



## “QUAY NOTES” - September 2009

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

[www.mlra.co.uk](http://www.mlra.co.uk)

### GORDON'S BRISTOL BITES

#### *The Velindra*

*In recent weeks the small public house on Commercial Road called “The Velindra” has been closed, possibly pending some refurbishment or conversion to a private dwelling. The property was called the “Velindra Hotel” as far back as 1870. Old maps of the area show a building on that site from at least 1828 when it was the only one on the north side of the Cut apart from some almshouses. Commercial Road had not then been named as such.*

*The excavation of the New Cut in 1809 allowed paddle steamers to continue regular services from Bristol to South Wales and beyond without the need to pass through the new dock entrance locks at Cumberland Basin. The vessels used a quay constructed on the north bank of the Cut almost opposite the site of the present Velindra.*

*Various companies competed for the trade. One of them was J W Pockett & Co of Swansea which later became the Channel Steam Packet Co of Bristol. In 1868 they acquired a steamer called the Velindra from the Cardiff Steam Navigation Co when that company sold up. The vessel had actually been involved in a collision in the Avon in 1863. It seems to have been a favourite steamer for in addition to its cross channel duties it provided summer excursions to Clovelly, Lundy, Padstow & Tenby.*

*The pub was opened by 1870 and designated a hotel. Possibly the property was a hotel before 1870 but the name Velindra appears when the vessel was acquired by the Pockett's Steam Packet Company*

#### **Our website! - [www.mlra.co.uk](http://www.mlra.co.uk)**

Very many thanks to **Peter Hale** who has hosted our website from the beginning. One Peter is taking a well earned rest and handing over to another Peter, AKA Peter King. Welcome Peter K and thank you.

For those of you who have yet to visit the site it contains, amongst other pages, old Quaynotes and a list of recommended tradesmen. Definitely worth a visit.

#### **Theatre is Back!!**

*Julia Trevitt is organising seats for productions at the Old Vic. If anyone is interested in joining some neighbours at these productions, contact Julia either at 5 Merrick Court or on 926 4478.*



#### **Drains!!**

As many of you may have noticed, we do have the occasional problems with drains, particularly after torrential rain.

The mews at the rear of Merchants Quay is particularly affected and floods badly.

Surprisingly there are no definitive plans of either the foul or storm water drains in the development. If anyone has any valid information on the routing of the drains, please contact a member of the Amenities Company as soon as possible.

### **AGMs- Representation and General Information**

Details of the MLRA and Amenities company AGMs are given under “forthcoming events” over the page. If you are interested in volunteering for the committee of the Residents Association please let your local representative know. **IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WISH DISCUSSED UNDER “AOB” PLEASE LET US KNOW 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.** Proposals for directors of the Amenities company should be forwarded to the Secretary. Also the editors of Quaynotes are in need of a break and would be delighted to hear from anyone that would like to take over.

**Next edition of “QUAY NOTES” will be out on 1st December 2009. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to: [rackhams@talktalk.net](mailto:rackhams@talktalk.net)**

### Your Committee Members

Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412	<a href="mailto:j.demery@btinternet.com">j.demery@btinternet.com</a>	Chair
Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	<a href="mailto:rackhams@talktalk.net">rackhams@talktalk.net</a>	Secretary
Janetta Mitchinson	3 Trin Mills	9276209	<a href="mailto:njkjmitch@aol.com">njkjmitch@aol.com</a>	
Gerie Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	<a href="mailto:geri.bowie@handbag.com">geri.bowie@handbag.com</a>	
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	<a href="mailto:shirleyistark@hotmail.com">shirleyistark@hotmail.com</a>	Treasurer
Jenni Britton	1 Byzantine Court	0797 7925450	<a href="mailto:jennibritton@blueyonder.co.uk">jennibritton@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	9297602	<a href="mailto:johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk">johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	
Alex Connaris	17 Challoner Court	3778608	<a href="mailto:alexiskonarris@yahoo.co.uk">alexiskonarris@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637	<a href="mailto:bobbishop43@googlemail.com">bobbishop43@googlemail.com</a>	

### FUTURE EVENTS- for your Diary!

- 1: *Fish and chips cruise on the Matthew on 8<sup>th</sup> September. SOLD OUT!! (our apologies to all those latecomers)*
- 2: *AGM for Merchants Landing Residents, Mon. 5th Oct. 09 on the John Sebastian. Refreshments will be available and the bar will be open. Exciting presentations will follow, e.g. The proposed "Rapid Transport Scheme" impact in our area.*
- 3: *Amenities company AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> October at the YHA.*
- 4: *A talk on Antiques and Curios by John Bates on 26<sup>th</sup> October on the John Sebastian. Refreshments will be provided and the bar will be open- always entertaining and informative!*
- 5: *BOB's Most Popular "Quiz Night" –Fri. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.09 DON'T MISS IT- BUT BEWARE OF THE MUSIC SECTION !!*

### REPORT FROM JOHN ASHFORD- Our Representative with "Redcliffe Futures" Group

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

**Redcliffe Wharf** - This proposed development site was still waiting a contract start date. Bristol City Council planners have advised RFG that there had not been any time limit placed on Westmark as their preferred developer for this site. Westmark had confirmed that they were still interested in developing this site.

**St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School** - Skanska, the contractors are well on with the ground works. The main piling works have now been completed and the pile caps are to be in place to receive the floor beams and slab foundations during the Summer School break period. The steel skeletal framework for the new sports hall has been completed.

**Bristol General Hospital** - The planning officer for this site has now been named as Ms Alison Straw.

A Heritage report has been prepared by Barton - Wilmore for the site. BCC are in discussions with the Trust representatives to establish 'procedural matters. As yet no planning application has been made.

**Rapid Transit Proposals** - Following the initial stage of submitting the design proposals of the scheme to the Government in March 2009 the next stage in the process involves applications for planning permissions and consents to build and operate the scheme. This stage requires the active participation of the community and to that end MLRA and RFG are to be represented on the Bristol Neighbourhood Planning Network (NPN) which will be a forum to elicit community views on the design, route, infrastructure including bridges and impact on other existing traffic / pedestrian activities etc. The first meeting takes place on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2009.

#### YELLOW LINES ON WAPPING ROAD

Jane Miller has spoken to our Liberal Democrat Councillor, Alex Woodman, who suggested that if residents or individuals raised a petition, he would take it to BCC. Shirley Stark has written to BCC requesting double yellow lines along Wapping Road, but so far has had a negative response.

#### HERBS FOR THE ASKING!?

There are several areas where herbs are grown on Merchants Landing, and residents are very welcome to use these when they require.

Locations include rear of Merrick Court, communal amenities area, communal garden to rear of Bathurst Parade.



### PARKING –REARS IT'S UGLY HEAD AGAIN!!!

Sadly, 2 new tenants have been wheel clamped recently because of misleading information given by letting agents. Everyone is reminded that the marked parking areas in Merchants Landing are for the use of visitors to any property, and that the use of these is limited to 24 hours. Parking permits **must be displayed**. Any tenant who needs to park a car but has no access to a garage or a Parking Permit should contact their landlord immediately. And ..... Quay Notes is for anyone who lives on "The Landing" but if **YOU** need more information about parking regulations etc, have a look at the "Welcome Pack" on our website.