



“QUAY NOTES” - December 2010

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

www.mlra.co.uk

ANOTHER of GORDON'S FAMOUS BRISTOL BITES!! -

Bristol General Hospital

The Bristol General Hospital has been put up for sale. Its construction was proposed in 1831 by a meeting of Whigs and Non-conformists who believed that they were being discriminated against by local Tories and the Church of England who ran the Bristol Infirmary, established in 1735. Clearly they had considerable support for in the next year three houses, Nos. 12, 13 & 14 Guinea Street were purchased and in them the hospital was established.

The General Hospital was clearly filling a demand for in 1858 work began on the buildings you see now. The land had become available on the closure of Acraman's Iron Works. The date of the original founding (1832) is the one inscribed on the outside of the octagonal tower facing Bathurst Basin.

No NHS in those days and the BGH required money to support it. Accordingly the building incorporated warehouse storage capacity in the basement. What could be more suitable, after all the building was on a busy dockside? The entrances to the warehousing can be seen as a line of semi-circular arches on Lower Guinea Street.

The ground between the hospital and New Cut was for many years used to grow food, another aid to self-sufficiency. In the 1930's this area became the site for a new outpatients department the construction of which in reinforced concrete is in marked contrast to the remainder of the now listed building.

The hospital was quite badly damaged during the wartime bombing of Bristol, losing its top floor on Lower Guinea Street. Its facade at least is listed so that when developers eventually acquire buildings this requires them to retain the facade, not just as it is now but as it was when it was built.

We shall see!

NOTE. In my item about the footbridge on Bathurst Basin I acknowledged the assistance given to me by a Peter Hodge. This was incorrect. The source was Peter Floyd, architect. My sincere apologies to him.

Thank you, Gordon for your fascinating, and regular contributions to Quay Notes for many years ! We shall miss your regular 'bites'! Thankfully we have have another willing author in the wings – Ed.



A Christmas Recipe



(originally sent in by John Bates—and it's well worth repeating!)

Mincemeat Fruit Cake

Ingredients : 2 eggs, 150g Caster Sugar, 150g margarine, 250g SR Flour, 350g mincemeat, 125g currants, flaked almonds

Method: Set oven Gas Mk3 or 160 °C. Grease 2 loaf tins. Break eggs into bowl, and add all other ingredients (except almonds). Mix until well blended, and divide between the 2 loaf tins. Sprinkle with almonds. Bake for approx. 1.5 hours, until well risen and shrinking away from sides of tins. Turn out onto wire rack to cool.

ENJOY!!

EVENTS ON MERCHANTS LANDING - BE THERE! **- it's FUN! - and bring any new neighbours on your patch!**

Yet another good time was had by all at Bob's Quiz Night on 19th November! Thank you Bob and Steve for another fun evening, from us all.

The new committee had lots of ideas for next year's social events, and these included:

New Year Party/Bring a Plate to Share + entertainment

Speaker on "Courtyard and Balcony Gardening"

Organised trip around the Brunel Library

Visit to M Shed prior to it's opening (see overleaf)

An introduction to Tai Chi, class to be run in the Amenities area in the summer.

Art Classes by local artist - also Summer event in Amenities area in summer

DETAILS WILL BE IN LETTERBOX 'FLYERS'!

What's the most popular wine at Christmas?
"I don't like sprouts!"

Your Committee Members for 2011

Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412	Chair	John Slinn	14 Bathurst Parade	0797 464 3506
Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637		Betta Eriks	2 Draycott Place	3305379
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Treasurer	Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336
Sandy Conway	1 Draycott Place	9293454		Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689
Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	Secretary	Andy Killoran	14 Bathurst Parade	0797 117 6576

A CHRISTMAS POEM from a grumpy old lady on "The Landing"

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves" – "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.



His reindeer had vanished - without much propriety - released to the wilds by the 'Free Animals' Society.
And equal employment had made it quite clear, that Santa had better not use just reindeer.



So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, were replaced with 4 pigs – it did look stupid!
First his reindeer were gone; and next was his wife, who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,

She'd joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz, demanding from now, that her title was 'Ms'.
The runners had been removed from his sleigh; the edges termed dangerous by the H & S A

The smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened. His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."
And then there's the gift list, and he'd ne'er had a notion - that making a choice could cause much commotion.

IT SAIDNothing of leather, nothing of fur - which meant nothing for him. (and nothing for her).
Nothing that might be construed to pollute.Nothing to aim with. Nothing to shoot.

Nothing that clattered or made lots of noise.Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.
Dolls are so sexist, and should be passé;And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.No chocolates or sweets...they were bad for each tooth.
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.

Don't raise the hackles of those psychological -who claim the only good gift is one ecological.
No rugby, no football...someone could get hurt; anyway - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.

