



Regency Square's Town Crier

The Friends of Regency Square Blog No 24 October 2017

WEEK 1, REGENCY GREEN TO THE RESCUE, DANGEROUS CYCLE SPEED

Saturday was a cloudy and damp day - not good for petition signature gathering or for people being out and about so decided to come back again tomorrow. Upper esplanade empty and locked with the ugly security hub being used for storage of deckchairs!

CAN THE COLOUR HELP OUR CAUSE?

The arrival of the new *Regency Green* Sobi smart bikes has given Brighton a new awareness of the colour first introduced on the new railings around our Memorial statue when Regency Square was converted into an underground car park in the 1960s. The railings can be seen in their original colour in a shot from the film *Carry on Girls* made in the early 1970s.



This picture here shows recently decorated seafront railings directly opposite Regency Square and, below it - the present dilapidated state of our black railings surrounding the Memorial statue above the car park exit.

Period railings such as surround our Regency houses would look ridiculous in this place and we are petitioning the council to repair and/or repaint these 60's railings in their original green colour.

But it's not just for heritage/conservation reasons we are requesting the change to the original colour. The seafront painting team do all the green lamp posts and bollards every couple of years and if we can be included on that team again then we shall no longer be neglected.



THE CONTRAST ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ROAD

SIDSWIPED BY 30 MPH CYCLISTS

Local resident Reginald Woodhouse is very worried about speeding cyclists along our seafront and has written to the council.

"For some time now I have witnessed the way in which cyclists have interacted with pedestrians. I myself have been sideswiped on a couple of occasions by a cyclist riding along the promenade.

It is only a matter of time before there is a very serious collision between cyclist and pedestrian.

“Regularly I see cyclists riding along the promenade at breakneck speeds of probably 30 mph or more - a bit ironic when one considers that motorists in most parts of the city are having to comply to a 20 mph limit!

The other day I witnessed a situation involving cyclists and a group of elderly ladies. They got caught between cyclists going either way which caused the ladies to get very disorientated. I then heard them apologising to the cyclists, I pointed out to the ladies that It was the cyclists who should have been apologising to them! The reason being that the group of ladies were attempting to cross at a designated pedestrian crossing and the cyclists should have given way to them.”

WEEK 2 BAI360 ARCHITECT DIES, i360 UPLIGHTERS CAUSE COMPLAINTS,

Cloudy but mild Saturday morning which proved a good day for signatures for the petition.

This week we had the sad news of the death of one of the **BAi360** architects David Marks after a long illness. Together with his wife and partner Julia Barfield they created the *London Eye* at the turn of the century and the *BA i360* which opened last year in Brighton.

Rapidly becoming one of Brighton’s major tourist attractions it has brought crowds to the area of Regency Square and much investment along the seafront.

The role of Chair of Brighton i360 will pass to Ms Barfield.



DAVID MARKS AND JULIA BARFIELD ON A TEST FLIGHT IN 2016

LIGHT SPILLAGE RUINS THE NIGHTTIME VIEW

Badly angled and very bright lights on the ground and first floor balcony of the i360 Hotel in Regency Square have caused complaints by neighbours as the light spillage comes outward and upward and completely spoils the nighttime view of our square.



This photo was taken during twilight - at night the impact is much worse!

The RSAS have not been able to do anything about it and have advised local residents to complain. They say they have no jurisdiction on the brightness of lights!

The Friends hope the BA i360 will join in the campaign as early evening night time flights are now affected by the glare.

BLIGHT OF THE LIGHTS ON THE I360 HOTEL

WEEK 3, NEW COMPOST BOXES PRESENT A CHALLENGE, MORE ON LITTLE LEMONS

Storm Brian hit Brighton this Saturday and so we delayed petition stint till the following day. Perhaps - because of the storm - that green screen in the security hub alongside the I360 Box Office Kiosk had been removed and so Regency Square had our long cherished view back again. But for how long? (Our next named storm will be called *Caroline* and perhaps we can expect our local MP to have a photo

opportunity of her battling the elements (global warming!) on the seafront. Wouldn't that be fun!

PLANTING PROSPECT

It is good to see that the council have provided us with some new compost boxes which have now been repositioned inside our Top Garden. (pictured alongside)

The *Friends* believe that there could be a response from local residents for a crowd-funded *planting scheme* which would include provision of new shrubs and plants with perhaps an area for kitchen garden allotments. Our new compost boxes then would be very handy.

But we have had similar boxes hidden away behind the bushes neglected and unused for years. (see inset photo)

The scheme needs new enthusiasm and impetus from owner occupiers, tenants and Hotel proprietors.

The *Norfolk Square Planting Project* - an *inclusive* approach well supported by residents, business sponsors and the council - has shown the way forward and is perhaps a good model for Regency Square's gardening needs. This is certainly the approach supported by the council who could provide extra help if we show enough interest.

If you would like to be part of a similar planting project for Regency Square please let us know.

