

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

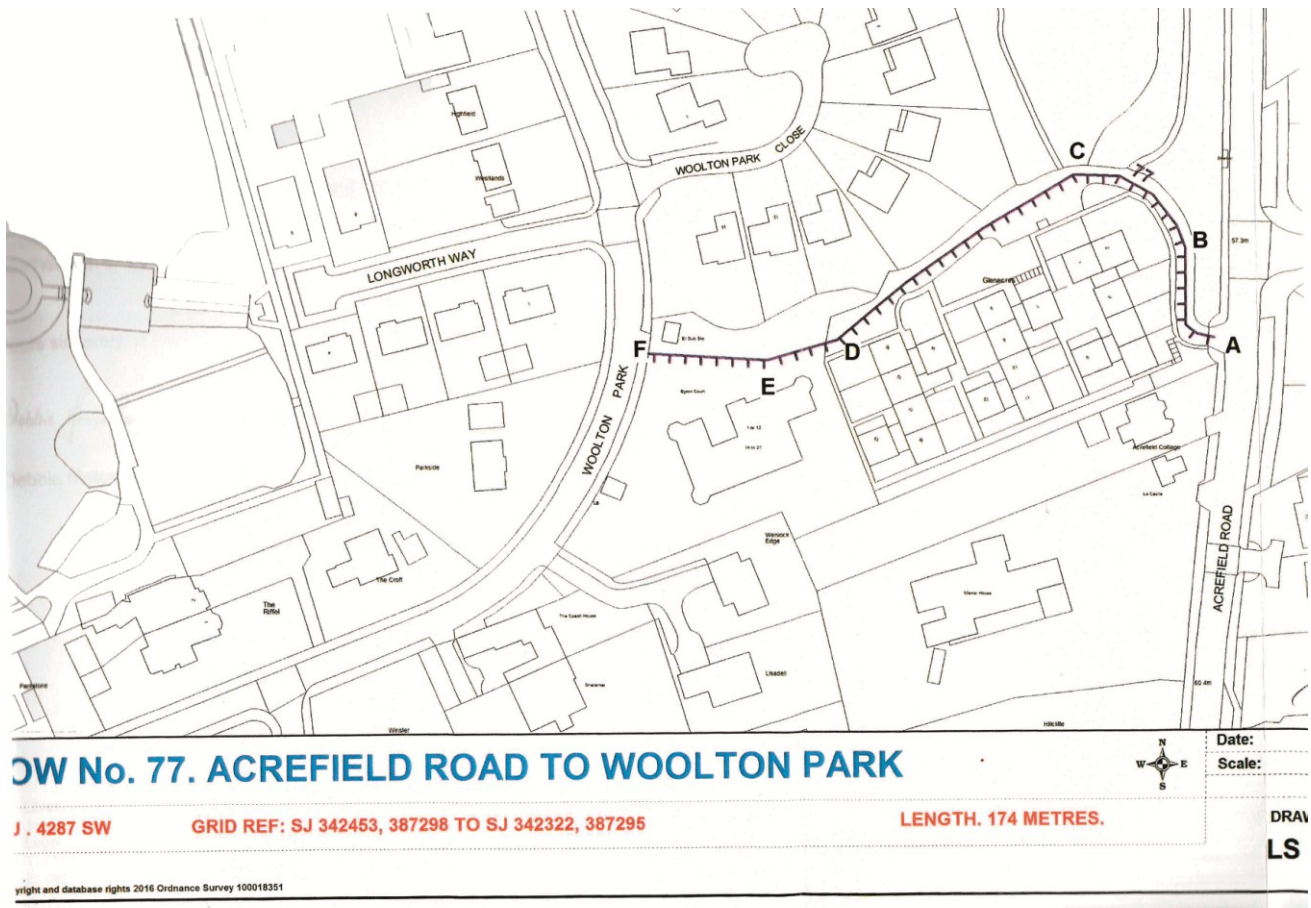
www.wooltonociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO 349 January/February 2019

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 46 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



Extract of footpath map – PROW No. 77. For report see page 4 of this issue.

