



# APPROA

APPROA exists to help retain the unique character of the Avenues and Pearson Park conservation area and to support the neighbourhood's strong community spirit

Hull—City of Culture 2017

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Stephanie Wilson MBE

**A**ugust Bank Holiday Sunday: a sparkling morning and obviously the one I'd been waiting for (as in putting off) to clean and tidy our garage, as well as the hinterland of tenfoot. One thing led to another, and a disparate group: me, a young mother with her infant son in a sling round her neck and her five-year-old daughter—set off to clear the gulleys in the tenfoot between Marlborough Avenue and Westbourne Avenue, which develops huge muddy puddles in wet weather.

Unlike the soak-away outside our garage, the two in the 'dog-leg' proved impossible for our collected skills and tools (admittedly, one was only a stick) and that turned out to

be true for most of the rest of the gulleys along our stretch of tenfoot. They are full to the top with compacted earth; and the covers are stuck—we couldn't move them anyway.

I am now on a mission to enlist specialist help from the city, as it seems sensible to ensure they are in working order even if they haven't the capacity to swallow a serious flood. A call to 300300, logging my concern and request, secured a promise of a response within 48 hours; in fact, two cheerful knowledgeable men appeared within 24 hours and, having counted the blocked gulleys, retired to consult their boss. It's their opinion that these are drains, not soak-

aways as we have thought; I look forward to a definitive answer (are these questions that bring 'the priest and the doctor in their long coats running over the fields?' I guess 'yes', if the priest and doctor are on a Residents' Committee). So if you have blocked gulleys, this is the way to seek help (warning: there may be a charge).

**P**earson Park, with its continuing applications to develop the large houses which have been sold off recently, remains a preoccupation. The owner of 49, proud of the newly refurbished flats within, invited us to look round it, as an indication of the quality of provision;

## PLANNING CONTROLS

Contact the Planning Department Tel: 612345 Email: [dev.control@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:dev.control@hullcc.gov.uk)

**To help maintain our Conservation Area planning permission is required for alterations to or construction of the following, as they are protected features under Article 4 Directions.**

**For roofs and chimneys the Direction applies to the whole of the roof** (ie front and back). For the other features the Directions apply only to the elevation of a house which faces a highway (including the footpaths serving Victoria Gardens, Regina Crescent, Madison Gardens— see *Footnote 1*).

### Protected features

- ◆ windows;
- ◆ front doors;
- ◆ roofs—both for roofing materials and for installation of solar panels (for solar panels, see *Footnote 2*);
- ◆ chimneys, including chimney pots;
- ◆ eaves gutters, gutter blocks/brackets, fascia boards and bargeboards;
- ◆ construction of a porch or alterations to an existing porch;

- ◆ construction of a vehicular driveway across a pavement or verge (see *Footnote 3*)

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

**It's best to enquire of the Planning Department at the time you are thinking of renovating or making alterations, and definitely before the work starts.** They give valuable advice on what is acceptable in our conservation area— making the process easier for you.

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

**Footnote 1:** highways do not need to be roads—these footpaths are considered by Planning Dept to be highways .

**Footnote 2:** installation of solar panels on the rear roof slope is not subject to planning permission.

**Footnote 3:** all Article 4 Directions apply to all properties in The Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area, except for the one on vehicular driveways which does not apply to the properties in Pearson Park.



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



Like APPROA on Facebook

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



Scan the code to reach APPROA's website—see our craftsmen list and other resources

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



# JAPANESE KNOTWEED

There has been a recent flurry of sightings of Japanese Knotweed in gardens, ten foots and the Richmond Street Allotments. The people who have recognised this thug of the plant world have justifiable worries as, although it is not a "notifiable" pest as some believe, there is legislation regarding its control in two Acts of Parliament. The penalties for ignoring the conditions of these laws can be a fine at least and jail at worst!

