



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

APROPOS

Friends of Pearson Park

Sunday 18 December - **community carols** in the Park. Starts 1.30 pm. Refreshments and Santa Claus!

New Year dinner-dance at Pearson Park Hotel, to raise funds for the Friends of Pearson Park. For details, contact Susan Harr on 07767 495832

ArtLink Exchange

Funding has at last been obtained to create a community centre in the old Methodist hall on Princes Avenue. Contact Vicky Bissett on 345104. Visit ArtLink's website at www.artlinkexchange.co.uk

CARGO (Collecting And Recycling Garden Organic Waste)

The Hull Friends of the Earth milk float and its team will be taking a rest during December and January. Collections will start again on Monday, 6 February 2006. To contact CARGO: tel 07817 824418 or visit www.cargo.org.uk

Westbourne East NW

The group has been submitted for the prestigious Duke of York Community Initiative award. The decision is expected at the end of January 2006.

Also, a Tai Chi trail is to be established on Westbourne Avenue (East end), with funding from the NHS. Panels depicting the moves will be made by CASE.

Want to sing?

Contact The Avenues Singers. Telephone Alan on 442758.

Tree sculpture poll

So far, votes are 4:1 in favour of more sculptures. Full report in next newsletter. Vote online at www.hullangel.org

From Stephanie Wilson APPRA Chair

We have recently been approached by the Dorothy L Sayers Society, offering a plaque for the Westbourne Avenue house she lived in while teaching at Hull High School for Girls. This is delightful in itself and useful, since it has put us in touch with a manufacturer; we had stalled on the plaque for Joseph Boxhall because we failed to find anyone to make it. Now we have two plaques in production, and a projected unveiling date for both: 6th August 2006, when the Sayers enthusiasts will be here too, as part of their annual conference.

Now seems the time, after a lapse of months, to go public on the Marlborough Avenue carving that didn't happen last summer. We hoped to do two at the same time, and as you know, the carving in Westbourne Avenue has been completed by Jacky Ward Lomax with her customary dispatch and inspiration. The design projected in Marlborough Avenue was rejected by many residents nearby. They reacted so adversely to the consultation exercise that the Committee offered them the chance of running the project instead. We said we would fund it as usual, if they could agree on a design.

What was then rather dismaying was the lack of response; although they had been ready and fluent in criticism, they failed to answer the invitation—either 'yes' or 'no' was acceptable: we just needed a reply. The answer, when it came, too late for the carving season, was 'no.'

This is a joint project with St. Cuthbert's, to mark the centenary of the church and we will now start again. I am telling the story because it leads into the hostile response in the Daily Mail to our stance on the multi-applications in Princes Avenue: a letter which questioned our authority and scoffed at our attitudes, as interpreted by the writer. I invited him or her, through the newspaper, to our next meeting to participate in discussion; we are used to differences of opinion—and sometimes have to close with a vote, rather than with consensus. Consequently, it is galling to be regarded as a group with entrenched opinions with, moreover, an investment in foisting them on the rest of the community: when our perceived reality is that, despite seeking opinion (I always ask neighbours for their reactions to planning applications, to inform the Committee when we formulate our responses) and despite consultation, we often feel we're

working in a vacuum. If indeed we are unrepresentative, that is because we are possibly more committed to conservation and the issues around it—such as the use of UPVC—than the person in the avenue; we can, however, justify our views, which are held, not as knee-jerk prejudice, but as a conclusion of informed discussion in meetings that are open to all residents. I am very grateful to the Committee who routinely attend meetings, take away jobs for the month and continue to be vociferously interested in the affairs of the area, thereby doing their best to ensure that others chose to make their homes here as we once did.

See you at the carol singing!

A Spooky Event in Pearson Park

was organised by the Friends of Pearson Park, on 28 October.

Thanks to all to supported this event in truly terrible weather. Thanks especially to the Pennas, who conjured up a wonderful atmosphere, great food and a beautifully decorated ice cream hut. Children from the Jazz Hands Youth Wyke Forum enacted the Witches Scene from Macbeth to great applause! Next year - bigger and better!

