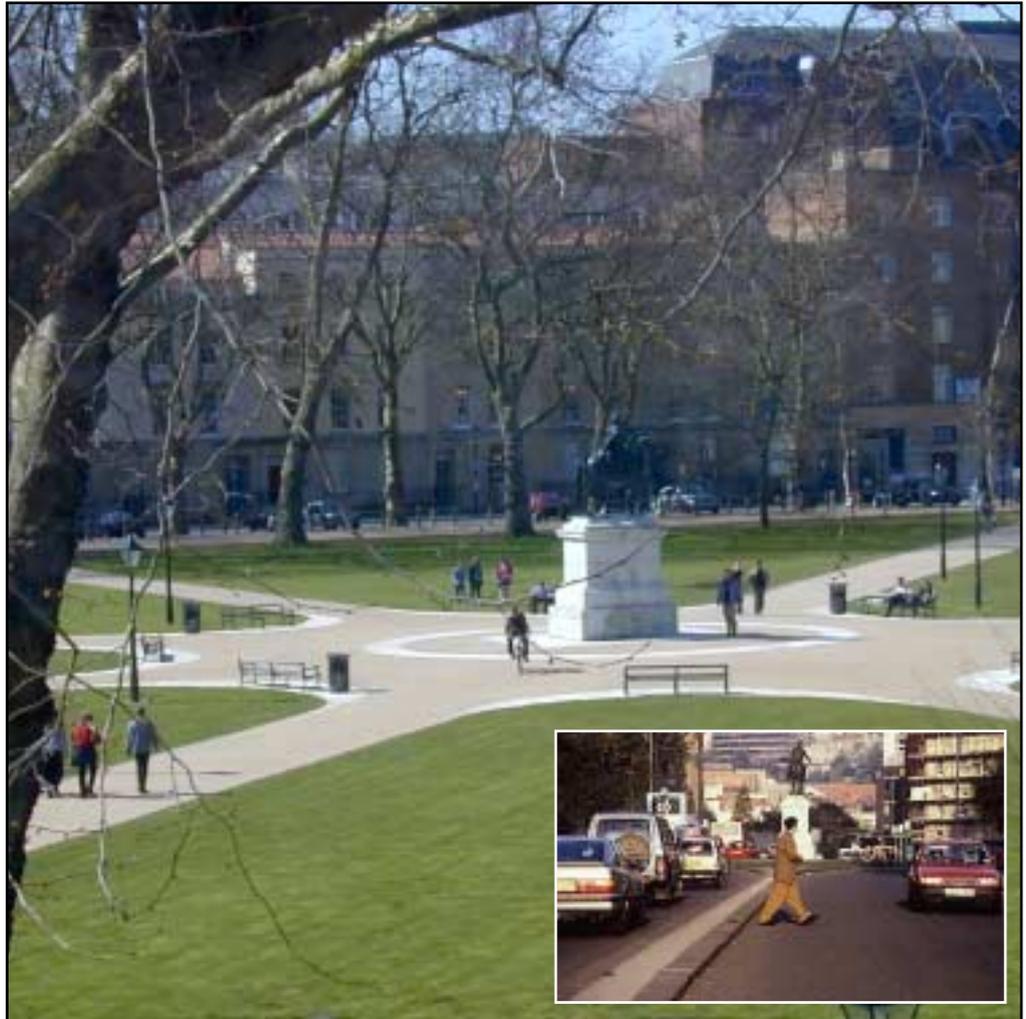




## Bristol's 'Jewel in the Crown'

**I am delighted to present this third newsletter to update you on the latest progress being made with the Queen Square Enhancement Scheme.**

**CLlr Helen Holland**



Phase I of the project - the restoration of the central part of the square - was completed last year. The official opening was held on the 19th September 2000 just over 300 years after work to layout the square first began in 1699. This has been perhaps the most dramatic part of the project as it finally removed the closed dual carriageway, which was constructed across the Square 65 years ago in 1936 devastating its architectural unity.

The grade I listed statue of

King William III on horseback in his Roman attire is now fully restored and attractively lit at night. A dedication is carved within the Portland stone ellipse at its base. *'This inscription commemorates the return of this historic space to the citizens of Bristol. The work was completed in the year 2000 through the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Bristol City Council and the Queen Square Association'*

These three organisations along with English Heritage, who helped to fund the

restoration of the statue, were presented with a 'Building a Better Bristol' award at the September opening in recognition of the immense effort put into the project.

The council is grateful for the progress the Queen Square Association is making to raise the £50,000 pledged toward the scheme.

Another major achievement has been the diversion of the buses - some 1,200 per day - out of the square. This has dramatically quietened

the environment, returning it to its original, peaceful character. It has also paved the way for the remaining phases of works, which will finally complete this magnificent Lottery Funded scheme.

