



Queen Square

News and Events June 2004



Councillor Helen Holland with the Royal Town Planning Institute's Planning Award for the built Heritage 2003 - Queen Square

A remarkable space and precious asset

Jerry Baker
City Centre Spaces Manager

On an icy 27th February 2004 Councillor Helen Holland; Executive Member for Partnerships and External Affairs, and Bristol City Council Officers, received the Royal Town Planning Institute's Planning Award for the Built Heritage 2003 for the Queen Square Regeneration and Enhancement project. This prestigious award marked many years of concerted and

cooperative effort across city council departments and partnership agencies.

The city has been handed back a remarkable space and precious asset. The management role ahead of us is to maintain the natural features and physical fabric of the square to a high standard. A draft 10 year Management Plan 2004-2014 has now been produced detailing management objectives and maintenance plans and further details of this will be available in the next newsletter. This Plan will also provide a framework for identifying further business opportunities and improvements, such as, the installation of further benches, new noticeboards or the construction of petanque 'pitches' blended into the

pathways.

The square has become a hugely popular venue for an increasingly broad and creative range of public recreation, business activity and promoted events. It is welcome to see the square increasingly well used at weekends, but less welcome to see organised football. Last year we licensed numerous small business parties, petanque competitions, hosted small events such as, Unisons annual bash and the Balloon Fiesta Launch, and developed the New Jazz 2003 concert series and productions of *The Tempest*. The Massive Attack concert was a huge, but successful, test of cooperative effort to deliver a major national event. This years event listings are similarly diverse and equally exciting.



Ariel view of Queen Square

Queen Square's a national winner

The Regeneration and Enhancement project for Queen Square has won the Royal Town Planning Institute's Planning Award for the Built Heritage 2003. The prestigious awards were established to throw a public spotlight on the positive achievements of the planning profession.

Judges were "impressed by the drive, determination, skill and tenacity of the Bristol planners ...the restored square is a triumph for positive planning over inertia and we believe it merits an award for the built heritage."

The ambitious project has transformed Queen Square over the past few years. The removal of the 1930's dual carriageway and the diversion of most of the traffic from the Georgian square

has restored the unity of its design and brought tranquillity to this unique and valuable public space.

Bristol City Council and English Heritage carried out an in-depth study of the square's historic development and identified the details that formed its character. Trees, paths, paving and railings have now been rebuilt in keeping with its 1699 design and the 1736 Rysbrack Statue has been moved back to its original position.

Councillor Helen Holland, Executive Member for Partnerships and External Affairs, said: "In a thriving business and retail hub like Bristol you can't underestimate the importance of good urban spaces. Not only do they provide vital relaxation for busy Bristol people but also open up the city to ambitious public concerts and other events which put Bristol on the map."

In congratulation, Tony Struthers, chairman of the judging panel, said: "These awards recognise the diversity and scale of planning achievement. This Award winner demonstrates that

success is achieved through vision and a determination to succeed. Planning is in good heart @ and enabling huge investments to be made in our environment that make real improvements to peoples' lives."

The project has been funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Bristol City Council, English Heritage and the Queen Square Association. It was also Overall Winner of the SW Regional Awards 2003 receiving the Phil Barclay Silver Cup.

The RTPI is the professional body in the United Kingdom chartered to advance the science and art of town planning in all its aspects (national, regional and local) for the benefit of the public.

The council has received 3 awards recently for the Queen Square enhancement project work completed to date. These are:

Royal Town Planning Institute National Award for Built Heritage 2003.

Royal Town Planning Institute South West Region (Overall Winner) 2003

National Civic Trust Award 2004 - announced Wild Walk @ Bristol

These add to two previous awards associated with the scheme which were:

Royal Town Planning Institute South West Region Award 1997, for the Research on the History and Development of Queen Square, which formed an important part of the HLF bid for monies to enhance the square informing the design for its re-in statement.

Bristol Civic Society Award 2001 - for phase I * IIIA

Cabe space commendation



Queen Square now also features on the CABE Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment website as an exemplar scheme of the regeneration of an Urban City Square.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/library/casestudy.asp?id=212>

Queen Square enhancement project update



Next year in 2005 it is hoped to commence work on the final phase of the project to enhance the NW entrance into the square as aspired to in the original scheme. Later this year, design proposals will be drawn up including public consultation on the exact form of the new public/entry space. Ultimately the new public space should remove the visual block between the square and city Centre created by the Prince Street roundabout.

