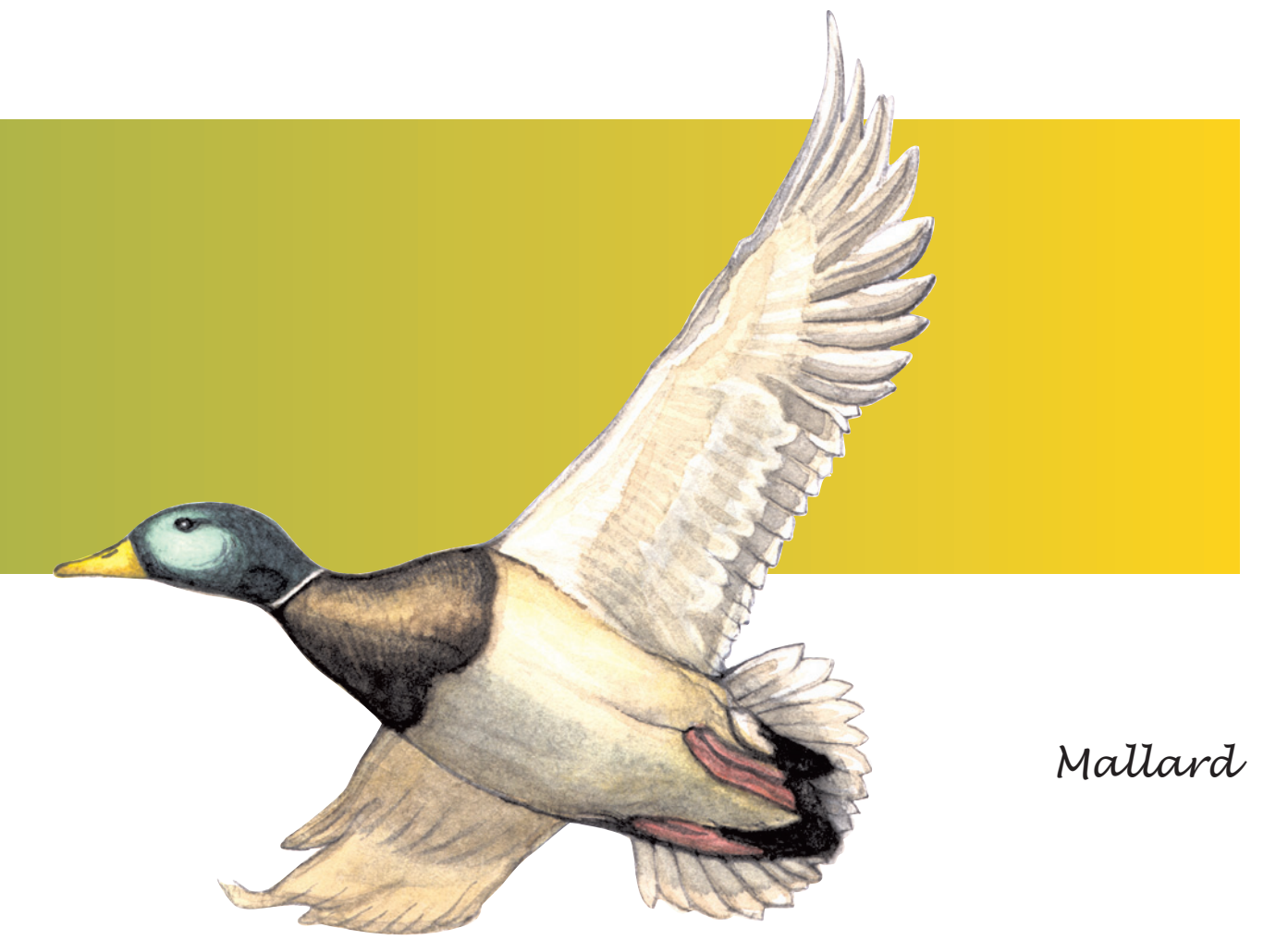


Bathurst Basin Avon New Cut



Mallard



Painting of Bathurst Basin Lock (circa 1825) by Samuel Jackson.
© Bristol Museum and Art Gallery/ Bridgeman Images



Photograph of Bathurst Basin (circa late 1860s) with a steam coaster about to enter the lock. A tug - the "Dolphin" - is moored nearby in the Avon New Cut. Further up river, a steam packet awaits passengers at the jetty by the new Bristol General Hospital.

