

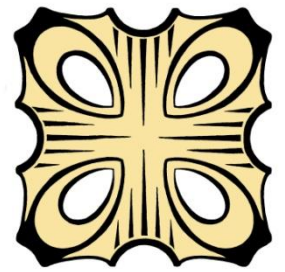
# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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

Instagram: @thewooltonsociety

**ISSUE NO 367 Summer 2023**

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



## NEWSLETTER



*Members outside the Lady Lever gallery*

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*WS QR code*

# Society News

## Talk in April, Quiz night in May

The first evening meeting of the season was a very well attended one, with Ron Martin giving a talk on Liverpool's tramways, & showing a vintage film of these giants of the road. Ron has promised to return at some point to speak on the Mersey Ferries, which will be another evening of great interest.

The fifth annual quiz night in May saw new champions emerging from the battle of brains. In a very closely run contest over ten rounds, newcomers The Fantastic Three beat reigning champions The Layton Ramblers by just a few points. The winners now have the coveted Quiz Cup until this time next year, when their name will be engraved on the trophy alongside that of previous victors.

*The quiz night winners, The Fantastic Three*



## Society outings



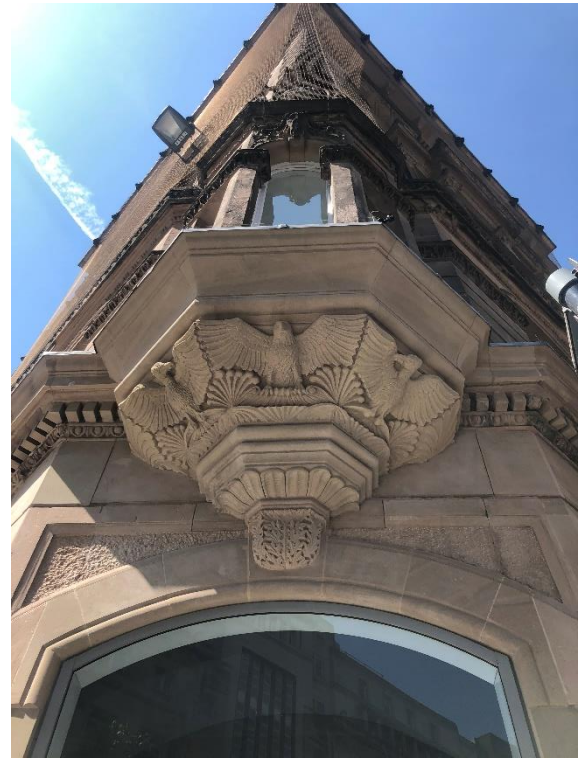
*Two members in the Dell Garden*

The very popular society outings continued this year, with a coach tour to Port Sunlight, led by Marie Passey, in May & two guided walks in June led by David Hearn. The coach tour was subsidised by the WS, with members paying only £5. The walking tours were entirely funded by the society, so free to members.

The coach tour left Woolton at 10am on May 28<sup>th</sup>, & travelled through the city & Birkenhead tunnel to Port Sunlight, with a continuous commentary, without notes, by our guide. Marie has a truly amazing grasp of facts & figures, & even those who have visited Port Sunlight on previous occasions came away with new information. Members on the trip now know what a great philanthropist & visionary William Hesketh Lever was, establishing dining halls for his workers, as well as pension schemes, medical & maternity care, a school & church, as well as enriching his employees with social opportunities, fair pay & spacious houses. Many thanks to Marie for this wonderful day out, & to Paul our stalwart driver.



David Hearn guided two Liverpool Safaris, on the morning & afternoon of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Both tours were full of information, with members urged to look up the many animals & fantastic beasts as well as the 700 Liver birds which adorn many of our buildings. The afternoon tour had to contend with a European music festival processing through Church Street but we carried on, fascinated. All agreed that in future we shall look up, not down, as we visit the city centre. Thanks to David for a very informative day.



