



# The Wavertree Society

Caring for Wavertree - Past, Present and Future

## NEWSLETTER 183

Founded 1977  
Registered  
Charity  
No.1004259

May  
2011

Our next meeting:

## LIFE IN AND OUT OF PARLIAMENT

**A talk by Jane Kennedy**

on Wednesday 11th May  
at 7.30pm in the  
Olive Mount Community Centre,  
Edgewell Drive, Liverpool L15 8GG

**DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING VENUE:**

*The Olive Mount Community Centre is situated on the ground floor of Monkswell Place, Edgewell Drive. 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 by the yucca tree.)*

Rt Hon Jane Kennedy was MP for the Liverpool Wavertree constituency from 1997 onwards. Before that, she had been MP for Liverpool Broadgreen until the boundaries were re-drawn and the new Wavertree seat was created. She retired from frontline politics in May 2010 after a career spanning twenty years as a local MP and over twelve years as a government Minister. Still a resident of Childwall, she loves to share her recollection of the highs and lows of public office and to look ahead to the next challenge!



**Admission free of charge  
ALL WELCOME  
Donations invited**

## 'SMALLEST HOUSE' UPDATE

Following the publication of the last Newsletter, we made contact with the owners of the Cock & Bottle - T J Thomas Estates - about their plans for the building, including the former 'smallest house in England' at 95 High Street. By this time an internal wall had been built, separating the new doorway and staircase from the ground floor of the pub and making it impossible to re-create the original façade of the house. The Council's Planning Department had apparently indicated that, in their view, the moving of the doorway does not affect the character of the Wavertree Village Conservation Area and, as the building is not Listed, the Council cannot insist on the new wall being removed. However, the owners agreed to our suggestion that a 'mirror image' of the house frontage should be created by inserting a dummy window to the left of the new door. They are now applying for planning permission on that basis, and we are pleased to say that they have also agreed to incorporate our plaque drawing attention to the building's former significance. (Picture: The new frontage almost complete, Easter Sunday 2011).



## FRIENDS OF THE ROSE GARDEN

For several years now, the Rose Garden on the High Street has been looked after by a small group of volunteers who have organised the planting of the flower beds, the maintenance of the shrubberies and the provision of seats for the benefit of local residents and passers-by alike. Unfortunately the seats were damaged beyond repair by a group of youths one night last October, and, although the incident was witnessed by nearby residents who promptly alerted the police, the culprits were never caught. The good news is that, thanks to Cllr Rosie Jolly, the City Council donated £500 which, among other things, has allowed the Friends of the Rose Garden to commission and install a replacement and much sturdier seat. Our picture shows Sean, Liam and John enjoying a well-earned rest after completing the work on 26th February.



**Website:**

[www.wavertreesociety.org](http://www.wavertreesociety.org)

**Email:**

[info@wavertreesociety.org](mailto:info@wavertreesociety.org)

**Are you a  
PAID-UP Member?**

Your **address label** indicates the date on which your current subscription expires.

**Or do you want to JOIN the Society?**

The annual subscription is **£3 (household) or £6 (company, etc.)**. Please send a cheque, payable to 'The Wavertree Society', to the Membership Secretary: Mrs Sheilagh Birch, 338 Wavertree Nook Road, Liverpool L15 7LJ.

## ALLEYGATES UPDATE

The article in our last Newsletter regarding the proposed alleygates in Wavertree Nook Road/Fieldway came as a shock to many residents of Wavertree Garden Suburb. They contacted us - and the City Council - to complain that the decision to install the gates had been taken without proper consultation, and would result in the loss of a well-used and much-appreciated public passageway which was an integral part of the Garden Suburb's design 100 years ago. We discovered that, of the 56 households who had been asked for their views on the proposal last year, not a single one was in Nook Rise or on the 'odd numbered' side of Wavertree Nook Road (directly opposite the passageway in question). Nor were the residents of Heywood Road consulted, even though - as those who attended the Traffic & Highways Representations Committee meeting on 1st February pointed out - the installation of gates off Wavertree Nook Road seems likely to divert the focus of anti-social behaviour to the other (Heywood Road) passageway. Furthermore, it emerged that the Council had not followed its own Gating Order Policy which requires it to consider a range of alternative measures (e.g. CCTV cameras, S.30 Dispersal Orders, increased policing and physical measures) before authorising the installation of alleygates.