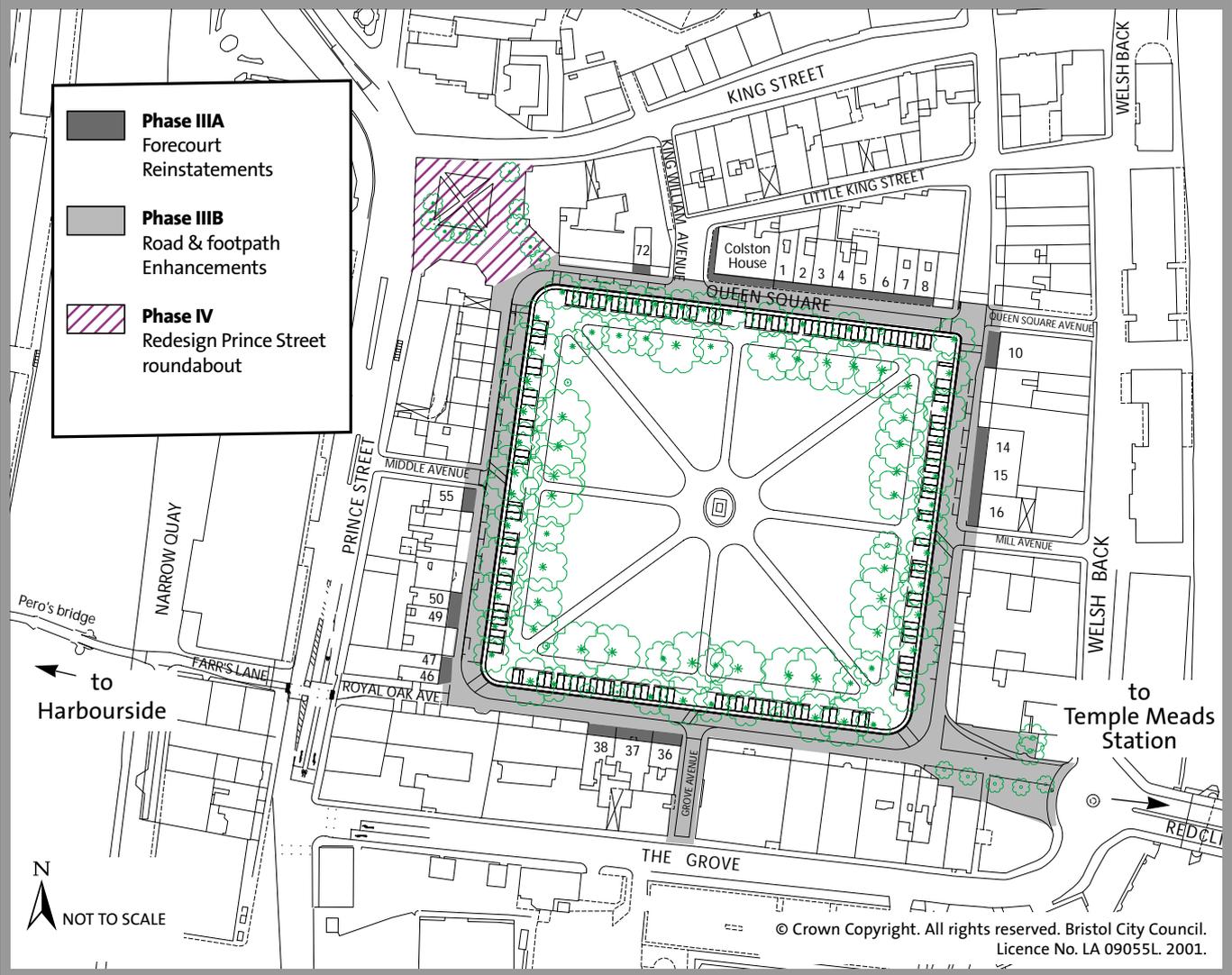
Councillor Helen Holland said, "While there are still further works to be carried out, Bristol's residents have already begun to use and enjoy this magnificent historic green space - we can now get a real feel for how the square would have looked in days gone by."

**Main Construction Works Timescales (see plan below)**

Stage	Works
<b>I</b>	<p><b>Central landscaped area</b></p> <p>Archaeological evaluation (completed); removal of statue and its restoration (scheduled 2 August 1999); main works scheduled to commence end of August 1999 to include removal of the dual carriageway; removal of trees around the statue; re-landscaping of the central area adding gravel radiating and perimeter paths; addition of post and rail wooden fence to back edge of perimeter parking bays; addition of refurbished historic lighting columns; addition of semi-mature trees to NW and SW corners; prune and shape existing trees; re-form perimeter parking bays to wider spacing around trees, resurfacing in stone setts; re-turf grass area; new co-ordinated signage; replace statue to face Custom House with new lighting.</p>
<b>II</b>	<p><b>Improvements to Prince Street/Grove Junction enabling diversion of buses from the square</b></p>
<b>IIIa</b>	<p><b>Due to commence August 2001, anticipated completion April 2002</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displacement of forecourt parking onto designated spaces around the square</li> <li>• Resurface and widen the footpaths around the square in natural stone</li> <li>• Re-surface the perimeter roads with stone setts re-claimed from the area</li> </ul>
<b>IIIb</b>	<p><b>Due to commence Jan 2002, anticipated completion Oct 2002</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove unsightly unauthorised forecourt parking which overhangs the pavements, causing obstruction to pedestrians</li> <li>• Rebuild the missing boundary walls, railings and gates that once formed the proper setting and enclosure to the listed buildings surrounding the square</li> <li>• Flood lighting to Custom House</li> </ul>
<b>IV</b>	<p><b>Due to commence June 2002, anticipated completion Dec 2002</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign of the north west entrance to Queen Square (junction with Prince, Marsh, King Streets as they open onto the corner of the square). Creating a new linking space to the centre</li> </ul>

**Phases of the Project**

The plan below shows the remaining phases of the project. For detailed plans of phase IIIA, see pages 4 & 5.



# It's so much quieter... the buses have gone...!

To the relief of many businesses and residents of Queen Square the good news is.. "Haven't you heard..?" ...the buses were diverted out of the square on the 5th February.

**Approximately 1 bus ran around the square per minute, that's around 1,200 buses per day.**

Since November 1993 when the diagonal road was closed to traffic the buses had been diverted around the perimeter roads of the square. This was always meant to be a temporary solution until the bus CO's agreed to use the alternative route along Prince St and The Grove.

This was held up for years until appropriate modifications could be made to the Prince St/Grove junction to prevent general traffic congestion that would otherwise have resulted.

Following the completion of the city centre, general traffic flows have lessened along Prince Street and The Grove to the extent that the diversion could at last proceed. Residents, business and visitors can now enjoy a much more restful square without the noise and vibration caused by the frequently passing heavy buses.

"For the first time in years, this summer, we are able to

open our windows again without the constant rumble of buses disrupting our work" said Stephen Lipfriend of the Queen Square Association.

Under the previous indicative scheme it was thought that to make the junction work, two buildings would have to be

demolished no.59 Prince St and no.43 The Grove. Mercifully this was no longer necessary. A new pedestrian signalled crossing now links Royal Oak Avenue to Farr's Lane, part of the Brunel mile route across Pero's bridge to Anchor Square in Harbourside.



