



# news

APPRA exists to help retain the unique character of the Avenues and Pearson Park conservation area and to support the neighbourhood's strong community spirit

September 2012 Issue 44



Ella Suto and Jacky Ward Lomax, at Avenues Open Gardens

## Come in costume for Heritage Day walking tour of the Avenues

On Saturday, 8 September. Meet at 2pm at Westbourne Avenue fountain.

The tour will be led by Chris Coulson

The Victoria Fountain members have been busy raising awareness and funds for the restatement of the fountain on Victoria Avenue.

We have done a great deal of research regarding the original fountain. We are involved in the Heritage Open week and have offered to do a FOUNTAIN WALK—from Westbourne Avenue fountain to Park Avenue fountain, to *lack of fountain* on Victoria Avenue, taking in historical landmarks on the way and finishing by going down to Pearson Park and its fountains.

We asked Chris Coulson, to lead the walk and he has written a beautifully succinct history of the avenues. It is included with this newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

Jacky Ward Lomax  
Victoria Fountain

**Did you know you can keep up to date with the latest APPRA news on Facebook and Twitter? We post meeting dates, links to meeting minutes, and share other local events news, and encourage you to do the same.**



Like APPRA on Facebook

To find us on Facebook, login to Facebook and search for "APPRA", then "like" our page.

Feel free to share information you think other residents might find useful.



Follow @APPRAHull on Twitter

To find us on Twitter, search for @APPRAHull

Tweet us to tell us you are an Avenues resident and we will follow you back.

We tweet and retweet events or news that might be interesting to residents.



APPRA's website is your online resource centre: minutes, newsletters, information, events...

[www.avenuesonline.org.uk](http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk)

## Be part of our 11<sup>th</sup> Advent Calendar

Every year for the past 10 years, **24** Avenues households have created an Advent Window to form a living Calendar. Each household picks a date, then creates a festive picture (incorporating the date), and illuminates it brightly in a front window, starting from the date chosen until at least Christmas Day. *Lots of people like to illuminate their windows to Twelfth Night and beyond!*

**To join in this year:** Phone Lesley on 342516 or email: [longworth@lathkill.karoo.co.uk](mailto:longworth@lathkill.karoo.co.uk), and see past Calendars at: [www.avenuesonline.org.uk](http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk)

## Avenues gardens at their best



PHOTO: Quentin Budworth

**Open Gardens** this year had over 60 different gardens open and raised over £7,500 for charity with a further £2,000 raised between Mires Beck Nursery and International House on Westbourne Avenue. Given the current financial climate we were very pleasantly surprised that it was another bumper year of

gardens open and money raised. This was more than expected, after two previous good years, and we very much appreciate the enthusiasm and ongoing support the open gardeners, volunteers and community give to this event.

The late start to the season, due to cooler wet weather earlier in the year, meant that the gardens

open looked quite different to last year with roses still flourishing and much more lush greenery. We were lucky as the weather was miraculously dry both weekends (just!) and it was also nice to host a coach of visitors from a horticultural society in Bridlington that came on the second weekend to view the gardens.

We applied to host BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time in April 2011 so hopefully this may come to fruition in the next 18 months—the waiting time can take up to 3+ years. Our website will have the latest progress on this.

As always, half of monies raised will be donated to Dove House Hospice with the remainder going to other charitable causes. See our website for details.

Many thanks for all your support. **Happy gardening!**

W [www.avenuesopengardens.com](http://www.avenuesopengardens.com)

E [opengardens@avenuesonline.org.uk](mailto:opengardens@avenuesonline.org.uk)

 @AvenuesOpenGdns

## Are you struggling to cope with your garden or know somebody else who is?

**LANDSHARE** brings together people who have a passion for home-grown food, connecting those who have land to share with those who need land for cultivating food. Since its launch through River Cottage in 2009 it has grown into a thriving community of more than 55,000 growers, sharers and helpers.

It's for people who:

- ◆ Want to grow their own fruit and veg but don't have anywhere to do it;
- ◆ Have a spare bit of land they're prepared to share;
- ◆ Can help in some way – from sharing knowledge and lending tools to helping out on the plot itself;
- ◆ Support the idea of freeing up more land for growing;
- ◆ Are already growing and want to join in the community.

