

# The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

## NEWSLETTER 242

Founded 1977  
Registered  
Charity  
No.1004259

September  
2022

Our next meeting:

## FRANK HORNBY His Life and Products

**A presentation by Les French  
on Sunday 25th September, 2 p.m.  
at the Olive Mount Community Centre,  
Edgewell Drive, Liverpool L15 8GG**

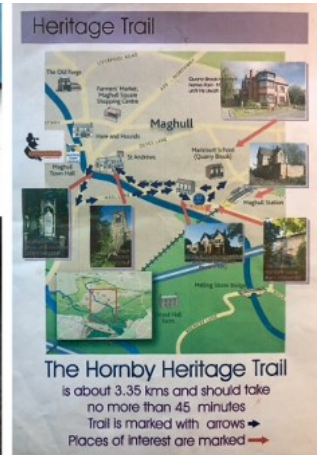
Frank Hornby was born in Liverpool in 1863. In 1901 he was living at 10 Elmbank Road, near Greenbank Park, and obtained a patent for "Improvements in Toy or Educational Devices for Children and Young People". This led to a product known initially as Mechanics Made Easy – and later as the world-famous MECCANO.

From the Meccano factory in Binns Road, on the northern edge of Wavertree, also came new products including Hornby Trains (1920) and Dinky Toys (1934). Frank Hornby became a millionaire – and briefly, in the 1930s, an MP – but he always took a keen personal interest in the company he had formed. After his move to a large house in Maghull, it is said that he was chauffeured to Binns Road every day by limousine.

Les French is a trustee of the Frank Hornby Heritage Centre, which has been created within the Meadows Leisure Centre in Maghull – very close to Hornby's homes, Church and family grave.

Les will be bringing along a selection of Meccano products for us to see and examine. He particularly hopes to meet or hear from anyone who worked at the Binns Road factory, or has relatives or friends who worked there.

*The meeting – our first 'live' indoor event since Covid – takes place in our traditional venue, the Olive Mount Community Centre, and all interested will be welcome to attend (refreshments available). The Community Centre is situated on the ground floor of Monkswell Place, Edgewell Drive, L15 8GG. Car access is from Thingwall Road via the mini-roundabout, and there is direct pedestrian access from Childwall Road. (Enter the building through the wooden gate at the SE corner).*



### Remember: HERITAGE OPEN DAY is here again!

On **Sunday 18th September** the historic (1796) Wavertree Lock-up will be open to visitors, free of charge, from 12 noon until 4pm. We shall have a sales and information table outside, and all are welcome to come and have a look around. The Lock-up stands on Wavertree Village Green (the only piece of registered common land in the City of Liverpool) at the junction of Mill Lane, Childwall Road and Lake Road, L15 8JS

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.*

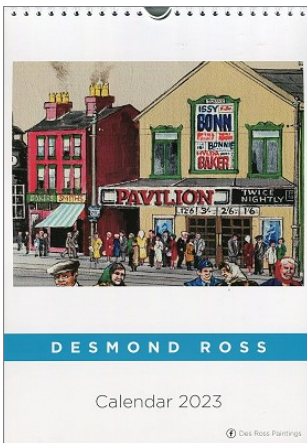
You'll also discover how you can help us by registering with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) and generating donations from retailers (at no cost to yourself) when you shop online.

# NOTICE OF A.G.M.

Notice is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Wavertree Society – the first to be held since 2019, owing to the coronavirus pandemic – will take place at the **Olive Mount Community Centre**, Edgewell Drive, Liverpool L15 8GG on **Sunday 30th October 2022** starting at **2 p.m.** We shall have three years of Accounts to approve, and three years of activities to report on. If you are a member of the Society, please come along and support us (and consider joining the Committee). If you are a prospective member of the Society, please come along to find out more about what we do. The business part of the meeting will be followed by a general discussion about the future of Wavertree High Street, with particular reference to the traffic and parking arrangements and the pedestrian environment. This will be an opportunity for members who were unable to participate in last year's Zoom discussion of the 'Wavertree Way' report to learn more about what is being suggested, and to put forward their views. We hope to see you there.

# A NEW DESMOND ROSS CALENDAR FOR 2023

For the last two years, the Wavertree Society has been proud to publish calendars featuring the colourful artwork of the late Des Ross. This year, his family have produced one, which we are pleased to be able to offer for sale. The paintings featured include 7 scenes of Wavertree (where Des lived for many years), 3 of Garston (where he was born and raised) and 3 from elsewhere in Liverpool.



A4 sized, spiral bound and ready for wall hanging, the new Calendar will be on sale (price £7.50) on Heritage Open Day at the Lock-up on 18th September, 12noon-4pm, and at the Frank Hornby talk, Olive Mount Community Centre, on Sunday 25th September, 2pm-4pm. From next month onwards, we hope to be able to offer it also by mail order. Please see our website for details and prices.

# LIDL AT THE ABBEY – LATEST NEWS

On 12th August 2022, Lidl UK announced that they will be retaining and refurbishing the former Abbey Cinema building in Wavertree, instead of demolishing it as originally proposed. A planning application (ref.22F/2152) has been submitted to Liverpool City Council, indicating how a single-storey Lidl supermarket will be incorporated into the ground floor of the Listed Building, and various external and internal features will be restored.

Lidl have no plans to use the upper floors, but a note on the drawings states: “All upper floor accommodation to be mothballed ... Existing areas to be preserved and existing envelope made good to ensure that no further deterioration can occur”.

These extracts from the submitted Design & Access Statement (by Space Architects, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) give some idea of the efforts being made to enhance the appearance and character of the building:

- “3.3.1 Existing main roof covering to be overlaid with new covering to ensure long-term weathertightness.
- 3.3.2 Existing lower roofs to be stripped, repaired as required and finished with new roof covering.
- 3.3.3 Existing brickwork piers to be carefully taken down to allow for remedial repairs to structural steel frame, before reinstatement as existing.
- 3.3.4 Existing brickwork to be fully cleaned, checked and made good, with new pointing to the entirety of the building envelope.
- 3.3.5 All existing external cast iron rainwater goods to be carefully removed for refurbishment and reinstatement.
- 3.3.6 Existing non-original windows to be removed and replaced with new steel windows which would follow the intent of the original 1930s fenestration.
- 3.3.7 Existing rotunda structure to be repaired and made good. External tiling to be retained where possible, or carefully removed and reinstated with like-for-like tiles where structural remediation is required.
- 3.3.8 Main building canopy over cladding to be removed to reveal original slimline concrete canopy. Repairs to existing canopy and re-roofing to be carried out as required.”



<p><a href="http://www.wavertreesociety.org">www.wavertreesociety.org</a>                  Facebook.com/wavsoc                  Twitter @wavsoc                  Email:  <a href="mailto:info@wavertreesociety.org">info@wavertreesociety.org</a></p>	<p><b>Do you want to JOIN the Society?</b></p> <p>Our annual subscription is <b>£5 (household)</b> or <b>£10 (company, etc.)</b>. 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.</p>	<p><b>Are you a PAID-UP Member?</b></p> <p>Your address label indicates the date on which your current subscription expires. You can renew, if you wish, for up to 3 years at a time.</p>
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