



“QUAY NOTES” - September 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 - Prince Street Bridge

From ancient times there was a ferry across the river Avon where Prince Street Bridge is now. For centuries the Dean & Chapter of St Augustine's Abbey (the present Cathedral) owned it and received the revenue. But by 1806 it was totally inadequate and a bridge was authorised to connect Bristol with the fast emerging industrial district of Bedminster. It was a modest double-leaf structure, needing a long pier, still there, built out from the north bank of the Avon.

The Abbey was compensated for loss of revenue by being allowed to collect tolls from pedestrians and from handcarts. The Dock Company collected the tolls from livestock & wheeled traffic. Hence there was a Toll House, of classical proportions, I believe on the Wapping side of the water.

This arrangement lasted until 1876 when the Great Western Railway, who by then owned the foot tolls sold them to the Corporation for £15,000 on the understanding that a new toll-free bridge would be built. It was in 1879 that the current, now listed structure was opened.

Many thanks to Gordon for another piece of our local history!

Neighbourhood Watch.

Merchants Landing has been rather quiet on the crime front as far as I know to date, accept for the following activity. One of the residents in Bathurst Parade has recently had the car window smashed and the radio taken. On the 10th Aug 04 we had a visitor to our house. Just after arrival, they had their window smashed and the removable radio security panel taken. No other items were taken. If only the lunch had not been ready we would have unloaded the car and removed the radio panel. Even your coordinator gets caught off guard. Will all readers please note. I am informed that these coded radio panels, when soaked for a long period in a freezer, will become decoded. I assume that the panel will be sold on or fitted to a radio and recoded. It is a fact that when a modern coded radio is removed from a vehicle and disconnected from the power supply, the radio security will shut down. The radio will have to be recoded by your dealer providing you have the code number that was supplied with the vehicle.

There has been a few recent sightings by some of my neighbours, including myself, of a youth cycling in the garage areas. He is a youth aged 17ish. He has a light grey Baseball cap and a light grey jacket and has a small rucksack on his back. He rides a green mountain bike that has a saddle bag fitted. He blatantly stops at random parked vehicles, including vans, and looks into the vehicles to assess the potential pickings!!! Sightings have been 4 ish and lunch time to date.

I recently carried out a random garage door security check early one morning and found two garage doors unlocked. I did not cover the entire area. Please all of you sharpen up your security including all you renters out there. If you ever have to contact the police you may like to quote the following police area code. (AC113 Cabot)

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

PC Niall Stewart, community policeman, 945 5023.

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.

Security News.

I have recently been informed by the Police that they now have available some property marking kits called "Smart Water". I understand that it is the latest Techno Marker there is, to date. The cost is £5 per bottle per household. One bottle of Smart water will mark 30 - 60 items. 2 window stickers. 6 personal property stickers (For property that may leave your home). eg Laptop - Mobile phone, etc. A registration form must be completed and returned to Smart Water. This gives a 2 yr registration period on the Smart Water database. Note:- You will be sent a reminder to re-register after 2 yrs. There will be an renewable charge of £10 for a further 2 yrs. If there is anybody out there who would like a marker kit please give me a call. John Bates (N.H.Watch co-ordinator) Tel 9211789

Flying from Bristol Airport?

Tired of paying sky-high parking charges? We were, and have found a reliable, local taxi service. Richard will deliver you to and collect you from Bristol airport, (including early morning or night flights) for a flat rate of £20. We have always found him to be very reliable and helpful, and it's far cheaper than driving / parking yourself.

Contact Richard on 07973 735899
Geri & Scott, 7 Merrick Court



Wapping Wharf redevelopment.

The following are the main points from the stakeholders meeting held on 27 July:

Outline planning proposals are due to be sent to the Planning Office on about 18 August and will be based on broad principles rather than detailed unit designs.

Concerns were expressed regarding the height of some of the buildings facing Wapping Road, the unrealistic expectations in terms of traffic and car parking, and the planned density of the site which is significantly greater than any other harbourside development.

A 90 bedroom hotel is planned to be built on the corner of Wapping and Cumberland Roads.



Residents for sale column. A small, fairly new freezer £35. can deliver locally J Bates 9211789.

Bristol Harbour Homes

Peter Brooks, one of our residents' association members and a permanent resident of Merchants Landing, has recently set up a new business specialising in letting serviced accommodation for periods of three days and above. Both city centre and harbourside apartments are available and usually let from Monday to Friday or Friday to Monday, or any combination of these periods to make up a week or longer. All are fully furnished to a high standard and come complete with linen and everything that is likely to be needed during a short stay. They make a perfect low cost alternative to hotel accommodation giving much more space and the freedom to eat in, or relax in your own time. Prices start at around £50 per night for up to four persons, larger apartments are also available. Look at the website or contact Peter if you have friends or business colleagues coming to stay, or if you would be interested in renting to Peter as part of his portfolio of properties, as he's interested in adding Merchant's Landing to the portfolio.

Peter Brooks, Bristol Harbour Homes, 2 Trin Mills, Bristol, BS1 4RJ
44 (0) 117 9279025 or 44 (0) 7834 517808

Visit our website www.BristolHarbourHomes.com

Thanks to Peter for the above. Peter is sponsoring Quay Notes / the MRLA website

Working for us. The **Redcliffe Parade Environmental Association** is involved in several campaigns to improve our neighbourhood. Amongst others, they are pressing the council about the developments on Redcliffe wharf and they have refurbished the garden off Redcliffe roundabout (an old Quaker burial ground). Anyone interested in joining/helping contact Mike Macrae at 4 Alfred Place.

Web site

Hot from the press. We now have a web site. The address is www.mlra.co.uk

Thanks to Peter Hale for getting things started. As you can see it is still in the "setting up" stage, so if anyone has any suggestions or comments please let Peter know on pghale@iee.org. Hopefully in the near future, past and present copies of Quay Notes will be available on the web.

Next Residents Association committee meeting will probably be linked with the Amenities Company AGM on 22 October. If you want to bring anything up, please let your committee member know.

Road closure

Don't forget that there will be no vehicular access to the site on 12 September due to the half marathon

The Amenities Company AGM will take place on 22 October. Venue: probably the YHA.

Quay Notes

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