



Photo: Paul Phillips

SUMMER INTO AUTUMN 2018 NEWSLETTER

In the heat of the day...

The Garden Party of 2018 may well go down as the hottest on record. The tall sycamores, sometimes scorned as interlopers in the Gardens, have never been more appreciated. The theme was white, which turned out to be an ideal colour for keeping off the heat. The sight of floaty dresses, parasols and white jackets clustering like moths under the dark trees would have inspired Monet himself.

Warmest (!) thanks to Lloyd Russell-Moyle, our MP, who not only came but stayed all afternoon; to the delegation from the Regency Town House, whom it was great to see; to Tania at Marmalade, for another generous donation of their delicious cakes; to Johnny Muxlow and the splendid Vintage Hot Five; and to all our hard-working and gently perspiring stallholders.

I'm always open to new ideas for the Garden Party. Should we have country dancing? An arts and crafts stall? Prosecco as well as Pimms? Do pass all your thoughts on to me.

Ann Wroe

Development news

At the Society's AGM on May 12th Simon Smith, our chairman, gave a precis of our earlier meeting with Nick Hibberd, the Director of Economy, Environment and Culture on Brighton and Hove Council. Mr Hibberd ranged widely over developments that will interest members, so here are further details, updated as necessary. Nothing much has changed, however.

What is happening on the seafront? Work is due to start "very soon" on the part of the seafront immediately east of the Aquarium, including the old Terraces restaurant site. The Sea Lanes project, principally an open-air swimming pool east of the Zip Wire, is now to be a 25-metre pool, rather than 50 metres. Work will not begin until summer 2019, but it is "certainly likely to happen". On Madeira Drive/Marine Parade generally, NH wants to get rid of the fence along the promenade railing and at ground level, which "signals the area is closed".

What about Black Rock? This is an extremely complex legal and commercial project because the two sites, Black Rock and the

Brighton Centre, have to fit together. About £12m-15m in upfront funding from Standard Life is needed to bring the two projects to a starting point, but "We would not sell the Brighton Centre to Standard Life until we have a properly funded and planned centre at Black Rock. We would borrow money for Black Rock on the commercial stream from the extension of Churchill Square, but that cannot happen until the new development at Churchill Square is fully working." Why does he place so much faith in retail? Because "Churchill Square is the most important shopping centre for Standard Life in the south-east after Brent Cross and, by extending Churchill Square, retail in Brighton will be secured for the future."

No architects have yet been appointed to design Black Rock. Before that happens there has to be an Agreed Development Strategy, on which KTS and all affected residents would be consulted. Once architects are appointed, local residents will be consulted over the design.

Why move the Conference Centre to Black Rock at all? The Council admits that the city centre would be better, but it cannot get funding for a bigger centre in the middle of town - or for refurbishment of the present one, which is "on its knees".

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Kemp Town Society

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The centre at Black Rock would probably accommodate 8,000 people. Even with far fewer, speedy mass transit would be needed to and from Brighton station. No planning has been done for this, and there are as yet no feasible ideas.

The centre would belong to the Council, which hopes eventually to get around £1m a year from leasing it to other parties. But “without an acceptable and sustainable strategy, the project will not happen.”

What is going on at the Marina? The flats have sold well, mostly to families of Chinese students. Nothing is happening on the tower. They are not bothering to pump out the coffer dam, because it is so expensive. **Update:** There is now a new majority shareholder, and

new architects have been appointed. All fingers crossed.

On **Madeira Terraces**, NH admitted that the Council’s bid for £5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund would be “a challenge” to achieve. **Update:** He was right; it did not succeed. The Council says it will try again.

Alex Bruce’s generous legacy was also discussed at the AGM, and most people favoured spending at least some of it on Information Boards explaining the history of the Estate. The Committee has identified five possible sites, subject to planning consents and the consent of Kemp Town Enclosures, and we are researching designs for the boards.

Full minutes of the AGM can be found on the Society’s website.

Artist’s Corner

Kemp Town is full of wonderfully creative minds and hands. Just contact annwroe@economist.com to talk about your work, and display it, here.

Sally Bream, landscape photographer

Now we all take photos so casually on our phones, it can be a shock to see Sally Bream, who lives in Sussex Square, at work. She carries a tripod and an 8-foot ladder as well as her large-format 5 x 4 Ebony field camera, and must put a black hood over her head to adjust the focus on the glass plate. It sometimes takes an hour to set up the shot, which is captured on colour negative film. “When you slow things down like that, it’s closer to painting.”

