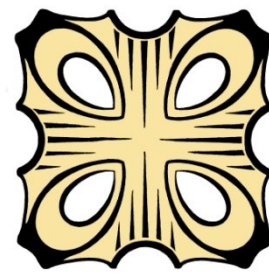


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO 354 Spring 2020

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY 48 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



A deserted Woolton Village centre mid-morning on Wednesday 18 March

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Society News

Cancellation of Woolton Society talks & events

In line with government guidelines on the coronavirus emergency, the committee of the Woolton Society took the decision to cancel the talk of March 18th. This was also on the advice of the archdiocese of Liverpool which oversees the parish of St Mary. The church hall would not be available for use & it was judged to be very likely that other venues would be similarly affected. Members were notified of the cancellation by email, the notice board had an explanatory sign put up, & an announcement was made by Roger Phillips on Radio Merseyside.

It has now been decided to cancel the talk planned for Wednesday 15th April, on the history of the telephone box. It is hoped that the talks planned for March & April will be rescheduled at a later date.

At the moment the future is uncertain as we cannot predict how long the emergency situation will continue. Below is the programme planned for the remainder of this year & the committee will advise members when talks & events are resumed.

Wednesday 20 th May at 7.30pm	Rob Kirby: the Dam Busters raid of May 1943.
Wednesday 17 th June at 7.30pm	Quiz night.

July: annual outing. Please see the following paragraph for details of this.

Wednesday 16 th September at 7.30pm	Chris Tigwell: the Rainhill Trials
Thursday 15 th October at 3pm	Stephen Guy: Forgotten Liverpool- Aristocracy & merchants
Wednesday 18 th November at 7.30pm	48th Annual General Meeting

**No talks will be held in December 2020 or January 2021.
Details of the programme for 2021 will be in newsletter 357.**

Annual outing in July

It had long been the intention to have as our summer trip a visit the steam tug *The Daniel Adamson*, after an inspiring talk given in 2019 by volunteers who restored *The Danny* to working order. However when their summer programme was published in February it became clear that any trip would be very expensive. It had been hoped that the tug would be on the river Mersey, but it is now based entirely on the Weaver. The visits would work out at around £40 per head, with coach fares an additional £10 each if transport were to be arranged by the society. It was decided that members would be given the information to make their own independent visits to the mooring, with the society arranging a different trip nearer to home. For more details of the summer programme of visits see the website www.thedanny.co.uk

A visit to the old dock in the city centre had been decided upon, which would be around £5 per head. In view of the current circumstances this visit is now on hold, & members will be notified if & when it goes ahead.

Talk in February

The first talk of 2020 was on Thursday 20th February, when tour guide Anna Alexander spoke on the history of Speke Hall. This was a most informative illustrated talk, with Mrs Alexander wearing Victorian dress as she does in her work at the hall.

Members may like to know that in future talks at St Mary's hall the society will be allowed to access the built-in microphone & speaker system there. This has the advantage of linking with the Loop system for those with hearing aids.

Newsletter

This newsletter has been written & sent out several weeks earlier than had been intended, as the paper copy is printed at Gateacre School. With school closures imminent the issue had to go to print as soon as possible. Future issues of the newsletter may well have to be by email only, unless another printer can be found at short notice.

Plaques for Woolton

2019 & 2020 saw the successful launch of the society's plaques project, with three plaques celebrating notable people & places in Woolton. This was reported in issues 352 & 353 of the newsletter. The committee has now decided upon another tranche of plaques, & the process of applying for listed buildings permission will begin with Woolton House medical centre in the village centre. The building is listed & is owned by the doctors who currently run the practice, who are all very keen on the plan to commemorate one of Woolton House's residents Dr Carl Warner. Dr Warner lived & worked at Woolton House for many years, & was also chairman of the Woolton Society in the 1980s. He was a revered family doctor, a Quaker, & was awarded the Military Cross during the Second World War.

The society is now researching Dr Warner's background, so any information, particularly on Dr Warner's war record would be well received. We would also like to contact members of the Warner family as there will be an unveiling ceremony when the plaque is installed. Please contact the society via the website, www.wooltonociety.org.uk or see any committee member.

Environment, Planning News & Applications

Tree maintenance

There is a lack of joined up thinking on the part of the council regarding the care of their trees. On the one hand they are planting trees in the city centre around the Strand road works, & planning a new park near the Simpson Ground, but on the other they are neglecting their existing stock of trees. The recent gales saw a local resident and Woolton Society member killed by a bough falling from a tree in the Black Woods, resulting in the closure of this wooded space. Local residents have commented that they had complained constantly, with no effect, about the severely overgrown nature of many trees, which overhang the paths & the main road; *see the pictures below taken just recently on Woolton Road*. This road is a busy bus route & it is common for high sided vehicles to hit the branches, with the road frequently littered with foliage. Menlove Avenue, which is lined with many fine, mature trees, has a similar problem with boughs overhanging the roadway.

Will there have to be another fatality before the council is moved to send tree surgeons around the parks?



This tree is leaning at an extreme angle and appears to be on the point of collapse on to a busy bus route



This branch overhangs the carriageway and poses a severe risk to traffic and pedestrians

Land at Woolton Manor

The society has been notified by the owner of Rushton Properties that he has had permission granted for his development of million pound houses adjacent to Woolton Manor. This is very disappointing news, as the site is Green Wedge land close to the village. Many members & residents wrote to the planners in 2019 to protest against the scheme, which proposes a gated community of ugly bungalows compared unfavourably to prefabs at a public meeting in August 2018. Members will be kept informed of any further news as we receive it.

