



NEWSLETTER 292 November 2014

WHY?



The Regency Square Area Society is distressed at the vandalism and theft of the majority of the 50 hedge donated by a member of the Society?

HELP IS AT HAND

Television landscape gardener and Chelsea Flower Show winner Diarmuid Gavin has agreed to design a layout for Regency Square. Members of the Society's Committee are working in conjunction with the City Council to raise the funds to improve all three of the Regency Square "lawns".

This revamp will bring the area to a state where it is fit for both residents and visitors - especially those going up the i360 who will get a grandstand view of our area.

Once a clear idea of the possible options has been established, the Committee will consult with everybody in the RSAS area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 11 December: "The Wind in the Willows" by Alan Bennett at the Little Theatre, Clarence Gardens. To book tickets, please send £9.00 per person to Suzanne Hinton at 39 Regency Square by Friday 28 November.

Friday 12 December at 7:30pm: Official lighting of the Society's Christmas tree. Gather at 7.30 pm at the south end of the top garden or meet at 7.45 in the Regency Tavern for drinks and carols. Collection in aid of the Salvation Army Christmas Lunch appeal.



[Note: you can also join the carol singing at the Tavern on the evenings of 5, 12 and 24 December to support the same good cause.]

Wednesday 17 December from 7:00pm: Informal Christmas drinks at the Artist Residence, 33 Regency Square. Come and meet the Committee and other members of the Society in the cocktail bar.

Thursday 1st January 2015 from 10:00am: Our traditional New Year's Day communal breakfast in the Regency Restaurant. Come at 10.00 am or when you are ready, order your breakfast and then settle down for a good chat with friends and neighbours.

Looking ahead:

Wednesday 21 January at 7:00pm: Society Quiz night at the Hotel Una.

Monday 30th March: Society AGM. Jackie Marsh-Hobbs will talk about seaside "observation" towers.

Now where did we hear about a certain tower ...?

PLANNING

14 Castle Street: Creation of an additional floor bringing the roofline level with other buildings in the street, plus the addition of roof-lights. The Society will object to the application at the Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) on the grounds that a certain original quiriness would be lost from the street and that neighbouring houses would be overlooked.

6a Stone Street / 13A Castle Street: Officially this building is "offices, storage and one dwelling". In reality it is the premises of an "Escort Agency". The Society supports the application to convert the building into 6 dwellings. The Society's representative on CAG will ask for the design of the facade to be amended.

67 Preston Street: The developer appears to be complying with the City Council's enforcement notice. Work is being carried out on the premises. The Society has complained to the City Council that the pavement has recently been almost entirely blocked by builders' materials. Presumably under pressure from Council official, this problem has recently abated.

ON-GOING BATTLE?

Thanks to the persistence of the Society Committee member and the residents of Stone Street, the range of commercial waste bins has been removed from the pavement in that street..... only to be replaced by some new kids on the block in Preston Street.



ADIEU



There it goes! After at least a couple of years of campaigning by the Society, the City Council has finally removed the unsightly Car Park sign in Regency Square. The glass panel is a great improvement.

ONLY AU REVOIR?

Where did the communal recycling bin from outside the gates of Russell Mews shuffle off to? Council officials confirm that its absence from that site is permanent.

It is quite understandable that the residents of 28a Russell Square objected to the bin being placed immediately outside their front door.

The Society has proposed another site in the square - one partially obscured by bushes - and has requested more frequent emptying of all the bins locally.

Newsletter sponsored and printed by

MBE MAIL BOXES ETC®

- Print & Copy
- Office Services
- Stationery
- Packing & Shipping
- Packing Materials
- Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 • www.mbebrighton.co.uk
Email: print@mbbrighton.co.uk • 91 Western Road, Brighton, BN1 2NW

"OUR" PCSOs

PCSOs Richard Wright and Aileen Norbury regularly find time in their busy schedules to fit in a short visit to Society Committee meetings.

This month they reported that a close watch is still being kept on drug taking and illegal immigrant activities in the north-east section of Preston Street.

They gave some good advice to anyone tempted to "help" vulnerable-looking individuals taking drugs or apparently being trafficked: do not be tempted to intervene but dial 999. The police will respond immediately and are better equipped to handle vulnerable people.

The PCSOs also reported that there had been a spate of car thefts from the Regency Square car park. This is particularly bad news given the vast amounts of public money that have been spent on "improving" the safety of the car park. More than one hotel visitor has had their visit to Brighton ruined on discovering their car has been broken in to.

There had been two thefts from local homes, so please take every precaution, whether you live in a block of flats or if you have your own street entrance.

Society Contacts

Chair: Trix Webber ☎ 01273 321858
✉ tew823@gmail.com
Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 078 3352 7270
✉ nicola.floyd@yahoo.com
Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 01273 321794
✉ s@hinton.clara.net

WEST PIER PROJECT

The future of the West Pier Hostel in Regency Square is to be discussed by the Policy and Resources Committee of the City Council on 4 December.

The Committee is conscious that there is no consensus of opinion within the Society about the presence of the hostel. A Society committee member will therefore be making representation to the Policy and Resources Committee on the following point only:

"the RSAS objects to the presence of the hostel in its present form and to the deleterious effect it has on: residents, business and vulnerable residents of the hostel."

In the last month the received 9 calls from residents or staff of the West Pier Project.

WEST PIER TRUST

Several members of the Society's committee attended the AGM of the West Pier Trust on 20 November. They challenged the Trust on why it is willing to allow the iconic "sea island" to decay and disappear.

The Trust stated that it was "simply not feasible to restore island". The Trust plans to obtain information about the condition of the sea island site. The Society is pressing for a full professional survey of the site.

RSAS also queried the plans to build a new pier and requested information on how the Trust plans to spend the rental income to be earned from the income from the i360 if no new pier is built. The short term answers to the last question were that the Trust would: repay the money lent to the Trust by Marks Barfield, it would clear away the wreckage of the former concert hall and would run a Heritage Centre in one of the restored kiosks.

