



The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

NEWSLETTER 257

Founded 1977
Registered
Charity

Nov 2025



We are pleased to announce our next talk (to replace Wavertree Cricket Club)

‘ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE!’

The history of Liverpool theatres.

Local historian Howard Hunt will tell us about the fascinating story behind our theatres.

The meeting will be on Sunday 23rd November 2025 at the Olive Mount Community Centre, Edgewell Drive, L15 8GG from 2:00-3:30. All welcome.

Entrance free. Refreshments available. Donations appreciated.



WAVERTREE CALENDAR 2026 NOW AVAILABLE

This year we partnered with Love Wavertree to produce a joint calendar.

We are pleased to say that 12 images have been chosen ranging from architecture to nature. Thanks go out to the Committees of Love Wavertree, the Wavertree Society and Paula Barker MP who judged

the competition.

Calendars are £7.50 if collected and £10.00 if posted, please contact Sheilagh below or on our website www.thewavertreesociety.uk

The winners received a free calendar.

Wavertree Society AGM 2025

We held our 47th Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2025 at the Olive Mount Community Centre. The event was quorate with a around 20 members in attendance, as well as some newer faces.

The existing committee was re-elected for another year and we were pleased to welcome a new member, Adrian Servoir who was unanimously elected to the committee.

Rob Zatz gave us the chairs address which covered the successes of the society this year including our various talks, the opening of the lock-up for national Heritage Open Days and our ongoing involvement with the High Street Task Force.

We also have good news about our long-term plans for the trees at the lock-up.

Chair: **Robert Zatz** (0151 733 5878)

Vice Chair & Planning Sec: **John Wood** (07703 531991)

Hon. Secretary: **Richard Macdonald**. (richardmacdonald@hotmail.com)

Hon. Treasurer: **Colin Pyle** (0151 722 1565)

Membership Sec & Sales Officer: **Sheilagh Birch**, 338 Wavertree Nook

THE WAVERTREE SOCIETY

Aims to **IMPROVE** local amenities and to **PROTECT** the local environment and architectural heritage, especially within the Wavertree Village and Wavertree Garden Suburb Conservation Areas.

UNITED UTILITIES WORK IN WAVERTREE PLAYGROUND (THE MYSTERY)



On 30 October 2025, members of the Wavertree Society attended a meeting with United Utilities, hosted by Paula Barker MP and local councillors, to discuss major engineering works proposed for Wavertree Playground (The Mystery). The meeting followed concerns raised by our members at the recent AGM, and we sought answers directly from United Utilities and their civil engineering partners, J. Murphy & Sons.

The proposed works aim to increase the capacity of the wastewater system in south Liverpool by constructing a large underground stormwater tank capable of holding 5-7 million litres. This initiative is both a response to the increasing frequency of heavy rainfall due to climate change and a long-term solution to flooding issues affecting areas such as Mossley Hill and Queens Drive.

At the latest committee meeting these proposals were discussed in detail including all the pros and cons and it was concluded that the position of The Wavertree Society should generally be supportive of this development as it represents a once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure improvement, not just to the Wavertree area but the entire of south Liverpool.

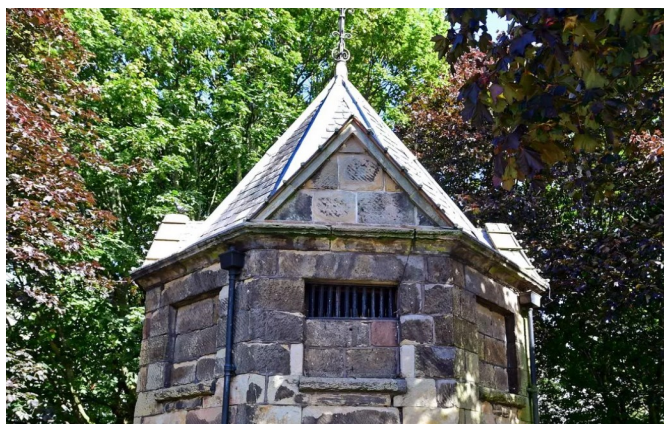
The Society however does have some reservations and after our discussion we outline these five points below:

