

Be part of our 7th Living APPRA Advent Calendar!

We need 24 households to create an Advent Window each. You choose your starting date, from 1 December to 24 December. Create a festive design, incorporating the date, to be illuminated in one of your front windows. Illuminate the design from your starting date until at least Christmas Day. Many opt to illuminate their windows to Twelfth Night and beyond! To volunteer, just complete the form below and send it to Lesley!

Advent Calendar 2008 - Application form

Closing date: 8 November 2008

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Tel: _____
 Email: _____
 Preferred date 1: _____
 Preferred date 2: _____

**To: Lesley Longworth, 57 Westbourne Avenue
 Tel 342516 Email: longworth@lathkill.karoo.co.uk
 or apply online at: www.avenuesonline.org.uk**

Important must-do's: you must illuminate the window brightly enough so that people can see the design from the pavement, and you must create a design or scene — a number on its own is not enough.



A beautiful design from 20 Park Avenue, 2006

Look at our past Calendars for inspiration at www.hullangel.org, and from that website you can also visit Saltaire Village (in Bradford). The residents were so impressed with our Calendars they created one of their own in 2006!

Entries must be in by 8 November or the Advent Calendar won't be able to run this year.

Planning Aid

Yorkshire Planning Aid offers free and professional advice on town and country planning issues to community groups and individuals who cannot afford to pay a planning consultant. It is not part of central or local government, but is an independent source of advice and information which complements the assistance given by Local Authorities.

A telephone helpline staffed by a qualified Planner is available 3 days a week. If you have a general enquiry about planning law, procedures and regulations they may be able to provide an immediate answer or basic information.

More complex enquiries will be passed on to one of their qualified Planning Aid volunteers.

Tel: 0113 237 8486
 E-mail: ykco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Blocked drains in tenfoots

The City Council is not responsible for maintaining drains in privately owned tenfoots. They clean all adopted tenfoot gullies but charge £30 per gully for cleaning privately owned tenfoots.

APPRA will apply for money from Hull City Council to pay for clearing blocked drains in our neighbourhood. To do so successfully, APPRA needs to know where they are and how many.

If you want to help reduce the risk of houses being flooded in this area, please report any blocked drains in Avenues tenfoots to APPRA.

Contact Sally Walker (details below)

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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

Chair's Report Autumn 2008

Stephanie Wilson Chair, APPRA

Will Wilson, who grew up in Park Avenue, and describes himself as 'a proud resident of the Avenues' in the introduction to his project (which was given a First), asked us for help in his final year research towards his BSc in City and Regional Planning. He had taken the Avenues—where else?—as his study area; he was interested in our view of the 'effectiveness of planning policy and guidance in protecting the integrity of a Conservation Area.' His conclusion was that 'the Conservation policy in force is, on the whole, effective at protecting the overall character of the area,' but that 'detail features, particularly those on individual properties, are not adequately protected.' He cites 'the lack of vision shown by the local authority' and recommends a Master Plan, which, by adding a spatial dimension to the Character Statement, would strengthen 'future management or enhancement measures.' He also considers that 'greater public participation' and indeed partnership with the local authority would 'optimise... process and outcome.' I wouldn't disagree.

It would be agreeable to think that the Core Strategy currently being devised by the City will provide effective policy and guidance for the future; it is designed to replace the Local Plan which has seemed, on the whole (again) a reliable defence against applications which undermine conservation principles—until recently, when the same three policies were used, first to refuse an application for a verge crossing at 75 Marlborough Avenue, then,

only weeks later, to approve it. We have made a formal complaint which we hope it will make its way to the Ombudsman.