Susan Harr, Chair, Friends of Pearson Park

Avenues carol singing for charity

Our annual carol singing around the Avenues takes place on Thursday, 22 December, meeting at 5.45 pm at 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 benefiting from this year's collection will be the NSPCC. Last year the carol singing raised £376.95 for this charity.

A warm Christmas drink and

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

Ian & Christine Colquhoun





16 December 2004

ADVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
227 M	206 P	171 P	41 S	43 W	230 P	244 M	10 P
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
235 M	72 W	100 P	117 M	75 P	96 P	30 W	50 M
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
171 V	193 M	92 V	37 M	24 W	24 R	165 W	215 V



22 December 2004

Key to Location

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



3 December 2004

A living Advent Calendar: this event started in 2001 on a resident's suggestion. Every December twenty-four Avenues residents choose a date between 1 and 24 December, create a seasonal

scene in their front window, and light it from the chosen date. Our thanks to **Lesley Longworth** who organises this event, and to all the participants for their colourful and creative work.

Dragons are welcome in Westbourne Avenue

This stump was cut quite a few years ago and the wood has been affected by sun and rain and time. I believe it was a sycamore, judging by the small amount of bark that was left. The wood facing south was iron hard and brittle. That facing the north was very much eaten into by fungus growth and was soft with a texture rather like polystyrene. This has affected the manner in which I carved the sculpture because fine detail was not possible. The stump had a forked top and I used that structure to create two twined forms. I had previously whittled a stick in a similar manner and

knew that it would work. I took as my inspiration a dragon chair which was in an exhibition of furniture from a stately home held in the Whaling Museum a few years ago. I also used the Sea Dragon carvings on Hull's Gamelan, (traditional Indonesian percussion) which is owned by Hull Music Service. One of the Westbourne dragons is inspired by Eastern dragons and the other has more reference to the dolphin type. Both dragons twine down into the ground and then the tail end of one of them twines back up so it can be seen from the road. And, if you look carefully, you will find the Chinese symbol for 'Dragon' carved low down on the east flank by Lu Win

Garden waste collection to go city-wide by April 2006?

Hull Friends of the Earth invited Doug Sharp, Hull Council's Sustainable Waste Development Manager, to comment on Hull's plans to increase recycling targets. In particular, they wanted to know if Hull is going to offer a garden waste collection service. Doug replied as follows:

On the subject of garden waste, ideally, we'd like to take the most sustainable approach and encourage home composting. However, local authorities have a major financial dilemma in the form of the landfill allowance trading scheme. On current projections, Hull City Council could face fines of £162 million over the next 15 years if we don't find alternatives to landfill. We have to act fast and divert a significant proportion of the organic fraction. **This means that garden waste collections are a must**, the only question is how, and do we charge?

On a wider note, readers will be aware of the Council's plans to increase recycling and composting to an ambitious 45%, and to generate electricity from the residual waste via incineration. Increasing the current recycling rate of 17% to 45% will not be easy and we need a robust long term strategy to get us there. Given the urgent need to improve current performance, we plan to have a draft waste strategy available for consultation in December and January with a view to implementing it from the

start of April 2006. What is clear is that we will need to focus on waste minimisation, expand the range of materials we collect and we'll have to challenge the existing waste collection service. With this in mind, we plan to send every household a questionnaire in November looking at a range of options for the future of waste collection. This will include options such as alternate weekly collections, smaller refuse bins and garden waste collection.

With reference to kitchen waste, I anticipate we will have to collect from the doorstep to achieve a 45% recycling rate. This will become clear as we develop the strategy. However, assuming we do look at collections, we'll need In-vessel composting facilities to treat it. This could take some time. At best we'd be operational in 2008 so it is likely that we'll start with garden waste collections and look at kitchen waste after this.

We're also hoping to get planning permission for a new household waste recycling centre on Wiltshire Road. Plans for a 4th centre on Sutton Fields Industrial Estate are close to the planning submission stage as well.

