

# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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

**ISSUE NO: 339 Summer 2016**

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS



## NEWSLETTER



*The Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes, with some of the contributors to the society's new book "Woolton Stone and Liverpool Cathedral". Left to right: Sue Carmichael, Henry Stott, Janet Hollinshead, Dorothy Chance, Bishop Paul, Phil Daniels, David Massey and Enid Keiffer*

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# Society News

## **Book Launch: "Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral"**

Our latest publication was launched on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, with an event for members & invited guests at the Village Club. Guest of honour was the Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes. Bishop Paul spoke warmly of the contribution made by the quarry workers of Woolton, for without them, & the stone quarried in our village, the Anglican cathedral would be very different.

Also speaking at the event were Sue Carmichael, the society's co-founder in 1972, Dorothy Chance one of the original authors, & Dr Janet Hollinshead who brought the enterprise to fruition & the book to print this year.

After the speeches refreshments were served, & sales of the book were brisk. To date over 100 copies have been sold, & complimentary copies will be distributed to local schools & organisations, as well as to the Record Office.

The book is on sale at all society talks, at our farmers market stall, & from Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street, priced at £5. The Liverpool Cathedral shop will also be stocking the book.

*Mrs Chance later commented that writing the book had taken approximately half the time taken to build the whole cathedral. It was well worth the wait.*

## **Trip to Williamsons Tunnels**

Our next event is the outing to Williamsons Tunnels on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm**. This trip is fully booked, with a waiting list, so if anyone who has booked a place is unable to attend please contact Viv on 428 3268 or Jean on 428 2680 as soon as possible.

Members are to make their own way to the tunnels, which are at The Old Stable Yard, Smithdown Lane, L7 3EE. The charge of £4 is payable on the day. Suitable footwear should be worn.

## **Talk of 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Hugh Daglish was our speaker for May, & entertained a full house with his tales of serving as Commander of Her Majesty's royal yacht Britannia. Hugh's speakers fee was donated to the charity SSAFA (Wirral Soldiers Sailors & Airmen & Families Association) as well as a collection of £110.07 which was made on the night.

## **Dates for your diary**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September** will see Elaine Middleton, head of service for Age Concern Liverpool speak on the history of this organisation, & the range of services on offer by the charity.

On **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October** our speaker is Simon La Frenais, who will speak on Charles Darwin.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**: Our yearly reports will be presented, followed by an informal gathering with refreshments.

All Woolton Society talks are free, & open to non-members as well as members. We have the use of a downstairs room at the Village Club, with talks starting at 7.30pm.

Fuller details of talks can be found in issue 340 of the newsletter, on our notice board beside the HSBC bank, & on our website [www.wooltonociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonociety.org.uk)

## **Committee Members**

All societies rely upon an active body of committee members to keep going. The Woolton Society is no exception to this rule, with committee members booking speakers, sorting & delivering the newsletters, & running the talks by setting up on the night, as well as myriad other tasks.

If you think that you could contribute in any way to the running of the society, please do not be shy but contact any current committee member at talks or events in advance of the AGM in November.

**Remember: Your society needs you!**

### **Farmers Markets**

The society hopes to take a stall at the local Farmers Markets whenever possible. They are held on the second Saturday of each month, with dates for this year being **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 give the society an opportunity to publicise our talks & events, as well as enabling residents to join up, or buy gift membership for that *person with everything*. Copies of our publications are on sale, which now includes our new book Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral, priced at £5. The History of Much Woolton is a steady seller with a cover price of £3. Our very popular tea towels with views of the village are on sale at £4.

### **From our picture archive**

The photograph of Doman & Lott's garage on page 8 of issue 338 has generated much debate. The garage has been located in several different places, from the current entrance to Sainsbury's on Woolton Street to beside the Lodes Pond. It is, of course, possible that there were several garages in the village at the time, & we print here two e-mails received on the subject. The first is from WS member John Hughes.

"If this is the garage opposite the site of the current HSBC then I remember it as Powell's garage where my friend & I volunteered as messenger boys in the event of air raids in the early years of the war. I lived then at 15 Watergate Lane & was working at Rootes Aircraft factory until I went for flying training in 1942. We had also joined their cadets. The local fire watching was organised in an office in the garage, & I remember climbing wooden stairs at the rear left, inside the garage, & hoping to be issued with a tin hat. I have no memory of actually carrying any messages! While nearby one day we watched a motorcyclist remove the cap of his petrol tank, with a cigarette in his mouth. The resulting explosion taught us much about the true nature of petrol.

At this time the HSBC site was occupied by the Jones bicycle sale & repair shop, an old building with a corrugated iron roof. One other memory is the son of the village cobbler sailing his much coveted model ferry boat on the duck pond. Happy days..."

The following response is from WS Secretary & Vice Chairman Paul Wilkie.