Lighting at Lodes Pond

A member contacted the society via the website to inform us that he had notified the council about faulty lighting at the Lodes Pond car park. He was informed that the lighting was not the responsibility of the council as the car park is unadopted. Who knew? Who is responsible for the lighting there?

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. The progress of each application can be checked online using the Planning Explorer at:

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

The bulk of recent planning applications in the Woolton L25 area have been for domestic tree works & single storey extensions. Others of interest are:

20H/0754 at 40 Beaconsfield Road.

Application to erect a two storey extension to front & rear.

20F/ 0141 at 29 Woolton Street

Application to convert a single dwelling into three flats.

20H/0325 & 20F/0771 at Rosemead, New Mill Stile

Application to erect a two storey extension to front & at side, single storey extension to rear & side, new glazed entrance & canopy to front, reconfigure roof over dwelling, create new vehicular access at front & layout hard standing, install balconies at rear & carry out other external alterations to the property including installation of new windows & rendering the exterior.

20H/0009 at 12 Bower Road

Application to erect a two storey extension to rear following the demolition of the existing garage & conservatory, alter existing window to first floor front elevation.

20H/0614 at 3 Woolton Park

Application to erect a two storey extension & porch to front, single storey extension & dormer extension to rear, two storey extension to side, install new vehicular access & hard standing to front, & carry out other external alterations (alternative to 19H/1188)

20L/0621 at Woolton House Medical Centre

Application to erect single storey link extension following demolition of existing conservatory.

Woolton News

The main news in this section, unfortunately, is a list of all the events which will no longer take place owing to the coronavirus pandemic.



Empty shelves at Sainsbury's.



No fresh meat.



But plenty of wine!



No queues at the bus stop.

Woolton in Bloom

Planting & weeding will continue, but other events will be on hold.

The Open Gardens event planned for **Sunday 12th July** should be pencilled in your diary, but please consult the website for advice nearer the date. Several new gardens had been planned to open, with full details in the programme which it is hoped to be on sale from the early summer, priced at £5 per adult.

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

www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom

Friends of Reynolds Park

Planting in the wildflower meadow had been planned for April, with the participation of pupils & staff from Abbots Lea school. Regrettably all plans are now on hold, but residents should consult the website for information.

Much better news was heard recently that several of the city's parks have been put into trust. This means that they cannot be used for building development. **Reynolds Park is included in this list.** FORP chairman Geoff Kendall has written to Mayor Anderson to thank him for this decision, & to urge him to put all of the city's parks into trust. It is to be hoped that this is a long lasting agreement.

Another positive is the news that a FORP member is using his occupational expertise to apply for funding for professional renewal & ongoing maintenance of the wildflower meadow.

Boxes for solitary bees were discussed at the last meeting, & may well be placed in the walled garden soon.

FORP meetings are held in Tesco's coffee shop at 7pm. The next meetings are hoped to be on **Wednesdays 13th May, 9th September & 11th November.**

FORP can be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk

www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark

www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

Songs to Remember at St Mary's

The informal friendship groups have been cancelled for the time being. They had been held on the last Friday of each month in the church hall.

Contact the parish secretary on 428 2256 for more details, or email stmaryswoolton@rcaolp.co.uk

The Reader at the Mansion House

All activities at the Mansion House, & the shop, have been closed down, with volunteers asked not to attend.

The 1918 Club

The programme of talks & lunches has been suspended, as well as the planned visit to London in July.

The Great Spring Clean

The Spring Clean organised by the Keep Britain Tidy organisation has been postponed until September. Woolton in Bloom & the Friends of Reynolds Park, as well as the Friends of Gateacre had planned a clean-up day for March 28th. This has now been postponed until a date between **11th & 27th September.**

Women's Institute

The Women of Woolton group (WOW) as well as the Woolton Wanderers have cancelled all activities. This includes the general meetings as well as the quiz group, knit & natter, book club, tai chi & walking netball. The WOW's ukulele group are planning to continue via Skype. Members are encouraged to continue their craft activities at home so that they are well prepared for the county show should it take place as planned in September.

Stones found at Woolton Golf Club

The society has been sent images of stones found after trees were cleared at the golf club. They may well be the remains of a grotto or folly in the grounds, but do any members have information on this discovery?



North West Association of Civic Trusts conference & AGM

The NWACT was to hold its annual conference on Saturday 28th March at the Bluecoat Chambers in central Liverpool. This has now been cancelled, which is very disappointing as the Woolton Society's chairman & treasurer had planned to attend to ask some questions. In 2016 the NWACT had selected Woolton Hall as its Building at Risk for that year, & arranged a visit there. Tragically, their chairman, John Kershaw, the driving force behind the project, died very suddenly on the same week as the visit, & no more has been heard of the initiative. The Woolton Society has sent updates on the condition of the hall, & has been seeking information from the NWACT since 2016, to no avail. The conference had been seen as a chance to ask some questions in person, & this opportunity will now have to be deferred to another time.

Now the good news.....

Brown's newsagent

Mike at Brown's on Woolton Street has reminded us that the shop is open seven days a week & can deliver newspapers & magazines to your door. As they also stock Woolton Society publications this is very good news. Call Mike on 428 2408.

And to cheer us up in these difficult times



Daffodils in the morning sun in Reynolds Park on first day of Spring