There have been some vocal and adverse reactions to the extension at 1 Salisbury Street. We opposed the application and the Planning Committee turned it down; the applicants then appealed to the Inspectorate. The decision of the Planning Inspector to approve it was unexpected and upsetting; some of the reasons—like the existence nearby of comparable buildings—seemed just plain wrong, but Hull Planning decided not to contest the decision. Now that the extension is built, the approval seems even more dismaying and incomprehensible; it is so ugly and out of keeping. The Gilbert Scott houses have been a worry; but the recent renovations have been broadly sympathetic and reversed the trend to dilapidation and degradation. This extension is an affront to the dignity of the complex and its presence at the heart of our Conservation Area, and calls into question the significance of listed status. Perhaps that should be the next project for our young scholar.

It seems relevant, though not helpful, in the current preoccupation with the rise in fuel prices and the Government's insistence on fuel saving measures rather than direct help, to note our dealings with Warm Front. A representative came to a committee meeting and discussed all the various initiatives; we all concluded that though we could insulate roofs and install new boilers, no Victorian house is ever going to be really energy-efficient, in modern terms. We are maintaining the

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PHOTO: Ian Colquhoun

Avenues Design Guide Group meet Boulevard residents

A lively discussion took place in the Carnegie Library on the corner of West Park on the evening of 29 August between the APPRA Design Guide Group and residents from the Boulevard. This followed a walk around the Avenues to point out the principal features.

The Boulevard is subject to urban regeneration as part of the Newington and St Andrews Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder project. The residents were keen to learn more about the Design Guide and how it had been produced. Tony Mercer gave a short presentation about the guide and why it was written. The Boulevard residents explained some of the difficulties they were experiencing such as housing owned by absentee landlords and car parking (particularly on match days). They have organised the funding for a working fountain, which was manufactured using the mould for the Avenues fountains. It is worth taking a walk down The Boulevard to see what our fountains looked like when they were new and complete with water and railings.

Around 20 people in total took part, including two from each of the Hull Civic Society and the Humberside Society of Architects. The event was organised by Hull-based architecture forum **arc'** as part of a programme of work with Boulevard residents and a follow up meeting is planned for the autumn to exchange further information.

Ian Colquhoun

arc' promotes good architecture and design in regeneration, and the development of sustainable communities throughout the Humber Region

Repair & Renovation Services

Window Repair, Replacement & Renovation
 Heritage Joinery Services Ltd
 Dave Jackson
 239 Summergangs Road HU8 8LD
 Tel 712426 mobile 07737399481
www.heritagejoiners.com

Traditional Windows of Anlaby Ltd
 Mark Harrison
 32 Pryme Street HU10 6SH Tel 656571
 Ventrolla Ltd: Tel: 01423 859323

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

The Woodcraftsman: Tel 07896 753861

Building Services
 Alan Hart
 Roofing & Building Contractor. Doesn't mind how small job is.
 Tel: 01482 658620

Suppliers of Yellow Pine Timber
 Arnold Laver, Crowle St, Hull
 Tel: 324525

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

L A Hall (Hull Ltd) Roofing Contractors
 19 - 27 Lime St, Hull HU8 7AB
 Tel - 320367
 E-mail: info@lahalltd.karoo.co.uk

Staircases
 The Woodcraftsman: Tel 07896 753861

Get quotations as prices can vary quite a lot

This list is now published in more detail as an insert in the Design Guide, delivered to you in

APPRA Committee	Tel	Fax	Email	Post
Chair	Stephanie Wilson	493037	chair@avenuesonline.org.uk	48 Marlborough Avenue HU5 3JS
Secretary	Adrian Crummay	445272	secretary@avenuesonline.org.uk	66 Westbourne Avenue HU5 3HS
Verges	Sally Walker	447558	sally@lobster.karoo.co.uk	214 Westbourne Avenue HU5 3JB

Chrys Bavey (newsletter), Ian Colquhoun, Mal Dawes, Haris Livas-Dawes, Lesley Longworth, Christine Minnikin, John O'Mullane, Kate Stockdale (Treasurer), Stefan Weigert, Alan Worsley

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

Street tree management in Hull

In geographic terms Hull is a relatively small city for the size of its population. It is also highly urbanised without a leafy suburban fringe inside its boundary. Therefore, Hull has little in the way of accessible woodland and other semi-natural areas compared to other large Yorkshire cities such as Sheffield, Leeds, Rotherham and Doncaster. The majority of Hull's publicly owned trees are either on the highway or in parks, cemeteries and other public open spaces.

