



# APPRAnews

APPRAnews 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 Winter 2010



**There have been some recent positive developments to counteract the—often justified, I fear—perceived negative tone of our reports to residents.**

**The fountains** are to be repainted in (almost) the proper authentic colours; the consensus was that the mermaids were close enough to the original and look nice enough, so can be left as they are. The reason for the hasty repainting without due consultation went as follows: 'there was some money left in the budget, which was going to disappear if it wasn't used quickly, so as the fountains were looking a bit tatty...! One can understand the rules while deploring the wasteful result in this case: and wondering, as I have said before, how to inculcate a culture of respect towards the city's Conservation Areas, so that consultation is a more urgent rule of procedure than spending up budgets.

English Heritage advises cities to appoint a **Heritage Champion** to safeguard their historic features; the Planning Committee has taken on this rôle in Hull—but where

were they when the fountains turned mustard? We are in consultation with the Civic Society on the subject.

**The dropped kerbs** in Marlborough Avenue are to be reinstated; as we have consistently pointed out, their installation was a mistake. Since they have been in situ, unremarked, for years, we wondered if they could remain, specifically exempted from the regulation. Not possible, apparently; and CEOs (traffic wardens...) will continue to fine cars parked across them while they remain, regardless of the fact that they should not be there and are to be removed. So: be warned, and as cynical as you like in interpretation of such inflexibility.

**The new approach to wrongly positioned satellite dishes** has not 'brought the priest and the doctor in their long coats running over the fields'—as far as I am concerned anyway. I've fielded no reactions, adverse or the reverse. The same is, alas, true of the **poems in 'bus shelters**, although the Hull Daily Mail did publish an article, with pictures. I wonder if they should be printed on brighter paper, to catch the eye.

You will read elsewhere about the new planning initiatives in the Avenues; and maybe you saw the article in the Yorkshire Post. I hope they will not prove as contentious in application as the Direction on windows continues to

be. As is well known, we as a Committee favour traditional materials: that is, we would prefer new windows to be made of wood, not UPVC. More important though is that windows conform to the original design; some planning decisions are incomprehensible to us, in their disregard for the traditional appearance of the windows, even when there are original prototypes next door. It is especially important that the original proportions are observed in new installations, because they then become the precedent. Thus—and we have examples of this locally—the 'like-for-like' rule can lead to a permitted copies of windows that have previously been wrongly renewed.

For all the residents of Westbourne Avenue and Park Avenue who could see and will mourn the **glorious copper beech** at 3-5 Salisbury Street, we are promised a replacement of the same species; the tree is a loss, but it was apparently dangerously diseased—and we have,

working with the Planning Department and the Urban Forestry Officer, saved the other important trees (two walnuts and a mulberry, for instance) in the garden and the woodland behind it, which are the vital setting for one of our notable houses.

**The kerbs along the stretch of Salisbury Street**, in front of the Gilbert Scott houses, will be renewed in February 2011, thanks to Andy Bell, who has worked closely with us on this and other Avenues projects. He has found sufficient extra York stone kerbs for the job, with the addition of the original kerbs which prove reusable, and the Wyke Area Team has cleverly kept the money waiting. It's been a saga—with, now, a happy ending almost in sight.

We think that the **grass on the fountains**, a sudden ring of emerald, is surprisingly successful. Do you agree?

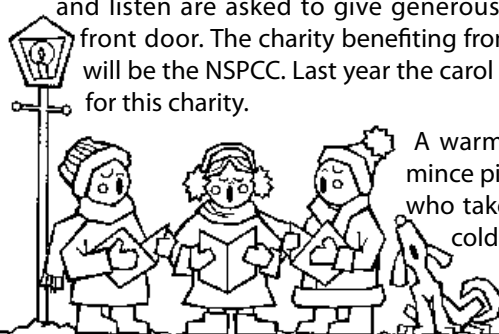
See you on the carol singing evening (22 December, 5.45 at the Park Avenue fountain).

