



Regency Square's Town Crier

The Friends of Regency Square Blog No 16 February 2017

WEEK 1 FEEDBACK ON SEAFRONT LANDSCAPING, MORE ON OUR SPIKED HORIZON

We started late for our Saturday morning petition stint after the rain had died down. But Storm Doris proved to be just a whimper and her name will be saved for another day. After a quiet start the i360 did good business in spite of the weather.

Big response to the January blog with many agreeing how bleak our beach landscaping is becoming without greenery and the colour of flowers.

But Mike of Bedford Towers has no problem with the prospect of skateboarding in the *Event Space* and tightrope walking (between the restored West Pier columns) on the new *Piazza*.

"There's little enough active sports participation by most people anyway - Oh and more naked football would be good as well " !

John in Astra House comments on Alan Codd's lament about *Our Lost Horizon* in last month's blog.

"Perhaps we are lucky that the Rampion Wind Farm is not using the new giant sized Turbines being made in Denmark which will be used in three offshore wind farms in France - these will be 30% taller than the London Eye. Alan wouldn't need his binoculars to see those!"

WEEK 2 WORKING WITH OUR COUNCILLORS

Very cold and dreary Saturday morning with a few snowflakes. At these times we need to be brief in the explanation of the petition for people are in a hurry to get in-doors. We got a whole page of signatures.

We learned this week that *The Big Lemon* is to get even bigger with Regency Ward councillor Tom Druitt who runs the company keen to extend the zero emissions transport operation throughout the UK and to encourage community groups to get involved.

Our two ward councillors have been very supportive of the *Friends* various causes and they have promised to help with the presentation of our petition.

We hope to be " talking Lemons" with Tom and further details will be announced soon.

Councilor Gill Mitchell has also been very helpful with regard to our motor cycle problem at the front of our square.

WEEK 3 i360 TRAVELLERS NOT EASILY DETERRED, THE NEED FOR BEACH TUNNELS

A beautiful and warm Saturday morning following a couple of really warm springlike days. Yesterday at lunchtime a dense mist descended and it was amusing to see the i360 with a full load rising only to disappear less than 100 feet up.

It reminded me of architect David Marks description of i360 travellers.

“The people who come to the i360 are as daft as a brush. They visit it in all weathers and go up in dense fog.”

I hope this lot got a refund for all they could see was each other looking daft and forlorn while limply holding their binoculars!

Our beach tunnel remains closed (as does the one at the bottom of West St) and we wonder how they will cope on Half Marathon day when the roads are closed and the tunnels are the only way pedestrians can cross.

We understand that locking these tunnels at night is under consideration.

We have moaned recently about the lack of colour on the seafront and so it was nice to welcome the arrival of the Brighton Photographic Group exhibition near to the Shelter Hall works on the beach. These photos are on sale in the Brighton Photographic Gallery 52-53 Kings Road Arches.



PERHAPS THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING COLOUR TO OUR BEACH LANDSCAPE

WEEK 4 i360 CLOSED FOR WEEKEND MORE ON REGENCY SQUARE'S YOUNG NIGE

Bitterly cold wind (the remains of storm Doris) when not many wanted to stop to sign the petition. i360 closed for the weekend because of a breakdown yesterday which caused the pod to get stuck aloft for about an hour. (The problem it transpired was a defunct data cable which had to be resourced and the outcome was closure of the i360 until the following Wednesday.)

This week we have applied to the *British Plaque Trust* (courtesy of South East Today who are organising blue plaques for *Local Music Legends*) for a plaque commemorating the childhood home of Nigel Kennedy.

Young Nigel lived with his family in 18 Regency Square and the present owners *Topps Hotel* would be very happy to have a plaque adorning their frontage.

The Friends will persevere to achieve a blue plaque for him during his lifetime as he is arguably Brighton's most celebrated musician.



THE YOUNG NIGEL KENNEDY AS A CHILD IN REGENCY SQUARE

CAMPAIGN RECAP AND PROGRESS - A MONTHLY ASSESSMENT.

2 Relations with the BA i360.

The community meetings arranged by the i360 during the two year build were much appreciated by us local individuals and groups.

We hope they can be reestablished perhaps on a quarterly basis for there there will be an ever increasing need to foster good relations between the i360 organisation and all interested parties and groups in the area

Very important in this this will be the *West Pier Trust* who will become resident when the new Arches open on the east side of the esplanade in a couple of months time. They will have a new arch and will hopefully be closely involved in the *Heritage Beach Tunnel Exhibition* as well as exhibiting their own West Pier relics.

The *Friends* have issues with the i360 on the lack of use of the upper loading platform and we hope there will be a solution which will satisfy all parties. With the proper security measures in place - regular activity and shared use of the platform will be good for i360 business and will help integrate the new attraction into the community.

As things stand at the moment this upper esplanade will be unused and locked for at least 6 months of every year.

The *Friends* feel that the i360s *Membership* scheme for local residents could be the key for community activities and communications and we hope that a member of the i360 team can be assigned to this key role.

The data base established for i360 *Members* gives a free means of communication and perhaps a regular Newsletter could be provided for the local community. The Friends would be keen to contribute towards this.

After a promising start us locals are now feeling a bit locked out of proceedings and we hope we can be more involved with all aspects of the new attraction.

NEIL ROSBOROUGH 28/2/2017