*The images are of an eagle & two Liver birds outside the M & S store on Church Street (top right); a Liver bird on the frontage of Martins bank on Water Street (centre); gryphons on a building on Victoria Street.*

## **The Woolton Society's programme of events for Summer & Autumn of 2023**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30: Max Steinberg: Such stuff as dreams are made of.**

This quote from *The Tempest* encapsulates the vision of Max Steinberg CBE, chairman of Shakespeare North, who has worked for years to achieve the dream of a Shakespearean playhouse in the north of England. His talk will detail the trials & tribulations of raising the funds for such a venture while in the midst of a global pandemic. The theatre opened to great acclaim in Prescott last year, &

just a few weeks ago had an official opening visit from the Duke of Edinburgh. We hope that many members will be inspired by the talk to visit the playhouse to see a production or take part in a guided tour.

Max is the former head of Liverpool Vision & a well known local figure. It is anticipated that there will be a large audience for this talk, which will start promptly at 7.30pm.

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

The industrial revolution in the nineteenth century led to many agricultural workers leaving the countryside & heading to the cities to work. Many travelled to Liverpool, intending it as a stopping off point to the new world. Dave Joy's forebears moved from Wharfedale & settled here with their livestock, opening dairies in Garston & Wavertree to provide city dwellers with much needed fresh food. The Joy family carried on the tradition for several generations, becoming one of the city's last cow keeping families.

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

A community of Benedictine nuns arrived in 1795, settling in premises in Woolton Street. The nuns are the subject of Woolton Society pamphlet number 7, written by Dr Hollinshead. We hope that a Woolton Society plaque will soon be installed on the building, as the lengthy process of obtaining listed buildings consent is nearly completed.

As this is an afternoon talk there will be refreshments available in the hall before the talk begins.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm: 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society**

All members are invited to the AGM, where officers & committee members will be elected for the following year, & accounts presented. Refreshments will be provided after the business of the evening is concluded. Members who would like to join the committee would be very welcome. Please speak to any current committee member to find out more.

**All talks & events are held in St Mary's Hall off Church Road. There is an adjacent car park, & step free access to the hall. Bus stops are on Church Road as well as in the village centre.**

**Good works continue**

The society provided many free events for members for our golden jubilee celebrations, with the dedication to community life continuing this year.

The coach tour to Port Sunlight was greatly subsidised, with the walking tours being free to members. The society has bought one thousand daffodil bulbs for Woolton in Bloom, which will be planted by WIB volunteers on the dual carriageway.

New light-suppressing blinds have been bought for St Mary's hall, which will aid all those who use the hall as well as members attending talks.

The plaques project continues, with nominations from members being welcomed. Bob Paisley, late manager of Liverpool football club, was a Woolton resident & so he may be considered. One nomination has come for Rose Heilbron KC, pioneering barrister & native of Liverpool, but a connection with Woolton has yet to be established. If any member should be able to provide information it would be very much appreciated, as plaques commemorating women are very few, with English Heritage's very poor male/female ratio a case in point.

The management of The Coffee House pub in the village has been approached, & is very enthusiastic about having a plaque installed, so this has been added to the list.

**Subscriptions for 2023/24**

Members are reminded that all subscriptions are due in September. Issue 368 of the newsletter will contain the relevant forms, as well as details for paying by standing order. With the closure of nearly all local banks the payment of subscriptions with a standing order makes the running of the society much smoother, & the majority of members now pay this way. The basic rate is £4 for a single senior,

with a maximum of £9 for a couple under 60 which is excellent value for money & has not changed for many years.

### **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:

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup> & December 9<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 & eight 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; 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.

### **From the archives, an occasional series.**

The society has many items in the archives, not just newsletters & photographs. This extract is from a copy of The Woolton Village Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations souvenir brochure, dated 1977.

#### **Bonfires as beacons.**

Since before history was recorded bonfires have been lit as signal beacons to carry news through the length & breadth of Britain. In times of threatened war, the call to arms was sent out with smoke by day, with fire after dark. That so many lower hilltops still bear the name of 'beacon' shows that the system was designed to be a practical communications network, which would not be obscured by cloud or foul weather. Then, capital outlay must have been measured in keeping a stock of fuel dry & tinder always ready at the traditional beacon site.