It is intended that the new public space be as green as possible creating a smooth transition between the busy city Centre and the quieter

tranquility of Queen Square. It has potential to incorporate visitor information and interpretation of the history of the square itself, King Street with its diverse range of building styles and ages and the relationship with the historic Old City and harbourside.

The design development process will explore the opportunities for inclusion of a new cafe use fronting onto the space. It is most likely that the project will be implemented in phases over several years. This newsletter will keep you informed of progress with the proposals.

New Maintenance Contractors



On the 2nd February 2004 Continental Landscapes Ltd took over seven new Grounds Maintenance Contracts in Bristol. They are Central (including Queen Square, North West, North East, North, South West, South East and Blaise Castle. They have looked after the Downs ground maintenance and also Childrens Playgrounds throughout Bristol since 1999 and the Water Features in the city centre since 2001.

City Centre Wardens



Thanks to government funding with assistance from Bristol City Council, street wardens are now on patrol in Bristol's city centre - making it a safer and more attractive place to live, work and play.

Adding to the already successful schemes in Easton and Eastville, the city centre



City centre warden

wardens are working with shopkeepers and businesses to tackle problems with anti-social behaviour, rubbish, graffiti and fly posting, and helping to reduce crime and fear of crime. Their bright orange and yellow uniforms make them easy to spot around the Broadmead and City Centre areas, which includes Queen Square.

Since the wardens started at the beginning of August they have dramatically reduced the number of fly posters in and around the city centre, working with various clubs and bars in the area. They work with a wide range of agencies, acting as an extra pair of eyes and ears in the area, and regularly undertake high visibility patrols in the Queen Square area.

City centre wardens are also trained to provide information and advice to visitors and are linked to the Tourism Bureau. They are equipped with satellite phones which can track their positions at any time, as well as providing a mapping function so that patterns of anti-social activity can be monitored.

The scheme is jointly funded by the Government Office for the South West, Bristol City Council and the Safer Bristol Partnership.

The wardens operate from Bristol City Council offices at College House on College Green. Anyone who has a queries or a problem to report can contact the wardens on 0117 922 3553 or email them via citycentrewardens@bristol-city.gov.uk

EVENTS 2004

The transformation of Queen Square has created a tranquil open city centre space ideal for the promotion of activity and events. More and more local businesses and promoters expressed interest in developing events, from office BBQ's to major concerts.

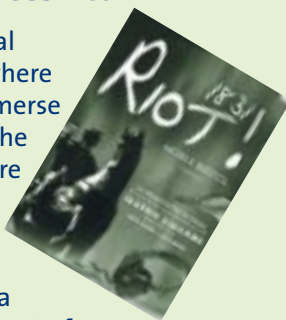
To find out more about these and other events, visit our website at www.bristol-city.gov.uk/events For more information about hosting events contact the Parks Event Team 0117 922 3538 or City Centre Spaces Management 0117 9039061.

15 April - 4 May

1831 Riot! - An interactive play for voices Free

An experimental research trial where visitors can immerse themselves in the very space where the riots took place 170

years ago. Equipped with a backpack and a set of headphones your movement through the square will trigger sounds and voices. Alter your position and you are in charge of who and what you hear www.mobilebristol.com



14-19 June

Much Ado About Nothing

British Touring Shakespeare's open-air production of Shakespeare's hilarious comedy. Bring a picnic, sit back and enjoy some great theatre in the picturesque surroundings of Queen

Square. There will be partial road closures around Queen Square during the performance only. www.britishtouringshakespeare.com

Box Office 0117 987 7877

Adults £10.00

Concessions £5.007pm

Matinees 2pm (Thurs and Sat)

Sunday 20 June

Celebrating Sanctuary - Welcoming Everybody

A day of fun and activities for families and people of all ages, featuring music, dancing and art workshops, cultural activities, games, poetry, magicians and lots more, in celebration of the economic, historical and cultural contributions made to Bristol by people who have sought sanctuary from other countries. The event is being organised by Tribe of Doris and Bristol City Council with support from many other agencies.



11:30am-7:30pm. Free

Saturday 31 July

* Sunday 1st August

SWEB Energy Harbour Festival

Due to the success of the event in 2003, the event is being expanded from the Harbourside to include Queen Square and the Mud Dock. There will be a wide variety of activities in Queen Square, including a small stage featuring live music and performances, a range of markets and a themed area celebrating Bristol's twinning with Portuguese city Oporto. There will be road closures in and around Queen Square throughout the duration of the event.

New Jazz 2004

New Jazz

New Jazz 2004 will keep a core inventive programme but will also embark on some new creative partnerships. Emerging New Jazz styles will again be represented, but a more inclusive programme will also present some World Music with a new jazz edge and a New Acoustic day, a programme sourced from the cities energetic live folk session scene.

