



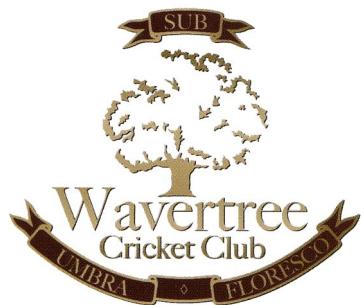
# The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

## NEWSLETTER 258

Founded 1977  
Registered Charity  
No.1004259

Jan 2025



Phil O'Brien, chair and Dave Goodall, historian of the Wavertree Cricket Club will be giving a talk on

### 170 Years of Wavertree Cricket Club

Cork first hit willow at Wavertree Cricket Club in 1854 starting a tradition that has continued strongly to this day. Phil O'Brien and Dave Goodall will give us a fascinating talk on the origins of Wavertree Cricket Club, how the club has grown and changed over the years and how it has evolved into a modern organisation supporting people of all ages, abilities and nationalities in our Wavertree community and beyond and how the club is growing towards the future.

*The meeting will be on Sunday 18th January 2026 at the Olive Mount Community Centre, Edgewell Drive, L15 8GG from 7:30-9:00pm. All welcome.*

*Entrance free. Donations appreciated.*



### CHRISTMAS IN WAVERTREE

Two Christmas events were held in Wavertree this year thanks to the work of Love Wavertree, Samson Security, Liverpool Council Neighbourhood Team and the support of our Local Councillor.

A Christmas grotto was run at Samson Security complete with a visit from Santa Claus, and later on a short carol service was held at the Rose Garden and the Christmas Tree lights were switched on along which many minced pies, mulled wine and good cheer!

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 Road, L15 7LJ (0151 722 6265) smbirch@blueyonder.co.uk  
Local History Sec: VACANT  
If you are interested in a committee position please contact us.  
Email: **wavsoc2023@gmail.com**

### UNITED UTILITIES UPDATE— WORK ON THE MYSTERY

Following our correspondence with United Utilities and our attendance at meetings & other subsequent communications we are pleased to say that United Utilities have created a dedicated website to act as a first point-of-contact for those seeking answers to questions they may have relating to the works.

The website is: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/wastewater-services/sewer-improvement-work-in-your-area/sewer-improvements-at-wavertree-park/>

Or simply search for: 'Sewer Improvements at Wavertree Park'.

We will continue to maintain an open dialogue with United Utilities, Liverpool Council and their contractors and will keep you updated through our own newsletter and website.

### 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.

## MELLY FOUNTAIN—NEW PLAQUE PROPOSED



Tucked quietly away beside the Picton Road railway bridge is this 165 year old granite drinking fountain. It has a fascinating history which the Wavertree Society plan to mark with a green heritage plaque this year.

Liverpool businessman Charles Melly had the idea of installing drinking water fountains across the city after a visit to Geneva in 1852.

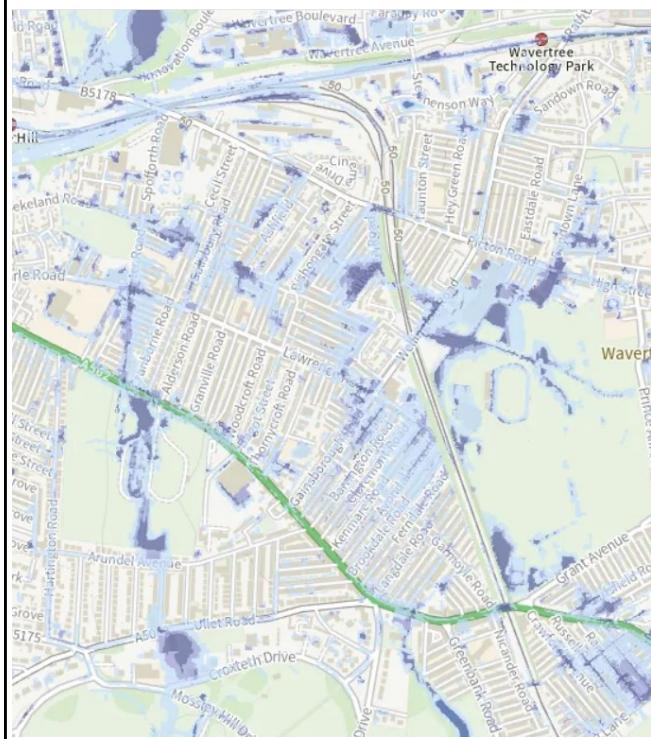
He put the first on Princes dock where he noticed that dockers, sailors & local people had only water from horse troughs or cheap beer to quench their thirst.

