



“QUAY NOTES” - December 2008

(News, views and information for residents of Merchants Landing)

www.mlra.co.uk

GORDON’S BRISTOL BITES

EXPLOSION IN BATHURST BASIN

Bathurst Basin today is a quiet dock with little maritime activity; but not on the morning of 21st November 1888. That day a Jersey schooner, the “United”, was moved from her overnight berth in the entrance lock outside the “Ostrich” to a position just inside the basin itself. She had been left in this unaccustomed position because she was loaded with 300 barrels (some 50 tons) of naphtha, a highly flammable product closely related to petroleum spirit and obtained by the distillation of coal tar. The authorities were well aware of the danger.

Her four crew members were; Master Henry Cartwright, Mate Joseph Cartwright, seaman Joseph Basle and a young lad Toby. Cartwright intended to depart for London as soon as the strong winds eased. The Master had banned any flame so there was no smoking, cooking or even tea-making. A constable from the river police paid a visit early that morning but, aware that the master was keen to depart, soon left.

Just after 11 a.m. a tremendous explosion occurred in the “United”. Parts of the ship were flung into the air accompanied by “a wall of flame of appalling fierceness”. The burning naphtha floated on and spread over the water surface. It was driven towards other ships in the basin. These too were soon on fire.

All the lower windows of the adjacent General Hospital were blown out as were those of the Ostrich and the houses in Guinea Street. Robinson’s Oil & Cake Mill on the west side of the lock was also affected and indeed its numerous clerks were blown off their stools but one had the presence of mind to run to the nearby river police station and call for assistance.

A squad of policemen soon arrived to help as did the city fire brigade with its horse-drawn fire engine. The docks water-float also arrived and all were pumping water onto the burning vessel. Naturally in no time at all a large number of spectators accumulated. They also needed controlling. All in all it took three hours to bring the inferno under control.

The human cost of the incident was high. The Master, Mate and lad Toby all lost their lives. Seaman Basle was blown 40 ft through the air but survived with a broken leg.. He was picked up from the water by a boat from another ship.

The General Hospital had lost most of its lower windows on the side that faced the basin so to protect the bed-ridden against the elements there was clearly an urgent need for glaziers. The response in 1888 was to send out a call for glaziers and they arrived from all over the city. By nightfall it is said that **all** the windows in the General Hospital had been replaced. I think we may have trouble doing that today. Surely today’s bureaucracy and/or Health & Safety Regulations would get in the way somewhere.

The whole incident lasted for some three hours, time enough even in 1880 for the press to hear about it and despatch a photographer who recorded the scene for posterity. It shows the naphtha blazing on the water outside what is now Byzantine Court and is really quite spectacular.

MRLA PLANNED FUTURE EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS.....

WINE TASTING IN FEBRUARY - DATE TO BE ADVISED

FLAPPERS COCKTAILS AND CANAPES EVENING IN APRIL

RESIDENT’S SUMMER PARTY – JUNE 13th SO Make sure you don’t miss these popular events!!!

Useful tradesman - CHRIS THE PLUMBER

Recommended by neighbours @ 4 Draycott Place as reliable and helpful. All plumbing jobs, guttering clearance and repairs, emergency call outs, Corgi registered.

Tel. 07828499164 or 01453549283

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

John Bates recently sent out an update on some important items. They affect you, so please make sure that you take action as suggested. Thank you John for your regular contributions!!



Your Committee Members

Joi Demery	9 Merchants Quay	9213412	j.demery@btinternet.com	Chair
Mary Rackham	5 Merchants Quay	9297562	rackhams@talktalk.net	Secretary
Janetta Mitchinson	3 Trin Mills	9276209	njkjmitch@aol.com	
Geri Bowie	7 Merrick Court	9294689	geri.bowie@handbag.com	
Shirley Stark	8 Wapping Road	9293953	shirleyistark@hotmail.com	Treasurer
Jenni Britton	1 Byzantine Court	0797 7925450	jennibritton@blueyonder.co.uk	
David Johnson	16 Bathurst Parade	9297602	johnsonjean@blueyonder.co.uk	
Alex Connaris	17 Challoner Court	3778608	alexiskonnaris@yahoo.co.uk	
Bob Bishop	4 Daubeny Court	9268637		

Review of Local Planning Developments Discussed at Recent RFG Meetings

Reported by John Ashford

This report covers the period from June 2008 to November 2008 and deals only with matters discussed that have proximity to Merchants Landings

Project	Planning Ref	Progress / Comment
Redcliffe Wharf	07/05719/F	The developer, Westmark is considering the comments given by BCC Development Control. RFG has the support of senior officers at BCC regarding their objection to Building 'F' height and adjacent car parking. The present economic downturn might delay any immediate responses from the developer
Redcliffe Wharf Beach	None	Situation remains the same-----No beach this year and at present No funding allocated within BCC for a beach next year. This matter would benefit from support from MLRA if the association really wishes to see a beach in place next year.
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School	08/03765/F B	This is an important development in our area. Major refurbishment works and new build (some 8600 sq m) are to start soon at the school site. Funding is being provided through the Government's BSF programme. There will be an impact on school life and pupils whilst the work is underway. It was thought that the 'Barossa Tunnel' could have been used by the school as a temporary exam centre for pupils but agreement could not be reached with the leaseholder. It is probable that a local hotel will offer suitable facilities for examinations.
Bristol General Hospital	Not yet submitted	This is another very important development in which RFG has a consultative role. The BGH will close when the Bristol Community Hospital opens in South Bristol, scheduled for May 2010. The Trust, now renamed as University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust Will launch the sale of the site in the new year 2009. Planning application will now be the responsibility of the developer. Simon Pugh-Jones will prepare a development brief in consultation with BCC. English Heritage are involved ensuring that the brief retains the various listed buildings on the site. Local consultations are important and MLRA are represented through my membership of RFG. Cabot Cruising Club have been invited to nominate a representative also.
Prince Street Bridge		The proposals to have a 'trial' semi-closure to vehicles of Prince Street Bridge have received much comment and reporting in the local press of late. RFG are studying the implications of the proposals on the community and will make their views known to BCC and Cycle City (Jon Roy). The whole debate on transport policy is being looked at by RFG including the route of the proposed Rapid Transit system. MLRA should have a view on this matter and if you hold strong personal views, please tell your committee member as soon as possible, or of course, our representative, John Ashford.

