

“QUAY NOTES” - June 2004

(News, views and information for residents of Merchants Landing)

Your Committee Members

Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	Janetta Mitchinson	3 Tryn Mills	9276209
Scott Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	Michael Hart	2 Challoner Court	9215291
Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637	Hazel Hill	4 Byzantine Court	9294962
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Sandy Conway	1 Draycott Place	9293454

Gordon's Bristol Bites - The General Hospital

By the early 19C hospital facilities in Bristol as provided by the Tory supported Infirmary were inadequate, a point emphasised by successive cholera outbreaks. A new hospital, the General supported by the Liberals and in particular the Quakers was opened in Guinea Street on 1st November 1832. It was always short of money and the first move by the management committee was to let off part of their original Guinea Street site to raise revenue.

When Acraman's Iron Works next door finally closed in 1851 the Hospital Committee bought that site and erected two four-storey blocks, one facing the Cut and one facing Bathurst Basin. The basements of the blocks were constructed as dockside warehousing and rented out. The curved archways that were the entrances to these original facilities are clearly evident when looking at the Hospital from Bathurst Basin. They are now part of the Hospital.

The area between the new blocks and the Cut was laid out as kitchen gardens to provide food for the staff & patients. It remained so as late as the 1920's. The top floor of the original blocks was lost in the Blitz.

Neighbourhood Watch.

I am pleased to say that all is still quiet on the Western Front. Crime figures in our area for April are down compared to 2003. I would like to thank one resident for helping me out recently to see off two youths on their bicycles who became most interested in the road and path network in Merchants Landing.

If you want to see the local statistics, our police area is - AC113 - Cabot Sector and can be found on the police website, www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

John Bates, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, 921 1789.

PC Niall Stewart, community policeman, 945 5023.

Our Residents Association

Despite the pleas in the last issue of Quay Notes we still only have 33 paid up members. Regrettably the income from these subscriptions is insufficient to fund a summer party, so **no Summer Party this year**. This is really sad, as last year's "JAZZ ON A SUMMER DAY" was a huge success.

The Resident Association exists for the benefit of all residents, not just owners. So if you are a tenant and thought that you were not eligible to join the MLRA, think again; you are! So why not join today, it is only £5.



The History of the Old Gaol

Gordon Faulkner will be giving a talk on the history of the old Gaol after the Amenities Company AGM. This should be of particular interest in view of the development of the site.

Bob Bishop's Quiz Night in March

This was very successful and enjoyed by all those who took part. The reigning champions were deposed but they are looking for revenge at the next quiz.

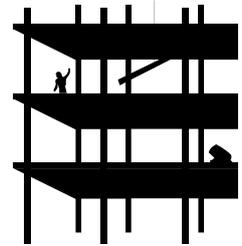
The venue at the YHA was good and will probably be used again.

Yet again, many thanks to Bob for organising this enjoyable evening.

This space is available for contributors or sponsors.



Wapping Wharf redevelopment.



The planning application for this site should be submitted in mid June. The tallest building on the site is planned to 'mirror' the Merchants House office block, and the tallest 'finger' will be 6 stories high.

Umberslade are still planning to build between 500 and 700 dwellings on this site, and even the lower density will be well above that of any other quayside development.

Scott is continuing to monitor the project on our behalf.

So is this!

Window cleaners

The most recent window cleaner seems to have given up. However there is a possibility that the 'old' cleaner may be back. A new cleaner has been arranged for Byzantine Court and also possibly Merrick Court. It may be worth an approach to him if you are desperate.



Restaurants

Have you tried the **Bon Viveur**, in Portwall opposite St Mary Redcliffe?

Good food and attentive service in elegant surroundings.

Or **Lockside** on Cumberland basin, on the transport café site.



If you have any recommendations, or even places to avoid? Send your review to Quay Notes.

City Council matters

Scott has been chasing BCC regarding the poor state of the quay side railings which were recently installed on Merchants Quay. Rumour has it that someone signed off the job before the contractors had properly completed the work.

The Harbour Master has stated that it is on his "to do" list. We wait in anticipation!

Does anyone know of a good cleaner with a couple of hours to spare? If you do, please let Mary know on 929 7562.



Next Residents Association committee meeting will be on Thursday 19 August at 1 Draycott Place. If you want to bring anything up, please let your committee member know.

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1 September 2004. Please keep contributions flowing. Send them by e-mail to rackham@onetel.com. Alternatively post them at No5 Merchants Quay.