

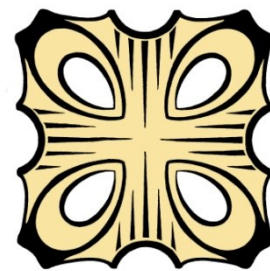
THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

Instagram: @thewooltonsociety

ISSUE NO 371 Summer 2024

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



The Village Centre with first lamp standard beside the second lamp standard (with heavy base)

Dolphin lamp 1865

Newsletter contents:

Society news: pages 2-4

Environment & planning news: pages 5-6

Woolton news: pages 6-8



WS QR code

Society News

Talks in March, April & May, Quiz Night in June.

Talks this year have been both varied & very well attended. In March we heard of the Rainhill Trials of 1829, April saw Ken Pye giving a very entertaining talk on Liverpool's ancient graveyards, in May we heard Tony Banks of the RNLI speaking on the history of this well-loved national institution, & the sixth annual quiz night was held in June, the defending champions being The Fantastic Three.

All the talks gave us new information, with lively question & answer sessions following. The society was contacted by Tony Banks after his talk, to inform us that £298.40 was raised for the RNLI on the night, which was a combination of the society's payment plus cash in the collection boxes.



The quiz trophy was won on June 19th by The Fantastic Four, (*left*) who were the defending champions plus a grandson. The questions included rounds on general knowledge, capitals of culture, Scotland, history, & food. The Fantastic Four won convincingly, & were awarded the trophy which will be engraved with their team name in due course



Coach tour on Sunday 14th July

This year our coach tour is to St George's church in Everton, with a commentary en-route from Blue Badge Guide Marie Passey. We will leave from Church Road, outside St Peter's at 1pm on **Sunday 14th July** & travel through the city's Georgian Quarter. A stop will be at Everton Park, which is one of the highest points in the city, with spectacular views over the river. Members could stay on the coach here, as St George's church is a very short distance away, on Beacon Lane. Here, we will be given a commentary on the church by Dr Janet Hollinshead & Marie Passey, as this is one of only two *cast iron* churches in the city. Tea & biscuits will be provided by volunteers from the church, & as they are opening especially for the WS a donation will be made to their funds. The church is in one of the most deprived areas of the city, with a weekly food pantry for those in need. If any members should wish to contribute food, toiletries or baby needs to the pantry please bring it on the day.

At the time of going to print there were still four places left on the coach, with WS members paying the subsidised price of £10. Non-members will pay £17.50.

If anyone should wish to secure one of the last available places please contact the society as soon as possible via the website www.wooltonociety.org.uk or ask at the market stall.

The Woolton Society's programme of events for Autumn 2024

Wednesday 20th September at 7.30: Judy Kinnin, The forced repatriation of Chinese seamen in 1945/46

Judy was recently the subject of the BBC TV programme DNA Family Secrets, series three. Researchers looked into the story of how her Chinese father disappeared after the war, with her mother given no information as to his whereabouts. This was despite his having worked for the British navy during the war, & having a British wife & baby here in Liverpool. Judy will be speaking about her life long search for information about the father she last saw when she was eighteen months old.

Thursday 19th October at 3pm: Gary Lunt, Rock & Roll! Music in the Movies

Gary runs Reel Tours, which takes groups around film sites in the city. Liverpool is the second most filmed city in England, after London, with many major films & TV series shot here. He gave a memorable talk on this last September, & now returns by popular demand to speak on the role of music in movie making, specifically rock & roll. Dancing in the aisles will be permitted on this occasion

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

Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm: 51st 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 interested in joining the committee would be very welcome, & needed to ensure the future of the society in years to come. Please speak to any current committee member to find out more.

The current officers & committee are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies

Vice chairman & hon. secretary: Paul Wilkie

Treasurer: Charles Davies

Membership secretary: Jean Bates

Environment secretary: Janet Hudson

Committee members: Bob Collins, Jenni French, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Rob Kirby

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.

Plaques Project

Since 2019 the WS has installed eight heritage plaques around the village, all commemorating people & places of note. The eight are, in order of installation:

1. Edgar Menzies, police radio pioneer, 38 Linkstor Road
2. The Old Library, Allerton Road
3. The Mechanics' Institute, St Mary's Street
4. Dr Carl Warner, GP & MC, Woolton House Medical centre
5. Much Woolton old school, School Lane
6. Janet Gnosspelius, Woolton Society founder, 14 Hightor Road
7. The Courthouse, Quarry Street
8. The former Benedictine convent, 45-47 Woolton Street

A pamphlet with details of the plaques is available from the society, priced at £1.

