down for us too and dismantle the lighting so they would keep the lights at the i360 for use the following year although this year they couldn't be found so we had very short notice to try and obtain more.

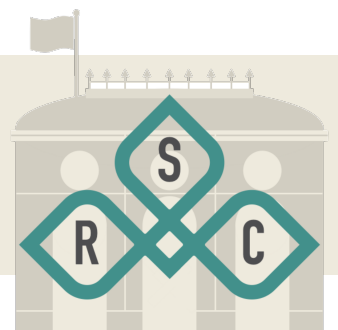
After an exhaustive search by one of our members to find lights that fitted the criteria for a tree in a public place, some were located.

It was a real shame we couldn't have the light up we normally do but everyone still seemed to enjoy the evening as it was a lovely clear, crisp evening so Brighton looked fabulously twinkly to make up for it.

Eventually the lights were received at the i360 but by this time things were obviously bubbling there as we seemed to have a bit of a breakdown in communications with them, the upshot of it all was we didn't get the lights up on to the tree and we also lost a Brighton icon...
(until now!)



SUE DAWES, ANI WATSON & JULIE WRIGHT,
CHRISTMAS TREE RIDE 2024



So next year we shall have to see what happens but it does look as if our Christmas Flights, and even the tree, maybe a thing of the past, unless we can recruit some others to help with this task. It would be a shame not to have a tree in Regency Square so please if anyone wants to volunteer or has any suggestions, please get in touch with us as rsc@regencybrighton.com

All the best to one and all for a good and prosperous 2025 from all of us at RSC.



MARY HUNTER

1947-2024

The Regency Squares Community is sad to report the death in October of Mary Hunter, née Garstone.

Mary had lived in Regency Square since the death of her husband in the mid-1990s. Her work for British Airways took her frequently on the train to Gatwick where she was responsible, among other things, for the First Class passenger lounge. Mary's charming and quiet manner may have quelled many a fractious VIP, but equally, no VIP would have got away with bad behaviour on Mary's watch. There was an admirable determination under that gentle exterior. It was only the closure of Gatwick during the pandemic which prevented Mary from continuing to work well into her 70s.

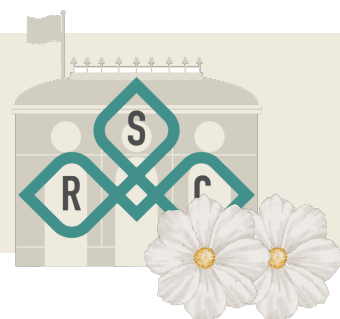
Mary was, for several years a very active member of the Regency Square Area Society (later RSC). She was an expert at persuading local businesses to donate prizes for the AGM raffle and over time, forged a

good working relationship with the management of the Brighton i360 tourist attraction. Mary it was who persuaded that same management to offer a free ride to RSC members at Christmas ... and even persuaded them into dragooning their burlier members of staff into erecting a 15' Christmas tree in Regency Square. The tradition continues.

Mary will be missed. Our condolences go to her family in Cambridge and elsewhere in Britain. This delightful portrait of Mary in the 1970s was kindly passed on to us by Mary's 2nd cousin, Adam Garstone.



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LATE MARY HUNTER,
1970'S.





REDUCING HARM FROM DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

A meeting for residents of Regency, Adelaide & Brunswick Wards

In July 2024 key groups from Regency, Brunswick and Adelaide Wards were invited to a Public meeting at Hove Town Hall the aim was to understand residents' concerns regarding antisocial behavior and drug crime taking place in the area. This was part of a city wide consultation - Reducing harm from drugs and alcohol strategy, to be published in 2025.

Present were the Police, Council Officials and Councillors including our own Chloe Goldsmith and Alison Thompson.. There were also representatives from various agencies involved with the problem.

Regency Squares community sent along 4 committee members - myself, Ani, Mike and Nigel. We sat at tables of 8 each with a scribe noting our concerns; these were used to formulate a strategy document.

A follow up meeting was arranged to report on progress 16th December – it meant temporarily taking off the Santa hats and getting back down to business.

Chief Executive Officer – Jess Gibbons was present and the meeting was chaired by Alison Thompson. Chief Inspector Simon Marchant for Brighton and Hove stressed that Police wanted to improve communications with the community. He reported that things had



improved in our area in the last 6 months with a 25% reduction of Drug related crime in Regency Square. He praised our PCSO Kerry Keene for initiating a targeted campaign in the area.