Red-brown hollow canes flecked with purple spear through the soil in Spring and reach 2.1m/7ft in mature plants by July. The spade shaped leaves grow on branched stems from the canes and creamy white flower



tassels appear in late Summer but don't set seed and so cannot evolve into a form more resistant to pests, diseases and herbicide. The whole plant appears to die back below ground during Autumn so what's the problem? As

with many "surface pleasures", the damage builds below the surface. This plant has a root system which can go 3m/10ft deep and spreads about the same sideways so it is virtually impossible to dig out. It can remain dormant for years and regrow from 1mm of root. New stems sprouting from the expanding root system have spectacular strength and can push their way through foundations, walls, paths, pavements and roads. These are the reasons for the legislation and severity of penalties.

## Want to see some Japanese knotweed?

**Do you want to see some Japanese Knotweed growing, the better to identify it? Diana Palmer will show you some in a tenfoot on Marlborough.**

**Phone her on 448550.**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9 section 14 covers disposal by making it an offence, "to plant or otherwise cause to grow" in the countryside. (This is the breach which can result in imprisonment.) The Environmental Protection Act 1990 classes the plant as "controlled waste" and Regulation 991 covers the disposal of plant parts, ashes

from burnt plants and soil where plants have grown, only at licensed sites where they will be buried 5m deep. Prosecution under this Act can involve an unlimited fine and the costs incurred by a neighbour eradicating the plant if it has spread from your property.

Hull City Council will not normally undertake removing it from private land but if there were a major problem, they do have statutory powers and would then bill the landowner for costs.

## So how do we get rid of it?

It has to be a controlled process taking up to 5 years. The only known biological control is a small insect which feeds on the plant, but as this is still at the experimental stage **Glyphosate chemical control** is the only viable option at the moment.

### Recommended products:

- ◆ Roundup Stump Killer is the most effective but there are other products.
- ◆ Scotts Roundup Ultra 3000, Scotts Tumbleweed, Bayer Tough Rootkill, Bayer Garden Super Strength Weedkiller, Doff Max Strength Glyphosate Weedkiller.
- ◆ Bayer Ground Clear Weedkiller (soluble sachet) gives a moderate check to growth but is unlikely to eradicate the plant.

Glyphosate products are applied to the leaves and absorbed down to the roots but need to be applied at regular intervals. Cutting away previous years' canes can help with access and the best time to start treatment is now as the flowering stage is reached. However if your specimen is a mature 2m high, it is more practical to start in May when it is about 1m, with a 2nd application in July and a 3rd in September. Remember you must regularly check for regrowth and may have to continue regular treatment for 5 years. The regrowth and immature plants may be slightly different in appearance with smaller leaves and less than 1m high bushy habit rather than tall canes, but still needs the same regular application.

**REMEMBER, AFTER YOU HAVE CUT YOUR "DEAD" CANES TO AID TREATMENT, CLEARED THE YEAR'S GROWTH IN LATE AUTUMN AND MAYBE HAVE SOME ROOTS FROM DIGGING NEARBY, YOU MUST NOT PUT ANY OF THE MATERIAL IN THE BROWN BIN. EVEN IF YOU HAVE BURNT THE CANES YOU MUST NOT PUT THE ASH IN THE BIN. PUT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PLANT IN A BIN LINER AND CALL HCC FOR COLLECTION OR INFORMATION ABOUT WHICH SITE TO TAKE IT TO YOURSELF.**

## Why is it so important that we act together to eradicate Knotweed?

The presence of this plant on or near your property can cause a dramatic drop in the value of your house and even make it unmortgageable! There is a historical reluctance to lend when it is present and mortgage lenders will expect the presence to be noted on the valuation report. Individual lenders will take into consideration evidence of initial treatment and a commitment to ongoing treatment, but some will refuse if the plant is within 7m/23ft of the property. Barclays (also owning Woolwich) and Santander will decline a mortgage, as will smaller Building Societies like Leeds and Skipton. Northern Rock, Clydesdale and Nationwide will consider if there is an indemnity in place and with guidance from a surveyor. Thousands of sales nationally have been hit and buyers have already wasted money on fees and surveys when their mortgage is refused.

This is why co-operation between neighbours is essential if the plant is not actually on your property but is affecting your sale.

Lesley Longworth  
APPRA

PHOTO: Chris Coulson

Chair's report, continued from page 1

we were impressed by the various interiors (while reacting against the ubiquitous 'islands' in the living/dining/cooking areas: they just seem an obstruction in the available space—but they are apparently how it's done, these days) and prepared to look favourably at his next application, for 46 - 47 Pearson Park. We discussed the plans with him at a committee meeting and felt pleased that he had apparently listened to our ideas and our suggested modifications; what a disappointment, when the application went to Planning unchanged. It was refused.

