

Christmas 'cheer' in Hull past leaves us cold

Christmas in Hull in the late Victorian period was a more dour affair than today, with few reports of celebrations in the local newspapers; what events are reported being concerned mainly with charitable events at Workhouses and the Ragged Schools: "Christmas Treat to outdoor paupers of the Sculcoates Union", 1859; "Christmas at the Workhouses and Ragged Schools", 1864; Christmas treats for paupers and dinners for "old and afflicted people", 1881; "Christmas treat for 500 poor Catholic children provided by Lady Sykes", 1887.

None of these reports date earlier than 21st December, unlike today when "the Christmas season" appears to start in October. Christmas displays in shops are reported in the late 1880s and '90s; in 1883 a 'Hull Christmas Annual' by William Andrews was available from A Brown & Sons and in 1886 John Bee advertised as 'The Christmas Bookseller'.

In 1858 the Waterworks Committee had to reprimand the turncock for begging for 'Christmas boxes'!

In 1863 there was a "Christmas Meat show" but in 1866 there was "general gloom" due to disastrous colliery explosions in Barnsley and Staffordshire, two missing steamers were feared "lost with all hands on the mighty deep" and the Hull whaler Diana was ice-bound in the Arctic region "rendering many a home in Hull cheerless and desolate"; Hamilton Square Ragged School children were provided with buns and oranges, however and all the churches "were appropriately dressed with evergreens".

In 1892 the 300 poor children of St James were provided with a meal of meat, baked potato and coffee, mince pie and orange and 200 bags of coal and groceries were given in the parish. 1,800 poor Hull children were fed in the Oval, Kingston Square where a Christmas dinner was provided in 1914, and in 1923 an Owstwick lady dressed 55 heads of poultry for Christmas.

Things were a little jollier by the 1930s with the Fifth Form boys of the Municipal Technical College performing the Flamborough Sword Dance with its "ceaseless and untiring activity", the "funny yet agile antics of the clowns", not to mention the "rhythmical Club swinging" and the "Old Boys Horse Teams"!

One wonders what the best selling Christmas children's toys were in those days!

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stop press

To raise the profile of Avenues and Pearson Park with Hull City Council: a tour of the area for councillors and top officials is planned for early December.

Pearson Park drinking fountain: still no work being done!

Railings bid for Chants Avenue end of Avenues: residents are being consulted. Please pay a visit to www.avenuesonline.org.uk to register your views.

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AvenuesOnline www.avenuesonline.org.uk
Art in the Avenues www.hullangel.com

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

We were asked to consult residents informally about the trees selected for felling this winter. That felt like partnership and co-operation, the aim being to reach agreement before permission is officially sought; in the past, when residents have objected to the loss of "their" tree, another has been chosen instead. There are only eleven trees on this year's list, and only one is contentious — the magnificent horse chestnut near our house.

There have been a number of planning applications granted for loft conversions recently. We

don't oppose them on principle, though we have asked (unsuccessfully) for the roof lines to be left intact at the front. We do have a worry, however, that conversions and extensions will erode the variety of provision in the avenues. We want to preserve the range available: houses of disparate sizes for all ages and stages, tastes and styles. Creating extra rooms in a smaller house reduces the small houses on offer, and threatens our larger houses. Is it unreasonable to wish families to move to more capacious houses, rather than enlarge a home that's not big enough?

See you at the carol singing!

Congratulations to Jacky and James!

Jacky Ward Lomax completed this lovely Fairy Tree in Park Avenue (100 yards east of the fountain).



James Griffiths completed this serpentine Abstract Form in Victoria Avenue (west end, near Victoria Gardens)



See how the sculptures developed on:

www.hullangel.com

FoE shredder recycles your garden waste

FoE have a dedicated contact number for this service:

07817 824418

You don't have to ring first. Just buy the tags (25p each), attach a tag to each bag or bundle of waste, and leave them at the front, where we can see them, for collection on Mondays.

If you want your waste returned as mulch, write

your address on the tag for next-week delivery.

You can buy tags from:

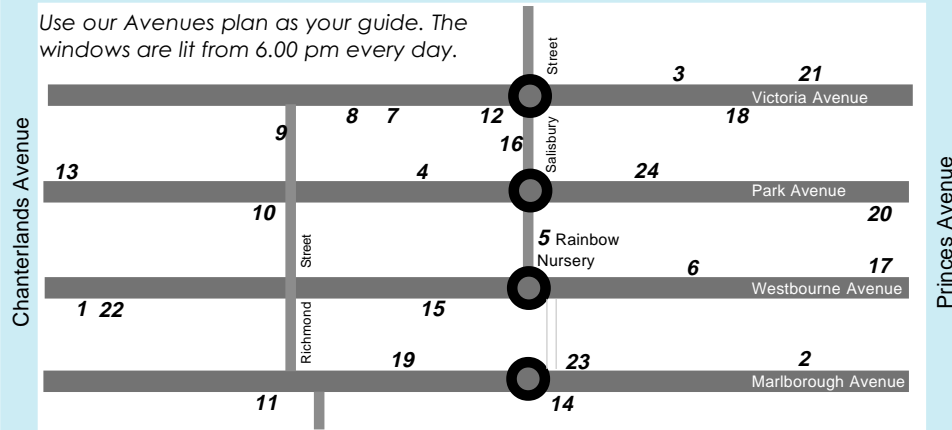
- The AVENEWS**
in Salisbury Street
- Clements News**
in Princes Avenue
- Foster's DIY**
in Newland Avenue
- Grain Wholefoods**
in Newland Avenue