*Happy Christmas!*

Stephanie Wilson MBE

**Our annual carol singing around the Avenues takes place on Wednesday 22 December. Meet 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 £197.62 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 (8 pm).

Ian & Christine Colquhoun

# Help us raise funds for a replacement fountain on Victoria!

**There is strong support from all Avenues residents for a fountain to be reinstated on the roundabout on Victoria Avenue**



Photo: Chrys Bayvey

At the moment it is a rather disappointing flat circle as you will probably have noticed. Apparently, according to Hull City Council records, the original fountain was removed in the 1920s or 1930s though word of

mouth reports say that it was a war-time removal to help the flow of large vehicles.

However, wouldn't it be fantastic to have a mermaid fountain on our roundabout? As the casts for the mermaid fountains are still available, albeit in Chesterfield (I believe), it would look superb to have three in a row. The conservation status of the Avenues would definitely be enhanced.

I know it would not be exactly as it was when the Avenues were created because the original fountain in Victoria Avenue was a much more modest affair than the other two. It, and the one on Marlborough Avenue, were smaller, had three scalloped tiers, dolphins on the bottom one and were surrounded by railings like the newly created fountain on The Boulevard.

There is photographic evidence in Paul Gibson's new book *Hull Then and Now* which shows that there were two more 'mermaid' fountains on Princes Avenue which really sets the tone for the Avenues area. Any knowledge as to where they went?

Obviously the cost of reinstating a fountain on the roundabout is likely to be large so there will be a need to enlist expertise, enthusiasm, energy and experience in fundraising and research skills.

APPRA is fully behind this push to reinstate a fountain on this poor forgotten roundabout and there will be a meeting in the spring to gather support. In the meantime all donations and ideas welcome.

**Already, Les Cousins, of 279 Victoria Avenue has offered his expertise in gardening. He is willing to garden for you for two hours for £40 which will be a donation to the fountain fund. His number is 07853177178.**

Postcards will be available: watercolour images of the mermaid fountains by Jacky Ward Lomax, and wood carving of one of the mermaids by Al Stichler.

Jacky Ward Lomax

Contact: 341631

## Avenues Advent Calendar 2010

ADVENT CALENDAR							
DECEMBER 2010							
<b>1</b> 200 W	<b>2</b> 53 R	<b>3</b> 18 P	<b>4</b> 24 W	<b>5</b> 30 S	<b>6</b> 113 W	<b>7</b> 196 V	<b>8</b> 163 W
<b>9</b> 37 V	<b>10</b> 119 V	<b>11</b> 49 W	<b>12</b> 92 V	<b>13</b> 10 P	<b>14</b> 9 S	<b>15</b> 227 M	<b>16</b> 48 M
<b>17</b> 153 P	<b>18</b> 127 V	<b>19</b> 75 P	<b>20</b> 177 M	<b>21</b> 85 P	<b>22</b> 37 M	<b>23</b> 143 M	<b>24</b> 34 W

For pictures of our calendar windows as they open, visit [www.avenuesonline.org.uk](http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk)

Welcome to our **tenth** walk-round Advent Calendar: the event started in 2001 on a resident's suggestion.

Our congratulations to **Lesley Longworth** who works many hours to organise this event, and to all the participants for their colourful and creative work.

### Key to Location

M	Marlborough
P	Park
S	Salisbury
V	Victoria
W	Westbourne

## News from the Friends of Pearson Park

Membership of the Friends of Pearson Park is going from strength to strength—we gained 18 new members at the 150th Anniversary Celebration held in the Park at the end of August. Recently, we had a stall at the Green Fair organised by Hull Friends of the Earth, and gained 8 new members there. We now have 74 members.

Our summer activities included a fabulous ECO fun day for kids and a very well-attended Bat Walk. We hope to offer more such activities including a visit by the astronomers from the Brough Observatory, who will bring their powerful telescope to the Park through which we can gaze at the sun!

