



“QUAY NOTES” - June 2010

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

www.mlra.co.uk

GORDON’S BRISTOL BITES - STREET CLEANING

The cleanliness of Bristol’s streets is often the subject of criticism. It has always been so! Before 1579 the owner of each property fronting the street was required to repair one half of the street - as far as the waste disposal gutter which ran down its centre. Each owner fulfilled his duty at his own time and in his own fashion so the result left much to be desired.

About 1650 the condition of the banks of the rivers Avon and Frome running through the centre of the city was, at low water, even more sickening than that of the streets due to deposits from sewers and filth cast in by the neighbouring inhabitants.

The channel for carrying off waste in the middle of the street was often filled with mud or worse! In about 1700 two woollen drapers apprentices (one of whom, Matthew Brickdale, was to be for many years Member of Parliament for the city) were accustomed to play a nocturnal joke on their neighbours by sweeping the filth off the High Street gutter into the dark and narrow passage under the archway of the city gate, than adjacent to St Nicholas’ church. The results to the unwary pedestrians may be imagined.

A local newspaper in 1799 complained that “Pigs, goats and other animals are suffered to wander about the streets with impunity; at the same time the lives of inhabitants are nightly endangered by heaps of mortar, ashes and rubbish” The sprinkling of feeble lamps often became extinct about midnight through lack of oil. From occasional broad insinuations in the public press the night watchmen employed by the Corporation were frequently decrepit old drunkards and sometimes worn-out servants of members of the Corporation.. They were not merely inefficient but suspected of conniving at nocturnal offences.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS !!

RESIDENT’S SUMMER PARTY – 19TH JUNE

A repeat of last years successful party. There will be a fantastic Jazz quartet playing, and the usual strawberries and cream supplied by the MLRA committee. BYO food, drink, tables and chairs. You are invited to bring along games to play, and we will also be running a raffle in aid of St Peter’s Hospice. If you have any suitable prizes, please contact a committee member.

AGM 14TH SEPTEMBER

N.B. If you cannot attend the evening, please arrange a ‘proxy’ vote, by sending details of whom you have nominated to vote on your behalf, to the Chair of MLRA, well in advance. Nominations for new committee members welcome, and should be forwarded to the Chair by Aug. 15th

THE EVER POPULAR ‘ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES’ EVENING- 6TH OCTOBER

Another chance for the ‘Bates’ team to enthral you with their knowledge and approach to collecting ‘collectables’.

QUIZ NIGHT WITH THE “ONE AND ONLY” BOB BISHOP IN NOVEMBER

Make sure you don’t miss these events!!!



St GEORGE’S DAY CRUISE ON BOARD THE MATTHEW

We had a great evening cruising the harbour, eating fish and chips, (and drinking a few drinkies!) accompanied by a really dashing St. George, and a very cuddly dragon. Many thanks in particular to Shirley, Peter and Bob for ensuring that this was another fun event.

Garage Door Spring

Are you replacing an old door or do you have a spare spring?

If so, please contact Shirley or Peter on 9293953



Your Committee Members

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Review of Local Planning Developments Discussed at Recent RFG Meetings

Covering period March 2010 to the end of May 2010 - matters discussed that are close - to Merchants Landings

Redcliffe Wharf: Discussions are still underway between Westmark, Bristol City Council and potential developers to bring forward acceptable plans for this important site. A potential End-User for part of the site has now emerged.-- Alastair Sawday Publishing Co Ltd are in discussions with RFG, Westmark and BCC regarding proposals to construct a small hotel, a public event space. give support to retaining a boatyard on the wharf with facilities for carrying out the maritime needs expounded in the landowner's brief and SPD3. Sawdays are committed to developing their part of the site in a 'green' context and establishing a benchmark in environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Discussions are only at a conceptual stage at this moment but are very much alive and active. It is likely that a public meeting will be called to discuss Redcliffe Wharf developments. I will let MLRA have details when available to circulate our membership.

St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School: Construction and fitting out works are proceeding to plan on this project. It was expected that the school closing dates which I reported on in my March update are still valid. The Ramada hotel is to be used for students in year 11 to sit their examinations (November 1st to 5th inclusive) . The new school premises are still expected to be ready for use as of 5th November 2010

Bristol General Hospital: The planning brief for this development is still awaiting release. No further information available to report.

Rapid Transit Proposals: There have been some further matters to report on the Rapid Transport proposals. Following the Bristol City Council adoption of the BRT2 Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre proposals the necessary submission of this major scheme business case (MSBC) was made to the Department for Transport to gain approval to access the £42.10 million funding from the Regional Allocation Funding 2011/2012/2013/2014 necessary for the project. Since this submission was made there has been a change in national government and with the national financial deficit review being undertaken by government it is certain that all capital projects like BRT will be subject to review. No decision on the funding therefore is available to date. I did forecast this state of affairs back in October 2009 at MLRA AGM when I stated in my presentation on BRT proposals. that--- *'The major funding for the scheme relies on HMG Treasury approval with a much smaller stake provided by Bristol City Council. A change in National Government could have an impact on this funding.'* I have now obtained assurances from BCC that they now accept the change in alignment proposals along Redcliffe Way / Portwall Lane as reported previously. Dependant on the outcome of the funding review I will report on BRT3 in a later update to you

King Street Bridge: BCC and RFG have since 2002 promoted the case for a pedestrian crossing to be installed over the harbour from the end of King Street/Welsh Back to join up with Redcliffe near to the Standard Life building offices with a line or sight from King Street through to Temple Church. I wrote an article for Bristol Evening Post giving details of a proposal from RFG for a 'floating bridge' concept which would be funded from s106 monies already accrued in the BCC s106 account for a bridge. I was interviewed by BBC television to present the proposal on Points West and the idea has created some publicity. BCC are presently engaged with consultants in assessing the most appropriate bridge concept to deliver a crossing at this location and the RFG concept is being considered alongside other designs

Thank you to John Ashford, for his regular Contributions to Quay Notes !!

BEWARE!! It has been reported that whilst one male engaged a resident in conversation at the front door, his accomplice entered through the back door and proceeded to burgle the house. This is a tactic often used!!

Heritage Trail

Bristol City Council museum services have produced a 60 page book entitled "Bristol Harbour Heritage Trail". It is excellent and not only that, it is free! Available from the Tourist information centre which is now adjacent to the Watershed on St Augustine's reach. Thank You Gordon!

Window repairs and replacement

Peter Smith on 07973 750917 is highly recommended by several neighbours who have had work done recently.

Let us know if you have any recommendations

Quay Notes

Next edition will be out on 1st September 2010. Contributions to Mary and Anthony @ 5 Merchants Quay or preferably to rackhams@talktalk.net