



# The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

## NEWSLETTER 240

Founded 1977  
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*Our next talk (on Zoom):*

### THOMAS EDISON: THE MAN WHO NEARLY INVENTED RADIO

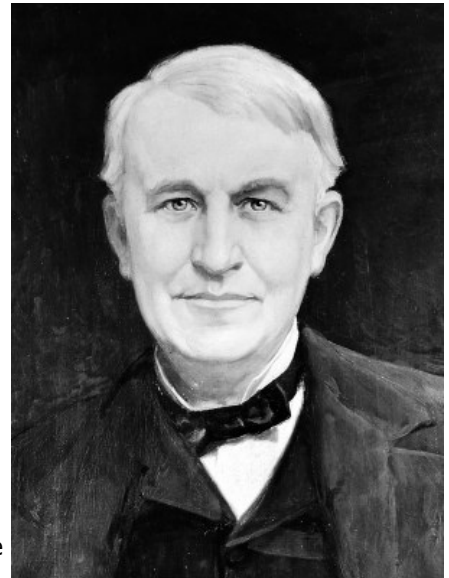
by David Crawford  
on Wednesday 30th March at 7.30pm

Thomas Edison, businessman and inventor, is remembered for the phonograph, electric light, motion picture recording and many other inventions. In fact he had around one thousand patents in the USA, plus more in other countries. He established the world's first industrial laboratory at Menlo Park, New Jersey – which today is a Museum.

This talk will be about the events of 1875 when, with scant scientific evidence, Thomas Edison announced the discovery of the "Ethereic Force" which he believed was a new phenomenon which would enable electricity to travel without wires. It sounded like a good idea ... others had their doubts. The whole enterprise ended in failure and ridicule, which could have ended his career. So, did he nearly invent radio?

David Crawford, IEng MIET, is Curator of the 'Wireless in Wales' Vintage Radio Museum in Denbigh.

*This is a 'members only' meeting. If you attended any of our previous Zoom events, you'll automatically be sent a link for this one a couple of days beforehand. Otherwise, if you're a Wavertree Society member with internet access and you wish to attend the talk, please send an email to [membership@wavertreesociety.org](mailto:membership@wavertreesociety.org) and we'll add you to the list (and send you guidance notes, in case you're new to Zoom).*



### TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Love Wavertree has teamed up with Edge Hill University and the University of Liverpool to ask the questions: What does a 'Net-Zero Strategy' mean? What can we as local residents do to help fight climate change?

Love Wavertree will be running five 'climate change assemblies'. They will be open to all residents of Wavertree and will be based around these five key themes: food, housing, transport, skill-sets and businesses. Experts will be on hand to suggest what can be done and to discuss the issues, the object being to come up with a series of recommendations from the local community.

The assemblies will take place at weekends in late-March/early-April. For those unable to attend, there will be recordings available on YouTube. In addition there is a survey, currently being delivered to local residents and available online. For further details, contact Dr Elke Weissmann, email [weissmae@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:weissmae@edgehill.ac.uk), or Love Wavertree: [lovewavertree@gmail.com](mailto:lovewavertree@gmail.com)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE ABBEY?

*This is what we've been told by Lidl (10 March):*

"As you know we have recently undertaken site clearance work to remove items left behind by previous occupiers. That work is now complete. The only further update is that Lidl has commissioned further investigative works to identify the structural condition of the building, and we are awaiting the conclusions of this report."

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.

Chair: **Robert Zatz** 65 Sandown Rd, Liverpool L15 4JA (0151 733 5878 or 07973 951408)

Vice Chair & Planning Sec: **John Wood** 3 Soarer Cottages, Grange Lane, L25 5LF (07703 531991)

Hon. Secretary: **Margaret Turnbull** 11 Grantley Road, L15 9ET

Hon. Treasurer: **Colin Pyle** 1 Monkswell Dr, L15 8JN (0151 722 1565)

Membership Sec & Sales Officer: **Sheilagh Birch** 338 Wavertree Nook Road, L15 7LJ (0151 722 6265)

Local History Sec & Newsletter Ed: **Mike Chitty** 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (0151 428 7801)

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE at

[www.wavertreesociety.org](http://www.wavertreesociety.org) for more pictures, information and web links relating to the topics featured in this and previous Newsletters.

*You'll find instructions on how to join the Society - or renew your membership - online using a credit or debit card.*

You'll also discover how you can help us by registering with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) and generating donations from retailers (at no cost to yourself) when you shop online.

