

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 45 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



Potholes and debris on Church Road – 2 April 2018 (see report page 4)

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Society News

Anthony Moscardini 1925-2018

Tony Moscardini, who died in January aged 93, was a well-known figure in Woolton. Born in Campbelltown, Scotland, to Italian parents, he attended Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow School of Architecture and Strathclyde University. He worked in private practice, local government, the New Towns and for the Planning Inspectorate. Tony was a committee member of the Woolton Society for many years, & served as environment secretary utilising his years of experience in town planning and the built environment. He was also a very accomplished artist and illustrator with a distinctive style and he wrote and illustrated books on the notable buildings in the city centre and Woolton & Gateacre. His books are:

Liverpool City Centre Architecture and Design: an urban design sketchbook. 2008 Liverpool: The Bluecoat Press.

Woolton and Gateacre: Architecture and Heritage. 2007 Liverpool: The Bluecoat Press.

Sadly, these excellent works are currently out of print but are still available on Amazon.

He generously allowed the use of some of his images in prints & notelets to benefit Woolton in Bloom. Late last year Tony was in discussion with the Woolton Society about using some of his illustrations of Woolton landmarks in a pamphlet. It is hoped that this will be issued later in the year. Tony will be much missed by his family & many friends & Liverpool & in Scotland. See page eight for examples of Tony's work for Woolton in Bloom.

Talk of March 21st

The speaker advertised for March was unwell, & so unable to give her planned talk. Fortunately Stuart Rimmer had been pencilled in for 2019 & was able to step in at short notice. This was a most enjoyable & informative evening, with a large audience for Stuart's talk on the old pubs of Woolton. The Quarry Street area had once been home to dozens of pubs, some only beer houses in front rooms, giving refreshment to the workers in the fields & quarries. There were also many other pubs & beer houses in the village, & several breweries to supply them. Stuart brought copies of his book of the same name which proved to be very popular. Those unable to purchase the book on the night should try Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street, or signed copies can be ordered on Stuart's website www.oldinnsofwoolton.com The book will also be on sale at future talks & on the market stall.

Dates for your diary, talks & events from April to November

Wednesday 18th April, 7.30pm at the Village Club. Carole Codd: Anecdotes of a Liverpool Registrar. Mrs Codd is a retired registrar, & a well-known local speaker. She will be speaking on the many amusing happenings in her life as a registrar of births, marriages & deaths.

Tuesday 8th May, at 4.30pm visit to St Julie's school. There are a few places left for the tour of the school, so please sign up at the April talk if interested in being shown around the new buildings by the head teacher Tim Alderman.

Wednesday 16th May, 7.30pm at the Village Club. Quiz Night. All members are invited to come along to pit your wits in the society's general knowledge quiz. There will be (very small) prizes!

Wednesday 20th June, 7.30pm at the Village Club. Poppy Learman of Liverpool Museum will be speaking on Galkoff's & the secret life of Pembroke Place.

Sunday 15th July, at 2pm. Following the talk in February on the battle of the Atlantic, a visit has been arranged to the Western Approaches war rooms in central Liverpool. We can have a maximum

of 20 people in the group for this visit which, because of the layout of the building, is not suitable for anyone with mobility problems. Please sign up at the talk in April. The cost will be £9 per person, payable when booking.

Wednesday 19th September, 7.30pm at the Village Club. Major Graham Longmore of the Salvation Army: The Strawberry Field Project.

Thursday 18th October, 3pm at St Mary's hall. Dr Janet Hollinshead & Paul Wilkie: Woolton Convalescent Home.

Wednesday 21st November, 7.30pm at the Village Club. 46th Annual General Meeting.

Fuller details of all events will be in newsletters 347 & 348, on the noticeboard beside the former HSBC bank, on the website www.wooltonociety.org.uk & e-mail reminders sent to members.

Please note that the talks start promptly at 7.30pm, or 3pm if held in St Mary's. Latecomers may find themselves without a seat!

Environment, Planning News & Applications

Public Inquiry, Glenacres/Byron Court footpath

As detailed in recent newsletters, the public inquiry into the issue began on Tuesday 27th March. The chairman was Martin Elliott, a specialist Rights of Way inspector.

Evidence was heard from representatives from Liverpool City Council, & the Woolton & Gateacre societies, who support the proposed right of way, & Byron Court Management Company who are objecting to it.

The first day & a half of the inquiry were taken up with submissions from the City Council, & witnesses from the Woolton & Gateacre Societies. They argued the case for the order that will add the Glenacres/Byron Court path to the definitive map of public rights of way. The case was based on the use that has been made of the path over the past forty years, the references that were made to it by planning officers in 1984 & 2000, the absence of signage which the landowners should have posted if they did not want it to become a right of way, & the ownership of the land.

All the witnesses were cross examined by the representative of Byron Court Management Company, who seemed to imply that support for the right of way was a conspiracy hatched by the Woolton & Gateacre Societies, rather than their own views.

On the afternoon of the second day & the morning of the third day submissions were heard from those objecting to the right of way. Allegations were made of anti-social behaviour, which the inspector had already ruled was not relevant to the enquiry.

