



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



THE 38TH AVENUES OPEN GARDENS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR ON SUNDAYS 6 & 13 JULY FROM 1-5PM. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL

GO TO DOVE HOUSE

We're pleased to say that £6,500 raised in 2013 has been donated to Dove House Hospice.

Thanks to all the 'openers', volunteers, musicians, singers, entertainers, stall holders, cake bakers, tea makers and everyone who made the event a success in 2013.

And a very big thank you to Pippa King and Christine Colquhoun who did such a good job for the past few years of making Avenues Open Gardens a real community event.

Pippa and Christine 'retired' from Open Gardens duties following the 2013 event and this year's event will be organised by Sarah Paton, Robbie Walker-Brown, Elly Wynn and Ken Mitchell. All four



of us are Avenues' residents and open our gardens. We will try our best to continue the tradition of Avenues Open Gardens and ensure this is once again a successful community event.

WE'D BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR OPEN GARDENS AS USUAL

Programmes/tickets which cover both Sundays, will be available about a month beforehand at shops on Chanterlands Avenue and Princes Avenue and from participating gardens on the day.

New gardens are welcome as there are always some people who aren't able to open every year. If you're interested in opening your garden or know someone who is, please contact us. It doesn't have to be a show garden, it's not a

Hull—City of Culture 2017

competition and there's no 'inspection!' The diversity of open gardens is what makes the event unique.

Dove House is a fantastic organisation and we want to raise as much as possible. We're looking at ways of providing more refreshments as these are a big money-spinner and we'd like to continue encouraging entertainments and activities in the gardens which attract a wider range of visitors.

Please contact us if you're interested in helping out with Open Gardens.

This could be anything from helping with publicity to baking cakes. And if you have any ideas we'd love to hear from you.

You can reach us on:
avenuesopengardens@gmail.com

APPRA AGM

•••••
• Wednesday 7 May •
• 7-9 pm •
• St Cuthbert's Hall •
• Marlborough Avenue •
•••••



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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Stephanie Wilson MBE

Is it fame when, though basically disinclined, one commits to trying on a garment in TKMaxx and is greeted in the changing rooms with, "I quite agree with you about the mermaid tree"? I found it both disconcerting and pleasing—demonstrating that the Hull Daily Mail and Look North had taken the story of the **chain-sawed mermaid tree** beyond our indignation in the Avenues and perhaps helped in the quest for some compensation. I don't believe that money is a compensation for such thoughtless destruction; but we do think that perhaps the memory of the cost involved, in money as well as adverse publicity, might remind men-with-saws of the duty to give notice and consult in future.

We haven't been able to think of a way of commemorating the mermaid in situ (a free-standing sculpture presents difficulties on the verge; and a mermaid set into the pavement, imitating the inspired fish trail in town, would be liable to a regular coating of slurry as there are no paving stones nearby), so we have requested a contribution to the **Victoria Avenue fountain fund**.

Our focus in **planning matters** has recently been on Pearson Park. The Planning Office and the Planning Committee are clearly aware



PHOTO: Paul Dodsworth

A fine example of a castellated chimney pot in Park Avenue

Chimney pots are part of the chimney stack and thus protected by the Article 4 Direction on chimneys, which means planning permission is required if you wish to remove or alter them.

Like for like replacement pots, which do not require planning permission, can be sourced locally from:

- ◆ Burton Roofing, Hull Office/Yard, Chapman Street, Cleveland Street, Hull, HU8 8AE. Tel: 01482 223770
- ◆ Kesteven Roofing Centre, Anchor Trade Park, Wiltshire Road, Dairycoates Industrial Estate, Hull HU4 6PA. Tel: 01482574577 Email: bmhull@kestevens.co.uk

of the need to protect the Park from adverse developments. Applications for a mews-type residential unit behind 55 Pearson Park, for 14 flats in 50 Pearson Park (a listed building and a fine house) and for 32 bedsits in the former Pearson Park Hotel were all initially refused.

