



Friends of Harbourside Reed Bed

(FrOHB) are a small group of local harbourside volunteers and residents who regularly pick litter from the reed bed opposite the SS Great Britain and clear overgrown vegetation.

FrOHB recently launched a Crowdfunding project called 'Restore Bristol Harbourside Reed Bed'. The £7,900 raised will pay for repairs, replanting and restoring the reed bed to its former glory.

If you would like to find out more about this local conservation project please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/yddygs5j> ■

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION & ML(A)Ltd UPDATES

Just a quick reminder that this year's Open Gardens will be taking place on **Saturday July 8th**. Please meet in the Communal gardens at 2.30pm and don't forget to let Jo know if you are willing to open your garden (or balcony!).

A few other dates for your diary
The MLRA AGM will be on Friday 6th October and the ML(A)Ltd AGM will be

on Friday 13th October. Both meetings are to be held on board the John Sebastian and both scheduled to start at 7:30pm. The John Sebastian will also be the venue for a proposed Whist Drive on Friday 27th October. More information next time.

PLUS, the MLRA's boat trip on Saturday 2nd September has proven to be very popular and is now fully booked. ■



Powerboat racing update

Known as the 'Widow Maker', Bristol's Harbour powerboat course was so dangerous it claimed seven

lives between 1972 and 1991. However, Bristol mayor Marvin Rees has suggested that the races could return. Rees revealed:

"In sport, Bristol has punched below its weight. I am determined to increase activity, participation, access and elite sport in the city. And I can share, we are in discussions to bring powerboat racing back to the docks."

Crowds of up to 250,000 people used to watch the races, with all the small boats having to leave the docks for the two or three days of racing.

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) has said it is not inclined to approve powerboat racing in the harbour at this time (2017). The RYA is the regulatory body for harbours in the UK. The Council is investigating the possibility of 2018, but it is believed that the RYA will stick to their current decision on this matter. ■

Bristol Arena – to be or not to be?

Excitement among those hoping that Bristol's arena will finally be built was sparked by the glimpse of an orange digger on Arena Island. But the machinery was not there to start work on the site of long-awaited 12,000-capacity arena.

Instead, a city council spokeswoman confirmed that the machinery was the property of Network Rail, whose workers were using the land while the company carries out improvements to platforms at Temple Meads.

Hopes that the new arena would be ready by 2018 were scuppered earlier this year when the council parted company with its contractor after failing to reach an agreement on price. Bristol City Council has already poured £9m into the major regeneration of the derelict area, but in April admitted the project could be scaled back, or



scrapped altogether if the money needed to construct it continues to rise.

Mayor Marvin Rees has repeatedly pledged a commitment to bringing the arena plans to fruition and has said there is a "sense of urgency" around the regeneration project that it is hoped will bring jobs and breathe fresh life into a long-neglected part of the city. ■

WHAT'S ON?

7-8 JULY

Bristol Pride Festival

8 JULY

Residents' Open Gardens

21-23 JULY

Harbour Festival

10-13 AUGUST

Bristol Balloon Fiesta - Ashton Court

2 SEPTEMBER

Residents' boat trip

7-10 SEPTEMBER

Bristol Open Doors

6 OCTOBER

MLRA AGM

13 OCTOBER

ML(A)Ltd AGM

27 OCTOBER

Whist Drive

The Merchants Landing Residents Association Committee:

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Tony Little	13 Challoner Court	9227336	Kevin Little	3 Merrick Court	07798 735 651
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BRIGHT SPOT

Nude sunbather enjoying the sunshine
SPOTTED ON THE NEW CUT, WED MARCH 27th