

NEWSLETTER 248 January 2010

The AGM approaches

The time for our annual general meeting is approaching. It will be held at the Metropole Hotel on Thursday 25 March, starting at 7:30 pm.

There will be the usual, formal business, including committee elections. We will need to elect a new secretary for the Society this year.

After the formal meeting there will be an illustrated talk by Society member, Suzanne Hinton; the title is "Behind the Facades"; it will be illustrated with slides.

Do put the date in your diary! If you have any neighbours who might be interested in the Society, please bring them along, particularly if they're new to the area; guests are always welcome.

Post Vacant

Our secretary, Lisa Williams is standing down because she has moved away from Brighton. So we need someone to take over.

What does it involve? The main part of the job is circulating an agenda before each monthly committee meeting and then writing minutes to record the decisions made at the meetings.

The secretary is a member of the committee and takes a full part in discussions. Like all members the secretary can volunteer for other jobs that need to be done.

If you think you might be interested, please contact the chairman, Roger Hinton for a chat (☎ 01273 321794 ☒ hinton@clara.net). You would be welcome to attend our next committee meeting as an observer before deciding whether to stand for election.

Behind the Facades

In the 1820s, the Duchess of St Albans lived where the Regency Restaurant now stands. What did the locals think of her?

Where in Regency Square did Sir Lawrence Olivier's first mother-in-law live? Did the mud pies constructed by a little boy on Regency Square lead to greater things?

If these questions have been worrying you, or even if you've never thought about them, Suzanne Hinton's short talk after the AGM next month may be just what you need. She will introduce some of the characters who have lived in the Square over the last 180 years.

Suzanne has put together a fascinating collection of slides to illustrate her talk. Thoughts and questions from the audience will be enthusiastically welcomed.

Society Contacts:

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Web site: www.regencybrighton.com

Gardening at the Pavilion

A talk by Robert Hill-Snook, head gardener.
Dorset Gardens Church, St James Street.

3-5 pm Sunday 21 February

£3 at the door, including tea / coffee and biscuits

Changes in the Car Park

The Council took over management of the Regency Square car park recently from NCP.

Some fees for parking are to be changed. There will be a new, one hour rate of £2, plus a flat rate fee of £4.50 between 6pm and midnight.

These new lower fees might help local restaurants attract customers, though Preston Street Traders chairman Angelo Martinoli thinks that a £3 evening rate would be more effective.

We have also learnt that the Council has appointed a private security firm to patrol the car park.

While these changes may have some benefit, it seems a pity that the Council is making piecemeal decisions about the car park. We have still not had any response to the Society's petition asking for changes to parking arrangements in the square.

Meanwhile on the roof

We have been promised cycle parking stands at various places in Regency Square. There is still no sign of them. Apparently, because they are to be installed on the roof of the car park, the normal design of stand is not acceptable. So we are waiting for a suitable model to be obtained.

Bollards for the Church

Our picture shows two of the new bollards erected around the old French church in Queensbury Mews. They are intended to stop vehicles parking next to the newly re-furbished building and damaging it.



Crime on the run?

The figures below have been provided by our local police community support officer, Siobhan Salihi. They seem to show that crime in our area has declined over the past three months. Perhaps it was the snow!

	November		December		January	
	Wider Area	RSAS Area	Wider Area	RSAS Area	Wider Area	RSAS Area
Burglary Dwelling	6	2	4	1	4	1
Vehicle Crime	15	10	13	4	2	2
Robbery	11	0	6	1	4	0
Street Drinking	9	0	11	1	5	0

A Trip to the Theatre?

The next production at the Little Theatre will be "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov, translated by Tom Stoppard. It's a play about "the very human tendency to reject love that is freely given and seek it where it is withheld".

We are planning a Society group visit on Friday 12 March. Tickets cost £7.50 and the performance starts at 7:45pm.

If you would like to come please send your money by 22 February, to Ros Boulden, Flat 8, Abbots, 129 Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2FA, together with your telephone number.

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Through the Underpass? No thanks!

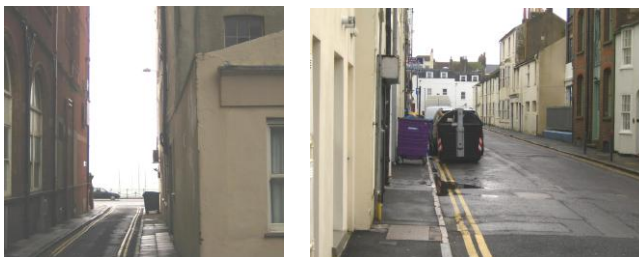
Would you use the underpass from the car park to get to the beach? Many people are now avoiding it, particularly in the evening, even though it is the quickest and safest route when Kings Road is busy.

The reasons for its unpopularity are simple. There are few lights and it looks an awful mess. We have asked our local councillor, Jason Kitkat to find out what plans, if any, the Council has to improve it.

Un-enforcement

The fish and chip shop on the corner of Kings Road and Queensbury Mews has been blocking the pavement for months with its waste bin. A Council enforcement officer has now advised the proprietor that he must keep the bin on his own private forecourt.

Meanwhile, in Stone Street, the pavement has also been blocked by trade waste bins. The enforcement officer has asked one of the businesses concerned to keep their bin in the road next to the communal bin, so that it does not block the pavement.



Our pictures, taken on 1 February show that nothing has changed in the real world as yet.

CheeriO!

The planning application for the Brighton O has been withdrawn following objections, including one from the developers of the i360.

However, if you fancied a ride on this modernistic Ferris wheel, don't despair; Paramount Attractions, the firm wanting to build it, are looking for another site nearby and still hope to have it operating this year on Brighton seafront.

Farewell to the Concert Hall

The remains of the West Pier Concert Hall have been lying on the seabed ever since the central section of the pier collapsed.

They have now been removed by demolition contractors. This was done to comply with one of the conditions of the planning permission for the i360 development. Meanwhile lack of funding is still holding up the start of real work on the i360.

Society chairman, Roger Hinton was interviewed on BBC local radio earlier this month; He took the opportunity to express the frustration of many local people about the sorry state of the root end of the pier. He also raised the issue at the recent AGM of the West Pier Trust; the Trust chairman promised to talk to the Council about tidying it up.

Police advice for free!

Contact Roger Hinton if you would like a copy of a police leaflet called "Be Safe Be Secure", a 37 page practical guide to crime reduction.

M and M Historic Tours start their 2010 season on 18 April with a visit to St Mary's House, Bramber and Parham House, Storrington. Contact Roger Hinton for full details and a booking form.