

## NEWSLETTER 284 DECEMBER 2013

### Dates for your diary

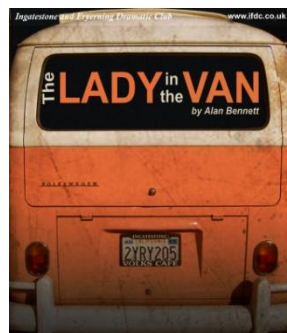
16<sup>th</sup> December: Join the Committee for an informal drink at the Regency Tavern from 8.00 pm.

13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December from 8pm: Carol singing at the Regency Tavern. Help support the Salvation Army and the Brighton Oratory to provide a Christmas lunch and gifts for the homeless by bringing warm winter woollies, non-perishable food etc to put under the tree at the Tavern.

1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 at 10 am: Don't forget the New Year's Breakfast at the Regency Restaurant. Very informal. Come and go as you wish.



25<sup>th</sup> February 2014: Theatre visit to see *The Winslow Boy* by Terrence Rattigan at the New Venture Theatre at 7.45 pm. Tickets £7.00. Please contact Suzanne Hinton as soon as possible and by 21<sup>st</sup> December at the latest (Tel. 01273 321794). These tickets are selling fast.



5<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Theatre Visit to see *The Lady in the Van* by Alan Bennett at the Little Theatre at 7.45 pm. Tickets £9.00. Please contact Trix Webber as soon as possible and by 1<sup>st</sup> January at the latest (Tel. 321858)

Money for any theatre tickets must be paid by the deadlines given above.

24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 7.30 pm: AGM at the Metropole Hotel. Room to be confirmed

### Welcome new city centre accommodation

Plans have been submitted to the City Council to convert Nos. 52 and 53 Western Road (aka 23 and 24 Clarence Square) into retail space and four very reasonable sized flats. If the submitted plans are carried out in full, there should be an immense improvement to the frontage onto Clarence Square as well as the extra accommodation. The railings look particularly impressive. The flight of steps up to the main front door arch over the basement area, giving a reasonable outside space for the bike storage etc.



### A château or fortress in Castle Street?

The Committee continues to have concerns about the large student hostel planned for Castle Street. These concerns centre around the monolithic appearance of the building, the lack of fire escapes and the fact that 14 units will represent a very large increase in the population of that small part of the area, possibly overwhelming some local services (refuse, recycling, bicycle parking etc).

The plans will be presented to the full Planning Committee in the New Year. The Society's committee is raising all these points on behalf of the residents of Stone and Castle Streets.

### 67 Preston Street

The City Council has received more than seven objections to the planned conversion of 67 Preston Street to a house in multiple occupation. The plans will therefore automatically be discussed at a full Councillors' Planning Meeting.

### Lopped-lop

City Council tree surgeons have trimmed the fine trees in Russell Square. Four of the trees look much better for their "short back and sides".

Unfortunately, the tree by the north gate has been drastically shorn of branches on its north side. Word on the street has it that this is to encourage future dead leave to fall onto the garden (Parks Department responsibility) and not onto the roadway (Highways Department responsibility). Or perhaps the silly season is being confused with the festive season.

## A gate half open or a gate half closed?

Committee members continue to work with the City Council to find a solution to the gates into Regency Square standing constantly half-open (or half-closed). It is vital that anyone using a wheel chair or otherwise of restricted mobility can access the gardens.

However, it is also vital to keep dogs out of the gardens so that everyone, and especially small children, can enjoy the gardens without having to look where they are treading or without fear of a small child being infected by toxocara. There have been several meetings with Council officers but as yet a permanent solution has not been found.

## The Mystery of the Raised Railings

The brickwork of the newly rebuilt arches is superb. The slightly less superb bitumen is there on the pavement. But why oh! why, when the original railings were replaced, were they hoisted up onto ugly concrete slabs perched above the arches? A member of the Committee is busy sleuthing to find the answer for us all.



## Check out the updated website

The website contains not only all 284 newsletters, it now has an up-dated history section. Read all about the gory happenings at N<sup>o</sup>. 43 in the 1930s.

<http://regencybrighton.com/history/>

More items about the history of the houses and people connected to the square will appear soon. If you have any interesting tales about the building you live in, contact Suzanne Hinton who is building up an archive of information about the squares and streets of our area.

Just a reminder that the official archive of the Society is lodged at The Keep. The Keep is the new joint home of the Brighton History Centre and the East Sussex Records Office and the Mass Observation Archive. The accession number of the Society's archive is AMS 6896.

The Keep is at Moulscombe, a short bus ride from the town centre: <http://www.thekeep.info/>

## White light, yellow light, white light, yellow light, white light, lello light



Several of the lamp standards around the area have been converted to white light rather than yellow, sodium light. The Committee of the Society feels that these are more in keeping with the area. Do you have views on this? Do let the Committee know – contact details in the box below.

### Society Contacts:

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Web site: [www.regencybrighton.com](http://www.regencybrighton.com)

## More bulbs

But of a different ilk. Join the hard-working volunteer gardeners who will soon be planting spring bulbs and generally sprucing up the gardens in Regency Square. Phone Trix Webber for further details. Contact details in previous column.



The Committee wish all the members of the Society a very Happy Christmas and a good start to the New Year at the Regency Restaurant.  
10 am January 1<sup>st</sup>



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