Sunday 1 August

10.00pm-4.00pm

Friday 20 August

12.00 noon-2.00pm
and 5.30pm-9.00pm

Sunday 22 August

12.00 noon-8.00pm

Friday 27 Aug

12.00 noon-2.00pm and
5.30pm-9.00pm

Friday 3 Sept

12.00 noon-2.00pm and
5.30pm-9.00pm

Saturday 4 September

12.00 noon-8.00pm

Sunday 5 September

12.00 noon-8.00pm

New Dock Petanque

Will be a fun, social competition running alongside New Jazz to businesses and groups.

For further information contact
0117 927 6614
or www.newjazz.co.uk

Sunday 11 September

Bristol Half Marathon

Queen Square will host the Runner's Village for the South West's largest road race. Runners will gather here before and after the race for refreshments, bag storage, massage and other facilities. There will be extensive road closures throughout the city and Queen Square will be closed to traffic for the whole day.



Monday 21-Tuesday 22 September

B2B West

A major new business exhibition is being launched in Bristol, providing local firms with an opportunity to promote their products and services and get access to vital business information.

For further information about B2B or to register interest in taking exhibition space, contact Bron Ellis on 0845 226 3050 or e-mail bron@envelope.ltd.uk Businesses in Queen Square and members of Business West will qualify for a discount if they book their exhibition space prior to Friday 30 April 2004

New Jazz 2004

New Jazz 2004 will keep a core inventive programme but will also embark on some new creative partnerships. Emerging New Jazz styles will again be represented, but a more inclusive programme will also present some World Music with a new jazz edge and a New Acoustic day, a programme sourced from the cities energetic live folk session scene. The New Acoustic Day will also feature 'Queen Speech'; an opportunity to see and hear some of the best of Bristol's performance poetry scene. Expect bite-sized slices of verbal dexterity from experienced slammers, and words worth witnessing from some of tomorrows top ranking performance poets.

Mud Dock has secured the bar and catering contract and will also be providing additional corporate catering for businesses wishing to hold social and business functions;

Richmond Event Management have been contracted to assist with event management and we are in discussions with several music labels to produce a double CD.

"The performances will span a broad range of original music in the New Jazz genre featuring influences from World Music to traditional Jazz Improvisation. Bristol has a proud tradition of original music making, combining the many influences from it's significance as a global trading centre and home to many different communities." Jerry Baker, City Centre Spaces Manager

We will also be introducing New Dock Petanque - a competition for local businesses in conjunction with New Jazz 2004 with prizes and social events. Please call Sally or Jim at REM for details 0117 927 6614



Further sponsorship opportunities exist to help raise the quality and profile of New Jazz.

Details of sponsorship opportunities are available at www.newjazz.co.uk

Queen Square Venue for Business Exhibition

Named B2B West the new event is being run in association with Business West and the region's leading media including Bristol Evening Post and the Western Daily Press. Attracting businesses from a range of sectors across the West of England, the exhibition will become a highpoint of the annual business calendar, boosting regional sourcing and contributing to commercial growth in the region. Home to 23,000 firms the Greater Bristol area has one of the most thriving business communities in the UK. Bristol is the powerhouse of the West of England, a sub-region with the highest GDP outside London. Yet

the city has no central market place for buyers and sellers to come together.

Until now, the lack of a dedicated exhibition centre has prevented Bristol from holding such events, which are commonplace in other major cities in the UK. To overcome this barrier, the exhibition will be held in high quality, temporary structures in Queen Square. To be held on 21 and 22 September 2004, the event is expected to attract up to 100 exhibitors and will include a robust seminar programme plus a mix of sector specific workshops. Several thousand visitors from across the West of England are expected to attend.

The event is being organised by specialist exhibition and live event company, envelope. Nick James from envelope said: "We want to create a local marketplace for businesses in the region. We believe that B2B West will become the best opportunity for businesses to meet face-to-face with potential new suppliers all under one roof.

He added: "While Bristol already hosts a good range of networking and marketing events, this is the first time that something of this scale will be held in the city."



Business-to-business exhibition

Celebrating Sanctuary

Queen Square is to host Bristol's final event of a nine-day festival, Celebrating Sanctuary. On Sunday 20th June the square will be the venue for a wide variety of music, dancing and art workshops, performances, games, poetry, magicians and cultural activities.

