

May 2026



Regency Squares Community Newsletter

Latest news

Regency Square report has been headline news in The Argus twice in the last few weeks! First was reports of a tent which was pitched in the top garden and attracted a marked increase in drug dealing, drug users and anti social behaviour raising a lot of residents' concern.

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/26044920.regency-square-brighton-hit-drugs-defecation/>

The second more serious and alarming incident was the murder of Tyio Day in Moon's Lodge hostel at number 57 Regency Square.

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/26053929.building-regency-square-brighton-cordoned-off-police/>

<https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2026/04/28/man-charged-with-regency-square-murder/>

These incidents have caused a lot of consternation in our community to which Regency Squares Community responded by holding 4 emergency meetings. The first 2 meetings were as a result of the tent incident which were attended by 30+ residents along with Cllr Alison Thomson and a council representative from the Tents and Homeless support team. [Link to meeting notes](#)

Meetings 3 and 4 were hosted by Adam Hays, Chief Superintendent | Divisional Commander Brighton & Hove Division | Force Race Equality Champion. The first of the meetings with the police was at very short notice and attended by a only few residents and RSC committee members. The second, held on Bank Holiday Monday, attracted 28 residents plus Cllr Alison Thomson, who kindly cut short her weekend away especially to be here to support us. This second meeting discussed the same issues as the previous one but giving more residents the opportunity to share their concerns. [Link to Ai recorded minutes](#). Full Police report to follow. And a huge thanks to all residents who have been reporting and emailing our councillors and the police on all these matters.

Both Adam Hays and Alison Thomson are taking this incident very seriously and will report back to us as to the validity, viability, safety and security of having so many high risk people living in the middle of a family oriented residential area which is also a popular tourist area for the city of Brighton and Hove.

Regency Squares Community will circulate reports from Adam Hays, police and Cllr Alison Thomson once they are received.

This has had a real impact on all of our residents and local businesses and has been a lot of work for the RSC committee. There is some lighter news coming in this publication highlighting the nature by which we are surrounded . . . but before that, here are the ways of reporting tents/anti social behaviour in The Square(s) and the most effective way of contacting the police.

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Care and Safety in our Squares

Report an incident: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>

Crimestoppers - the more reports the better. Please share your report on the [RSC WhatsApp group](#) so we can all copy and paste

Tents and rough sleepers: One report is enough. Please let the RSC WhatsApp group know you have reported so we don't all waste everyone's time reporting multiple times. Or email us at RSC@regencybrighton.com

Report a rough sleeper/tent: tents@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Support rough sleeper: <https://thestreetlink.org.uk/>

HMOs - link to BHCC response [Accommodation Update](#)

One of our long term residents has kindly written us a potted history of Regency Square. Apparently at one point the entire square was HMOs. Click link below to read

[From fake palaces to boarding houses to HMOs - a potted history of Regency Square](#)

... And even while preparing this newsletter more news is coming in, mostly bad but also some good.

Queensbury Mews report - link to BHCC response Hole In The Wall - [Licensing Issues](#)

The issues affecting Regency Square are also impacting the surrounding streets and squares including Queensbury Mews, which is used by drug seekers given it is quieter and less exposed. The exits from the Hilton car park and conference centre are frequently used as sheltered areas for drug deals and drug takers. The Hilton management team is working with residents to address this with better lighting, cameras and security and by removing known drop off points.

The Hole in the Wall pub has also become a central point for anti-social behaviour and drugs on Queensbury Mews. What used to be a local pub is now attracting large groups of non-locals who do not respect the quiet residential nature of the neighbourhood. The pub runs an "illegal beer garden" with loud, intimidating, groups standing outside residents' homes, blocking the pavement or standing in the middle of the road creating safety issues for everyone. There have been many near misses between local drivers and pub customers.

Because these drinkers are effectively unmonitored by the pub for long periods while outside, they use this to "order in" drugs, while having a pint, bringing dealers to our streets. Residents have recorded dozens of drug deals in recent weeks. Pub customers have also been recorded urinating against residents' homes and garages. Following detailed reporting from residents the



police licensing team are now aware of the scale of the problem and have told RSC that if the problems persist they can and will impose restrictions on the pub to protect residents.

Russell Square report

Russell square have also had a tent in the square they left with gentle encouragement from the PCSOs. Also some residents have reported experienced harassment and intimidation from one of the local drug dealers. But leading on to some more positive news!

In April some damage, possibly a sign of disease on the largest tree in Russell Square was reported to the council Arboriculture Officer. They came to inspect and arranged for tree surgeons to remove damaged branches - all done in under a week. It is reassuring that the issue affecting the tree was not more serious disease, as another major tree was felled because of elm disease five years ago, and the leafy shade offered by the trees is such a lovely place for residents and visitors to rest and enjoy the historic square.