Just to recap - the *Friends* do **not** support the call for the total re-landscaping of Regency Square which has preoccupied some here for many decades and has possibly prevented the growth of an *inclusive* sense of community. The *Friends* believe this can best be brought about by community gardening of all local residents.

So if you hanker to attend to your flowers or vegetables in our garden then please let us know. Regency Square belongs to all of us.

NO BIG LEMONS FOR US

Our friendly ward councilor Tom Druitt (who is the big cheese for the eco friendly *Big Lemon* bus fleet) has told us that the seafront road between the two piers is far too congested for him to consider a seafront service for his busses.

Which is precisely the reason why we are suggesting an electric Rickshaw or Trishaw buggy service to travel along the *beach level road* and *cycle lane* away from all the traffic of the A259.

But Tom is busy growing his *Big Lemon* empire for now and so we shall put the *Little Lemons* idea on hold until we can think of alternative providers.

Maybe the time when the *Shelter Hall* development is nearer completion will be more appropriate to propose again an eco friendly alternative to the busy A259.

WEEK 4 OUR OLD HOSTEL CONTINUES TO GIVE TROUBLE, TOY MAKING FOR THE KIDS, WACKY BUSTER ADDS COLOUR TO WEST PIER PIAZZA.

A mild Saturday morning with lots of customers for the BAi360

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Complaints by residents in our Square of associated anti-social behaviour managed to effect the removal a couple of year ago of the Hostel named *The West Pier Project*.

It moved to Seafield Road in Hove but now plans to move again to Hereford St in Kemptown are being resisted again by residents who are fearful of disruption and lament that they have not been properly consulted. The Hostels' reputation (still named the West Pier Project (!?) continues to plague them!



CHILDRENS' TOY WORKSHOPS



Toy Hacking was the order of the day at the *Pop-Up Arch* opposite the West Pier Piazza during the half-term holiday. Organized by David Allison of *Exploring Senses* it encourages children to attend free arts, crafts and digital technology workshops where they can create and keep their own toys.

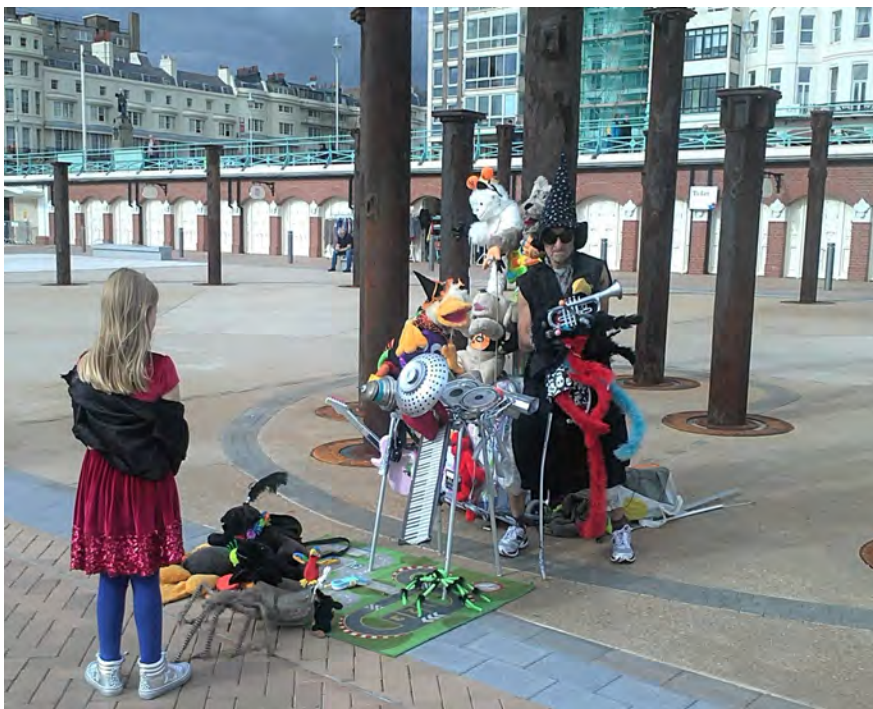
Exploring Senses want to take one of the empty Arches on a permanent basis where they would hope to create more digital technology workshops perhaps involving the activities of the other arches.

The *Pop-Up Arch* is owned by the *Rampion Wind Farm* who have let the *Brighton Digital Festival* and *Exploring Senses* use their arch until they take up permanent residence. Hopefully they will be here until after Christmas.

TOY WORKSHOPS AT THE POP-UP ARCH

BRINGING COLOUR TO THE AREA

Almost invisible behind his motley assortment of bears, ducks, musical instruments, woolly spiders and



kitchen utensils, Brighton's wackiest busker visits the *West Pier Piazza* and adds a touch of much needed colour and fun.

He is attached to many of his instruments and toys with an assortment of strings and pulleys. His cymbals ring out, his duck's mouth quacks to the music and he accompanies his recorded numbers with all sorts of zany wiggles and clatterings.

He is a jolly bundle of energy and also quite a sight arriving on the scene by bicycle laden with all his toys.

I CAN SEE YOU!