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Society News

Annual General Meeting

The 46th AGM held on November 21st was well attended, with a lively social gathering following the reports & election of officers. The officers & committee are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies

Vice chairman & secretary: Paul Wilkie

Treasurer: Charles Davies

Membership secretary: Jean Bates

Environment secretary: Janet Hudson

Committee members: Bob Collins, Mike Cullen, John Hibbert, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Donna Jackson, Bernard Krasner

Talk of October 18th

The October talk on Woolton Convalescent Home drew a substantial audience, with Dr Janet Hollinshead & Paul Wilkie speaking on the history of the building & its grounds. The structure has had many incarnations in its time, including a nurse training school in the early days of the NHS, & latterly a care home known as Woolton Manor. Woolton Society pamphlet number 5 on the subject of the building was on sale for the first time at the talk, & many copies were sold.

Programme of talks & events February to November 2019

A laminated list of talks & events for all of 2019 was given out at the AGM, & will also be available at the farmers market stall & at future talks. All talks will be held in St Mary's hall, beginning at 3pm (Thursdays) or 7.30pm (Wednesdays). Fuller details of the talks & events from April to October will be in issues 350 & 351 of the newsletter, on the noticeboard beside Crust restaurant, by email reminders to members & also on the website www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

Thursday 21st February at 3pm. Rob Kirby, AVRO Manchester, the legend behind the Lancaster bomber. This talk will describe the early trials & tribulations of the development of the renowned Lancaster bomber from the AVRO Manchester.

Refreshments will be provided before the talk begins.

Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm, Robert Owen: My time as High Sheriff

Local resident & Woolton Society member Robert Owen will be speaking on his recent term of office as High Sheriff.

Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm, John Hatfield: The Liverpool Overhead Railway

This talk will be on the much missed local landmark demolished in the 1950s, known as the dockers' umbrella.

Wednesday 15th May at 7.30, Roy Wainwright: Mr Hardman's House

Wednesday 19th June at 7.30, Quiz Night

Sunday 7th July at 2pm, a guided walk, location to be confirmed, led by Blue Badge guide **Marie Passey**

No talk in August.

Wednesday 18th September at 7.30, a volunteer from The Daniel Adamson Trust will be speaking on the restoration of this venerable steam tug.

Thursday 17th October at 3pm, Val Jackson: The Chavasse Family

Wednesday 20th November at 7.30pm, 47th Annual General Meeting

No talks in December or January 2020.

Plaques for Woolton?

The Woolton Society committee has discussed the possibility of establishing a register of places of historical interest & notable citizens within the village, & having plaques placed on the relevant sites. The plaques, which would not necessarily resemble the English Heritage variety in being either blue or circular would commemorate a building or the site on which it once stood, or the person who once lived there. The plaques would be commissioned & paid for by the Woolton Society.

It is hoped that members will contribute their thoughts on who or where should be marked in this way. Please contact committee members at talks or via the website.

Society merchandise & Farmers Markets

The society has two books & five pamphlets to its name now, with more in preparation. The chairman of the Friends of Reynolds Park group, Geoff Kendall, has agreed to write a pamphlet on the history of the park which will feature many previously unseen photographs. This will be available later in the year. Pamphlets 1 to 5 are on Woolton Hall, Lord Woolton, Hillfoot Villa, Woolton walks, & Woolton convalescent home. All pamphlets cost £1.

The History of Much Woolton (£3) & Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral (£5) are on sale at all talks, at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street & also at the Anglican cathedral shop.

Also available are aprons (£12) & tea towels (£4), each with a design of local landmarks. A box of the tea towels, which had been thought to have been sold out, was recently discovered as they had been placed in a very safe place for storage. There are now enough for the next few markets.

The Woolton Society takes part at the monthly farmers markets held in the village, which we find to be very worthwhile in terms of publicity & sales of our merchandise. All our books & pamphlets are available, together with membership forms, & books sold on behalf of members. These are *The Old Inns, Taverns & Beer Houses of Woolton* (£14) by Stuart Rimmer, who gave a talk on this subject in March 2018, & *Starting Over* (£15) by Charles Roberts, about his friendship with John Lennon.

The markets are held on the second Saturday of each month, on Allerton Road in the village, from 8am to 1pm.

Newsletter

It has been a year since the ending of the hand delivery system for the newsletter. We have now entered the twenty first century, & email copies of the newsletter are sent to all members who supply their e-address. For those who prefer a paper copy this is sent out by post, at an extra cost of £8 on the appropriate membership subscription. Members who do not supply an e-address, or pay for the postal copy do not receive a newsletter.

Subscriptions

Woolton society subscriptions have remained unchanged for several years now, & are excellent value for money.