The City Council's Streetscene Services, which is responsible for managing the Local Authority's trees, looks upon all the trees in the city, whether publicly or privately owned, as part of Hull's Urban Forest. A major component of this Urban Forest is of course the city's highway tree population.

As Hull expanded rapidly during the Victorian and Edwardian periods many of the new streets were planted with trees. At that time it was already seen as important to improve the urban environment where people lived and worked. That philosophy has been carried through to the current era. As a result Hull has a considerable number of roadside trees and they are even more important now because of the many aesthetic, nature conservation and environmental benefits they provide. The primary function of the Urban Forestry Unit based within Streetscene Services is to effectively manage the trees in the city and increase tree and woodland cover as much as possible.

During the early 1990s there were a number of years with very low annual rainfall. In Hull, which is built on clays and silts, some properties were affected by subsidence as soil moisture levels decreased. This led to certain claims that highway trees might be affecting nearby properties. In response the Highway Authority reviewed its street tree management programmes which had been running successfully since the early 1980s. These rolling programmes consisted of periodic rounds of selective tree felling and replacement planting, with a small number of streets being dealt with each year. This work was in addition to the routine programmes of tree maintenance pruning.

The progressive drought conditions increased pressure for trees to be felled and additional resources were put into the management programmes. At the same time it was also seen as highly important to make a proper assessment of the true extent and condition of the vitally important street tree population right across the city. Apart from certain areas like The Avenues and Garden Village very few accurate records existed and little statistical information had ever been previously gathered. Therefore, in 1997 a comprehensive street tree survey was undertaken and a computer based highway tree inventory was compiled.

The initial survey identified approximately 18,000 street trees citywide and comprehensive details of each tree were recorded. Since then the tree database has

proved to be a very valuable management tool for the Urban Forestry Unit. The highway tree population has risen since 1997 and it currently stands at approximately 22,000. The planting of trees on established tree lined avenues and formerly un-planted streets continues annually. The City Council is committed to maintaining this level of tree planting and providing adequate funding for this to be achieved.

Through obtaining grant aid from exterior sources, planting has also been done in other areas, particularly the establishment of small pockets of woodland on a range of parks and playing fields around the city. However, the backbone of Hull's Urban Forest is always likely to be the trees on the highway.

The Urban Forestry Unit consults regularly with the Avenues and Pearson Park Residents Association, the Garden Village Society and other local community groups over highway tree management proposals. This community involvement is particularly important because the urban tree population belongs to all the residents of the Hull.

At present a comprehensive Greenspace Audit of the city is nearing completion and an Urban Forestry Management Strategy is also being developed. These plans will augment the existing environmental policies and help to safeguard and enhance the city's environment and green infrastructure.

Tim Beckley
Urban Forestry Officer
Hull City Council

it would benefit other residents within the Avenues area.

In December 2007 we started to obtain quotes to have my original front bay sliding sash windows refurbished. Upon doing this I received a quotation from a new local company named Heritage Joinery Services. The quotation was very competitive and clear about the works that would be required. After discussing the quotation with Heritage Joinery Services it became clear to me that this was the right company to carry out the refurbishment of my windows.

In January 2008 Heritage Joinery Services started refurbishing my sliding sash bay windows. I felt very comfortable after seeing them working, as it was clear that the job would not be rushed to be finished and time would be taken to do the refurbishment properly. During the refurbishment there was always communication about how it was progressing.