The **backland building has been allowed on appeal at 55**; we felt that the Inspector had misunderstood the Park's original integrity of design in tolerating increased living quarters evident from Queen's Road; she also cited existing small dwellings as providing a precedent. We are always told that each case is considered on its own merit in planning decisions—and noted this conflicting evidence. We have written with our reactions to her judgment; there is no appeal against an appeal decision, but we can hope to persuade Inspectorate eyes to look more carefully in future.

The plans for **50 Pearson Park were revised and passed**; the proposed 9 flats were considerate of the historic dimensions and retained the architectural impact of the house while fitting it for modern living. However, the applicants have appealed against the refusal of the first application.

When the **revised plans for the Hotel (28 bedsits)** were considered by the Planning Committee, the argument that the applicant would appeal against a refusal and win, carried the day: **the application was passed, despite the continued relevance of all the original reasons for refusal**. We think this is inconsistent and disappointing; if plans are in principle unacceptable, they should be refused, regardless of any future possibilities. We await a reply to our helpful letter to the Chair of the Planning Committee on the subject.

Tipped off by the Daily Mail about the new 'massage parlour' on Princes Avenue, we were about to discuss, in a spirit of slight levity, how to discuss it—"change of use? requiring planning permission?" when we were told by our local councillor that the users had already been evicted.

Now for the Kitchener moment: your Residents' Committee needs you!

Once more, we are asking for new members. I hope that the majority of residents are not opposed to the work we do in responding to planning applications and thereby monitoring developments and trends which threaten the Conservation Area. We know, of course, that we are not always representative, for instance in our loyalty to timber and consequent antipathy to UPVC (but we are confident of future vindication); but we do think that we have been useful in 'preserving and enhancing' the area and fending off at least some of the worse threats to conservation; and individual residents are often grateful for our support when they find they need it.

We need new Committee members, who care for the Avenues as we do, but will bring new ideas to meetings and ensure that the committee and APPRA itself survive. The business of the Committee is interesting; the work involved is regular, but not arduous—we meet once a month, in different houses.

Hoping to see you at the AGM—Wednesday, 7 May in St Cuthbert's Hall at 7 o'clock, as usual.

PLANNING MATTERS



Planning permission is required for alterations to or construction of the following, as they are protected features under Article 4 Directions:

- ◆ windows;
- ◆ front doors;
- ◆ chimneys, including chimney pots;
- ◆ roofs—both for roofing materials and for the installation of solar panels;
- ◆ eaves gutters, gutter blocks/brackets, fascia boards and barge-boards;
- ◆ construction of a porch or alterations to an existing porch;

- ◆ construction of a vehicular driveway across a pavement or verge.

The Article 4 Direction applies only to the elevation of the house which faces a public highway, except for roofs and chimneys which include the front and backs of houses.

There is no fee for a planning application arising from an Article 4 Direction.

Also subject to planning permission are **satellite dishes** (national guidelines for Conservation Areas) and the **felling/pruning of trees** (where the trunk circumference is more than 24 cm).

Character appraisal of Avenues and Pearson Park conservation areas

The purpose of a conservation area character appraisal

is to define the 'special architectural and historic interest' that warrants its designation and to identify what it is about the character and appearance of the area that should be preserved or enhanced. Character appraisals are referenced by the planning department when making decisions on planning applications.

- ◆ **The Character Appraisal for The Avenues** was produced by Hull City Council (HCC) in 1998 (available on the web), and is now in need of updating. At the request of HCC, APPRA have taken on responsibility for rewriting it. HCC have advised that we base the format and content on **The Avenues Design Guide** circulated to all households in 2007, as they thoroughly approved of this APPRA publication for its analysis and celebration of the area.