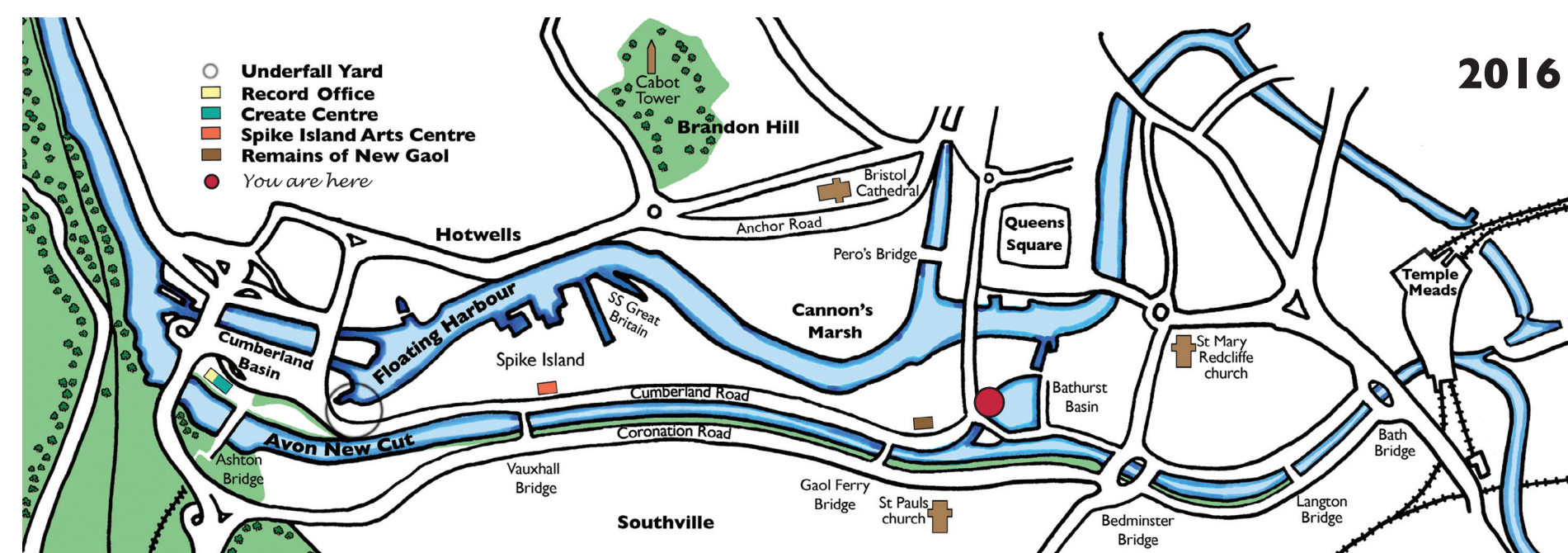
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Welcome to Avon New Cut

The New Cut was dug between 1804 and 1809 to create a tidal-free "Floating Harbour" in Bristol to enable ships to berth safely. Bathurst Basin was built on an area of an old mill pond, Trin Mills (also known as Treen Mills) – a favourite haunt of duck shooters.



River Avon in 1700



Floating Harbour and New Cut in 2016

Bathurst Basin

William Jessop, the engineer of the New Cut, used the Malago stream that flowed into the River Avon through Trin Mills Pond to enter the new Floating Harbour. Jessop excavated the pond and fitted lock gates that facilitated ships locking in and out to await favourable tides. This was the first entrance to be used when the New Cut was opened in 1809, predating the larger locks subsequently built at the Cumberland Basin.

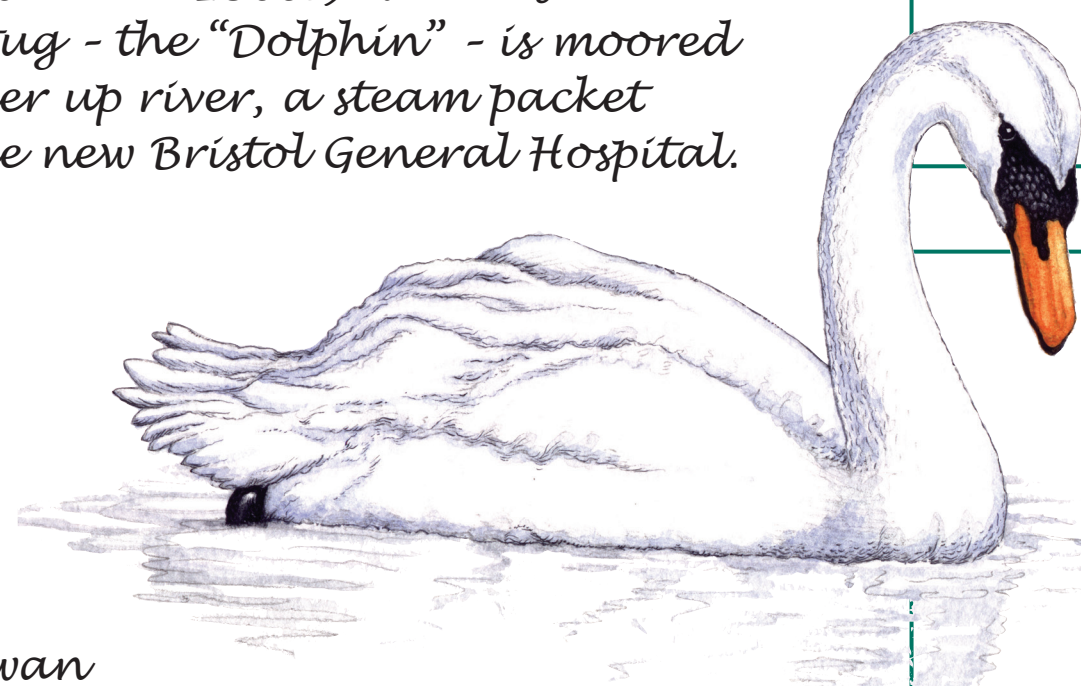
The Bathurst Hotel, now *The Louisiana*, is contemporary with the basin, both being named after a Bristol member of parliament. The General Hospital (now converted to modern apartments) opened in 1858 and was built on the site of John Acraman's Ironworks, one of the largest in Great Britain. Very early packet steamers sailed from the piers just outside the basin to South Wales, Devon and southern Ireland. The basin was closed and a concrete dam erected at the beginning of the Second World War to prevent the Floating Harbour from draining in the event of the lock gates being hit by bombing.

Wildlife

Mute swans have been seen in Bristol's docks for the past 300 years, before the New Cut was constructed. Mallard ducks are also frequent visitors to Bathurst Basin.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) is working to improve the Cut and its wildlife. If you would like to find out more, or to get involved, please visit our website at www.franc.org.uk, or contact us via email at contact@franc.org.uk

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Mute swan

Wildlife Fact:

You can tell male mute swans from female mute swans by their bill - they are brighter orange and have a larger black knob at the base.