All of these points were put to the Council's Legal Department, who discussed them with the Committee Chairman (Councillor Malcolm Kennedy) and the other member of the Committee (Councillor Tim Moore) on 7th April. The response was as follows: "Both members were very clear that, whilst they appreciate your concerns, they remain of the view that the gating of the passageway is an appropriate measure and that the correct procedures have been followed. Councillor Kennedy also emphasised that as part of the decision he specifically requested that he be provided with monthly progress reports on the effectiveness of the gate".

Luciana Berger MP, and the Childwall Ward councillors, reiterated to residents that - being unaware of any opposition to the alleygates plan - they had given the proposal their support. Councillor Rosie Jolly - whose Wavertree Ward includes part of the Garden Suburb - attempted to have the decision 'called in' for scrutiny by the relevant Select Committee, but was told that she had no power to do this as the gates will be in Childwall Ward, not Wavertree.

The root cause of this unsatisfactory situation is the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005, which allows local councils to make a Gating Order without going through the traditional Public Rights of Way consultation and inquiry procedure. A consequence, though, is that in legal terms the blocking of the passageway is not a permanent closure; the Council has a duty to review its decisions periodically, and has the power to order the removal of the gates at any time. Any resident aggrieved by the installation of the alleygates is therefore urged to make their views known to Councillor Malcolm Kennedy, as well as to their local Councillors and MP.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**At its meeting on 9th March, Liverpool City Council** accepted a Motion - *Conservation in Communities* - in the name of Cllr Rosie Jolly. Among other things, it was resolved that "Council acknowledges with gratitude the role of community activists/organisations whose interest plays a key role in maintaining and monitoring conservation areas across the city, acting as guardians and community champions of historic assets ... Council acknowledges that breaches of conservation in terms of planning should be treated seriously and that the voices and concerns raised by community champions should be taken into account ... [and] Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport to review how breaches of planning in areas of conservation are managed in the best interest of the community".



**Bethel Chapel** - the Welsh Presbyterian church at the bottom of Heathfield Road - is currently awaiting demolition, under the terms of planning permission No.10F/0548 which will see the former vestry and adjacent rooms in Auckland Road converted and extended to serve as a new church. For the time being, the Welsh congregation is holding its Sunday services in the Blue Coat School Chapel.

**Wavertree Town Hall** is up for sale by Auction. The Grade II Listed building has been standing empty and neglected for several years now, since its previous owners, London & Edinburgh Inns, went into administration and its properties passed to the Jersey-based GUKAPF Asset Co. (No.1) Ltd. The auction takes place at the Hilton Liverpool Hotel, Thomas Steers Way, L1 8LW on 25th May, and the Guide Price is stated as £100,000.



Wavertree Garden Suburb's **Thingwall Bowling Club** is looking for new members, both ladies and gentlemen, interested in playing Crown Green bowls. (No previous experience necessary). Enquiries to Joyce Barton, 228 7436.



The **Liverpool Male Voice Choir** is celebrating its centenary with a concert in St Mary's Church, South Drive, Victoria Park, at 7.30pm on Saturday 4th June. This is a very appropriate venue, as the choir was formed in 1911 - as the Wavertree Male Voice Choir - by members of the Wesleyan Methodist congregation who at that time occupied the building. Enquiries to Rev. Malcolm Chamberlain (St Mary's) on 735 1615 or Ray Jennings (LMVC) on 428 8753.

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 Road, Liverpool L15 4JA (733 5878)  
**Joint Vice-Chairs: John Jackson** 15 Valencia Road, L15 8LL  
**Susan Smith** Flat 4, 11 Lance Lane, L15 6TS  
**Hon. Secretary: Brenda Hoatson** 56 Meadway, L15 7LZ (722 3090)  
**Hon. Treasurer: Cyril Fell** 286 Rathbone Road, L13 1BE  
**Mem. Sec & Sales Officer: Sheilagh Birch** 338 Wavertree Nook Road, L15 7LJ (722 6265)  
**Local History Sec & Newsletter Ed.: Mike Chitty** 16 Chartmount Way, L25 5LB (428 7801)