There is a demand for community growing in Hull so any help you can give would benefit the community. If you are interested you can register your details on the landshare website <http://www.landshare.net/index/> or please contact your local **Area Team** on (01482) 300300 who will be happy to help you. [www.facebook.com/WykeArea](http://www.facebook.com/WykeArea)

## GIVE AN HOUR GET AN HOUR

**TimeBank** is a way for local people to help each other, building relationships in communities. Everyone's time is valued equally, using the hour-for-an-hour principle.

### How it works

For every hour's help a member gives another eg guitar lesson, digging the garden, they receive one time credit which they can spend on receiving help from another member. Members receive regular TimeBank statements to keep track of their time credits. Time bank coordinator and Avenues resident, Kate Macdonald, said: "This is the first TimeBank in this area and with the current climate of economic hardship, there couldn't be a better time to help people to help each other."

For more information, contact:

Tel (01482) 494785 Email [kate@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk](mailto:kate@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk)

Web [www.timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk](http://www.timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk) and [www.timebanking.org](http://www.timebanking.org)

## Creativity at St Cuthbert's

**Sew and Chat** Tues 10-12 BYO Sew+knit £1.50 Refreshments

**Thursday Girls** Thurs 10-12 BYO Sew+knit £1.50 Refreshments

*Above groups meet in church hall*

**Knit and Natter** Weds 7-9 112 Marlborough Refreshments

**Sews** - 1st Sat of month, 10-12, Embroidery for children ages 6-15, £1.50

*Meet in lounge next to church hall*

Contact Sonya Cowan for all info on **342848**

or email [sonyacowan@hotmail.com](mailto:sonyacowan@hotmail.com)

All info at: [www.stcuthbertshull.org.uk](http://www.stcuthbertshull.org.uk)

## Reading groups

**Fudge Book Club** meets next on 16 September, at 6pm. The books to be discussed are listed on a blackboard in Fudge, so you can buy them (and read them!) beforehand. The discussion takes place from 6-7, and then you enjoy a 2-course meal with glass of wine for £13.95pp. Local resident, Sue, joined about 3 years ago, attends regularly, and thoroughly recommends the club - "a very civilized and friendly occasion".

Contact Jackie on (01482) **441019** for more information, or visit the website: [www.fudgefood.com/restaurant\\_book\\_club.html](http://www.fudgefood.com/restaurant_book_club.html)

**Avenues Library Reading Group:** meets in the Library, 76 Chanterlands Avenue (end of Marlborough), from 2-3. Next meeting is: 26 Sept, and the book is *The Forgotten Waltz*, by Anne Enright.

Contact Tracey Acum on (01482) **616949** to get your book copy in advance. Email: [tracey.acum@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.acum@hullcc.gov.uk)

## Artist in the Avenues

At Artlink, Princes Avenue, Sabine J Bieli is showing video and installation work based on her time as resident artist at Spurn Point. *Fr-Agile* and *tem-po-ral* will be on view until 22 September. The video, of fierce north seas bounding the beach, is projected onto a sail-like curved screen, composed of hundreds of threads, woven by Sabine. In the main gallery, the stones contributed by local residents hang from threads, forming a Spurn Point shape. Visit Sabine's website for beautiful images and videos, plus a Google Streetview walk through Spurn: [www.sabinebieli.com](http://www.sabinebieli.com)

WE HAVE TAKEN TO HEART WHAT SEEMS TO BE A FEELING THAT APPRA—AND OUR NEWSLETTERS—ARE NOT SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN THE WAY RESIDENTS WOULD PREFER; AS WE COLLECTED THIS YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTIONS, WE FIELDLED THE VIEW THAT WE ARE WORKING AS A CONSERVATION GROUP RATHER THAN A RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION. THE SAME ISSUE WAS VOICED AT THE AGM, THOUGH APPLIED MORE TO THE NEWSLETTER AND THE TOPICS IT COVERS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE TRYING, WITH THIS EDITION, TO PRODUCE A LETTER FEATURING THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE AVENUES.

I was myself startled to meet this critical reaction—mostly gentle, occasionally more fierce—on various doorsteps. I believe that we as a Committee, while I have been Chair, have established ourselves as a body of opinion to be reckoned with and a voice to be respected; this is due to the expertise and commitment of the residents who have volunteered for the Committee.

