



Regency Square's Town Crier

The Friends of Regency Square Blog No 15 January 2017

WEEK 1 THE COUNCIL START WORK ON LANDSCAPING

A miserable wintery Saturday morning but at least it was mild. After a quiet start the Donut was rising with lots of trippers aboard.

Work has begun on landscaping the area in front of the new Arches which will take a few months. It will be essentially a bare performance area as shown here in the artist's impression mounted on the hoarding around the works. The area will be a bare paved space together with what looks like the terrorist prevention blocks in front of the i360 which will be used as seating. The area will be called *The Events Space* and the Arch lessees are a little worried as to the kind of events that will be staged here.

But with the Council cutbacks and with a programme of events already at the Bandstand - there is not likely to be a large number of events.



The area will probably become another popular skateboard space for most of the year and this is what is worrying for the new shops. Skateboarders with their stunts drive away other members of the public.

Regency Square's residents are particularly interested in the look of the area as the same council architect has also been chosen to provide a landscape scheme for us. Hmm !

THE NEW EVENTS SPACE

Work is also continuing in front of the new arches on the other side of the i360 around the beach entrance to the tunnel. This will remain closed for some time.



Our end of the tunnel - the entrance underneath the Memorial - is a depressing sight with the rubbish of rough sleepers who seem to have lost their tent. The council are investigating the security of this tunnel with an option being new gates which will be locked at night.

OUR ENTRANCE TO THE BEACH TUNNEL

WEEK 2 NO MORE SEAFRONT GREENERY - THE NEW LANDSCAPING. NIGEL KENNEDY'S OLD ADDRESS IN REGENCY SQUARE.

I360 closed for annual maintenance with gift shop and restaurant also closed.

Bitterly cold Saturday morning but Pelleas was well wrapped up (and quite fetching) in his blue doggy shawl.

Nice lady approached and said "I want to sign your petition!"

"Don't you want to know what it's about?" I replied.

"It must be worthwhile for you to be doing a petition on such a cold day" she told me.

She soon agreed that it was indeed worthwhile and I was able to give Pelleas a smug look.

This signature had nothing to do with his charms !

Some have wondered how the winner of our competition guessed the onetime address of **Nigel Kennedy** who lived in our square 50 years ago.

The answer lies in the very distinctive 1st floor balcony railings seen behind the head of the eight year old in this photograph.



THE 1ST FLOOR RAILINGS OF 18 REGENCY SQUARE

In 1886 a definition of *landscaping* reads "to lay out lawns on a tract of land, install gardens, etc, plant trees and flowers for the sake of beatification".

Today the exact opposite seems to be true and, as is clear from the hoardings around the current works alongside the i360, the council's landscape architect has removed all trace of natural greenery and colour provided by plants and flowers.

Municipal architecture now reflects the economic straitjackets the council work within. We see in all the seafront landscapes an absence of green grass, planting and flowers which of course require gardening and maintenance which the council can no longer afford.



So we have to be content with different colour paving stones arranged in spiral swirls and patterns.

This photo is of the last remaining bushes in front of the new craft arches and they too will be removed shortly to create the new Event Space.

There will now be no municipal greenery on the seafront between Brighton Pier and the Peace Statue which is where Hove Lawns begin.

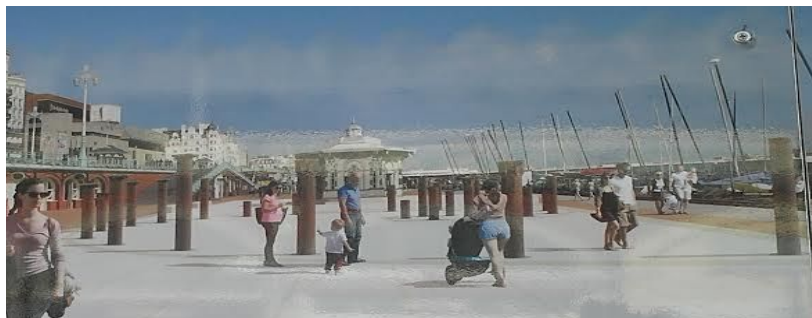
THE SEAFRONT'S LAST BUSHES

The worrying thing for Regency Square is that the same architect who has designed the areas around the i360 is being asked to provide a scheme for our Square ! Might we lose our grass?

WEEK 3 NAKED FOOTBALL ON REGENCY SQUARE, REVEALED - PLANS FOR BRIGHTON'S NEW STONEHENGE - THE PIAZZA.

Saturday morning was the second of three beautiful winter sunny days when Brighton is at its best. Cold yes - but it is on days like these that locals feel Brighton belongs to them and it has to be said that the absence of hordes of tourists probably has something to do with this!

Onetime resident (twenty years ago) of Regency Square - very interested in the petition. She recalled one night when a group of young men played nude football in our top garden having had a merry tippie or two! Curtains twitched, camera shutters clicked and eventually police car sirens caused the bottoms to scamper into the bushes for cover.



The hoardings around the building works on the east side of the i360 now contain a digital mock up of how the area called *The Piazza* will look when completed and this is shown in this picture.

