



# n e w s

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

December 2012 Issue 45



## The 2012 Advent Windows

### December 2012

- 1.....200 Westbourne Avenue
- 2.....16 Pearson Park
- 3.....113 Westbourne Avenue
- 4.....119 Victoria Avenue
- 5 .....55 Marlborough Avenue
- 6 .....194 Marlborough Avenue
- 7.....18 Park Avenue
- 8 .....119 Westbourne Avenue
- 9 .....10 Park Avenue
- 10.....143 Marlborough Avenue
- 11.....235 Park Avenue
- 12.....9 Salisbury Street

### December 2012

- 13.....37 Victoria Avenue
- 14.....92 Victoria Avenue
- 15.....9 Victoria Avenue
- 16.....18 Westbourne Avenue
- 17.....28 Westbourne Avenue
- 18.....127 Victoria Avenue
- 19.....244 Marlborough Avenue
- 20.....17 Madeira Court
- 21.....34 Westbourne Avenue
- 22.....22 Park Avenue
- 23.....55 Pearson Park
- 24.....25 Marlborough Avenue

## Advent Windows 2001–2012

Lesley Longworth

I will always be glad that I was at an APPRA meeting in 2001 when a couple of new residents were brought along by their neighbour to see what we were all about. When discussion turned to choosing the date for Carol singing, it prompted them to ask what else we did at Christmas. Well... we'd tried printing our own Christmas cards. They then told us about something they had seen in their home country of Switzerland. They described a version of an Advent Calendar which didn't involve a daily piece of chocolate behind a cardboard "door", but took the community outdoors at a time of year normally associated with huddling round the fire with curtains firmly closed.

24 houses decorated a window each. The design incorporated a date number, just like the card version many of us have, and each day one would 'open' — by being lit at dusk until all 24 were lit by Christmas Eve. Whilst everyone thought the idea delightful, would it work here in the Avenues? I offered to take on the project. We could advertise in the September newsletter and if there wasn't sufficient interest we could say so in the next one, but I was confident that wouldn't happen and I was right.

This year will be the **12th window calendar**. We have been featured on Radio Humber-side, Look North, Hull Daily Mail, copied in other towns and 132 households have now taken part. This year there will be 9 first-timers and 2 new locations—in Pearson Park and Madeira Court off Park Avenue.

Sadly some myths have developed. (1) *You have to be invited—No!* (2) *It's the same set every year—No!* Some people have taken part several times, but that is inevitable after 12 years. First timers get priority. (3) *Your house has to front one of the main Avenues to take part—No!*



The first Advent Window, at 50 Marlborough Avenue, 1 December 2001

If you haven't taken part before, booking for next year is open now—**carpe deum!**

Contact Lesley by email: [longworth@lathkill.karoo.co.uk](mailto:longworth@lathkill.karoo.co.uk)

See the earliest windows 2001-2006 at: [www.hullsangel.org](http://www.hullsangel.org)

## Join us for Avenues carols

Tuesday, 18 December 2012

Meet at 5.45pm at the Park Avenue fountain.

As always, gather at 73 Park Avenue afterwards, for some warming seasonal cheer, courtesy of Christine and Ian Colquhoun.



Feel free to share information you think other residents might find useful.

To find us on Twitter, search for **@APPRAHull**

Tweet us to tell us you are an Avenues resident and we will follow you back.



Like APPRA on Facebook

To find us on Facebook, login to Facebook and search for "APPRA", then "like" our page.



Scan the code to reach APPRA's website—see Advent Windows, our craftsmen list and other resources

[www.avenuesonline.org.uk](http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk)

# Conservation matters

In my time as APPRA Chair, we have never had so few planning applications; and what we have had this autumn have been predominantly applications to fell or prune garden trees. I wonder if this is a sign of the times: that we as individuals, like government but with more excuse, are not spending our way out of recession.

The dearth of planning matters left us free for a long discussion about Pearson Park. Residents are worried about the numbers of vacant properties in the Park (some now up for sale) and asking if there is a vision for its future. We have been promised sight of a forthcoming report to the Pearson Park Trust which will list the 'options available under the new powers of the Council.'

Meanwhile, we have had an application for railings along Princes Avenue which baffled us. The aim of the application is to 'bring an area of the Park, which is presently un-used, back into public use.' But the proposed railings would preclude the current use of the grassy strip of land beyond the large kerbstones (which children love to balance along); while the removal of the railings inside the Park would open a bit of land which, we think, is not attractive to family use in comparison with the Park proper, and which is already often happily occupied by young people who have no difficulty in vaulting the fence and who make the cupola their centre.