Three more plaques are now under consideration, with the one intended for The Coffee House having been delayed for some time as there was a major fire on the premises last year. The damage is now being repaired so the installation of the plaque will be able to go ahead.

The Village Club on Allerton Road is also on the list, with the current club committee being very pleased to take part. It should be noted that the entire cost of each plaque, & all the administration involved, is undertaken by the society, with no cost to the building owners. All that is needed is their agreement, unless the building is listed in which case listed buildings consent has to be applied for, which can take many months. Fortunately, these buildings are not listed, unlike many others in the village. The Village Club has never been listed, & The Coffee House was once listed but lost this status after extensive alterations to the fabric of the building over several centuries.

The third plaque in the scheme was suggested by a resident of Hightor Road, who discovered that a previous owner was Dr Rajani Thiranagama who lived there in the 1980s with her young family while completing her PhD at Liverpool University. She returned to her native Sri Lanka, becoming a leading member of their human rights movement, & was tragically killed there at the age of 35.

Subscriptions for 2024/5

Members are reminded that all subscriptions are due in September. Issue 372 of the newsletter will contain the relevant forms, as well as details for paying by standing order. With the closure of 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. Since January we have been using a card reader at the markets & meetings to pay for merchandise, the coach trips, & subs from new members. The basic subscription rate is £4 a year 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. The society asks if those members who pay their subs by cash or cheque could think about setting up a standing order to avoid the need for the treasurer to travel into the city centre to bank large amounts of money.

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:

13th July, 10th August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, & 14th 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 & ten 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 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; 9. Woolton Heyes; 10. The Woolton Spitfire

All the pamphlets are priced at £1, with numbers 1-3, 6-7 & 9 written by Dr Janet Hollinshead, numbers 4 & 8 by Jean Davies, number 5 by Dr Hollinshead with Paul Wilkie, & number 10 by Dr Rob Kirby.

Pamphlet 11, on the history of Reynolds Park & written by FORP chairman Geoff Kendall will be on sale soon.

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 Hall

The hall has been in the news & local press recently as a group searching for paranormal phenomena has set up a base there, posting clips on Face Book. They state that they are part of a haunted house hotel group, & that the hall will be open for visitors to experience the paranormal. They claim on the clips that access has been granted by the hall's owners, & that there are plans for the building.

The WS is in regular contact with the planning department, & immediately enquired about this group & if they had legitimate access to the hall. The principal heritage officer replied that she has contacted the hall's owners via their agents to remind them of their obligations towards a listed building. They have replied that they have not granted access to the paranormal explorers. It is known that there are no current planning applications concerning the hall, which would be needed as it is a Grade 1 listed building.

Historic England has recently commented on the hall, as it has been on its Heritage at Risk register for many years. A HAR surveyor is to be sent to the hall to carry out an assessment, & coordinate with the local council to discuss strategy for the building.

A representative from Stop the Rot campaign has contacted the WS recently, asking to see our archives, which contain many plans & surveys of the hall, mostly carried out by our founder Janet Gnosspelius when she achieved its listed status. A publicity campaign is planned, featuring the hall.

More news as we have it.

The Village Lamp

A lamp has been at the hub of the village since the nineteenth century & an iconic image when thoughts turn to Woolton. The current lamp dates from 1873, part of the good works carried out by Rev. Robert Leicester, Perpetual Curate of Woolton 1827 to 1868 & Rector of St Peter's from 1868 to 1875. The drinking fountain at the junction of Church Road & Allerton Road, now sadly damaged, is another of his gifts to the village. The light fittings date from some time in the twentieth century & were damaged last Winter, by gales & not by the Christmas tree as some allege. Part of the fitting has been removed, & is hoped that it will be replaced at some point as it cannot be repaired. Councillor Malcolm Kelly has been lobbying for this to be done, & will keep us informed as to progress.

An image from our archives is on the front cover of this issue, dated 1865. It shows two lamps, both very different from the one known locally as *The Dolphin Lamp*. Look closely, they are actually lions.