We need younger people on the Committee who can observe our practice and then incorporate it in their own way of doing things. I still see our work as primarily responding to planning applications; we now have a set of principles and precedents on which to draw. I think the Association has played an important part in preserving the Avenues as an attractive residential area, which retains its original charm as a late nineteenth century/early



English Heritage; new plaques (for James Neal, Alan Plater and John Saville) are currently being made. And, of course,

we badgered the city—with the help of three resident activists—into restoring the fountains, both hit by cars in subsequent weeks; as older residents lamented, "They came through the Blitz—for this."

Perhaps the perception that we concentrate too much on Conservation is due to our past success in averting the threats to the area. Although the depredations of investment landlords have still to be reckoned with, we have seen a return to domestic (from institutional) use of a significant number of larger Avenues houses. We managed the 1990s subsidence crisis and tried to minimise the consequent felling of our mature trees; and from that felling came the idea of our tree sculptures, which have been a delightful presence on our verges, thanks mostly to our own resident sculptor. We have added to the plaques celebrating distinguished residents, which are all nationally registered now by

we badgered the city—with the help of three resident activists—into restoring the fountains, both hit by cars in subsequent weeks; as older residents lamented, "They came through the Blitz—for this."

It seems to me that the bond between residents is initially based on a shared interest in property—in an area's architecture and ambience—which can then develop into a consciousness of community. For me, the responsibility does not extend into social life; when I joined the Committee, dinners and outings were organized. Now, the Open Gardens and the Advent Calendar—under our aegis, but the work of energetic others—are, with the Carol Singing, outstanding community events which bring us all together. If residents think more are called for—come and tell us: **come and join us.**

Stephanie Wilson MBE, Chair APPRA



© Jacky Ward Lomax

## We want a fountain in Victoria Avenue

Fountains were, and still are, a significant and attractive feature of Hull's Avenues area and the Victoria Fountain group's aim is to see a fountain reinstated at the Victoria Avenue/Salisbury Street junction.

In the late 1890s and early 1900s a three-tiered fountain used to sit on the roundabout at the junction between Victoria Avenue and Salisbury Street. Some people think it disappeared after a car crash, but it's possible this story is being muddled with the Park Avenue fountain, which was definitely involved in a collision. Hull City Council says records are not kept that far back, but that the fountain was probably removed some time in the 1920s or 1930s.

Preliminary research suggests that a new fountain won't be cheap. The group has been quoted a figure in excess of £200,000 to install a fountain identical to those on Westbourne and Park Avenues. The original Victoria

Avenue fountain didn't match those on Westbourne and Park Avenues and they are looking into the possibility of having a replica of the original, which they're fairly sure will be significantly cheaper. The Council is unlikely to help with the cost and the group therefore appear to have quite a fundraising task.

**Artist, Jacky Ward Lomax, long-time resident in the Avenues, is offering to create an A4 pen and ink drawing of your house (see image, left), in return for a minimum donation of £50 in support of the reinstatement of a fountain in Victoria Avenue.**

If you would like a drawing of your house, or if you have a bright idea for fundraising, please contact the Victoria Fountain people by email:

victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk  
or by telephone (01482) 341631

<http://www.victoriafountain.org>



## Recruiting now - for Rackaback Morris

We are a mixed, men and woman, team founded in 2011, dancing the Border style of Morris dancing, in blacks, purple & gold with ragged jackets, sticks and bells and without a May Pole in sight. Border Morris is steeped in disguise, intimidation and avoiding the tax man.

There was a geographical Border Morris void in this region

and so the idea of a team was born. A Rackaback is "a monster with six eyes, three mouths, four arms, eight legs". It was commented that the description resembled a border Morris team and the rest, as they say, is history.

No experience is needed to dance the Morris, just be fit and able. A sound mind and a quick wit is needed as the dances

range from the simple to complex with a certain amount of hefty stick whacking. The team meets weekly on Tuesdays at St Andrew's Hall, St Ninian's Church.

Our aim is to dance at folk festivals, pubs, local events and generally have a rousingly good fun time. **We always welcome new dancers and musicians, especially from Sept-Dec, so look us up for more information.**



<http://twitter.com/rackabackhull>



<http://www.facebook.com/rackabackmorris>

<http://www.rackaback.com/>



Photo: Chris Coulson

This is what is left of Setting dyke/Cottingham drain behind Victoria Avenue. On the left is Sanderson's Field; on the right is where the 'Brick pond' or boating lake was.