The future of the Park Avenue Education Centre, such a success in its current usage, is a worry. It seems a poor decision to move the provision to Endeavour and leave a notable Avenues building with no function: and a wrong decision to prefer a modern and inadequate school building over one that has history, design and Pevsner behind it. However, the Education Centre needs a new roof (the probable cost escalates every time it is mentioned), a responsibility the City has been reluctant to face; yet surely there are

ways where there is a will? especially in a future City of Culture.

The precipitate felling of the Mermaid Tree resulted in a walk with Tim Beckley, Urban Forestry, examining the remaining sculptures; all are becoming unsound, except Anthony Minghella's. The plan is to put them up for auction, proceeds of course to the Victoria Avenue Fountain Fund; then Tim will ensure that they are moved carefully to their new homes—handsome reparation for the mermaid ■

# Victoria Fountain group brims with fund-raising ideas!

## Avenues Postcards

We recently invited people to make an 'Avenues Postcard' to celebrate the parts you love best; the trees, the houses, fountains, mermaids and gardens. Designs can be in paint, pen and ink, felt-tips, collage and/or any mix of media you choose.

We intend to have the entries printed as postcards, which we will sell at our fundraising events, with proceeds going to the Fountain fund.

We have not set a closing date for entries, so there's still time for you to get creating! Please send your entry to Jacky Ward Lomax at 92 Victoria Avenue or email it to [victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk) and don't forget to give us:

- 1 your name
- 2 your age (if a child)
- 3 contact details
- 4 a title for your design



Here are 2 of the postcard designs we have received so far—*Victoria Avenue roundabout with wooden fountain* by Lucy Blanchard, aged 9, and *View from 178 Westbourne Avenue* by John Elliott

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR VICTORIA FOUNTAIN

**w** [www.victoriafountain.org](http://www.victoriafountain.org)  
**f** [www.facebook.com/victoriaavenuefountain](http://www.facebook.com/victoriaavenuefountain)  
**e** [victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk)

## Fountain fund-raising events this autumn

### ► Quiz

At Ella Street Social Club, on **Tuesday, 30 September**, from 6.30 pm.  
 £5 per team, maximum 5 people to a team  
 50 questions and a picture quiz  
 2-for-1 pizza, and tombola

### Victoria Fountain stall at Hull's Green Fair

► On **Saturday, 8 November**, at Freedom Centre, Preston Road, 10.30 am - 3 pm.

### Garage sale

► On **Sunday, 5 October**, at 92 Victoria Avenue (garage behind house). From 11 am - 3 pm.

### Tree sculptures for sale

► The Unicorn (Victoria Avenue) and the Dragons (Westbourne Avenue) have to be felled. We are inviting bids for each. Tim Beckley (council Forestry Officer) will deliver them to your garden, and all money raised will go to the Victoria Fountain fund.

Email your offers to [victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk). The cut-off date for bids is **31 October 2014**.

## Become a Friend of the Fountain

In return for standing order payments of as little as 50p per month (or more if you wish), you would receive copies of the minutes of our Fountain Meetings, advance notice of fund-raising events and regular updates on how the Fund is growing (*please note: all by email to save postage costs*).

So if you would like to help us achieve our goal of reinstating a fountain on the junction of Victoria Avenue and Salisbury Street in time for City of Culture 2017, please email us at [victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoriafountain2011@yahoo.co.uk) to ask for a standing order form.

Jacky Ward Lomax

## Open Gardens 2014

Open Gardens took place on 6 & 13 July this year with over 50 gardens in the Avenues, Ella Street and Pearson Park open on the two Sundays.

Despite warnings of severe weather, both Sundays stayed dry and were well attended.

**We're pleased to say that a total of £8,087 was raised and we have just made a donation of £8,000 to Dove House Hospice.**

Thank you to everyone who opened their garden, visited the gardens and/or helped in numerous other ways to make the event a success.

