



# APPRA 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

## APROPOS

### Want to sing?

Contact The Avenues Singers.  
Telephone Alan on 442758.

### Open Gardens: Notelets

10+envelopes [5 designs] in presentation box, for £4. See page 3 for details of where to buy.

### Advent Calendar 2006

24 volunteer households needed for our sixth Advent Calendar windows event. Let your creativity run wild— but book now to ensure you get your preferred date. For details, see page 2.

### Who was Joseph Boxhall?

The Lord Mayor of Hull and Admiral of the Humber writes about this survivor of the Titanic (page 2).

### APPRA subscriptions

Many thanks to Nia O'Byrne and her team of volunteers who collected subs during June and July. Total amount raised: £1,005



### A grand day out in Hull—plaques unveiled to Dorothy L Sayers and Joseph Boxhall

Ruby Till, Ian Carmichael and Christopher Dean, Secretary of the Dorothy L Sayers Society (see below).

## Chair's Report

As I write, there seems little to worry about and lots to be pleased with. We were delighted with the happy sunny afternoon of 6 August when the two **plaques** were unveiled in Westbourne Avenue; we had planned as much as we could, but the success of the occasion depended on all sorts of things outside our control—primarily, weather and whether residents felt minded to gather. As it turned out, there was a lovely party atmosphere, the celebrities and guests all appeared on cue and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves—and the cakes. The committee are so grateful to the cake-makers, some of whom baked a production line although they were going to Prague the next day: and one of whom claimed never to make cakes—hers disappeared fast, which might encourage her to cultivate a baking habit? My daughter Henrietta, who was visiting, made

it her business to create suitable labels for the cakes; Lord Peter's coat-of-arms was used for the trad. type like Seed cake and Dundee cake; and she put the White Star flag—which is red—on the modern flavours such as Chocolate and Coca-Cola.

It was enjoyable to be able to use—and thereby advertise—our local resources for presents: flowers from Hollyhocks for the Lady Mayoress, chocolates from Thomas Francis for Ian Carmichael, smartly presented by two young Avenues residents, Matthew Price and Ruby Till, who had relevant connections.

Our Dorothy L Sayers Society visitors had apparently greeted the prospect of the outing with an incredulous **"an afternoon in Hull?"** a reaction which was mentioned and retracted during the afternoon. They took away an improved impression of the city and an appreciation of the Avenues. I hope they saw some of the sculptures; certainly

Jacky Ward Lomax' new work in Marlborough Avenue was a landmark en route to St Cuthbert's Hall (see p2).

It is looking even more intricate and beautiful now; we are thrilled that we have managed to bring her, this stump and the centenary of the parish together just in time. Moreover, as she's worked and talked to passers-by, another project has been suggested: a joint work between her and a sculptor in stone.

However, there are clouds on the horizon. Contentious planning applications—for 1 Salisbury Street, for Sanderson's Field—have arrived during August, which is no coincidence in my view. The application for Sanderson's Field shows no sign of respecting the green area, as we'd hoped; the houses extend across the length of the site and access will be a problem, I think. These reservations, plus many worrying snags in the plans (about the drain, for instance) were voiced at a well-

attended public meeting in early September; local residents have an intimate knowledge of the site, which should be respected by the developer at every stage.

We're waiting for the official report on the appeals against the planning decisions rejecting UPVC windows; **the appeals were not successful**, but I wasn't notified, as I hadn't noticed that letters to the Planning Inspectorate now have to request an answer. I suppose that's economy, but at the expense, I would have thought, of courtesy.

I understand, from a Warm Zone meeting, that the City Council has a policy against the installation of UPVC, following E U directives on toxic substances.

**Perhaps the time has come to include UPVC doors in our Article 4 direction on UPVC windows?**

**What do you think?**

Stephanie Wilson.

## Unveiling of Joseph Boxhall Plaque (27 Westbourne Avenue)

The Lord Mayor of Hull has kindly made available to us the text of his speech, from which we reproduce this extract:



way was to find one's position using a sextant and shooting the stars.

This of course was the task Joseph Boxhall was given on that fateful night. He had to calculate the Titanic's position using the stars so the information could be used in the SOS message. This position has become known as the 'Boxhall Position' to this day.

Later in his life he worked for the Wilson shipping line of Hull, the then largest privately-owned shipping company in the world. He also worked for Cunard and was a Commander in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

On his death in 1967, aged 83, his ashes were taken to the North Atlantic and scattered over the very spot he himself had positioned the Titanic before she went down: the 'Boxhall Position'.

Trevor Larsen  
Lord Mayor of Hull and  
Admiral of the Humber  
6 August 2006

As many of you will already know, Joseph was the Fourth Officer on the RMS Titanic, one of the key figures in the tragedy and the most senior officer to survive. He also launched one of the few Titanic lifeboats that helped to save many women and children under his leadership. As an ex-Trinity House boy I could argue that had Joseph been a Trinity boy he may have saved the Titanic single-handed!