As to the newly installed tarmac on the pavement on the opposite side of this stretch of Princes Avenue, between Westbourne and Park Avenues—how my reactions have oscillated. At first, I imagined—in my naive optimism—that the preparations were for the careful re-laying of flags such as we appreciated in Westbourne Avenue; then I saw the tarmac. I flew to the phone, alerting Councillor Butterworth and the Enforcement Officer. The work was halted and I had a brief moment imagining that right thinking and correct procedure had triumphed; but no—work was resumed, the tarmac is now complete, and the reason given is the prohibitive cost of flags.

This is an insult to the Conservation Area and to us who are trying reasonably to preserve its original features.

First, Highways did not consult us or the Wyke Area Office. Had we known what was planned, and that the budget did not stretch to flags, we could, in partnership with Highways, have tried to raise the extra money through a bid to the Community Initiatives Budget, as we have with our project to replace kerbs in the Avenues.

(Moreover, it is our information that the flagged paving in Westbourne Avenue was not in fact notably more costly than tarmac would have been. And when it comes to questions of expenditure, we have always argued against cheap shoddy jobs; we accept the constraints on the public purse, but ask that all work done in the Avenues should be done properly, with historic standards in mind. We would rather not have anything done, than to see sub-standard skimping locally. Save the money, we say, until the City can afford the necessary quality.)

Secondly, how is it that we as individuals are required to conform to the rules governing a Conservation Area, but that Highways feels free to flout them? The simple rule is 'like for like,' which means 'flags for flags' **not** 'tarmac for flags.' Apparently, the specious justification was that the rest of Princes Avenue paving is tarmac. And so, bit by bit, the Conservation Area loses its essential features. Instead of degrading our environment, the City could look upon preserving a lone stretch of flagstones as an example to the future; this is how pavements should be, this is how it's done—and bit by bit, our pavements could instead be restored.

The remaining stretches of flagged pavements are mentioned in the Character Statement. We are currently engaged in rewriting this Statement; what is the point of this devoted work, celebrating and seeking to preserve our avenues, if it has no standing in the eyes of the City's services?

Rising above the surface of our walkways and on a more seasonal note...meeting at 5.45 at the Park Avenue fountain, we will be carol singing on Tuesday, 18 December, a date arranged to suit our generous hosts in Park Avenue: Ian and Christine Colquhoun, who have provided a most festive end to the evening for many years. Their mulled wine, mince pies, warm fires and welcoming presence have created such a true Christmas occasion, and we thank them.

Lesley Longworth continues devotedly to co-ordinate the Advent windows. This is a lovely idea which greatly adds to the interest and Christmas spirit along our streets in December, but it doesn't just happen. Thanks to her and to the creative minds and hands which make it happen.

## Happy Christmas!

Stephanie Wilson  
Chair APPRA



PHOTO: Mal Dawes

## Be a Friend to Pearson Park

I have chaired The Friends of Pearson Park for the past four years, although it has been in existence for longer. We have over 60 paid-up members, which is a real community record as members come to us and want to join; we do not solicit door to door.

We've accomplished much, largely by raising money from the National Lottery and numerous corporate supporters. For example, our annual **ECO Day** this year was supported by KC, Skipton Building Society and the Hull Lions Club. Our current project, a **Health Trail** in the park is supported by the NHS—but has been rejected by the Trustees.

We have a huge ongoing project in the **Sensory Garden**. The plans are already laid and our partners are HERIB and Bishop Burton College. We need £60,00 for the garden so are looking for a corporate sponsor. We always work in partnership and for our tree planting

day, 27 November at 10 am (all helpers welcome) our partners are the HCC and BTCV. The funding came from DEFRA.

We have not been working in partnership with the Trustees as we wish, but that has not been for lack of trying. We have a priority list for the park and want to work with them in carrying out projects.

We have just had a table at Hull Friends of the Earth's annual Green Fair in Prospect Centre and much interest was shown by those attending.

**The goal of the Friends is to enhance the park and we always welcome new members.**

Haris Livas-Dawes

h.p.livas@gmail.com



## Proud of a feature in your house?

As a suggestion and a follow-up from our Heritage Open event, the Victoria Fountain group are inviting residents to join a celebration of the wonderful features that are in our homes.

We have a photographer who is willing to come and photograph your 'feature'.

The intent is to create a booklet of images of these wonderful things accompanied by a short text written by the owner. The text would be about the feature; it could be historical but not necessarily so.

*For security—there would be no identification of where the feature is or who has written the text.*

This was an idea put forward by the organiser of Heritage Open who is aware of how much we value the Avenues and thought it would be excellent if the internal richness and diversity of the area could be explored too.

