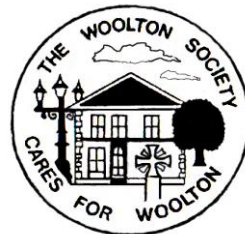


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO:334 March/April 2015



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

NEWSLETTER



*The plaque which was unveiled by Lady Reynolds on Sunday 8th February.
See page 4 of this issue for a full report.*

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Society news

Diary Dates & next talk

A full programme of talks for 2015 has now been drawn up. All dates are Wednesdays, 7.30 pm at Woolton Village Club. We have the use of the room downstairs to the right of the entrance door.

20th May: The conservation of Woolton's stone buildings. Peter Lloyd is a locally based historic buildings consultant. He will be giving an illustrated talk on his work helping property owners & those responsible for heritage buildings at risk to manage their historic assets through conservation, redevelopment & repair.

15th July: Curator of Costumes at Liverpool Museum Pauline Rushton will be speaking on the costume collection of Mrs Tinne.

A fuller report on this talk will be in issue 335.

16th September: Diana Goodier will be speaking on The Vikings on Merseyside.

21st October: John Boyce will taking us on A Walk Through Kirkdale.

18th November: Annual General Meeting.

Talk of March 18th: The History of the Bibby Line.

Christina Spencer gave a very well received talk on the history of the world's largest deep sea shipping company. The Bibby Line was established in Liverpool in 1807, & still operates from premises on Duke Street. Mrs Spencer, the company's archivist, gave a very entertaining & amusing talk on the history of the Bibby Line, & how it has now diversified into many other concerns, although determined to stay rooted in Liverpool.

Revision of Constitution

The Woolton Society constitution was drawn up in 1972, & last revised in 1977. Several anomalies have been noted over the years such as the stipulation that committee members should reside within the boundary of our area of interest. This would exclude several committee members, both past & present.

A sub-committee has been set up to examine the constitution, & has already reported some recommendations to the main committee. A full report will be presented to members before the next AGM, as all amendments must be formally approved by the membership after being passed by the committee.

From our archives

This is a verbatim extract from issue 81 in November 1983, which is particularly apposite in its reference to the felling of trees which have preservation orders on them, & the inadequacy of any sanctions. The chairman in 1983 was John D.Ross, with joint secretaries Grace Blundell & Bee McKenzie. The report is from the Annual General Meeting on 10th October 1983.

Work of the year

The principal items of general interest would seem to be that the Society has been of help in securing people who are enthusiastically restoring both the Druids Cross Stable Block & the Lodge of Camphill on Hillfoot Road. These are both being restored for active use as family residences. Other buildings in Woolton which have claimed our attention have been the School Cottage in Church Road South, the development of Knotty Cross in Halewood Road, the old Woolton Convalescent Home now called Woolton Manor, Archbishop's House in Church Road, & the Much Woolton Old School in School Lane.

There have been problems in the Quarry Street area. The Skate Board Park has now been somewhat tidied up. Tyres are being removed from the Rubber Depot. The Lorry Depot is under notice to quit, & we hear that it is

possible that the Corporation may remove the Refuse Depot. When all this comes about the redevelopment of Quarry Street & the Quarry may become possible.

The Mill Stile Path has been closed for some time .One of the walls collapsed & made it dangerous but this has now been repaired & the footpath is open again. We have made frequent representations about the state of Kings Drive verge between Woolton Street & James Road. This has now received some attention & we hope it will be possible to keep it tidier in the future.

Woolton is one of the most beautifully treed areas in this District & we are most anxious that it should remain so. We are in the process of carrying out a project of photographing trees in our area so that we have some record of their contribution to our environment.

Most trees in the Conservation Area, of course, have a Tree Preservation Order upon them. Unfortunately the penalties for felling such trees without Planning Consent are really quite ludicrous. During last Winter the very big beech tree on the Hillside site was felled without Planning consent. The persons responsible were fined £100 with £12 costs by the Stipendiary Magistrate & this will probably give you some idea of the inadequacy of the penalties if tree preservation is to have any meaning. There have been many other items that have been brought to our attention & which we have taken action about. Examples are the Public Conveniences in High Street which have so often been shut; old & vandalised cars littering our parks & the Lodes Pond; a dilapidated potting shed in Woolton Woods; a long blocked footpath in Menlove Avenue, where the demolition of the old Remand home drags on; faulty street lights; fly tipping & dumping in the Black gates footpath etc.....

