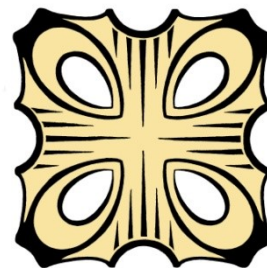


# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

[www.wooltonociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonociety.org.uk)  
Instagram: @thewooltonociety

**ISSUE NO 365: Winter 2023**



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY : SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS

## NEWSLETTER



*The society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tree*

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WS QR code

# *Society News*

## **Talk of 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Committee member Dr Rob Kirby gave an attentive audience a very informative talk on Liverpool's role in the Arctic convoys. Many present had attended because of Liverpool's close connection with naval history, with several wanting to share their own memories of family members who served in the convoys. These ships were vital to the war effort by ensuring that supply lines to the Soviet Union were kept open supporting the eastern front. The crucial importance of the Western Approaches Command Centre was also emphasised. These war rooms, on Rumford Place near the Town Hall, are open to the public, with a visit highly recommended.

## **Annual General Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The 49<sup>th</sup> AGM was very well attended as the society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was being celebrated, with refreshments & cake served after the business of the evening was concluded. A new committee member, Jennie French, was also elected. Jennie has already set up & administers the Instagram account for the society. The officers & committee are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies

Hon. Secretary & Vice Chairman: Paul Wilkie

Hon. Treasurer: Charles Davies

Membership secretary: Jean Bates

Environment secretary: Janet Hudson

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

## **Programme of talks for 2023**

The talks in February, March & October will be held on Thursday afternoons, starting at 3pm. The talks in April, May, June & September, & the AGM in November will be on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7.30pm. All talks are held in St Mary's hall, off Church Road. The hall has step-free access & a large adjacent car park. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the afternoon talks. Fuller details of talks later in the year will be in newsletters 366 (March) & 367 (June), on the website & Instagram & on the notice board in the village centre beside Coast café.

## **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm, Ken Pye: Of Giants & Duck Hunts**

Ken Pye will have the ancient village of Hale as his subject. Ken is a society member who last gave a talk to us on the history of Woolton via Zoom in February 2021. He is a regular & highly knowledgeable speaker on local radio, & has published many books on a wide range of topics.

## **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm, David Hearn: Liverpool memorials**

David Hearn will be encouraging members to look around them at Liverpool's many plaques & memorials which all too often go unnoticed. David has spoken to the WS twice before in very well received talks on Liverpool's architects, via Zoom in April 2021 & on the Mersey tunnels in April last year.

## **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm, Ron Martin: Liverpool Tramways**

Liverpool's last tram ran in 1957. Ron Martin will be remembering the days when trams ruled the roads, & public transport rather than private cars was the way to travel.

## **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm: Quiz night**

The new challenge trophy will be defended by reigning champions the Layton Ramblers. All are welcome to make up or join a team of four. Those attending may bring along their own refreshments & there will be prizes!



**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm, Max Steinberg CBE: Such stuff as dreams are made of: Shakespeare returns to Prescott**

Max Steinberg is chairman of Shakespeare North, & will be speaking on the challenges of establishing & fundraising for a new theatre during a pandemic.

**Summer break in July & August**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm, Dave Joy: Liverpool cow keepers**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm, Dr Janet Hollinshead: The Nuns' Tale in Woolton**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm: Annual General Meeting**

Please note that the society has the use of St Mary's hall from 2.30 to 4.30 on Thursdays, & from 7 to 9 pm on Wednesdays, to allow for setting up & clearing away. Early attendance by members is appreciated to enable to allow the talks to start promptly at 3pm or 7.30pm.

**Anniversary tree in Reynolds Park**

Plans to plant a tree in the Autumn to mark the golden jubilee were frustrated by the unusually warm weather in Summer 2022, followed by the icy conditions in December. This delayed the time when the tree could be safely dug up & transported. The tree was planted along with an information plaque made by Photocast in Reynolds Park on 20<sup>th</sup> January, with committee members in attendance.

Thanks go to the gardener Peter Moss who advised on the tree to select, & who also prepared the ground for the planting. This variety of mountain ash will have golden berries in Autumn, appropriate for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The tree may be found in the park on the level ground to the left of the path to the walled garden. An image of the tree is on the front cover of this issue.



**Plaques Project**



The plaques on Much Woolton old school & Woolton House Medical centre were officially unveiled on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Committee members & councillors Mace & Brown attended the ceremony at the old school, which was followed by a Radio Merseyside interview with nursery school owner, now retired, Dorothy Rood.

***Pictured left: owner Dorothy Rood and WS chairman Jean Davies***

The plaque at Woolton House commemorates Dr Carl Warner who was a highly regarded GP there for many years, as well as a founder member & former chairman of the Woolton Society.

Doctor Taylor and Doctor Kuruvilla shared memories of Dr Warner's work there.