Doug Sharp
Sustainable Waste Development Manager
Operations and Public Services
Hull City Council

This article was first published in ECO, the newsletter of Hull Friends of the Earth.

recently arrived from China. It is pronounced 'Long'. I coated it with 10 litres of wood preservative in an attempt to slow down the fungus which I'm afraid has a pretty strong grip. It may be that the dragons sprout mushroom horns all over the top of their head which would be an interesting variation on 'natural weathering'. I was supported all along by residents who lived close by, cups of coffee, sandwiches, bowls of fruit, biscuits, freshly gathered produce from the allotment. I wish to thank everyone for such generosity, especially Molly, who really kept my energy levels up. Carving out in the street has a very social aspect to it and it seems that



Photo: Ian Colquhoun

regular passers-by are interested in watching the progress. I am always happy to stop and chat, to answer questions, etc (gives me an excuse to have a break!)
Jacky Ward Lomax

Our thanks to Mr David McKie and to *The Guardian* for permission to reproduce the following *Smallweed* column

Smallweed

My esteemed columnar colleague John Sutherland wrote a piece the other day in which he referred, in the context of traditional red telephone kiosks, to the distinguished architect Sir Gilbert Scott. I wish people wouldn't do this. It encourages the delusion, which I'm sure Professor Sutherland does not share, that there used to be a great architect called Gilbert Scott who began by designing the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford in 1841 when he was 30, and was still busy in post second world war Britain redesigning Waterloo Bridge. It is always a good precaution to call the Gilbert Scott who built the Martyrs' Memorial Sir George, and to specify that the one who did Waterloo Bridge and the telephone kiosks was Sir Giles. To help readers avoid these pitfalls, I today unveil the *Smallweed Patent Gilbert Scott Disentangler*. Using this cunning device, you can look up a notable building which someone has said was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and

comment: "You mean, of course, by Sir George", or alternatively "I take it you are animadverting here to Sir Giles." The matter is further complicated because there were two Sir Georges, the second being the son of the first and the father of Giles. George Gilbert Scott junior has always been overshadowed by the first Sir George and Sir Giles, though three years ago the architectural historian Gavin Stamp sought to rescue him in a book called *An Architecture of Promise: George Gilbert Scott and the late Gothic Revival*, about which Jonathan Glancey wrote a characteristically excellent piece in the *Guardian* in December 2002. The second Sir George began to drink far too heavily when in his middle 40s and at 45 was certified insane. The best known building on which he worked is the Roman Catholic cathedral in Norwich, but that was a commission which went badly awry and was completed by his brother, John Oldrid Scott.

Sadder still, two notable churches he built, St Agnes, Kennington, and All Hallows, Southwark, were bombed in the second world war and no longer exist. With the aid of my patent disentangler, however, you will from now on be able to say, when the name George Gilbert Scott is mentioned: "Is this, perchance,

Smallweed's patent Gilbert Scott disentangler

	George I	George II	Giles
Albert Memorial	✓	✗	✗
Bankside (Tate Modern)	✗	✗	✓
Battersea power station	✗	✗	✓
Lichfield Cathedral front	✓	✗	✗
Liverpool Anglican Cathedral	✗	✗	✓
Martyrs' Memorial, Oxford	✓	✗	✗
Midland Hotel, St Pancras	✓	✗	✗
Millennium Dome	✗	✗	✗
Park Royal brewery	✗	✗	✓
Red telephone kiosks	✗	✗	✓
St Agnes, Kennington	✗	✓	✗
The Taj Mahal	✗	✗	✗
Waterloo Bridge	✗	✗	✓

a reference to George Gilbert Scott pere, or are we maybe considering here his unfortunate son, George fils, who built that splendid, doomed church in Kennington?" For the further avoidance of confusion I have included a couple of buildings which drunken persons late at

night might attempt to pretend were the work of a Gilbert Scott. Refute them incontrovertibly by producing my patent disentangler from your pocket or handbag and proving them wrong.

David McKie

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The Avenues "Gilbert Scott" houses were built to a design by George Gilbert Scott junior, in 1877-79.

