



The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

NEWSLETTER 245

Founded 1977
Registered
Charity
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Our next meeting:

CHILDWALL WOODS – from IMPASSABLE to POSSIBLE

An illustrated talk
by John McCombs

on **Tuesday 4th April,**
7.30pm
at the **Olive Mount
Community Centre,**
Edgewell Drive,
Liverpool L15 8GG

John McCombs is the Chair of the Friends of Childwall Woods and Fields. He describes his talk as being "the story of the place, the people, our purpose and our project: to improve the access and habitat of this wild place within the city".

Childwall Woods were largely planted in the 1700s. They were originally known as 'The Grounds'. The wealthy owner of Childwall Hall owned vast amounts of land around the mansion, and much of this was planted as woodland. In 1967 – in the presence of Lord Cranborne, the grandson of former owner the Marquess of Salisbury – the woods were opened to the public. A commemorative tree was planted by Mr George Mellor, Chairman of the "Childwall Woods Preservation Society". Nowadays, it is the "Friends of Childwall Woods and Fields" who have a mission to improve, protect and preserve the Childwall Woods Local Nature Reserve for future generations.

Understanding its importance for people and nature, the FCWF's ambition has been to tame the overgrowth, make the paths passable and give nature a helping hand. Their trustees and members have also been demonstrating its ecological value by identifying and cataloguing a significant number of species – some rare or even unique. In 2019 the group was successful in obtaining funding of £93,000 to improve the (then) much neglected local nature reserve. As the project to complete the works comes to an end, the journey to deliver the improvements can be told.



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.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE at 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 and generating donations from retailers (at no cost to yourself) when you shop online.

WAVERTREE GARDEN SUBURB IN BLOOM 2023 . . .

On Saturday 18th March, an Open Day was held at the Wavertree Garden Suburb Institute in Thingwall Road. The object was to encourage local residents to take part in a very successful project, launched at the beginning of last year: WGS in Bloom. The day also saw the official reopening of the tennis courts and bowling green further along Thingwall Road, with 'taster' sessions available to all-comers.

Wavertree Garden Suburb in Bloom is recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as an 'It's Your Neighbourhood' group. One of its aims is "to offer local residents a platform to learn, collaborate and share knowledge for the benefit of the community and the environment". To date, the group has hosted community seed-sowing sessions, biodiversity audits, sustainability lectures, community compost and summer plant fairs. The intention is that such projects will bring the community together to share knowledge and have a wider and lasting positive impact – on the environment, the health and the well-being of WGS residents and the wider community.

To become a member of WGSIB (no experience required!) or to find out more, email wgsinbloom@gmail.com or follow them @WgsBloom on Twitter.



. . . and in 1913

Exactly 110 years prior to the recent Open Day – on 18th March 1913 – the Thingwall Horticultural Society had held a meeting at the very same Wavertree Garden Suburb Institute (or 'the Club-house' as it was more commonly known in those days). The Society had been formed in December 1911 with the object of promoting interest in gardening "by holding meetings for the discussion of gardening matters, by Lectures, by holding of Exhibitions of Flowers and Vegetables, and facilitating the exchange of plants, etc. amongst members".

On 18th March 1913 "Mr J Shepherd, of Woolton, read his Prize Essay on Sweet Peas ... Mr Harrison, of Redcross Street, Liverpool, showed examples of the Chase Continuous Cloche, a device of glass and wire for the purpose of hastening the growth, and protecting from birds, &c., all kinds of seeds sown in the open". The Horticultural Society was also looking forward to its next event, which was to be "a Show of Bulbs and Spring Flowers" in the Club-house on Saturday April 5th at 6pm, to be followed by "a Smoking Concert" (with refreshments) at 8pm.

'The Thingwallian' – the WGS residents' fortnightly free magazine, that advertised the Society's activities – included a regular advice column entitled 'The Suburb Garden'. In the edition of 29th March 1913 a slightly tongue-in-cheek editorial gave a bit more information about the Smoking concert: the Horticultural Society "have secured at enormous expense, for one night only, the services of the renowned Thingwall Minstrels who, not having appeared before any audience, are believed to be capable of anything which can be expected of them."

NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FROM MAY 2023

A major shake-up in Liverpool's electoral arrangements is imminent. Up until now, the City has been divided up into fairly large Wards, each represented by 3 councillors. In May, however, all of the existing councillors will stand down, and the election will be fought on the basis of (mostly) smaller wards, each represented by just one councillor. The Wavertree Society's 'area of benefit' (as defined by our Constitution) will almost exactly coincide with three of the new wards: Wavertree Village, Wavertree Garden Suburb and Church.

The new boundaries, at least in our area, are easier to describe than under the present system. Wavertree Village and Wavertree Garden Suburb wards will be separated by Mill Lane, WGS and Church will be separated by Childwall Road, and Church and Wavertree Village will be separated by Prince Alfred Road and Grant Avenue. This means that, for example, the Olive Mount Community Centre will be in Wavertree Garden Suburb ward, and Waterloo Street will be in Church ward – the boundaries having been drawn to ensure that, as far as possible, each ward contains the same number of electors.

The area of Wavertree west of the railway embankment – which is in L15 but has never officially been part of the Society's area – will form the new Smithdown ward. Here, the electoral arrangements will be slightly different, its larger size meaning that it will be represented by 2 councillors.

The elections on 4th May will be very important, because every one of the new councillors will serve for 4 years. The elections will also be subject to the government's new ID rules: unless you have a postal vote, you will need to take an approved form of photo ID to the polling station in order to be eligible to cast your vote. Further information is available on the City Council's website at <https://liverpool.gov.uk/council/voting-and-elections/>

Our YouTube Channel

We are pleased to announce that most of our Zoom talks – including the most recent 'Canary Girls' presentation – are available for viewing on YouTube. Simply go to <https://www.youtube.com/@wavsoc/videos> to see the list of titles.

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