

Who built the 'Tower houses' in The Avenues?

The ten large detached houses on the north side of Victoria Avenue, west of Parkside Close (formerly Edlington's Nursery) and east of Richmond Street have often been said to be by Thomas Spurr (*Architecture of the Victorian Era of Kingston upon Hull 1830-1914*. Ian N Goldthorpe. Hull School of Architecture, 1955). But as Thomas Spurr was "a wealthy Hull solicitor [who] spent much of his time designing and building villas..." [Goldthorpe again], it seems more likely to me that Spurr was the 'developer' in modern parlance, rather than the 'architect' or 'builder' rather like some churches are said to be 'by the Rev' meaning he was the instigator of the church building or re-building.

There are other similar houses in other of the Avenues, two at least in Westbourne on the south side west of Richmond Street; and three on the east side of Victoria between Richmond and Salisbury (Nos 197/199/201). These houses all look like miniature fairy tale castles with turrets, towers and castellations (are they crenellated?), although to my mind some deserve somewhat larger plots to be appreciated fully. Pevsner has this to say about those in Park Avenue "...Nos 204-212 and No 222 Park Avenue c 1900, a group of red brick

houses with yellow brick detail, crenellations and corner towers. These include *Gadshill*, *Redholme*, *Richmond House* and *Castle Khan*. No 200 has been altered to take on a Spanish or Mediterranean style—I think the architect for these changes was Allanson Hick.

The house at the corner of Park Avenue (No 222) and Richmond Street has been rebuilt in a very passable copy of the original house, demolished 1993—it has the date 1994. I believe that the terrace of three, one with corner tower, pair of semis, and two detached houses, west of Richmond Street on the south side of Westbourne Avenue are by the same hand. Although not as elaborate as the adjacent pair of detached houses (one, *Tower House* and one, No 155, double-sized on a triple plot—see previous issue's article about the gaps) they do have some features of the fenestration and other details, in common. The two pairs of semis, Nos 161/163 and 165/167 also have features (particularly fenestration) in common. Nos 143, 145 (*St Kilda*), and 147 are of c 1901 by the Hull architect H E Russell of Somerset Street, and it could well be he who is responsible for the design of the other 'Tower houses'.

There are also a number of similar-looking houses at the Beverley Road end of Cottingham Road, again surely by the same hand.

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(who used to live in one in Westbourne Avenue *without* a tower)

ArtLink Exchange

Isobel Brown, ArtLink Exchange
ArtLink is running an accredited artworker training course (OCN levels 2 & 3) and would like to hear from groups or individuals wanting to enrol on the Cartwheels course. This is a popular course and students have gained confidence and turned creative ideas into reality. The environment is friendly and supportive and many have regarded it as a valuable learning experience which has given them the knowledge and inspiration to make art more fun and easily available to others. The programme is run over 6 three-hour sessions culminating in your volunteering on, or facilitating your own community arts project. We particularly welcome individuals or groups working in the voluntary sector who have an interest in developing high quality art workshops.

Further information and booking forms are available from Neil Rustill or Isobel Brown on (01482) 807304, e.mail: cartwheels@talk21.com

Design: hullsangel.org Printed: Scribes Print & Copy Centres 54 Newland Avenue Hull Tel (01482) 341927

appranews

The newsletter of the Avenues and Pearson Park Residents Association

APPPA 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 APPPA Chair

Thank you for the welcoming faces when we're out collecting subscriptions—we like to chat, to note opinions, points and issues raised on doorsteps; we specially like the hand reaching automatically into the pocket, often accompanied by quips along the lines of 'not **that** time again, surely!' Because most residents are friendly and supportive, we find the odd hostile reception unexpected and upsetting; remarks that have stayed with me this year were, "You don't do enough" and "The wrong things get done." As a committee, we act on our priorities—we all have different obsessions and specialisms—and respond to yours; I feel that a group of

conscientious volunteers can do no more – we can't guess what residents think, unless they let us know, or join us.