Single adult: £6

Joint Adult (at one address): £9

Single senior/student: £4

Joint senior/student (at one address): £6

The treasurer thanks all those who renewed their subs promptly, especially those who did so by standing order.

Environment, Planning News & Applications

Public Inquiry, Byron Court/Glenacres footpath

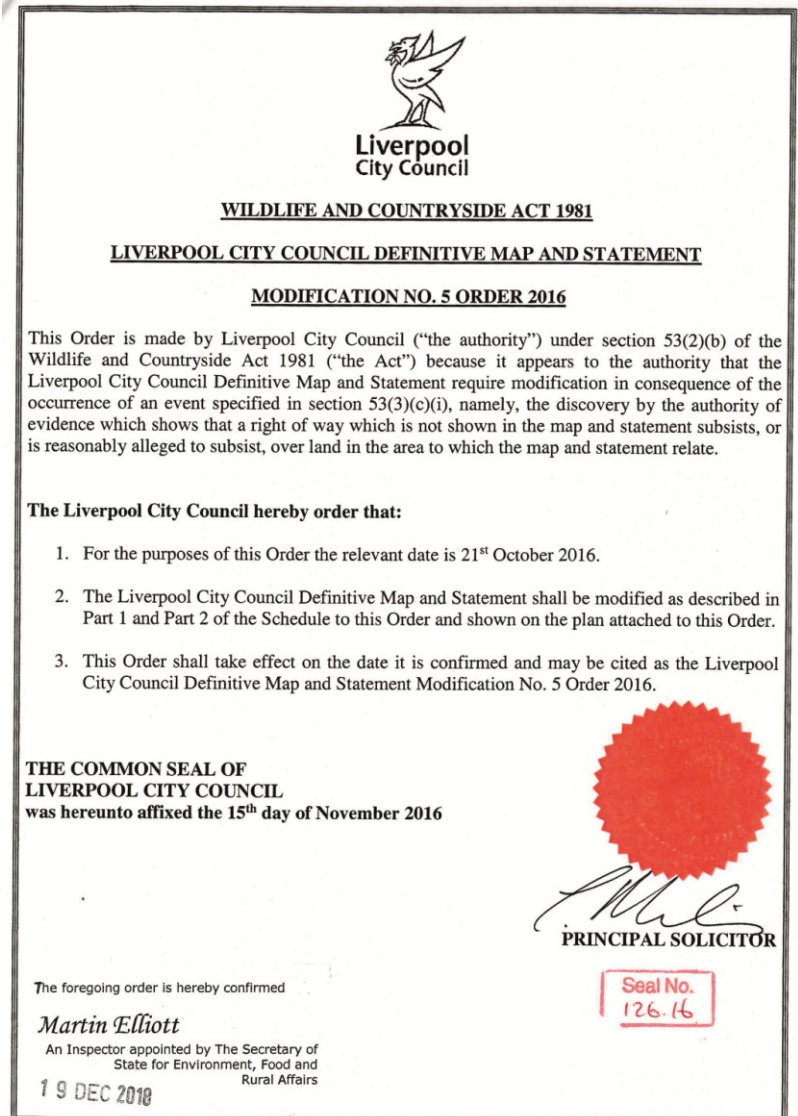
Members were notified by email in early January about the decision of the inspector in the inquiry held into the blocking of a footpath through the Byron Court/ Glenacres site. As reported in newsletters 345 to 348 last year, the path had been blocked by a wall in 2016, causing great inconvenience to local people. The path had been a useful shortcut for many years from Acrefield Road to Woolton Park, leading to Church Road & the various churches there. The argument of the Byron Court Management Company about anti-social behaviour was dismissed by the inspector, & it was reported that the wall was built without the consent or knowledge of the owner of the land. The inspector's decision was to confirm the order sought by the city council & supported by the Woolton & Gateacre societies. The footpath has now been added to the city's official register as number 77.

The city engineer has notified the BCMC that the wall should be removed. So far no reply has been received, reports Councillor Malcolm Kelly. Legally 90 days have to be allowed in case of appeal.

After 90 days the city engineer can order the demolition of the wall, or the council can do this itself, with the bill for the work sent to the BCMC.

It is hoped to show a photograph of the restored access to the footpath in the next issue of the newsletter.

The image on the cover of this issue shows in detail PROW no. 77, Acrefield Road to Woolton Park. This map was sent, with the inspector's decision, to all those who attended the inquiry.