So don't forget to use the still very relevant **Design Guide** for its practical and aesthetic advice, as well as its information on heritage. However, its information on Article 4 Directions (which make planning permission a requirement for any alterations to the fronts of houses) is now out of date; and you will need to read the information in this newsletter, or on the APPRA website, or phone the Planning Department.

- ◆ **The Character Appraisal for Pearson Park.** This part of the conservation area is long overdue a character statement. Here again, APPRA have taken on the task on behalf of the council. Thanks to our local councillors, we made a successful bid to Wyke Area Community Initiative Budget to fund its writing by a professional. It will be out in 2014.

Both appraisals will go to the council for approval and then they will be available on the council website. For a small fee, paper copies will be available from the council.

Sally Walker

Energy firm supports Avenues Bicycle Project

Cottingham-based Humber Energy, an environmentally-friendly local family business and 'Investors in the Environment' (*Silver Award*), has decided to get involved with **The Avenues Bicycle Project**. They met this worthwhile charity last December, at Hull Friends of the Earth's 'Green Fair', an annual event at the Spring Bank Community Centre in Hull. Humber Energy were so impressed with how the charity are helping the adults and children of Ghana they wanted to get involved.

Instead of people placing the bikes in landfill sites the charity collect them from the Hull and East Yorkshire region, get spare parts and bike tools and ship them over to **The Village Bicycle Project** in West Africa! Before doing this they have all the bikes repaired and refurbished to a professional standard by prisoners, an organisation run through the Margaret Carey Foundation. This is a win-win benefit as the prisoners learn new skills and have a meaningful work activity during their day.

These bikes provide affordable and sustainable transport in rural communities which massively benefit those local people in order that they may have some means of transport. For every brand new boiler and solar panel that Humber Energy installs, a donation of £5 goes to the Charity. This amount of money pays for the bikes to be stored before they are sent abroad and so far, in this short, time Humber Energy have managed to raise £380. This helps the Charity to store 70 bikes for 8 months in a bike lock-up!

Founded two years ago, the Project has managed in that time to collect 700 bikes which have greatly helped the people of West Africa.

Angela Marshall, on behalf of Humber Energy

www.avenuesbicycleproject.org, www.humber-energy.com



Residents' fund-raising for a Victoria fountain

Steps towards restoring the elegant fountain which once graced the junction of Victoria Avenue and Salisbury Street are continuing this spring. The original fountain was a local landmark, with water switched on to the delight of all on high days and holidays. Sadly it was dismantled in the 1920s.

Now a group of enthusiasts has already raised over £18,000 towards the goal of £90,000 for a replacement fountain which will honour Hull poet Philip Larkin.

Well-known local artist Jacky Ward Lomax, who carved many of the Avenues tree sculptures, has designed a tea towel which features the fountain. The picture is surrounded by images of distinctive Avenues houses. Many people have already bought the tea towels, not just for kitchen use, but also as decorative hangings or unusual presents. The tea towels cost £5 each, and are available from **Avenews Newsagents** on Salisbury Street, or 96 or 92 Victoria Avenue. All proceeds go towards the Victoria Fountain fund.

The Avenues amazingly survived intense wartime bombing, and remains a historic and vibrant conservation area. In 2017, Hull is due to become the City of Culture. Alongside everything else this city has to offer, the Avenues is of significant historic interest. The reinstatement of an elegant fountain in Victoria Avenue would greatly enhance the beauty of the city and contribute to the celebrations.

Further information on Victoria Fountain can be found on the group's website: www.victoriafountain.org

Ella Suto

Victoria Fountain group



THIS COLUMN REPRESENTS THE PERSONAL VIEWS OF ITS WRITERS

LOCAL SERVICES KEEP THE LOCAL ECONOMY VIBRANT

It is very special to be surrounded by three unique shopping streets Newland, Princes and Chanterlands Avenues. In most parts of the country this kind of street no longer exists. Our superb local shops offer the majority of goods and services that we need in our lives. Unfortunately, their numbers have declined in recent years due to the growth of restaurants and bars but also due to a lack of support from local residents who increasingly do the majority of their shopping in supermarkets and superstores.