Much discussion was on the nature of the chain & bollard barrier, & also of the statement in 1979 by the matron of Acrefield Bank care home, that "there is no public footpath through Acrefield Bank grounds". This was reported in Woolton Society newsletter issue 39 in September 1979 & was taken as a certified fact, although concerns were raised at the inquiry as to the matron's authority to pronounce on this matter. It would seem that her employers, Liverpool City Council, were content for the path to be treated as a public right of way.

Scrutiny of back numbers of the newsletter in the possession of the Woolton Society has discovered that in issue 42 dated December 1979 a report on Glenacres states "Mr Stenson of the Planning Department confirmed that the plans of the Albert Bros. Development include a footpath through from Woolton Park to Acrefield Road." There is no report of any Woolton Society opposition to this plan.

The inquiry was adjourned on the third day for further documentation on the head lease to be provided by the Byron Court Management Company. This is a crucial document as, if found, it would confirm that BCMC are the owners of the land. The Council's case is that BCMC are not the owners of the land over which the path crosses, & so have no legal power to prevent its use as a right of way. Indeed, the owner of the freehold, Hayne Securities Ltd do not object to the order, & have shown no interest in preventing the path from becoming established as a right of way.

The inquiry will be resumed on **Friday 13th April** when closing submissions will be heard from both parties. The inspector will then consider the evidence before publishing his decision, which will probably take several weeks. Members of the Woolton & Gateacre societies will be kept informed of all information as we hear it.

Road maintenance and Church Road resurfacing

As you will be aware, the state of the roads in the city is, in many cases, extremely poor with road surfaces breaking up and large potholes appearing both on main roads and side roads. The recent frosts have not helped matters and many roads are now in an extremely poor state, and in some cases, downright dangerous condition. How the city council maintains public liability insurance for these roads is a mystery!

Just about the worst road in the Woolton area is Church Road. The last time Church Road was resurfaced was in the 1960's, *a half a century ago* and the road surface is a patchwork of repairs of varying quality. In April last year, Woolton society officers were accompanied by Cllr. Alice Bennett looking at traffic issues and the state of the road surface. Cllr. Bennett took pictures of the potholes and forwarded them to the city's highways dept. after which some temporary repairs took place.

Residents of Church Road were notified last December that the roadway would be resurfaced before the end of the financial year. This date has now come & gone, with no sign of any work on the road, or any notification to residents.

As shown by the image on page one, much of Church Road is now disintegrating, with the surface peppered with potholes and detritus from the breaking up of the surface. It is also a busy road, used by buses & tourist charabancs, as well as those using the schools & churches.

All the local councillors report that they have been pressing for the work to be carried out so it is to be hoped that this happens sooner rather than later. Quarry Street, much of Woolton Hill Road/Druids Cross Road & Reservoir Road were all resurfaced a few years ago, so why the delay? Do we have to wait for a serious accident before anything is done?

Pavement Parking

As members may have heard, the Department for Transport (DfT) is considering the issue of vehicles parking on pedestrian pavements. Currently the law in London is that it is a fixed penalty offence to park on the pavement unless it is a designated and marked out parking bay. As a result, no-one in London parks with even one wheel on the kerb as they know that they will return to a ticket! The DfT is considering whether this ban on pavement parking should be extended to England and Wales in general.

From "The Times" 4 April 2018: *'Motorists face fines of up to £70 for parking on pavements under rules designed to declutter the roadside. The Department for Transport (DfT) said it was considering an overhaul of traffic laws to prevent vehicles from blocking paths and causing difficulties for wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and blind pedestrians. It could allow councils to make it illegal to park on the kerb unless they expressly grant permission, potentially landing offenders with fines of £50 or £70.'*

The move would bring the rest of England into line with London, which has had an all-out ban on pavement parking for more than 40 years. Local councils have long pushed for the change, saying it was a "nonsense" that those outside London were treated differently.'

Here is the current guidance from Merseyside Police:



"It is an offence to drive on to a pavement and an offence to cause obstruction to other road users, including pedestrians.

Vehicles causing obstruction may be issued with a fixed penalty notice and in some cases removed at the owner's expense.



Drivers are asked to have regard to pedestrians, particularly pram and wheelchair users and those who are disabled and partially sighted when parking their vehicles."

Building work in the village

The former HSBC bank is currently being converted into a branch of Crust, a pizza & pasta parlour. The rooms above the bank are undergoing conversion into apartments, hence the scaffolding around the building. Unfortunately, this scaffolding is blocking the society's notice board so that the door cannot be opened. We have been assured that the scaffolding will be removed very soon, enabling the society to renew the notices, providing information on the programme of events from April to July. The former Lloyds chemist shop is being decorated, & will open as a branch of Specsavers opticians later in the year.

Woolton Hall: from our archives

A report about Woolton Hall could be in every newsletter, but it would always consist of the same statement: nothing new to report. As the hall's owners continue to ignore every representation from the Woolton Society & the local councillors there follows an article from issue 28 of the newsletter, dated July 1978. This is the notice which advertised the hall for sale.

GOING FOR A SONG?