Our latest project is a most worthwhile and exciting one. It is to create a sensory garden in the Park. Our Chair, Haris Livas-Dawes has organised partnerships with HERIB and Bishop Burton College, and obtained funding from the NHS and CVS.

The garden will be at the East end of the Park, approximately opposite the Pearson Park Hotel. Haris met recently with council officers to mark out the boundaries.

Haris Livas-Dawes

# Avenues tree planting 2011

The City Council will be carrying out their annual tree planting for The Avenues with 16 new trees next year (see table below).

These will replace some of the semi-mature trees which died this year, and also fill in old gaps. The trees, selected in consultation with the APPRA Tree Sub Committee, continue to reflect the traditional planting of the same type of tree opposite each other, where possible. The trees are selected from the 12 types published in the newsletter in April 2008 (issue number 31).

The exception will be on Park Avenue roundabout where there are two gaps. These will be filled by Himalayan birch (it has particularly white bark) as its uniform crown makes it an appropriate tree for the narrow verge space here.

Next year, for the first time, the planting will be by non-mechanical means—ie men with spades! This will be of benefit to the preservation of our verges. The council has continued to carry out its programme of pruning mature trees, as you may have noticed. This pruning is an ongoing process.



Field Maple in Westbourne Avenue

## Tree planting 2010-2011

### Marlborough Avenue

o/s 217 .....Caucasian Lime PP  
 o/s 220 .....Field Maple  
 o/s 188 .....Caucasian Lime PP  
 o/s 9 .....Hornbeam

### Westbourne Avenue

o/s 3 .....Silver Lime  
 o/s 15 .....Silver Lime PP  
 o/s 127/129 .....Small leaved Lime PP  
 opp 218 .....Silver Lime

### Park Avenue

o/s 272 .....Field Maple PP  
 o/s 155 .....Field Maple PP  
 o/s 107 .....Ermans Birch (on Roundabout verge)  
 o/s 126 .....Ermans Birch (on Roundabout verge)

### Victoria Avenue

opp 2 .....Caucasian Lime PP (in front of flats)  
 o/s 37 .....Field Maple  
 o/s 105 .....Caucasian Lime PP  
 o/s 249 .....Silver Lime

PP=Paired planting

This year the trees will be hand-planted by Streetscene Highways and Open Spaces tree work staff.

## “Modernised”...



## or “Traditional”...?



Photos: Paul Dodsworth

## Victorian design is elegant and worth saving

How refreshing to see that a few Victorian houses in the Dukeries have been restored to their former glory by the owners, despite the pressure to go for the “easy” option of inauthentic replacements.

The Dukeries’ Victorian Heritage has been all but lost. If you walk through them you will see every possible combination of window replacements, none of them matching. The streets originally would have looked stunning, but now are plagued by satellite dishes of all sizes, and non-matching windows and doors.

The irony is that in other parts of Hull grant money is being spent to put back front walls, windows and doors to restore the street uniformity.

Paul Dodsworth

# 4 Maids and companions

The second in a new series of articles by Avenues resident, Chris Coulson, about Avenues houses and history

The houses in what we now call 'The Avenues' were built between the late 1870s and the 1920s. Initially large houses were built but as time progressed terraces of smaller houses came into existence. This development influenced the employment of Servants, the name used in the censuses, and examination of the censuses (1881, 1891 and 1901) reveals much interesting information. This short account can't do justice to the inferences that might be drawn from the records but hopefully it will be of interest to residents and could even stimulate, say, a student project.

Records show that from the earliest times 'The Avenues' were the home of what we might call the 'middle class': heads of houses being drawn from jobs (professions) such as solicitors, managers, teachers, military and police officers, master mariners, wholesale merchants, academics, clergy men, retired people, 'people living off their own means' etc. For these people employment of servants could have been either a matter of status or of necessity or of benevolence. In passing, necessity is probably a cause for the few servants employed in Blenheim Street between 1881 and 1901.