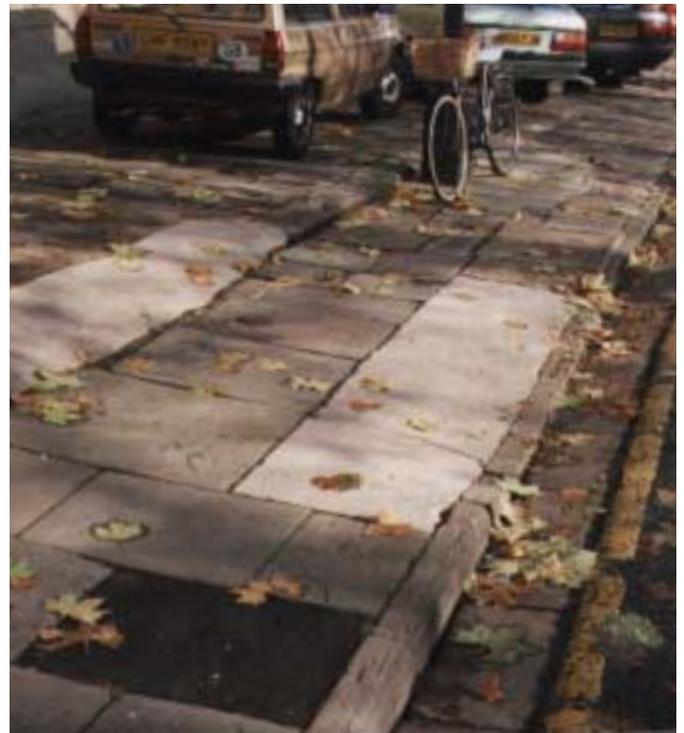
There were up to 1200 bus movements per day around the Square. On average, one bus entered the square each minute.

## New footpaths this year

Work will begin in August to take up the mosaic of broken and tatty paving around the square. Now quite a hotch potch, originally it would have been laid in natural Pennant stone. New riven stone has been ordered from Lancashire to create a close match with the original. Generally footpaths will be widened on all sides of the square improving access. The south side will be widened to 6 metres incorporating a shared cycle lane, part of the National Cycle Network, and Brunel mile link to Temple Meads station.

The tarmac will also be removed from the carriageway revealing the original historic setts lying beneath. Further stone setts carefully gathered from the area in recent years will be brought in to fill any gaps. Together the replacement of traditional paving treatments should enhance the appearance and setting of the square. Specially cut smooth stone crossovers will form a flat surface across the road at all junctions.

This will ensure ease of disabled access, whilst copying a traditional Bristol detail found across the city.



The setts around the city are of many types and colours of stone, and come from many geographic areas around the country. They arrived at the Bristol dockside as ballast in ships and form a subtle record of Bristol's Maritime trading links. The setts form an important part of the historic streetscape and character of our city which the council seeks to retain wherever possible.



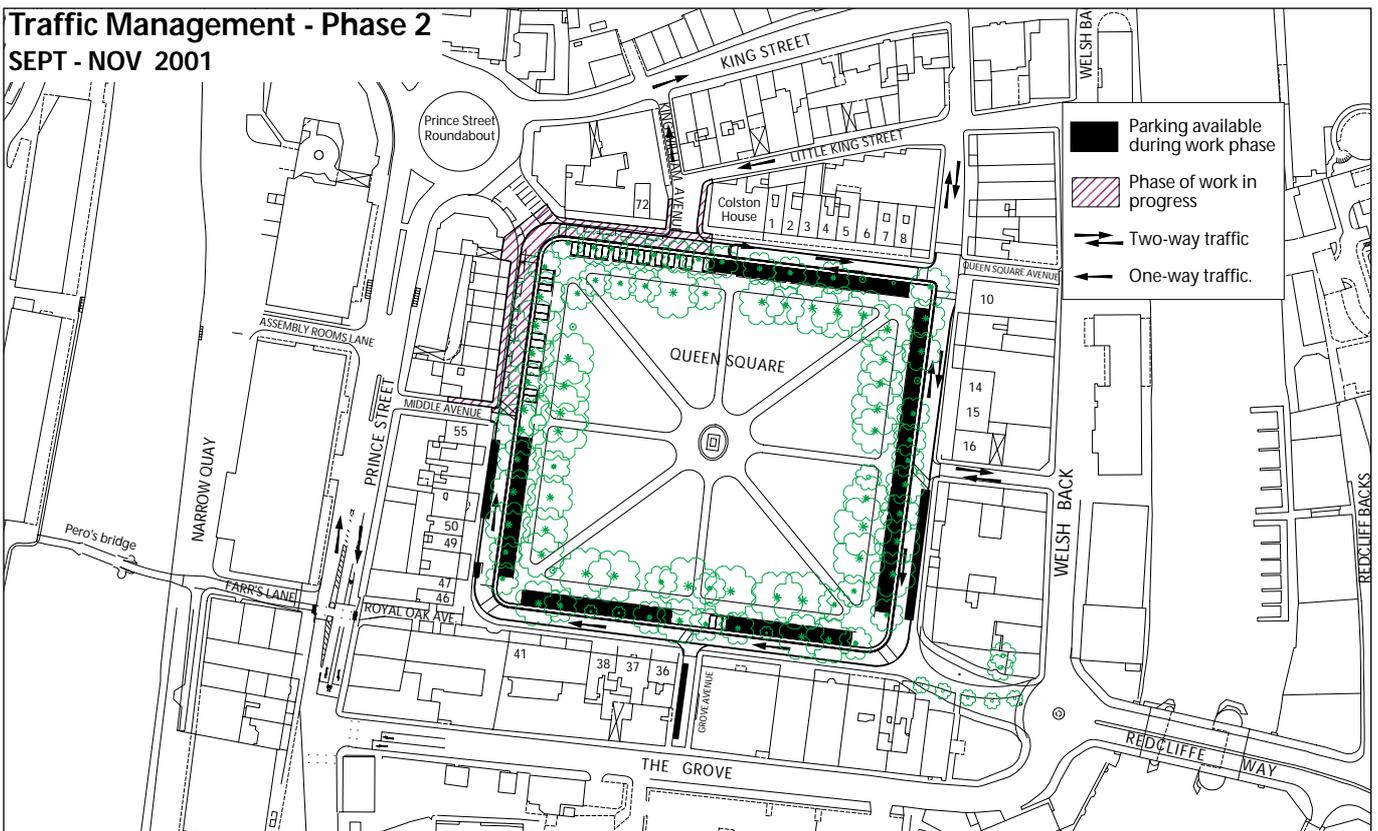
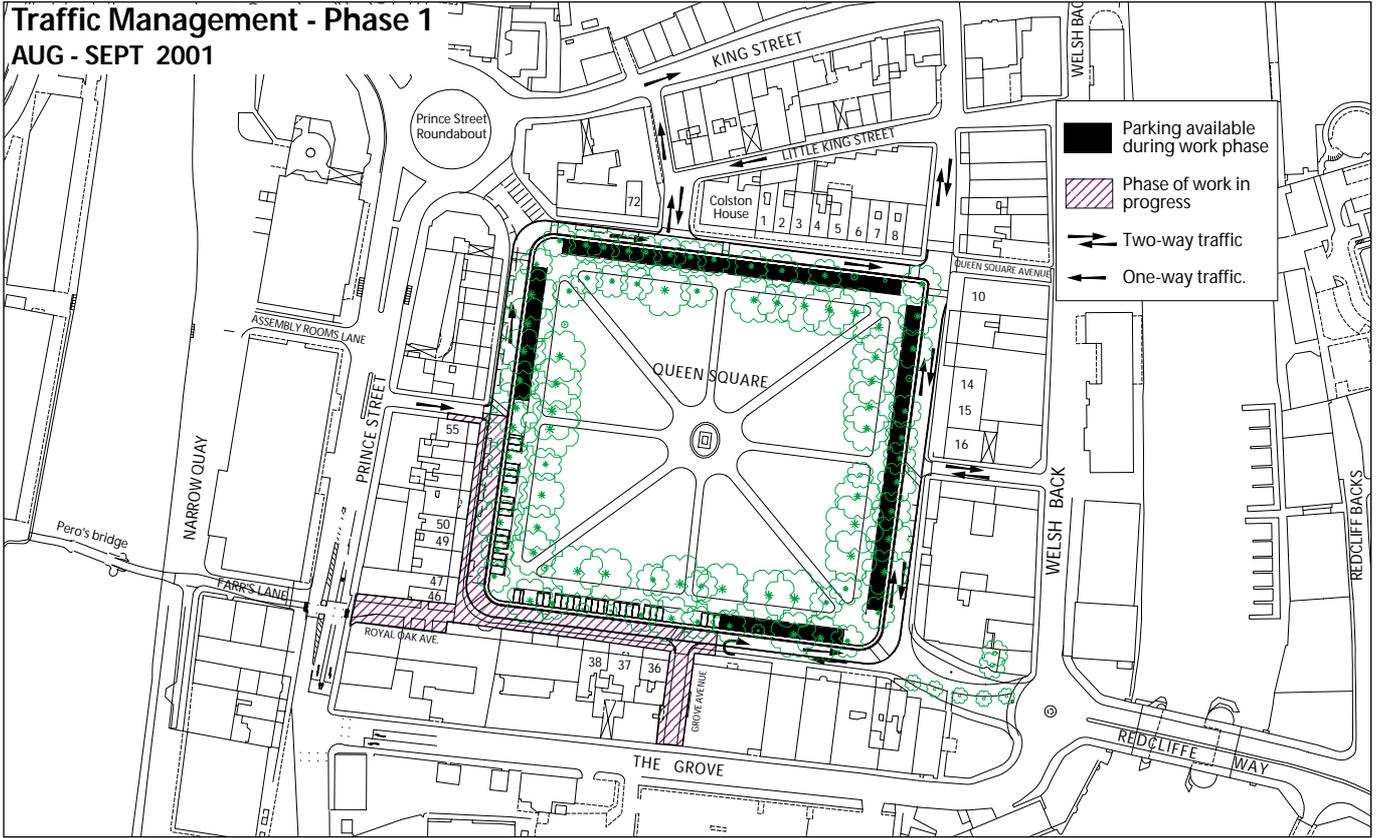
Watercolour of Queen Square by Samuel Jackson (1824)

