



# The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

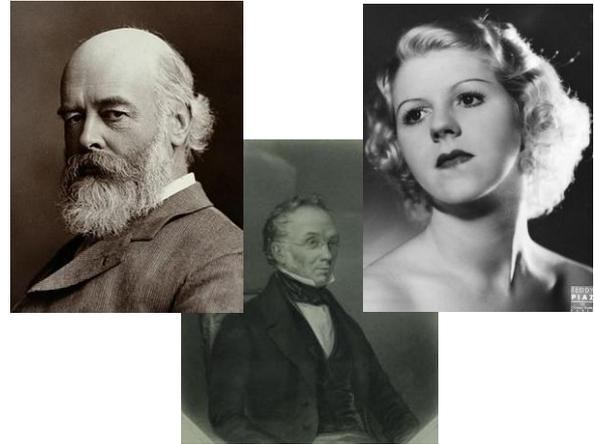
## NEWSLETTER 259

Founded 1977  
Registered  
Charity  
No.1004259

**MARCH  
2026**

We are pleased to welcome back **Richie the Ranger** to give us his talk on

# UNSUNG MERSEYSIDE GREATS



An informative and entertaining exploration of the stories behind some remarkable yet often overlooked individuals, who have helped shape Merseyside's history.

*The meeting will be on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at the Olive Mount Community Centre, Edgwell Drive, L15 8GG from 7:30-9:00pm.*

*All welcome - Entrance free - Refreshments Available - Donations appreciated*

### TREES FELLED TO PROTECT THE LOCK-UP



Last month finally saw the removal of the five Norwegian maples that had been causing harm to the Wavertree Lock-up.

After seventeen years of lobbying, asking and imploring the Council to remove or at least remediate the trees near the Lock-up the Society has finally succeeded in having them removed. The work was carried out by David J

Platt Landscapes who had initially allocated two days for the work, but due to fine weather and hard work they managed to remove the trees in just one day.

The trees had their branches carefully removed by tree-surgeons using hand-held chainsaws followed by sectional removal of the trunks and grinding of the stumps to ground level.

We have already had people commenting that the Lock-up is much better seen now and that the overall character of the area has been preserved.

The committee hope that members will be pleased with this work that has been undertaken at the Society's expense.

Our thanks to Society member Will Chambers for his help with arranging the work.

Chair: **Robert Zatz** (0151 733 5878)  
Vice Chair & Planning Secretary: **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](mailto:smbirch@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Local History Secretary: **Adrian Seviour**  
If you are interested in a committee position please contact us.  
Email: [wavsoc2023@gmail.com](mailto:wavsoc2023@gmail.com)

### 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.

## **LOCAL HISTORY** By Adrian Seviour

### **WELLINGTON ROAD MISSION & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

On 24th April 1878 a large group of people, including around 300 children dressed in their Sunday best, assembled at the Town Hall before processing along the High Street and turning into Wellington Road with its scattered cottages and windmill.

It was the opening day of a new Sunday school built at a cost of £2816 - 6 s, founded by John Blyth, a miller and corn dealer from the Congregational church in Hunters Lane.

He had been running a Sunday school from his house close to today's Bisley Street for nine years. 262 children were enrolled for the school's first year with a staff of 16 teachers.

The foundation stone can still be seen to the left of the building's front entrance bearing a Bible quotation:

*'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it'*



As Wellington Road Mission church it was soon hosting Sunday services as well as all sorts of events and activities including Scout and Guide troops, gymnastic activities and a soup kitchen.

In 1941 sadly two residents were killed when a bomb fell opposite the church. Martha Downey (84) and her son are interred at Holy Trinity. After repairs the cross atop one of the pinnacles was not replaced as a memorial to that tragedy.

The church today has a small but active congregation hosting regular services, Zoom Bible study classes and a luncheon club.

### **NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TOUR GUIDES AT BEATLES SITES**

The Society has been made aware that the Beatles Legacy Group, the Liverpool City Region Tourist Guides Association, Beatles Story (who operate the Magical Mystery Tour) and the Liverpool Business Improvement District have been working on a Code of Conduct for visitors and tourist guides. The code will help to encourage good behaviour from visitors to Beatles-sites, especially those that are in residential areas such as Arnold Grove and Newcastle Road in Wavertree. We will report back on this when we have more information.



## WAVERTREE GARDEN SUBURB IN BLOOM

Spring has started to arrive at the Institute garden on Thingwall Road, bringing a welcome burst of colour after a long, wet winter.



