



“QUAY NOTES” - September 2008

(News, views and information for residents of Merchants Landing) www.mlra.co.uk

The Residents Summer Barbeque- A Day to Remember!



It was a perfect day! The sun shone, the food was amazing, and everyone was up for the challenge of the various games on offer. Our thanks to Giovanni for providing the very tasty BBQ, the ladies of the committee for the salads, strawberries etc, and to the men for setting it all up (and taking it down).

We are hoping to repeat the event next May, so put it in your diary now. Not to be missed!!

Useful tradesmen and contacts.

Don't forget that on the website there is a list of tradesmen who have been used by residents and are recommended. If you need any job doing, or need a piece of equipment that may have been an original fit, you may well find what you are looking for there.

Equally, if you have recently used someone for a particular job, and would recommend them, send the details to the editor so that they can be included in the list.

Ideas for future events. Any bright ideas? Let a committee member know!!

RATS

There are rats in the gardens of at least two different sections of Merchants Landing. If you see a rat in your back garden, or find a run or signs of a nest, please ring Bristol City Council's Pest Control Services on 0117 922 2500 option 1, and request a visit. With young children around, a rat infestation is a problem we could all do without!

GORDON'S BRISTOL BITES

Suspension Bridge Incidents

The Clifton Suspension Bridge is not only an impressive structure but over the years has provided inspiration for some quite remarkable feats of theatre.

One took place in February 1957 when John Crossley, an RAF pilot flew his Vampire Jet beneath the Suspension Bridge from the Ashton side, it is said he wished to impress his girl friend. Unfortunately his plane did not manage the sharp right turn necessary immediately after passing under the bridge. He crashed into Leigh Woods and was killed.

Less catastrophic was the occasion on February 19th 1896 when the following incident occurred, as recorded in the pocket book of Inspector Parfitt, "C" Div., Bristol Police.

PS Carter and PC's 32 & 65 were in Bridge Valley Road and PC's 73 & 90 were on the Suspension Bridge from 3.30-4pm to preserve order and regulate traffic. A large number of persons had assembled to witness a feat performed by Mr Zamento of the People's Palace, Baldwin St. [then a Music Hall, now the empty site of the former "Sports" cafe] by catching a turnip on a fork which he held in his mouth which was dropped from the above Bridge. A number of young ladies were present with boxes collecting money in aid of the Children's Hospital, St Michael's Hill during the time. All passed off orderly and without incident. He caught the fifth turnip dropped.

One does wonder what happened to the first four!

Your Committee Members

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Great Night – Great Cause!!

One Wednesday in June the great and the good of Merchants Landing gathered on the John Sebastian for one of our 'social' events of the year. The committee had decided to support a fairly local charity, The Makunduchi Project, registered and run by two Taunton hospital consultants, whose parents live in Merchants Landing. The charity aims to build a general hospital on the island of Zanzibar, and provide a full health service to 70,000 + people, and the couple have been visiting the island for 16 years in their professional capacity. During the day, willing hands prepared the stalls and food, and the last few items for auction came pouring in as the day passed, and by 7 pm we were ready to launch!

The evening kicked off with a great presentation by Dr Becky Mann, who heads up the 'Mother and Children' part of the project, and whose husband, Ru leads the surgery etc. The presentation gave us a great insight to the project, and how every little penny given to date has been used, and, with the first phase almost completed, she outlined the plans to start Phase 2 in August 08.

The stalls included a homemade stall, and thanks to Shirley, Mike and all the other committee members, sold hand made items such as home made marmalade, hand knitted baby wear, cakes, pickles and Bric a Brac. A jewellery cleaning service ably run by Geri, was also a hit, and there was so much more to attract purchasers. The highlight of the evening then began with our auctioneer, who with great enthusiasm, engaged the attention of everyone, and obtained great prices for the range of items on offer, from champagne breakfasts to trips on boats and luxury dress rings, and the bidding went on!! And on !

Overall, a great night, and many thanks to everyone who attended, and of course to the great team of helpers. We raised almost £2,000 for the charity, which once gift-aided is almost £2,500. We have received a lovely letter of thanks from the Makunduchi team for our efforts. INTERESTED?? Visit their web site on

www.makunduchi.com.

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR GENEROUS NEIGHBOURS WHO GAVE SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TO MAKING THIS A SUCCESS.



RECYCLING FOOD/BROWN BIN LINERS

David Johnson has managed to get a very good deal on liners for our food waste bins. Benefits are that you can avoid unpleasant bin smells, they are strong and Bristol City Council approves them.

David is happy to buy them in bulk and sell them to residents for £5 for a pack of 50 – a fraction of the price charged by ASDA. Please contact David on 929 7602 for your supplies!

A recommendation. We have used them and they are excellent!

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1st December 2008. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net