In response to the controversy over the picture of the garage, some information; the "78" visible on the picture is not the building number, but the telephone number Gateacre 78! The photograph was taken in 1915 or early 1916, as I have a picture with almost identical cars with the sign showing J. R. P. Lott. The partnership was dissolved in January 1916 when Stanley Doman "retired from the business" (although he was younger than Lott at only 31), leaving James Robert Philip Lott to carry the business on at the age of 35. Presumably he was related to the Philip Lott who had a tea and grocery establishment on the corner of Church Road and Allerton Rd. The garage business was located at 18-20 Woolton Street, the site now occupied by the flats. James Lott died in 1942, still in Liverpool. Given the date Doman left the business, and his age, it is likely he joined the army since conscription started in January 1916, and unlike Lott he was unmarried and therefore qualified to be called up. He died in Liverpool in 1979. The business was motor engineers and taxi cab proprietors, so it is likely that the cars and drivers shown in the photograph were taxis.

More extracts & pictures from our archives will follow in future editions of the newsletter. Contact the society on [info@wooltonociety.org.uk](mailto:info@wooltonociety.org.uk) if you have pictures to share with our members.

# *Environment, Planning News & Applications*

## **Woolton Hall**

The North West Association of Civic Trusts has selected Woolton Hall as its Building at Risk for 2016. It is to be hoped that this action will persuade the current owners of the hall will make a decision as to its future, as it has been empty & unused for many years now. An offer of £2.5 million was turned down last year, when a developer planned to use the venue as a site for weddings & conferences, with sympathetic restoration of the hall, & landscaping of the grounds. As the Woolton Society was formed in 1972 with the intention of saving the hall from demolition, we do not want to see it decay nearly fifty years later.

## **St Gabriel's site**

The developers have had their plans before the Planning Committee for some time now, & hope to have a decision soon. In the meantime we have heard reports of vandalism at the site, with broken windows and rowdy behaviour reported by neighbours. It is to be hoped that security at the site will be improved before further damage is inflicted.

## **Public Right of Way, Glenacres/Byron Court**

The formal claim that a Public Right of Way exists between Acrefield Road and Woolton Park was submitted to the City Council on 23rd May. It was supported by 49 individual User Evidence Statements signed by local residents, and we are very grateful to everyone who completed one of them. The Council now has to invite the relevant landowners to provide evidence that the path was NOT a Right of Way. The Council will then have to advertise its intention of adding the path to its Definitive Map, and members of the public will have a chance to object. Unfortunately this legal process is likely to take many months.

The initial claim was made in the name of the Gateacre Society, who have urged the Byron Court Management Company to consider removing or modifying the wall (which they erected) in advance of the final decision. The Woolton Society intends to submit its own claim in due course, supported by the User Evidence Statements that have been completed since 23rd May, and any other documentary evidence that members are able to provide. User statements should be sent to the society at 101 Church Road L25 6DB so that they can be delivered together

**On the following pages is an abbreviated summary of planning applications that have been received by the city council since our last planning report.**

***You may note that the summary is not in the usual format; this is because the council's planning search facility on their website is not functioning correctly. This is an ongoing problem and has been reported to the council as an official complaint.***

Contact the Society at [www.woolton.society.org.uk](http://www.woolton.society.org.uk) re planning matters.

**Application No:** 16F/1312 31-May-2016

**Proposal:** To retain gazebo to the front

**Applicant:** Mr Mirjanul Hoque

**Location:** The Raj,9-11 Allerton Road. Liverpool, L25 7RA

**Application No:** 16H/1384 01-June-2016

**Proposal:** To erect first floor extension and extension to the porch

**Applicant:** Miss Charlotte O'Rourke

**Location:** 6 Reservoir Road, Liverpool, L25 6HR

**Application No:** 16H/1234 13-May-2016

**Proposal:** To erect two storey extension to side/rear incorporating juliet balcony and porch to the front

**Applicant:** Mrs Julia Paul

**Location:** 138 Kings Drive, Liverpool, L25 8R

**Application No:** 16L/1100 20-April-2016

**Proposal:** To erect orangery to the rear

**Applicant:** Mr Basnett

**Location:** Acrefield Cottage, Acrefield Road, Liverpool, L25 5JP

**Application No:** 16H/1214 10-May-2016

**Proposal:** To erect dormer extension at rear

**Applicant:** Dr Marsland

**Location:** 403 Woolton Road, Liverpool, L25 4SY

**Application No:** 16H/1225 11-May-2016

**Proposal:** To erect conservatory to the rear

**Applicant:** Mr & Mrs C Halliwell

**Location:** 24 Rose Street, Liverpool. L25 7SN

**Application No:** 16H/0994 21-April-2016

**Proposal:** To retain boundary fencing on Out Lane boundary

**Applicant:** Mr Peter Taylor-Byrne

**Location:** The Rookings, Out Lane, Liverpool, L25 5NN

**Application No:** 16H/1125 03-April-2016

**Proposal:** To erect first floor extensions in connection with conversion of property into 2 storey dwelling.

**Applicant:** Mr Damien Brickland

**Location:** 391 Woolton Road, Liverpool, L25 4SX

**Application No:** 16F/1267 20-May-2016

**Proposal:** To vary condition 2 attached to 15F/1623 (To extend existing vacant office in connection with conversion into 2 storey dwelling house and to erect 6 dwellings with associated parking and landscaping following demolition of out building) so as to include pitched roof at 13A, install canopy, install roof lights to front and rear and minor changes to window at front