- ◆ **The Society will request that design engineers AtkinsRealis attend a public consultation meeting to explain the projects background, optioneering and design constraints and a Q&A session.**
- ◆ **The Society will request copies of the projects soil resource plan and landscaping design for comment. Dumping of excavated spoil in the park may create unattractive, useless hills and mounds that reduce the area of usable land in the park. This has happened previously under the guise of 'landscaping'.**
- ◆ **The Society will insist that the hoardings on the site are of high quality and as attractive as they reasonably can be. There is talk of 'greening' the hoardings with plants but the society is concerned that after two years what would happen to the planted mature plants when the hoardings are removed?**
- ◆ **The Society will insist that any railings or historic features removed shall be adequately protected and securely stored for reinstallation in the same positions and any new gates/railings are designed to harmonise the match with the existing features.**
- ◆ **The Society will insist that the final surfacing of the 'hard standing' areas designed for maintenance vehicles is of high quality and least intrusive. The proposal for basic grasscrete is not appropriate within the park setting and less intrusive system should be used.**

We will also try and ensure that any 'improvements' offered are substantial and meaningful rather than just a few token 'extra park benches'.

We will express these points to United Utilities and Liverpool City Council and will update with any response in our next newsletter. We remain committed to an open dialogue with United Utilities, their contractors and The Council. Whilst we know some in the community are steadfastly against this development we do not feel the Society can be. Our motto is the protect Wavertree past, present and future and if this work makes our drainage system more robust then we feel we must support it in principle but try for the best outcome for Wavertree.

NEW LIGHTING FOR THE LOCK-UP!



A number of years ago, The Wavertree Society paid for external lighting to be installed on the roof of the lock-up.

This lighting is fitted onto external batons, specially designed so as to not cause any harm to the fabric of the building.

When the lighting was installed standard external bulbs were used. Whilst these were good, they are long-past their useful life and many of them no-longer work.

The Society is pleased to announce that we have instructed Glyn Nuttall Electricians (from nearby Edge-Hill) to replace the old bulbs with new energy efficient warm-white LED bulbs which will hopefully ensure the lock-up stays a focal part of our community for years to come. We will also take the opportunity to clear the gutters from leaf-litter!

PLANNING MATTERS

Threatened chestnut tree on Sandown Lane now protected.

The Society has been made aware that following a visit by the City Councils Arborist/Tree Officer the chestnut tree has been given a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) meaning it has been recognised as an important amenity tree and will be given extra protection in planning law.

HIGH STREET TASKFORCE NEWS

The Society has been a member of the High Street Task Force for over a year now and we have had some good meetings, especially regarding the junction at Wellington and Rathbone Roads.

We know that the Council have used the consultancy AECOM to scope the work and assess the feasibility of delivering a proper pedestrian crossing here. The results have been positive and now the Council is out to tender for a contractor to deliver the works.

It is hoped that by December 2026 we will have a brand new crossing here.

TREE REMOVAL AT THE LOCK-UP

Our long-running saga of tree removal at the lock-up seems to be coming to a satisfactory conclusion.

Following last newsletter's announcement that the Council have granted us permission to remove the 5 non-native trees we are now appointing tree-removal contractors to undertake the work. We expect this to be in January. Please see the page overleaf which will give a quick overview of the proposals and mitigations your society has secured.

WAVERTREE GARDEN SUBURB NEWS

We're pleased to announce that 14 new native British trees have been planted on Thingwall Road.

Trees have been an integral part of the Garden Suburb from when it was built in 1910-1915. We hope these trees will thrive and last for the next hundred years as the ones they replace did before them.

Do you want to JOIN the Society?