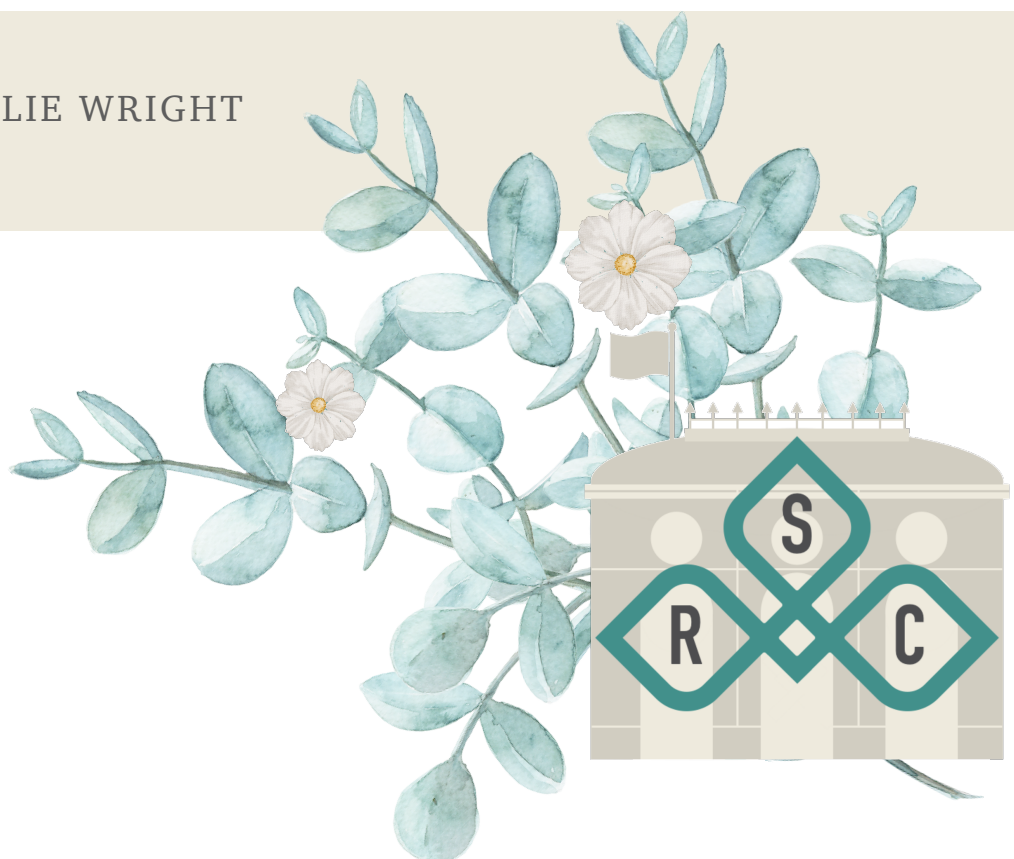
BHT Sussex housing association and homeless charity reported that they had been able to house 60 homeless people off the street in the last 3 months.

The lead from Council temporary housing team agreed that temporary housing should be moved away from hot spots (Regency Square) and private short term lettings, hotels etc. The Council are looking to compulsory purchase empty derelict properties with a view to housing homeless people in smaller groups across the city. Alison T promised to look into the hostel situation in Regency Square noting it's chequered history.

More CCTV was raised often from the floor but it not only requires money to set up but people to monitor it.

We came away realizing there are a lot of good people working to solve the drug and homeless issues in our city but it is going to cost money and take time.

WRITTEN BY JULIE WRIGHT



FRAN COATES

Fran moved from Hampshire to Brighton's wonderful Regency Square in 1993. After working in offices for several years, as a very mature student Fran took herself off to university to study Linguistics. This led to an unexpected and most enjoyable career as a British Sign Language interpreter, which of course involved more study and training.

Stopping work in 2019 to follow her dream to ride her bicycle Fran embarked on some fantastic adventures in the UK and Europe, cycling and mostly wild camping along the way.



Regularly to Portsmouth to visit family. 2019/20 a 12 month trip in UK, France, Portugal and Spain. 2021 i360 to Glasgow COP26 in 10 days!
2022 Glasgow to Cape Wrath off road 2022 France, Switzerland, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania for 8 months.

The visit to Bulgaria lead to a temporary move to York where she remains, awaiting her, 6 year overdue, state pension.

Once back in Brighton on a permanent basis, Fran shall be more involved in the Regency Squares Community. We plan to build our community by arranging events in the Squares, forge stronger links between the three squares, recruit more members and new committee members, find more volunteers to help with the gardens, liaise with new local businesses to encourage them to support us and most importantly listen to your ideas of what you would like for the Regency Squares Community.



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



A date for your diary.

The Annual General meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th May at 7.30pm in the Sandringham Room at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel. We would like to welcome as many members as possible with refreshments and a chance to connect with new Committee members and chat with our neighbours in Regency, Russel and Clarence Squares.

THANK YOU FROM RSC!

We truly appreciate your continued support of the committee and want to thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter!

Your input is invaluable to us, so if you have any suggestions for articles, updates, or topics you'd like to see covered, please don't hesitate to share them with us. We look forward to hearing your ideas and keeping you informed!