## Interested? Contact Jacky Ward Lomax to find out more...

Email: [victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk)  
 Telephone: (01482) 341631  
 Web: [www.victoriafountain.org](http://www.victoriafountain.org)

## Heritage Open—the Fountain Walk

On Saturday, 8 September, 22 people joined Chris Coulson on a Heritage Walk along Salisbury Street, taking in the fountains of Westbourne and Park Avenues and the 'not there yet' fountain of Victoria Avenue.

The idea was proposed by the Victoria Fountain group and Chris Coulson agreed to take the walk and also wrote, researched, and provided the images for a great leaflet to accompany the walk.

The walk itself was full of enlightening details about the houses and surroundings. Chris kept us fascinated with down-to-earth events that brought the places to life.

## Artists in the Avenues

**Sabine J Bieli:** "Thread is the staple of my work. I use it—or the warp released from the loom—to draw in the third dimension." Sabine's website records her beautiful and intricate art via images and videos. There is also a Google Streetview walk through Spurn, where Sabine was artist in residence, 2008.

[www.sabinejbieli.com](http://www.sabinejbieli.com)

**Sonya Cowen** is a mixed media artist. "My richly coloured collages are made up from my own dyed papers and fabrics. I tear, manipulate, stitch and distort the materials to create artworks full of colour and texture."

[www.reveal-art.org/Artists/Sonya\\_Cowan/sonya\\_cowan.html](http://www.reveal-art.org/Artists/Sonya_Cowan/sonya_cowan.html)

**Frances Kelly:** printmaker, designer, lecturer and artist. "I love drawing and making marks. In the ideal piece, for me, the image has generated its own narrative, through instinctive strokes often in different media, based around draughtmanship with strong linear elements."

[www.franceskellyart.com](http://www.franceskellyart.com)

## Boulevard gets it right!



PHOTOS: Hilary Byers

## Boulevard and Coltman Street Conservation Area, once a prestigious residential area of Hull, has suffered decline over many years, but work on restoration has been undertaken by Hull City Council.

The photo on the left shows what happens (as has happened in many streets in Hull) when the design of Georgian, Victorian or Edwardian houses is not valued or even 'seen'; and they are stripped of their features in the interests of

cheap maintenance. The photo on the right shows the same house restored to its original style, using traditional materials.

The funding came from a grant-giving programme called St Andrew's Townscape Heritage Initiative, with owners also making a financial contribution. By restoring the houses to what they were intended to look like, the programme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Hull's Gateway scheme, has improved the value of the houses, as well as enriching the environment that people live in.

The Heritage Lottery Fund recommended that the Boulevard and Coltman Street

Conservation Area be subject to Article 4 Directions to protect the renovated houses from out-of-character changes in the future. These have just been introduced (November 2012).

Without such planning measures to protect, the concept of conservation areas is meaningless, as English Heritage point out in their booklet "Heritage at Risk."

What The Avenues can draw from the expensive grant-aided restoration in Boulevard and Coltman is that it is far cheaper to repair than to replace—and to value what we already have.

The Avenues Conservation Area colour booklet, distributed free to all houses in 2007 (and now delivered to new owners as part of a Welcome Pack) provides advice on both. The list of local craftsmen included with it is kept updated and is on the APPRA website.

## So, well done Hull City Council—another piece of Hull's history and heritage valued and saved.

... and yes they now have a fountain too!

## Recycle that bicycle

[www.avenuesbicycleproject.org](http://www.avenuesbicycleproject.org)

Chris Jarrell tells us that volunteers from the **Avenues Bicycle Project** (who are all Avenues residents and their friends and family) loaded a container in October with nearly 300 bicycles.

It's currently awaiting customs clearance on Tema dock in Ghana. The bicycles will soon be heading north for distribution to villagers and school children in rural communities by the Village Bicycle Project.

Chris Jarrell

A number of bicycles were donated as a result of coverage in APPRA News, and they already have 13 for the next container. Ed.

**Vintage Café** at 209 Chanterlands Avenue is looking to expand its current range of community-based activities by inviting local groups and organisations to hold meetings and events at the premises.

They already host weekly and monthly knitting gatherings and can cater for groups of up to 30 people. They also provide **free exhibition space** for local artists and photographers to display and sell their work.

If you are interested please contact **Lexi** on (01482) 341415, email [vintagecafe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vintagecafe@hotmail.co.uk), find them on Facebook or pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

# Fanny Dobson 18??–1974

## Does any one remember her?

An area such as ours has never been just a collection of houses but a community. At the inception of the Avenues "live in" domestic staff were very prevalent but between the wars and post WWII these declined, their role taken over by 'daily helps'.