We have, of course, been keeping a very close eye on Planning Applications & other such administrative activities as The Green Belt Plan, & the County Engineer's Plan for the M57 southern extension which might provide a route from Garston & Speke to the Tarbock intersection of the M62 & M57, thus relieving the Village of some problems of heavy through traffic. The Quarry Book sub-Committee continues its work on recording how Woolton Stone was used to build the Cathedral & the Local History Unit continues its work of recording research into the history of the area.

After this comprehensive & exhaustive report it would seem that there was little for the Chairman to report in his remarks. This, however was not entirely the case for after paying a well-deserved tribute to Janet Gnosspelius for all her work, he referred to the refurbishing of the commemorative stone in the Old English Rose Garden which had been done at our request, & our hopes that they will be able to re-voice the cuckoo for the Garden Festival.

Issue 81 went on to review the talk of October 1983 when Miss Lorraine Knowles gave a talk on the Prescott Museum of Clocks & Watchmaking. It also advertised an evening of slides of Liverpool & Woolton in November, which finished with a competition, & prizes for those who recognised the most places.

More extracts from our archives in future issues of the newsletter.

Planning News and Applications

St Julie's school re-building plans

With the continuing controversy concerning St Julie's school, the council has revised the plans slightly (elevations, landscape details, revised Tree Survey and revised Ecological Assessment Report). Unfortunately the proposal is still to build the school partly on Woolton Woods public space. It must be noted that neither the Woolton Society nor any other group objects to the rebuilding of the school, only to the use of public green space for building purposes.

The application number remains at 15F/006 although the date that comments could be submitted was extended until 23 March 2015 which gave a further chance for people to raise objections. Several members have contacted the Woolton Society to report that when they submitted objections on the council's own website it crashed or failed to take their submissions. It is suggested that objections are put into something like Word and then copied into the council's planning explorer so at least there is a saved copy.

Alternatively, email objections to planningandbuildingcontrol@liverpool.gov.uk and ask for a receipt.

Potential Public Right of Way: Woolton Woods estate, first field to High Street.

The Woolton Village Residents Association believes that an unrecorded public right of way exists at the top of Coronation Drive, connecting it with Woolton Street. The WVRA is seeking help in establishing the facts of this matter, & would ask that if anyone has used this route in the past twenty years to contact chairman Peter Eustance on 428 8128.

All information will be used to confirm that Woolton's open spaces are there for public use, not private, or Council, gain.

Plaque ceremony in memory of Sir James Reynolds

Page 8 of this issue shows several images taken on Sunday 8th February, when members of the Reynolds family gathered to unveil a plaque in memory of Sir James Reynolds. Sir James had covenanted many acres of green space to be used by local people in perpetuity. It is this covenant which the council proposes to break, in order to build on public green space. The Woolton Society was well represented at this rally which was attended by a large number of concerned residents. A rousing address was given by Irene Byrne of the Save Woolton Woods group, which is partly quoted here:

"These two fields were gifted to the people of Liverpool in 1917 by Colonel Sir James Reynolds. In 1921 Colonel Reynolds sold the remainder of Woolton Woods to Liverpool Corporation with a restrictive covenant stipulating that the land, including the two gifted fields, would forever be maintained for recreational purposes only.

Over a period of nearly 100 years subsequent councils have respected that gift and honoured their promises until now.

The moral importance of respecting gifts and honouring promises really requires no explanation. Small children are able to grasp these concepts which are the very fabric of our society.

The present Council is aware of the gift and the covenants but is treating the issue of this land as a purely legal and financial matter. Indeed Mayor Anderson has used public money to consult with a barrister with the specific intention of overturning the restrictive covenant.

This is not simply a legal or a financial matter, it is a moral issue, which should be of concern for all the parties involved in this deal, that is the Council, the Sisters of Notre Dame and Kier Group PLC. It is vitally important that we give thanks for Colonel Reynolds generosity and respect his stated wishes. One hundred years on from World War One this city should remember and honour this generous, brave and talented man and the gift he made in 1917 to the ordinary people.

Colonel Reynolds family motto was "Perseverando" meaning to persevere and never give up and that is precisely what we, the people of Woolton, will do to ensure his wishes are respected and his memory is honoured.

Lest we forget."

The full text of this speech can be found on our website.

As well as the Woolton Society banner being unfurled at the ceremony, many other groups attended. The Save Sefton Meadows & Save Walton Hall Park groups were amongst those present, in a sad indictment of the many battlegrounds being defended against the council's aggressive war on green open spaces.