**Applicant:** Bespoke Construction Ltd

**Location:** 13A Quarry Street, Liverpool, L25 6EY

**Application No:** 16H/1524 10-June-2016

**Proposal:** To erect single storey extension and orangery to the rear, two storey extension above existing room

**Applicant:** Mr Vinay Shanker

**Location:** 43 Bower Road, Liverpool, L25 4RG

**Application No:** 16F/1431 03-June-2016

**Proposal:** To change use from Sui-Generis to (A4) drinking establishment

**Applicant:** Mr & Mrs Doyle

**Location:** 12 Woolton Street, Liverpool, L25 5JA

**Application No:** 16H/1430 03-June-2016

**Proposal:** To erect single storey extension to the rear

**Applicant:** Mrs Lynn Haime

**Location:** 30 Reservoir Road, Liverpool, L25 6HR



**Application No:** 16F/1161 09-May-2016

**Proposal:** To erect 2 storey dwellinghouse following demolition of existing dwelling.

**Applicant:** Mr Deane Arslanian

**Location:** 389 Woolton Road, Liverpool, L25 4SX

**Application No:** 16H/1472 07-June-2016

**Proposal:** To erect infill extension to the rear, Replace flat roof on existing extension with pitched and roof lights

**Applicant:** Mr Colin Staunton

**Location:** 138 Quarry Street, Liverpool, L25 6HQ

## *Woolton News*

### **Woolton in Bloom**

WIB hosted the Open Gardens event on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, which was very successful despite the weather. Nine gardens plus the Menlove Allotments were open to view, with hundreds of visitors taking advantage of the opportunity to see what are usually private gardens. This is a very popular event, with the next Open Gardens planned for 2018.

The WIB calendar for 2017 will have as its theme Open Gardens, & will feature views from each garden, plus the allotments. It will be on sale later in the year.

As WIB receives no financial aid from the council, every penny has to be raised by fundraising. The money raised on this weekend will be used to pay for the magnificent planting which has made the village so beautiful in recent years.

### **Ticket to Read**

Woolton's free community library is open on Mondays & Wednesdays, 1.30 to 4pm at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road. Many new books have been bought recently, & there is a wide selection of large print & audio books too.

TTR now has Tea & Tales reading group, which meets on Mondays from 1.30 to 2.30 at the SPC. All are welcome to attend this relaxed & friendly group.

The Midsummer Celebration will be on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July** from 7.30 to 10.30 at St Peter's Hall on Church Road. There will be music, songs & poetry, with tickets priced at £8.50 which includes a buffet. A bar is also available. Tickets from TTR, or at The Hub at the SPC, or on the night at the door. All welcome.

TTR will be trying out a Saturday opening from September, with the Simon Peter centre open from 10.30 to 12.30 from **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

We urge our members to support the library, which was set up & staffed by volunteers after the closure of Woolton's own public library some years ago.

### Women's Institute

The WI provided the refreshments for the Open Gardens event, & has been praised for their excellent cakes as well as their organisational skills, as the venue was changed from St Peter's to the Bishops Lodge at very much the last minute. As ever, the WI rose to the challenge magnificently.

The WI now has its regular monthly meetings at The Quarry, formerly the British Legion, on the first Tuesday on the month, at 7.30pm. The various groups, such as the quiz night, craft & natter & the walking group meet later in the month.

### Friends of Reynolds Park

Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice will be performed in the park at 2pm on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July** with FORP providing the refreshments.

There will be a clean up day in the park on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. For times see the notice board near the Church Road entrance.

The next meetings will be on **Wednesdays 13<sup>th</sup> July & 14<sup>th</sup> September**, 7pm in the coffee shop at Tesco. All welcome.

### Wavertree Society: trip to the Potteries Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Woolton Society members are invited to take part in The Wavertree Society's outing to the Staffordshire Potteries on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**. The Potteries Heritage Society has put together an excellent programme of visits and guided walks, including various heritage/ regeneration projects in Longton and Stoke-on-Trent: Hudson & Middleton Pottery, the Longton Memory Exhibition site, B-Arts, Pilgrim's Pit and the canal, with time for independent exploration/ shopping.

The coach will pick up in Gateacre Brow (Black Bull) at 8.45 a.m. Tickets (price £15 a head, cheques payable to The Wavertree Society) are available from Mike Chitty, 16 Chartmount Way, Gateacre L25 5LB. Please phone Mike on 0151 428 7801 for further details.

### Dunbabin Allotments Open Day

Although out of our area, we know of several WS members who have an allotment at the Dunbabin site. The open day will be held on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August** from 2pm. There are prizes for the choicest soft fruit, flowers & vegetables, & a chance to see the plot which has won the accolade of *Best in City* several times, which is an example to us all. Entrance to the allotments is from Beauclair Drive or Woolton Road, both gates adjacent to the King David schools.



*The picture featured in issue 338(left) is of the window depicting St George & the dragon. It was taken in St George's Hall at the time of the Merseyside Big History Event in April.*