## Spotlight on ...

# ROADS THAT NEVER WERE

(Part 4) by Mike Chitty

The western section of the M62 Motorway had its origins in the 1960s, when the 'South Lancashire Motorway' was shown on Liverpool City Council's 'Interim Planning Policy' proposals map. It followed the line of the Warrington-Liverpool 'Route 207' – through open countryside south of Huyton – which had been shown on the Road Plan for Lancashire (1949). The Interim Planning Policy (1965) formed the basis of the MALTS Report (1969) which was a 'land-use and transportation study' proposing the expansion of both the road and railway networks to cater for the anticipated population and economic growth of the Merseyside conurbation.

The MALTS map envisaged the motorway entering into Liverpool City Centre, where it would connect with the proposed Inner Motorway ring road. West of Queens Drive (the Rocket) there would be intersections at Rathbone Road and Tunnel Road – the latter being widened to become part of the so-called Middle North South Primary, leading from Switch Island to the 'Third River Crossing' (a bridge across the Mersey to Wirral and, ultimately, North Wales). The motorway would then follow the line of Upper Parliament Street before joining the Inner Motorway just south of the Anglican Cathedral. That is why the Rocket – where the M62 currently ends – is numbered 'Junction 4'.

Even in 1969 the completion of this South Lancashire Motorway was in some doubt. The section from the Outer Ring Road (which became the M57) to Queens Drive had already been allocated funds, but the remainder was to be paid for out of 'total conurbation funds' in competition with many other proposed transport improvements. The City Council's 'Statement of Current Planning Policy' (1971) reported that a review of the proposed route of the M62 extension to the city centre was underway. "The objective ... is to select a route for the M62 which meets traffic requirements and cost limitations and causes minimal disturbance to existing social and physical patterns. Originally five routes were shortlisted for the section between Queens Drive and the City Centre, and a full scale evaluation exercise conducted including discussion with residents in the area affected".

Unfortunately the details of these five shortlisted routes have not survived – unless, of course, someone has kept a copy of the consultation material (in which case, please get in touch!). However, a map dated October 1971 indicates the boundary of 'Study Area C' (the 'M62 Study Area') and gives some idea of how devastating at least one of the proposed alignments would have been for Wavertree. The southernmost option would, it seems, have taken the motorway from Mill Lane (which was to be reached from the Rocket by decking-over the railway cutting) across Sandown Park, Sandown Lane and part of the Mystery, and then along the line of Lawrence Road, Earle Road and Upper Parliament Street. Not surprisingly, this plan met with enormous opposition – including the formation of a 'Sandown Area Action Group' – and was swiftly abandoned.

In the end, around 1974, the choice of routes was narrowed down to two. Both of them ran through the Edge Lane Railway Sidings – which in the 1980s would become the site of Wavertree Technology Park. One option was to build a surface-level link from there to Upper Parliament Street. The other was to build a tunnel under Kensington Fields to reach the city centre via Islington. Both would have been very expensive, and meanwhile it had become apparent that Merseyside's population was declining rather than growing. Neither of the proposals, therefore, went ahead.

## MY VISION FOR WAVERTREE

by Amir Soleymani

*Mr Soleymani is the owner of several properties on Wavertree High Street, including the former Chillies and Thatched House pubs. We asked him to tell us what attracted him to Wavertree, and what his hopes are for the area. This is what he has written:*

"Adelia Art Gallery, which was built in place of Chillies, is a private art gallery focused on Contemporary & Digital arts from bluechip international artists. It is not open to the public, but we have events during the year, showcasing different works from specific genres in the art world, for which tickets are available via our website [adelia.com](http://adelia.com). Our next international event will be held on 26 April and lasts for 125 days. The Thatched is being renovated into a cafe/art gallery where we will be showing more affordable art works in an open-to-public gallery, where visitors can enjoy their coffee while appreciating the artworks being exhibited. My main goal is to elevate Wavertree, and High Street in particular, and give back to the amazing city of Liverpool.

"A little bit about myself: I'm a very well known figure in the digital art scene. You may find more information about my vision, goals and activities on my Twitter and Instagram, under username @mondoir. Being a political activist and a refugee in the UK, living in Liverpool for a decade, my main goal is to get Liverpool back on the map in the art world. Given my goals and visions for the two galleries I'm building in High Street, I expect to transform the area into a centre of art in Liverpool and the Northwest. I'm confident I can achieve my vision."

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### Do you want to JOIN the Society?

Our annual subscription is **£5 (household)** or **£10 (company, etc.)**. Please pay online (see website) or send a cheque, payable to 'The Wavertree Society', to the Membership Sec: 338 Wavertree Nook Road, Liverpool L15 7LJ.

### Are you a PAID-UP Member?

Your address label indicates the date (e.g. 30/09/22) on which your current subscription expires. You can renew, if you wish, for up to 3 years at a time.