



“QUAY NOTES” - December 2005

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

www.mlra.co.uk



Gordon's Bristol Bites The Chapel of the Vow

In 1773 John Hare, a lad from Crowcombe, by Taunton in Somerset came to Bristol to make his fortune. He quite probably walked here; for a poor person at that time there was no other way. He came along Bedminster Causeway (now Bedminster Parade) and arrived in the parish of Redcliffe just inside the city boundary. Possibly to save money, he decided to sleep the night in the open.

Waking the following morning he made a vow that if he should prosper in Bristol he would build a church on the very spot that he had slept.

John Hare went on to invent & manufacture an improved floorcloth, what we now call linoleum. He had factories all over Temple & Redcliffe and made his fortune. He became prominent in local politics and helped to found Bristol General Hospital in 1831. His business continued until after WWII.

True to his vow he later purchased the ground on which he had slept and in 1830 with £4,000 of his own money erected a Chapel. You will know it as the former Zion Chapel on Coronation Road by Bedminster Bridge. Within the last twenty years, as with many other chapels it closed and is now Bristol City Council Housing Services Department.

A Message from our new Chairperson

Dear all, I'm Caroline New, the new chair of MLRA. (On balance I'd rather be referred to as a piece of furniture than as *chairman*). I'm honoured to have been asked to follow Scott in this role. Since I am very much a beginner – only just over two years here – I need members' help in keeping me up to scratch. If there's anything you want to draw to my attention, please drop round to 10 Bathurst Parade, phone me on 9256740, or e-mail me at caroline.new1@btinternet.com Norman Freeman (my husband) and I always enjoy getting to know neighbours.

A little about me. Norm and I have three grown up daughters, who waft in and out, one of them with a little one in tow. I teach Sociology at Bath Spa University, but I am going to retire in the summer. I'm one of these people who always have a few projects on the go. As a sociologist – and from experience – I know that in many neighbourhoods relationships between neighbours are almost non-existent. I value the friendly relations and mutual support that we have found in Merchant's Landing.

You may recognise our address: 10, Bathurst Parade, the house that used to be occupied by Bill and Norma Nutman. The Nutmans are a hard act to follow. Along with others of the first residents, they seem to have played an important role in getting the wharf pedestrianised and getting parking regulated. We can't promise to do anything equivalent but we are happy to bask in any good feelings that people may still have about number 10. We like it, especially the welcome we've received from neighbours.

One piece of good news, though: I've received a letter from the Council planning department saying they intend to enforce the removal of the scaffolding just across the road from the Louisiana, which looks so tatty (in a conservation area!) and has been a source of annoyance to many members. We await developments. In the meantime, I look forward to meeting more fellow residents and hope to serve you effectively in the role of chair.

All the best, Caroline

Your Committee Members

Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	Janetta Mitchinson	3 Trin Mills	9276209
Scott Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	Michael Hart	2 Challoner Court	9215291
Caroline New	10 Bathurst Parade	9256740	Hazel Hill	4 Byzantine Court	9294962
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Sandy Conway	1 Draycott Place	9293454

Forthcoming events.



25th January 2006 A Burns Night party on the John Sebastian from 7.30pm

This should be a 'Best Burn's Night Ever', and you can expect a recitation, a ceremonial despatch of the haggis and maybe even a piper!! Bring some food to share around. The Bar will be open should anyone require a drink (or two)!

Any suggestions for future events would be very welcome and should be passed to your committee member. If there is enough interest we hope to resurrect the Summer Party.

Bathurst Basin – Hospital / Cruising Club car park

As many of you are aware, members of the Cabot Cruising Club and the local residents attended two recent joint meetings on the John Sebastian regarding the above subject. The last meeting was also attended by the Bristol City Council on 26th Sept 05. The outcome of the meeting was a strong objection to any housing development by all the attendees. However, there was a very positive proposal for the current leisure/car park area to be upgraded for general public use. This was very well received.

Supplementary Planning Document (SDP3)

On the 28th Nov 05, the Bristol City Council issued the above document for public viewing at Brunel House and Bedminster Library. This document is still available for public viewing and comments up to 9th Jan06. The (SDP3) document P29 Map bottom L/H corner, now shows the car park area revised to a "new/enhanced pedestrian space" This is now coloured light green. The booklets entitled "Future of Redcliffe" Draft for consultation 2005-2006 can also be purchased, if required, for £5 for the three booklets. **Contacts :- Mr J Bates No12 Bathurst Parade and Secretary Cabot Cruising Club, Mr C Walsh No 8.**

Neighbourhood Watch Nov 05

Approx two weeks ago a garage was broken into and a large number of bottles of wine were stolen. A few days later the same garage was broken into again and further items were removed. Approx 10 days later two other neighbours' garages were broken into in the same area. All three garages were electric up and over type doors.

Please check all your doors. Can I suggest that all house number identification be removed from your garage doors. This situation is a good case for fitting additional locks to the lower edge of each side of the garage door for overnight security.

Christmas

Please be vigilant with regard to personal items and presents on show in your vehicle. Park your car with the glove box open if you can. If possible put your car in the garage.

Contacting the Police

If you have to telephone the police ask for your call to be tagged N. H. Watch. Your area Police code is now BC198 Cabot. Your Community Policeman is PC Niall Stewart No1923 of Bridewell Police Stn.

Police telephone No 0845 456 7000 – Community Police office telephone Nos 9455023 - 9455521

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John M. Bates. Tel 9211789 (N. H. Watch coordinator) (BC 198)



MLRA Committee meeting

The next meeting will be held on
Wednesday 11 January.

If you have any items for the meeting, please let a committee member know.

Iris Worcester

Last week the funeral was held for Iris Worcester. Iris was a good neighbour and for many years was a stalwart member of the Association committee, helping with lots of events over the years. She was a gifted artist and teacher. The drawing on the header of this newsletter was her work.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Hugo. We will all miss her.

Quay Notes

edition will be out on 1 March 2006. Contributions are welcome. Don't just rely on Gordon!

Finally, a VERY VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all our neighbours.

