



“QUAY NOTES” - March 2009

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

www.mlra.co.uk

GORDON'S BRISTOL BITES

Bollards on Clarence Road

Bristol was heavily bombed by the Germans during WWII. The large amounts of rubble resulting from the destroyed properties had to be cleared quickly but how? The answer was to transport it by lorry to barges, take them out way past Avonmouth to the Bristol Channel and dump it in the Severn.

After the USA entered the conflict a positive use was found for this material as ballast in otherwise empty cargo ships returning to New York. The Americans in turn used these bits of old Bristol as foundation material for a new road, now the East River Drive that they were then constructing in the city. To commemorate this event New York authorities constructed a basin nearby for small boats, named it the Bristol Basin and erected a memorial plaque.

The barges were loaded in the New Cut, presumably to avoid interference with operations within the congested Floating Harbour. Now the New Cut was subject to the high tidal range that the Floating Harbour had been constructed to avoid. In other words it was subject to a very strong ebb & flow of tide. Therefore very substantial mooring bollards were specially constructed to hold the barges. Four of these can still be seen on Clarence Road opposite the pub called “The Mayor’s Arms”. A mounting is there for a fifth

By the bollards along the edge of the Cut is a piece of concrete some nine inches square and about 18 feet long which still contains the base of three vertical girders. It is not clear what structure was once there or just how the rubble was transferred from lorry to barge. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Ref:-“Bristol Curiosities” by Julian Lea-Jones to whom thanks and to the Temple Local History Group. Further information on this item is obtainable from the book.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS !!

FLAPPERS COCKTAILS AND CANAPES EVENING IN APRIL



RESIDENT'S SUMMER PARTY – JUNE 13th. SO Make sure you don't miss these events!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINE TASTING EVENING.

Last year's event was a great success – and this year was even better! Claire Walsh and her team of knowledgeable young ladies from Great Western Wines entertained, educated and quizzed us. There was a full house on the John Sebastian and we all enjoyed the wines, food and the company.

It is good to know that we are all now expert at identifying the different characteristics of old and new world wines – if only!

(Our thanks to Claire and her team for a great event)



Your Committee Members

Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412	j.demery@btinternet.com	Chair
Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	rackhams@talktalk.net	Secretary
Janetta Mitchinson	3 Trin Mills	9276209	njkmitch@aol.com	
Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	geri.bowie@handbag.com	
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	shirleyistark@hotmail.com	Treasurer
Jenni Britton	1 Byzantine Court	0797 7925450	jennibritton@blueyonder.co.uk	
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	9297602	johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk	
Alex Connaris	17 Challoner Court	3778608	alexiskonnaris@yahoo.co.uk	
Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637		

Our Neighbourhood Watch Update from John

As far as I know, things have been rather quiet since my last notice for the Christmas period. However, as lead and copper prices have calmed down other items are coming on the agenda in certain specific UK areas but not Bristol. I read in a national newspaper that vehicle exhaust catalytic converters are being removed from vehicles as they have high cost metal within their construction. Better to be forewarned. Bad news for Bristol - Stephen Williams the Lib Dem MP has found that Bristol has 91 less Police Officers now than it did a year ago. Please be vigilant at all times. AND ON ANOTHER NEIGHBOURLY SUBJECT

Thursday nights on the - Cabot Cruising Club My wife and I recently purchased a new flat screen TV as our old one was becoming a possible collector's item. However, ever since we have had it the TV programmes have been very poor. We have been over to the John Sebastian, on the odd Thursday evening, and thoroughly enjoyed the visit, better than trying to watch the TV. It was so nice to meet up with a few of the Merchants Landing neighbours and also some of the cruising club members, a very enjoyable evening. I must also say how nice the atmosphere is now there is no smoking. Come on Merchants Landing neighbours give it a try one Thursday evening about 8.45pm onwards.

John Bates- our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Tel 9211789

Some notes from the Merchants Landing Amenities Company Kindly contributed by Margaret Cartledge

Leaking Manholes:

Having been told by a resident that there were two leaking inspection chambers in Challoner Court a director contacted Wessex Water and met them on site. As these were on private land Wessex obtained agreement from the owner to clear the blockages, whilst the director watched the sewage clearing, and thanked the engineers.