He was on the bridge at the time of the collision with the iceberg and, therefore, a key witness in both the American and British enquiries that followed. We must remember this tragedy changed International Maritime Law for all time; such was the scale of the disaster. Many of the passengers and crew who drowned that night, did so because of the insufficient places in the lifeboats. After the tragedy, the law was changed to ensure there would be enough lifeboat places for everyone onboard

Matthew and Freddie Price in the event of any future sea disaster.

When I gave talks to young people in school about navigating a ship at sea and I explained how a ship's position was determined by calculating using the stars, they told me that only happened in Nelson or Drake's day but not now. I explained that despite all the new technology, the accepted

**Book your window now in our SIXTH living Advent Calendar**



**WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?**  
Your column—your say

**Open letter to Socialist Graffiti Boy**

As I wander the local ten foot I pause occasionally to consider

degrading the local environment and targeting the garages of struggling wage slaves, you hope to further your revolutionary aims. Surely, despoiling the neighbourhood is at odds with your politics. Sadly, I suspect that your daubings are driven more by ego than ideology and I respectfully ask that you confine further activities to your bedroom wall.

Harry Atkinson

or *Old Man/Woman*. Ed

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent APPRA policy.)



**Jacky Ward Lomax**

is making fast progress on her magnificent sculpture of a Celtic cross, celebrating the life and work of St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne Abbey.

## It's more than just the gardens...

have been selling plants for several years and have noticed how more and more satisfied customers return to their stalls in Salisbury Street each year; this year they raised £2100 to support their running costs.

As organisers we welcome such groups who can benefit from the many visitors who visit the Avenues for Open Garden Sunday afternoons. This year despite the very hot weather, the World Cup and the perennial clash with Wimbleton Fair-trade goods (over £600 raised) Mires Beck/Fair-trade North Cave provide training and employment for people with learning disabilities; they £11,000 to various charities.



The £8825 collected centrally was distributed as follows: Dove House Hospice £4425; St John Ambulance (did you see their Casualty Simulation Unit?), and Barnardo's (champion cake makers) each had £1300; HERIB (the Institute for the Blind) and CAMFED (a charity working to improve female education in Africa) each received £900. None of the costs of administration and publicity are taken from the receipts; these are covered by grants, donations and advertisement revenue. For example, Prossers of Charterlands Avenue paid for the half-n-ride bus that EVMS provided at a special low price.

Many thanks to all who participated; the openers and

## How not to park!

The previous issue of APPRA News (April 06) highlighted the appalling state of some of the Avenues verges. The damage is worst in wet weather when the soil is soft but the ruts made then eventually harden during the drier months to become permanent features.

Poor parking by visitors or residents contributes to the damage as do contractors, and delivery vans who choose sometimes to park on the grass although parking places may be available only a few metres away. Parking our own vehicles to avoid the verge should be a matter of our pride in our environment but householders who employ contractors could help a great deal if they reminded contractors not to park on the grass.

Various 'authority' vehicles are offenders and these are reported when it happens. It is hoped that when the new Decriminalisation of Parking is finally sorted out we may have another 'lever' to fight the verge/parking problem but in the meantime constant vigilance is the answer.

The photographs (three of many) show examples of vehicles parking unnecessarily on the verges.

Chris Coulson

## Fixed penalties for parking on verges

We are seeking a stronger legal enforcement against parkers on verges. The current Kingston upon Hull Act (displayed on signs around The Avenues), which makes it an offence to park on the verges, is not up to the job.

We have met with Wyke Area Committee, Highways and the Council's Legal Department; and are pursuing the setting-up of a pilot scheme which would levy a fine of about £60 on drivers who park on the verge.

A similar trial scheme is being set up in Peterborough and our Council's Legal Department is liaising with Peterborough Council. The process will be long and needs the approval of the Department of Transport, but we do have the support of Wyke Area Committee, Highways and the Legal Department.

supporters; the visitors who came and the sponsors of Open Gardens.

Bob & Rose Sandham  
Debbie Cook & Paul Dodsworth  
www.avenuesopengardens.co.uk

**Notes**  
10 notelets + envelopes (5 designs)  
in a presentation box. Cost: £4



Available from:  
Clements Princes Avenue  
Trains Fabric Centre Charterlands Ave  
Charterlands Avenue Library  
Avenues Salisbury Street  
**All proceeds to Dove House Hospice**

Please continue reporting damage to verges by builders, utility companies etc to me. I report at once to Highways whose job it is ensure the culprit makes good the damage. Thanks for all the information you have been sending.

If you wish to have leaflets to put on cars parked on verges, please contact me and I will deliver them to you. We have had our own Avenues Residents' Association leaflet for about 2 years. The City Council has now produced its own leaflet as part of a city-wide attempt to protect verges; and these are available to us.

Sally Walker

**Volunteers for verges sub-committee, please contact Sally Walker**  
(details on page 4)

## Tai Chi Trail

The Tai Chi Trail on Westbourne Avenue, paid for by the NHS as an exercise trail for community asset and with boards made by the men with learning difficulties from CASE was, as everyone knows, vandalized by a thoughtless group of youths. The boards are being repaired by CASE and will be replaced one by one but unfortunately not in the 3-D form they were when first made, as such wonderful work, the product of months of effort, cannot be duplicated for financial reasons. We hope those responsible for the damage are ashamed of themselves.