“My PhD project was the Pevensey Levels. When I started my research the South Downs National Park was being created, and Pevensey fell just outside it, so I was attracted to this outcast

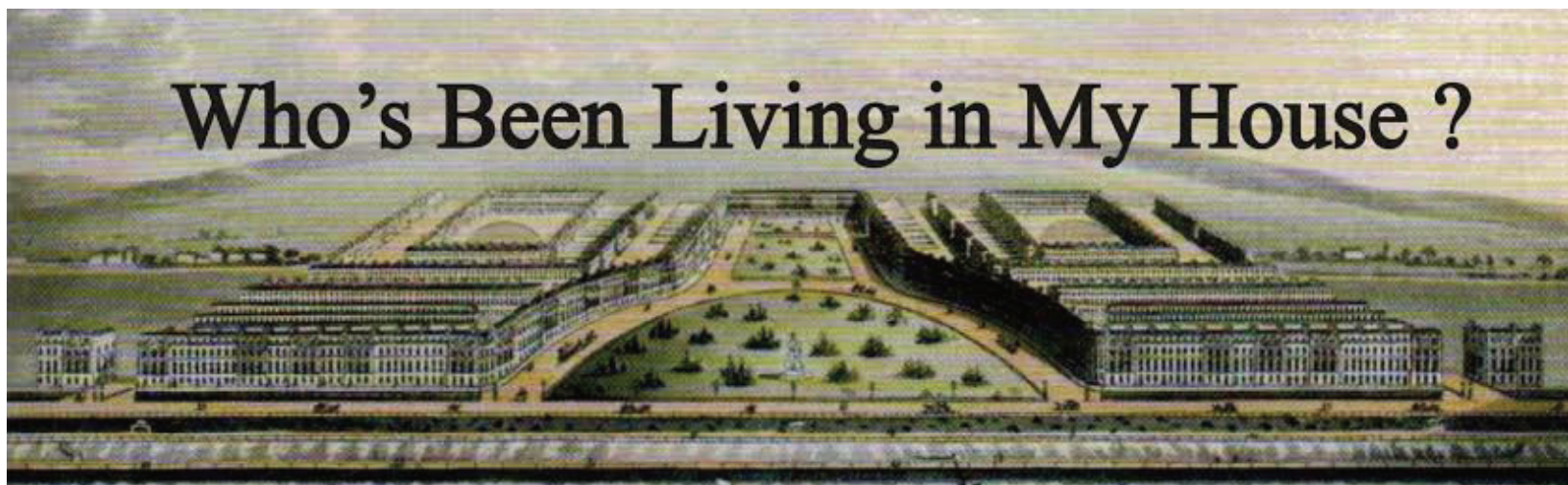
landscape. I wanted to study the management of the land in a period of climate change and sea-level rise; to look for small signs of change over time; to record the degradation and pollution of the land, such as ditches and waterways choked with floating pennywort (a nitrogen indicator); but also to show its regeneration.”

Sally recorded the outfalls at Pevensey Bay, and the ditching and dredging of inland waterways. These are now also designed to stop flooding with sluices that allow water in, to regulate wildlife habitats such as reed-beds. She visited some sites several times in different seasons. Her hypotheses about climate change were bolstered by the fine art of her photographs. Strikingly, there are no people in her landscapes, only the evidence - in bridges, plastic gravel sacks or piles of dredged pennywort - that, for good or ill, they have been there. “The landscape is the star.”



Close-up of Foam and Brown Sediment Rickney 19 November 2014

Who's Been Living in My House ?



The website has recently been given access to a huge number of documents relating to 46 Sussex Square. The property is a 'Cubitt' house and one of the few on the Estate still in sole ownership. It contains some extremely interesting plaster, cast-iron work and a bas relief, images of which can be seen on the WBLMH website. Some are reproduced here. The documents include a Deed of Covenant (1844): Mr Thos Cubitt to Thos Read Kemp, relating to a Committee to run the Pleasure Gardens and the specifications for the dimensions of the house, balconies, railings etc. We also have the Conveyance of the Property in 1855 to the first resident owner, Thomas Almond Garth Esq.



Perhaps the most familiar name on the list of residents in the Street Directories is that of Anthony Dale, founder of the Regency Society and the man responsible for saving huge swathes of important architecture in Brighton from demolition in the heedless sixties.