In 1588 the news of the approach of the Spanish Armada was carried from Plymouth across the country by way of beacons.

The Napoleonic invasion scare of 1805 saw beacons used again locally, but after the battle of Trafalgar when Britain ruled the seas, their use was no longer needed.

A chain of beacons was lit to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The fund raising was so successful that eventually £1,240 was invested in Mersey Docks & Harbour Board bonds, with this endowment still part of the resources of the Woolton Aid in Sickness Fund. This year, 1977, to mark the first 25 years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, Woolton is again to take part in the national bonfire celebrations. On 6<sup>th</sup> June Her Majesty will herself light the beacon at Windsor Castle, after which the signal will go out to all corners of the kingdom, to Dover & St Kilda, to the Scilly Isles & to the Shetlands.

In Woolton the bonfire will be lit at Woolton Woods on the site of the home of the Gaskells. Historical accuracy compels us to admit that this is not really the time-honoured beacon field, but it is less than a mile away, & it is a good elevated site from which we should have views of other signal fires. The Woolton bonfire is, we believe, the only signal fire in Liverpool. It is right that in Woolton, on the highest available site in the south west of the old County Palatine of Lancaster, we should have a beacon to celebrate our own rejoicing.

The brochure contains many interesting advertisements from businesses now long gone from the village. These include: Tack Saddlery of 117 Vale road; E.H Williams (Landscape) of Gateacre Brow; J.E Roughley, newsagent of 59 Allerton Road; Amanda's haberdashery, wools & baby linen of 64 Allerton Road; J.E Morphet, High Class family butcher of 7 Woolton Street & 49 Quarry Street. There is also an advertisement from The Woolton Society, asking readers to "Become a Member at the Fete!" Unlike the previous organisations, the Woolton Society is still active in the village & thriving sixty-six years later.

## *Environment, planning news & applications*

### **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/>

#### **23H/1243 Woolton Wood Lodge, 7b High Street L25 7TD**

To erect a single storey garden room.

#### **23DIS/1194; 23DIS/1192 ; 23DIS/1189 Newstead farm, Quarry Street L25 6DY**

To discharge condition 3 attached to planning app 22F/2022 landscaping the courtyard 7 using reclaimed sandstone to rebuild existing boundary wall.

To discharge conditions 11 & 10 (vii) attached to planning app 20F/0184 re protective fencing around the various trees before the development of the patio goes ahead.

To discharge condition 4 attached to planning app 22L/1960 re glazing details.

#### **23DIS/1129 Strawberry Field Visitor Centre, 8 Beaconsfield Road L25 6EJ**

To part discharge condition 8 attached to app 19F/3088. (This relates to the unveiling of the Ukrainian peace monument )

#### **23H/0952 41 Beaconsfield Road L25 6EQ**

To part demolish existing boundary wall to Beaconsfield Road to create two 4m wide vehicular gates, including associated works to dropped kerb & access over the existing footway.

#### **23L/0842 45 Woolton Street L25 7TG**

To fix circular heritage wall plaque to front elevation fronting Woolton Street



**23F/0859 Mendips, 251 Menlove Avenue L25 7SA**

To vary condition 1 attached to planning application 14F/0842 so as to allow the premises to be open to the public between the following hours:

10.15 & 17.30 between 1<sup>st</sup> March & 31<sup>st</sup> May, Wednesday to Sunday.

10.15 & 17.30 from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 7 days a week.

10.15 & 17.30 between 1<sup>st</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> November, Wednesday to Sunday

10.15 & 17.30 from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> (or 29<sup>th</sup>) February, Wednesday to Sunday, excluding the relevant bank holidays

**23A/0613 Tesco Supermarket Allerton Road L25 7SF**

To display one internally illuminated LCD screen & three flag pole signs. Approved with standard advert conditions.

**23F/0436 Salvation Army Training & Visitor Centre 8 Beaconsfield Road. L25 6EJ**

To continue to use pedestal installation to accommodate two interchangeable sculptures with associated access pathways & works. Approved with conditions.