The gardening group have resumed work and the volunteers have already begun clearing leaves, pruning shrubs, weeding and planting for the new season.

The group began in 2021 with the aim of bringing back to life the neglected garden so that the many and varied users of this community hub, which encourages inclusivity and diversity, could enjoy a pleasant environment and have an enriched experience on their visits.

Several tonnes of compost and topsoil had to be added to the borders so that the plants would have the necessary nutrients to flourish. In addition, a seating area was provided so that passers-by, as well as users of the hall, could enjoy a few moments of rest and quiet contemplation.

Provision is made for wildlife through water bird feeders, bee and butterfly friendly plants and a new bug house is being planned.

A number of new planters have been added to the garden providing additional bursts of colour throughout the season.

Open days provide a focal point for the community bringing together local residents providing an opportunity to purchase plants, obtain gardening tips and advice and a very welcome chance for social interaction over tea and cake. Wildflower seeds are usually donated to visitors.

The group has now expanded beyond the confines of the garden itself and into the wider community. A number of street planters have been made by the group, sanctioned by the Council and stocked with plants and bulbs.

Regular contact with the Council, supported by local Councillor Julie Fadden, has led to the planting of trees to replace those lost through storms age and disease, and last year 14 new trees were planted which will help to improve the air quality in the neighbourhood and in particular in the vicinity of the busy highway of Thingwall Road

Funds are raised through Open Days, donations and competition prizes e.g. a new summer house was donated after a bid was submitted to the National Garden Scheme.

Links have been forged with local businesses through the neighbourhood website and this has led to welcome donations of compost, plants and wood for the construction of the planters.

Moving forward the aim is to construct more planters as to the area and extend the planting of trees to enhance the environment for local residents and to combat traffic pollution.

The group meets Sunday morning between 10am and 12pm at the Institute Garden. New members are always welcome - no experience needed.

**The next Open Day and Plant Sale will be on Saturday 25th July.**

## THE EDINBURGH PUB

The historic Edinburgh Pub on Sandown Lane has closed suddenly at the start of January, much to the surprise and upset of its regular patrons.

It has emerged that the manager, Walter Scott, who had been running the pub for the past twenty years had decided to throw in the bar towel and take retirement coinciding with his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Society make enquiries which revealed that the managers of The Dispensary, Renshaw Street are planning to take the lease.

They have reassured us that they do not intend to change the character of the pub but rather carry out some necessary repairs and a long-overdue refurbishment of the toilets. They have provided this statement:

*“ A message from the team behind the Dispensary pub on Renshaw St, city centre. We are delighted to say we have taken on The Eddy.*

*Scotty the old landlord did a full handover with us and explained the sentimental attachment to certain items in the bar which we'll respect and keep.*

*Some restoration is required externally to the brickwork, windows & roof which is very evident. The Grade II listing means that will take a bit of time to organise and complete in proper order.*

*The loos need refitting but the overall internal aesthetic won't change, repairs to the seating & tables, lick of paint, new floor behind the bar etc... Restoration not renovation is key.*

*We will update on timescales for reopening as soon as know them and can welcome everyone back as quickly as we can. We have set up an email address for anyone to be able to contact us with memories, suggestions, requests or to get anything of their chest good & bad-  
theedinburghL15@gmail.com*

*Everyone should be reassured though that we are independent local operators, no brewery ties and not part of any oligarch pub empire. We know our stuff when it comes to running traditional local pubs so as custodians of your pub, rest assured it is in safe hands.*

*The Dispensary team.”*

**www.thewavertreesociety.uk**  
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## What's on?

**Wirral History and Heritage Fair 2026**, Hume Hall, Port Sunlight, CH62 5DH, Saturday 21/3/26, admission free

**Civic Voice Conference in Liverpool**, The Daffodil, Canning Dock, Friday 17/4/26, booking £45 at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1983277676920?aff=oddt>

### 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.

## NEW CROSSING AT RATHBONE AND WELLINGTON ROAD!



On 17th March Liverpool City Council's Cabinet is expected to sign off on the £2m funding earmarked for improvements to Wavertree High Street.

A key part of the carriageway improvements will be the installation of a properly signalled crossing at the Rathbone Road/Wellington Road/Picton Road junction.

This has been another long-running saga and has been an ambition of the Society for many years.

It is the Society's opinion that these improvements are long overdue and are much welcomed. The short-term disruption will be more than outweighed by the safety improvements this will bring.

### 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 you emails and keep in touch with you.