Own your own stately home for around £10,000. That's the offer currently being made by the owners of Woolton Hall, the last surviving Adam house in the old Lancashire county.

The mansion, on Speke Road, Woolton, Liverpool, has come on to the market & is available for residential or institutional use. It is an impressive Grade 1 listed building - only a small percentage of the country's listed buildings are in this top category.

Although the house dates from 1704 it was enlarged & refronted by Robert Adam in the 1770s. The main Adam front has a slight break forward at each end & there are circular sculpted plaques between ground & first floor windows. The north east front is retained from the earlier period.

The interior boasts fine original ironwork on the staircase which has a mahogany handrail, & there are good mahogany doors. Some of the ground floor rooms have fine panelling & good plaster ceiling work.

The mansion, built on three storeys, has six principal rooms on the ground floor with large cellars beneath; five main rooms on the first floor & eight rooms on the second floor.

It stands in an elevated position with a backcloth of woodland & extensive views to the east. Between one & one & a half acres of land are included. The hall is featured in the quarterly list of historic buildings for sale or to let, which is published by the Department of the Environment's Historic Building Bureau, 25 Savile Row, London W1.

Recent planning applications of note

Please note, the development description is the one provided by the applicant/agent and is subject to change by a Planning Officer when the application is validated. You can check the progress of each application online using the Planning Explorer at:

<http://liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/>

Application Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
18F/0457	St Julies Catholic High School Speke Road Woolton L25 7TN	To demolish buildings and structures and infill of exposed link elevation.	REGISTERED	22-02-2018	
11F/1297	2 Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To erect 2 storey dwelling house following demolition of existing dwelling. (Amended Plans Received)	REGISTERED	26-02-2018	
18H/0524	23 Baroncroft Road Liverpool L25 6ED	To erect part two storey/part single storey extension to side and rear, dormer extension to rear, new pitched roof over garage, porch to front and layout hardstanding to front	REGISTERED	09-03-2018	
18F/0271	12 Speke Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7TL	To erect two storey office building following demolition of vacant shop and carry out alterations to outbuilding and wall to front	REGISTERED	14-03-2018	

Woolton News

Ticket to Read

The trustees of Ticket to Read have taken the difficult decision to begin the closure process of the community library which has been open for five years, a year after the closure of the council library in 2012. Although thousands of people signed the petitions to keep the library open, this has not translated into active support for TtR, & constant fundraising has been the norm. A grant from Woolton Educational & Recreational Trust has enabled the trustees to buy hundreds of new books over the years, but the rent cannot be paid with this money hence the need for fundraising. There has been no help of any kind from the council in all this time.

The library will remain open for the next few months while decisions are made about the stock & winding down begins. Ticket to Read has been run entirely by volunteers for the past five years, & all the organisation has fallen upon Ron & June Travis who are to be commended for their huge efforts. If a benefactor should be reading this now, able to provide premises & willing to take on the organisation, please step forward as soon as possible.

In the meantime the library will be open as usual, from 1.30 to 4pm on Mondays & Wednesdays in the Simon Peter Centre.

Woolton in Bloom

WIB will be holding their very popular Open Gardens event on **Sunday 8th July**, centred on the Bishops Lodge in Woolton Park. Eight gardens will be open under the scheme, plus the walled garden of Reynolds Park, with full details printed in the programme. These are now available, priced at £5. Programmes can be obtained at the WIB stall at the monthly farmers market, at Ticket to Read on Mondays, or at Brown's Newsagent on Woolton Street.

Spring planting is under way, with volunteers always needed, & not just for horticultural jobs. Vital tasks such as maintaining & painting the planters & litter picking are always necessary. Enquire at the farmers market stall for further details.

Friends of Reynolds Park

A planting day is planned for **Friday 18th May**, with preparation days held on the mornings of **28th April, & 5th & 12th May**. Pupils from SFX school have been growing plants from seed to aid this project. All volunteers would be welcome.

Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* will be performed in the walled garden on the afternoons of **Saturday 30th June** and **Sunday 1st July**. Both performances will be starting at 2pm. Prices will be confirmed nearer the date.

FORP will be taking part in the Woolton in Bloom Open Gardens day on **Sunday 8th July**, from 12 noon to 5p.m. though as a public park there will of course be no charge to enter the walled garden. Programmes for the event will be on sale there, with volunteers providing information on the park's history & many varied plants.

FORP meetings are held in the Woolton Tesco Coffee Shop on **May 9th, September 12th and November 14th**; all Wednesdays at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

FORP can now be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk
www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark
www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

Gateacre Society talk

The Gateacre Society has a full programme of talks which are open to all. On **Monday 21st May** their speaker will be Dr Andrew Zsigmond, who will be speaking on his escape from the revolution in Hungary in 1956. Dr Zsigmond gave this talk to an enthralled Woolton Society audience last July. Many members have since expressed regret that they missed the talk, or would love to hear it again. The talk will be held at Gateacre Chapel, on Gateacre Brow, starting at 7.30pm. The talk is free, but donations to the Gateacre Society are welcome.

Below are two of Tony Moscardini's illustration for Woolton in Bloom.