# Water, water...

**We probably all know that David Garbutt laid out the Avenues starting about 1874 and that it's probably one of the best preserved Victorian residential areas around. But do you know why it's here and what connection it has with water? No? Well, here's why.**

In the iron age is likely that people from beyond Cottingham walked across here, probably only in dry weather, to the Humber to trade. A piece of iron age pot recently found in Park Avenue suggests this. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century the area was still fairly wet and was called Cottingham Marsh but in about 1170 the Lord of the Manor of Sculcoates and the Lord

of Cottingham started to drain the land using dykes.

Setting dyke (Cottingham drain) ran behind Victoria Avenue and along Queens Road. Derringham dyke ran along the Spring Banks and Hundolf Channel ran along Princes Avenue, joining the other two, as did one along Chanterlands Avenue. Result—the area dried out a bit and pastures were developed. The land was divided into oblong blocks (with some farm houses: the Methodist Church was built on one) running east/west, as our Avenues do. This new land, the result of drainage, became known as Newland (which it's called today) and Tofts from the Norse meaning *houses were there*. Hence Newland Tofts.

The Rectors of Kirk Ella and Cottingham now enter the scene as the farmland commanded lucrative tithes and each wanted ownership. Eventually, in 1262, the Archbishop of York decided the land belonged to Cottingham, no doubt to the Rector's delight. The pastures supported dairy herds, and milk and butter was sold to the still-walled town of Hull. Indeed it was an important supply area for these.

Jumping forward a few hundred years to 1775, the burghers of Hull decided to build a new dock (Town Dock, 1778, later to become Queen's Gardens). This project was rather forced on them by the Crown, but to build it the north wall of Hull had to be knocked down. Result—the town expanded quite rapidly.

Rich people started to move out, first to the Bond Street area. Indeed, Robert Donaldson sold his 20 acres in the area of Victoria Avenue and Ella Street and went to live in Bond Street as a Gentleman. More housing was needed as the town continued to expand and Garbutt saw this speculative opportunity. Buying up the farmland he amassed 320 acres some of which he developed into the Avenues which run East/West as the old farms did and no doubt influenced by the direction of the drains.

**So, our Victorian homes owe something to both the disappearance of water and its appearance.**

Chris Coulson

## HELP@HAND

### HERITAGE REPAIRS ADVICE

If you wish for advice on repair and renovation using traditional materials and styling, email **Ed Ulyart** and he will help, or find a "man who can".  
ed@allstar.karoo.co.uk

### CRAFTS LIST ONLINE

AvenuesOnline has APPRA's updated list of recommended local firms with the skills and willingness to carry out conservation-minded repairs and renovation.

### PLANNING MATTERS

Phone the Planning Dept on 612345 if you are thinking of renovating or making changes to **the front of your house**. They will give you advice about what is

acceptable and help to make the process easier for you. It is in your best interest to do this before you commission the work, as planning permission is now required for changes or additions to any feature on the front of the houses—this includes the roof and chimneys.

### SAVE OUR VERGES



Photo: Chris Coulson

If you would like some APPRA "PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE VERGES, EVEN TWO WHEELS UP" leaflets, contact Sally Walker by email; she will send you a copy which you can print.

### This year HCC have planted the following trees

#### Marlborough Avenue

- o/s no 197 .....Field Maple
- o/s no 206 .....Caucasian Lime

#### Westbourne Avenue

- o/s no 3 .....Small leaved Lime

#### Park Avenue

- o/s no 164/166 .....Field Maple
- o/s no 192 .....Field Maple

#### Victoria Avenue

- o/s no 92/94 .....Caucasian Lime

#### Richmond Street

- side of 143 Westbourne Avenue.....Fastigiata Hornbeam
- side of 164 Westbourne Avenue.....Field Maple
- side of 226 Park Avenue.....Field Maple

### AVENUES BICYCLE PROJECT

A not-for-profit community group based in the Avenues, collecting unwanted bikes/tools/spare parts to ship to West African rural communities.

First shipment is planned for December 2012.

**Email:** avenuesbicycleproject@gmail.com

**Tel/text:** 07715307942

**www.avenuesbicycleproject.org**

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