RECYCLING FOOD/BROWN BIN

LINERS As you know David Johnson 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. So contact David on 929 7602 for your supplies! A recommendation. We have used them and they are excellent!

REFLEXOLOGY IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!!

It's relaxing, calming and restorative, and gift vouchers are available, which make great Christmas presents. Contact Jenni at 1, Byzantine Court, or Tel. 07977925450

MERCHANTS LANDING RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION ARE PLEASED TO REMIND YOU AGAIN !! The MLRA Christmas lunch will take place at the Louisiana on Monday 15th December at 12.30 pm. and cost £17.50 per person. The menu to be a choice as follows: STARTERS - choice from Soup, Prawn Cocktail or Melon and Parma Ham MAIN COURSE - Carvery of Turkey, Pork or Beef plus seasonal vegetables DESERTS - Black Forest Gateaux, Tiramisu or Mince Pies AND FUN!!!

DEPOSIT OF £5 PER PERSON TO ALEX @ 17 CHALLONER COURT PLEASE ASAP!! So Sorry if Monday is not suitable -no other dates were available.

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1st March 2009. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'MERCHANTS LANDING RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION' (MLRA) AND 'THE AMENITIES COMPANY'??

Well, Here's a short guide.....

The **MLRA** was originally set up for the care of the development and the needs of the residents. The former role has been taken over by the **Amenities Company**, which is responsible for the communal infrastructure of the whole development. The following should help clarify the current situation.

Amenities Company

The company owns and has responsibility for the care and upkeep of the following:

1. The garage forecourt areas of Merchants Quay, Merrick Court, Bathurst Parade, Wapping Road, Trin Mills, Byzantine Court and the area behind the North Block offices. The Amenity Company regulates the parking of vehicles in these areas.
2. The grassed and paved Amenity areas, the paved areas around the garages, and the garden plots in/near Draycot Place, Bathurst Parade, Merrick Court and Wapping Road garage areas.
3. All footways with the following exceptions, (these having been adopted as public highways): paths around Draycot Place and Challoner Court, path from 8 Wapping Road to Draycot Place, path from Challoner Court to Merchants Quay behind the North Block offices, path from the eastern end of Challoner Court to Bathurst Parade
4. The supply of water to the car wash areas, and lighting to all garages.
5. The storm gulleys, drains and pipes that carry storm water under Amenity land.

However, Street lighting is not an Amenity Company responsibility- it was adopted by Bristol City Council. Also the management of flats- Byzantine Court, Merrick Court and Daubeny Court are legally required to have separate management companies from the whole Amenity Company.

Each residence is **legally required** to pay an **annual service charge** to the Amenity Company. Directors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the company. The present directors are: Margaret Cartledge, 7 Bathurst Parade(Chair), Michael Hart 2 Challoner Court; Gordon Gray 4 Wapping Road; John Brentnall, 3 Byzantine Court. The Secretary is Colin Williams of Holdshare Management Services Ltd., Telephone: 01275 879066, and email mail@holdshare.co.uk

Merchants Landing Residents Association

The MLRA continues the important role of representing the views and interests of residents in all issues and negotiations with the City Council, and other official bodies. It also organises the social occasions that have been a regular feature of the Landing and also are your link to the City Council, Redcliffe Futures and the Cabot Cruising Club. If you have any concerns, on any issues related to these, please get in touch with your committee member and the association can then take action on behalf of all residents.

The Membership fee of the association is currently **£5 per annum per household. This is payable now (your invoice is over the page) and payment should be made to any committee member, or to Shirley Stark, Treasurer, 8 Wapping Road.** If you are not already, we hope you will join the Residents Association, find the information in **Quay Notes** useful, and the activities enjoyable. Meeting up with neighbours in these ways helps us to maintain a sense of community. At its inception this development received great acclaim in local and national journals for its excellence, and we hope to keep it that way.

Cabot Cruising Club

Members of MLRA are also affiliated members of the Cabot Cruising Club, whose headquarters are the beautiful John Sebastian lightship in Bathurst Basin.. This means that you are all entitled to visit the Club on club nights, (Thursdays and Saturdays) and buy drinks at the bar at **very competitive prices** We are also invited to their social events, and so they are to many of ours. We use the John Sebastian and Cabot use our marquee. Some events to come



Sat 13th December
Thu 17th December
Thu 31st December
24th January 2009

Xmas dance. Entertainment by BAK2BAK and buffet. Only £7.50 each.
Carols and Christmas drinks. An excellent fun evening. Just turn up.
New Years Eve party. American supper. Only £6.00 each.
Dinner Dance at Jurys Hotel. The highlight of the year. More details to follow.

Contact Paul Morris for your tickets on 9719915 or 0791 9386355.