



Regency Squares Community Newsletter

Latest News

We always start off writing the newsletter thinking there isn't much to say. Positive reports from neighbours saying since the Metropole put lights in the top doorway there has been far less anti social behaviour. Little noise from the Hole in the Wall and refuse collections respecting the daytimes, with very few exceptions. Regency Square no camper vans and only two tents. No one sleeping outside Waitrose and even the tents on the beach have gone. Where are they all now?

However, there is an issue with the Metropole carpark sprinkler bells being activated in the middle of the night, waking up the residents of Queensbury Mews. We are in communication with them to hopefully have this remedied soon. Regency Square finally had its crazy paving repaired. Cllr Alison Thomson has been a force of support and proactivity, pushing all these issues forward. You can read Alison's very informative Ward report by [clicking this link](#)

Dates for your diary

Saturday Oct 24, from 10am to 1pm BHCC Tidy Up Team - Bedford Square

Saturday Dec 5, from 2pm Mulled Wine and Hot Chocolate - West Arches

Sunday Dec 6, AT 5pm Free ✨ Light Up ✨ Flight and After Party - i360

Small Businesses Saturday Dec 5 - West Arches shops

These small businesses are a lovely asset to our seafront and we are trying to support their success. The archway and road reinforcement works to the West of i360 has impacted their footfall. Although this work is essential, the area is not inviting for the usual joggers, dog walkers along that stretch of our promenade.

A very unimaginative and utilitarian sign has been provided at the top of the steps by The Seahorse saying that businesses were open as usual which provides no incentive for potential shoppers to descend.



Business owners want attractive signage and for the fences and railings to be thoughtfully placed to minimise impact although a lot of these fences are essential for the health and safety on site. Alison and (other Council attendees) listened to concerns and agreed about the signs. Cllr Alison is planning a small business Saturday event on 5th December to draw attention to the area. Please patronise these shops if you can.

[Click here](#) to read the latest flyer promoting these businesses.



RSC / i360 Xmas Light Up Sunday Dec 6

This year we plan to light up Regency Square in more ways than one. Each year we have a fabulous trip up the i360 when we light up the Christmas tree in the middle of the square. Each year the lights are vandalised. In 2025 it was within 2 days! This year we have a cunning plan to deter the vandals but in case that fails we thought we'd follow the Grand's plan and light up all our balconies.

Some of our members are lucky enough to live in these much sought after balcony flats. Please can you help us get in contact with all balcony flat owners. We would like to be able to provide lights for all of our balconies. Again Cllr Alison Thomson is on the case to find sponsors for us. Of course, any help will be most welcome.

Click here to make a [donation](#)

Christmas Tree

RSC have bought the tree for the last 2 years but now we need to find another way to pay for it although this may still be down to RSC if we cannot find a sponsor. Accordingly it would be a huge help if some of you would pay the membership fee as we seem to be down this year and due to events not pursued collection. It is only £5 per person or £15 per business so hopefully not too much for most.

For this, our bank account is with Santander, and details are :

Regency Squares Community sort code **09-01-29** a/c no. **30071320**

Thank you so much and if anyone is able to raise sponsorship for the tree that would be fabulous. Please get in touch rsc@regencybrighton.com

Lally McDermott

Some of our long term members will have fond memories of *Lally McDermott* who lived on the square from around 2000. Lally was an active member of the Regency Square



Area Society and extremely proactive in the garden. Lally was my downstairs neighbour and there was often mouth watering aromas coming from her flat and whenever we would meet in the corridor she would insist that I came back to her flat to have some sort of snack, freshly cooked samosas on tap! Lally worked for many years as a paediatrician in London. After her husband died Lally bought herself a retirement flat in Regents Court. Lally was one of the kindest people I have ever had the honour of befriending. Lally sadly died on Thursday, 15th October. She was not in pain and received the sacraments from the priest that very morning.



