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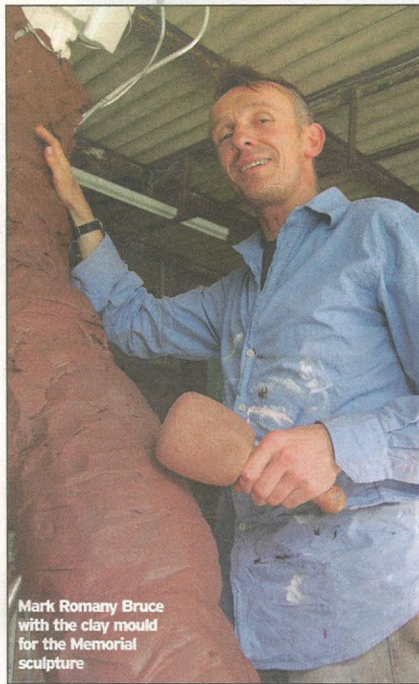


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MEMORIAL IN THE MAKING



Mark Romany Bruce with the clay mould for the Memorial sculpture

Construction of the city's long-awaited AIDS memorial is now underway with the public unveiling of the final sculpture in New Steine expected to take place at Easter 2009.

AS THE FIRST photographs of the sculpture's cast were released (left), the monument's patrons are asking businesses to help raise the last funds needed to complete the project in nine months.

"We're talking to bars and clubs who can help us in the final phase of fundraising," say trustees Simon Burgess and Cllr Paul Elgood. "We're also starting to think about the unveiling, and welcome any ideas as to who might be a good person to perform the ceremony."

The patrons have also applied for a £10,000 lottery grant to cover project costs, including awareness-raising around HIV issues.

The sculpture was designed by Brighton artist Romany Mark Bruce, and was chosen by the public in an online vote. Romany has been involved in community arts projects for 18 years and is an active fundraiser for HIV/AIDS charities. He is not charging for his time, which means the money raised for the memorial will be spent on the costs of installation.

"It's a great feeling, finally, to be sculpting the memorial, and the support of so many people has been quite overwhelming - as too is being faced with half a tonne of clay!" the artist told one80news.

Initial hopes to have the memorial unveiled in time for World AIDS Day (Mon 1 Dec) this year have been extended due to the scale of the task involved.

"We've been busy supporting Romany in his work, as he is devoting hours of time to this project in a completely voluntary capacity," say Simon Burgess and Paul Elgood. "He's making superb progress, but we're not rushing him - we want to get this right and rushing it to meet artificial deadlines will not deliver the kind of memorial that the city needs and this issue deserves."

To find out how to support the memorial and to follow Romany's progress or support the project, visit www.aidsmemorial.org.uk www.romanymarkbruce.com



THE SWEENEY HITS TOWN

SUPER SINGER Claire Sweeney stepped out on Brighton's gay scene on Monday for the one80news and R-Bar special *Shout!* Party for the cast and crew of her musical now on at the Theatre Royal. She was joined by mad cap Sue Pollard and both jumped on to the R-Bar stage to join the Drag With No Name, much to the delight of the crowd. Pics spread page 4.

Landlord on trial

THE LANDLORD of the White Horse pub on Camleford Street has pleaded not guilty to assault charges.

A trial date has now been set for Simon Thompson, 48, at Brighton Magistrates Court on Mon 15 September.

Mr Thompson, a licensee, is charged with

four offences of common assault against three different people. He is also charged with one count of a public order offence.

The charges follow an incident at the Golden Handbag Awards ceremony in March. The event is organised every year by the local gay magazine GScene.

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BULLDOG
DAY + NIGHT
MEGA PARTY WITH DJ'S - KARAOKE & HAPPY HOUR PRICES ALL DAY
31 St James's Street - Brighton - BN2 1RF - 01273 69 69 96

29th
ANNIVERSARY

WEDNESDAY 16th JULY
THE BIG BASH ANNIVERSARY