



Quay Notes

September 2013

Newsletter for residents of Merchants Landing

www.mlra.co.uk

Residents to lobby Council about event road closures?



The Merchants Landing Residents Association is to consider lobbying the City Council about access for residents during road closures for community events in the City.

Chair Joi Demery says: *"There is no wish to restrict the community events concerned as I'm aware that there is a great deal of support amongst our residents for the events, all of which contribute to making this area such a vibrant place to live. But information on road closures could be better, and residents should be able to gain vehicular access if they need it."*

The issue was raised in an exchange of letters with the Council by resident Brenda Page of Challoner Court about access during the 10K race on 5th May. Initially Brenda was told that access would not be a problem if a pass was applied for – one lane of Wapping Road would be coned off. But when applying for a pass, she was told it could only be used until 8am! Afterwards Brenda wrote to the Mayor and had a reply apologising for any confusion, and confirming that access to and from Challoner Court should

have been available to residents with passes throughout the race. The same coning arrangement will apparently also be in place for the Half Marathon on this coming Sunday, September 15th. Brenda comments: *"Let's hope it works this time!"*

However, according to the BCC website, Wapping Road, Commercial Road, and Cumberland Road are closed from the early hours of the morning to mid-afternoon, and there is no suggestion on the website that residents will have any rights of vehicular access, with or without passes. It might in any case be argued that local residents should be automatically supplied with passes (as we are for the Harbour Festival) – there might be a need to use the car in an emergency, or unexpectedly. Residents might also be concerned about advance warning of events. Joi says that *"there has been no committee meeting over the summer when these matters could have been discussed, but it could be a matter for discussion at the AGM (see details right) if the residents so wish."*

Residents Association News

Joi Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Residents Association reports:

The Talented Gardeners of Merchants Landing

On a beautiful afternoon in July around 35 people strolled around 15 gardens in Merchants landing (and a couple of balconies).

We were treated to a fascinating variety of gardens showing some amazing talent and inspiring those of us with less green fingers.

It was also educational and many people came away with new ideas and lists of plants to try! We would like to thank everyone who opened up their garden and balcony and to the cake makers and especially John and Sandy Conway who allowed us to take over their garden for tea. The general feedback is that people were keen to do it again at a different time of the year - so watch this space and feel inspired!

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for MLRA will take place on Friday 4 October at 7.30 on the John Sebastian.

We will be reviewing our year and electing our committee - if anyone is interested in joining the committee please feel free to talk to any of the members. We will also be agreeing on our charity for the coming year - please let Joi know of any suggestions. Future events - we will be discussing possible future events and are keen to have feedback and ideas - current suggestions include: wine tasting, a fish & chip supper, boat cruise, and a visit to Bath Christmas Market and meal

Bob's Annual Quiz

Back by popular demand!
Friday 22 November, 7.30 John Sebastian. Teams of 4-6 - come as a team or join a team on the night!

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

Amenities Company News

Roy Demery, Chair of Merchants Landing Amenities Board reports:

The AGM of the Amenities Company will be held on Friday 18th October at 7.30 pm on the John Sebastian.

The six Directors of the Company (4 from the house owners and 2 from the flat owners) are elected at the AGM, and any nominations for the forthcoming year should be sent in to the Company Secretary by October 4th, on the forms which will be circulated in the near future with the car parking permits.

The six current Directors are listed at the bottom of this page.

The Board meet about four times a year to make decisions about the management of the open areas around the development, ably assisted by Roger Bryan of Bristol Leasehold Management. At the last Board meeting, we discussed installing CCTV cameras to discourage anti-social behaviour in the archways leading from Bathurst Parade, repairing the landscaped area at the rear of Draycott Place, repainting the white lines for the parking areas, and making some small amendments to the parking regulations (to be circulated shortly).

THEATRE GROUP

The new co-ordinator of the MLRA Theatre Group, Maggie Thorne, has just bought some group tickets to see "Great Expectations" at the Old Vic. Anybody interested in joining the group's future trips please get in touch, preferably by email: maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net or by a note through the letterbox at 15 Merrick Court.

INTERACTION CORNER

(Yes, an attempt by the Editor to interact with you the Reader!)

In an idle moment thinking what to write in this space, I wondered about the origins of the place names on this development. Knowing that it is the usual practice for developers to write to the City Council for approval of place names before installing them, I emailed the Bristol Records Office about the application for this development. However, they have not been able to trace any documents from the developer.

So, do any of you know anything about any of our place names?

For starters, what about Challoner? Google didn't help much, though one website told me that Challoner is of medieval origin, and is an occupational name for a maker or seller of blankets, originally from the French town of Chalons-sur-Marne. Chaucer refers to a "a bedde with chalons fair spredde". The BRO said that Challoner was a corruption of the name Chandler, and William Chandler was a Bristol Merchant of the mid-seventeenth century. Any other ideas or information anyone?

THANK YOU LETTER

The Residents Association have received a letter of thanks from DEBRA - the charity we have supported this year:

"Thank you so much to the members of the Merchants Landing Residents Association for your kind donation of £100 to support children and families with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). Your donation will help children like Harry:

"As much as we want to protect Harry, we realised early on that we can't wrap him up in cotton wool and it's not necessarily the right thing to do. We let Harry take the lead - if he wants to have a go at something, we let him. He now knows what can damage his skin so the choice is his. Usually he'll go ahead and do whatever it is, which is a great attitude and he won't let himself be beaten by his condition. Harry's big passion in life is football - the school have been great and Harry is assistant manager for the school team. The Head is very impressed that the team actually listen to Harry's advice and he and Harry often talk tactics in the school corridor!"
Zara, Harry's Mum.

"Once again, thank you for your thoughtful donation. Your donation will help us make a real difference to people living with (EB) and we truly appreciate your support."

Ruth McBain

Regional Fundraising Manager - South

If you would like to know more about DEBRA's work you can get up to date information on www.debra.org.uk

FLAT FOR SALE Anyone wishing to buy a flat on this development might like to know that 10 Merrick Court is on the market.

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

Roy Demery	9 Merchants Quay	r.demery@btinternet.com	0117 921 3412
Michael Hart	2 Challoner Court	michael_hart@blueyonder.co.uk	0117 921 5291
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk	0117 929 7602
Gaenor Cashman	5 Bathurst Parade	gaenor@talktalk.net	0117 927 7081
John Brentnall	3 Byzantine Court	john.brentnall@wards.co.uk	
Mike Thorne	15 Merrick Court	maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net	01275 218712

Managing Agent: Bristol Leasehold Management, Oakside House, 35 Oakfield Road, Bristol BS8 2AT.
Contact: Roger Bryan. Telephone: 0117 317 9588. Email: office@bristol-leases.co.uk

This Newsletter is edited by: Mike Thorne of 15, Merrick Court, Merchants Quay.
Comments very welcome, and contributions, preferably by email: maggiemandmikethorne@talktalk.net
or, if that's not possible, through the letterbox.