No 46 was bought by Joseph Liddell in 1904. He left it to his daughter Dorothy Dale in 1921; she subsequently transferred ownership to her son Anthony in 1951. Both Joseph and Dorothy sat on the Enclosures committee, and it was Dorothy who managed to save the North Garden and a large section of the South Garden from being requisitioned by the War Office during the second world war.

To read the full story of No 46 Sussex Square, or indeed your own residence, go to www.kemptonstatehistories.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS FORTHCOMING:

Friday October 26th at EF, 1-2 Sussex Square:
The Third Grand KTS Quiz Night! Our ever-popular brain-pummeller returns. Start planning your tables now: £10 a head, tables of up to 6.

Please apply and send your cheques to vanessaminns.no28@gmail.com

You may not want to think about it, but a new KTS **Christmas card** is now in production, and the design will be sent to members in an e-mail update early in October.

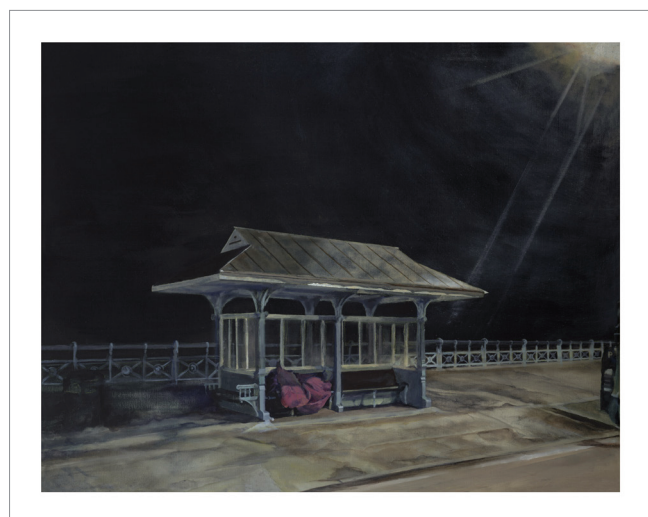
New website: The Kemp Town Society has a new and improved website. Visit it and let us know what you think!

Waifs and strays: Since the Garden Party I've been left with quite a few platters, plates and bowls, some handsome. If they're yours, do contact me on the e-mail below, or on 01273 624 011.

Please send all contributions and ideas for the next newsletter to **Ann Wroe: annwroe@economist.com**, or **Flat 3a, 14 Lewes Crescent**. Thankyou!

Homeless in our midst

Russell Miller writes: Many of you will have seen the elderly homeless man with a tangled beard who plods up and down the seafront with a huge backpack and who, until recently, spent a lot of time sitting in the shelter at the end of Eaton Place.



I have encountered him often and occasionally given him money or a coffee and a sandwich from Marmalade, but I have never really talked to him, fearful of intruding on his solitary life.

So I was surprised and pleased to get a flyer through my letterbox offering for sale prints of a painting of the man sitting in the shelter late at night, with all the profits going towards helping him. Strongly reminiscent of the work of Edward Hopper, it is a picture redolent of desolation and loneliness, with the homeless man only partly visible under his red blanket, preparing to spend another cheerless night on a bench.

It is the work of local artist Tony Mills, who has got to know him over the past year. "I was originally struck by his immense grace and dignity, given his predicament," Tony told me, "and the fact that he never asks for anything." Tony is reluctant to reveal details of the man's past, only that his name is Martin and he comes from a middle-class background. He walked to

Brighton from Kent, claims no benefits whatsoever from the state and lives on the charity of passers-by.

Resolved to help him in some way, Tony put his talent to work. "I did the only thing I knew how and painted a picture I thought people would relate to. The original painting was sold to a lady in Melbourne, Australia." Tony is now selling prints at £30 for A4 and £20 for A5, with all profits going towards helping Martin. He is also in contact with a number of homeless charities.

"I have been really wrestling with what can be done to make a complete step change in his life," Tony says. "Money alone is unlikely to be the only key; human friendship and genuine engagement with him are just as pivotal. I can't say I know all or any of the answers for his rehabilitation. I just know that providing new clothes, health care, new documents, let alone housing, will all take something over and above the handouts he gets now.

"We are now reviewing complicated options to try and find him safe accommodation if - and it's a big if - we can get him to engage with the people trying to help him. Martin himself has to call the tune, and working with him is a very gradual process."

Martin has recently been ousted from his shelter by a small posse of obnoxious drunks and was recently seen sleeping under an overpass in the Marina.

You can contact Tony - and buy prints - at www.tonymills.com.

SUMMER 2018

**A banana tree
flowers in
Sussex Square!**