From Westbourne East NW

## What, if anything, links The Avenues with Boulevard?

I have been asked to write about the historical links, if any, between our Avenues and Boulevard (the correct name is not prefixed with "The").

The prospectus of the 'Grand Victoria Promenade Company' dated 1845 shows the alignment of a proposed boulevard or avenue encircling Hull. The south western part of this avenue is on the present alignment of Boulevard, between the Humber foreshore south of Hessle Road, and Anlaby Road; the middle part of this route includes the southern end of Newland Tofts Lane, which in 1875 became Prince's Avenue. In 1835 it had been acknowledged that Hull was deficient in public walks and the idea was to create some kind of public walk (this is thirty years before we create our first public park, Pearson Park). The scheme was to comprise a large avenue or promenade around the town, from the Humber Bank in the west to the Humber bank in the east. This ambitious plan was dropped but was revived some ten years later by the Grand Victoria Promenade Company which proposed laying out the promenade or avenue between four and five miles long. This scheme also was dropped, but not entirely as Boulevard (and Prince's Avenue?) can be seen as partial successors to this plan. Harrison's *Illustrated Hull Guide* of 1872 describes Boulevard as being "a fine healthful promenade, nearly a mile long, and commands extensive views of the hilly country to the west of Hull". The street is first shown as laid out on Peck's 1875 map of Hull, but with as yet no buildings erected, apart from St Matthew's church, consecrated 1879, at the Anlaby Road corner. Shepherdson's *New Guide to Hull*, 1875 describes Boulevard as "a very wide roadway planted with

trees, the foot paths are broad, and at different parts there are convenient seats. About midway there is a large circular space with a colossal fountain in the centre. The delightful situation for good houses looking over this space is already being utilised. This, in a few years time, will be one of the most attractive promenades in the neighbourhood, or perhaps in the county of York... it is part of the design of the corporation to continue the avenue northwards to the opposite or north eastern extremity of the river Humber..."

Who lived in Boulevard? Hunt's 1876 directory lists just eight residents of the street, but unfortunately no occupations are given apart from one being "Rev"; presumably the vicar of St Matthews. Kelly's 1882 directory is of more help, although there are still many residents with no occupation listed. Occupations listed include three ministers of religion, physicians, commission agent, numerous master mariners, ladies school, nine smack owners, two fish merchants, corn merchant, brick manufacturer, managers, secretary to the Steam Fishing and Ice Company, horse dealer, wool broker, and timber merchant. As you can see there are far more occupations relating to Hull's fishing industry in Boulevard at this time than there would be in the Avenues. Boulevard did however have its fountain, in the circus at the junction of Boulevard, Gordon Street and Cholmley Street; this was removed following damage in a traffic accident in 1924 (like some of the Avenues' fountains).

Local residents have been campaigning and fund-raising for some time to have a fountain replaced, and this will be based on the design of our Avenues'

fountains, the original having dolphins rather than mermaids.

*I am indebted to the late Sara Donaldson, formerly of the Hull Local Studies Library for much of this information, taken from her 1993 unpublished research project A Study of Housing Development in the Boulevard Area of West Hull*

Christopher Ketchell

## The Friends of Pearson Park

went through a rough period and was on the verge of

### APPRA's UPVC Notes

#### Another problem with upvc

UPVC is a less rigid material than timber and has a poorer load-bearing capacity. Thus the weight of the brickwork above a large UPVC window can cause the UPVC frame to bow, cracking the brickwork around. Such cracks are often mistakenly attributed to subsidence.

dissolution. But now it has been resurrected with a new board and officers. We encourage all Avenues residents to join the Friends (£1 a year); to attend the meetings whenever you wish; to take part in partnership working with council, councillors and Wyke Area Team; to have a voice in what happens in the park; and even to join the board.

For more information contact Dr Haris Livas-Dawes, Acting Chair, on 491785.

## Wilberforce Year 2007

As residents of Marlborough and Westbourne already know, a new project to celebrate Wilberforce Year in 2007, is off the ground and will culminate in the publication of books for Hull's libraries and the Wilberforce Museum with the prize-winning contributions of residents in the form of poetry, prose, art or even music. The book is designed not to be merely about Wilberforce but to cover the whole issue of slavery, in the past and sadly in the present. The publication will coincide with Black History Month in October 2007.

## Repair & Renovation Services

### Total Window Repair and Renovation

Period Windows: tel 222231  
Ventrolla Ltd: tel: 01423 859323

### Total Window Replacement

Brian Parkinson c/o Dairycoates Timber Supply Ltd, 602 Hessle Road: tel 329570  
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

Build Center (formerly 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

### Stained Glass

N Harrap & Son: tel 329818

### 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

### Roofers

Byron (Hull) Roofing Ltd: tel 224335  
Will renew roof with existing slates or tiles.

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WEBSITES		
APPRA online	www.avenuesonline.org.uk	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...
Art in the Avenues	www.hullangel.org	complete record of tree sculptures; fountain rescue; Advent Calendars