

IN THIS SQUARE

IN THIS SQUARE WE DO NOT HAVE A KIOSK SELLING NEWSPAPERS AND CHOCOLATE.
THERE ARE NO STATUES, NOR ARE THERE PIGEONS.

WE HAVE NO COUPLES IN VICIOUS WHISPERED ARGUMENTS, NO SPECIAL BREW CHAOS,
NO OFFICE GIRLS WEeping INTO THEIR MOBILE PHONES, NO SUNSHINE CANOODLES,
NO OFFICE AFFAIRS, NO PROPOSALS OF MARRIAGE, NO HEN PARTIES IN THE FOUNTAIN.

NO PHOTO-OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCILLORS - HAVE A GO
HEROES, SICK CHILDREN, SILVER SURFERS WITH
CERTIFICATES, CRACKS IN THE PAVEMENT, NAVY CREWS,
SKIPS, TREE PLANTINGS, PLAQUES, OPENINGS (DO THEY
EVER GO TO CLOSINGS?) NONE OF THEM. NO ONE IN
CHAINS.

NO FLAGS HANG AT HALF MAST, NO CRANES SALUTE THE
SKYLINE, NO HARD HATS, NO DELEGATIONS OF JAPANESE
TOWN PLANNERS, NO BANDS FROM HAMM. WE HAVE NO
OKAPIS ON STILTS, NO ELEPHANTS IN PARADES, NO LIGHTS
BEING SWITCHED ON, NO CELEBRITIES, NO GARETH GATES,
NO TV WEATHER GIRLS. SOME BUSKERS TRIED TO GET IN,
BUT WE HAVE NO ELECTRICITY.

NO SECURITY, NO SHAVED JACKETS AND DAY-GLO HEADS, NO NERVOUS BROWN-EYED
LONG-LASHED COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS HOPING NOT TO RUN INTO THEIR MATES,
NO TACTICAL SUPPORT, NO VIDEO VANS, NO HORSES, NO STREET CLEANERS WITH THEIR
LONG TENDER CLAWS.

NO TATTOOS, NO PIERCINGS, NO GELLED YOUTHS WHO FELL ON THEIR HAIR WHEN THE WIND
CHANGED, NO ASCOT HATS, NO TUXEDOS, NO GLORIOUS SARIS, NO OFFICE PARTIES FALLING
OUT OF CHINO THAI, LLOYDS, NO SMOKING IN THE SHISHA LOUNGE. NO FISH AND CHIPS.
NO HEADLINES, 'DOGS SAVED FROM HELL HOLE' NO 'BULLS FELLED' NO 'BANTAMS FOR THE
DROP' NO HUSKIES. NO BIRDS OF PARADISE.

NONE OF THAT. ALL THIS I CAN SEE IN MY BRADFORD SQUARE, BUT IN THIS BRADFORD
SQUARE WE HAVE SIX PIECES OF PAPER 21X21CM, FILLED BY SIX WRITERS. WHAT'S IN THEIR
SQUARE? WHAT'S IN YOUR SQUARE?

STEVE DEARDEN
BRADFORD SQUARE
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YOU
ARE
HERE