



Quay Notes

December 2012

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

www.mlra.co.uk

Development of Wapping Wharf gets bigger



One of the elevations of the proposed blocks at the western end of the Wapping Wharf development, as shown on the latest planning application.

The design of the Wapping Wharf development is in a state of flux, with yet another revised scheme submitted in October. This is still only for the western end of the site - detailed proposals for the eastern end nearest to us are yet to see the light of day.

The developers Umberslade originally got outline planning permission in 2006, with a number of conditions attached including one that limited the height of the development to 25.2m.

Then the recession hit us, and things went quiet for six years. Earlier this year the development was selected by the government as one of the schemes that were being 'kick-started' as a means of getting the economy moving. In April, Umberslade submitted a detailed scheme for the western end of the site that showed blocks up to 31.5 metres in height. The developers said that this was to give the development "a wharf-like, gritty industrial appearance."

There could well be some support for that design approach – some might say that such thinking is infinitely preferable to the "Costa del Avon" theme on the opposite bank, at Harbourside.

However, our residents living on Wapping Road may be concerned that when we do eventually see the designs for the eastern end of the site, there could be some overshadowing of their houses. We will have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, at the western end, having got approval of the scheme they submitted in April, Umberslade put in a new application in October. The latest scheme doesn't involve any increase in height, but they have increased the number of dwellings by putting 14 loft flats into the roofspace. If you would like to see the plans, you can do so via the BCC website or by visiting the planners at Brunel House. (Reference Number: 12/04517).

In case you missed the news on the **General Hospital** site, the City Council changed their minds in October and agreed to grant planning permission, having refused it in August. The developers were adamant that they were not going to provide the affordable housing sought by the Council, and new consultants advised both sides that the scheme was not viable enough to include the affordable dwellings. That news will disappoint those concerned about the shortage of affordable housing in this City, but please those residents who were concerned that the dispute between the Council and the developer meant delaying the development and possibly decay of the historic buildings. It is to be hoped that the scheme will now proceed quickly, as promised by the developers.

Residents Association News

Joi Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Residents Association says:

The AGM held on Friday 21 September went well, with the same committee re-elected for a further year. (See overleaf for contact details). However, if there is anybody else who would like to join us, they would be very welcome.

DEBRA

The AGM agreed that the charity to be supported this year would be 'DEBRA', for sufferers of Epidermolysis Bullosa, a very disabling skin disease.

BURNS NIGHT

Some hae meat and cannae eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And sae let the Lord be thankit.
Come and celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns on his birthday, **Friday 25 January at 7.30pm on the John Sebastian**. Tickets, to include haggis supper, £10 from Shirley Stark, 8 Wapping Road. Volunteers wanting to help with planning and the cooking come to Joi's, 9 Merchants Quay, 7.30pm, Thursday 17th January.

OPEN GARDENS

Anybody who would like to open their gardens (or balconies!) for the inspiration of their neighbours please get in touch with a committee member.

MLRA SUBSCRIPTIONS

The AGM decided to keep the membership subscriptions at £10 per household. Fantastic Value! See enclosed Invoice.

The Merchants Landing Residents Association Committee elected on 21st September:

Anthony Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412
Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	Betta Eriks	2 Draycott Place	3305379
Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336	Sandy Conway	1 Draycott Place	9293454
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Jan Walsh	8 Bathurst Parade	9268714

This information won't be repeated in every issue of Quay Notes, so if you find this useful, please keep in a safe place.

Amenities Company News

Roy Demery, Chair of the Merchants Landing Amenities Board says: Our AGM was held on the 19th October, and the six existing Directors were re-elected for a further year. (Contact details below).

Revised car-parking regulations came into effect at the beginning of October – all shareholders have received copies and have been requested to inform any tenants; the regulations are also posted on the mlra website.

In the past few months, the alleyways around the development have been cleaned and the Cherry, Maple and Acacia trees in the communal gardens have been pruned. Planned future maintenance includes repainting the white lines in the car parking bays and replacing brickwork in the borders in the communal gardens. Any issues or maintenance concerns should be forwarded to the Managing Agent (contact details below).

Bus Rapid Transit a 'Lame Duck'?

Whilst we wait for the Inspector's Report into the Bus Rapid Transit Scheme 2, (John Ashford says that he has heard we will see the Report "early in the New Year") it is interesting to note that some political positions are changing. Labour Party Councillor for Bedminster Mark Bradshaw (who was willing to serve in new Mayor George Ferguson's Cabinet until he was instructed otherwise by Labour's National Executive Committee) has described BRT2 as a 'lame duck'. Formerly the Labour Group was thought to be in favour of the Rapid Bus Transit Scheme. Mayor Ferguson meanwhile has yet to make up his mind, but is known to favour the proposal for a rail metro, including the 'Henbury Loop' and re-opening the line to Portishead, and it is believed that he has asked the Government if funds earmarked for the bus scheme can be switched to rail. Watch this space!

And back by popular request? Opinion has been divided over the new masthead designed by your newish Editor of Quay Notes, using musical notation. Some residents said they would like to see the old line drawing of Merchants Quay houses brought back. So it's back, added to the new. Any comments?

ANTHONY RACKHAM RIDES AGAIN!

Next June Anthony Rackham will again be riding round the island of Zanzibar to raise funds for the hospital that he and Mary have supported for a number of years at Makunduchi. Anybody who would like to sponsor him may do so through his contact details above or the Just Giving website: www.justgiving.com/Anthony-Rackham1

THEATRE GROUP REVIVED

Julia Trevett is reviving the Theatre Group now that the Bristol Old Vic has re-opened after its major refurbishment. Group tickets have already been bought for forthcoming productions in January and March, but anybody else wishing to join in trips next Spring is welcome to get in touch. Julia doesn't do email but can be contacted at 5 Merrick Court or calling 9264478.

The Merchants Landing Residents Association Website

For those of you who do have access to the internet, and who don't know about this excellent website, its well worth a look. The site is maintained by David and Laura Demery, and can be found at www.mlra.co.uk There are news items of general interest, including information on local planning issues supplied by John Ashford, information on forthcoming events, advice on security supplied by our representative on the local Neighbourhood Watch, contact details for the Committees, articles on Local History, and the archive of past copies of Quay Notes. Lastly, and most usefully, there are contact details for tradesmen recommended by some residents.

Contact details for the Directors of Merchants Landing (Amenities) Ltd are:

Roy Demery	9 Merchants Quay	r.demery@btinternet.com	0117 921 3412
Michael Hart	2 Challoner Court	michael_hart@blueyonder.co.uk	0117 921 5291
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk	0117 929 7602
Gaenor Cashman	5 Bathurst Parade	gaenor@talktalk.net	0117 927 7081
John Brentnall	3 Byzantine Court	john.brentnall@wards.co.uk	
Mike Thorne	15 Merrick Court	maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net	01275 218712

Managing Agent: Bristol Leasehold Management, Oakside House, 35 Oakfield Road, Bristol BS8 2AT.
Contact: Roger Bryan. Telephone: 0117 317 9588. Email: office@bristol-leases.co.uk

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This Newsletter is only the third from a newish volunteer Editor: Mike Thorne of 15, Merrick Court, Merchants Quay. Comments very welcome, and contributions, preferably by email: maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net or, if that's not possible, through the letterbox.