See Chris Ketchell's discussion of these houses in APPRA newsletter issue 22, April 2005. All newsletters are on the AvenuesOnline website: www.avenuesonline.org.uk

Illustration: Ian Colquhoun



Your column—your say

"Some thoughts on gating of through tenfoots.

There are many things that make the Avenues uniquely attractive as a place to live. The generously proportioned houses, the trees, the width of the streets and the intriguing network of tenfoots. The tenfoots in themselves are as diverse as the houses and streets. Some are

paved and some are more like country lanes. They form a distinctive characteristic of this area.

You will all be aware that there is an active Avenues Committee charged with 'conserving' all that is best within the boundary whilst allowing such changes as permit modern life to be lived for the comfort of residents. A recent development has seen the rash of applications for tenfoot gating. Driven by fear of crime, there has been a rise in the number of applications for funding to assist with the cost of gating some tenfoots.

We have already seen the gating of 'blind tenfoots'. Here, the few households concerned have come to a mutual agreement that affects only themselves. This is vastly different to the more recent and controversial, gating of a well used 'through-tenfoot'. This one (between Park and Victoria Avenues) is one of several well used local short-cuts, which save pedestrians and cyclists a great deal of time. Any curtailment of our rights to use them, is in my view, a move towards

changing the fundamental nature of the area. It goes far beyond the normal scope of consideration by the Avenues Committee, of the merits or not of tree pruning, window styles and choice of kerbstones.

A very dangerous precedent is being set by allowing the recent proposals which deny the community access to through-tenfoots. A major change of this type needs to be campaigned for throughout the conservation area, with attendant debates and organised meetings. The unchallenged acceptance of such requests conflicts directly with our traditional 'rights of way'. Future applicants should be required to prove that there is no existing right of way. This can only be achieved by allowing some time to elapse between the original application and its formal consideration by the City Council, so that both sides have time to present their case.

Fear of crime can be tackled in many ways. Gating is only one option. If people are genuinely prepared to spend their own and Community money on security, why not ask Wyke office for a donation towards CCTV as an extension to the existing scheme? This would be much more effective as it would be 'on' 24 hours per day and is recorded. All in all, a much better use of funds with much more chance of catching and deterring perpetrators.

I hope these observations prompt proper discussions of these issues in the coming months."

Harry Atkinson

[The views expressed in this column are those of the individual concerned and do not necessarily represent APPRA policy. ed]

Prince's Avenue—shops or café-bars?

Most of the shops on Prince's Avenue were not purpose-built as shops. Apart from perhaps a couple between Hinderwell Street and Park Grove on the east side and the 'Dutch-gabled' terrace, at the south end of the west side, all the other properties, including say 'Bickleigh Villas' (where there is the greatest concentration of café bars, both in situ and proposed) were built as houses, (say c1880s to c1910/'20s) and later converted into shops; when presumably the population of The Avenues (from 1870s) and The Dukeries (from 1890s) had increased sufficiently to make it commercially viable to convert front rooms into shops. This explains why most of the shops and café bars are able to have seating areas in front of their premises, as these were formerly front-gardens.

When I "surveyed" all the commercial properties in Prince's Avenue in August 2004, there were *fifteen* empty properties. There are now I think *sixteen*, but with a number of those either under conversion to café bars or with planning permission for change of use.

Why are there so many empty properties, and why the seemingly sudden (it's actually been a much slower process, but which has speeded up more recently) profusion of take-aways, restaurants and café bars? Well, how many of you, Avenues residents, use your car for your weekly (or more frequently) food shopping, to drive to an out-of-or edge-of town supermarket?

My own conscience of course is clear here as I am not a car-driver, so only cycle, or more likely walk, to the nearest shops. Most of you used to do this. That's

why the shops developed in the first place, and why in 1939, just to take the section between 'Botanic Corner' and Welbeck Street as an example, there were the following shops:

American Hygienic Steam Pressing Co, Gwenap, pastrycook, florists, confectioner, Singer Sewing Machine Co, Tuting's Glass and China Stores, grocers, costumier, boot repairs, fishmongers, the Avenue Grocers, cabinet maker, watchmaker, fruiterer, ladies' hairdresser, chemists, boot repairs, ladies' outfitters, drapers, confectioner, fruiterer, wallpaper dealers and Adams bakers.