Planning concerns in the village

Woolton Society officers write regularly to the Planning Department about the various crimes against the conservation area committed in the village. The Loft on Allerton Road has been the cause of great concern to residents, with garish lights & late night noise a constant problem. The Planning Enforcement Officer has notified the WS that the site is "*an ongoing case*" to the department, & that any application to retain the lights "*would be likely to be refused & they should be removed*".

An application by Rushton Properties to build on the land adjacent to Woolton Manor has now been lodged. This development was the subject of a meeting called at the Village Club in August, which left many unanswered questions. A report on this meeting was in issue 348 of the newsletter. The developer's plans are for ten "*high end, million pound*" properties, which would be built on Green Wedge land. The houses, which were compared at the meeting to prefabs, would form a gated

community. Over the past twenty years several applications from Rushton Properties for developing the site have been refused by the planners. One was for a retirement complex, one for a garden centre, some years before Dobbies was thought of. Consent was refused each time because this land forms part of the precious Green Wedge which we must fight hard to retain. Residents have been notified of the planning application by councillors Kelly & Brown. **All comments on the development should be sent to the Planning Department by 5th February, quoting reference 19F/0025.**

Save Harthill & Calderstones Park

Below is a recent statement from Mayor Joe Anderson concerning the rejection of the proposed housing development at Harthill/Calderstones Park. This is a great victory for Save Harthill & Calderstones Park and all the campaigners who worked so hard in opposing this use of green space.

Harthill Judicial Review decision – Mayoral statement January 18, 2019

Following today's Judicial Review decision to overturn planning permission for the Harthill scheme, the Mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson has given the following statement:

"The first thing to say is that the Harthill scheme is dead. It will not be resurrected. In any form.

I want the campaigners and all the local residents to know I have been listening to their concerns.

Frustratingly, because of the Judicial Review I have been unable to say anything. Well today I can and as I've consistently saying since day one, our role has always been to support Calder Kids and Beechley Riding Stables.

They have been our number one priority and in the past two years we've given tens of thousands of pounds to assist them both – with Calder Kids to be relocated to a new home.

Today's decision does not change our focus and we will immediately renew discussions with the board at Beechley on how best to secure the long term future of this fantastic community facility.

Liverpool City Council is a proud custodian of our fantastic parks and open spaces. We manage 2,605 acres every single day – that's bigger than Delamere Forest."

Traffic issues

Parking in the village is still a major problem, with traffic wardens rarely seen & motorists parking across pavements & junctions, & on yellow lines without fear of reprisals. Councillor Alice Roberts reports that she regularly requests visits from wardens, but the city is twelve short in their number so visits are infrequent. Three have been seen walking together through the village on several evenings recently. It is to be hoped that the parking situation will be eased if regular visits occur.

On 4th January around 3pm the village was in gridlock for twenty minutes as a motorist had parked right on the junction of Church & Allerton Roads, & some distance from the kerb. The Magical Mystery Tour bus was unable to turn right into Church Road, & so traffic backed up behind it and round into Woolton Street. When eventually the motorist returned she ran into the side of the tour bus before driving away. All this was captured on camera by a society member (pictures overleaf).



Recent planning applications of note

Please note, the development description is the one provided by the applicant/agent and is subject to change by a Planning Officer when the application is validated. You can check the progress of each application online using the Planning Explorer at:

<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/>

Application Number 18L/3135 12.11.18

Application Number 18F/3133 23.11.18

Proposal: To carry out internal alterations in connection with change of use from Residential (C3) to Skin & Beauty Clinic (sui generis) & Medical/Health Services (D1)

Location: 118 Allerton Road, Woolton, Liverpool L25 7RH

Applicant :ISC Capital Ltd

Application Number 18F/3256

7.12.18

Proposal: To erect two 3-bed dormer bungalows on land to be severed from Grange Lane Service Station & carry out alterations to the rear elevation of the existing building.

Location: Grange Lane Service Station, Grange Lane, Liverpool L25 5JZ

Applicant: Mr M. Taylor

Application Number 18A/2935

6.12.18

Proposal: To continue to display two high level back-lit signs. Amended plans & application form received.

Location: 49A Allerton Road, Woolton Liverpool L25 7RE

Applicant: Loft Elif

Application Number 18F/3226

02.01.19

Proposal: To use premises as a restaurant (class A3) in connection with existing adjoining restaurant.