Would you volunteer to drive the FoE milk float for about 2 hours a week? If you are interested, and have a clean driving licence, ring **07817 824418**.

Living Advent Calendar 2002

Walk the Calendar: December 2002

Use our Avenues plan as your guide. The windows are lit from 6.00 pm every day.



Key to location					
1	2	3	4	5	6
163 W	34 M	92 V	206 P	RN S	60 W
7	8	9	10	11	12
215 V	223 V	53 R	179 P	193 M	167 V
13	14	15	16	17	18
282 P	73 M	119 W	37 S	6 W	81 V
19	20	21	22	23	24
146 M	20 P	57 V	165 W	104 M	92 P

M Marlborough
 P Park
 R Richmond
 S Salisbury
 V Victoria
 W Westbourne

Window at 176 Victoria, 2001

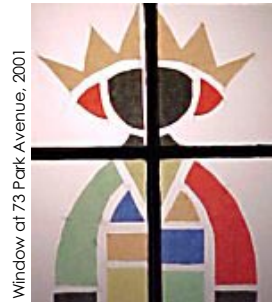


The living Advent Calendar was a resounding success last year. Its creators (grown-ups and children alike) displayed skill and imagination. It enhanced our sense of community as people took a regular walk around the Avenues to see the windows lit up. The committee agree that the Calendar should become an annual event. **Many thanks to Lesley Longworth** for organising 24 volunteers again for this year's Calendar.

See Advent windows on the web

AvenuesOnline has a Calendar plan, linked to the windows, at www.avenuesonline.org.uk
 The Advent Calendar 2002 page at www.hullselangel.com shows the windows day by day, as they open.

Congratulations to everyone who has created a window this year!



Window at 73 Park Avenue, 2001

Light a candle for advent

St Cuthbert's Church, in Marlborough Avenue, will be open every evening from Sunday 1 December to Sunday 22 December for prayer.

The Rev Liz Anson welcomes all to come: for silent prayer (8-8.30 pm) and for open prayer (8.30-9 pm).



HEARTY SINGING VOICES are once more required to join the annual carol singing

Avenues carolling raises money for NSPCC

around the Avenues which this year will take place on Saturday, 21 December, setting off at 6.00 pm from the Park Avenue fountain. Carol sheets will be provided but please bring your own Christmas lantern or torch.

People preferring to stay at home and listen are asked to give generously to the

caller at the front door. The charity that will benefit from this year's collection will be the **NSPCC**. Last year the carol singing raised £243.20 for charity.

A warm Christmas drink and mince pie will be waiting for all who take part and survive the cold until the end.

Local Strategic Partnership lifts Hull profile

Hull was one of 88 cities chosen to establish a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), a new way of local government and a process that requires accreditation by Central Government. The LSP works via a main board and 8 sub-boards dealing with Safety, Health and Social Welfare, Economy, Environment, Education, Transport, Housing and Image. All boards are composed of council officers, members, business leaders and members of the community/voluntary sector. The community/voluntary members are all elected from the Hull Community Network, an umbrella organization to which all community and voluntary organizations in the city send one representative. The

Community Network holds regular forum meetings which members are expected to attend. I was chosen by the Avenues and Pearson Park Residents Association committee to represent the Association. I was also selected by the respective steering committees to represent Neighbourhood Watch Westbourne East, the Hull Friends of the Earth and the trustees of Ferens Art Gallery. It is not unusual for one member of the network to represent several groups if the person is a member of those groups, as otherwise the total membership would be too large to be workable.

The members of the network voted for their own 14 member Steering Committee and I was elected to this group. The network members also voted for their representatives on the board

and sub-boards and I was elected as a representative for the Environment (natural and built environment) sub-board.

Keeping in mind that the LSP is about strategic planning and not personal matters (or even one organization's concerns, as board members have to represent the entire sector), if anyone has any ideas they would like to advance please do drop a note in my mail box at 36 Westbourne Avenue or phone 491785 where we have an answering service. It is better, however, to have your ideas in writing.

The goal of the LSP is a big one: to regenerate, re-invigorate, rescue Hull from the ashes—and turn it into one of the UK's top 10 cities.

Dr Haris Livas (Mrs)