Suggestion: As it was obvious that the inspection chambers had been leaking foul sewage for some time why did no-one else telephone Wessex Water?

Lighting & Security: Good lighting helps good security.

Having been asked by a resident if the lighting underneath the archway by Byzantine Court could be improved our agent, Mr. Colin Williams, and a director, meet the City Engineers on site, the problem was identified as having no nearby Amenity electrical supply. Negotiations are now underway with Bristol City Council to see if we can tap into the supply to a nearby street lamp.

The lighting department are also being asked if the glass globes could be cleaned regularly inside and out as this would give much better lighting.

The directors, through Mr. Williams, have installed additional lighting to the passageway between Merchants Quay and the garage court behind.

Gates and Gating:

Mr. Williams and a director met the City Engineers on site and inspected the whole of Merchants Landing with an eye to security. Bearing in mind that there are Public Rights of Way across the Landing and that there are public roads maintained by the City Council. These two factors, amongst many others, ruled out any possibility of the Landing becoming a gated community.

Each entrance into the Landing was considered individually and where allowable and practical, quotations could be obtained for a gate. As outlined elsewhere in this article, good lighting can go a long way towards improving security, and be considerably less expensive.

Margaret Cartledge, Chairman M.L.A.L.

Useful tradesman - CHRIS THE PLUMBER

Recommended by neighbours @ 4 Draycott Place as reliable and helpful. All plumbing jobs, guttering clearance and repairs, emergency call outs, Corgi registered. Tel. 07828499164 or 01453549283

**Review of Local Planning Developments Discussed at Recent RFG Meetings
Reported by John Ashford**

This report covers the period from December 2008 to the end of February 2009 and deals mainly with matters discussed that are in close proximity to Merchants Landings

Project	Planning Ref	Progress / Comment
Redcliffe Wharf	07/05719/F	The developer, Westmark is still considering the comments given by BCC Development Control. The present economic downturn must be delaying any immediate responses
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School	08/03765/FB	The planning Application was to be dealt with at the December BCC planning meeting. The proposals are now available to view on the BCC web site
Bristol General Hospital	Not yet submitted	Still awaiting Pre Planning Application details
Prince Street Bridge and Rapid Transit Route		<p>The proposals to have a 'trial' semi-closure to vehicles of Prince Street Bridge have now been put into practice. RFG are studying the impact that the trial has on the community. In particular what, if any hold-ups occur to traffic crossing the bridge and what is the extent of any hold-ups.</p> <p>A bid to secure the necessary funding from Department for Transport to assist in the first stage of the project should now be in place. This is for the route from Ashton Vale to Temple Meads. The route would cross the Harbour over Prince Street Bridge or over a new bridge built alongside. It would then take a counter clockwise route around the City central areas and serve Temple Meads from via a dedicated access from what is now the old Grosvenor Hotel site to Temple Meads.</p> <p>.Does MLRA have <u>any views</u> to put forward on these major developments?</p> <p>It will be of interest I am sure to MLRA that amongst the comments made to BCC cabinet on the proposed route , one interested party called <i>Harbourside Group</i> has submitted a proposal to take the RT route along Merchants Quay and not over Prince Street Bridge.</p> <p>I am sure this has no credibility but we must keep our eye on such matters</p>
Barossa Tunnel Site		This site is being offered for sale. An advertising sign for sale has been erected.

Thank you John for your Contributions to Quay Notes !!

RECYCLING FOOD/BROWN

BIN LINERS As you know David Johnson buys these in bulk and sells them to residents at cost - £5 for a pack of 50 – a fraction of the price charged by ASDA. So contact David on 929 7602 for your supplies! We can recommend them, as we have used them and they are excellent! (Ed.)

Giovanni Schillace of the Louisiana pub has applied for an extension until 2.00 a.m. Monday to Sunday to cover the sale of alcohol and food on the premises, and also takeaway food. If you wish to make a representation to Bristol City Council Licensing Authority about the application, then Jane Miller (tel: 927 9655) has further details. All letters have to be received by the Licensing Authority by 16th March.

In response, Giovanni states that he is not applying to supply take-away food. He also says that there is an application from the Olive Shed to open a take-away on this side of the pedestrian bridge over the cut.

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1st June 2009. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net