Location : 39 Allerton Road

Applicant: Istanbul Restaurant

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

Tommy the soldier has been removed, the Christmas trees are down & Spring planting has begun in the village. In Tommy's place will be a floral feature celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Marie Curie hospice. Work is about to begin on this feature.

The very popular calendar has sold well, with a few copies remaining, now at a reduced price.

Volunteers are always needed for tasks such as planting, weeding & general maintenance of the planters. Please ask at the market stall, or any helper seen in the village for information about volunteering.

Every penny raised by volunteers is spent on plants & gardening essentials, as no financial help is provided by the council.

See the Woolton in Bloom website for all the latest news & pictures:

www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom

WiB was saddened to learn of the death in December of Dr Cyril McGibbon, at the age of 106. He had been a stalwart of the Open Gardens event for many years, with his garden on Quarry Street a favourite with visitors as its elevation commanded spectacular views over the river as far as Snowdonia. This included an orchard, a vast lawn with flower borders & a large & prolific vegetable plot. He greeted his many visitors with great charm & courtesy, & was ever willing to talk about his beloved garden. He will be much missed.

Friends of Reynolds Park

Planting will begin in the park soon, with the participation of Abbots Lea pupils & staff. They will be growing seedlings for planting out in the spring, with some Saturday mornings in April planned for the work. More details will be on the notice board near the Church Road gate.

A Spring Clean day is planned for **Saturday 23rd March**, in conjunction with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. It is hoped that all the various groups & societies in the village will come together to have a giant litter pick & clean up around the whole village.

The chairman of FORP, Geoff Kendall is currently engaged in writing a history of the park, which will be Woolton Society pamphlet number 6. The park was once the estate of the Reynolds family, & known as Dove Park. When they moved to Cumbria in the 1920s the park was covenanted to the people of Woolton, & was renamed in memory of the Reynolds family. The pamphlet will feature photographs from the personal archives of WS member Monica Lowe, whose grandfather was a gardener at Dove Park. The pamphlet will be available later in the year.

FORP can now be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk

www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark

www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

The Bee Project

There are approximately 250 species of wild bees to be found in the U.K., including 25 different bumblebee species & the well-known honeybee. Many species can be found in urban areas owing to the rich & diverse foraging opportunities presented by domestic gardens as well as parks & open spaces.

Local resident Dominic Knowler will be running a series of bee walks & talks throughout Woolton during 2019, with the objective of surveying & recording the different bees which can be found in this area. The events will provide a rare opportunity for those interested in the environment to get up close with wild bees & learn about their conservation in the twenty first century.

More information & dates for the events will be advertised through the websites & notice boards of both the Friends of Reynolds Park & Woolton in Bloom.

Songs to Remember at St Mary's

On the last Friday afternoon of each month from 2 to 4pm St Mary's holds an informal friendship group & get together, with songs & music. Those living with memory problems & their carers are particularly welcome.

The dates for spring are **25th January, 22nd February, 29th March & 26th April.**

Contact the parish secretary on 428 2256 for more details.

The 1918 Club

The club was formed by Eleanor Rathbone in 1918 for "*women who are interested in matters of social, philanthropic, cultural & social issues*". Talks are held in The Adelphi on different days each month, with a lunch beforehand.

Talks over the next few weeks will be on Bradbury Fields, the Strawberry Field project, the Prison Reform Trust, & Guiding in the 21st century.

There will also be a guided walk in April led by Marie Passey.

For more details see the website www.the1918club.org.uk or email The1918club.org@gmail.com

High Rise Newsletter

The latest High Rise newsletter was issued in December, with interesting articles on the history of the high rise estate around Vale Road, the McKenzie family of Garston, the tram terminus, Woolton wildlife, the Armistice centenary & coincidentally an article on commemorative plaques.

High Rise is written by Ron Brown, & available from him if contacted on sockratees3@yahoo.com

The next issue of High Rise will be available in June.

The Gateacre Society

WS committee member Dr Janet Hollinshead will be speaking to the Gateacre Society on the subject of Lord Woolton. This will be on **Sunday 3rd February at 2.30pm**, at the Gateacre chapel on Gateacre Brow. Copies of WS pamphlets 2 & 3, on Lord Woolton & his home Hillfoot Villa will be on sale. Talks are free to attend, but donations can be made to the Gateacre Society.