



“QUAY NOTES” - June 2011

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

www.mlra.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS !!

RESIDENT’S SUMMER PARTY – 18TH JUNE from 1 pm.

There will be a fantastic Jazz quartet playing, and the usual strawberries and cream supplied by the MLRA committee. BYO food, drink, tables and chairs. Also bring along your favourite games to play and really join in with this fun event!

Merchants Landing Resident’s Association AGM - 7TH SEPTEMBER 2011

If you cannot attend this important evening, please arrange a ‘proxy’ vote, by sending details of whom you have nominated to vote on your behalf, to the Chair of MLRA, (Joi Demery, 9 Merchants Quay) well in advance. Nominations for new committee members are always welcome, and should be forwarded to the Chair by end Aug.

QUIZ NIGHT

Don’t miss Quiz Night with the ‘one-and-only’ Bob Bishop – Autumn date to be confirmed

Make sure you don’t miss these events!!!

Merchants Landing (Amenities) Ltd Update:

On the 11th April, the Directors meeting included a tour of the estate, in the company of the gardener and the chair of MLRA, to discuss the state of the gardens and other communal areas. Following an adjournment the meeting was reconvened on the 21st April. At this meeting Peter Hale announced that he was resigning from the post of Chairman and Roy Demery was elected Chairman with Michael Hart as Vice Chairman.

The Directors finalized a questionnaire to Shareholders, discussed the meeting with the Harbour Estates Services Officer and a potential ML(A)Ltd newsletter. The planters outside Byzantine Court have been an issue and permission has been granted by the Harbourmaster for them to be ‘adopted’ by ML(A)Ltd, and these will be included in the work undertaken by the gardeners.

The questionnaire was sent out to Shareholders, with 23 May as the closing date for responses, and more than three quarters have replied. Naturally, the Directors are very pleased that so many shareholders have made full use of the opportunity to express their views and have provided helpful feedback. A breakdown of the results will be published at the General Meeting on the 14th October.

The next Directors meeting of the Amenities Company will take place on the 20th June and items to be discussed will include the results of the survey and a review of the annual budget. Shareholders are encouraged to raise concerns or matters for discussion. Please forward them to the secretary - Colin Williams, *Holdshare Management Services Ltd, 2 Westfield Business Park, Barns Ground, Clevedon, Somerset BS21 6UA* (Email: colin@holdshare.co.uk) for inclusion on the agenda.

Access to Merchants Landing during the Road Closure for the opening of M Shed.

All people on “The Landing” who received the first M Shed letter from Bethan Green will receive, by post, a car pass for the 18th and 19th June prior to those dates. She states that we should photocopy that pass and send to any friends or relatives who wish to access Merchants Landing for the Summer Party or for access to houses.

Your Committee Members for 2011

Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412	Chair	Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	(Sec.)
Betta Eriks	2 Draycott Place	3305379		Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637	
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Treasurer	Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336	
Sandy Conway	1 Draycott Place	9293454		Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	9297602					

Replacement windows

Over the last year or two, a local supplier has gradually been increasing their product installation in many areas of the Merchants Landing development. The confidence - trust and satisfaction of this supplier has been established by recommendation of neighbour to neighbour, and will hopefully maintain a level of consistency across our neighbourhood.

Supplier A.G. Gribble Ltd Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2TY Recommended by John Bates

If you have any recommendations for suppliers or equipment, send the editor the info and it will be added to the list on the website.

Matt Fox of 2WR and 3 friends are riding to Morocco from Bristol on 17th June for three weeks and are doing this trip to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. They have a target of £1000 that can help fund close to 30 hours of research into cures and treatment for muscle disease and as they are self funding all the money raised will go directly to The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

For regular updates check out <http://www.mudandknobblies.blogspot.com>. If you would like to donate, please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/FMFox> or alternatively, pop round to 2 Wapping Road and complete a sponsorship form.

Good luck Matt. 6000 miles including the Sahara, the Atlas mountains and temperatures of 50°C!!!



Sadly, Peter King, who hosts the MLRA website for us, will be leaving Merchants Landing when his flat is sold, so another volunteer will be needed to take on this very valuable role. Naturally, we will be seeking a volunteer to undertake this important role, and our thanks go to Peter for his hard work to date, and good luck with his flat sale!

Recommendation for Roofing works and Gutter replacement and repairs.

Recently we found that our lead guttering was cracking and allowing water to soak into the wooden battens supporting it. The lead is below modern specification and age is creeping up on it. Worth a check if you are up on the roof!

It was replaced by Proline Building and Roofing Services whom we would highly recommend. Contact Steve Bright on 01275 880400 or 07796 146781

Very many thanks to the unknown individual who painted the cannon and the garden furniture in the amenities area, it looks really good!

ANAGRAM TO SOLVE!

Make a well known and familiar local phrase from the following:-

SEND MAIN CALL OVER NIGHT!

First correct entry to the Editor

will win a bottle of wine



Next edition will be out on 1st September 2011. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net

John Sebastian Quay.

The southern quay of Bathurst Basin has now been officially named "*John Sebastian Quay*". In addition, if you look at the Lightship you will see a defaced red ensign flying. This is a red ensign with a symbol indicating that the John Sebastian Lightship has been recognised as a national historic ship.

Recognition at Last!

