



"QUAY NOTES" - October 2007

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

www.mlra.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 2nd November – QUIZ NIGHT
with Bob Bishop on board the John Sebastian lightship in Bathurst Basin starting at 7.30pm



WINE TASTING – Wednesday 12th December.

This will be a professionally organised tasting with some top quality wines to be tasted and a competition with a magnum of champagne as prize. You cannot afford to miss this evening!! Tickets will be £10 a head to include the wine and some light refreshments.

CONTACT YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR YOUR TICKETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Thursday 25th October – MLRA and Amenities company AGMs.

Not as exciting as the other events, but important none the less. Come along and have your say about how our 'village' runs. Volunteers to join the committee are always welcome.

GORDON'S BRISTOL BITES

THE OLD CUT

In the Bristol Bite for February 2006 I wrote about the New Cut, excavated in 1809. Why NEW Cut? Is there an OLD Cut? Well there is one and it was excavated in 1246, just 760 years ago.

The two rivers on which Bristol was founded are the Avon & the Frome. They met originally just about where the "Glass Boat" is moored close by Bristol Bridge. Then Bristol's port facilities were not good, the quays being on the Avon north & south of Bristol Bridge on the side by St Nicholas church. The river bed, on which ships rested twice every 24 hours, was hard and stony. Quays on the Redcliffe side were better but not part of Bristol. Redcliffe was then a separate entity under the jurisdiction of the Earls of Berkeley.

Bristolians wanted to improve their facilities and commenced what was then the biggest civil engineering work in Europe; to divert the Frome. It then ran outside the city walls from what is now Lewin's Mead, along the present St Stephen's Street and Baldwin Street to join the Avon at Bristol Bridge. The improvement was to dig a channel from Lewin's Mead to join the Avon where it does now, opposite the late lamented Industrial Museum.

Bristol's population then was only about 5,000. The men of Redcliffe refused to help until an edict from King Henry III ordered them to do so, which they did. The result was the provision of two magnificent new quays (Broad & Narrow) and a soft muddy bottom for the ships to rest on at low tide. Bristol's future was assured for about 700 years.

So the waterway under what is now Colston Avenue is the OLD Cut



Diary date – Monday 5th November

We are hoping to have an intimate firework party (smallish fireworks, food and drink) on Bathurst Wharf. More details to follow on a flier. Keep this date free.

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1 December 2007. Contributions to 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net (note the new email address)

Your Committee Members

Caroline New	10 Bathurst Parade	9256740	caroline.new1@btinternet.com	Chair
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The Railway Cutting, Guinea Street.

Planning approval is being sought by Urbis Development for a mixed use development including studio and one-bedroom apartments. These will be built on top of the existing car park. Many of you will have seen the earlier plans and models, this development being in line with the proposal favoured by most visitors to the exhibition.

Details can be found on Urbis' website, www.urbisdev.co.uk

Redcliffe Futures

We have a new representative on Redcliffe Futures, John Ashford. If you have any questions relating to the various developments taking place across Bathurst Basin in Redcliffe, contact John on 921 3495, at 3 Merchants Quay, or email john.ashford3@btopenworld.com

The Marquee

Another success story. The Marquee has already been hired a couple of times and is proving easier to erect each time. Michael Hart has produced a CD showing the various phases of erection for those who have not yet had a go. This will also be on the web site – thanks to Peter Hale.

Having a party and want to move outside but undercover? Hire the marquee and use the lawn. Only £25!! Contact Caroline New for details.



The Urban Beach.

After the initial concern about the impact this would have on the neighbourhood, what a success! Everyone that visited or used the beach found an exciting and vibrant scene, with everyone, and particularly the children, having a great time and thoroughly enjoying themselves.



Theatre Visits

A group of residents make regular visits to the theatre, often at reduced rates. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Julia Trevett on 9264478

Lets hope that this can be an annual event!