



# Quay Notes

March 2015

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

[www.mlra.co.uk](http://www.mlra.co.uk)

## Should we wear masks or should we just drive less?



*A vehicle exhaust on a still winter's morning near where you live. (Editor's confession – it's my own car emerging from my garage!)*

The bad news is that the BS1 postcode area is the one with the worst air quality in the city, and that it fails to meet acceptable health standards, especially in respect of nitrogen dioxide. A recent BCC report estimated that there are 24 premature deaths in Bristol from traffic-generated air pollution, compared with 9 deaths from road traffic accidents; the health costs in Bristol of air pollution are reckoned to be £83m annually. Maybe we should regard the respirator (*right*) as the latest must-have fashion accessory.

The good news is that there is a wide variation of air pollution across the BS1 area, with the worst part being around Rupert Street because of all the buses 'ticking over' whilst stationary at the bus stops or in the slow-moving traffic. Where we live, however, the air quality is better because of the sparser traffic, fewer buses and heavy goods vehicles. Further good news is that the situation is improving, with a steady decline in air pollution from a peak in 2008/9, though progress has been slower than expected.

Maybe one of the reasons for that could be the fashion for larger diesel cars. Fortunately it is also fashionable to have high-performance bikes and the number of cyclists have doubled in recent years. Things should improve further with new low-emission buses, enhanced bus and rail services, reduced speed limits, some improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. Perhaps we could each take some responsibility to help the situation and drive a bit less?



## News from Your Residents Association

*Joi Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Residents Association reports:*

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription for the year and a gentle reminder for those who haven't! Only £10 for the year - please make cheques payable to Merchants Landing Residents Association and posted to Shirley Stark, at 8 Wapping Road. And here are some of the exciting things you get for your subs!

### **GUIDED WALK – Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm**

Join us for a guided walk around areas of local historic interest. Led by our own resident and expert Brenda Page. Meet at 6.00pm under the arch between Trin Mills and Byzantine Court.

### **GARDEN PARTY – Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1pm**

In our communal gardens with marquee. The band have been booked, and there will also be a book stall and raffle, proceeds going to our chosen charity. Please bring some food to share, and your own plates and cutlery. Strawberries and cream will be provided by the Association.

### **OPEN GARDEN & BALCONIES – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2.30pm.**

Back by popular demand - prepare your gardens and balconies, and don't forget there will be a competition for the best kept front garden! We hope to see even more gardens and balconies than the 15 we saw when we last did this event in 2013.

And members of the Association might also like to make a note of **BRISTOL OPEN DOORS DAY** on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> September**. Not organized by us, but many local public buildings throw open their doors, many of them free. Last year's day included the Redcliffe Caves (small charge for that one to pay for guides), and the roof and bell-tower of St Mary Redcliffe.

The Merchants Landing Residents Association Committee:

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

**OUR STREET NAMES** – continuing our history series:

**DRAYCOTT PLACE** – According to local resident John Conway, William Draycot was a Bristol merchant of the 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, whilst Bob Bishop our Quizmaster says that John Draycot was a Bristol merchant of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. There is also a John de Draycote in the Somerset Hundred Rolls of 1275. And Draycott is a village near Cheddar. Any other suggestions?



*Merchants House South, overlooking Draycott Place. Owners propose conversion from offices to residential. Some concerns expressed about impact on our amenities.*

**Amenities Company News**

Roy Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Amenities Board says: Nothing to report this time as the Board has not met since the AGM last October. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd April, commencing with a walkabout of the estate to look at maintenance problems. Items currently on the agenda include potential problems relating to the redevelopment of Merchants House South, and continuing problems with parking/access behind Byzantine Court. If any shareholder would like to add items to the agenda (including maintenance issues which you would like to draw to our attention) please contact Roger, Roy, David or Niki – see contact details below.

**SNIPPETS FROM THE MLRA WEBSITE**

*The information below was posted over the last two or three months on the mlra website by our webmasters Laura and David Demery, and also circulated by email to interested residents. For many of these matters there is a period of public consultation but those periods have now expired. If you would like to add your name to the circulation list, and therefore be able to respond within the public consultation period, please get in touch via our website: [www.mlra.org.uk](http://www.mlra.org.uk)*

**CITY COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Cabot Ward where we live is now one of the most populous in the City, and in order to equalise representation on the Council, the Boundary Commission have been reviewing ward boundaries. The Commission published draft recommendations on 9<sup>th</sup> December and invited comments by 16<sup>th</sup> February; the proposal was to split Cabot into two – a ‘Hotwells & Harbourside’ and a ‘Central’ – we would fall in the latter. It is understood that both the local Labour party and the Lib Dems have objected. Final recommendations will be published on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for implementation by the following May when we have whole Council elections.

**MERCHANTS HOUSE SOUTH** (See picture left).

A planning application was submitted for change of use last autumn, and although it has yet to be determined, the period for public consultation expired 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**METROBUS TRAFFIC ORDERS**

In connection with the implementation of the first phase of the MetroBus scheme, BCC published on 29<sup>th</sup> January various traffic orders, including bus lanes on parts of The Grove and Commercial Road, and banning right turns from Cumberland Road into Avon Crescent. The period for public comments expired on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**METROBUS APPROVAL FOR FIRST SECTION**

The government has approved the construction of the first section from Long Ashton Park&Ride to Cumberland Road, with a £26m contract awarded to Balfour Beatty.

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

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