A notable long time peripatetic Avenues daily domestic was Fanny Dobson, generally known as 'Dobby'. Dobby was married at 16 in Pocklington to a farm worker called Swaby but she was widowed within a few months. To earn a living she came to Hull as a 'domestic' working certainly at 30 Marlborough Avenue as, prior to WW1, she carried my father, Laurie Coulson, on her back as she 'donkey stoned' the step. She was married a second time to a Bill Dobson who 'ran' a bicycle shop on Spring Bank but he seemed to spent more time in the Polar Bear pub than in his bike shop. As the bicycle shop profits declined those of the Polar Bear rose

ensuring that 'Dobby' continued 'charring'. Bill even came round when she was working to borrow money for drinking and this used to upset her. She lived at 6 Minnie's Grove off Mayfield Street in a house where the front room floor eventually fell through with wet rot, the Landlord never ever repairing it. She had an attic which always seemed to have something useful in it and would always offer to find things you needed. I still have a brass bedstead from that Aladdin's Cave!

Looking like a witch on a windy night (I know of one Avenues child of the 1950s who was frightened by her hair) she rode an old pedal cycle festooned with so many bags on the handle bars that she could hardly steer it let alone use the brakes. This caused her to come to the notice of the police. Unfortunately one once surprised her on his quiet Velocette motor cycle (Noddy Bikes—remember them?) and this caused her

bike to wobble. She harangued them so much they left her alone after that. Her various employers paid her 'stamp' but despite being very poor she tried to take part of her old age pension back to the Post Office saying she didn't need it all! This attempt surprised the PO staff. Unable to hand any back she would buy sweets for children and indeed when I was a student and in spite of my protestations she used to slide the occasional florin or even a half crown in my pocket saying, 'a man needed something in his pocket for drink!' This after a life with Bill! She faithfully cleaned in many Avenues houses from before WW1 to very nearly her death in 1974, though in the end she was only managing to clean a brass candlestick in a morning. Such tasks made her feel useful,



PHOTO: Chris Coulson collection

kept her busy and also ensured she got a mid day meal cleaning her plate with her tongue. She would not give up trying to work. She always wore old gym shoes and my last memory of her was in the Fountain Road Alms house sitting by a small open fire pushing a long stick into it with her gym shoe clad foot, her sole possession apparently being a Singer treadle sewing machine. I suppose there are few people who remember her. 'Good old Dobby', they broke the mould when you went to clean for the Lord!

Chris Coulson

## HELP@HAND

### HERITAGE REPAIRS ADVICE

If you wish for advice on repair and renovation using traditional materials and styling, email **Ed Ulliyart** and he will help, or find a "man who can".  
ed@allstar.karoo.co.uk

### CRAFTS LIST ONLINE

AvenuesOnline has APPRA's updated list of recommended local firms with the skills and willingness to carry out conservation-minded repairs and renovation.

### PLANNING MATTERS

Phone the Planning Dept on 612345 if you are thinking of renovating or making changes to **the front of your house**. They will give you advice about what is acceptable and help to make the process easier for you.

It is in your best interest to do this before you commission the work, as planning permission is now required for changes or additions to any feature on the front of the houses—this includes the roof and chimneys.

## Satellite dishes in Conservation Areas

**Although most of us know that one of the national rules for conservation areas is that satellite dishes should not be on the front elevation without planning permission, some residents have them there.**

If planning permission has been requested (no charge) and granted, dishes can be fixed on the street facing side. However, most of the dishes we can see disfiguring our avenues were not given permission.

We have been fortunate in obtaining money from Wyke Area and APPRA's funds to establish a scheme by which errant dishes can be re-positioned for only £30. The average cost is £120, so the householder receives a subsidy of £90 to move the dish. Although the deadline for applying has now passed there is still money in the kitty so late applications can be entertained.

The council's planning department are also taking an interest in the matter. The planning enforcement officer, Graham Varley, has said " We are commencing an assessment of dishes in the Avenues Conservation Area and this could lead to enforcement action."

If you have a dish on the front of your house you could either apply for the £90 subsidy or apply for retrospective planning permission.

Letters from APPRA have been sent to the twenty five aerial erectors operating in and around the area to remind them of the national planning rules. This should reduce the number of new dishes fixed in the wrong place but the responsibility is the householder's and not the erector's.

### Satellite installation firms who have agreed to abide by planning guidelines:

1 S.A.T-Hull  
B & B Digital Ltd  
Capital Aerials  
Wyke Satellite & Aerial Services  
R.T Communications ( R. Tranmer)  
GB Aerials  
Digivision  
Sat City (Chanterlands Avenue)

## APPRA Contacts

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<b>APPRA online</b>	www.avenuesonline.org.uk			laurence.crummay@gmail.com	