

Memory Café Amusement Arcade 11.

I don't care who your dad is, this is an illegal gathering



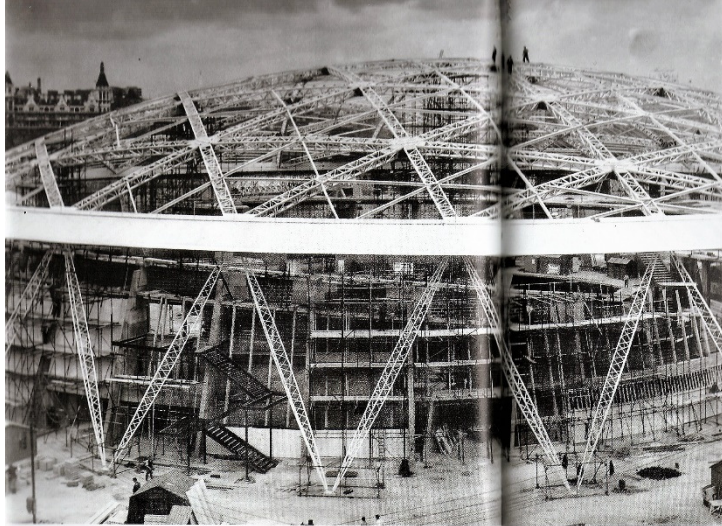
Circa two thousand years later, nothing changes!



You may remember that Tony Blair wanted to have a statement about “Swinging Britain”. As a result, what became known as the O2 arena was constructed. The opening ceremony had a very embarrassed Queen singing “Auld Lang Syne” with crossed hands. It was many years before the O2 became profitable thanks to a Frenchman. Sadly, its days as a venue for the ATP Tennis Championships are

coming to an end.

It reminded me of another Dome. This time the Dome of Discovery. It was 365 feet in diameter, then the largest dome in the world and designed by Ralph Tubbs. It was built in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain and intended as a tonic to the nation after all the war years and a remembrance of the Crystal Palace 100 years before. (We still need tonics.)



We still hadn't finished with rationing for some years!

As kids, we had a day at the Festival and returned home tired and full of ideas and images. The best bit in my mind was the Battersea Fun Fair up the River!

What does remain from the Festival is, of course, the Royal Festival Hall which is still an excellent acoustic venue for concerts and ballet. It was then an

example of modern architectural use of concrete. No doubt regarded by some as a "monstrous carbuncle"

Well, we do hope that you had a kind time over the Easter break. It looks like we need some of the wartime spirit, grit the teeth, make do and mend, dig for victory, don't be dumb – keep mum, etc., etc., for a while longer.

Take care of yourselves.

David