

My park

Chris Ketchell's column

I miss not having any trees in The Dukeries. I see the birds flying over from Spring Bank Cemetery towards Pearson Park and imagine them looking down somewhat contemptuously on my little 'green oasis' of a back-yard, filled to bursting with plants, shrubs and small trees in containers - and deciding it isn't worth landing (even if they haven't seen my cat!)

I grew up with a ten acre 'back garden' (plus the 'top field') filled with trees, in Driffield - where we lived at the Cemetery Lodge, as Dad was cemetery superintendent. Next door, on Bridlington Road, the hospital's front grounds were surrounded by magnificent copper beech trees which I could see looking out of my bedroom window. Now when I hear a pigeon 'cooing' I can immediately 'see' the particular Sycamore tree it was nesting in; and when I hear a rook 'cawing' again I can clearly 'see' the row of tall chestnut trees all up the north side of the Cemetery. The fir trees surrounding the 'top field' were wonderful for climbing up, and the many holly

bushes provided a source of Christmas decorations.

When I moved first to live in Hull in 1968, I lived in a flat in Grove Street, with Pearson Park and its trees just through the 'snicket' (now illegally blocked) at the end of the street; so not having much of a garden didn't matter much. A couple of years later came the move to another flat, round the corner, in Pearson Avenue, with a tree-lined back garden and the Park literally just outside the front door. The changing colours of the trees in the front garden of the adjacent lodge, No.1 Pearson Park were a delight to see - yellow, green, pink, orange, brown... I cannot now walk through the Park in Autumn without singing (quietly to myself) the few lines of the Mark Winter song 'Kicking Up The Leaves'... and of course have to

fill at least one pocket with wonderful shiny copper-coloured 'conkers', as we did as children in Driffield Cemetery.

I later lived at two addresses in Westbourne Avenue, and cycling up and down the avenue under the green or gold tunnel of the trees' branches was, and still is, a delight. I wish we had trees in The Dukeries - but the Park is only just across Prince's Avenue... Must go - I feel a cycle round the Park to look at the trees coming on!

CHRIS KETCHELL is head of the Local History Unit, Park Street

Email historyunit@netscape.net

Fountain Rescue

Chris Ketchell (Local History Unit) reports some good news: the Council has allocated £1,000 for the restoration of the Pearson Park drinking fountain.

Mermaid postcard

Available now from Committee, local shops and City Tourist Information

Creatives: We are making a list of creative people (writers, artists, musicians etc) living at any time in the Avenues, for publishing in a future newsletter.

Do you have suggestions? Send details to the Editor (address below)

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AvenuesOnline

<http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk>

Art in the Avenues

<http://www.hullsangel.com>

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appranews

The newsletter of the Avenues and Pearson Park Residents Association

APPRA exists to help retain the unique character of the Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation area and to support the strong community spirit which exists in the neighbourhood

From Stephanie Wilson

APPRA Chair

Residents have been questioning the steady increase of drives across the grass verge; at the risk of alienating those who have constructed them in order to park cars in their front gardens, we are, as a committee, coming out against them. We deplore the loss of green space, the reduction of parking spaces

on the road and the ruin of the terraced vista, all of which are contrary to the original design of the Avenues and our aim of conservation. We hope that the most recent example—which caused such a flurry that we are now confident we are representing the majority view—will be the last.

Plaques

Because the idea and interest came from the community, we have decided—with the

owner's permission—to put up a plaque on Joseph Boxhall's house (27 Westbourne Avenue). He was Fourth Officer on the Titanic, and the most senior person to survive its sinking; he calculated the ship's position for the SOS signal, and fired the distress rockets. We are not sure if residents favour more plaques—or have any favourite candidates. *Please let us know.*

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Charlotte Jenner's sculpture: 'Organic Form'



'Organic Form', in Marlborough Avenue

My original idea for the stump is very similar to how it turned out. I'd always liked Barbara Hepworth's work and have always collected pebbles from the beach and other

organic forms, such as driftwood and fossils. I particularly like objects with holes through them, which have been affected by the elements.

Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore both produced work inspired by the above. These objects

and sculptures inspired by these types of forms, are very tactile and unfortunately most art galleries do not let you touch the works of art. I wanted to create a sculpture which still had connections to its organic form, but which people could interpret differently and which

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APPRA AGM
Wednesday 8 May 2002
7—9 pm
St Cuthbert's Hall
Marlborough Avenue

Body Maintenance

Fitness sessions - £2 per session (weights/mats provided)
Sessions for beginners

Spring Bank Community Centre West Parade, Spring Bank, Hull (*Tap & Spile" pub on the corner) Wed 7.30 - 8.30 pm	St John's Church Hall Clough Road, Hull (behind Jackson's) Tues 6.30 - 7.30 pm Thurs 9.15 - 10.15 am (creche)
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All proceeds to
Yorkshire Cancer Research



All proceeds to
St John's Church
Rejuvenation Fund

Interested?  **Liz 343939**

(KFA, RSA, CertEd)



Community bulb planting

HARIS LIVAS
Neighbourhood Watch Organizer

The Avenues are ideal for community bulb-planting as the verges are long and wide. Any community event encourages good neighbourliness and friendship, and a planting scheme is ideal to meet those goals. Our bulb planting on Westbourne (East block) was a Neighbourhood Watch event, but any community group could organize something similar.

