



The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

NEWSLETTER 241

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Our next Zoom meeting:

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

Life on Edge Lane West, 1995-2010

A talk by Elizabeth Pascoe
on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm

Our member Elizabeth Pascoe moved to Wavertree in 2010. Her house off Edge Lane had been compulsorily purchased by Liverpool City Council. She was one of the last to move. She had also been heavily involved in the community's fight against the Edge Lane West CPO. The campaigners were victorious in 2006, but finally defeated two years later.

For many years, Elizabeth has 'shelved' her memories. But now, she feels, it's time to speak out – not least because, as she says, it could happen again elsewhere. This is how she describes her talk:

“It's a polemic about so-called Housing Market Renewal, which in reality has been astoundingly damaging. It's about misappropriation of European and central government funding intended for grass-roots community regeneration, but used instead by a cabal of social landlord, local authority and private developer (who pulled out once the destruction was irreversible). It's about the obliteration of a community in order to 'provide an investment opportunity for potential developers'. The talk is from the perspective of us, the original residents. We were Collateral Damage, on the receiving end of an 'initiative'.”

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 and we'll add you to the list (and send you guidance notes, in case you're new to Zoom).



OPEN DAYS at the Lock-up

We're opening Wavertree Lock-up to visitors on two occasions this year:

Saturday 18th June (National Civic Day) 12noon-2pm

Sunday 18th September (Heritage Open Days) 12-4pm

Admission will be free of charge. See our website for further details.

GUIDED WALKS by Blue Badge Guides

Merseyside Civic Society is continuing, this summer, with its programme of public walks around some of the Conservation Areas of Liverpool and Wirral. All of them must be pre-booked online (see the MCS, or our own, website for details) and the cost per person is £5 plus an Eventbrite booking fee.

One of this year's walks is entitled 'Flourishing in the Shade'. Led by Richard MacDonald, it will cover the Wavertree Village Conservation Area, and takes place on Wednesday 29th June starting at 5.45pm.

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 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.

150 YEARS AGO

The birth of Wavertree Town Hall

On the front of the Town Hall – which, as a well-regarded restaurant and bar, is now back in business at the heart of Wavertree High Street – is the date '1872'. That was the year in which the foundation stone was laid by the Chairman of the Wavertree Local Board of Health, James Picton. At that time the Board's 'public offices' were in Chesnut Grove, in the Wavertree Baths Company's building that later became the OLGH Presbytery. Here are some extracts from the Board's Minute Book for that year:



January 9th: Mr Thomas [the Board's Building & Lighting Surveyor] was directed to prepare suggestive sketches for new Offices, for the next meeting.

February 13th: Moved by Mr Fingland, seconded by Mr Pearson, and Resolved unanimously, that the 'No.1' plan now produced be and is hereby adopted as a suggestive plan upon which to base the Plans for the proposed new public offices. Letters were then read from Mr Joseph Bratton, Architect, Liverpool, and from Mr John E. Reeve, Architect, Liverpool and Wavertree, respectively offering their services as Architect for the offices. Moved by Mr Thompson, Seconded by Mr Pickford, and resolved unanimously, that Mr John E. Reeve be employed as the Architect for carrying out the new public offices, and that he be paid the usual professional charges.

March 12th: The architect (Mr Reeve) produced plans for the new offices, showing two front elevations. Ordered to be deposited in the Offices for the inspection of the public.

April 9th: Mr Reeve attended with Plans. Moved by Mr Thompson, seconded by Mr Morgan, and Resolved unanimously That the plans as now submitted be approved, as to their general principle, with the adoption of the Italian front elevation and further that they be referred to the [New Public Offices] Committee to carry them out.

June 18th: [13 tenders] received in pursuance of the public advertisement, were opened and read ... Moved by Mr Pickford, seconded by Mr Fingland, and Resolved unanimously, That the tender of Messrs Okills' and Morrison [£3364 15s 0d] be accepted, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, and the obtaining of further power to borrow, not to exceed £5000 in the whole, and that the clerk do send up tracings of the plans, and a list of the tenders.

September 3rd: Resolved unanimously, That the new premises now in course of erection in High Street, be called the "Town Hall, Wavertree" and that the foundation stone be laid on Friday the 13th instant at 2 p.m. by the Chairman, Mr Picton.

Left: The Town Hall circa 1910

Top: The Town Hall as refurbished in 1980



A SUMMER COACH TRIP: to Burnley on 13th July

After a two-year break due to Covid, the Wavertree Society's series of annual coach outings resumes this summer with a visit to the Weavers' Triangle and Queen Street Mill in Burnley, Lancashire. The date is Wednesday 13th July, the cost will be £20 per person, and there will be pickup points at Lake Road Wavertree (9.15am) and the Black Bull Gateacre (9am).

The Weavers' Triangle is an area on the banks of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal that was once at the heart of Burnley's textile industry. It still retains many buildings – weaving sheds, spinning mills, foundries and houses – from the days when the town led the world in the production of cotton cloth. There is a Visitor Centre telling the story of the canal and the cotton industry.

Queen Street Mill – now a museum administered by Lancashire County Council – is the last surviving 19th



century steam powered weaving mill in the world. Situated about 3 miles north-east of Burnley town centre, it is a Grade 1 listed building containing a mighty steam engine called 'Peace', coal fired boilers, and a weaving shed with over 300 Lancashire looms.

For further details of the itinerary and the booking arrangements, please see our website nearer the



time, or contact Robert Zatz on 0151 733 5878.

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Email:
info@wavertreesociety.org

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.