



“QUAY NOTES” - June 2007

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

www.mlra.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wed 13th June – Sean Spencer-Worth (from the Council) on the John Sebastian, 7pm for drinks, 7.30 start, on “**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL’S RECYCLING POLICY, VISIONS AND PROBLEMS**”.

Sun 8th July – Barbara Drummond, local historian and writer of pamphlets about Bristol, shares her findings about King Street ‘probably the most important street in Bristol’. Meet at 10 am outside 10 Bathurst Parade, and walk together to King Street. If standing will be a problem, bring folding chairs – there will be person-power to help carry them. Then back to the Louisiana for lunch.

The Party in our Park



Some of the party goers enjoying the fine weather and great company!

The decision to postpone the party for a day paid off with the rain and wind giving way to sunny spells. The marquee proved a great venue, and plenty of party goers, food and drink made for a great afternoon, well rounded off by games of welly throwing, golf and table tennis.

GORDON’S BRISTOL BITES

Shipping on the New Cut

In Quay Notes for September 2006 Jan Walsh posed the question “Why does one never see any boats on the New Cut?” The answer is “Because nowadays no-one (except Chris) wants to go there”. But it was not always so.

When excavated in 1809 Bristol was a major port with large numbers of ships using it. Creation of the Floating Harbour meant that ships had to pass through entrance locks to gain access. Two parallel locks into Cumberland Basin were provided but these were not going to be adequate for the large numbers of ships wishing to use the port so a secondary entrance for smaller craft was provided at Bathurst Basin. These travelled along the Cut and both Ashton Swing Bridge and Vauxhall Bridge could be swung to permit this.

Also, as noted in the September 2006 issue of Quay notes, there was a regular passenger ferry from the Bathurst Basin entrance to Cardiff. By not entering the harbour no harbour dues were paid.

Then there was a third entrance to the harbour at Totterdown where Feeder canal and the New Cut crossed the route of the original river Avon. This was for small craft servicing the industrial area on the banks of the Feeder and trading directly to Bath. Remember, no railways at that time. This lock was filled in during 1940 as a single bomb on it would have resulted in the destruction of the whole of Bristol’s harbour.

Finally there was within the last thirty years a commercial boat yard on the banks of the Avon just off the Bath Road by Totterdown Bridge. Barges built or repaired there were towed along the Cut. Your author is old enough to have seen this.

The Cuttings, Guinea Street.

A new developer has taken over the railway cutting, with plans to build apartments above the existing car park. They have arranged for an exhibition of some proposed schemes this Wednesday through to Saturday in a portacabin in the cutting. Full details are in a separate letter.

Make sure that your voice is heard. Take a look!

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1 September 2007.
Contributions to 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackham@onetel.net

Your Committee Members

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Marquee – for hire at £25 a session. Contact Caroline New for further info, and see over for a photo.

NEW HONOURARY MEMBERS: We have invited Don Norris, of the Maple Leaf, who did the beautiful leaflet for the picnic in our park, to become an honorary member of the Merchants Landing Resident's Association. He is delighted to accept. We have also invited Giovanni and Mary Schillace, our host and hostess of the Louisiana.

City and County of Bristol Anagrams

At Last!! We have received a response!

Congratulations to Andy Seeley of Wapping Road who completed all but two. These were 'I am the slummiest toad' and 'celibate boss' which were 'The Memorial Stadium' and 'Blaise Castle'. Easy when you know the answers!

Two bottles of nice wine to Andy!



SMOKERS' ALLEY UPDATE

Smokers' Alley and the No Butts campaign. The committee has had a good response from our letter to the management company of Merchants' House. They provided two bins for cigarette butts and cleaned the alleyway. One bin has already been stolen and its contents strewed everywhere. They have replaced it and have promised to clean up the grass where there are some stamped in cigarette butts.

IT'S KEEP FIT TIME !!

Committee member Geri Stone has negotiated corporate membership at Welsh Back gym and squash club at a reduced rate for MLRA members. Enquiries to Welsh Back at 9378020. WELL DONE GERI !! See the back of the questionnaire for full details of the offer.

Fitness First, the gym on Millennium Square, will also give reduced rates if there are already 10 members from the association. If you want to try it out, phone them on 9377070 and say you are a member of MLRA and that you have been told you are eligible for a free session.

The Marriott Hotel has a gym and swimming pool. They will offer a corporate discount if we have six or more members, at the moment the main prices are £55 for peak and £38 for off-peak. If you want to try their facilities, ask Caroline New for a free pass (they are sending her ten).

The Urban Beach. The Harbour Regatta.

Laze in the sun on Redcliffe beach, while you have a snack from the Bordeaux Quay café. What about some beach volleyball? Do we have a team? The beach should be in place later this month and remain for the summer until September.

Make a note. The harbour regatta takes place on 27-29 July this year.

Don't miss it!