The records up to 1901 show the servants in the Avenues were 'live-in' and their job descriptions varied. For instance there were Governesses; Housekeepers; Nurses; Parlourmaids; Housemaids; Cooks; Dressmakers; General Domestic; Mother's Helps; Charwomen; Grooms and Pages; and households had from 1 to 4 of them although some households had none. Their density across the area



Photograph: © Chris Coulson

seems to have depended on the number of houses at any one time in an Avenue, on the house type and the profession of the head of the household. Since the Avenues developed at different times, in different ways and at different rates the 'servant density' differed across the area.

In general terms house building took place in the following order: Westbourne and Marlborough then Park then Victoria. Salisbury Street was initially developed in two sections, the west side between Westbourne and Park (the 'Gilbert Scot' houses) between 1879 and the early 1880s and Salisbury Gardens (the long row of houses between Park and Victoria) also on the west side, between 1887-1889. Richmond Street was the last street to be fully developed—the first house only appears in the 1901 census. Park seems to have had a housing 'spurt' some time between 1891 and 1901.

So what effect did this have on servants and their distribution? Well, the early houses (1881 census) had a high number of servants. Averages were: Marlborough

1.8 per house; Westbourne 1.8 per house; Park 1.2 per house; Victoria 0 (no houses); Salisbury Street 3 per house and Richmond 0 (no houses). The high number in Salisbury is because the only houses in the survey were 2 large houses between Westbourne and Park, having 4 and 2 servants respectively. By 1891 the average number of servants per house had fallen presumably because more houses, which included smaller ones, had been built. In 1891 Marlborough had 1.1 per house; Westbourne 1.4 per house; Park 0.5 per house; Victoria 0.6 per house; Salisbury 0.8 per house and Richmond 0 (still no houses built). In 1901 the figures were roughly the same: Marlborough 1.1; Westbourne 1.4; Park 0.9; Victoria 0.5 and again Richmond 0 though it now had one house. However, from 1881 there was an increase in houses with no servants though this was less evident in Marlborough and Westbourne. This presumably reflects the building of smaller houses and is very noticeable in Park where in 1891 68% of the houses had no live-in servants compared to 18% in Westbourne.

Most servants were women between 18 and 24, but there were exceptions. There were quite a few girls between 14 and 17, a woman of 69 and even a Nurse/Domestic of 74! However, there were very few 'man servants' though two Pages of 17 years old and two domestic male Grooms are recorded.

Next time I'll give details of some houses and their staff, evidence of philanthropy as well as shows of status.

Chris Coulson  
96 Marlborough Avenue

## PLANNING MATTERS

**The Planning Department has asked APPRA to pass this message on:**

Give them a ring on 612345 if you are thinking of altering or replacing your windows. They are very happy to help and advise you with your proposals. It is best to do this before you commission the work.

**Planning permission is required for windows and crossovers**

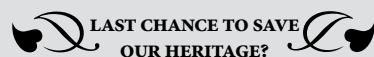
In the Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area **specific planning permission (under Article 4 Directions of 1995)** is required for:

- the construction of a *driveway* across a pavement or verge;
- the removal or alteration of a *window or bay* facing the highway. **This applies equally to an already altered or replacement window as it does to an original one.**

**There is no fee for an application resulting from an Article 4 Direction.**

Detailed information is available from the Council in leaflet and other forms; and on the website: [www.hullcc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/planning)

More detailed guidance on planning controls can be found in the Avenues Conservation Area booklet.



**WE WILL ALL BE RECEIVING A QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE COUNCIL IN THE NEW YEAR**

The questionnaire is to gauge residents' attitudes and responses to a possible further protection of our conservation area. In this climate of spending cuts and reduction of services, it is important that residents respond to this questionnaire to show the Council that they are not wasting their time and our money in asking for our views.

This also may be the last time we are able to make a positive contribution towards saving our conservation area, not only for current residents but for the generations to come. *Piecemeal loss of our original architecture is a real threat to our heritage.*

**Please take the time to complete the questionnaire and encourage neighbours and friends to do the same.**

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