# *Woolton News*

## **Woolton in Bloom**

Despite a rash of vandalism to planters in the village the volunteers at Woolton in Bloom soldier on, replanting the tubs & making good the damage. It is disheartening to see plants strewn about the ground, especially as all work is undertaken by volunteers with plants paid for by constant fundraising. Work parties go out twice weekly, on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 10am, led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Those wishing to take part should meet at the lockup on High Street, near to the youth club premises & car parks.

There will be a fundraising plant stall outside 101 Church Road, which is opposite the gates to Reynolds Park, on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, from 11 am**. Plant donations in the days beforehand would be gratefully accepted, with all money raised going to Woolton in Bloom.

The stall at the local market also raises funds for WIB, staffed again by volunteers. The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month, with **June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup> & September 9<sup>th</sup>** the next dates. There are plants for sale, as well as a tombola & a raffle.

The very popular WIB open gardens scheme will next run in 2024. In the meantime several gardens which open for Woolton in Bloom are in the Yellow Book with openings in June & July, with details on page 8 of this issue.

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

## **Marie Curie anniversary**

The Marie Curie hospice will be marking sixty five years in Woolton by holding a fair on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**. The organisers have asked if the WS can provide any images of old Woolton for their exhibition, & in particular any photographs or memories of Sunnybank, which was originally the police orphanage on the site of the present building.

If any members are able to help in this quest please contact Julie Zafari on her direct line 801 1416 or email [julie.zafari@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:julie.zafari@mariecurie.org.uk)

### **Yellow Book Gardens: dates for your diary**

The Yellow Book, organised by National Gardens Scheme will see several Woolton gardens open to view this summer, as well as two in nearby Halewood. Those marked with a \* also open for WIB. Admittance is £5 for all gardens open that day, with free admittance for children.

#### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June will see these gardens open from 12 noon to 5pm:**

4 Hillside Drive L25 5NS\*

23 Hillside Drive L25 5NR

Green Ridges, Runnymede Close, L25 5JU\*

#### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July openings from 12 noon to 5pm:**

16 Layton Close L25 9NJ\*

71 Manor Road L25 8QF\*

89 Oakwood Road L26 1XD

6 Ronaldsway L26 0XE

For more details see [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

### **Friends of Reynolds Park**

The sundial has been removed for repair, with a local business constructing a new pedestal before completing the whole structure. This work is being done at no cost to FORP.

SFX pupils have been working in the wildflower meadow on Saturday mornings, concentrating on the overgrown weeds. It is hoped to reseed this area & place a number of new plants.

Future meetings of FORP will be in Woolton's Tesco at 7pm on **13<sup>th</sup> September & 8<sup>th</sup> November**. All are welcome to attend.

### **Clean up days in the village**

The Rubbish Friends of Woolton meet at the Lodes Pond at 11am on the last Saturday of each month. Organised by councillors Brown & Kelly, volunteers are provided with gloves, litter pickers & bin bags. The next few dates are: **24<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> August & 30<sup>th</sup> September**.

### **Women of Woolton W.I. (WOW)**

The WI will be holding its annual Picnic in the Park on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 12 noon**. Members should meet under the spreading chestnut tree on the main field of Reynolds Park, bringing their own refreshments, hampers, champagne, cake stands, rugs, folding chairs, party hats & whatever else is needed to have a good time.

The WI will be holding a fair to celebrate their tenth anniversary on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October** in St Mary's Hall off Church Road. The show will be open from 11 am to 4pm, with refreshments on sale provided by the skilled WI bakers. The show is to celebrate the wealth of talent in local members as well as the anniversary, with stalls exhibiting embroidery, preserves, knitting, sugar craft, poems, short stories, & a children's section with a design for a postcard. Entry to the show will be free, with more details available closer to the date.

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Issue 368 of the newsletter will be published in September. This will be the AGM issue, containing all the membership & Gift Aid forms, as well as the agenda for this year plus the minutes of the AGM of November 2022. Issue 369 will be published in the new year of 2024.