***Pictured left are Doctors Taylor, Kuruvilla and Morton respectively.***



The current owners of the former courthouse on Quarry Street, & the home of WS founder Janet Gnosspelius on Hightor Road did not want any ceremony so the official handover forms were signed by the owners & chairman Jean Davies in the week of the AGM.

The plaques are now the property of the building owners, who have all pledged to preserve & protect them.

Woolton Society pamphlet number 8 is a guide to all the seven plaques installed so far. This gives full details of the people & places commemorated, together with a note on plaque 8 which is planned for 45-47 Woolton Street. The lengthy process of applying for listed building consent has begun for this property, a former convent which was home to Woolton's first community of nuns. It is also the subject of pamphlet number 7 by Dr Janet Hollinshead, who will be giving the talk in October on this topic.

### **Newsletter backnumbers.**

There have now been 365 issues of the society's newsletter, with number one published in July 1973. The society has nearly every one of these issues, which are an invaluable resource, enabling facts to be checked & snippets from back numbers used to entertain readers in a *From the Archives* segment. In June 2015 paper copies of issues 1 to 335 were donated to the Records Office based at the central library, as a record of the annals of a thriving civic society over many years. A report on this was in issue 336 in Autumn 2015. The WS will be donating another tranche of issues later this year, but we find that we are inadvertently short of some copies as one of each will be kept by the society & one will be donated.

If any members should find that they have paper copies of these issues please contact the society:

**317, 336, 337, 361.**

### **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 2023 are:

**11<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> December.**

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 & eight pamphlets on sale, as well as a tea towel (£6) showing images of the village, & designed by WS member Jenny Brown. There are also a few sturdy cotton 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;  
8. A guide to Woolton Society plaques.

All the pamphlets are priced at £1, with numbers 1-3 & 6-7 written by Dr Janet Hollinshead, numbers 4 & 8 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**

There have been several reports on the cinema in The Echo recently, although there has been no further news as to if & when the Picture House will reopen. The owners promised an opening date, or at least news of a date, before Christmas, but still the cinema remains dark. Workmen were seen for a few weeks, slapping red paint on the exterior & walking about on the roof, but no word has been heard on repair of the dilapidated fabric of the building. The owners have pocketed £37,000 from the British Film Institute as well as £24,000 raised locally, but do not respond to enquiries.

### **Woolton Hall**

As with the cinema, the hall is disintegrating while the owners avert their eyes. The hall is for sale with a price tag of £4 million, if any members should wish to take on the task of restoring a Grade 1 listed mansion with a leaking roof, regularly vandalised & set on fire. The hall is for sale with estate agents Orme Associates, phone number 0151 227 9191.

Just as the last newsletter went to print the society was contacted by a person claiming to be the heir to the Molyneux name & fortune. A bright new future was predicted for Woolton Hall, which would be reclaimed as the family seat & restored to glory. Sadly, if something seems to be too good to be true it usually is, & the hall's glittering revival has been postponed once more. Nothing more has been heard from the Molyneux heir & the WS has not contributed to any scheme to restore the mansion.



### 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)

**22H/2620 13 Cam Street L25 7RT**

To replace windows to front & rear with double glazed timber sash windows.

**22F/3009 Woolton Delivery Office, 27 Woolton Street L25 5NH**

To retain the divided two units 7 shop front alterations & to continue to use the units as a Post Office & shop.

**22L/1989 37 Woolton Street L25 7TG**

To remove internal load bearing wall (retrospective)

**22H/2811 100 Allerton Road L25 7RQ**

To retain replacement roof & replacement flashing kit on existing roof light.

**17L/3238 6 Ashton Square L25 7TR**

To alter & extend single storey extension to side ,carry out internal & external alterations to building& erect replacement boundary wall & new hard landscaping. \*Amended drawings & supporting information received\*

**22F/2546 Salisbury Farm Dairy, 29 Woolton Street L25 5NH**

Resubmission of application ref. 20F/0141 to convert dwelling into three flats.

**22I/2728 29 Woolton Street L25 5NH**

To carry out internal & external alterations in connexion with conversion into three flats.

**21F/1466 The Dairy, School Lane L25 7UA**

To change use of vacant former dairy distribution yard into residential; subdivide site to create amenity areas for existing & proposed dwellings; erect two new dwellings & remodel/extend one existing gatehouse dwelling, known as "The Lodge"; repair/alter/rebuild existing perimeter wall & undertake hard & soft landscaping works. \*Amended plans & description\*

**22F/2521 2a High Street L25 7TE**

To carry out internal & external alterations, make alterations to rear extension in connection with use of the premises as a dental surgery (Class E)

**22H/2653 Pendower 1e Castle Street L25 7SW**

To erect single storey extension to rear, creation of raised terrace/patio & amendments to boundary fencing.

**22H/2468 59 Quarry Street L25 6EZ**

To demolish single storey extension at rear & carry out external alterations including the replacement of windows & doors on the front & rear elevation, a new step to the front elevation, installation of 2 conservation-style velux windows to roof at rear, rear elevation to be rendered & existing patio to be extended.