# Phase IIIA Commences

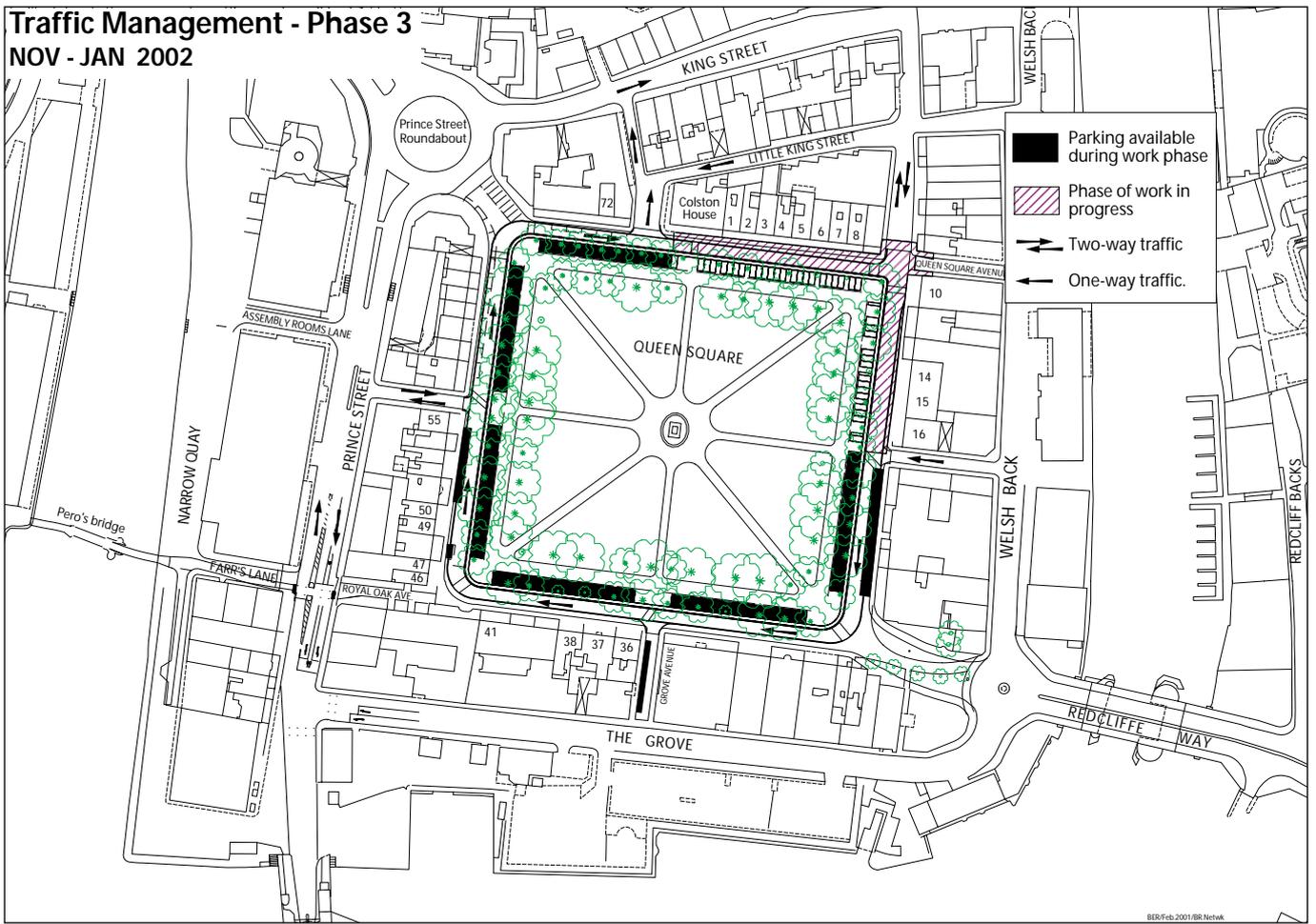
In August contractors C.J. Pearce will commence work on resurfacing the road and widening and resurfacing footpaths fronting the buildings around the edge of the square. The work will be completed in four phases illustrated below.

