



**Regency Square Area Society**

**NEWSLETTER 277  
MARCH 2013**

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Society's 34<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March in the Osborne Room at the Hilton Metropole Hotel. We are delighted that Councillor Jason Kitkat, Leader of Brighton and Hove City Council, will start the evening with a talk on local concerns and then answer questions. This will be followed by the refreshment break. The formal business of the AGM will take place at 8.30, as set out in the agenda below.

### **Agenda**

Minutes of the 33rd AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
Committee report for the year  
Treasurer's report and annual accounts  
Election of officers and committee  
Members' questions and comments  
Refreshments will be provided and there will be a raffle to help cover the cost of the meeting.

### **The Committee's Annual Report**

#### **Car Park Improvement**

Work started in April 2012 to upgrade the Regency Square Car Park. While the improved security will be welcome, nearby residents have had to put up with considerable inconvenience. We have the Council's assurance that the grass will be restored when the work is finished. The Council has now decided that the possibility of someone falling from the new car park entrance roof presents a health and safety risk. Discussions are ongoing as to how to address this problem. We are resisting the Council's idea of large warning signs.

#### **The West Pier Site and the i360**

In April, it seemed that the i360 was likely to go ahead, when the Council offered a loan to fill the funding gap. Work was due to start by the end of 2012. To date all that has happened is some token digging, and the site continues to deteriorate. The Rock Shop has been dismantled and stored. A large area at pavement level remains fenced off. If the i360 does go ahead, it seems likely that some funding will be available for landscaping in Regency Square.

#### **Planning and Conservation**

As always, reviewing planning applications and addressing conservation issues has been a major part of our activity over the year. Duncan Cameron has continued to attend the Conservation Advisory Group. An ongoing problem has been unauthorised work being carried out on 43 Russell Square and 67 Preston St. In both cases, sketchy planning applications have been submitted and work started prior consent being obtained. We have, along with the CAG, objected to the conversion of 43 Russell Square into 10 bedsits. We also objected to the enlargement of the Yacht Club building on the beach. Duncan Cameron has taken a particular interest in Stone St and Castle St, which contain a number of interesting

and significant historical buildings. The old stables in Stone St have been listed. Ongoing issues are the Council's plan to install communal recycling bins in our area (to date no decision has been reached), and the local listing review, under which submissions for new listings of buildings are invited.

#### **Area Improvements**

We have just received the Council go ahead to install a bench in memory of Ken Kennar, long term Russell Square resident. This will be funded mainly by Ken's family, with donations from neighbours and RSAS. The Regency Square Improvement Fund has been used to plant a new flower bed in the top lawn and additional shrubs and bulbs in the borders. Repairs were carried out on two benches and one new bench installed.

The railings which appertain to the Regency Square car park are due to be repainted as part of the car park upgrade. Other railings are due to be painted black by residents from the West Pier Project hostel in Regency Square.

The appearance of Preston St has been improved by attractive areas of granite blocks at each end of the street. A general tidying up of signage in Preston St is also underway.

The Regency Square Heritage board is being made up and will shortly be installed on the top lawn.

#### **Traffic**

We are monitoring the effects of the changes to the traffic flow in Regency Square and the new traffic lights by the Regency Restaurant. Cars can now turn right into and out of the south west corner of the Square instead of having to go via Preston St.

Congestion due to cars queuing to get into car parks continues to be a problem. We tried to obtain, for residents of Clarence and Russell Squares, access to the squares via the north west corner of Clarence Square. This was not, however, possible, as the cameras do not have number recognition.

## Social Events

We had three very enjoyable theatre trips and two excellent dinners in Casalingo and VINO y Tapas. In June we had a wet but very musical picnic lunch in Regency Square to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Our usual pre Christmas drinks in the Regency Tavern and New Year's Day breakfast in the Regency Restaurant were well supported and good fun.

## The West Laine?

Jason Kitkat has suggested promoting our area as a distinctive district of the city with its own character and has suggested *The West Laine* as a name. Jason has undertaken to convene a meeting of interested parties.

## Thanks....

To everyone who has supported the Society over the year.

## Elections

The following committee members are standing for re-election

Chair: Trix Webber	(Regency Square)
Treasurer: Vacant	. No nominations have been received
Secretary: Suzanne Hinton	(Regency Square)
Committee member	
Margaret Brisley:	(Sussex Heights)
Duncan Cameron	(Regency Square)
Nigel Rose	(Regency Square)
Julie White	(Regency Square)

Further nominations are invited for the committee and all three officers. Nominations must be made in advance of the AGM. You may nominate any member of the Society or you may nominate yourself. Please contact Trix Webber [tew823@gmail.com](mailto:tew823@gmail.com) / 01273 321858) if you wish to make a nomination.

## Treasurer's Report

While our General Fund income has increased this year (£1058 compared to £892), the surplus is slightly less (£240 as compared to £316), due mainly due to an increase in the insurance premium. We are currently holding monies for the bench in Russell Square and the heritage board. These funds will be closed shortly, when bench and board are installed. A new fund has been opened for signage following a donation of £100 for this purpose from M&M Tours. Our overall deficit is due to spending from the Regency Square Improvement Fund on the gardens. No increases in subscriptions are proposed.

## Annual Accounts

### Income and expenditure for the year ending 28 February 2013

	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions		509
Donations		478
Functions		61
Other		<u>10</u>
Total general fund income		1058
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Postage and copying	100	
Insurance	197	
AGM/ functions	111	
Web site	85	
Donations	<u>325</u>	
Total general expenses	818	
Regency Sq Improvement Fund	<u>744</u>	
Total expenditure for year	<u>1562</u>	
Overall deficit for the year	<u>(54)</u>	

### Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2013

General fund at start of year	2899
Increase	<u>240</u>
General fund at end of year	<u>3139</u>

Russell Sq Seat fund at start of year	100
Increase	<u>350</u>
Russell Sq Seat fund at end of year	<u>450</u>
Regency Sq Improvement Fund at start of year	1899
Decrease	<u>744</u>
Regency Sq Improvement Fund at end of year	<u>1155</u>
Heritage Board fund at start of year	2200
Increase/decrease	<u>00</u>
Heritage Board fund at start of year	<u>2200</u>
Signage fund at start of year	00
Increase	<u>100</u>
Signage fund at end of year	<u>100</u>

Total funds at 28.2.2013	<u>7044</u>
Cash at bank	6973
Cash in hand	71
Total assets	<u>7044</u>

## Dates for your diary

A table has been booked for Sunday Lunch at the Regency Tavern on March 24<sup>th</sup> .if you would like to come please contact Trix Webber on 01273 321858 to let her know numbers.

### Society Contacts:

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