Opposition to the planning application to build on 'Sanderson's Field' was strong, vocal and heartfelt—varied and cogent reasons were advanced for not developing the land, for accepting the historical and accidental blessing of wild greenspace enclosed by our Conservation Area houses, avenues and streets, and pursuing a more imaginative future for it than creating more houses and more streets. It seemed to me that little account had been paid to the numbers of residents opposing the application—the democratic voice had been over-ruled, and residents' arguments brushed aside. I wrote this to the Planning Office and was dismayed by the reply that 'opposition to the

development has been subjective and emotional and ultimately not effective.' This demonstrates an underlying philosophy that we need to argue openly; it is the right of citizens to be as subjective and emotional as they feel in this sort of debate—that is the point and value of democratic process, to air all views and come to a considered conclusion. We all accept 'win some, lose some,' but only if we respect the process; this is an argument we'll be addressing during the next year, with the 'objective' professionals.

Meanwhile, we have surprisingly reached an agreement with the planners, that we all hope to retain some of this land as greenspace for community use. I'd like to see a skateboard park there, but I guess that's as controversial as the original application.

information

ArtLink Exchange will be moving from its premises on Princes Avenue sometime during the next six months, as the building they are currently sited in has been sold to be re-developed. We will keep you informed of any changes of address

Hull Friends of the Earth collect bagged garden waste on Mondays (not bank holidays). Buy tags for 25p each from Avenues (Salisbury St), Grain, Recycling Unlimited (both in Newland Ave) or Clements News (Princes Ave). One tag per bag. Queries and info: 07817 824418 or

www.hfoe.org.uk

Rapid Response Rubbish Collection: phone Wyke Area Team on 331943 to report rubbish dumped in tenfoots or on verges. The Wyke office will contact the council who will remove the rubbish at no charge. To remove bulky household items, ring 300300: this service incurs a charge

Book your window for our 4th Advent Calendar

We need 24 households to take part in our 2004 living Advent Calendar.

What does it involve? You book a starting date; create a scene on a seasonal theme in a window that can be easily seen from the street; make sure it's well lit and that the scene includes your start day number.

Then, every evening from your starting date you light the window (from 6 pm until when you go to bed).

We publish a map of the windows in the November

newsletter. To visit them on the web, go to:

www.hullsangel.org

where you can see all our Calendars.

To book: contact Lesley Longworth on 342516 or book your window online by visiting the AvenuesOnline website at:

www.avenuesonline.org.uk/advent

Calendar CD

Thanks to everyone who responded to my request for accounts of how you created your windows. A CD showing the four years of Advent Calendars plus your accounts will be available in the New Year. (Chrys Bavey)

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Planning or building regulations?

Adrian Crummay

Many questions are asked about these two issues so here is an easy guide (though NOT comprehensive, it is always better to get advice than fall foul of rules)

Planning

You need planning permission for:

- new drives
- new windows (Upvc or wood)
- extensions
- conservatories
- tree works
- loft conversions
- front walls/fences (but not hedges)

There is *no cost* for planning applications.

Building regulations

You need building regulation permission for:

- structural works
- new windows if you intend to use a new lintol or alter the size of the opening
- new extensions
- loft conversions
- drain works
- underpinning works

There is a cost for this which depends on the scale of works.

Remember that the Council departments do not talk to each other so you may need both for some work and do not assume they will tell each other.

Friends of Pearson Park

Susan Harr, Chair, Friends of Pearson Park

The group is now running as an independent body with a Steering Committee of some 7

members meeting monthly to discuss issues concerning the Park, its present state and future developments.

General meetings are to be held twice yearly, in January and June (the latter being the AGM). We hope to hold a Christmas event in the Park, at which all members are welcome (see *December newsletter...ed*).

Membership is £1 a year. Enquiries to Susan Harr or to Bob Sandham (Secretary) on 472014.