This will cause inevitable disruption to traffic flows and pay and display parking will be very limited during normal office hours throughout the duration of works. Businesses and residences are requested to direct visitors to pay and display parking at The Grove and NCP car parks at New Charlotte Street and Prince Street as a temporary alternative.

The council apologises in advance for the inevitable disruption caused.

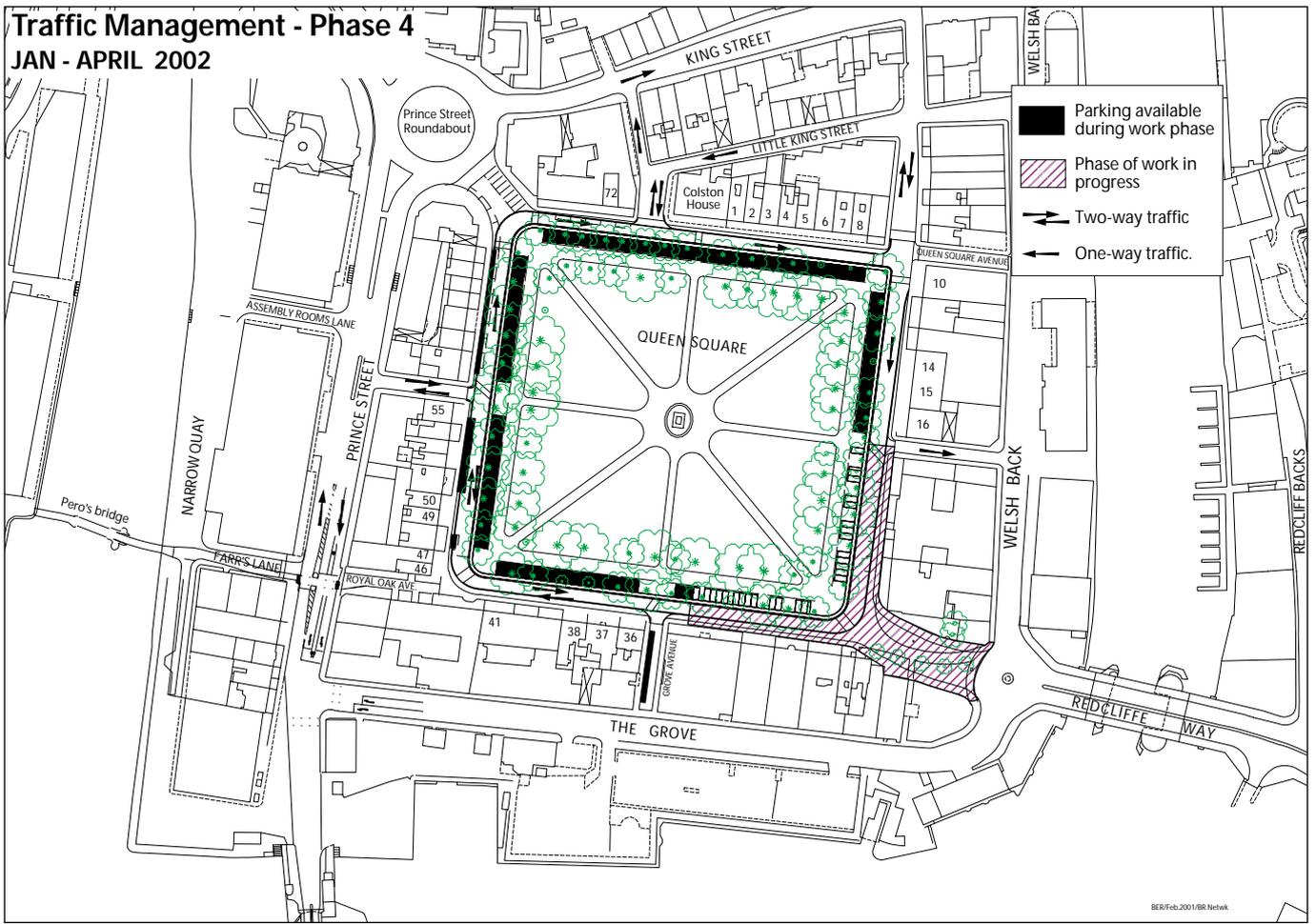


**Traffic Management - Phase 3**  
**NOV - JAN 2002**



BB/feb.2001/BB/Netek

**Traffic Management - Phase 4**  
**JAN - APRIL 2002**



BB/feb.2001/BB/Netek

# Displacing forecourt parking

The council has now reached agreement with 95% of building owners and leaseholders within the Heritage Lottery funded scheme, to end all forecourt parking. Under the project those affected have been offered alternative permit parking during office hours, on designated spaces around the square. This will ensure that pay and display spaces remain available for the general public in the evenings for visits to the theatre etc.