Clarence Square/Western Road Planning

On Wednesday 7th October the Council's Planning Committee approved Planning Permission for the demolition of 32-35 Clarence Square / 41-44 Western Road to be replaced by two double shop fronts on the Western Road side (accessed via Western Road only) and fourteen flats on the Clarence Square side and above the shops (accessed via Clarence Square). The current four buildings form the Cancer Research and Card Factory Shops on the Western Road side and four empty and semi-derelict buildings on the Clarence Square side. The land in front of 33-35 is a terrible mess of rough ground, commercial bins and car parking. Over the years this eyesore has attracted considerable fly tipping, drug using and doubles as a public toilet behind the bins and in the basement wells. The ownership of this blot on the landscape is split between the owner (32 and 33) and the Council (34 and 35). Nigel Massey representing RSC attended the Committee and pleaded with the members to allow the developers to build the railings fronting the new flats up to the pavement boundary and not leave a space for future fly tipping etc. The Council have already agreed that the shop waste will be collected on the Western Road side and the residential waste will utilise the current Council bins on the street. He managed to also have words with the developer's representative who was also keen to protect and defend the space in front of the flats. In her summing up Councillor Alison Thomson as chair of the committee asked that the Council find a way to allow this valueless strip of land to be incorporated into the development and situated behind the railings. We are all hoping that the officers will carry out the necessary paper work to allow this to happen. More info to read in [this link](#)



Going, going, gone?

Our last newsletter paid homage, of a sort, to the extraordinary edifice that is the Blue House, located to the north east of Regency Square, on the corner with Queensbury Mews.

Excitingly, it seems that its end may be nigh, following a successful auction which took place in September, which saw a lucky (and plucky) would-be developer agreeing to pay £285,500 for the property. Neighbours are now anxiously awaiting any sign that, four years on from work stopping on the site, a new (non-blue) house might finally appear.

Bidding Closed

Sold for £285,500

Bidder ID	Amount	Time (GMT+1)
135946	£285,500	17/09/2026 12:23:24
135963	£284,500	17/09/2026 12:22:52
135946	£282,000	17/09/2026 12:22:46
135978	£281,000	17/09/2026 12:22:38



Broadband in Regency Square: Are We Being Left Behind?

Despite full-fibre broadband now being available across most of Brighton and the UK (over 80% of UK households now have access) many residents of Regency Square are still waiting to be brought up to modern standards.

In our building of 11 flats, we pay Utility Warehouse £50 a month for a part-fibre connection. Yet providers elsewhere advertise full-fibre speeds of 900 Mbps or more for around £20 a month. Unfortunately, when I proceed, full fibre remains unavailable at our building. When I enquire the response is always the same: 'It's coming' - but nobody can tell me when.

Worse still, some flats in our building apparently have options of just 10 - 67 Mbps. The new owners of one flat found their connection so slow that they're unable to stream television, so we've let them use our guest Wi-Fi!

Some buildings in the square may already have full fibre, so why are others still waiting? Is the problem the cost or disruption of installation, or something else? And is there anything we can do collectively to speed things up?

With reliable, high-speed broadband now essential for working from home, video calls and streaming 4K television, it's disappointing that parts of Regency Square are still struggling with such limited options.

We'd love to hear from other residents. Which provider do you use, what speed do you receive, how much do you pay, and do you have full fibre?

Email: Broadband@regencybrighton.com

By comparing experiences, perhaps we can establish what's holding things up and persuade providers to take action.

Surely modern, fast and affordable broadband should be available throughout Regency Square by now!

October 2026



BHCC BIG Tidy Up



Sales end soon

Bedford Square BIG Tidy Up

Saturday at 10:00

Bedford Square

Free

Here's a link to the tidy-up event Cllr Alison Thomson has organised with BHCC staff and the Bedford Square Garden Group on Saturday Oct 24, from 10am to 1pm.