Yew trees at St James church

As regards the protected yew trees at St James church, illegally destroyed in December, the church has put in a planning application to replace them (15T/0112). The Woolton Society has objected to these plans on the basis that the proposed replacements would be only 1.5 to 1.75 metres in height. Following constructive discussions between St James's Church and the Woolton Society, the church has agreed to two replacements that will be between 3.6 and 4 metres in height. The Woolton Society feels that this is a much more appropriate size replacement and we hope that with the correct professional care and nurturing in their early years these replacement trees will prosper, & provide the same benefit to the community and wildlife as did the original yews.

Strategic Green & Open Spaces consultations

A series of public consultation meetings, led by campaigner Simon O'Brien, have been held throughout the city concerning the issue of the future of our green spaces. The meeting concerning Woolton & Childwall will be held on **Saturday 28th March**, 10.30 to 12.00, at St James Hall on Church Road South. We hope that our members have received sufficient notice to attend, so that the views of the many people affected by the council's decisions can be heard.

The following is a summary of planning applications that have been received by the City council since our last newsletter. See

<http://northgate.liverpool.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer17/GeneralSearch.aspx>

Contact the Society at wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk re. planning matters.

Applic'n Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
Applicati on Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
15F/0617	Woolton Primary School Out Lane Liverpool L25 5NN	To erect single storey stand-alone library facility with school grounds	REGISTERED	18-03-2015	
15H/0603	68 Druidsville Road Liverpool L18 3EW	To carry out loft conversion	REGISTERED	18-03-2015	
15F/0378	Woolton Park Opposite 83 School Lane Liverpool L25 7TX	To erect fencing	REGISTERED	18-03-2015	
15F/0359	Gateacre Garden Centre Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JW	To erect 10 detached dwellings with parking following demolition of existing buildings	REGISTERED	18-03-2015	
15F/0624	Woolton Primary School Out Lane Liverpool L25 5NN	To site double decker bus in junior playground to be used as a library	REGISTERED	18-03-2015	
15H/0599	38 Hillside Drive Liverpool L25 5NS	To erect single storey extension to side/rear.	REGISTERED	17-03-2015	

15NM/0596	St. Francis Xaviers College Beaconsfield Road Woolton Liverpool L25 6EG	Application for non-material amendment to 14F/1833 - (To erect 3 storey science block, sports hall, extension to main school building to provide new reception facility, relocation of covered multi use games area, create new vehicular access from Woolton Hill Road, layout new/reconfigured car park and associated landscaping) so as to allow alterations to fenestration and reduction in plant on roof of science block	REGISTERED	17-03-2015	
15H/0594	10 Cresttor Road Liverpool L25 6DW	To erect dormer extension to the rear and make alterations to the roof in connection with loft conversion	REGISTERED	17-03-2015	
15H/0577	18 Downham Close Liverpool L25 4TY	To erect single storey extension to the rear and other minor external alterations.	REGISTERED	16-03-2015	
15H/0527	36 Well Lane Liverpool L16 5ET	To erect single storey extension at rear and two storey extension at side	REGISTERED	06-03-2015	
15F/0516	Gateacre Community Comprehensive School Grange Lane Liverpool L25 4SD	To erect 200 dwellings with associated landscaping, roads and new accesses to Grange Lane and Cuckoo Lane.	REGISTERED	06-03-2015	
15DIS/0469	St. Francis Xaviers College Beaconsfield Road Woolton Liverpool L25 6EG	To discharge conditions 3, 7 & 18 attached to 14F/1833	REGISTERED	25-02-2015	
15H/0465	Hillside Gateacre Brow Liverpool L25 3PB	To erect single storey extension at front of property linked to house at lower ground floor	REGISTERED	25-02-2015	
15H/0459	3 Blackwood Avenue Liverpool L25 4RN	To erect single storey extension at side and rear and new dormer window to front	REGISTERED	25-02-2015	
15H/0443	5 Dunsdon Close Liverpool L25 6JG	To erect dormer extension at side and rear in connection with loft conversion and detached garage at side	REGISTERED	25-02-2015	
15T/0425	43 Druids Park Liverpool L18 3LJ	Fell 2 trees and prune 2 Hollies and 1 Holm Oak	REGISTERED	24-02-2015	
15H/0412	The Rookings Out Lane Liverpool L25 5NN	To retain boundary fencing over existing sandstone boundary wall facing Out Lane	REGISTERED	23-02-2015	
15H/0391	29 Belle Vale Road Liverpool L25 2PY	To erect single storey extension to rear following demolition of outbuilding	REGISTERED	19-02-2015	
15NM/0394	57 The Beeches Liverpool L18 3LT	Application for non-material amendment to 14H/0452 - To erect single storey extension to the rear (so as to replace windows with french doors in the rear elevation)	FINAL DECISION	19-02-2015	Non Material Amendment Approved
15F/0287	Cotswold Woolton Park Liverpool L25 6DR	To erect new two storey dwelling following demolition of bungalow	REGISTERED	18-02-2015	
15PT/0342	Allerton Glass Woolton Street Liverpool L25 5JA (amended site address)	To install replacement condensing unit at roof level	REGISTERED	11-02-2015	
15H/0267	459 Woolton Road Liverpool L25 4SZ	To erect two storey extension to side/rear and raised patio at rear	REGISTERED	04-02-2015	