Well, we still do have the ladies' hairdressers, Gwenap, the florists, the chemist, fruiterers (organic at The Good Life), pastrycook (The Olive Tree delicatessen), grocers (The Co-op and Sainsbury's at Jackson), butcher and bakers on Prince's Avenue; but I am afraid that the boot repairers (who has shoes repaired these days?), fishmongers, drapers, watchmakers and glass and china dealers are just not going to return, no matter how many empty properties we leave to give them the opportunity to do so.

Is it not surely better to have properties restored and repaired for new uses than to have them fall derelict – I'm not sure if Nos 22-24 Prince's Avenue (in Bickleigh Villas) could have lasted much longer, other than as a pigeon roost!

So, support our local shops. Use the ones we have left or lose them! There are spin-off benefits from the profusion of new eating places, as they do generate some business for the local shops. There are also relatively new shops – travel agents, dolls' house furniture, gift shops, opticians, and soon an internet café. We have to accept that the world is changing...

Christopher Ketchell

Local History Unit, Hull College
email historyunit@netscape.net

Verge Preservation

Update on the 3 areas of work outlined in our previous newsletter:

- **Putting in new higher kerbs** (in concrete) on Westbourne Ave (south side, from tenfoot going east towards fountain): work has started.
- **APPRA is saving the old York stone** to be re-used in the future within the Avenues.
- **Widening street openings** of badly over-ridden tenfoots: work to be done this Autumn.
- **Rut mending:** we have decided to delay this until Spring, as the soft ground, obscured by fallen leaves, makes any repairs too vulnerable to new damage at the moment.

If you have any information on damage to verges by builders, Utilities etc, please contact Sally Walker (tel: **447558**) and she will notify the Council.

Window replacement: wood or UPVC?

We are hearing from residents that UPVC is no longer a cheaper option than wood. The Council have recently refused planning permission for UPVC windows on the grounds that they: "by virtue of their design and the materials they

are manufactured from have an adverse affect on the property and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area."

This is precisely why the Article 4 Direction was sought. The returns from residents to the Council Questionnaire (2002) solidly supported (75%) not altering windows.

Repair & Renovation Services

Total Window Repair and Renovation
Period Windows Elloughton: tel 669553
Ventrolia Ltd: tel: 01423 859323

Total Window Replacement
P & J Timbers: tel 07717 2810233
(Ash Grove, off Beverley Road, 1st tenfoot on left)
Paragon Joinery: tel 585205
Cottingham Joinery: tel 868145
Brian Fawcett: tel 01964 670818
G E Rice Joinery Ltd: tel 01964 551402
Jubilee Joinery: tel 224275
Get quotations as prices can vary quite a lot.

Ironmongery, including sash weights
King & Co: tel 589989

'K' Glass
Bennett Glass: tel 820820

Secondary Double Glazing
Granada Secondary Glazing Ltd
Units 1 & 2, Carrwood Trading Estate
Chesterfield, Derbyshire
tel: 01246 261262

Boiler Replacement
Martin Ainley Plumbing: tel 445492
British Gas

Building Services
Stubbs Brothers Building Services Ltd
(builders, joiners, plumbers & roofing contractors) specialise in all types of joinery manufacturing incl hardwood and softwood windows, doors, staircases and mouldings.
Free advice + quotations
tel: 01482 449195/473149

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WEBSITES

APPRA online	www.avenuesonline.org.uk	<i>news + pictures of all Avenues events incl Open Gardens; info on Conservation, planning matters; APPRA committee minutes; back issues of APPRA newsletters, and much more...</i>
Art in the Avenues	www.hullangel.org	<i>complete record of tree sculptures; fountain rescue; Advent Calendars</i>