

History

The earliest record of Benjamin Perry we can find is in 1863 when he was operating as a warehouse keeper and carrier, then aged about 28 years. He died in 1902 at the age of 67 but the business continued with his sons. From 1874 until the 1980s the company retained offices in Temple Street, Bristol.

Benjamin Perry became a member of the City Council Docks Committee in 1897, at which date the company was agent to a variety of railway and shipping companies. Their activities were listed as warehousemen, hauliers and shipping agents with cold storage facilities. In 1895, one of their warehouses was destroyed in a fire.

In 20th century, the firm increasingly centred on the new Docks at Avonmouth, operating a stevedore business, using tugs and lighters, towing cargoes around both Avonmouth and the Bristol Docks and harbour.

The building adds considerable historical interest to the water front of the old Bristol Docks and has seen many uses. At one time it was open sided to facilitate off loading from sailing vessels, with tramways for moving goods between adjacent sheds. The building is next to the curious Redcliffe Caves where sand was excavated to make glass, the resulting caverns being used to store many famous Bristol cargoes. The building was use to supply gear for the company's tugs and barges, and later possibly as a sugar store and mason's yard. In 1970s, the City Council kept surplus road signs there!

In 1982 the building was carefully restored by the Scouts & Guides to retain its character. Since then it has been used by thousands of young people from the Bristol area, from all over the UK and from as far afield as USA and Canada. Its interesting character means the building often features in films and TV. It is also a meeting place for local community groups, including artists, actors, poets and photographers.



Bristol Museum & Art Gallery

Phoenix Wharf (then named Midland Wharf) in 1880 with the Benjamin Perry building on the left behind the ship's rigging. St Mary Redcliffe Parish Church behind. Entrance to Bathurst Basin, right foreground



Girlguiding Bristol & South Gloucestershire

&

Avon Scout Council



BENJAMIN PERRY BOATHOUSE

ACTIVITY & TRAINING CENTRE

Phoenix Wharf,
Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ
(past the 'Ostrich' pub)

www.avonscouts.org.uk/boathouse

Facilities

The Boathouse makes an excellent base for visits and expeditions into central Bristol and further afield, being close to key attractions and places of historic interest. It can be booked – see below - for simple, inexpensive overnight stays and sleepovers for about 20 persons. By arrangement, it may be used for meetings or social events by adult members of the Scout and Guide Movements and by community and youth groups.

The wooden building is on two floors with external staircases (access is therefore limited for those with restricted mobility). The ground floor and boat yard are used for canoe and boat storage and maintenance.



The upper floor is a large meeting room seating 40 people, with fine views overlooking the Harbour.



The kitchen has a fridge, electric and microwave cooker, and limited crockery and cooking equipment

WC facilities, changing annexes and showers are available for both sexes.

Bookings

For further details, bookings and inexpensive hire charges, please contact the Bookings Secretary:

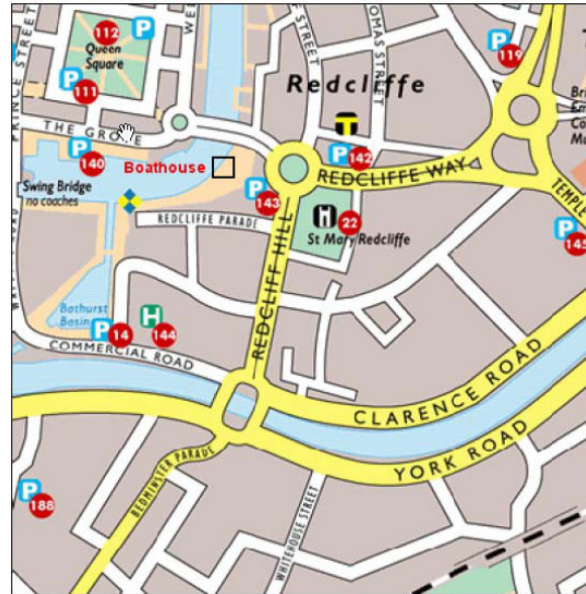
Mrs Betty Morris,
12 Hollidge Gardens
BRISTOL BS3 1AG
Tel: 01179634110

Location

The building is situated on Phoenix Wharf below Redcliffe Parade. Approach from Commercial Road then Lower Guinea Street – at sharp bend here, go past 'The Ostrich' pub on to the Wharf. Bristol Temple Meads Railway Station with trains to all parts is a 10 minute walk. Bristol Airport is 30 minutes away by road. 10 minutes walk brings you to Bedminster Parade with many shops, supermarket, Post Office and food outlets There are frequent buses, with ferries across the Harbour. Limited parking is available on the Wharf next to the Boathouse, with public metered parking available close by on Redcliffe Parade and Lower Guinea Street.

Key:

22 St Mary Redcliffe
144 Bristol General Hospital Park
14 Lower Guinea Street Car Park
142 Portwall Lane Car Park
143 Redcliffe Parade Car Park



Woodhouse Park Scout Activity & Camping Centre (01454 613259) and Briarland Guide Activity Centre are half an hour away by road.

Tourist attractions

ss *Great Britain* & Exhibition Centre
Redcliffe Caves
The *Matthew*: replica of John Cabot's ship
Maritime Heritage Centre
Bristol Harbourside
Clifton Suspension Bridge & Visitor Centre
St Mary Redcliffe Parish Church
Bristol Zoo & Gardens
Cabot Tower, Brandon Hill
Watershed Media Centre
@ Bristol Centre – *Explore*
Corn Exchange & 'Nails'
Clifton Observatory & camera obscura
Harbour and narrow boat trips
CREATE Centre

Further afield:

Weston-super-Mare - sea side town
Cheddar Gorge & Caves
Wookey Hole Caves and Paperworks
City of Bath

Museums and Art Galleries

Bristol Maritime Museum
City Museum and Art Gallery
St Nicholas Church Museum
Harvey's Wine Museum
Arnolfini Gallery

Theatres & Concert Halls

Theatre Royal, King Street
Bristol Hippodrome, City Centre
Colston Hall, Colston Street
St George's, Brandon Hill

Shopping

Bedminster Parade – supermarket; post office
Park Street – mixed shopping
Cabot Circus & Broadmead – major stores
The Mall, Cribbs Causeway – major stores

Tourist Information: 0333 321 0101 (calls charged)
E mail: ticharbourside@destinationbristol.gov.uk
Web: www.visitbristol.co.uk