[**Bedford Square BIG Tidy Up Tickets, Saturday, October 24 • 10 AM - 1 PM | Eventbrite**](#)

Alison says It's been sometime since we have done an organised activity in Bedford Square. This is the oldest of the city's squares and it is important that this heritage is maintained. We will be edging the lawns, weeding the square, litter picking and working to get other improvements in the space. All tools and

equipment will be provided. It would be great to see you there! We hope to tackle **Clarence, Russell and Regency squares** next!

"Our Keith"

Last year we were sorry to lose "Our John" who kept our pavements spick and span for over twenty years. On his deserved retirement we gave him a model of his famous cart which was covered in the familiar fluffy toys and regalia.

In July of 2025, Keith Johnson became our regular street cleaner. Keith is a proud Brightonian, born in the Elm Grove area, now lives in Moulsecoomb. Keith has been with the Council for 27 years and as well as keeping the streets clean he has been a "cage vehicle" driver and an operator of a "scarab" that cleans debris from the gutters.

Keith remembers when the depot for storing the waste carts was at the end of Castle Street, now Castle Mews. He says the best thing the about the job is being his own boss and meeting members of the public. And the worst thing is when it is raining hard!

He was three months off working during the summer recovering from a major knee operation and is grateful for his boss who rang everyday to check on his recovery.

Keith has been doing sterling work recently clearing the weeds from our street and I think we have all notice the improvement - many thanks Keith!

His favourite sight on his patch is watching the starling murmuration over the West Pier.





Garden report

Nice to see the garden recovering from the Summer's drought. It is quite amazing to see the marigolds springing back into life and the grass. Sadly the grass in the beds as well as the lawn is also growing with gusto. I am trying to edge and redefine the front of the beds with a view to sowing some seeds which may provide some colour in the spring and summer. Sadly also we have lost some shrubs which I planted in the spring and have not survived. Magnolia, Ceonothus and fuchsia have all perished in the heat despite my attempts to keep them watered.

I have also been disheartened by our Council operative chopping anything which is



thriving down to the roots with a hedge trimmer. I have tried to prune back some of the dead wood on our established shrubbery to pre-empt this massacre. Particularly is our  Tamarisk and Elaeagnus bushes which don't get a chance to flourish. These are grown in the gardens by Hove lagoon providing habitat for flocks of sparrows chirping away.

On a positive note the Generous Gardener roses have survived which I planted for Gill Wales and two Madame Alfred Carriere roses which are still establishing nicely in the long border and have even flowered since the summer.



i360 NEW i360 [Cafe Menu](#)



All-Day Brunch

Breakfast

Lunch

Kids' menu

You saw it [here](#) first!



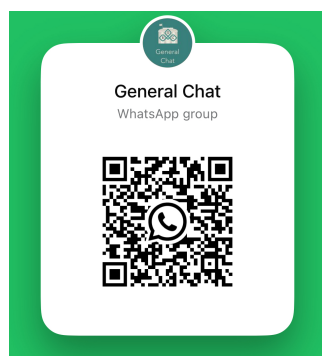
Join our Gardening Group?

Sue will regularly be gardening in Regency Square on **Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 11am** (join our WhatsApp 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 Gardening@regencybrighton.com

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.



WhatsApp group

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

OR

 Scan this QR code

RSC Committee 2026

Co Chairs Sue Dawes - King's Road and Fran Coates - Regency Square

Alis O'Connor Knowles - Regency Square	Jeremy Watson - Clarence Square
Andreas Tooma - Regency Square	Kenny McArthur - Regency Square
Ani Watson - Clarence Square	Matthew HansonKahn - Regency Square
Dorothy Everitt - Regency Square	Nigel Massey - Clarence Square
Ellen Cairns - Regency Square	Nina Dodd - Regency Square
Gary Leach - Regency Square	Parveen Johal - Regency Square
Helen Emmanuel - Regency Square	Peter Kingsland - Regency Square
Leanne Amaryllis - Regency Square	Steve Moses - Queensbury Mews
Janina Downey - Queensbury Mews	Stuart Manser - Queensbury Mews
Jelena Maricevic - Regency Square	Tom O'Hare - Regency Square