

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO 360 Autumn 2021

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS



NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the forty eighth Annual general meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7.30pm at St Mary's parish hall on Church Road, Woolton Village, L25 8TF

Agenda

1. Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 47th AGM held on 20th November 2019
4. Chairman's remarks
5. Treasurer's report
6. Secretary's report
7. Environment secretary's report
8. Membership secretary's report
9. Election of officers
10. Election of the executive committee.
11. Any other business.

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Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society held at St Mary's Church hall, Woolton on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Attendance:

Committee members: Jean Davies in the chair, Paul Wilkie (Vice Chairman/Hon. Secretary), Charles Davies (Hon. Treasurer), Janet Hudson (Environment secretary), Bob Collins, Viv Hicks, John Hibbert, Mike Cullen, Rob Kirby

Members: Anne Wilkie, Steven Kenny, Marie Passey, Irene Keane, Lesley McNamara, Olive Brown, Ian Crawford, John Tennant, Sue Carmichael, Edna Tennant, Pauline Roy, Monica Lowe, Dorothy Chance, David Massey, Pete Trewin, Beryl Pinnington, Thelma Grant, Alan Grant, Hugh Mantle, Diane Graney, David Graney, Anne Brayford, H Worthington, F Worthington.

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documents published in advance in the Society's newsletter No 352, together with the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019 distributed at the meeting.

1. Notice convening the meeting. This was read by the chairman.

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were noted from Donna Jackson, Janet Hollinshead, Jean Bates, Allan Hicks, Linda Parsons, Janet Collins, Christine Vane, Ken Pye, Bernard Krasner, John Ashton, Barbara Doherty, Liz & Andrew Spencer, Carl & Pamela Baker, Carol and Andrew Zsigmond

3. Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting held on 21st November 2018 and distributed in advance to all members were proposed as read by Jean Davies and accepted as a true record, on a show of hands.

4. Chairman's remarks.

The chairman commented on some of the areas the society had been involved in, particularly the commissioning of blue plaques to highlight places of interest in our area. The first 3 of these are now in place, with the plaque marking the home of Inspector Menzies being formally unveiled by the Chief Constable last weekend. The committee are now considering sites for further plaques – any suggestions by email please. She invited other officers of the committee to give a report for their areas of responsibility.

i) The hon treasurer Charles Davies presented the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2019 and commented on some items. The accounts were accepted on a show of hands.

ii) The hon. secretary, Paul Wilkie reported that the executive committee met 5 times during the year, 3 additional members were co-opted (Bob Collins, Rob Kirby and Mike Cullen), and there two resignations (Bernard Krasner and Donna Jackson). In the same period there have been 4 issues of the society's newsletter, ably edited by our chairman Jean Davies. Thanks are due to all involved in production and distribution of the newsletter. Viv Hicks organised another four evening and two afternoon talks, attracting very good attendances. Following the success of last year's innovations, the society has made the social event for members in the form of a quiz, and daytime meetings part of the regular schedule. All meetings were held this year at St Mary's Church Hall, and this venue has proved popular, as well as accommodating the large numbers we have had at recent meetings. This year the society again organised an outing, this time a visit to the Liverpool Medical Institution, followed by a tour of the Hope Street/ Rodney Street area led by member and blue badge guide Marie Passey. These were again very well received by those able to attend.

A point was raised from the floor that we should not overlook the activity manning a stall at the farmers' market, which does much to increase the visibility of the society.

iii) Environment Secretary Janet Hudson gave a detailed report, commenting on the issues surrounding Woolton Hall, Byron Court, Rushton Properties, Strawberry Field, Knolle Park, the lodge on Hillfoot Road, & the land at Allerton Priory.

This has been abbreviated for reasons of space, with the full report in issue 356 of the newsletter, dated Autumn 2020, copies of which will be available at the AGM.

iv) Membership secretary Jean Bates reported that at the 2018/19 year end on 30th September we had 293 paid up members. For the past 5 years the end of year membership number has been steady, hovering around the 300 mark.

Membership Numbers	30/09/2018	30/09/2019
Paid	302	293
Pending Standing Order	14	14
Not Paid	91	127
Complimentary	12	13
Total	419	447

5. Election of new committee members.

Alan Grant indicated he was willing to stand, and being proposed by Viv Hicks and seconded by Rob Kirby, was unanimously elected.

6. Election of officers.

Chairman: The current chairman Jean Davies offered her resignation from the committee and was nominated for the position of chairman, and duly re-elected.

Paul Wilkie offered his resignation from the committee, but stated he was willing to continue as vice-chairman, and was nominated and duly re-elected to the post.

In the absence of nominations for the role of hon. secretary, Paul Wilkie volunteered to continue in this role, until a candidate could be found and was duly elected.

Hon. treasurer: Charles Davies offered his resignation from the committee, but stated he was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Membership secretary: The current incumbent, Jean Bates offered her resignation from the committee, but stated she was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Environment secretary: The current incumbent Janet Hudson offered her resignation from the committee, but stated she was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

All the above were proposed, seconded and, there being no other nominations, were duly elected.