**22F/2024 45 Allerton Road**

To install new air conditioning unit to the rear.

# Woolton News

## Woolton in Bloom

There are a few copies left of the very popular calendar, this year showing the gardens open for WIB in 2022. The cover image shows the jubilee crown on Kings Drive which will remain in place this year as the coronation for the new monarch will be in May. The calendars are on sale, now reduced, from Brown's on Woolton Street as well as at the market stall

Volunteers gather twice weekly to go out weeding, planting & clearing, under the guidance of horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Those wishing to join should meet at the lock up on High Street, opposite the dual carriageway car park, on Wednesdays & Saturdays at 10am.

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

## National Gardens Scheme (the Yellow Book)

WIB will not be holding the very popular Open Gardens event this year, the next one being scheduled for 2024. However, there will be local gardens open to the public via the **National Gardens Scheme** on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**, with at least three open to view in Woolton. Two are on Hillside Drive, with the spectacular garden on Runnymede Close belonging to WS members Prof. & Mrs Beresford also open. See [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk) for further information. The National Gardens Scheme is well worth supporting:

From their website: *"Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we have donated over £67 million to nursing and health charities and in 2022 made an annual donation of £3.11 million. Our core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute."* See [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk) for further information

## Friends of Reynolds Park

The Friends group has been part of an initiative to ensure that parks in the city are in a trust so that they cannot be built on in future. FORP has made a donation to the Fields in Trust charity to help raise the £6,000 needed to achieve this aim. Leaflets on fundraising will be distributed to houses in the area within the next few weeks.

The sundial has been in a poor state for some years, but the Friends have had an offer of a free repair from a company in Garston. This is good news as a replacement could cost several thousand pounds. Clean up days will be held in the park on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**, which will also be Reynolds Day. More details on the notice board in the park.

FORP meetings are held in Woolton Tesco's café at 7pm on the following dates:  
**8<sup>th</sup> March, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> November.** All are welcome to attend.

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)

## St Mary's Church, Church Road

St Mary's hall is a very well used venue, hosting Woolton Society talks since 2018, as well as Tai Chi & yoga classes, & slimming clubs. It is popular as it is easy to access for those with mobility problems with a large car park & bus stops very close by on Church Road.

Afternoon tea & Singalong has now resumed, after a very well attended Christmas party in December. This event is aimed at those living with dementia & their carers, with sessions held on the last Friday of each month, from 2pm until 4pm. The next few dates are: **27<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

For more details on events or to enquire about bookings 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 Rubbish Friends of Woolton will meet on the last Saturday of each month, at 11.00 beside the Lodes pond. Organisers Councillors Brown, Kelly & Mace will be on hand with litter pickers & bin bags for volunteers.

The next dates will be: **28<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April**

For more details go to [www.facebook.com/RubbishFriendsofWoolton](http://www.facebook.com/RubbishFriendsofWoolton)

### **The Arts Society of Liverpool**

WS members may well be interested in the Arts Society of Liverpool, which meets at the Bridge Chapel Centre on Heath Road L19 4XR. The society has a monthly programme of talks with expert speakers on a variety of arts related or historical themes.

On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February** at 2pm WS member Marie Passey will be speaking on the history of Liverpool's Duke Street. The talk in March will be by Toby Fabre with the Imperial Easter eggs of Carl Faberge after the Revolution as his subject. This will be on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March** at 2pm.

Those not members of the Arts Society may attend, no booking is required, but there is an entrance fee of £6. Membership costs £50 per year, with nine lectures in the programme as well as a quarterly magazine & regular events.

For more details go to <https://theartsociety.org/liverpool> or contact membership secretary Mary Cunliffe at [marycunliffe11@gmail.com](mailto:marycunliffe11@gmail.com)

### **Liverpool Famous Walking Tours**

Local resident Jean McEvoy was until recently seen leading bicycle tours around the village. Her new venture is guided walks, both in Woolton & the city centre. Of particular note is her tour featuring little known women of note, taking in St George's hall & the Lady Chapel at the Anglican cathedral. For more details contact Jean on [www.liverpoolfamouswalkingtours.com](http://www.liverpoolfamouswalkingtours.com)

### **From the Archives, an occasional series of snippets from past newsletters.**

This extract is from issue 179, dated October 1992:

#### **Unidentified Iron object**

Whilst photographing the wall in Hillfoot Road Miss Gnosspelius & Mrs Lewis noticed a small cast iron slab bearing the letters " G R" "ft" & "in" . Member Stanley Roberts who wrote the book on telephone history explained that such slabs marked the position of joints in buried telephone cables & that this one was possibly over the original trunk line from Liverpool via Widnes to London, dating from about 1915/16. (Liverpool was a pioneer in early telephone systems.) Such markers are rare now so if anyone else has noticed one please tell us.

Please note that this extract was published in 1992. There is no longer any need to contact the society if such an object has been spotted.

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Issue 366 of the newsletter will be published in March 2023.