



## NEWSLETTER 316 November 2017

### Date for your diary

**Tuesday 12th December 7.45pm** at the New Venture Theatre  
 “The Messiah” “Ridiculously funny yet gloriously exhilarating” wrote the Guardian about the National Theatre of Brent’s efforts to enact the entire Christmas story. An inspired satire that sends up theatre’s epic pretensions and yet can still evoke the momentous.

A member of the Committee will host a drinks get-together before the performance.

To book tickets for the play at £8.00 per person, please contact Suzanne Hinton (details in box below)

### Society Contacts

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### Thank you to Hotel Una

The staff at the Hotel Una made members of the Society very welcome for the Society Quiz. The happy winners received no prize (the organiser forgot to bring it) but were proud of their achievements, as can be seen.



### Our first ever Births, Marriages and Deaths

The Society was saddened to hear of the death of David Marks, architect of the i360. Our condolences go to his wife and working partner, Julia Barfield. Given the advanced stage of her husband’s illness in his last days, we are particularly grateful to her for recently taking the trouble to write to the Society (Letter published last month).

Congratulations to our two ward councillors, Alex Phillips and Tom Druitt on the birth of their son Raphael Nelson

A member of the Society has recently announced her engagement. Details of the wedding next month.

If you have any notable events you would like mentioned in the Newsletter - it all helps to bring our community together – please contact in any way you prefer – see box to left.

### Anti-social behaviour – then and now

*“James Andrews, 40, was charged with begging in the Kings Road. The Regency Square private constable said that about half-past eight on Monday evening prisoner solicited alms from him, and when refused money abused him very much. As the constable afterwards saw him go on to the Front and annoy a gentleman he informed P.C. Bingham, who subsequently took him into custody. Prisoner said he thought it was no crime, as he wanted food and lodging. He was sentenced to ten days hard labour.”*

BRIGHTON GAZETTE Thursday 23 July 1896

Fortunately, Sussex Police are now taking a more targeted approach to the problems of Clarence Square. Here’s the modern-day equivalent, as published in a recent Brighton and Hove Crime Update newsletter. To receive these updates directly:

<https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/#SignUpSection>

### Clarence Square

*Youth Anti-social behaviour (ASB), Drugs and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). We are working with partner agencies to safeguard children and identify those responsible. We continue to patrol the area on a daily basis. You may see some tweets from the area. (@BtonHovePolice)*

*In our previous updates we explained what CSE is. CSE is never the child's fault, it is a crime that can affect any child anywhere, regardless of their social or ethnic background. CSE can be carried out by individuals, by street gangs or by groups. Please go to our website for more details <https://sussex.police.uk/advice/protect-yourself-and-others/child-protection/child-sexual-exploitation-cse/>”*

It is good to see that patrols are being stepped up, but perhaps there could be a happy medium between the harshness of 1896 and the softly-softly approach of 2017.



## Planning

### **26-28 Clarence Square-noticeable by their three metal doors and derelict appearance.** (48-50 Western Road)

Plans to convert this property into 6 one-bed and 3 two-bed flats was refused by the Council on 2 October 2017. The reason are interesting:

*“The proposed dormers fronting Western Road, due to their design and prominent positioning, would unbalance the consistent and architecturally interesting roofline along this section of Western Road which would be highly visible within the streetscene. The proposal would therefore detract from, and cause harm to, the character and appearance of the existing building and the surrounding Regency Square Conservation Area.*

*The proposed development, in particular the rear flats within the roof, by reason of their layout and lack of sufficient openings would not provide satisfactory accommodation for future occupiers in terms of outlook and levels of light. Furthermore in conjunction with the lack of outlook and light, the layout, size and sloping roofs within flats would form cramped and oppressive spaces.”*

As the Society is very keen to see these properties improved, the new application from the developers is welcomed. The main aspect of the new application relates to restricted space in the common areas.

There is a separate planning application for 26 Clarence Square relating to change of use from part of the retail space at 50 Western Road. This is in line with the council policy to reduce retail in favour of accommodation.

**23 and 24 Clarence Square:** A retrospective application for some aspects of the work already completed was approved on 10 October 2017. This property has improved greatly.

**41 Russell Square:** Why have the residents of Russell Square been subjected to the clanging and flapping of the tin/plastic roof on No 41? A full planning application was needed to re-instate the roof. This was lodged on 4

September and still the council has not approved it. So the people who live in No. 40, neighbours and others are all continuing to suffer noise and disturbance at the slightest hint of wind.

**Clarence Gardens:** The society has been assured by the Trustees of The Little Theatre that there will be no light pollution from the newly approved production box overlooking Clarence Gardens. The Trustees state:

*It will be essential that we have blackout blinds at the window when the production box is in use to shut out any external light. When the room isn't in use, the lights will be shut off.*

The residents of Clarence Gardens welcome wholeheartedly the development of the theatre now that that matter has been successfully resolved.

### **“MacMillan” coffee morning success**

Congratulations to Matilda and her Mum, Joanna, who raised £160.00 in Clarence Square by holding an open-air tea party in aid of MacMillan nurses. There was tea and cakes for all – residents, shoppers and passers-by. Many people were very generous in their donations.



## The answer lies in the soil

Now that the compost bins are now more accessible, do consider joining in the composting scheme. Vegetable food scraps, dead flower heads and cardboard (the latter to aeriate the compost) are all very welcome.

Anyone is welcome to come and take compost for their flower pots or patio plants.

For further information, [gillwales@virginmedia.com](mailto:gillwales@virginmedia.com)



The bins are now in the north-east corner of Regency Square. If you live in any other part of the Society area, and would like to suggest bins to be installed nearer to you, contact the above address.

