



NEWSLETTER 302 January 2016

HAPPY NEW 2016

January 1st saw twelve Society members tucking in to a hearty breakfast at the Regency Restaurant. Make your new year's resolution to join in Society activities.

B&Q DID DO IT

The lights went on all over the Society's Christmas tree ... and then they went out all over the Society's Christmas tree. The LED illuminations had been bought at B&Q in Lewes Road. Many thanks to the manager of the store who generously replaced the failed set of lights. No less thanks to Julie White, Nigel Rose and their team for making sure the lights were up and working within hours of their replacement.

The major achievement this year was to have kept the tree upright despite the high winds and pelting rain. This was achieved by installing a deep "collar" in the soil. The collar supported the tree several feet up its trunk and was clearly a great success.

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WE HAVE A GNOMON!

A gnomon is, apparently, the bit that sticks up on a sundial. A member of the Hove Civic Society, John Kapp has come up with an imaginative idea of creating a huge sundial in Regency Square and further afield, using the shadow of the i360. Here is what John writes about his project:

"Inspired by the plinth and sculpture park, I have proposed adding an educational attraction to the i360, by making the tower into the gnomon (indicator) of a sundial. The pavements around it would be marked with paths and scales of time and date (taken from my report, available on request) The time and date could be told by where the edge of the shadow falls on the scale.

"This exhibit would replicate ancient sundials, such as the one built in 9 AD in Rome by Emperor Augustus, which had a 30m high gnomon, casting a shadow over a marble paved square measuring 180X110 metres (the size of 3 football pitches)

"I am seeking individuals who would add their names to a list of supporters, and join a committee to promote it. For a copy of my report or for more information, please contact me on 01273 417997, or johnkapp@btinternet.com, or write to me at 22,Saxon Rd Hove, BN3 4LE. John Kapp (Hon. Sec.)"



Example of possible markers which could be set into the pavements, to mark the time as the shadow falls on the brick.

The Committee of the Society had a very interesting meeting with John and Helmut Lusser, both of them members of the Hove Civic Society. The Committee was supportive of the idea but is, at present, unable work actively on the project.

Any modifications or additions to the gardens or surround pavements would have to be approved by the City Council. The Committee of the Society will keep a watching brief on this project.

ALSO FOUND ON PAVEMENTS

Dog mess is a problem which, locally, has been in abeyance for a good number of years. Recently there has been a resurgence of anti-social behaviour by a tiny number of irresponsible dog owners. Unfortunately, the "tiny number" can have a huge impact.



Now there is hope that the bad owners will be found out.

A scheme has recently started in Dagenham. Dogs are required to provide a DNA sample. This sample is then used to match the DNA of offending messes, and fines handed out. Towns in which this scheme has been implemented have reported reductions in dog mess of up to 80%

If you wish to sign a petition asking the City Council to implement such a scheme, just click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/how5n2e>

1250 signatures are sufficient to trigger a full council debate on this topic.



REGENERATING REGENCY SQUARE GARDEN

Having secured ring-fenced funding for the regeneration of Regency Square garden, RSAS is now, at the request of the city council, starting to consult on how the garden should look and be used in the future. We will be shortly be coming round with a questionnaire asking for your views and hope that all members will be able to find the time to let us know what you think.

Broadly, we feel that with so much intensive commercial development all around, and much more being planned, Regency Square should preserve its distinctive character. We are unique in being a huge "green roof" in the heart of the city - a haven from all the bustle of Western Road and the seafront. The funding provides possibilities for developing a fantastic re-designed garden as well as encouraging appropriate community, cultural, educational and ecology related activities. Let's make the most of the opportunity.

Talking of new ideas for the gardens, we do just need to set the record straight. Neil Rosborough's new "Friends of Regency Square" does not have any connection whatsoever with the Regency Square Area Society. Because the "Friends" aims are similar to those of RSAS, there has been confusion about this amongst organisations with which the RSAS has long and friendly relationships (i360, City Council, gardening groups, funding organisations etc.)

PLANNING

33/34 Regency Square: The application states the follow: "It is proposed that the existing front doors will be repainted in a colour in keeping with Regency Square. No further external alterations are proposed ...

"The proposed works are generally remedial works to improve the historic character of the building and address previous unsympathetic alterations. New works are proposed to the ground floor of No 34 to form a new bar area."

The Committee's representative on the Conservation Advisory Group will support the application.

27 Castle Street: change of use from storage and distribution (B8) to music recording studio (B1) with ancillary rehearsal facilities. - Refused

18 Stone Street: Under consideration

Flat 10, 65/66 Regency Square: Under consideration.

ENFORCEMENT

67 Preston Street: In May 2015, the developers of this property were granted permission to alter the front elevation of the property by adding new glazing and a door at ground level. None of this work has been done.

The front of the building facing Preston Street is a shambles. This must adversely affect neighbouring businesses and is certainly unpleasant for passers-by.

The Society is now taking active steps to ensure that the City Council's Enforcement Team takes steps to have this unsightly mess removed.

TONY APPLETON

The Society has just received the news of the death of Tony Appleton. Tony lived in Sussex Heights and had been a very long-term supporter of the Society.

Tony had been a bookseller in Brighton before his retirement. He specialised in books on typography and colour printing. The "Appleton Collection 1840-1890" of such books is based at the University of Aberystwyth. The Society sends its condolences to Tony's family.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Burns Night, Monday 25 January at Cherubs (Regency Tavern): 7.30pm 3 course dinner with "The Selkirk Grace", Piped Procession of Thae Haggis, "Address to thae Haggis" and Ceremonial cutting of the Haggis and Toast to the Haggis. Entertainment and Recitations following the meal.

£19.95 per head, formal eveningwear welcome!
To book 01273 325652

The next AGM of the Society will be held on the evening of



There will be a guest speaker and refreshments before the formal business of the AGM. Do put this date in your diary.

REGENCY SOCIETY - SEAFRONT FORUM

On January 6th, the Chair and the Secretary of the Regency Square Area Society attended four short presentations of possible futures for the Brighton seafront. This was followed by wide ranging discussions.

Most controversial were the ideas of local architect Nick Lomax. His most notable teases were the development of "a new, very bulky and commercial West Pier with holiday lets" as well as "a monorail along the seafront" and, most imaginative of all "a wedding centre beneath the birdcage bandstand."

You can see the Pier that the City Council rejected by going to the Regency Square Area Society's Facebook post of 8 January: <https://www.facebook.com/regencybrighton/>

Now we all know why Nick Lomax is considered controversial. But it's good to get debate going.

