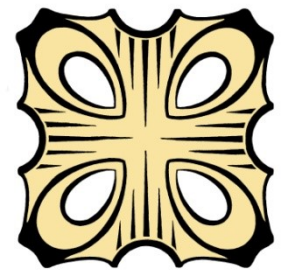


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO 361 January/February 2022

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



The village centre c. 1972 when the Woolton Society was founded.

Newsletter contents:

Society news: pages 2-5

Environment & planning news: pages 5-6

Woolton news: pages 7-8

Society News

If 2020 was an unprecedented year throughout the world then 2021 was one of uncertainty & finding a new normal. Like every other organisation the Woolton society had to find a way to keep going & embracing new technology to enable us to keep in contact with members. The talk in February 2021 was our first to be held online, with Ken Pye speaking on the lost history of Woolton. This was very successful, both technically & in terms of audience numbers. Thus encouraged, talks on Duke Street, with Marie Passey, David Hearn on Liverpool's architecture & Rob Kirby on the Dam Busters raid of 1943 followed in March, April & May, all very well received. The quiz night in June was less successful, with more committee members than contestants logging on, so it did not go ahead.

The September talk was also postponed as the new contract & risk assessment had not been finalised with the archdiocese. The first talk to be held in person at St Mary's was in October, with Stephen Guy speaking on forgotten aspects of Liverpool's history. The 48th annual general meeting was held in November, two years after the 47th.

We have learned that members are willing to take part in online talks, which have been particularly popular with those living outside Liverpool. However, feedback tells us that meetings in person are greatly preferred, especially as some members have no internet access. It is very much to be hoped that all talks in 2022 will be held at St Mary's hall unless government advice changes again. At the time of writing the government advice was in the process of changing, with some relaxation of Covid regulations. If these changes affect the programme in any way members will be notified at once.

The Woolton Society's officers & committee 2021/22

The 48th annual general meeting was held on November 17th, with reports from the treasurer, Charles Davies, hon secretary & vice chairman Paul Wilkie, environment secretary Janet Hudson & membership secretary Jean Bates.

Officers & committee are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies

Vice chairman & hon secretary: Paul Wilkie

Membership secretary: Jean Bates

Treasurer: Charles Davies

Environment secretary: Janet Hudson

Committee members: Bob Collins, Alan Grant, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Rob Kirby

After the business of the evening was concluded there was a short socially distanced gathering which was very enjoyable, even though the kitchen was out of bounds & our usual refreshments could not be provided.

The Woolton Society's programme of events for 2022

The programme has been drawn up with the anticipation of meeting in person in the hall at St Mary's, off Church Road. However, there are still some restrictions in place, with many conditions, agreed with the archdiocese, which have to be met. Members should be aware that social distancing means that the seating will be widely spaced so that the hall cannot accommodate a large number of attendees. It should be noted that the talks are no longer widely advertised, with notices aimed at members. Please attend promptly to ensure a place as the doors will be closed after the safe limit has been reached.

Other points to remember are:

1. Please do not attend if feeling unwell, or with a temperature or cough.
2. The hall will be well ventilated, with seating widely spaced.
3. Face masks are advised, although no longer compulsory.
4. Hand sanitisers, wipes & face masks will be available on the door.
5. Attendees are asked to sign in & provide a contact number, which will be kept on file for two weeks.

6. The talks will begin promptly, with the doors closed at the stipulated time & late-comers not admitted.
7. The microphone system will be in use, so hearing the speakers should not be a problem.

Thursday 17th February at 3pm, Dr Janet Hollinshead & Marie Passey : The history of Woolton's High Street.

This promises to be a talk of particular interest to Wooltonians, with historian Dr Hollinshead & Blue Badge guide Mrs Passey speaking on the history of our own High Street.

Please note that the society has the use of the hall from 2.30 to 4.30, so a prompt arrival is advised.

Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm, Elaine Allen: the little red box.

It is hoped that this will be fourth time lucky for the talk, as it was advertised & postponed in 2020 & twice in 2021. Tour guide Elaine Allen will be speaking on the history of the telephone box, designed by the architect of Liverpool's Anglican cathedral, Giles Gilbert Scott. An example of the little red box can be found inside this great building.

Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm, David Hearn: the first Mersey tunnel.

The Queensway tunnel was opened by King George V in July 1934. It had cost over £7 million to build & had to cope with cross-river road traffic between Liverpool & Birkenhead until the Kingsway tunnel was opened by the Queen in June 1971. This connected Liverpool with Wallasey. David Hearn gave a very well received talk online in April 2021, speaking on Liverpool's famous skyline & the architects who designed it. His account of the first Mersey tunnel promises to be equally informative. A tour of the tunnel is planned for later in the year.

Wednesday 18th May at 7.30, Mike Chitty: the garden suburb story

Mike Chitty, of the Gateacre & Wavertree societies will be giving an account of the birth of this movement, an example of which is very close to us in Wavertree Garden Suburb.

Wednesday 15th June at 7.30, Quiz Night.

This will be the fourth quiz night, as the event was not held in 2020 or 2021. The defending champions are the Layton Ramblers who won the coveted trophy in June 2019.

A series of events for members are planned for the summer months, with more details in issue 362 of the newsletter.

Wednesday 21st September at 7.30, Stuart Rimmer: the pubs of Woolton, part 2.

Stuart Rimmer gave his talk on the pubs of Woolton to a packed audience in March 2018, & sold many copies of his book *The Old Inns & Taverns of Woolton*. A second edition of the book was issued last year, with new additions & illustrations. This promises to be a very informative & entertaining evening.

Thursday 20th October at 3pm, Rob Kirby: The Merchant Service Fighter Unit

Committee member Rob Kirby is our resident plane buff, with highly praised talks on the Dam Busters raid of 1943 & the AVRO Lancaster given to the society in recent years.

There will be more information about the talk in the next issue of the newsletter.

Wednesday 16th November at 7.30pm: 49th Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society

The 49th AGM & the 50th anniversary of the society. Celebrations are planned!

Jubilee celebrations

The Woolton Society was founded in October 1972 by local residents & architects Janet Gnosspelius & Sue Carmichael. Their aim was to prevent the demolition of Woolton Hall by the city council. They succeeded in this mission, & the hall was later awarded Grade 1 listed status.

The society did not rest after this victory, but evolved into a watchdog role, with the aims of ensuring high standards of planning & architecture, & to secure the preservation, conservation, development & improvement of the built environment & open spaces of Woolton. We aim to have an enjoyable time too, with regular talks & outings being available to members, as well as guided walks & a newsletter with all the latest news & views.

Fifty years later we have a fine record of campaigning & awareness raising behind us, & are planning ways to celebrate this. The plaques project will continue, & permission is being sought to plant a tree in Reynolds Park. There will also be a series of guided walks in & around the village as well as *Off The Beaten Track* in the city centre. Most importantly, there will be a coach tour taking in the city's sights & going up to Crosby beach to visit the Iron Men there. Priority here will be given to those with mobility issues & also to our most senior members as there will be only the stop at Crosby, plus another for refreshments.

It should be added here that all these events will be free to members, including the refreshments. We have sufficient funds in the account thanks to our thrifty treasurer & this year is the time to spend it.

Bookings for the coach trip & guided walks will be taken after all details are finalised. If the events should be oversubscribed then priority will be given to long-serving members as well as seniors.

Plaques Project

The Woolton Society's plaques project began in 2019, with the aim of commemorating people or places of note in the village. The first plaques were installed & handed over to the property owners in November 2019 & January 2020, with a full report of both occasions in issue 353 of the newsletter.

Since then there has been a hiatus, as plans cannot progress without Listed Buildings consent. The society plans to install plaques on Woolton House Medical Centre, to commemorate Dr Carl Warner, GP & MC, & a former Woolton Society chairman, & also on the old school in School Lane, the oldest building in the village. As these are both listed buildings the plans cannot go forward without the necessary permission. Nothing was heard from the council for many months, but fortunately Councillor Kris Brown was able to take the matter up with the Chief Executive's office. On January 20th a reference number for the application at Woolton House was given, so it is hoped that a decision will be made soon. Councillor Brown is also making enquiries about our plan to plant a tree to celebrate our 50th anniversary, which is again awaiting official permission, or indeed any reply at all.

The society was contacted by the Woolton Educational & Recreational Trust in October, to enquire as to whether the grant awarded in early 2020 had been spent. The grant of nearly £500 was to go towards the installation of several plaques. The Trust has agreed to extend the deadline to spend the money to the end of March this year, so action must be taken soon. A list of buildings without listed status has been drawn up by the committee, & so plans can progress as long as the property owners agree to a plaque being installed. The former court house on Quarry Street is on this list, with the owners very keen to take part. Permission is also being sought from the current owners of the house owned by Woolton Society founder Janet Gnosspelius, & the Village Club on Allerton road.

The plaques will be made by Photocast in Speke, & will be in the society's house style in terms of size, shape & colour.

It is hoped to have more news to report in issue 361 of the newsletter, out in March.

Subscriptions

May we remind members that subscriptions became due on 1st October 2021. Members are asked to check their bank accounts to ensure that their standing order payment has gone through.

The treasurer is pleased to report that many more members are now paying their subscriptions by way of standing orders. This is an efficient method of payment, especially as the closure of the local branch of Barclays last June means that cash has to be taken to Allerton Road L18, or the Lord Street branch in the city centre.

Markets and merchandise.

The society usually takes a stall at the local market which is on the second Saturday of each month. The dates for the next few months are:

February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th.

The markets are an excellent way of publicising the society, with many new members joining after chatting with the committee members manning the stall. Merchandise as well as information is available, with the society's two books & seven pamphlets on sale, as well as the new tea towel (£6) showing images of the village. There are also a few aprons still available, now reduced to £6, with a design by local artist Sandra Hepworth.

The publications list comprises:

The definitive *History of Much Woolton* (£3) written by WS founder Janet Gnosspelius; *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral* (£5) edited by Dr Janet Hollinshead

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 the pamphlets are priced at £1, with numbers 1-3 & 6-7 written by Dr Janet Hollinshead, number 4 by Jean Davies & number 5 by Dr Hollinshead with Paul Wilkie.

The books & tea towels are also on sale at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street (428 2408). The book on Woolton's contribution to the building of the Anglican cathedral is on sale at the cathedral shop.

QR code

Members can use the QR code here for easy access to the society's website from your smartphone, tablet, etc.

It will also be on the notice board in the village.



From the archives

Issue 1 of the newsletter, dated July 1973 states:

"It is the intention of the Committee to write/circulate a newsletter from time to time."

We are now on issue 361 of the newsletter so it is hoped that the intention of the founders has been fulfilled.

Photos from the early 1970's – the period of the founding of the society

On the cover and below are two old photos of the village. Note how things have changed, with many of the businesses shown having disappeared and some will remember the cars on the cover; an old style British Leyland mini clubman and, we think, a Hillman imp. The only constants are the Elephant and Coffee House pubs albeit under new ownerships. Many will have fond memories of Stanneylands Restaurant and Higsons brewery on Stanhope Street – one of the many listed buildings in and around the city centre. This is now Cains Brewery Village – a development of bars, restaurants, etc. It is unlikely that beer will be brewed here on a large scale in future.



The Elephant pub, Morphets butchers and the Trustee Savings Bank c. 1972

Environment, Planning News & Applications

Woolton Hall

The hall is up for sale with agents Orme Associates (0151 227 9191) with an asking price of £4 million. A call to the agent revealed that a prospective buyer has put in a recent application to convert the hall into apartments. We have no further information on this, & the agent could supply no details of the plan. The hall has featured in The Echo in recent weeks, with photographs of the interior taken by the *Urban Explorer*. The Echo does not comment on how a privately owned property, in a very poor state of repair despite its listed status, can be entered at night when house & grounds are locked up. What are the owners doing about this trespass on their property?

Recent planning applications of note

Please note that the development description is the one provided by the applicant/agent & 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 applications in the Woolton L25 area have been for tree work or single storey extensions. Others of interest are:

21L/2037 at Woolton House Medical Centre, 4-6 Woolton Street L25 5JA Application to fix a circular heritage wall plaque to gable wall.

21H/3630 at 10 Castle Street L25 7SW. Application to erect single storey extension to rear & loft conversion incorporating rear Velux windows.

21H/3135 at 19 The Old Quarry L25 6LF Application to erect single storey extension to rear & alter door & windows at rear.

21L/3631 & 21H/3498 at 4 Church Road L25 5JF Application to install fanlight at front entrance & erect new stair railings.

21F/3421 at St Gabriels's & 39 Beaconsfield Road L25 6EG Application to extend & refurbish St Gabriel's lodge to create a single dwelling.

21H/3028 at 7 Acrefield Road L25 6JX Application to convert existing garage to provide accessible ground floor bedroom & WC/shower room, replacement of external windows & doors, tree felling to rear garden in accordance with tree surgeon's recommendations.

21L/2616 at 104 Allerton Road L25 7RQ Application to demolish existing outbuilding.

21H/2434 at 104 Allerton Road L25 7RQ Application to erect two storey extension to rear & new outbuildings to rear.

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

The very popular calendar, celebrating 21 years of Woolton in Bloom has nearly sold out, with some copies still available at a reduced rate at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street (428 2408) or at the WIB market in February.

Planting in the village continues, led as ever by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Volunteers were out in early January planting several hundred tulips around Lodes Pond and Kings Drive; these should give a great display late April to May. If you wish to help in any way contact Kerry or any of the regular volunteers as they work in the village. There is usually a WIB stall at the market where enquiries may be made.

WIB fund raising has been badly hit by the pandemic due to cancellation of farmers' markets and our Open Gardens events. So please help support us this year by visiting the stall at the market, making donations, buying a calendar and supporting the 2022 Open Gardens event.

The Open Gardens event is planned to take place this year, with the date of **Sunday 3rd July** to be put in diaries. There will be twelve gardens open, with three new to WIB added this year. Admission is by programme, which includes a map showing all the gardens & costs £5. This will be available later in the year, with more details in issue 362.

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

Friends of Reynolds Park

Covid restrictions obliged FORP to cancel the meeting in January, but they plan to hold their next one on **Wednesday 9th March at 7pm** in the coffee shop at Woolton's Tesco store.

In 2022 the aim is to replace the one remaining decaying timber feature in the play area & also to renew the sundial pedestal which is now beyond repair.

FORP may be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk
www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark
www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

St Peter's Church, Church Road

The hall at St Peter's is internationally famous as the scene of the first meeting of John Lennon & Paul McCartney in 1957. There will be a celebration of this momentous meeting on **Saturday 9th July** in *When John met Paul 65*. The Quarry men will be playing, just as they did in 1957, supported by The Shakers, resident band at The Cavern & leading exponents of the original Merseybeat sound. There will be sets of live music, as well as a buffet & nibbles. All guests are invited to bring their own drinks, in a move approved by 10 Downing Street.

Tickets cost £30 & are available from The Hub (428 6810) or contact St Peter's on

www.https://stpeterswoolton-heritage.com/2021/10/09/when-john-met-paul-65/

What's on at The Hub

There are many activities centred on The Hub which is St Peter's drop-in centre on Church Road opposite the church.

Mondays

Craft group, 10.00 to 12 noon, fortnightly. £3 per person for resources.

Games club, 10.30 to 12 noon, weekly

Tea & tales, 11.30 to 1pm, a weekly reading group.

Minnows (in the church hall) 1.30 to 3pm, weekly in term time, for babies & toddlers, with their carers.

Tuesdays

Lyfe, 9.00 to 10.15, weekly in term time. Friendship, prayer & short courses.

Play-a-Long, 10.00 to 1pm, a monthly music group to practise for Sing-a Long. More musicians welcomed.

Prayer, 10.30 to 11.00

Knit & Natter, 11.00 to 1pm, weekly, with refreshments. All levels of experience welcomed.

Wednesdays

Sing-a-Long, 10.30 to 12 noon, monthly on 1st Wednesday (in the church hall). All ages & abilities welcomed.

Quiz morning, 10.30 to 12 noon, monthly on 3rd Wednesday, come alone or bring a team.

Police Surgery, 10.00 to 11.00 on 2nd & 23rd February, 16th March, 6th April.

Coffee morning, 11.00 to 12 noon, on second, fourth & fifth Wednesdays only.

Thursdays

After school drop-off coffee & chat 9.00 to 10.00, weekly. Pre-schoolers welcome.

Coffee morning/Lunch Club, 11.45 to 12.45 alternate weeks. All welcome after the 11.00 communion service in church. Lunch costs £2.50.

Minnows, 1.30 to 3pm, (in the church hall) as Mondays.

Fridays

Table tennis, 9.30 to 11.30, weekly, with refreshments.

Hubbub 11.00 to 12.30, a weekly discussion group, with refreshments.

Also, drop in for hospitality, church enquiries, signposting, prayer, room & hall hire bookings, volunteering opportunities, or to donate to the pantry at St Aiden's in Speke. The Hub is open every weekday from 9.00 to 1pm.

Contact The Hub on 428 6810 or at www.stpeters-woolton.org.uk

Woolton Community Life

Founded by local GP George Kuruvilla, WCL aims to alleviate loneliness amongst the solitary or housebound in Woolton.

Those interested in volunteering with WCL should contact them on 07490 572344, or call at St Mary's presbytery adjacent to the church.