Our annual subscription is £5 per household or £10 per company or organisation. You can pay:

Online (Paypal): www.thewavertreesociety.uk

Cash/Cheque: Made payable to The Wavertree Society to The Membership Secretary 338 Wavertree Nook Road Liverpool L15 7LJ

Bank transfer: Name of Account - **The Wavertree Society**
Sort Code – **20-50-82** Acct No – **30941344**

www.thewavertreesociety.uk

Facebook.com/wavsoc
X@wavsoc

Email: wavsoc2023@gmail.com

St Mary's Church **Warm Space**. South Drive,
L158JJ. All welcome on Mondays

10-30 until 12-30 (except Bank Holidays).

Come along and enjoy a cuppa, biscuits and a

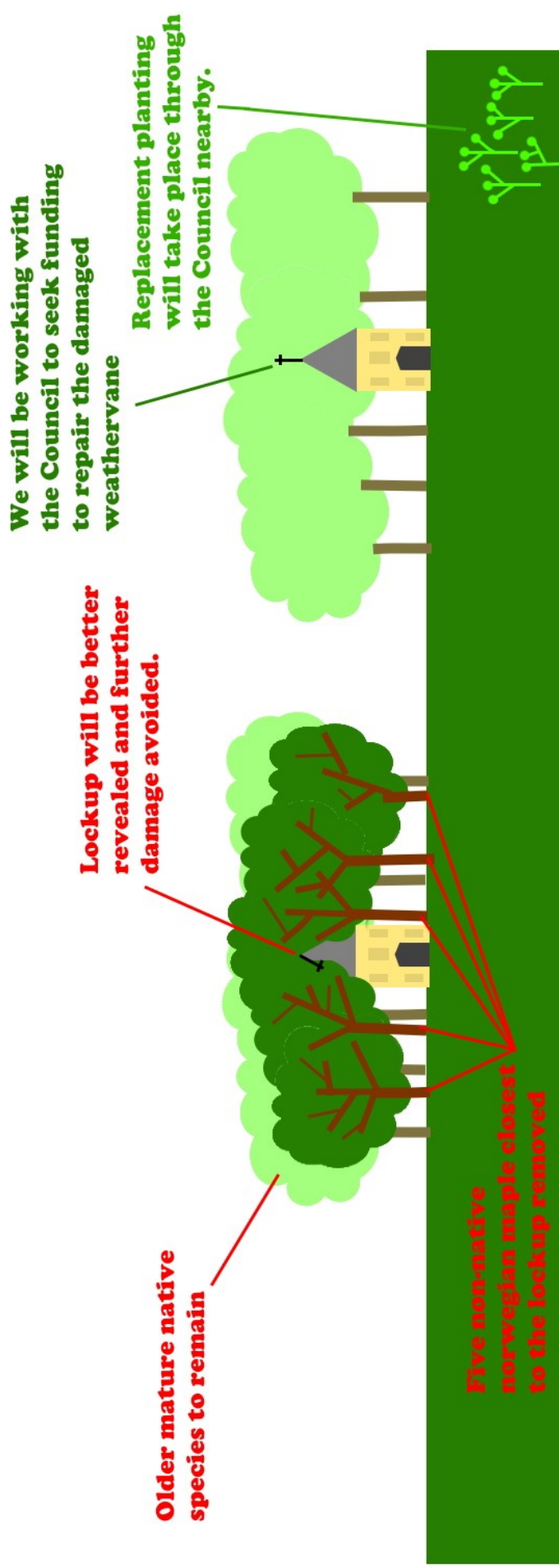
Are you a PAID-UP Member?

If your address label indicates the date (e.g. **30/09/25**) on which your current subscription expires. You can renew, if you wish, for up to 3 years at a time.

TREEWORX AT THE WAVERTREE LOCKUP

In the 1970s five norwegian maple trees were planted inappropriately near the lockup. They are now causing active damage to the lockup through their roots and branches. The Wavertree Society, with support of the City Council are removing these nuisance trees.

As well as removing the threat to the lockup, it will make the building more visible to the public by better revealing it through the foliage. The work is likely to take place in January.



The Wavertree Society
*Caring for Wavertree
Past, present and future*

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