



“QUAY NOTES” - September 2010

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

www.mlra.co.uk

YET ANOTHER of GORDON'S BRISTOL BITES!! -

The Replacement of the Bathurst Basin Footbridge

There was once a bridge across the entrance to Bathurst basin adjacent to the Ostrich that took both rail & Road traffic. It was removed in 1964 and, as the docks were then closed to commercial shipping, it was not replaced. During the 1970's the area was becoming derelict and Bristol Civic Society decided to look at improving the Redcliffe area.

They persuaded Bristol City Council to clear the car park, the donkey ramp and the red cliff on Redcliffe Parade. Now at this time Courage, owners of the Ostrich, were refurbishing the pub and they offered a grant of money which BCS used to plant trees along the quays of Bathurst Basin. Courage was so pleased with the transformation from unloved industrial area to pleasant waterside that they then offered a further grant.

Meanwhile a developer had proposed replacing the old industrial buildings between the harbour and Bathurst Basin with housing. However BCC required a footbridge across the entrance lock to replace the bridge removed in 1964. The developer claimed it would be too expensive and could not be afforded.

However with the money from Courage BCS commissioned engineer Richard Fenton to design a footbridge which he believed might be done by the use of redundant steel dredging tubes from the harbour at about half the price quoted by the developer. An early example of waste recycling!

His design was accepted and the bridge, though more expensive in the end (which is another long story) was the first new footbridge to be built reconnecting the important footroute along the south shore and signalling the new leisure of the Floating Harbour.

My thanks to Margaret Cartledge for drawing my attention to this item and to Peter Hodge, architect for most of the information.

Thank you - yet again Gordon for your fascinating, and regular contributions to Quay Notes ! - Ed.

GOOD RECOMMENDATION: If you are considering decorating your property, Merrick Court residents would highly recommend the local firm who have just painted the exterior of their building. Derrick & Long Decorations were hard working, most professional and cleaned up afterwards, and residents are delighted with the result. Tel Jeff Derrick on 07817 439199 or Paul Long on 07941 106853

This contribution came from Geri Bowie. If you have had any services recently which you feel were 'above and beyond' - please share this with the rest of us on QN's!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ON MERCHANTS LANDING - BE THERE! - it's FUN!

- 1) AGM of the Merchants Landings Residents Association - An Important event specifically about YOU having YOUR say!- 14th September on the John Sebastian @7.30 pm. We really need someone to join the committee, from the Byzantine/Trin Mills area to represent YOUR views. Speakers will update you on progress of the RAPID TRANSPORT proposals, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - and much more. Is there anyone out there?? (We're quite a nice committee actually)
- 2) Antiques and Collectables evening- you will be fascinated as the tales and secrets behind the many unusual items collected by John and Marjorie BATES unfold! With light bites supplied, and the bar open, this evening is always a WOW!!
- 3) BOB'S FAMOUS QUIZ NIGHT - keep 19/11/10 free!!

Your Committee Members

Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412	j.demery@btinternet.com	Chair
Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	rackhams@talktalk.net	Secretary
Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	geri.bowie@googlemail.com	
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	shirleyistark@hotmail.com	Treasurer
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	9297602	johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk	
Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637	bobbishop43@googlemail.com	
Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336	amek@blueyonder.co.uk	

Review of Local Planning Developments Discussed at Recent RFG Meetings

Reported by John Ashford

This report covers the period from June 2010 to the end of August 2010 and deals mainly with matters discussed that are in close proximity to Merchants Landings. I have included three areas of interest to members in this report summary:

• 1) Rapid Transit Proposal 2) Bristol General Hospital Development Proposals 3) Redcliffe Wharf Proposals

1) Rapid Transit

Since my very full report on the proposals for this scheme which I presented at the October 2009 AGM of the MRLA there have been significant administrative developments to report:

1. On 29th June 2010 Bristol City Council confirmed the resolution previously made to jointly promote with North Somerset Council an order made under the Transport and Works Act 1992 by the Secretary of State to authorise the construction and operation of the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre Transit Scheme. A change in National Government is now in place and stringent budgetary allocations are being predicted and probably being announced in October 2010. This could mean that the £43.12 million funding from Department for Transport may not be released or may be deferred. Such a delay in funding may well encourage the promoters of an alternative transport scheme to be advanced such as a rail linked network that would use the existing rail infrastructure along with street-running rail based vehicles.

2) Bristol General Hospital

The proposed South Bristol Hospital is due in 2012 which will free up the need for Bristol General Hospital. Barton Willmore (Consultants) have prepared their final draft of the Development Brief for the Trust and it is intended to present the brief to BCC for its ratification in late September 2010.

3) Redcliffe Wharf

This wharf is the last remaining dockside area still needing to be developed. RFG considers it to be a jewel of a site that needs very sensitive planning and does not repeat the mediocre architectural mistakes seen elsewhere on the waterfront. Serious discussions are in progress on this site with a developer who agrees with the need for a development of these criteria.

I can give much more information on the nature of such proposals at our next AGM

Pride of Place!!

We have received a few complaints about the appearance of some properties on Merchants Landing! Poor decorative state, garage doors, unkempt gardens etc. This affects us all, so please do your bit to keep 'The Landings' as smart and attractive as possible! If any other aspects of neglect bugs you, please let us know!! But if you need help upkeeping your bit, also please let us know - we may be able to help! Thank you (Ed.)

Thank you to John Ashford, for his regular Contributions to Quay Notes !! To hear more, please come to the AGM on September 14th 2010.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH!!

As we hope you will all be aware, our Neighbourhood Watch 'Guru' is John Bates. John keep us up to date with issues of concern that occur on 'The Landing' in a separate circular. However, a recent incident has occurred of note:

SO BE WARNED! A resident arrived home, and got out of the car holding her handbag. The garage keys were removed from the handbag. Whilst unlocking the garage door, the bag was placed onto the drive. A MOUNTAIN bike **snatched the handbag** and rode off. **Please be on your guard at all times** John Bates NHWatch Coordinator (Area code BS198 Cabot) Tel 9211789

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1st December 2010. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net