

**Regency Square Area Society**

**NEWSLETTER 274**  
**OCTOBER 2012**

## HELICOPTER RESCUE



On the 28<sup>th</sup> September at around 5pm a 74 year old man was knocked down outside the Regency Restaurant on the corner of Regency Square and Kings Road. An ambulance helicopter landed on the promenade the other side of the road and took the injured man to the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

The area was cordoned off for several hours so police could gather evidence, forcing traffic to leave Kings Road, driving up Preston Street turning into Regency Square to rejoin Kings Road at the South east corner. The elderly man's injuries were not life threatening but He has sustained serious leg injuries. A 45 year old man has been charged on suspicion of dangerous driving.

## GOOD NEWS

Good news on 43 Russell Square and 67 Preston Street. A number of local residents have been worried about what has been happening at these properties. The same developer applied for planning permission to change the whole of 43 Russell Square and part of 67 Preston Street into bedsits with shared bathrooms. Over several months planning applications were made and then withdrawn, making it very difficult to follow what was going on. In the meantime, work was carried out without planning permission, which is in fact a criminal offence. The Council's enforcement team and Conservation Officer have now intervened decisively to stop any further unauthorised work. Proper plans will be submitted and there are indications that the houses might be converted into flats rather than bedsits.

### *Have your say on planning*

*It is all too easy to miss planning notices and then find that it is too late to make your comment. We try to keep members up to date with applications which may be of interest, but often the closing date for comments has gone by the time the newsletter reaches you. Duncan Cameron keeps his eye on planning applications on behalf of RSAS, and makes comments, particularly when there are conservation issues, or when what is proposed may be controversial. If you would like Duncan to email you whenever a planning application comes up that he thinks may be of interest, please contact him at [duncan.g.cameron@googlemail.com](mailto:duncan.g.cameron@googlemail.com). We would like to build up a list of people who know what is happening to our built environment so that they at least have the chance to comment. At the moment, plans are going through with very few local residents having their say. Please consider joining Duncan's list*

### **Society Contacts:**

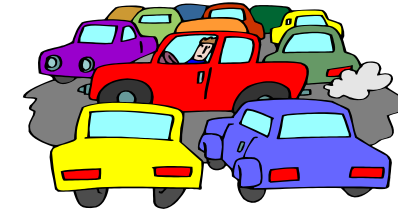
Treasurer: Trix Webber,  
 ✉ [tew823@gmail.com](mailto:tew823@gmail.com) ☎ 01273 321858  
 Secretary: Suzanne Hinton  
 ✉ [s@hinton.clara.net](mailto:s@hinton.clara.net)  
 Web site: [www.regencybrighton.com](http://www.regencybrighton.com)



Have you ever wondered what those raked circles and shapes are on the terrain just past the bandstand? I did, so the other day whilst out walking I saw the cuprit with a rake in his hand and asked him what was going on. Apparently the area just past the bandstand and before the petanque terrain is an artist open space and he is an artist creating shapes over what is a forgotten area of gravel. If you look on the beach he has also created some shapes with coloured pebbles at the moment he has the face of a robot (pictured above) and a butterfly. What is the artist's name? He wishes to be anonymous, "Banksy"? "I ask myself.

Also on the artist's space is a blue container with a sign outside saying "Room" this is a photo gallery which is there until the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## THE END IS NIGH!



Yes it is true there is an end to the car park refurbishments. We have been told that it will be completed at the end of February. The promise is that the railings at the south end of the square are to be painted and the grass will be made good. We look forward to that.

## i360



When planning permission was given for the i360 development in 2006, the developers and the Council agreed for landscaping around the i360. A Section 106 agreement allowed for 1 percent of i360 ticket revenues to be available for landscaping improvements in a defined area on the seafront near the i360 and also Regency Square Gardens. Your Committee is in discussions with the Council to obtain funding for the gardens. Visitors to i360 will benefit from an attractive view out over the gardens as well as improving what clearly has been devastated by an underground car park and a lack of funding in the past.

## FUTURE EVENTS

A couple of plays have caught our eye at the New Venture Theatre and they are Three Kinds of Me by Sarah Charsley a one woman tragic-comedy 20<sup>th</sup> October and The Price by Arthur Miller Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Both at 7.45 for £9. Please ring Julie White on 01273 710906.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Brighton Dome, Tickets £10 -£27.50 we would like to book a date to see them if you would be interested could you look up their programme on [www.brightondome.org](http://www.brightondome.org) and email me with your

preferences and dates and I will try to arrange something jcw40@aol.com



## MAGIC MUSHROOMS



If you have been in the Upper Garden in the past few days you will have seen the latest addition to the flora of Regency Square. Is this good news – further evidence of the growing number of species that have taken up residence in the square since our efforts to improve it? Or bad – a dangerous infestation that needs to be dealt with firmly? Hard to say at the present moment. If this is a “Honey Fungus” it is bad news. This is a generic name for a number of species within the Genus Armillaria. They throw out underground rhizomes that can grow at about a meter a day, and devour the roots of many garden plants. They are very persistent so the only way to get rid of them is to remove all plants and earth from the infected area and start again. Bad news!

The good news is that they may not be malignant Armillaria. Honey Fungi usually start by infesting dead tree trunks and then move on elsewhere - we have no tree trunks in the middle flower bed! However could the deadly spores have slipped in amongst the wood chippings on the surface of the flower bed? Possibly. We need expert advice. Once the Brighton & Hove Parks Department has moved into action we shall know more. Watch this space!

*Some things you may not know about honey fungi. They glow in the dark, and were used in the Middle Ages as a form of home illumination. Luminescent Armillaria rhizomes may be the original Wizard's wand. 8.9 square kilometres of the Melhear National Forest in Oregon is infested with a 2,300 year old colony of Honey Fungus – persistent you see? . The honey fungus is known as the pidpenki in Ukraine - cooked with onions, butter, sour cream and dill it is eaten as a delicacy. (NB- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD TRY THIS UNLESS YOU HAVE EXPERT*

## FREE WINE TASTING



The Regency Tavern are hosting a Free Wine Tasting to Music by Oz Cabaret on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October starting at 8.45pm