Overall I am very happy with the finished refurbishment both on price and on the finished article. I would not hesitate to recommend this company to

Chair's Report
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country's heritage and preserving the housing stock; it seems to me that some acknowledgement is therefore in order for the owners of older properties.

Although we don't look forward to collecting subscriptions every summer—“Oh is it that time again? Already?” is a frequent greeting, and pretty much what we feel too—it can be interesting, challenging and fun to chat to residents on their doorsteps and we thank you for your friendly faces and encouraging responses.

Every now and again, we meet a refusal; I am bothered by one which referred to ‘comments in the newsletter’ as the reason for not subscribing. Further details were not forthcoming in this case, but some people do say they ‘don't agree’ with us. We try our best to be representative; we consult residents over each planning application. But we cannot represent residents whose views are not known to us; we would like them to join us. Thank you for the subscriptions given at the door, and to residents who were out when we called, but took the trouble to post their subs through our doors; we have collected £1,200 so far, with Richmond Street still to go.

Currently, we are planning two new plaques—in celebration of Anthony Minghella and of Jack Kaye. The University Drama Department has decided to call one of its studios after Anthony Minghella and plans an opening ceremony in late October; we hope to share and extend the event with our own unveiling. Look out for publicity!

Stephanie Wilson.

anyone thinking of getting their windows refurbished.

I must add that I have no connection with this company or any of its employees. I simply would like to pass this information on to other people who are looking at refurbishing their sliding sash windows.

If you wish to have a look at Heritage website it is found at www.heritagejoiners.com but you are also welcome to come and look at the finished windows at my property.

Simon Downs



2008

This year's accounting is now complete. The first Sunday had ominous reminders of last year's disastrous Open Gardens; however despite the weather we were rewarded with a reasonable turnout. By the second Sunday the sun was shining on us and we had many more visitors.

The final figure is £8,000 and this is how it will be divided:

Dove House Hospice.....	£3,900
Barnardos.....	£925
St John Ambulance.....	£925
PDSA.....	£925
Practical Action}.....	£925
Hull Churches }	
Home from Hospital.....	£225
The Sea Cadets.....	£175

Each year it feels more and more like a community festival with something for everybody. Scrapstore entertained the kids; there was the usual wide variety of music, new this year was Val Marshall, Hull's Troubadour, fronting the refreshments provided by the ladies of St Cuthbert's church, and the Inglemire Quartet performing on Paul Sowden's balcony at 6 Westbourne Avenue. St John Ambulance mocked up realistic wounds with which children could frighten their parents, as well as providing a roving first aid team.

We encourage groups like Friends of the Earth, and Fair Trade to take advantage of the strolling public. Mires Beck Nursery does particularly good business and sees it as one of the highlights of their commercial year.

The Outlet provides a mass of free plants for us to sell. All the proceeds go straight into the central pot: this year it was nearly £800.

Local cafés and bars support us by advertising in the tourist leaflet that goes all over the city and the East Riding. Prossers are particularly generous in their sponsorship of the hail-n-ride bus that circulates around the

Avenues. We are also grateful to Joy Gledhill of KalkKwik who prints the posters and tickets gratis, and the local shops who help by selling advance tickets.

The only disappointing note is the number of residents who take advantage of the many visitors by setting up their own stalls. Usually they are raising funds for their own chosen charities but it would be polite if they told us what they were planning to do so that we could add them into the programme.

Open Gardens wouldn't be a success without refreshments so thanks to all those who served teas, cakes, Pimms and Indian snacks. We know that our visitors see this as an important part of the whole event. Thanks to those who sold garden/allotment produce. All such enterprises help to swell the funds.

Rose and Bob took over from Mollie and Geoffrey Glen in 1992, Debbie and Paul joined the team in 2000. Now we feel that it is time to hand the baton on to another set of organisers. We will not be organising next year's Avenues Open Gardens. After so many years we have lost the adrenaline rush and this year felt more of chore than previously. So in the firm belief that “if you're not enjoying it, stop” we are announcing our retirement.