First you secure the funding. I have a list of environmental trusts and foundations that would support such an endeavour if you put your case properly. Such lists can also be found in any CVS office or on the Net. Once the money is in hand, much organization is needed.

Our end of Westbourne (Princes Ave to Salisbury St) has 93 houses. They were all informed via our NW newsletter that such a planting event was going to take place, date to be announced.

Anyone who wanted to help (or objected to the scheme — this is necessary for the Council) was invited to phone the couple that serves as our Chair. Phone calls of support came in but no objections. So - ready to go.

Bulbs have to be ordered. We ordered from Grooms and they were nice enough to throw in some

extra free of charge. But I later found out that the Council can supply bulbs from the company they use in Lincolnshire at reduced cost. Then you have to map out the places where the bulbs are to be planted. Several from the group should meet John Robson of the Council, walk the area and mark on maps where the bulbs should be planted. It is essential to involve the Council at this stage as they organize the spring mowing and bulbs must not be mowed too soon. Mr. Robson can also explain how best they should be planted (the crocus in groups of five, with the aconites and snowdrops scattered around them. Easiest is digging up a square of turf with each grouping). Next leaders of each patch should be identified. We have 8 couples on our Steering Committee so each was assigned a patch with written instructions indicating in front of which houses the bulbs should go and info on how to plant.

Avenues Open Gardens: 7+ 14 July



Some money should be set aside from the funding for the community lunch which should follow the bulb planting. This can be catered as people will be too busy planting to cook. Wine for the adults is a good idea and lots of good hot food.

As the day approaches press releases should go out to relevant newspapers, Radio Humberside, and any other interested bodies that can give publicity. Then special leaflets go out to every house announcing the day of planting and inviting everyone who comes out to plant to the community lunch (people who don't plant, don't eat!) The bulbs (which usually come in bulk) will then have to be divided up and given to every team leader. On the day all team leaders are out at the appointed time, welcome anyone who comes out to plant — and everyone has a good time.

AvenuesONLINE

LAURENCE CRUMMAY,
AvenuesONLINE webmaster

AvenuesONLINE is now nearly 4 years old and was re-launched last summer, with a new look and lots of new content. The site constitutes the Association's official online presence, and contains all the minutes of meetings over recent years, copies of all the newsletters and all the latest news from the Avenues area.

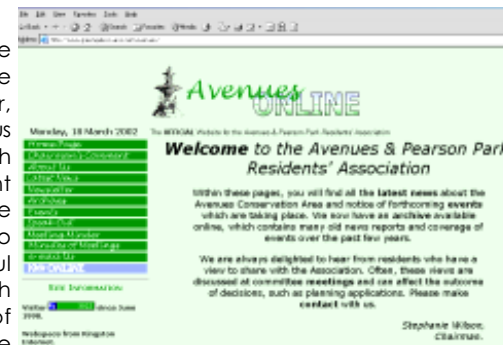
A new section is the Archives, where we are making available press cuttings and other useful documents.

During the first few months of

2002, we will be improving the service further, which will allow us to provide much more content online. One suggestion is to make useful information, such as location of shops, available for residents who are new to the area.

Full details of this, and other developments, are available online at <http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk>

If you have any suggestions for new features or have any content you wish to publish on the site, please contact us at support@avenuesonline.org.uk



Charlotte Jenner's sculpture: 'Organic Form'

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they could touch and explore. This is why it was important that it was carved to look as though it is standing on a plinth, almost like a piece of gallery sculpture, but without the boundaries and constraints. During the summer I visited Barbara Hepworth's studio in St Ives, which is now a museum. Many of her sculptures are outside, positioned in a wonderful garden, and their interaction with the foliage is spectacular.

The tree is lime, a type of wood I haven't carved before, very pale to begin with but as it's exposed to the elements it turns a wonderful golden colour and the grain really starts to develop. Whilst it is still fresh it is fairly easy to carve, but as it dries out it becomes

very hard. Where I decided to have the hollow and hole was difficult to carve because of lots of knots. However, I wanted the hole to be in that particular position and angle because of the view through I wanted to create. I planned that the viewer could experience the hollow from both sides of the street and from the road. In a car you may get a glimpse of light as you drive past. From the far side pavement a shape of light and a brief view would unfold as you walk past, and from the pavement directly next to the sculpture a view which would normally not be experienced would be exposed, which you could then explore, walk towards, touch and look right into and through!

I really enjoyed the experience of carving the sculpture. I feel proud that I have been able to contribute something to the community which people can

enjoy and interact with. Hopefully, children will look back fondly and remember the day that they could look through the sculpture, without being lifted up!

CHARLOTTE JENNER


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