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/>

24PT/1423 Pavement adjacent to Hunts Cross Avenue & Out Lane L25 8RW

To install a 17.5m high 5G telecommunications mast with associated cabin equipment.

24H/1273 25 Greenacre Road L25 0LD

To erect a two storey side extension & part 2/part single extension to rear.

24H/1247 8 Woolton Park Close L25 6JZ

To demolish existing conservatory & erect a single storey extension to rear.

24H/1230 20 The Hollies L25 7AQ

To erect a two storey & first floor side extension.

24H/1154 15 The Heyes L25 8RX

To erect a part first floor & two storey extension to side.

24H/1076 26 Bower Road L25 4RQ

To erect a single storey pool house & protective boundary around remaining trees, following the removal of 1 tree.

24H/0789 116 Kings Drive L25 8RH

To erect a two-storey side extension, single storey front & incorporated porch & single storey rear extension with roof dormer & outbuilding.

24H/0717 21 Manor Way L25 8QY

To erect a two-storey side extension, single storey rear & front with new porch.

24F/0599 Salvation Army Training & Visitor Centre, Beaconsfield Road L25 6EJ

To create a new memorial rose garden in current open grassed area, consisting of hard standing, 1.8m high brick wall, water feature & soft landscaping.

24F/0573 72 Kings Drive L25 8RH

To erect 1 two-storey three bed house & associated landscaping.

The society has been notified by a concerned resident of a proposed development on Beaconsfield Road near SFX school. Two houses would be demolished to make way for two large dwellings & a low level apartment block on the current site. Trees would also need to be removed. Beaconsfield Road is very narrow & busy, with several schools & the Strawberry Field complex generating much traffic. As we go to print a planning application for the site is being submitted. SFX school has been contacted & will oppose the application.

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom: Open Gardens

The very popular Open Gardens event will take place on **Sunday 7th July** from **12 noon to 5pm**. There will be nine usually private gardens open to view, together with the walled garden in Reynolds Park & the allotments on Vale Road. The hub will be the Bishop's Lodge on Woolton Park, with several stalls offering a range of items. Little Gems will be there with their plants & hanging baskets, as well as crafts from local artist Jenny Brown. Music will be provided by The Waltones & Halewood Community Choir, with a display of Tai Chi from a local group. Crucially, refreshments will be supplied by the Women of Woolton (WOW) Women's Institute. All this will be at the Bishop's Lodge.

The day is excellent value for only £5 a person admission, with accompanied children going free. Admission is by programme, which carries a map of all the gardens, & is available from Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street (428 2408). Programmes will be available on the day from each garden in the scheme.

Sales of programmes & raffle tickets will also be at Woolton's Tesco on **Tuesday 2nd July** from 10 am, & at Sainsbury's on **Friday 5th July**, again from 10am. Raffle prizes include two tickets to the Southport Flower Show, plus vouchers & gifts donated by local companies such as Botanico, Istanbul, Buongiorno, the Scotch beef shop, the cheese shop, 1% Forest, Coast & Diva.

Photographs will be taken at the event which will feature in the 2025 Woolton in Bloom calendar, available later this year.

Volunteers from Woolton in Bloom can be seen about village several times each week, currently planting out the summer bedding. Work parties meet on Wednesdays & Saturdays at 10am at the lock-up opposite the car park on High Street. Led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock they go about planting, weeding & watering, all to keep the village blooming. Those wishing to volunteer should enquire at the WIB stall on market day, or ask any of the current workers.

There will be a plant sale with all proceeds going to WIB on **Friday 12th July** from 11 am. This will be held opposite the gates of Reynolds Park on Church Road, with many beautiful plants on sale. Donations of plants welcomed, on the day or beforehand. Last year £162 was raised for WIB.

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

Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP will be taking part in the Open Gardens event on **Sunday 7th July**, with volunteers around the park. It is hoped that by then action will have been taken on the wall which partially collapsed during the January gales. A sum of £80,000 has been quoted for repairs.

A performance of Twelfth Night will be held in the walled garden, whatever the state of the wall, on **Saturday 20th July**, with FORP providing refreshments.

Reynolds Day this year will be celebrated on **Saturday 21st September**, with a litter pick & information stall in the park.

Meetings are held in Woolton's Tesco at 7pm, the next dates being **Wednesday 11th September & Wednesday 20th November**, which is also the AGM. All are welcome to attend.