It is planned to add further on-street parking to the west and east sides of the square to balance the loss of spaces on the square available to the general public.

Displacement will prevent vehicles overrunning and destroying the newly widened pavements and kerbs constructed in natural stone.

*Right: forecourt parking in Queen Square forces pedestrians to walk in the road*



## Rebuilding forecourt walls and railings

Nationally acclaimed local conservation architects Niall Phillips from King Street, were appointed last year to design replacement boundary walls, railings and gates for the forecourts around Queen Square. Having carefully studied historic records, they have submitted planning and listed building consent applications for the traditional reinstatements. The architects have spoken with all the occupiers concerned to tailor designs accordingly to everyone's requirements. (Consent for the majority of buildings has now been achieved). Building works are likely to

commence in January next year following on from pavement and road works. They should be completed by October 2002.

The new boundary walls will significantly enhance the setting to the listed buildings and square they surround. They will also provide protection for pedestrians - in the past people have often had to walk on the road to avoid parked vehicles overhanging the pavements.

*Below: 23 - 28 Queen Square (pre 1923) before demolition for the construction of Redcliffe Way. Winston, F. Reece, Bristol in the 1930s (Bristol 1971)*



## Reintroduction of two way traffic around Queen Square

The city council is currently considering whether to reintroduce two-way vehicle flows around Queen Square. An order was advertised to make the changes before Christmas but only two objections were received.

Traffic flows always used to be two-way around Queen Square. One way traffic was introduced after Redcliffe Way was closed to vehicles in 1994. It just wasn't possible for the volume of large buses to make the sharp turns around the corners of the square and pass each other at the same time. Now the buses have gone there is arguably no need for this often inconvenient one-way system to remain.

Two-way traffic would

- shorten driving distances around the square, for example to free parking spaces

- be likely to reduce traffic speeds and therefore severity of any accidents should they ever occur
- allow removal of 17 superfluous one-way street signs reducing visual clutter

A temporary two-way system will be introduced around some parts of the square when works on resurfacing the roads and footpaths begin. This will ensure that the square is not blocked during construction of the roads and footpaths under the existing one-way system. Towards the end of the contract the council will review operation of the two-way system and occupiers of the square will be consulted on whether they wish a new two-way traffic scheme to be made permanent.

# Proposed improvements to Farr's Lane

Garage parking has been removed from the southwest entrance to Farr's Lane, allowing repaving of Royal Oak Avenue. The new paving in Queen Square will be extended tidying up this pedestrian street and linking to Pero's bridge and Harbourside. Additional cycle parking will be added and repositioned to the sides of the street reducing clutter.

This should enhance the alfresco dining opportunities now available during the summer outside the new EAT café at the junction with Prince Street. The potential of refurbishing the old seaman's church and institute on the opposite corner will also become clear. If the front extension were removed, this would create a generous sunny front forecourt and a wonderful entrance into Queen Square.



How Farr's Lane will look after refurbishment. Computer model image created by Bristol City Council, Visual Technology Unit.

## Queen Square Association

The Queen Square Association was formed in June 1999 as a registered charity to represent the businesses and occupiers of the square. The Association aims at promoting the enhancement of Queen Square for the benefit of its members and those visiting Bristol. The Association recognises the benefits an improved environment can bring to their businesses.



Queen Square  
ASSOCIATION

It immediately pledged to raise an initial £50,000 as an important element of private sector partnership funding, assisting with the city councils lottery funded enhancement project. This £50,000 was earmarked principally as a contribution to the costs of restoring the grade I listed statue of King William III - the 'centre piece' of the square. Longer term, the Association will work with the city to promote the square's proper management, as they are an important focus group for discussion about its future use. Promotion of this square will help in the proposed bid to make Bristol Capital of Culture 2008, with positive benefits for all those involved.

Pledges to date have raised circa £15,000 with monies received from:

- Ad Art Design**
- Hardy Associates**
- Merchant Navy Pension Fund**
- Lipfriend Dawson**
- Design Activity**
- Nat West Ventures**
- Clark Willmott & Clarke**
- Osmond Tricks**
- Bank of Ireland**
- The Post Office**
- Jarvis Projects**
- Metcalfes**

**Current committee members are:**  
**Pete Ennis (Chairman)**

- Bank of Ireland,**
  - Anthony Smith – Metcalfe**
  - David Lowe - Osmond Tricks,**
  - John Hardy - Hardy Homes,**
  - Stephen Rosser - Clarke Willmott & Clarke,**
  - Paul Spaven - Tuffin Ferraby & Taylor**
- The Association is actively seeking new members and some committee positions will become available shortly.**

**QSA** - An excellent opportunity to have your say on the future development and use of Queen Square.

# Millennium – a year of celebrations ... and there's more to come!

Queen Square played host to two Millennium parties, the first to celebrate the start of 2000 was held while the square was still a building site, but this didn't stop the 20,000 party goers packing in to watch the entertainment. In contrast the event to celebrate the end of the Millennium was held in the square in its completed shape. Both

events had one thing in common, lots of people, a great atmosphere and terrible weather! With the predictable British weather during winter, the council's events management team are having to carefully consider how (or if) similar large scale events can take place at this time of year. The wet weather left the square looking a little

muddy, and careful reinstatement works are planned during late spring. However, the square does offer a fantastic venue for events, as demonstrated during the summer 2000 when the open air cinema came to Bristol. Over a weekend of glorious weather during July, the Stella Artois sponsored

open air cinema showed screenings of *Sleepy Hollow* and *The Matrix*. Over 15,000 people attended, bringing picnics, champagne and even armchairs! The Stella Screen returned to the square this year on the first weekend in August as part of the SWEB Bristol Harbour Festival.

The next important date for your diary is the weekend of 6/7th October. Bristol is hosting the 10th IAAF World Marathon Championships. The whole city centre will be packed with some of the top runners from around the world, and the square will be one of the venues for demonstration sports and activities.

If you are interested in holding an event of your own, please contact the city centre manager on (0117) 9223364 (address on back page). A daily list of council events in the city can be found on the council's web site: [www.bristol-city.gov.uk](http://www.bristol-city.gov.uk)

*Left: photo of Queen Square at the last year's Stella Screen*



## Queen Square - Birds will be living the Highlife

Eight artists will have their heads in the trees over the coming months. The council and Legible City lead artists FAT (Fashion, Architecture and Taste) have commissioned eight sculptures for the trees in Queen Square.