Our Advent Window

Dawn Braim

Having moved into the Avenues a couple of years ago, we were always impressed with the Advent windows and I vowed that one year I would actually volunteer to do one. I waited for my daughter to be old enough to contribute to the project and then waited for inspiration to come!

I wanted a subject matter that was relatively easy to do—my drawing skills don't extend too much further than matchstick men! I also wanted to keep it easy for my daughter to help me with. And so after much thought, I came to the conclusion that even I would be able to manage two large circles and a square for the hat!

Obtaining the materials was easy enough. There are plenty of shops that stock card and tissue paper for that 'stained glass' effect. Deciding on the lighting was more difficult. I

didn't think that the bedroom light would offer enough illumination, so my husband rigged up one of his photography spotlights and that was more than sufficient.

When the time came for creating the snowman, my daughter decided that she would have much more fun if she was let loose on her own piece of card, with spare sheets of tissue paper and the glue. So it was left to poor old mum and dad to get on with it. Out came the pencils, pieces of string (in order to draw the circles) and the scissors and we were off!

I didn't create a template and nor did I have a rough drawing of what it would look like, although in hindsight I would definitely recommend it. All in all, the window took about 4 hours to complete and we were pleased with our first effort, even more so when we saw it lit up on the 8th December.

We all really enjoyed making the Advent window and it felt pretty special knowing that we were part of a bigger project that others could enjoy.

I would certainly volunteer to do another window again and would definitely recommend it to others to try—even those with limited artistic talent! However, there are a couple of things I would stress:

- **Start the window early—the date for completion really creeps up on you** and most importantly,
- **Remember to switch the light on at 6pm!!**

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Urban village

Bob Sandham

Avenues Open Gardens continues to go from strength to strength as more and more residents of the Avenues get involved in what is fast becoming a community festival on the first two Sunday afternoons in July.

This year there were more than 60 gardens open for visitors over the two weekends. We know of no other open garden event that has such a large number and a wide range of gardens. But besides the gardens there were other attractions such as the beekeeping display, the miniature train, and several musical events, both vocal and instrumental.

Of course, no Open Garden scheme would be complete without plants for sale and a choice of refreshment stops. Walking around the Avenues can be thirsty work and a freshly



www.avenuesonline.org.uk/opengardens

made cake is always appreciated.

This year for the first time we included some items specifically designed with children in mind. On both Sundays there was a poetry event. One used poetry as a vehicle to encourage children to develop their own story, and at the second they were helped to write their own poem and help clothe a "poetree" with poems

Dove House Hospice	£3,850
British Red Cross	£1,000
Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	£1,000
DERHMA	£1,000
CASE Training	£400
Third World charity	£450

Unicorn in Victoria Avenue

Inspired by a little girl's questions two years ago, Jacky Ward Lomax is carving a unicorn from a sycamore tree (near Richmond Street). The unicorn as symbol of innocence and purity is her theme. Taking her cue from medieval manuscripts, Jacky is giving the animal cloven hooves, as it was thought to be a goat. On the reverse side she will carve a mass of flowers and plants with symbolic power such as the lily of the valley, mint, and dog rose.



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on paper leaves. In addition, Scrapstore ran a workshop for those who wanted to turn industrial waste material into attractive fairy costumes. The Humber Mouth Festival sponsored these three workshops and we hope that we will be able to do something similar next year.

What happens to all the money? The money spent on administration comes from advertising revenue and the gardeners provide many of the ingredients for refreshments gratis. The cost of posters, tickets and even the special hail-n-ride bus are met by donations.

This year, as is our custom, half of the takings, £3,850, went to Dove House Hospice; a further £1,000 each to British Red Cross; Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and DERHMA, the local melanoma research appeal. £400 went to Case Training to help them transform a piece of waste land behind St Cuthbert's Church which will be used by both the congregation and the scout troop. Finally, £450 was given to a third world charity.

If you were involved as either a visitor or a participant, thanks. Without you there would be no Avenues Open Gardens. If you want to be part of next year's, which will be on Sundays 3 and 10 July, and would like to discuss your ideas please contact one of us.

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