The old renovated West Pier

cast iron columns are arranged in a circular/spiral (which recalls the ancient monument in Wiltshire) with the rebuilt octagonal West Pier kiosk at the far end of the new *Piazza*. Hopefully the columns will be imaginatively lit at night and perhaps on highdays and holidays they could be used as flower pedestals (flowers perhaps provided by a sponsor).

But it is also likely that the columns will be strung together to provide tightrope walks for energetic youngsters which is what they had become for the last few years on the beach. On the other hand maybe the hard floor (compared with the soft landing provided by the pebbles!) will deter this activity!

WEEK 4 COMPLAINTS ABOUT SECURITY STRUCTURE ON THE ESPLANADE, THE LOOK AND USE OF THIS UPPER LOADING PLATFORM.

A chilly Saturday morning - i360 started quietly but by mid morning lots were enjoying the ride.

Our local conservation society the *RSAS* and also the *Regency Society* have complained about the new structure alongside the Box Office kiosk on the esplanade which is designed to provide shelter for the *i360* staff doing bag checks and searches for passengers boarding the pod. It spoils the symmetry of the two new kiosks on the esplanade.



They have suggested that it is moved round to the south side of the kiosk and so will be out of sight when viewed from Regency Square.

The Friends certainly agree about this security structure and we have also highlighted the ill-thought out access to the *i360* pod which means that for about half a year the upper loading platform is totally unused and locked.

HRH The duke of Edinburgh's opening of the *i360* was the last occasion that the upper platform was used. Clearly it is easier and less costly to staff both access and egress to the pod down below at beach level. This way the public are fed through the gift shop twice and this is surely a factor.

When and if the upper area is shared by the new proposed new pier to replace our *Grand Old Lady* then maybe the access to the pod will go down to beach level permanently so that the upper level can be used properly. There will then be a case for opening up a central door in the glass partition which could then become the Main Entrance. **NEIL ROSBOROUGH 30/1/2017**

(NEXT PAGE - SPECIAL FEATURE Local resident Alan Codd on our Lost Horizon)

OUR LOST HORIZON

Alan Codd discovers that our horizon has been spiked.



I was talking to a woman on the Hove seafront a few days ago. I had seen, on a bus ride to Hove Library, down a couple of south facing streets (we were travelling along the Western Road), that is, left of me - going west - images of something on the sea horizon. I had noticed this a week or two earlier in fact and hadn't thought about it since. There were two distinct objects on the horizon that looked a little from that distance, like sailing ships, or a navy fleet, but there was something also a little mechanical about their appearance. I couldn't figure out what they could be. After I had finished at the library as it happened I felt like walking back to Brighton, and thought I could do so along the seafront and, at the same time it occurred to me, check out what these objects were, or might be, that I had seen on my outgoing journey. I did precisely that. I found myself close to the beach, looking directly at these two images, without the least ability to figure out in myself what they might be. My eyesight is not very good (for distance vision - I only have a pair of reading glasses) and I didn't have with me binoculars, so my only option was to find somebody local who could answer my question. I was standing in front of a large block of flats and thought that there might be a Janitor or Concierge in there who might be able to know what I was talking about, since all the inhabitant of that building would have had a permanent view of whatever these two objects were for as long as they were there. But I tried to enter the building and there was no access. And there was nobody about. I stood outside the block of flats still looking at those objects on the horizon. And I was thinking I would have to find the right sort of local person, as a passer by, if they were ever to be offered any questions about this matter from me. In about five minutes I found exactly the sort of person I was looking for. I would never have spoken to this person if I had felt that not to have been the case She was Scottish as a matter of fact, quite small, local, on her own walking briskly in the direction of the beach and the Esplanade and of an age which could be said to be approaching that of an older person by which I mean she was getting a little past middle age. But she appeared to be quite young in movement and disposition. As she passed me I said "excuse me" which of course frightened her slightly because that is the effect I have on people. But she was very good natured and ready to listen to anything I had to ask her. I moderated my tones and established that she was a local person. "Can you tell me" I said "what these two object are" indicating what I could see at a considerable distance off the coast. "They're building a Wind Farm" They were Rigs - Platforms for construction purposes. The weren't ships. They were static and this is what conveyed the mechanical aspect of the impression they made. I informed her that I know nothing about this Plan and hadn't heard a thing about there being a construction Project for a Wind Farm in Hove. The she said "Yes and you can see the individual spikes (Wind Turbines) all along the horizon" which was certainly something which exceed the capabilities of my vision, she had far better eyesight than mine. And then she added "Never Mind" And she said this because she was clearly disappointed about the whole thing. I thanked her very much. And she walked off.

What I mean is people value Nature and Space, she made that clear and obvious to me. She was the exact type of person as the person who said, "we all hate it, it spoils the sunsets and the views". She was saying or thinking the same thing about Wind Turbines. They spoil the clarity and depth of the sea horizon. It made me feel good for the rest of the day that I had met somebody who liked looking at the same things I enjoy. "Never Mind" she said as an expression of her affection for them. Knowing that there was nothing she could do.

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