15H/0246	Richmond Courtenay Road Liverpool L25 4RL	To convert hipped roof to gable at front erect dormers to front and rear balcony in connection with loft conversion	FINAL DECISION	30-01-2015	Approve with Conditions
15H/0216	49 Well Lane Liverpool L16 5ET	To erect single storey extension to side/front/rear and covered patio area at rear	REGISTERED	28-01-2015	
15PH/0189	122 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HQ	To erect single storey extension at rear - The extension will extend 4.0m beyond the original house - The maximum height of the extension will be 4.0m - The height of the extension to the eaves will be 3.2m	FINAL DECISION	26-01-2015	Prior approval not required
15T/0112	St. James Methodist Church High Street Woolton Village Liverpool L25 7TE	Fell and replant two partially dismantled Yew trees.	FINAL DECISION	15-01-2015	Approve with Conditions

Woolton News

Friends of Reynolds Park

Four local schools are growing wildflower plants for the meadow which so impressed the RHS judges last year. However, a corporate sponsor has not come forward, so volunteers will be needed to prepare the ground from **Saturday 9th May** until the planting day on **Friday 15th May**. Those who could offer help should contact FORP chairman Geoff Kendall on 428 6409.

The Spring cleaning day has now been deferred until the Summer; see the notice board for details. The next FORP meeting will be in Tesco's coffee shop on **Wednesday 13th May** at 7pm.

Woolton in Bloom

Although the WIB volunteers will be not be taking part in the RHS competitions this year, the village will still be blooming, with plans afoot for more beautiful displays.

The calendar for 2016 will soon be going into production, this time showing some of the many outstanding floral features that have so impressed the judges over the past twelve years of success.

Ticket To Read

Woolton's free community library celebrated its second birthday in February, with tea & cakes given to browsers. Ticket to Read is based at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road, & open Mondays & Wednesdays, 1.30 to 4.30. It is also at Linksvie on Vale Road on alternate Thursdays 1.00 to 3.00.

Recently Gateacre School was approached by the manager of the Belle Vale Shopping Centre, & offered a shop unit for three months, at no charge, the only stipulation being that the unit should be used to promote literacy. Gateacre's Lisa Mitchell moved mountains to co-ordinate staff, pupils & book donations, & The Big Little Library was opened by the Lord Mayor on World Book Day, Thursday 5th March. This is a free service with a friendly welcoming atmosphere to encourage passers-by to drop in & browse, & with a box (outside Argos) to receive book donations. Opening times vary, but core hours are mid-morning to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Find it at the far end of the Belle Vale concourse, next to the Argos store. The library will be open until June.

If only a benefactor in Woolton would offer free (or cheap!) premises to Ticket to Read ...

Marie Curie fundraiser

The Marie Curie hospice on Speke Road will be holding a fundraising bake sale on **Saturday 28th March**, from 10.30 to 2 pm. Tea & coffee available too.

New businesses in Woolton

The Handy Afternoon Tea Company provided the refreshments for the Reynolds family, invited guests & organisers of the plaque ceremony on February 8th, & very fine it was too. A delicious selection of sandwiches & freshly baked cakes, served on vintage china, were provided by Hannah & Andy, who can be contacted on 428 5572 or at www.handy_afternoontea.co.uk

The former Landy's premises, 49a Allerton Road are now being refitted for *Myriad Travel*, professional travel consultants, who are re-locating from their current premises opposite the Half Way House on Woolton Road. They hope to open in the village on April 1st, & are continuing to use the phone number 738 1393.

Landy's was succeeded briefly by *All Your Animal Needs*, which came & went very quickly, being open only long enough to annoy residents with its garish & inappropriate signage.

We wish all new businesses well, & hope that they will prosper, & enhance the village.



Banners flying on Sunday 8th February



Simon O'Brien, Lady Reynolds and Lord Mayor, Erica Kemp at the plaque unveiling



The Reynolds family visiting Reynolds Park