On Sat July the 9th 2011 there is to be a massive choir of approx 1,000 singers who will be singing in the Lloyds Bank Amphitheatre area. This event is to raise funds for WATER AID for developing countries. This looks to be a really interesting event. You can get more information from:-

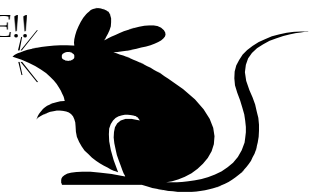
www.singforwaterwest.org.uk

A very appreciative letter and certificate had been received from Help for Heroes in recognition of the £205 donation made with proceeds from the Murder Mystery supper in January. Thank you to Mike and Maggie Thorne for leading this highly successful and fun event, and also to their troupe of suspects!

VERMIN

There has been some more rat activity on Bathurst Parade and the advice from the City Council Environmental Health team to everyone there is not to put any food out for birds, even in wall mounted feeders or on bird tables, unless they are specifically vermin proofed .

GOOD ADVICE!!



THANK YOU MR BRUNEL!!

As you will all be aware, on Thursday 26th May, we were invited by Mr. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, to visit his new library on the SS Great Britain. We were met by Bob, the ship's steward, and ably supported by Jo and Eleni, we were proudly shown around this wonderful new facility, which is the second largest maritime archive in UK! The building also houses an excellent conference venue.

To our surprise, this was followed by an escorted tour of the beautiful ship and many amusing anecdotes, culminating with refreshments at the end.

If you have not visited the SS Great Britain recently - THIS IS A MUST!!

Our thanks go to Mr Brunel and his team for this great evening!!

A SUMMER PARTY PUNCH RECIPE!!

Liven up your summer party with drinks that make the most of the fresh fruit available and the warmer weather. Seasonal punches make entertaining casual and are a great way to kick off the season !

Ingredients : Half bottle of Peach Vodka, 1 bottle of raspberry Soda or sparkling water, 12 ounces of Orange Juice, 4 ounces of frozen or fresh raspberries, 3 peaches.

Directions: Add ingredients together, stir in diced peaches and serve with ice, and ENJOY!

The Merchants Landing Action Group

The Group was formed by eight like minded resident Shareholders who were concerned that our Estate was about to be irreversibly altered by the Amenity Company. This was triggered by the rumoured addition of fencing and gates to mark our freehold perimeter. The further concern was that this was proposed to be carried out using the money that we had already paid into its coffers without, at that stage, any further contact with the Shareholders of the Amenity Company. Consultation was held to decide what action should be taken and a letter was drafted to the Directors asking that all developments should be stopped until after further consultation with the Shareholders. A reply was received from the newly appointed Chairman of the Directors saying that a questionnaire was to be circulated soon and future action would be determined by the result of this.

The group held a meeting after the questionnaire had been sent out and in view of the skewed nature of its content a letter was decided upon to warn all shareholders of the risks we considered that it contained. It was also decided to invite all other concerned shareholders to join our group so that we may further monitor the Amenity company's actions. The Group now has twenty Shareholding households amongst its members and we are all waiting for the result of the Questionnaire with bated breath!

Please contact the Group's liaison person David Johnson at 0117 9297602 or email johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk if you would like to join with us in protecting our attractive and friendly estate.

Review of Local Planning Developments Discussed at Recent RFG Meetings that may interest Merchants Landing Residents covering the period from March 1st to the end of May 2011.

There has been good progress made on two local projects that I can report:

Redcliffe Wharf

Following the marketing activity for this site 12 potential developers entered 'expressions of interest' to BCC for developing the site.

An initial selection was made by BCC for potential candidates which reduced the number down to 4 companies. A consultative body has been formed to agree with BCC the contents of the Development Brief and the Supplemental Informal Planning Guidance Document (SIPG) which will be sent to the 4 candidates in order that they can be made aware of the special needs in their development plans for this important historic site.

The consultative body is drawn from members of Redcliffe Futures Group, Bristol Civic Society and Redcliffe Community Forum.

The time scale for returning the Development Plans is by Early July 2011 and at that stage each of the 4 candidates will be interviewed by BCC together with the Consultative Body to decide on the preferred candidate.

Decentralisation and Localism Bill - Vanguard Project-Redcliffe Way

It has now been decided that the project proposal by Redcliffe Futures to prepare a development plan for Redcliffe Way has been accepted by the Government's Department of Communities to be included in its third wave of approvals for Vanguard projects.

Funding will be provided to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) from the DoC in the sum of £20,000 to cover LPA expenditure on the project.

The LPA will now approve the formation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (Acting Forum for the Vanguard project) Redcliffe Futures have obtained the names of 15 people who would be prepared to undertake the work in preparing the Development Plan. It will be the responsibility of this Acting Forum to take the lead and set the pace in preparing the Plan. The LPA and the NPN will give assistance as and when called upon to do so. The first task for the Forum will be to determine the geographical boundary of the plan and any wider area of impact that would need community involvement for the Plan.

These are very important developments that are both complex and detailed, however RFG have dealt in some detail with Redcliffe Way proposals over the last number of years and will be able to draw on this catalogue of experience to assist in forming the present Plan.

John Ashford
30th May 2011

"Thank you John for keeping us all up-to-date with local developments!" (Ed.)