



Quay Notes



March 2013

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

www.mlra.co.uk

Where will buses go?



Buses on Cumberland Road and the Chocolate Path. Now users of the path can truly enjoy fumes from double decker diesel buses.

Photomontage and caption from the Stop BRT2 website

Following the announcement by Mayor Ferguson in January that he would not support the proposal to route Rapid Bus Transit schemes through the Harbour or over Prince Street bridge, there is now considerable uncertainty over the whole network.

Environmentalists and conservationists will no doubt have welcomed the Mayor's preemptive strike against the proposals, though concerns remain over the impact of parts of the BRT2 route (Ashton Vale to Temple Meads) that may continue, such as Cumberland Road and the 'Chocolate Path', as shown in the campaigners photomontage above.

Some of our residents living on Wapping Road will have welcomed the decision in respect of Prince Street bridge as that has also impacted on the BRT3 route (Hengrove to the Bristol North Fringe) - the proposed bridge over the New Cut at the southern end of Wapping Road will no longer be built.

It has been reported that the Mayor wants City Council officers to conclude a study of alternative routes by May. That is also the date when we can expect the Inspector's Report on the Public Inquiry held last summer, along with the Government's decision as to whether they accept the Inspector's recommendations.

It is understood that there are two principal alternatives to the original route of BRT2 – continuing along Cumberland Road into Commercial Road and thence to Redcliffe Hill, or sticking to the existing route for Park-and-Ride buses from Ashton Vale along Hotwells Road and Anchor Rd. The first of those would maintain the concept of a fast connection between Ashton Vale and Temple Meads.

However, as campaigners pointed out at last year's Inquiry, most of the current users of the Park-and-Ride service want to go to the Centre and Broadmead/ Cabot Circus. People wanting to go from North Somerset to Temple Meads would probably travel all the way there by train from stations like Yatton or Backwell (and of course Portishead if that line re-opens).

Supporters of the original Rapid Bus Transit schemes say the schemes are desperately needed to improve communications in Bristol and reduce congestion, and that the Mayor's intervention threatens government financial support.

It is to be hoped that by May we will have a scheme that works for Bristol and still attracts government support.

Residents

Association News

Joi Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Residents Association reports:

BURNS NIGHT

On a cold and frosty night there was a warm gathering of residents from Merchants Landing on the "John Sebastian". Greeted by the sound of the bagpipes, guests were served a sumptuous traditional burns night meal, and the evening included the splendid addressing of haggis and ode to Burns by our own Campbell McKenzie, including of course the toast with whisky! The Ladies of the Landing were addressed and toasted by Scott Bowie and I replied on the ladies behalf. The evening was rounded off by some communal singing of Scottish folks songs, finishing, of course with the famous Burns song Auld Lang Syne. The committee would like to thank everyone who made it such a great night, in particular to Campbell, who guided us through the event and to those who prepared and cooked such a lovely meal.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Back by popular demand, the Summer Garden Party will be on Saturday 1st June, and it will as usual be bring-food-to-share, with strawberries provided by the Residents Association. As before, live music will be provided by local band, Park Street Jazz. Reserve the date in your diary now, and further details will follow nearer the time.

OPEN GARDENS

An Open Gardens day is planned for July. Anybody who would like to open their gardens (or balconies!) for the inspiration of their neighbours please get in touch with a committee member.

The Merchants Landing Residents Association Committee:

Anthony Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412
Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	Betta Eriks	2 Draycott Place	3305379
Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336	Sandy Conway	1 Draycott Place	9293454
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Jan Walsh	8 Bathurst Parade	9268714

This information won't be repeated in every issue of Quay Notes, so if you find this useful, please keep in a safe place.

Amenities Company News

Roy Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Amenities Board reports:

The small triangular garden at the rear of 4-9 Bathurst Parade is being re-landscaped as Quay Notes is going to press. Following consultation with local residents, Peter Hopkinson of West Country Landscapes will be removing the existing Cotoneaster, Mint, Holly, Conifer and Laurel and replacing with smaller shrubs with an edging of herbs and aromatic plants.

Following collisions in the past, there have been ongoing problems with the guttering on the tiled arch into Wapping Road/ Bathurst Parade garages, quotations have been received for replacing with a larger section guttering and realignment, at the same time the lower courses of tiles will be relaid replacing damaged tiles and improving the roof ventilation.

In the past few months in addition to the routine garden maintenance, the white lines around the development have been repainted and the alleys cleaned.

The next directors meeting of the Amenities Company will take place on the 8th April. If you have any concerns or matters that you wish to be raised at this meeting then please forward them to the Company Secretary – Roger Bryan, *Bristol Leasehold Management, Oakside House, 35, Oakfield Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2AT* (Email: office@bristol-leases.co.uk) for inclusion on the agenda.

Progress on nearby developments.....

John Ashford reports: The Homes and Community Agency have announced that work is expected to start this month on the western end of the Wapping Wharf site, with completion due in 2015. This first phase will comprise 194 dwellings and some retail space. There will also be a new pedestrian and cycle route from the new Mud Dock Deli to the quayside by 'M' Shed.

Some pre-development archaeological investigation has started on the General Hospital site.

Auction on the "John Sebastian"

The Cabot Cruising Club are holding an Auction on Saturday 16th March on board the "John Sebastian", hosted by their resident auctioneers Anthony O'Connor and Pete Burgess. We've been asked to publicise this event as local residents are very welcome and it is an opportunity to get rid of all that unwanted clutter. You can donate items for the Club's funds if you wish, or you can just pay a fee of 20% and keep the rest of whatever is raised! They will sell anything except livestock. Items for inclusion in the auction should be taken along to the "John Sebastian" on Thursday 14th or Friday 15th after 7.30pm. The auction itself will start at 8pm prompt on Saturday 16th March, and will no doubt be entertaining and possibly profitable for some!

THEATRE GROUP REVIVAL CONTINUES

The Revived and Refreshed MLRA Theatre Group has had two successful group visits over the last two months to the Bristol Old Vic. Those who would like to join the Group for future visits, probably in the autumn, should contact Julia Trevett at 5 Merrick Court or by calling her on 0117-926-4478. And as Julia expects to be moving house away from Merchants Landing later this year, anybody who would be able and willing to take over leadership of this Group should also get in touch.

Murder and Mayhem Inc.

Join us for an evening of fun and mystery!
Friday April 26th, 7.30pm for an 8pm start
"John Sebastian" Lightship, Bathurst Basin.

**All proceeds for the charity HIPZ
Health Improvement Project Zanzibar**
www.hipz.org.uk

**Tickets are £15 to include a light buffet
Also a pay bar and a raffle.**

Your task will be to decide who killed Brian English, the driver for the band "Ruff Stuff", who were on their final final farewell tour, reprising their great 70s hits "Hot Nights of Love" and "Up the Back Alley".

Feel free to dust off those old flares and kaftans!

**Get your tickets from Anthony Rackham at
5 Merchants Quay, Tel 0117 929 7562, or**
rackhams@talktalk.net

Space is limited so don't delay, get yours now.
(And those not able to come could instead still sponsor Anthony's cycle ride around Zanzibar, raising money for the same cause. Go to:
www.justgiving.com/Anthony-Rackham1)

Commercial Advertisement

The Quay solution to spring cleaning...John from Bathurst Parade is running a cleaning service for neighbours. Domestic including the inside of windows, car valet, jet wash for patio/balcony etc. Refs available from Quay residents, no obligation quote call 07542 102566. Will also walk the dog or feed the cat!