

June 2025



Regency Squares Community Newsletter

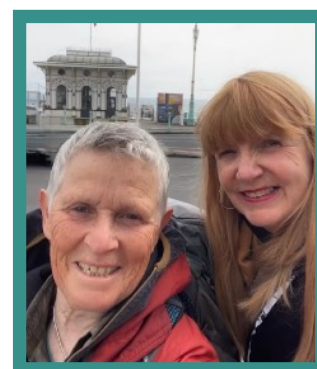
AGM 2025 and beyond . . .

Our previous Chair, Julie Wright, a tireless advocate for RSC over the past five years, stood down as Chair. The Community is changing and we need to reflect the concerns of our residents and short term visitors alike. Sue and Fran, as new chairs want to build stronger neighbourhood connections to create a more cohesive community.

The Committee

Following our AGM 6th May 2025 the current Committee members are:

- Chairs: Sue Dawes and Fran Coates - shared role
- Secretary: VACANCY (currently - Sue Dawes)
- Treasurer: VACANCY (currently - Fran Coates)
- Planning & Conservation: VACANCY
- Clarence Square: Nigel Massey
- Social Secretary: Ani Watson
- Events Secretary: VACANCY
- Media: VACANCY (currently Fran Coates and Sue Dawes)
- IT: VACANCY (currently - Fran Coates)
- Gardens: Sue Dawes, Fran Coates



As you can see from the above list we need more members. Please consider joining us. Taking part in the local community is rewarding and can take as little or as much time as you would like to spare.

New Shared Chairwomanship first challenge!

The new term started off with a resident inspired campaign to stop Camper Van Man and his family from parking on the lower green of Regency Square . . .

".....calling all 'Z-cars'!"



REGENCY SQUARE NEEDS



YOU !



June 2025



Calling all Z-cars - Grass Wars: The Motorhome vs. Our Community

Ahead of the recent bank holiday weekend, flyers were delivered around the square asking residents to park on the inner side of the square to block access to the grass, in anticipation of the motorhome that has blighted previous bank holiday weekends by parking illegally on the green. The flyers also invited residents to a drinks gathering on the day the motorhome was expected to arrive.

We wanted to share a huge thank you to everyone who came together to support this effort and help protect our shared space. A small group of residents helped with flyer delivery and spreading the word on social media, making sure the message reached as many people as possible. The response was fantastic, we estimate 30-40 people turned up for the informal drinks gathering, which made for a lovely atmosphere and showed just how much the community cares about looking after our space. A big thank you as well to the car owners who parked along the grass to help block access. Residents we spoke to, including those who contacted us by email, confirmed that this effort made a real difference. The motorhome didn't get onto the grass, which was exactly what we were hoping.

Given how effective and enjoyable this was, we intend to do something like this again during the next bank holiday weekend, including a social get-together and another show of community action. Thanks again to all those involved, and we look forward to seeing everyone again then!

by Tara Owens, Regency Square

STOP PRESS!!! The weekends 5th\6th and 14th\15th June. The same motorhome has been spotted again circling the square looking for a space to cross onto the grass. The motorhome has now parked on Hove Lawns and the Council and police have been informed. This is an ongoing problem and we will keep you posted. PETITION TO FOLLOW!!!



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Clarence Square

A new tree has been planted in Clarence square to replace one that was lost. It is a London Plane Tree which should be hardy and grow to a good height. It will provide shade and protection to other plants in the garden and hopefully will encourage birds and other wildlife to thrive.



The park continues to call for regular police visits. A fight on a Saturday afternoon at the beginning of the month required two police cars and eventually two ambulances as a drunk had passed out on one of the benches and could not be woken. Teenagers continue to climb over the railings after the park has been closed at 6pm largely just to smoke weed but occasionally getting noisy and troublesome. Vandalism of plants is also an occasional problem although the teenagers who regularly trashed the square seem (fingers crossed) to have moved elsewhere for the time being. Our PCSOs are now seen more regularly and keep more of an eye on things. Problems still remain with teenagers crowding on the steps on the north side of the square. It must be awful for the residents there.