The problem with supermarkets is that although they provide limited employment opportunities and convenience they suck money out of the local

economy. This hastens the closure of family-owned businesses with the loss of risked capital and local employment that entails. Local shopping is a pleasure: not only do you in the majority of cases receive better choice, quality and personal service than in a supermarket but many goods are also cheaper. The shopkeepers are knowledgeable about what they sell and are happy to go that extra mile to oblige the customer; over time they come to know you and really value your custom. You do not get that in a large impersonal supermarket. The other benefit of local shopping is that it gets you out and about in the fresh air and sunshine (when it shines), meeting people and adding to the vibrancy and culture of our area.

So, next time you reach for the car keys for the big supermarket shop or the mouse for a home delivery think about the effects of shopping habits on the local economy and how even in the midst of a deep recession we can contribute to the long term sustainability and buoyancy of the unique Avenues and surrounding area. Use it or lose it!

Tony Mercer

Answers to Avenues picture quiz II

December issue

1. This sign is on the wall of 88 *Chanterlands Avenue*, facing the Avenues pub. It advertises the sales and services of the 'British Gas Light' company. It appeared about two years ago when an advertising board was removed.
2. Molt Green. 16 *Marlborough Avenue*. The only thing I can find out about the name is to do with the moulting of animals. There are references to the moulting of the (green) shore crab and bird feathers. 16 and 18 *Marlborough* were apparently built by the builder who built n° 96. They have similar styles and decorations.
3. This was the remains of *Beal's the Plumbers* at the corner of *Princes Avenue* and *Park Grove* when it was hit by a bomb 2 June (?) after the 'all clear', 1941. Currently there is a telephone box and advertising hoardings there. In the 1960s there was a raised flower bed in front of the hoardings.



Beal's before the bomb

4. One of the ornamentations on the east wall of n° 5 *Salisbury Street*, one of the Gilbert Scot Jr houses.
5. APPRAnews September 2012 (issue 44 page 4) featured this photo. It is the remains of the 12th century *Setting Dyke*, one of the dykes dug to drain the area, the reclaimed land leading to the name *Newlands*. On the right was an area of water called the 'brick pond' or 'boating lake' depending on your perspective! I remember seeing a water vole here when it was full of water. *Cottingham Drain* ran along *Jack Kaye Walk*, joining *Setting Dyke* at the south end of what is now *Nunnington Close*.
6. The original name was *Barcombe House*. Its twin neighbour to the immediate west, *Tower House* (now a car park), had a chequered history in terms of occupancy. It was eventually knocked down in 1915.
7. This is a view up *Princes Avenue* towards *Queens Road*. The avenue on the left is *Westbourne*. Opposite can be seen the gates to the park which disappeared years ago. The fountain seldom played and was a source of complaints because of the stagnant water.
8. This is the 'new circle' being built in *Marlborough Avenue* in May 1998. The original circle and fountain were removed in the 1920s to

Avenues picture quiz III

Identify these two places in the Avenues



- 'aid' traffic flow. Years ago my father wrote to the Duke of Marlborough to see if he had a spare statue of 'a Duke' to place there. He was given short shrift by the Duke's Secretary!
9. BOMBED. Clockwise, from top left: **Westbourne House**, 123 *Princes Avenue*. Up to recently it was the YWCA. Bombed 17th July (?) 1941. **Baytana**, 79 *Marlborough Avenue*. Two or three houses stood here. **St Cuthbert's church**. The original Mission church, the 'Tin tabernacle', was destroyed by a bomb. **The site of John Beal and Sons, the Plumber**. Corner of *Princes Avenue/Park Grove*. During WWII Hull was very heavily bombed.

Chris Coulson

HELP@HAND

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

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

PLANNING MATTERS

It's best to 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.

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