This follows on from the success of the last piece of Legible City artwork *Walkie Talkie* - a 600-metre pavement poem that led pedestrians around some of the new open spaces around At-Bristol and The Centre.

This new project aptly named *Highlife* aims to interpret some of the issues that are part of the history, present use, design and function of the square. For

example, Kathleen Herbert, a local Bristol artist, has designed a sculpture covered with the text of a register quoting families that have lived in the square.

Whilst it is intended mainly as an arts project, the sculptures also double up as bird boxes and it is hoped birds will take up residence over time. Consultation has taken place with local ornithologists, Bristol Wildlife Trust and the RSPB to ensure that the artworks can be inhabited by birds.

The project will also highlight environmentalists concerns about the loss of bird species in cities and promote awareness of wildlife in the city centre.

A number of public pieces of art are being commissioned under the councils Legible City initiative to make the city easier to navigate. The aim is to create landmarks which not only make Bristol unique and bring people pleasure, but also aid visitors who often rely on memorable features to gain their bearings.

Both the *Highlife* sculptures and future pieces of public art are to be located along the Blue Route. This is a route identified in the Legible City initiative between Temple Meads, Broadmead and the Harbourside. Legible City signs, maps and information points have been installed

along this route to enable pedestrians to move easily and safely between the three main areas of central Bristol.

The *Highlife* sculptures will be installed during the autumn of 2001 and are funded by Legible City sponsors, Adshel.

For further information, please contact:

Jonathan Banks,  
Arts Officer,  
Bristol Legible City,  
Brunel House,  
St Georges Road  
Bristol. BS1 5UY  
Tel: 0117 922 3064

# Statue of William III - Queen Square

The statue of King William on horseback wearing Roman costume is now 268 years old. Originally commissioned in 1733 under public subscription it is the principal focal point within the square and now fully restored. It is generally considered to be the finest of its type in the country and a grade I listed structure. The decision was taken not to replicate the original railings to allow everyone to walk right up and get a better view. Anyone who does take a closer look will notice the very fine quality of detailing. Originally lit by lanterns attached to the railings, unobtrusive up lighters now highlight it as the central feature at night.



## **Forthcoming events proposed subject to conditions**

- **6/7th Oct World Marathon**
- **22nd Sept Streets Alive - car free day**

## Management of the square

Last year the council appointed a city centre manager with specific responsibilities for the management and maintenance of the two newly completed schemes: Queen Square and The Centre. A condition of The Heritage Lottery Fund grant

award was that the council would prepare an approved management plan for Queen Square and put budgets in place for assuring its quality future maintenance for at least 10yrs to protect the significant investment made. The manager is based in

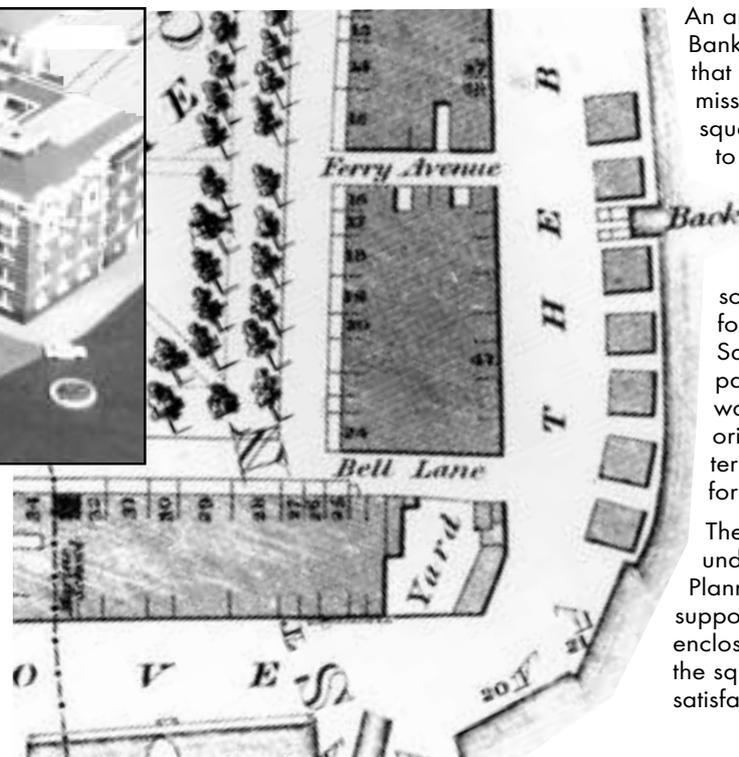
Colston House and is the first point of contact for any daily management issues, including proposed and actual events taking place within the square. Contact details are shown on the back page of this document.

## Rebuilding the south east corner of Queen Square



Above: model showing current proposal for the south east corner of the square.

Right: extract from Ashmead - Plan of the City of Bristol and its Suburbs, Bristol Record Office. BRL B29885. This shows the original SE corner of the square.



An application by the Royal Bank of Scotland/Nat West that would re-build the missing SE corner of the square has been submitted to the council. The new all residential scheme replaces a former planning consent for offices. The new scheme would extend the footprint of no 24 Queen Square further south, partly across Redcliffe way, following the original footprint of the terrace there beside former Bell Lane.

The application is currently under consideration. The Planning committee supported the principle of re-enclosure of the SE corner of the square in 1999 subject to satisfactory design.

# The Old Custom House

South Bristol College has vacated the Old Custom House on the northern side of the square. Neil Edwards of Fleurets Chartered Surveyors in Bristol has been appointed to act on behalf of Bristol City Council in the new letting.

The Custom House is a very attractive four storey Bathstone Grade II Listed building on basement, ground and two upper floors. The building offers in total some 7,100 sq ft (659 square metres).

Originally the commercial and principal focus building in the square, it enjoys fine views out facing the statue of King William III at its centre.

Originally the Custom House was a very important place. All goods entering and leaving the port of Bristol would have been recorded there, and relevant taxes paid. Contraband or illegal goods would have been stored in a secure basement.

But the existing building is not the original. Records suggest that the first building pictured, fig.1 was constructed in around 1660 on the western side of Welsh Back.

