



Quay Notes

June 2015

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

www.mlra.co.uk

Bristol goes greener



For those who missed the local election results amongst all the turmoil of the national results on May 7th, the Green Party made seven gains, five of them from the Liberal Democrats and two from Labour, and Labour made one gain from the Liberal Democrats.

So the overall position on Bristol City Council is now that out of the 70 seats, 30 are held by Labour, 16 by the Conservatives, 13 are held by the Green Party, 10 by the Liberal Democrats and there is 1 UKIP member. Until March there had been an Independent member but he defected to the Conservatives. Just five years ago the Lib Dems had 38 seats, which constituted an overall majority, and they were therefore the ruling party; now they are just the fourth largest.

One of the changes of representation was in our own Cabot ward where Lib Dem Alex Woodman was replaced by Ani Stafford-Townsend of the Green Party. She, along with Lib Dem Mark Wright will continue to represent Cabot ward until next May, when all 70 existing Councillors will have to stand for re-election if they wish to continue. As we will be part of the new Central ward there will be no sitting Councillors.

Of course the other way Bristol is going greener is by virtue of its designation as European Green Capital 2015. We already had to be pretty environmentally-friendly to be selected; apparently the City's investment plans for energy and transport impressed the selectors. But now the City has to go further and be a role model for other cities, becoming even more sustainable. Further information can be obtained from the Bristol2015 website, or from leaflets at city information points, but in summary plans include:

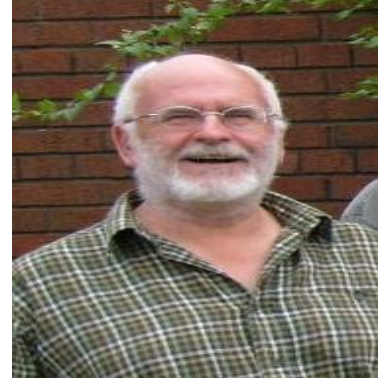
Events promoting green issues, over 300 in total, including the Festival of Nature this weekend.

Filwood Green Business Park. Development of workshop and office space for small companies engaged in green activities.

A Bristol Energy Company. Already on course with provision of low carbon electricity including wind turbines at Avonmouth.

Better Buses. Some new low carbon buses already in use.

Sustainable Transport Plans. Includes the 'Street Pockets' scheme providing better places for play, socialising, walking and cycling.



DAVID JOHNSON

Many residents will be aware of the sad death of David Johnson who lived with his wife Jean in Bathurst Parade since the 1980s. David was a member of the Residents Association committee from 2007 to 2011 when he moved on to become a Director of the Amenities Company. David was committed to making Merchants Landing a lovely community to live in and worked very hard to make sure that it was. It was said that the plants would stand to attention as he walked around our development! He was always enthusiastic and there to help set up events and clear away afterwards, even after he left the committee. David was renowned for his DIY skills and enthusiasm, and his constant willingness to help other people with lesser skills. He had a great interest in driving and all things mechanical, particularly cars, and particularly Jaguar cars. Apparently his last words concerned the vehicle to take him on his final journey: "Make sure it's a Jaguar, not a Mercedes!" That wish has been granted! David will be a great loss to our community and our sincere condolences go to Jean and her family.

The funeral will be on June 16th at 10.30 am at South Bristol Crematorium and afterwards at the Louisiana Pub. All are very welcome. There's no dress code but for those who prefer to wear a suit or something sombre please could they wear a colourful tie/scarf.

(With contributions from Joi Demery & John Bates, and invitation from Jean Johnson)

The Merchants Landing Residents Association Committee:

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|-----------------|--------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| Anthony Rackham | 5 Merchants Quay | 9297562 | Joi Demery | 9 Merchants Quay | 9213412 |
| Geri Bowie | 7 Merrick Court | 9294689 | Ann Phillips | 6 Trin Mills | 3297412 |
| Tony Little | 13 Challoner Court | 9227336 | | | |
| Shirley Stark | 8 Wapping Road | 9293953 | Jan Walsh | 8 Bathurst Parade | 9268714 |

News from Your Residents Association

Joi Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Residents Association reports:

Recent events have included a guided walk on the 17th April around the Redcliffe and Wapping area, led by expert resident Brenda Page, for which many thanks; about 30 residents acquired some fascinating historical information on our surroundings. And on the 6th June we held our Annual Garden Party in our communal gardens with marquee and the usual excellent band; about 60 residents attended that event.

Our next future event will be the Open Gardens Day on Saturday 11th July. We will meet at 2.30pm in our communal gardens, and finish off with some wine and cheese in the same place. The last time we did this two years ago we had 15 volunteer gardeners willing to show their gardens, and we hope to get a similar number this time. Please let Joi know if you would like to take part. Also the committee will be going around the Landing in the morning and picking out the best kept front garden. The Annual General Meeting will be on Friday 2nd October.

Amenities Company News

Roy Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Amenities Board

says: Following continuing problems with garage access behind Byzantine Court, the Directors have decided to remove the parking space between 2 and 3 Byzantine Court. As this space tends to be used only by residents of Byzantine Court, this shouldn't impact too much on the rest of the development. Residents are reminded that care should be taken when parking in front of the garages not to obstruct access to surrounding garages. Future maintenance work planned includes repainting the gates, benches and cannon, jet washing walls within the development and further landscaping works in the communal gardens.

The next Directors meeting is on the 7th September. If any shareholder would like to add items to the agenda please contact Roger Bryan at Bristol Leasehold Management or one of the Directors listed below.

And a reminder that the AGM will be Friday 16th October.

SNIPPETS FROM THE MLRA WEBSITE

The information below was posted recently on the mlra website by our webmasters Laura and David Demery, and also circulated by email to interested residents. If you would like to add your name to the circulation list please get in touch via our website: www.mlra.org.uk

CITY COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

Final recommendations have now been made to the City Council, and as expected, we will be part of a new 'Central' ward. Subject now to Parliamentary approval, the new boundaries come into effect next May when we have whole Council elections, a Mayoral election and possibly an EU Referendum, all at the same time.

WAPPING WHARF THEATRE PROJECT

Rehearsals have been taking place for a theatrical event to be performed in Museum Square (at the far end of M Shed) from 5th to 8th August. The show will be about the history of the Wapping Wharf site. The event is ticketed but free, through Bristol Old Vic Box Office.

METROBUS SCHEMES

Work started on the Redcliffe roundabout on 18th May and will continue for 10 weeks; the works are to improve capacity, and improve pedestrian facilities. Preliminary works have started to build the new bridge over the old lock gates from 'God's Garden'. Work will be starting shortly on the guided busway at Ashton Vale.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Developers City and Country have applied to pedestrianise Lower Guinea Street instead of keeping it for one-way traffic (from Redcliffe Hill), which was the original intention.

THE WAPPING WHARF DEVELOPMENT

A potential office occupier has been found for the JS Fry Warehouse, and a Listed Building Consent application submitted. Work has started on the Old Gaol Gate.

(With additional information from John Ashford).

Contact details for the Directors of Merchants Landing (Amenities) Ltd are:

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Vacant

Managing Agent: Bristol Leasehold Management, Oakside House, 35 Oakfield Road, Bristol BS8 2AT.

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