All four of us will continue to support Open Gardens. Our gardens will be open. We have a comprehensive set of files that are available to our successors and a book of contacts. We are prepared to be involved but firmly in the background. After so many years it is time for Avenues Open Gardens to be renewed by a fresh team with fresh ideas.

Open Gardens is strictly speaking a sub-committee of APPRA. They have given us a very long leash over the years so it's not surprising that some don't know that. However, the decision on who should be the new organisers is APPRA's, not ours. So if you are interested please apply to the Chair, Stephanie Wilson at 48 Marlborough.

If you are not sure what is involved and would like to talk to us about how we went about organising Avenues Open Gardens, please call us. We would be happy to give you as much guidance as you want.

Finally, thanks to all the Openers past and present who

have supported us; we are sure the incoming organisers will find you just as stalwart.

Best regards

Bob & Rose Sandham, 81 Victoria Avenue, 472014

Debbie Cook & Paul Dodsworth, 184 Marlborough Avenue, 447747

Or email us at opengardens@avenuesonline.org.uk

opengardens@avenuesonline.org.uk
www.avenuesopengardens.co.uk

Our thanks to *The Guardian* for permission to reproduce the following column from its 23 April 2008 issue

How do you value a tree?

First, measure the size of the trunk. Multiply by the height and work out the worth of wood you're looking at, at £12.55 per cubic centimetre. Count how many other people look at it too. Then use your skill and judgment as an experienced tree officer to adjust the value up or down to reflect the tree's health, location and status as a much loved member of the local community.

A more pertinent question may be: why do you value a tree? To which the answer is more straightforward: to protect them from councils and insurance companies who unfairly blame them for housing subsidence.

Fed up with the massacre of some 40,000 of the capital's street trees in the past five years, the London Tree Officers' Association has devised the new pricing scheme to force people to think twice before felling favourite planes, horse chestnuts and beeches. The more valuable a tree, the more effort engineers must put into seeking the real source of subsidence before reaching for the chainsaw.

Association chairman Andy Tipping says: “Street trees are valuable whether people know it or not. This is a way to stop them being chopped down because more investigation will be needed for the most expensive trees.”

The system has valued a plane tree in Berkeley Square, Mayfair, at £750,000, reflecting its giant size, condition and the number of people who see it every day. The combined value of trees in London—where the scheme is being trialled by four boroughs—is reckoned to be £6.4bn.

The team has encountered some teething troubles. An attempt to weight central London trees as more valuable left one street that straddled Barnet and Camden with identical trees worth £60,000 on one side and just £20,000 on the other. Tree-price envy is a terrible thing.

David Adam

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“I remember when...”

Tegwen Roberts from the University of Hull is researching everyday memories of Hull. She is interested in how memories of everyday life are connected to the landscape (buildings, streetscapes etc) and how current changes to the city are affecting how different places are remembered.

She is looking for volunteers to spend half an hour looking at recent photographs of Hull and talking about any memories they have of the places in the photographs.

She is keen to speak to anyone with memories of the Avenues/Dukeries/Ella Street area at any time up to the present day.

If anybody is interested in taking part, or would like to know more about the project,

please contact Tegwen by email at t.j.roberts@2006.hull.ac.uk or by phone on 01482 465313.

She has set up a website to allow more Hull residents (of all ages) to share their everyday memories of different parts of Hull, and also so people can read about what she's been doing.

She has put some of her interview photos of Hull as it is now (including pictures of the Avenues and Dukeries area) on the website, along with a page for people to leave their memories of the different places, and pages where people can read what memories other people have left. The website is at www.geog.hull.ac.uk/memoriesofhull

(Ed: There are lots of photos and it's fun and very easy to add your own memories to them and read other people's. Check it out!)



Your column—your say

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

I am writing to let you know about my experience in getting my front bay windows refurbished as I feel