The resignations from the officers met the requirements of the constitution for resignations.

7. Any other business.

The chairman thanked HBD Accountants for the help they had provided to the society, and everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the meeting at 8:45 pm, when the appropriate officers signed the society's accounts.

Members are asked to bring copies of the minutes if attending the AGM.

Society News

Talks programme, 2021

The year has been an eventful one, with the Woolton Society conducting talks via Zoom since February. This has been very successful, both in terms of excellent speakers & audience numbers, but it had always been the aim to return to meeting in person by the Autumn. Unfortunately, because of a combination of circumstances beyond our control, this was not possible, & the committee took the decision, very reluctantly, to cancel the talk planned for September 15th & postpone the start of the new season until the talk in October. This will be an afternoon talk, & all necessary precautions will by then be in place, with members & attendees notified well in advance. **Please note the following guidelines, which have been agreed with the church authorities:**

Using St Mary's hall to ensure the health & welfare of all attendees

- 1. Please do not attend talks if feeling unwell, or with a temperature or cough.*
- 2. The hall will be well ventilated, with chairs widely spaced.*
- 3. Face masks are advised but are not obligatory.*
- 4. Hand sanitisers & wipes will be available at the door.*
- 5. Attendees are asked to sign in, with a contact number which will be kept on file for two weeks.*
- 6. The talks will begin promptly, with doors closed at the stipulated time.*

These guidelines will be attached to all notices advertising future talks, & are also on the society's noticeboard.

Thursday 21st October at 3pm in St Mary's hall

Local historian & broadcaster Stephen Guy of the West Derby Society will be the first speaker of the Autumn programme with a talk on Forgotten Liverpool, little known aspects of our city's history. The Royal Liverpool Hospital for Babies, situated in Woolton Park, will be one of his topics.

The society has the use of the hall from 2.30 to 4.30, but on this occasion refreshments will not be available.

Wednesday 17th November at 7.30pm in St Mary's hall

The 48th Annual General Meeting, held two years after the 47th. It is hoped that a good proportion of members will attend & that some will come forward to enquire about joining the committee, an essential part of the continuation of the Woolton Society into the next decades. If interested please contact any committee member at talks, or at the market, or via the website: www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

Woolton Society member Ken Pye, who gave a very well received talk in February will be speaking on *The Joys of Scousers & Scouse* at the Gladstone theatre, Port Sunlight on **Saturday 13th November at 2.30pm**. Tickets are £12, or 2 for £20.

Talks programme, 2022

The programme of talks for 2022 is being drawn up, with full details in issue 361, out in January. Highlights of the programme will include Dr Janet Hollinshead & Marie Passey speaking on the history of High Street in Woolton, Elaine Allen on the history of the telephone box, & an invitation has been extended to Woolton in Bloom's Kerry Peacock to speak on the twenty one years that WiB has been making Woolton beautiful.

Subscriptions

Subs became due on 1st October. It is hoped that all members will renew their subscriptions, with details on the forms on pages 7 & 8 of this issue. Members who are not already using standing orders to pay their subs are urged to think about doing so now as the closure of local banking services makes the paying in of cash & cheques a lengthy business.

Please note the delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter will cost an additional £8 to all subs. Members are reminded that paper copies are available at talks & on the market stall at a price of £1.

Markets & merchandise

The society takes a stall at the local market as it is an excellent source of information for members as well as a chance to meet committee members & browse the publications & merchandise.

The new tea towel, designed by WS member Jenny Brown, has been very successful, with a new order placed to ensure stocks for Christmas. Priced at £6, it shows views of Woolton, & is also available at Brown's on Woolton Street (428 2408).

There are now two books & seven pamphlets published by the Woolton Society: the definitive *History of Much Woolton* (£3), & *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral* (£5), both available at Brown's.

The pamphlets are: 1. Who Lived at Woolton Hall? 2. Who was Lord Woolton? 3. Hillfoot Villa.

4. Woolton Walks 5. Woolton's Convalescent Home 6. Medical Matters 7. The Nuns of Woolton.

All pamphlets are priced at £1.

The markets this year will be on **October 9th, November 13th & December 11th**, from 8am to around 12.30pm.

Matters arising from newsletter 359 & planning news

There is little to report on several Woolton Society projects, as a combination of the pandemic & the unusual circumstances surrounding the council mean that applications are in limbo. There has been no word on the listed buildings consent needed for the plaques project to proceed, & also no word on the permission needed to plant a tree for the society's 50th anniversary next year. The society has been contacted by the Woolton Educational & Recreational Trust which awarded nearly £500 for the plaques project in early 2020. It is hoped that the deadline for spending the grant will be extended.

Woolton Hall is still standing, with the owners, despite ignoring all communications from councillors, planning officers, the Woolton Society & residents, & shuttering up the hall for fifteen years, are now, in a recent article in The Echo, blaming the council for planning delays in a bravura display ofchutzpah.

The appeal for Woolton Cinema raised over £20,000 last year, which was given to the owners but the cinema is still closed. Local councillor Kris Brown has been very active in contacting the owners & appealing for action but the cinema, the oldest independent in the city with a plaque dated 1926, remains dark.