The events have been organised in celebration of the enormous economic, historical and cultural contributions that people who have sought sanctuary from other countries have made to the city of Bristol. Celebrating Sanctuary in Queen Square is part of a nation-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events focusing on cultural diversity and promoting understanding of the reasons why people seek sanctuary. The entertainment, activities and workshops give everyone the chance to enjoy and participate in the positive contribution that refugees make to the UK.

There are also plans for the largest mass family picnic that Bristol has ever seen. Siobhan Kierans of Tribe of Doris says "We hope that hundreds of families will bring food and join us for an alfresco lunch. After eating we hope they will stay to learn to sing African songs, dance Indian dances, listen to folk stories and generally feel part of the human family!"

Celebrating Sanctuary in Queen Square, Sunday 20th June, 11.30 @ 7.30pm, Free.

Organised by Tribe of Doris and Bristol City Council with support from many other agencies.

Nine days of social, cultural, sports, educational, community and arts based activities take place from 12 @ 20th June at venues throughout Bristol, including the Cube Cinema, the Central Library, Community at Heart Barton Hill, Kuumba and St Paul's Sport Academy.



Ball Games and BBQ's are not permitted on Queen Square and College Green

Queen Square is an historic square recently restored by Bristol City Council with Heritage Lottery funding. It is vulnerable to, and not designed for, impact sports and BBQ's. Damage to the grass is a criminal offence and could lead to prosecution and a criminal record.

Please contact Sports Lettings 0117 922 2789 to discuss availability and booking football pitches.

Many thanks for your cooperation

City Centre Spaces Management

0117 903 9061



Much Ado About Nothing

One of the UK's premier touring Shakespeare companies, British Touring Shakespeare, comes to Queen Square for a week in mid-June with their latest offering, the hilarious comedy 'Much Ado About Nothing'. Performed by a full cast in beautiful period costumes from the Royal Shakespeare Company, this open-air spectacle will provide a great night out for the whole family.

This new production will be directed by BTS Artistic Director Miles Gregory, whose previous productions have been described as "Shakespeare - and indeed theatre - the way it should be done" by Theatre Guide London. BTS has played to over 30,000 people in five different countries since their inception in 1999 and have proved a hit with audiences and critics alike.

The company encourages audience members to bring a rug and a picnic @ and where better to enjoy the magic of Shakespeare under the evening sky than the historic Georgian setting of Queen Square in the heart of Bristol. 14th - 19th June, Queen Square

Website: <http://www.britishtouringshakespeare.co.uk>

"A new Shakespearean force to be reckoned with... This production contained some of the best Shakespeare I have ever seen. Witty and wonderfully engaging, it was an energising performance which left the audience cheering for more. This company's work is must-see stuff." Theatre Review on Much Ado About Nothing performed by BTS.

The Massive Square Event - Safe From Harm

Massive Attack has long been of the city's strongest musical and cultural exports. The distinctive pioneering sound is even commonly heard in taxis and on radios in some of the remotest regions of the world. Despite world tours and global recognition there has never been a big local show @ until now.

August Bank Holiday 2003 saw a 20,000 strong audience welcome the long missed Massive Attack finally home. Anticipation built over the afternoon with strong support acts including local talent Lupine Howl, Martina Topley-Bird and Goldfrapp as well as The Bees and the Mercury Prize-nominated The Streets.

Backed by suitably massive and imposing digital displays Massive Attack played an impressive set, including milestone recordings Karmacoma, Safe From Harm, Unfinished Sympathy. The displays presented a global digital journey that finally and eclectically fixed in on maps of Bristol suburbs, Queen Square and the Downs Football League.

Bristol City Council and promoters, Metropolis, worked together over 6 months to design and manage the event. A wide range of site preparations were needed including the installation of temporary event flooring to protect the high quality fabric of the square and dissipate crowd pressure to prevent ground compaction.

New Jazz 2003

The concept of the New Jazz concerts took shape at a back garden summer BBQ over lamb burgers and beer. How to simply animate the square with good local music, food and drink? How to provide a relaxed sociable scene to encourage the local business community and wider public to unwind?

New Jazz started as a series of free lunchtime and after work concerts in August 2002. The experimental programme was set up City Centre Spaces Management as part of the Bristol City of Culture 2008 preparations to provide a platform for the wide range of local innovative musical talent and to present and encourage only original compositions. New Jazz 2003 expanded on that successful format and achieved wider exposure for the diverse contemporary music that thrives in the city.

Musical styles ranged from up-tempo Mozambique-inspired township jazz, to music described as "jazz ambient trance". The twenty featured acts included ensembles led by accomplished musicians such as John Taylor, Andy Hague, Kevin Figes and Emma Hutchinson, with well-known Bristol-based bands such as Big Fish, The Blessing, The Organelles, CCQ and Dub Orchestra.

A notable highlight was King Cotton, a compelling and ambitious 19 strong community-based musical project describing the history of cotton making in Bristol. The Cafe Kazaam cabaret brought surreal humour into the square, and the finals of the New Jazz Poetry Slam chose the Bristol representatives for the Great Transatlantic Poetry Slam later in the year.

Summer BBQ's and bars were provided by local businesses Event Bars, The Mud Dock, The River and Il Bordello.

Riot in Queen Square!

In April and May many took up a challenge to immerse themselves in the rebellious history of the square by taking part in an interactive theatre of the future. The experimental technology team Mobile Bristol invited the public to take part in a hi-tech virtual riot to mark a historical event.

In 1831 thousands of Bristolians took to the streets in revolt against the defeat of the Reform Bill in the House of Lords. With its defeat ordinary people lost their right to vote causing a wave of protest throughout the country. In Bristol protest turned to open riot, looting prevailed and many buildings in Queen Square were burnt to the ground. Dragoon Guards were sent in to restore order to the city centre and hundreds of protesters died.

All in the distant past, but this Spring visitors, workers and residents were able to experience this dramatic period of Bristol's history in the very space where the riots took place 170 years ago.

Participants were given a tiny iPAQ computer and headphones. As they wandered around their iPAQ received information from global positioning satellites and worked out which part of the square they were standing in. It then played a series of sound bites relevant to the location. If they moved to a different part of the square they heard another set of sounds reflecting events in their new location.

As visitors stood outside a particular building they heard the voices of rioters plundering inside, the fear of the merchants as they fled through the square and the horror as Dragoon Guards sabre-charge

through the crowds cutting the rioters down.

The audio clips were the result of detailed research by writers Liz Crow and Ralph Hoyte, given life by actors and sound effects. Bristolian anecdotes were mixed with historical facts from the period, transporting the listener back in time to a Queen Square of the past.

The experience was part of a series of wireless experiments run by Mobile Bristol, a team of business and academic researchers from Hewlett Packard, the University of Bristol, UWE and The Appliance Studio.

They gave us this unique perspective on Queen Square as

25th Anniversary of the International Bristol Balloon Fiesta

Last year's launch marked the 25th anniversary of the International Bristol Balloon Fiesta, sponsored by Vodafone. 25 balloons were launched from Queen Square early in the morning of August 4th 2003, a beautiful and unusual sight as the city centre is rarely a launch site for balloons. In case you missed this spectacle, Bristol Balloon Fiesta Ltd have provided these photographs.



part of their two year DTI funded investigation into the possible uses of wireless technology and how it might change the way that we live and interact with our environment. It was free to take part, Mobile Bristol are interested in testing

their technology, their art, and our reactions to the experience.

1831 Riot! took place in Queen Square from 15th April to 4th May. Look out for further experimental events from Mobile Bristol in the near future.

The Tempest



Last summer saw an outdoor production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' performed in Queen Square over two July evenings. An enthusiastic crowd gathered to watch the

classic tale of magic, drama, romance and comedy despite the worst efforts of the weather.

The Westcountry Theatre Company's seven actors doubled up on the roles to perform an athletic, appealing and very amusing version of the play. Creating an atmosphere and keeping the audience involved is key to open air performances, and the WTC's pacy, dynamic and highly visual interpretation was well suited to the task.

The event was sponsored by Meade King Solicitors.

Salut Petanquers!

Saturday July 19th saw Mud Dock host their fourth annual pétanque tournament in Queen Square, Bristol. 24 Bristol-based company teams gathered to do battle for, not as rumoured large cash prizes, but possibly the heaviest trophy in the world.

The early rounds had a distinctly relaxed feel as teams dispersed across the square. Tension grew as old rivalries surfaced and players who professed to have 'only played this once before' became gripped by the success of a lucky shot and acquired instant expert status.

Mud Dock provided the excellent hospitality that sustained the teams throughout the competition.

The final showdown between teams Budvar, and Pétanque Force was so intense it stopped passing traffic. The swelling audience cheered and clapped as they matched each other shot for shot @ who knew a sport for old French guys could be so gripping? Eventually, after tying at 12-all, the Pétanque Force boys held off Budvar to lift this year's title.

Previous winners

- 2000 H P Bulmer
- 2001 Hyder Consulting
- 2002 Solomon Hare
- 2003 Pétanque Force

