

## **CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2024**

Since our last AGM and annual report, I am pleased to report the following:

### **GARDENING**

Many thanks to James Rock who stepped down in Oct 2024 as the FBST Gardening Group lead. During his first year, he and co-leader Catherine Lane helped establish an updated plan and vision for a Regency garden true to its roots. In his second year, James led our volunteer efforts to tackle weeds and overgrowth while also taking on the mammoth task of mowing and tending to the lawns.

A core team is now leading the FBST Gardening Group. Longtime gardeners Josie Taylor, Alex Bamford and Gavin Reynolds are carrying on with immediate garden needs as well as future planning. Lara Brooks is continuing to lead fundraising efforts and serves as FBST liaison, while Sally Sisson handles communications and administration.

We produced a gardens newsletter in Autumn 2024 and aim to make this a regular thing.

### **FUNDING**

Thanks to the hard work of our secretary, Lara Brooks, 2024 was a transformational year for FBST in terms of funding. Lara applied for and received funding from

Coop Community Fund

Garden Trust

Pebble Trust

Safer In Sussex Community Fund

Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants Fund

A total of over £14000 has been raised for the gardens and other projects within the Square & Terrace.

### **BUILDINGS INSURANCE**

In February we undertook a survey of property owners with regard to building insurance around the Square and the Terrace. Although we did not have a massive response, it was still a useful exercise in highlighting a number of issues (Grade 1 listing and Bungaroosh). I have tried to get some insurers to consider a collective approach to our insurance issues but, so far, to no avail. This is an ongoing issue and one that, I fear, will become more problematic as time goes on. We do, however, now hold some useful information about brokers and insurers that can help, if anyone needs it.

### **FACEBOOK**

Our Facebook group (which is not exclusive to residents alone), has increased membership to well over 900 members and continues to provide a convenient and easy way to raise and discuss issues and promote activities.

## **PAINTING CYCLE**

BHCC have confirmed that all properties will have to be repainted in 2026 regardless of when last painted. After an initial meeting with the planning department on this subject in June, we have struggled to have any further contact with them and I have asked Councillors to get involved in order that we may be as prepared as possible for the painting cycle next year.

## **REPRESENTATION**

We have continued to liaise regularly (sometimes daily!) with City Parks and City Clean over all matters relating to gardens, dogs, litter, recycling and rubbish. We have continued to represent FBST on the Brunswick Town Association, where we continue to work closely with other resident associations in Lansdowne and Adelaide & Palmeira on issues that affect us all. We have attended meetings with the Council to explore ways to try and restore and preserve the heritage Hove Lawns seafront. We also attend the Local Action Team meetings with local councillors.

## **THANKS**

My thanks to my fellow committee members for their time and contribution over the last 12 months. Special mention and grateful thanks to Fiona Bower, who is stepping down from her role as Treasurer and from the Committee and also to Sue Cartwright, who is also stepping down from the Committee. Both have served FBST in many capacities for many years and have undertaken much hard and unsung work on behalf of our community.

Simon Dice  
Chair  
December 2024