FORP may be found online at

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk & www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

St Peter's Day Sunday 30th June

There will be a picnic on Bishop Martin playing field, off Church Road to celebrate St Peter's Day on **Sunday 30th June**. This will be after morning service, around 12 noon. All are welcome to attend, bring your own picnic, refreshments & chairs, to share memories of parish life over the years. The picnic will be held in the church hall if rain prevails on the day.

St Peter's is known for its wonderful peal of bells, which can be heard ringing the hours all over the village. New bellringers would be welcomed, go along to the tower on any Friday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Those interested would be made most welcome by the existing team.

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: **29th June, 27th July, 31st August & 28th September**.

Women of Woolton W.I. (WOW)

WOW meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at Woolton Golf Club. The group is currently full, with a waiting list to join, but visitors can be signed in by a member for a small sum. This is a very busy & popular WI, with walking groups, craft workshops, a book club, ukulele lessons, & monthly meetings with a speaker.

WOW will be providing the refreshments for the Open Gardens event on **Sunday 7th July**, at the Bishop's Lodge on Woolton Park, then they can all relax at their annual picnic in the park, held this year on **Friday 12th July** in Reynolds Park.

For more information on the Women's Institute go to the Federation direct on 01722459020 or contact WOW committee member Margaret on margdavies_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Woolton Community Life

WCL is a local charity, formed to combat loneliness & social isolation. Befrienders are always needed, also please think of referring friends or neighbours who may well benefit from this service. All befrienders are DBS checked & safeguarding/first aid trained.

Call 0749 0572 344 for more information, email wooltoncl@gmail.com or contact the website on www.wooltoncommunitylife.co.uk

Allotment Open Days: Sunday 7th July & Sunday 4th August

The Woolton Allotments site on Vale Road will be open as part of the WIB Open Gardens event on **Sunday 7th July**. As allotments are normally open only to plot holders these are excellent opportunities to see what can be achieved when growing your own produce. The entrance is via the Vale Road gate, admittance with the WIB programme.

The Dunbabin Allotments Open Day will be held this year on **Sunday 4th August** from 1pm. Last year the site came first in the council's Best Maintained Field contest, with several plots winning in the Best in City section. A site worth seeing. The plots are in Childwall, tucked away behind the King David schools.

The entrances are on Beauclair Drive, next to the King David Primary School gates, & on Childwall Road, adjacent to the King David High School's car park. All are welcome to attend.

Calderstones Park

The nature reserve at Calderstones Park was recently featured in an edition of BBC 2's Gardeners World. The reserve was built on waste ground at a former council depot, & is a wonderful sight, with plants grown on concrete. It is not open every day as it is still a work in progress, the next Open Day being **Sunday 21st July** from 11.00 to 4.00. An open evening is planned on **Friday 23rd August**, probably 6.30 to 9 pm.

The miniature railway was a huge attraction at a recent open day, with volunteers taking children & parents around a track. The railway will be open on Sunday afternoons in the summer months, from 2pm to 4pm. The rides are free, with donations given to the railway society.

A Japanese Matsuri Day is planned for **Saturday 17th August**. This is a festival of Japanese culture featuring dancers, drummers, a tea ceremony & Japanese food.

150 Years of the Princes Road Synagogue

The Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation will be hosting a Heritage Season this Autumn, celebrating 150 years of the synagogue on Princes Road. It has a stunningly beautiful interior, built in the Moorish Revival style in 1874, by architect George Audsley.

Many events are planned over the Autumn, including a jazz concert & talks. More details in our September issue, or email loh150@gmail.com or by the website www.princesroad.org

Woolton pie in The Archers!

Keen listeners to Radio 4's The Archers will have heard a reference to Woolton pie in a recent edition. This was when Fallon who runs the tea rooms baked a pie for the D-Day celebrations in Ambridge. She explained that it was made during war time, using root vegetables & wholemeal pastry, & named after Lord Woolton who was Minister for Food. Unfortunately, she was not able to go into the link with Woolton Village, or give a full recipe for the pie. This can be remedied with the purchase of Woolton Society pamphlet number 2: *Who was Lord Woolton?* Available from the society at all times, priced at £1.

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Issue 372 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 2023. Issue 373 will be published in the new year of 2025.