Developments

The planning permission for 41-44 Western Road/32-35 Clarence Square (Cancer Research and Card Factory shops and Clarence Square buildings and elevations) has still not been determined. The proposal is to demolish the Cancer Research and Card Factory shops and the entire buildings including the Clarence Square parts and build new shops and flats. The charitable applicants submitted revised plans in April and have removed one of the proposed mansard floors (it was absurdly high with two) so now the development is for two double fronted shops and fourteen flats. The plans have still not resolved the continuing problems of fly tipping and other anti social behaviour in the area around the commercial bins which continue to plague the area and are proposing (probably at the Council's request) a new bin area which will be inches from the bedroom windows of the eastern duplex flat! One wonders what the planners and architects are thinking as who wants to live with the smell and vista of domestic rubbish bins inches from their bedroom windows! Hopefully this will be resolved sensibly in the final plans and railings will be built on the boundary with the pavement. You can view the plans on the Councils planning portal, see: <https://planningapps.brighton-hove.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SLPSUDDMKB600>.

by Nigel Massey, Clarence Square



Neighbouring Gardens

Fran and Sue have been out and about making contact with other volunteer gardening groups in Brunswick Square and attending an open day in Norfolk Square. These visits were inspiring and we accept that our gardens are limited by the car park beneath them. A restricted variety of plants may be used and we are on a learning curve finding out what it is possible to grow. It is good to maintain contacts with other gardeners. In our own square the initial flush of colour provided by daffodil and tulip bulbs has given way to a lot of bare patches and recent rain has prevented much garden work. We plan to plant a lot of summer bulbs and keep a close watch on the rose bushes which we hope will thrive. Nigel has been keeping an eye on our new tree in Clarence Square and giving it some water. Debbie and Solange are doing an excellent job maintaining the beautiful garden in Russell Square.

Three Squares Gardening Meeting Update

A productive meeting was held with representatives from Russell, Regency, and Clarence Squares. Councillor Alison Thomson joined us, along with Regency Sue, Russell Debs, and Clarence Ani. Here's a quick rundown of what we discussed and what's coming next:

1. **New Bins for Russell and Regency Squares**

We've put in a formal request for additional bins in Russell and Regency Squares. This should help keep our spaces cleaner and more enjoyable for everyone.

2. **Agapanthus for Russell Square**

Sarah Carlisle has been approached to provide agapanthus plants for Russell Square. These lovely flowers will add a splash of colour and brighten up the square.

3. **Sharing Tools and Maintenance Tips**

We've agreed to share tools, making it easier for everyone to achieve their aims for each square. We also discussed how shorter, more frequent maintenance sessions tend to work better than longer, less frequent ones. Watch this space for more dates.

4. **£22,000 allocation for ward improvements**

We're excited to share that £22,000 has been allocated for ward improvements! This funding could go towards projects like new bins, benches, landscaping, and repairs. It's a fantastic opportunity to make our squares even better. We'll share more details soon.

by Tom Coady, Compost Monitor, Russell Square

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Join our Gardening Group?

Sue will regularly be gardening in Regency Square on **Tuesday mornings from 11am**. We do need more help in the garden and would be happy to run more sessions. If you are interested please let us know so we can arrange days of the week/time of day might suit you better. Email us RSC@regencybrighton.com

Your Input Matters!

What would you like to seem happening within your local community? If you have ideas, questions, or feedback, please let us know. Together, we can make our squares and community spaces thrive. Thanks for your support.

NB! [Please do not confuse us, Regency Squares Community, with “Friends of Regency Square”. This “Friends” offshoot group is not affiliated with Regency Squares Community and we do not endorse the views and ideas expressed in their newsletters.]