The Dolphins are back



We have been privileged to see yet another display of dolphins in our waters as the weather warms up. Footage captured by the Sussex Dolphin Project shows dolphins jumping and swimming in the sea off the coast from Brighton marina on England's southern coast. Click on the image to the left (Source: YouTube - get ready to 'Skip' to quit the ads.)

Grace and Alis to the rescue!





This pigeon was found injured in the Regency Square car park, a passerby brought up to the square and tried to give it some water. Grace, who lives on the square and works at No Catch vegan fish and chip restaurant and Alis, who also lives on the square and manages Pelirocco Hotel, came to the rescue. After several phone calls to bird rescue charities they finally got through to WRAS contactable via <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/18mZsiNNxL/>

Neighbours in Regency and Clarence Squares have noticed a marked increase in pigeons this year too. Is this the same in your area? More on pigeons next issue while we give way to the plight of our gulls.

The poor old seagulls!! They get such a mixed press..... Brighton has its fair share of these amazing creatures and love them or hate them they are iconic to our city and the seaside. They are chancers as people find out when eating food and have it snatched by a swooping thief! But we have encouraged their scavenging by litter and food abounding so they think any food is fair game whether it is being held or not and it's so much easier than finding those pesky fish.

Now it is their breeding season and their untidy but capable nests have started to appear on roof tops all around. Soon we shall see the grey, fluffy, ungainly chicks hop from their nests and explore. Here in Clarence Square we have a couple of families who return year after year - gulls pair for life - and they usually produce a couple of chicks who are definite 'ugly ducklings' but then after a lot of preening, become beautiful sleek gulls. I hope this year will be good for them as the herring gull has now joined the list of endangered birds. You may have seen the representative of the RSPB at the London Marathon was dressed as a herring gull to make people aware that these majestic and beautiful birds are now on the danger listso give them a break and don't be quick to judge.



So next time you are out take some time to look closely at a gull. Watch how they waddle and walk down the streets with such authority, their flat feet, see how wonderfully clean and pristine their feathers look, and how defined their markings are and think what it would be like without these wonderful birds Gulls like us and other animals deserve to share Brighton in harmony and each has its place in the big tapestry of life ..."

For many years **Peregrine Falcons** have been nesting on the roof of Sussex Heights in a specially provided nesting box giving them shelter from the elements and a safe place to grow and fledge. This year is no exception and three chicks have hatched and appear to be thriving. A web cam is operating to view their progress click on the image to the left to see more.





Prime seats for Brighton Fringe



One of our residents shared these lovely photos showing a blooming Regency Square in May

Brighton Fringe have their Bubble, Squeak and Pip tents back again. We know not all of you are keen on these being here for a variety of reasons. Firstly, some good news, Cllr Alison Thomson has been proactive in ensuring things are a little better for us this year. There is no generator, power is coming from a source in the carpark, so that will help keep the noise down and there are toilets inside the enclosure! Also, we did request a fallow year this year, even Glastonbury festival does this, but due to all the works in Valley Gardens the festival were desperate for space.

For the Fringe Festival Fans here are links to what is on at the venues.

Bubble - <https://www.brightonfringe.org/venues/rotunda-theatre-brighton-bubble/>

Squeak - <https://www.brightonfringe.org/venues/rotunda-theatre-brighton-squeak/>

Pip - <https://www.brightonfringe.org/venues/rotunda-theatre-brighton-pip/>

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SOCIALS - even more meetings!!! Socials this time

Our monthly social, the first one was last month, was a great success with around 10 of us throughout the evening having a good old catch up, meeting and getting to know some of our long term neighbours for the first time. The food was pretty good too.



Thursday 14th May 5pm-8pm 🍺 🍷

May's social will also be held at **Drift, i360 bar / restaurant**

Growing our community More dates for your diaries are for our 'recruitment drive'. There has been at least one positive outcome from these recent incidents and that is our community is really starting to pull together. The role for the community in protecting our enjoyment of the area has been acutely highlighted and some of you are interested in joining our committee.

Therefore we are suggesting the following dates to come and have a chat about the committee and what a fun and rewarding experience it can be. There is no pressure to join, just come along and see what it's all about.

Wednesday 13th May from 7pm 🍷 🍷

Thursday 21st May from 7pm 🍷 🍷

These meetings will also be held at **Drift, i360 bar / restaurant**

Our final date is for our

AGM in June

(final details to follow)

at which we look forward to welcoming
our new committee members.

Join our Gardening Group?



Sue will regularly be gardening in Regency Square on **Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 11am (email us your mobile number to join WhatsApp gardening group for updates).**

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

And you might find all sorts of treasures



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Your Input Matters!

What would you like to see 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.

RSC WhatsApp group

Send your mobile to RSC@regencybrighton.com and we will send you a link.

RSC Committee consists of:

- Fran Coates - Regency Square
- Sue Dawes - King's Road
- Ani Watson - Clarence Square
- Nigel Massey - Clarence Square

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• **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.]
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