Planning enforcement has been contacted by the society, commenting on the unsightly scaffolding on top of 12 & 14 Woolton Street which supports three GPS telecom antennae. The structure has a negative visual impact on the conservation area being visually incongruous as well as a potential danger for pedestrians & traffic. There has been no response from planning enforcement.

Planning applications **21H/2245 & 21H/2248** concerning Reynolds Lodge on Church Road have been received very recently. Proposals include a 2 storey extension, new vehicular access to Church Road & internal alterations including a basement conversion.

After many delays a new Woolton Society banner was ordered, this time from a company in West Derby which arrived within a few days & has been in use since August.

Readers will be interested to learn that committee member Rob Kirby will be giving his talk on the Dam Busters raid of May 1943 to the Gateacre Society in November. His talk to the Woolton Society was on Zoom, which some members cannot access. Details are on page 6 of this issue.

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

The very popular calendar is now on sale, with the theme of celebrating 21 years of Woolton in Bloom. It is priced at £5, including a card envelope if wanted. It is available at the market stall on the second Saturday of each month, & also at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street.

The tea towels with views of Woolton, a joint venture with the Woolton Society, are on sale on the stall, priced at £6. Please note that fundraising is ongoing as Woolton in Bloom receives neither money nor help from the city council.

Winter planting is now taking place, led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Volunteers are always needed for tasks such as weeding, planting, & maintenance of the containers; contact WIB via the market stall, or ask any of the current volunteers seen around the village.

The Open Gardens event is planned to take place in 2022, with the date of **Sunday 3rd July** to be pencilled in diaries.

For more information & pictures go to the WIB site on www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom

Friends of Reynolds Park

Reynolds Day was celebrated on September 11th, which was well supported by visitors. Sadly the iconic sundial's pedestal is again deteriorating, despite previous repairs. Fortunately the wall adjacent to Woolton Park which has been in a poor state for some time is soon to be repaired.

The next FORP meeting will be the AGM on **Wednesday 10th November** at 7pm in Tesco's coffee shop. All are welcome to attend.

The Gateacre Society

Rob Kirby gave his very well received talk on the Dam Busters raid of 1943 to the Woolton Society via Zoom in May this year. He has been booked by the Gateacre Society to give the talk to them on **Sunday 21st November at 2.30pm** in the chapel on Gateacre Brow.

Please note the revised date for this talk, which was originally planned as an evening event.

The Hub at St Peter's

The Hub has a programme of events to which all are welcome.

Mondays: Craft group 10.00 to 12 noon, £3 pp for resources.

Games club 10.15 to 12.30

Tea & Tales 11.30 to 12.45

Tuesdays: Play-a-long, a monthly music group practice for those who accompany the sing-a-long, more musicians are welcomed. 10.00 to 1pm.

Wednesdays: Sing-a-Long is held on **6th October, 3rd November, & 15th December** (a Christmas special). 10.30 to 12 noon.

The Hub Quiz is held on **20th October, 17th November & 1st December**. 10.30 to 12 noon.

Thursdays: alternate weeks, coffee morning & lunch club, 11.30 to 12.30

Fridays: table tennis 9.30 to 11.30

Police surgery, held monthly, an opportunity to meet Police Community Support Officers

Hubbub, an informal discussion group, 11.00 to 12.30

Contact The Hub on 428 6810 for further details of all events.

The Christmas tree

At the time of going to press there has yet to be a definite decision about the scale of the celebrations surrounding the switch-on of the tree, which has been a Woolton tradition for many years. The date will be **Saturday 27th November, at 4pm** though whether there will also be a market, choir or elves in attendance, has yet to be decided.



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

METHODS OF PAYMENT VIA YOUR BANK

Details for setting up a standing order directly with your bank or making a bank transfer payment (BACS):

Bank details: Barclays Bank, 164 Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 2DH

Payee name: The Woolton Society

Sort code: 20-50-82

Account number: 50868930

Reference: Please enter your **Woolton Society membership number** as the reference with your bank. ***This is very important to enable us to identify you from our bank statements.*** Your membership number can be found in emails from the Woolton Society or in any letters you have received from the society. **New members can email the membership secretary at membership@wooltonociety.org.uk or ring 0151 428 1501 to obtain a membership number.**

Standing order payments should be set up for a payment annually on 1st October each year until further notice. New members joining after 1st October can pay by BACS for the initial payment then standing order.

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Gift Aid Declaration

The Woolton Society - Registered charity no. 506224

Please treat all gifts/subscriptions of money that I have made to the Woolton Society in the past 6 years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.

Donor's details: Title First name Surname

Home address

.....**Postcode**

Date **Signature**

The Woolton Society will be able to reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2015.

Please notify the Treasurer of The Woolton Society if you: want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay tax on your income, pensions or/and capital gains.

Please note that you must pay an amount of Income Tax (this can be tax on pensions, incomes or savings) and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you should include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

*Please return the Gift Aid form to: The Membership Secretary,
The Woolton Society, 11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY*