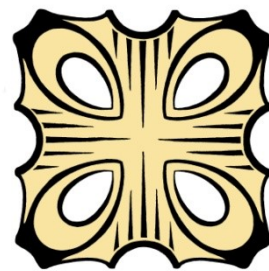


# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

[www.wooltonsociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonsociety.org.uk)

**ISSUE NO 363 - Summer 2022**

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS



## NEWSLETTER



*The plaque on Woolton House surgery*

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*WS QR code*

# *Society News*

## **The coach tour to Another Place**

The first of the society's free events for members to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary took place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The destination was the Anthony Gormley statues on Crosby beach, popularly known as The Iron Men. Setting off at 2pm our guide Marie Passey provided a commentary from Church Road all the way to Crosby, taking in Woolton, Aigburth, the parks, the marina, the Albert Dock & the magnificent skyline of the waterfront. Heading north we took in Bootle, Seaforth, Brighton-le – Sands & Crosby itself, with many insights into the history of these neighbourhoods.

Arriving at the beach at low tide members were able to alight from the coach & walk across the sands to view the statues at close quarters. It was a dry afternoon but overcast with a fierce wind, so after a brief photo opportunity with an iron man swathed in a WS banner a return to the coach was followed by refreshments. The return journey took in the north docks & a glimpse of the new stadium for Everton FC before heading into central Liverpool with Mrs Passey commenting on the many beautiful buildings along the route. The coach slowed so that we could take in the open space in the Cotton Exchange building, built so that traders could examine the goods in daylight, & also the ancient fishermen's cottages which had to be incorporated into the design of the Radisson Blu hotel on Old Hall Street as they could not be demolished.

The return to Woolton was by way of Sefton Park & Penny Lane, so of course society members sang along to the Beatles tune as we rolled along. We were all careful to sing the correct words as our guide told us of a French group who wanted to know why the pretty nurse in the song was selling puppies on a tray.

Since Sunday many members have contacted the society to express their thanks for an unforgettable day out. Best trip ever, being the overwhelming view. Many thanks to Marie Passey, & to Paul the stalwart driver, for a wonderful afternoon.



***Members on the beach at Crosby***



### **Talks in April & May**

David Hearn's talk in April was on the first Mersey tunnel, Queensway, opened by King George V in 1934. This was a fascinating talk from an accomplished speaker who welcomed audience comments. Mr Hearn spoke to the society via Zoom last year on several significant architects who influenced the Liverpool skyline, & it is to be hoped that he will return to give another of his very popular talks. May's speaker was Mike Chitty of the Gateacre Society, who gave a very informative talk on the garden suburb story, with particular reference to his former home in Wavertree GS. Mike took in the history of the movement & showed many images of the suburb when first built, without shops at first but always with open spaces & a community centre. Wavertree GS is still flourishing though now many of the houses are privately owned & very sought after on the property market.

### **Quiz night in June, & trophy news**

The last quiz night was held in 2019 as lockdown had prevented the meetings in 2020 & 2021. Eight teams competed for the trophy, with defending champions the Layton Ramblers storming to victory once more. They were presented with a new trophy, details to follow, which will be engraved with their name in due course.



***Quiz winners The Layton Ramblers with the new trophy.***

In previous years the coveted quiz cup was noted more for its prestige than for its size, so it was a welcome surprise when the WS was contacted by a former Woolton resident Mandy Parker, now living in Cumbria, asking if the society could give her trophies a new home. Mrs Parker & her family had won the awards at the much missed Woolton Show in 1995, & as the show had not been held in subsequent years she was unable to return them. There is a silver cup & a shield, The Esther Carson Trophy, which was awarded to the child with the highest number of points over several categories. The cup has now been re-designated at the Woolton Quiz Cup, & will be engraved appropriately next year, while the chairman was delighted to see her daughter's name inscribed on the shield as having won The Esther Carson Trophy in 1991.

## **The Woolton Society's programme of events for the Summer & Autumn of 2022**

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm: a guided walk: *Off The Beaten Track***

This walk, led again by Blue Badge guide Marie Passey will be in central Liverpool, starting at Exchange Flags. It will take in many little known byways of the city with a commentary by a highly entertaining & informative guide.

This walk, free to members, is over-subscribed & with a waiting list. Those who have signed up will be contacted by a committee member to check that they are still able to attend. If any member should be unable to take part please contact the society via the website as soon as possible.

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 interesting & entertaining evening.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm: Dr Rob Kirby: Liverpool & the Arctic Convoys**

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.

In a slight change to the details given in newsletter 362, the talk will be on the Arctic convoys, & the role of the people of Liverpool in the war effort. Mention will be given to the work of the staff in the Western Approaches Command Centre & the RAF base in Speke.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>h</sup> November at 7.30pm: 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society**

All members are invited to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM & the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. Celebrations are planned, with refreshments & cake!

Members are asked to note that elections will be taking place at the AGM, with officers of the society & committee members up for election. All societies need active committees & officers in order to thrive so please do not hesitate to come forward if it is felt that a contribution could be made.

Full details of the AGM with the agenda & minutes from last year will be in issue 364 of the newsletter, published in September or October of this year. Membership forms will be included in the issue.

### **Anniversary tree**

A tree will be planted in Reynolds Park later this year to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society's foundation in October 1972. The tree will be a mountain ash as recommended by the Reynolds Park chief gardener Peter Moss. Images will be in issue 365 out in early 2023.

### **Plaques Project**

Four new plaques have now been installed in the village, all made by Photocast in Speke. The planning process has been long & difficult, with listed buildings permission being needed for two of the plaques. This has taken many months to be processed, which is why the society went ahead with two plaques which did not need formal planning consent. When permission was eventually granted Photocast was able to make & install all four plaques within a few weeks.

The new plaques are as follows:

Much Woolton Old School on School Lane, the oldest elementary school on Merseyside, with a date of 1610 over the doorway. This is a listed building.

The former courthouse & police station on Quarry Street, dating from 1873. As this is not a listed building only the consent of the current residents was needed. The building is now in apartments.

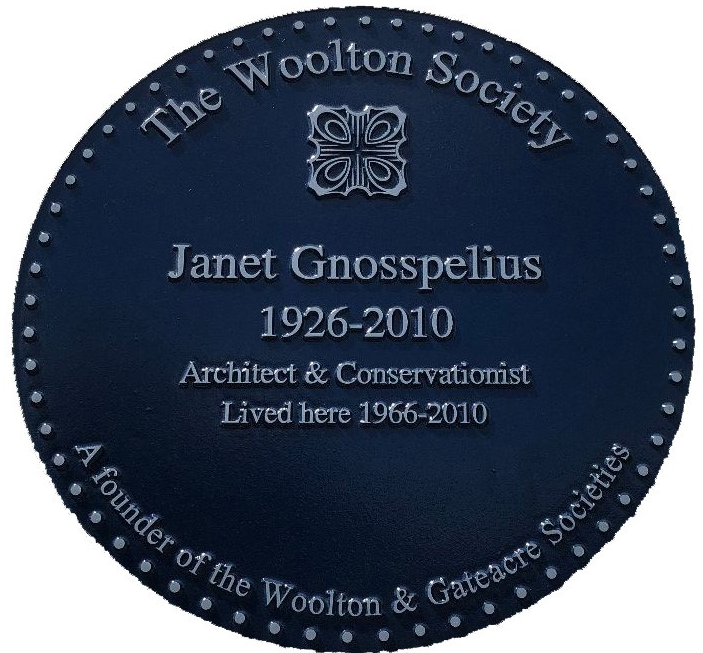
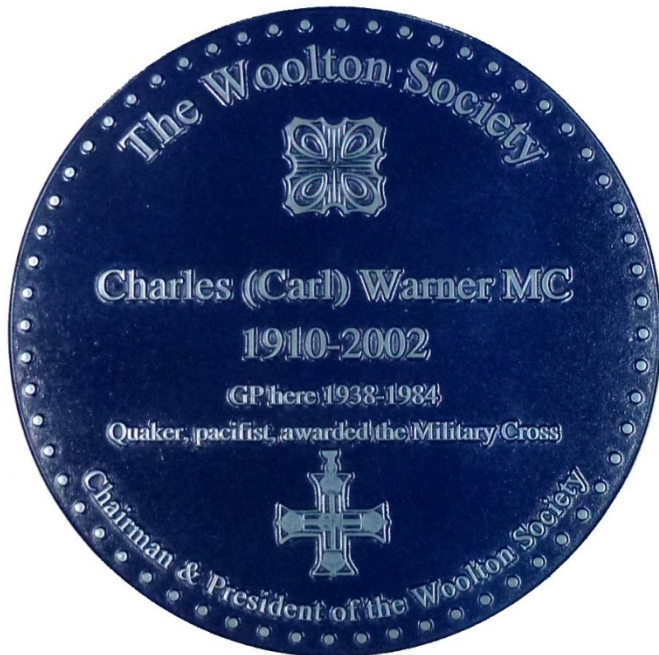
The former home of Woolton Society co-founder Janet Gnosspelius on Hightor Road. Janet was an architect & conservationist, who helped to establish the Gateacre & Wavertree societies. Again, as this property is not listed the current owners were pleased to give their consent to the project.



Woolton House Medical Centre, to commemorate Dr Carl Warner, GP & holder of the Military Cross. Dr Warner was a founder member of the Woolton Society, chairman in the 1980s & later the first & only president. Woolton House is a listed building.

Radio Merseyside reporter Claire Minter visited Woolton to view the plaques, interviewing historian Dr Janet Hollinshead & chairman Jean Davies. The plaques for Dr Warner at Woolton House & the old school were visited on a walk through the village taking in the former convent on Woolton Street, the Woolton cross & ancient town hall. All the plaques were mentioned in the interview which had to be edited to only six minutes & was then broadcast on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June. The interview may well still be available on BBC Sounds.

There is a pamphlet currently being written which gives a guide to all the society's seven plaques, with a map. It will be on sale shortly. Formal unveilings are planned for later in the year.



## **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 remainder of the year are:

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup> & December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

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, & designed by WS member Jenny Brown. 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.

# *Environment, planning news & applications*

## **Woolton Cinema**

Residents have spotted workmen on the roof of the cinema, which has been closed since early 2020, & a skip is outside. There has been talk of the cinema re-opening after some refurbishment, but as the roof seems to be in need of considerable work no date has yet been set. A sum of in excess of £25,000 was raised when the cinema first closed so it is to be hoped that the money will be put to good use.

## **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:

[www.liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control)

### **22F/1101 49a Allerton Road, L25 7RE (The Loft)**

To erect single storey extension to rear of existing garden lounge & erect new smoking shelter

### **22L/1067 39 Allerton Road, L25 7RE (Istanbul restaurant)**

To erect pergola to front & install planters in connection with use as external seating area associated with restaurant opening between 10.00 & 22.00 hours.

### **22L/0533 The Orangery, Knolle Park, Church Road L25**

To reconstruct & extend to form 1 no. dwelling house

**22H/1481 80 Kings Drive, L25 8RH**

To erect single storey extension to rear incorporating existing extension with pitched roof to rear & side elevation.

**22H/1483 5 Mount Park L25 6JW**

To erect dormer extension to rear incorporating loft conversion & to replace existing pitched roof.

**22F/1066 49 Allerton Road L25 7RE (Bavette steak house)**

To erect enclosed pergola at the front of the property, an outdoor seating area with awnings over, both to be open between 12.00 & 22.00 hours Sunday to Thursday, & 12.00 to 23.00 hours Friday & Saturday. Replace windows to front with bi-fold doors, planters to front & install access ramp to front.

**22L/0803 4 High Street L25 7TE**

To carry out roof repairs.

**22F/0463 The Orangery, Knoll Park, Church Road L25**

To erect new dwelling house, using remnants of historic Orangery.

**22H/0833 10 Speke Road L25 7TL**

To replace wooden framed single glazed windows to original style sash UPVC white double glazed window frame.

# *Woolton News*

## **Woolton in Bloom**

The much anticipated Open Gardens event on **Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** has eleven gardens open to view for £5. A calendar featuring all the gardens will be available later in the year.

A pop up plant sale was held opposite Reynolds Park in June, timed to coincide with the WI picnic in the park. £164 was raised for WIB, with many of the plants donated by local gardeners. Thanks to all who took part.

Volunteers wishing to help out should meet on Wednesdays or Saturdays at 10.00 by the lock-up, which is the WIB storage unit on High Street, opposite the car park on the dual carriageway.

WIB also takes a stall at the market on the second Saturday of each month, with a raffle, tombola & sales all to fund the planting which makes our village so beautiful.

For more information & pictures go to the WIB site at [www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom](http://www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom)

## **Friends of Reynolds Park**

The Friends have now returned to meeting in person, with all welcome to join the team at the bi-monthly meetings in the coffee shop at the local Tesco.

The application to the Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity has been successful, with funds granted which will enable the Friends to complete the circle of features in the play area.

In a change of date, Reynolds Day will now be celebrated on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September**, with volunteers in the park. The next meetings will be held in the coffee shop at Woolton Tesco at 7pm on the following dates: **14<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> November.**



FORP may be found online at:  
[www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk)  
[www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs](https://www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs)

[www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark)  
[www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs](https://www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs)

### Charity bike ride for Claire House hospice

Winston Conradie, a worker at Coast coffee shop on Allerton road, will be undertaking a 300 mile charity bike to Paris from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July to raise funds for Claire House children's hospice. To sponsor Winston go to his Just Giving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/winstonconradie](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/winstonconradie) or follow him on Instagram at winniecon1972.

### St Mary's Church, Church Road

The hall at St Mary's hosts many events, with Tai Chi, yoga classes & slimming clubs taking place there, as well as Woolton Society talks & events.

Afternoon tea & Singalong resumed earlier this year, which is aimed at those living with dementia & their carers. These sessions are held on the last Friday of each month, from 2pm until 4pm. The next few dates are: **29<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 28<sup>th</sup> October**, with a Christmas special on **2<sup>nd</sup> December**.

For more details contact the parish office on 428 2256 or at [stmaryswoolton@rcaolp.org.uk](mailto:stmaryswoolton@rcaolp.org.uk)

### Clean up days in the village

The local councillors have formed a new community group named *The Rubbish Friends of Woolton*. This group meets on the last Saturday of each month, at 11am by the Lodes Pond & sets about cleaning up the local area. Dozens of community minded spirits have turned out each month so far, with bin bags & litter pickers being provided by councillors Kris Brown, Malcolm Kelly & Barbara Mace. The next dates will be: **30<sup>th</sup> July, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 29<sup>th</sup> October**

For more details go to [www.facebook.com/RubbishFriendsOfWoolton](https://www.facebook.com/RubbishFriendsOfWoolton)

### Mystery picture



Can you identify this famous ship associated with the Mersey?

It is shown under tow off the Great Orme.

*Answer in the next newsletter.*