

quay notes

DEC 2017



Practical ways to help Bristol's homeless



Figures suggest homelessness has doubled since the implementation of austerity measures in 2010, with both direct cuts to homelessness services and wider cuts to welfare and benefits driving people onto the streets.

Now the temperature is dropping. Here are some thoughts from local campaigner James Koch who has been chronicling homelessness in Bristol, on what we can do to help in and around the city:

- Via the Streetlink website www.streetlink.org.uk, you can enter an accurate site for a genuine rough sleeper, and an outreach team in the relevant area will make their way there as quickly as possible to act on the report. You can also call their 24-hour hotline on **0300 5000914** – it's a nationwide service.
- Similarly, you can contact St Mungo's Broadway outreach team via www.mungos.org. A member of their team will make contact with the individual with a view to helping them into emergency short stay accommodation.

DEVELOPMENT developments

This is a quick update to keep you informed about what's been happening around Merchants Landing:

- The recent electrical testing of the garages went well and garage owners were very helpful in organising access. Thank you.
- Most of the work in the communal gardens is now complete. The area around the cannon is looking much better.
- A new set of black iron gates is being fitted in the near future. Again, they will be unlocked. Any thoughts welcome on the installation of gates to help reduce anti-social issues around the development - comments to the committee reps please. ■



Sponsor a room with Centrepoint. This offers young people a long term solution to homelessness.

- Become a St Mungo's 'campaigner'. Sign up to keep informed about their campaigns and they will send you updates about the latest campaigning activities and information about ways you can get involved.
- The Julian Trust welcomes donations of (new) boxer shorts (small/medium), socks, jeans and t-shirts. They also need blankets and (bath) towels. They do not require womens' clothing. Donations can be received from 8pm onwards on the nights they operate (not Sundays/Thursdays) at Julian House, Little Bishop Street, St Paul's, Bristol, BS2 9JF. Telephone: **0117 924 4604** (evenings only). www.juliantrust.org.uk
- Email you local MP. Have they noticed the increase in homelessness? Can they raise the issue in parliament?
- Contact the Bristol mayor Marvin Rees and voice your concern.
- Buy them a hot drink and/or some food. We're never more than 200 yards from a coffee shop. Giving money doesn't really provide a long-term solution.
- Stop for a chat, ask them their name, shake their hand or simply give them a smile. Ultimately as we all know life is little more than a battle of wills – offering them some positivity and support may give them the strength they need to keep fighting. These are people who are nameless and faceless when they are sitting out in the street but when you get to know them, they are stories of great courage, of struggles against unbelievable adversity.



>>> Please see the news overleaf about how we're planning to help >>>

**THANK YOU
from...**

Congratulations and well done to everyone for a great year of fundraising. We have recently received a thank you letter from **Above + Beyond** in recognition of the £200 we raised for them during the course of 2017. Thank you again for such a great effort. ■



**...our new charity
for 2018**

**THE BRISTOL
SOUP RUN TRUST**



Our designated MLRA charity for 2018 will be The Bristol Soup Run Trust.

The Bristol Soup Run Trust is a unique organisation in Britain that operates a soup run every night of the year for the homeless and others in need in Bristol, and is a registered charity and limited company in its own right.

It was founded in 1986, and grew out of the pioneering work of Pip 'n' Jay church and Bristol Cyrenians.

Two meeting points are visited each night, and others are visited on a one-to-one basis in the city's central area. Up to 80 people can benefit from their services each night. Soup and beverages, sandwiches, and other food, blankets for those sleeping rough, clothes and toiletries are distributed. Every effort is also made in the limited time available to give basic information

on accommodation, help on addiction, and day-centre facilities. Informal, friendly, non-judgemental conversation can be a positive help to those they serve.

Bristol Soup Run Trust - Mission Statement

By coordinating the activities of volunteer groups, the aim of the Bristol Soup Run Trust is to ensure that, on every night of the year, food and other essential supplies are made available, free of charge, to homeless and other needy people on the streets of Bristol. The Trust also aims to provide clients with basic information on issues of relevance such as access to emergency accommodation and advice centres. At all times, it is the intention of the Trust that this help is provided in an informal, friendly and, above all, non-judgemental manner.

Where possible, the Trust aims to liaise with like-minded organizations in an effort to promote the interests of the homeless and thus to act as a voice for its clients.

For further information please visit: www.bristolsoupruntrust.org.uk ■

SPRING CLEAN 2018

Save the date - Saturday 7th April

With the prospect of continued council cutbacks, it has been suggested that we give Merchants Landing a bit of a **SPRING CLEAN**. The proposed date is **Saturday 7th April 2018**. The date and details will be confirmed nearer the time, but if you'd like to lend a hand, please make a note in your diary now. ■



**WHIST DRIVE
REPORT**



We held a very entertaining 'Whist Drive' on board the 'John Sebastian' on Friday 27th October. Congratulations to Marjorie Bates and

Chrissie Williams who were winners on the night. A big thank you to Alan Williams and Mike Thorne for organising the event. There may well be rematch in the new year. Watch this space... ■

ROAD CLOSURE REMINDER

Commercial Road will be closed for resurfacing on Sunday 7th January 2018 from 9am - 5pm. The closure is dependent on the availability of the required construction equipment. If this isn't available, the work may be postponed until the following Sunday 14th January.

Access will be maintained for residents and pedestrians.

For more information visit www.travelwest.info/travelupdates ■



WHAT'S ON?

SAT 7 APRIL

**Merchant's
Landing Spring
Clean**

UNTIL 8 APRIL

**Wildlife
Photographer of the
Year M-Shed**

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	Kevin Little	3 Merrick Court	07798 735 651
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	Jan Walsh	8 Bathurst Parade	9268714

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

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This Newsletter was edited by: Kevin Little of 3, Merrick Court, Merchants Quay.

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