Extension of the dockside area is probably what led to a purpose designed new building being constructed in the 'new Queen Square' in around 1710. Its importance led to its focus as the principal and only commercial building on the north side of the residential square. The original, pictured, fig. 2, had a square portico with supporting columns. It was destroyed by fire during the Bristol Riots that began in Queen Square on 29th Oct, 1831. It was re-built to its



Fig 1: original Custom house (1660)  
 Fig 2: 'Custom House' (1710)  
 Watercolour by Hugh O'Neill (1820).  
 Fig 3: Custom House today

current appearance in 1833/ 1834. Evidence of the former building and its strong rooms can still be seen in the basement today.

The Custom House last used for education now has the potential for a lively but 'exclusive' A3 café/restaurant/bar, and thus the Custom House could become the only licensed premises on the square.

Under the Queen Square enhancement project the missing forecourt railings will be restored. In the future any new occupier has the potential to enlarge the forecourt on the building's sunny west-facing side beside King William Avenue, extending the enclosure of railings across part of the roadway.

This could create a very attractive outdoor seating area or garden with fine views into the square.

For further details please contact Neil Edwards at Fleurets Bristol Office on: 0117 923 8090. or at <http://www.fleurets.com>



Fig 2



Fig 3

## New Queen Square Businesses

The Queen Square Association welcomes the following new businesses to the Square:

- Baker Tilley (accountants)
- Positive Health Publications (publishers)
- Bristol Missing Link
- Robson Taylor (accountants)

# Paintings tell of premier location

The current enhancement project is again making Queen Square one of the most prestigious addresses in the city. A recent review of artefacts held in the Bristol Industrial Museum has shown that in the past, some houses must have been of an extremely grand scale. Two original wall paintings saved from the hallway of no.15 Queen Square, prior to its demolition in 1907, indicate the stature of one owner at least. They are of such a scale as to suggest that the owner considered his new house to be in a very prestigious location to warrant such an enormous investment.

One of the paintings depicts Achilles being armoured by Vulcan before the siege of Troy (98" by 82") while the other shows the Judgement of Paris (78" by 105"). They are oil on plaster and were originally 12ft by 24ft. Records indicate that there was also a magnificent ceiling (20ft by 20ft) showing Vulcan forging a shield, two single figures and two panels with coats of arms (unfortunately none of which were salvaged). Together they made up a very impressive decorative scheme in this house in Queen Square.

Today the paintings are presently covered in thick brown varnish obscuring everything. It is hoped that they will be cleaned and put on display in the proposed Museum of Bristol should funding be forthcoming in the next few years.

The real interest is that the



*Above: originally thought to have been by the painter Verrio they were subsequently attributed to Pierre Berchet (one of his followers), by Edward Croft Murry of the British Museum when he viewed them in 1957.*

owner of a middle class merchant's house should go to such considerable expense to commission this large group after the manner of the allegorical schemes of the major houses such as Hampton Court, Chatsworth etc. The owner obviously felt his house, and location in prestigious Queen Square warranted such a large commission. It is possible that further paintings remain to be re-discovered in some of the older original listed buildings remaining in the square.

## Goodbye to Clark Willmott & Clark

The Queen Square Association says Goodbye to Clarke Willmott & Clarke (solicitors) who are leaving Queen Square. Stephen Lipfriend, Chairman of the QSA gives special thanks to Stephen Rosser who has been a committee member for over 2 years. CWC enjoyed premises at Queen Square for 5 years leaving late last year for new larger premises at St James Court, a spectacular new office building close to Broadmead.

## STL telephone offer

Save money on phone bills and raise money for Queen Square Association without effort at the same time. Cheaper calls than BT, STL are donating 5% of their revenue from parties introduced by the Queen Square Association, to help with the ongoing restoration of the square. Currently Lipfriend Dawson Surveyors and Design Activity are signed up. Savings made to these businesses have been so substantial that in the course of 12 months over £1,500 has been donated by STL to the QSA. STL also donated a further £500 towards the commissioning of the limited edition watercolour of Queen Square.

You could be making these savings to whilst doing your bit for the QSA and improving your business environment and customer image too.

Most modern telephone systems can easily be programmed to access the STL network, which provides quality calls over standard BT lines. Most customers see savings in the region of 20-30% and the minimum call costs of 1p alone can save businesses £100s in the course of a year.

STL provides integrated telecoms solutions, including voice, data, least cost Routing and CTI Systems that give businesses the opportunity to provide cost efficient communications to clients and customers - all with the comfort of quality back-up and a 24-hour help line.

For further information or for a free telephone survey, please call Anthony Smith on (0117) 945 3050.

# STL network

# Unique limited edition Artists watercolour for sale

As part of the fundraising strategy the Association commissioned popular local Artist Pat Shippides to paint a view of the finished square. Appropriately, the view has a focus on the central statue (reputedly the finest of its type in the country), with St Mary Redcliffe church in the background. Pictured below, limited edition prints of the watercolour are now available for purchase from QSA at the price of £125. (Contact Stephen Lipfriend, (Chairman) - 0117 9297676.

The original painting was first displayed at the formal opening of phase I of the enhancement scheme in September 2000. It is available for inspection by appointment at the offices of Lipfriend Dawson, 16 Queen Square.



## Supported by

The main officer contact for all enquiries is

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City Centre Projects and Urban Design Team, Environment,  
Transport and Leisure,  
Brunel House, St Georges Road,  
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Tel (0117) 9222968

Fax (0117) 92223101

E-mail: [chris\\_heath@bristol-city.gov.uk](mailto:chris_heath@bristol-city.gov.uk)

For parking enquires and annual permits:

Parking Services ,  
Environment, Transport and Leisure,  
Brunel House,  
Wilder House,  
Wilder Street,  
Bristol, BS2 8PH.

Tel (0117) 922 2198

Fax (0117) 922 3393

E-mail: [parking\\_services@bristol-city.gov.uk](mailto:parking_services@bristol-city.gov.uk)

Parking Operations Control Room 0117 903 8070

For day to day management and maintenance enquiries:

**Jim Phillips,**  
City Centre Manager,

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Queen Square  
ASSOCIATION

Supported by the  
Heritage Lottery Fund



English Heritage