Melly installed 40 fountains each made from high quality Aberdeenshire red granite and sculpted by the MacDonald company who also fashioned the Trafalgar Square lions and tombs of Albert and Victoria.

Our Picton Road fountain has survived in remarkably good condition, one of only 9 remaining. Sadly Melly, who also campaigned for 'wayside benches' and was one of those behind the creation of Sefton Park, suffered poor mental health and took his own life aged only 59.

Next time you are passing stop and take a closer look at this important reminder of those times when clean drinking water was not readily available to everyone and of the man who made it his mission to put right that injustice.

Thanks to committee member Adrian Servoir for nominating the fountain and writing this article.



**'Before the road was the river—the streams beneath our streets' a history article by Florence Gersten.**

Following discussions relating to the works at The Mystery the committee was reminded of a fantastic article written by long-term Society member Florence Gersten about the lost, forgotten and hidden streams running under our streets. We have reproduced an electronic version of this article available on our website in

### 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](http://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**

If you pay by bank transfer please indicate who the payment is from and for how many years and if you wish to make a voluntary extra donation, please indicate as such too. You could advise us by email or letter of your contact details so that we can send your emails and keep in touch with you..

[www.thewavertreesociety.uk](http://www.thewavertreesociety.uk)

Facebook.com/wavsoc  
X@wavsoc

Email: [wavsoc2023@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Are you a PAID-UP Member?

If your address label indicates the date (e.g. **30/09/26**) on which your current subscription expires. You can renew, if you wish, for up to 3 years at a time.

# WAVERTREE GARDEN SUBURB NEWS

## Wavertree Garden Suburb in Bloom 2025



A dedicated group of people/gardeners continues to meet every Sunday morning from 10 -12 at the Institute on Thingwall Road to do whatever jobs need doing in the garden there. We make planters, take cuttings, plan open days, plants sales etc. Anyone is welcome to come along and see if it is something they might be interested in



We have managed to make, install and plant up 9 planters and volunteers have made sure they have been watered adequately and plants have been replaced if necessary.



During the year we were presented with a plaque by the National Garden Open Scheme which was attached to a summer house funded by a grant from them. We also received a donation from a kind anonymous donor and we used that to fund another planter which is in situ in the garden along with several others funded by the group.

We have been pressing the council for the replacement of trees firstly along Thingwall Road and then we will work on other roads in the suburb. Many have been lost over the years mainly because of age but also because of disease and damage. This is after all, a Garden Suburb and most of it is part of a Conservation Area. A few trees had been planted in Southway, but nothing seemed to be happening elsewhere. We were then lucky enough that our councillor Julie Fadden offered to fund 6 for us on Thingwall Road, followed by the council funding 6 more and then we, the Wavertree Garden Suburb in Bloom group were able to fund 2 from the profits from our plant sales. There is still a way to go but we are happy that at least, some of the gaps have been filled and hope to do more in the future. It was disappointing that one of the residents on Thingwall Road dissuaded the council employees from putting a tree on the verge in front of their house because of "leaves". Maybe next time we'll remedy that.

The Institute has been looking festive this Christmas thanks to the Christmas tree our councillor Julie has provided from her Neighbourhood Fund and the lighting and decorations which have been provided by our group of volunteers.



Over the following year we aim to install several more planters on Thingwall Road. Volunteers to water any during dry spells would be greatly appreciated. These will be funded with the profits from our upcoming events, an Open Day on 28<sup>th</sup> February and a larger Plant Sale on 25<sup>th</sup> July, both at the Institute from 11.00 until 3.00.