So Santa just stood there, dishevelled, perplexed;He just could not figure out what to do next.
He tried to be merry, he tried to be gay,(But you've got to be careful with that word today).

His sack was quite empty, it fell limp to the ground; not one gift acceptable was to be found.
Something special was needed, a gift that he might, give to us all –on the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,Each group of people, of every religion;
Every ethnicity, every hue? Everyone, Everywhere...even me and you !



**So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."**

One of the committee members has contacted the M-shed museum and asked about the possibility of a guided tour for interested residents, prior to its opening, and we hope this will take place Summer 2011. In the meantime the M-shed website is asking local people to contribute their stories and memories to the museum. We are aware of several residents with a keen interest in local history, so here is the link <http://mshed.org/take-part/>
Do Take part!!

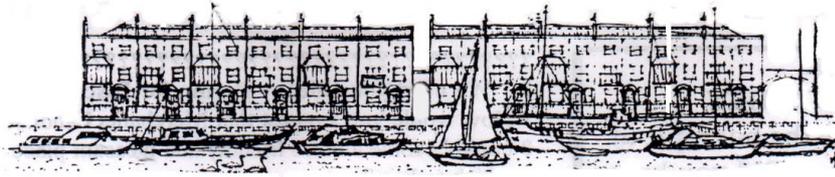
The Race to Infinity

BT is investing in the future of our internet by rolling out next-generation fibre optic broadband. Join The Race to Infinity today and our area could be next to enjoy superfast speeds. Go to this web site:

<http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com/> . Enter your postcode and vote to try to get us to the top of the list for fibre to the home. (As an aside, BT for free recently upgraded my broadband to 20 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. I actually get 16 Mbps and 950 kbps, which is pretty good - easily enough to watch HD TV over the connection.)

Thanks to Peter Hale for the above

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR from the Quay Notes Ed.!
Next edition will be out on 1st March 2011. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net



Review of Local Planning Developments Discussed at Recent RFG Meetings

Reported by John Ashford

This report covers the period from September 2010 to the end of November 2010 dealing mainly with matters discussed that are in close proximity to Merchants Landings

There are three areas of interest to members in this report 1) Rapid Transit Proposals 2) Bristol General Hospital Development Proposals and 3) Redcliffe Wharf Proposals

1) Rapid Transit

Since the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) by the new Coalition Government in October 2010 it was clear that budget cuts could be expected for some capital expenditure proposals that were already in the pipeline or yet to be submitted. As previously reported to MLRA the proposal for the Rapid Transit Scheme from Ashton Vale to Temple Meads would be among the schemes that would be subjected to further scrutiny by HMG once the CSR was in place. This review has now taken place and as part of the review the implications for transport proposals were given to the House of Commons by Phillip Hammond, Secretary of State, Transport 26th October 2010.

In his statement reference was made to 22 schemes that would merit funding from a £600 million pot set aside for such. All schemes including the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads project would need to be assessed on a 'value for money' criterion. This exercise would begin shortly.

In the questions session following the announcement Stephen Williams MP Bristol West welcomed the Secretary of State's announcement as follows:

Stephen Williams (Bristol West) (LD): I welcome the fact that value for money is being confirmed for the Bristol bus rapid transit scheme from Ashton Vale, which is in your constituency, Madam Deputy Speaker, to Bristol Temple Meads, which is in mine.

I have since written to Stephen Williams to clarify the timescale for the 'value for money' exercise as follows:

Dear Stephen Williams,

Wednesday 27 October 2010

I was interested in your reference to the Bristol Bus Rapid Transit Scheme from Ashton Vale to Bristol Temple Meads which you made in your question to Philip Hammond, Secretary of State, Transport after he had made his statement to the House on 26th October 2010.

You welcomed the fact that 'value for money' is being confirmed for the scheme and I would like you to advise me what procedures are in place to assess this 'value for money' criterion and how long is it expected before a conclusion is reached.

Will the TWAO application on this scheme submitted earlier in the year by BCC to D for T remain dormant until the outcome of the 'value for money' assessment has been completed?

Sincerely, John Ashford

I am awaiting his reply

2) Bristol General Hospital

Following the endorsement by BCC of the development brief prepared by Barton Willmore the Hospital Trust have now put the property on the open market.

3) Redcliffe Wharf

Considerable uncertainty surrounds this project since the death was announced of Mr Euan Cresswell on September 2010. Euan founded Westmark as a Lewis Trust Group company in 2002.

Westmark were the BCC preferred developer for the site.

he project is in limbo until the position of Westmark in Bristol is known and consequently no meaningful development progress has taken place .

I will report more fully as and when the development plans are more clearly known.



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<http://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/content?catId=400126&mediaId=500081>

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