



Quay Notes



June 2012

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

www.mlra.co.uk

Residents celebrate Jubilee in style



An aerial view of the party on June 2nd.

Joi Demery reports: On Saturday 2 June, many residents of Merchants Landing plus family and friends celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in royal style. Over 80 people gathered in the communal gardens throughout the afternoon. Once again residents produced an amazing array of delicious food and were treated to strawberries and cream. Great entertainment was provided by Park Street Jazz, including communal singing and some dancing was spotted!! The weather remained kind to us and luckily we only needed the marquee to shelter the food and band, although a few hardy individuals were still to be found there late into the evening.....

A toast was raised to her Majesty and everyone agreed that this had been the best summer party yet! Thanks to all involved.



Residents Association Committee: (From left) Jan Walsh, Betta Eriks, Shirley Stark, Joi Demery (Chair), Sandy Conway, Geri Bowie, Tony Little and Anthony Rackham. Contact details on the mlra website.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday 11th July at 7pm.
Tai Chi Taster – An hour with a Tai Chi Instructor in our communal garden.

Annual General Meeting.
Friday 21st September at 7.30pm.
On the "John Sebastian".

And later in the autumn:
Antiques Roadshow & Bob's Famous Quiz.

Committee stay above the fray

Residents who attended a meeting held on the John Sebastian in April heard an excellent talk from John Ashford about the various developments around the Landing. Some of those attending wanted the committee to represent us all to express our concerns – it is believed that letters from residents associations carry more weight than a number of individual ones. However, Chair Joi Demery says the committee have subsequently decided *"that they could not undertake to become a lobbying group and represent the views of the whole landing without being aware of those views. The committee agreed that it is our role to inform people and direct them to where they can make their views known & will continue to do so."*

It has been suggested that this could be discussed at our AGM. Perhaps our website could play a role in gauging majority opinion, or voting slips printed as part of this Newsletter. A wider question is how this Newsletter relates to the website for the Association. The website can obviously contain more information and refer readers easily onto other sources of info. But somebody needs to keep it up-to-date. What do you think? Any comments?

No permission yet for nearby developments

The City Council are still considering the planning applications that were submitted for the General Hospital site in March and the Wapping Wharf site in April. Residents who attended John Ashford's talk in April will have heard details of the proposals, and many of the plans can be seen on the City Council website, or by appointment with the planning department in Brunel House. For the Hospital site the Victorian historic buildings are to be restored, and modern buildings demolished and replaced with new ones; the developers submitted two alternatives, one with buildings up to 7 storeys high, and the other with buildings up to 9 storeys. The Council says that any public comments received before a decision is made can be taken into account; no date has yet been given for a decision. On the Wapping Wharf site the developers Umberslade have submitted several applications for 'approval of reserved matters' and 'discharge of conditions' for development of the far western side of the site, in accordance with the outline planning permission granted in 2007. In respect of these applications the Council says that '*no further public comments can be accepted*', presumably because these are considered to be technical matters.

The above is based on a fuller report by John Ashford, which it is hoped will soon be available on our website: www.mlra.org.uk

Bus Rapid Transit Inquiry Opens

The Public Inquiry into the Bus Rapid Transit Scheme 2 (proposed to run from Ashton Gate to Temple Meads) opened on May 22nd. The promoters of the scheme, led by the City Council and North Somerset Council, have been presenting their case for the first two weeks, with some opportunities for cross-examination by objectors. The next two weeks will be for the objectors to present their case, and it is expected that the Inquiry will close on July 4th. The Inspector will then make his report with recommendations to the Secretaries of State as to whether planning permission should be granted. Those residents who came to John Ashford's talk in April will be aware of some of the issues – these include the closing of Prince Street bridge to private vehicles, and the intrusion of buses onto the historic harbourside on Wapping Wharf, though some people will welcome any improvement to the City's public transport network. Further information can be obtained from the City Council's website, or from stopbprt2.org.uk, the website run by a consortium of the objectors, and which includes suggested alternatives. The Inquiry is being held at Armada House in Telephone Avenue, and is open to the public. However, opportunities for residents to have their say are now limited (the official consultation period was earlier this year), and anybody wishing to do so should contact the Programme Officer at the Inquiry.

Jane Miller adds: An exhibition showing the proposals for BRT3 (from Hengrove to the City Centre via a new bridge over The Cut to bring buses into Wapping Road) is being held this Thursday, the 14th, (1pm to 4pm) at the Council House, and the following Thursday, the 21st, (5pm to 8pm) at Bedminster Library. All comments by members of the public have to be received by 13th July 2012.



Above: The Merchants Landing Amenities Board for 2011-2. From left: David Johnson, John Brentnall, Michael Hart, Gaynor Cashman, Mike Thorne and Roy Demery (Chair). Contact details on the [mlra](http://mlra.org.uk) website.

ELECTRICS WORK GOES ON

Roy Demery reports: The second stage of the Electrical Inspection has finally been completed and fortunately very few faults were identified. The infrastructure was deemed satisfactory with only additions in a few garages that will require removing. Individual shareholders will be contacted with dates when access will be required for any remedial work. Garage owners are reminded that the lighting circuit should only be used for lighting.

Comeback for Railings & Gates?

Residents will recall the intense controversy last year over the idea of enclosing Merchants Landing with gates and railings. After a consultative survey, the result was to leave things as they are. However, it has now been suggested by Director David Johnson that we should reconsider railings and gates around our communal garden, so as to "*stop non-residents bringing their dogs there, defecating on the grass and damaging the trees, causing two trees to die through extensive damage to their bark; we would create a residents private garden, as in parts of Clifton. The police and the Council's Dog Warden have been helpful but the problem keeps returning.*" What do you think? Do you have any alternative solutions?

NEW MANAGING AGENT APPOINTED:

Roy Demery reports: The Directors of the Merchants Landing Amenities Company have decided after a lengthy consideration to change the managing agent for our site. Effective from 1st May the agent is now Roger Bryan of Bristol Leasehold Management, Oakside House, 35 Oakfield Road, Bristol BS8 2AT. Email: office@bristol-leases.co.uk

This Newsletter has a new volunteer Editor: Mike Thorne of 15, Merrick Court, Merchants Quay. Comments and Contributions preferably by email: maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net or, if that's not possible, through the letterbox.