Over the two weekends a local film maker, Mark Richardson, interviewed openers and visitors to make a short film which we think captures the essence of Open Gardens. The film will be available online shortly. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter to see it first!

It's good to have new gardens open every year—to add interest for regular visitors and to replace those who don't open for one reason or another.

If you might be interested in opening your garden next year, please get in touch. You don't need a show garden and it's more fun than you think!

If you don't want to open your garden you can help by: distributing posters and doing other publicity, baking cakes, or helping serve refreshments on the day. We are also looking for someone who can work with us to create a website. Let us know if you can help in any way.

We look forward to seeing you at Open Gardens next year—5 & 12 July 2015.



PHOTO: Brooklands Photographic Society

Sarah, Elly, Robbie & Ken

Email: [avenuesopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:avenuesopengardens@gmail.com)

Tel: 472089 (Sarah & Robbie)

Tel: 346225 (Ken & Elly)

[www.facebook.com/avenuesopengardens](http://www.facebook.com/avenuesopengardens)

# PROPOSED PICTURE PALACE PROVOKES PROTESTS!

It is not just in modern times that the residents of the avenues have defended their tranquillity

100 years ago, the Hull Daily Mail of 1 May 1914 brought the news:

## Picture Palace for Westbourne Avenue.

The site has been cleared in Westbourne Avenue for the Westbourne Picture Palace. It is to occupy the site of the Tower School, which has been demolished.

This large house, once a high-class school stood exactly opposite the fountain, on the site of the present tenfoot and car park of the Westbourne NHS Centre (old Nuffield).

Although the idea only lasted a couple of weeks it certainly caused a stir.

The idea of a new clean picture house with a café de luxe, ice cream sandwiches and a door man appealed to some (anonymous of Victoria Avenue, 6 May 1914) as a way to dispel the gloom of a winter's night.

Those nearer in Westbourne were however horrified by the prospect of arc lamps, posters and especially the queues...

It was suggested that the courtly American manager could ballot the residents on the programme of the week...it could be "educational, emotional, dramatic and so forth".

It was also said that the short walk would be beneficial for the children who "had to be taken such a long way at present".

The saga ran in the Hull Daily Mail into the next week when on 11 May 1914 it was announced:

## No Westbourne Avenue Picture Palace.

We are informed by the owner that he is not going to erect a picture house in Westbourne Avenue. This should settle the great speculation as to what is really going to happen.

In the end it seems that the owner of the land, Mr Hill (managing director of Blundell, Spence & Co Ltd) had put the sign up just to

## Answers to last issue's photo quiz

- 1 The western end of Park Avenue West - not actually in the conservation area. The railway line is the giveaway, and the road becoming a path.
- 2 This is Salisbury Street just south of where it meets Ella Street. The grassed area running left to right across the centre of the photo is the remains of the 12 century Setting Dyke.

## Join our 14<sup>th</sup> Advent Calendar

Every year for the past 13 years, **24** Avenues households have created an **Advent Window** to form a living Calendar. Each household picks a date, then creates a festive picture (incorporating the date), and illuminates it brightly in a front window, starting from the date chosen until at least Christmas Day. *Lots of people like to illuminate their windows to Twelfth Night and beyond!*

**To join in this year:** phone Lesley on 342516 or email: longworth@lathkill.karoo.co.uk, or book online at our Facebook page, or at: [www.avenuesonline.org.uk](http://www.avenuesonline.org.uk)

## ILLUSTRATED HULL.

BY ONE OF OUR SPECIAL ARTISTS



Mrs Westbourne Avenue: Goodness gracious! What—a picture house in Westbourne avenue? To think I should have lived to see this!

provoke reaction after becoming tired of being inundated with enquiries on what he had planned for the land.

Mr Hill stated that he bought both houses and decided to demolish one to create a larger garden.

True to his word nothing was ever built again on the site.

Stephen Ingram

## 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

### PARTY WALLS

Available on line is an explanatory booklet by "Communities and Local Government", called the Party Wall etc Act 1996. It explains in simple terms how the Act may affect someone who either wishes to carry out work covered by the Act (The Building Owner) or receives notification under the Act of proposed adjoining work (The Adjoining Owner).

APPRA Contacts	Tel	Email	Post	
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