

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk

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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 46 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



Commemorative wall plaque (see item on page 3)

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Society News

Councillor Alice Bennett, an apology

Our sincere apologies to Councillor Bennett, who was mis-named in the last issue of the newsletter. This was an especially heinous mistake as she is a long-standing member of the Woolton Society, & has lived in the village for many years. Councillor Bennett has special responsibility for listed buildings in the city, & has always supported the WS in its aim to preserve the integrity of the village.

Proof reading efforts will be redoubled in future.

Recent talks

The speaker on March 20th was Robert Owen, who gave a very well received talk on his period of office as High Sheriff of Liverpool. This was both entertaining & informative, as few in the audience had very much knowledge of this ancient & honorary role. We heard of meeting dignitaries as the Queen's representative, dressed in his official uniform complete with sword & spurs, which we now know are very difficult to walk in, especially when tackling stairs. We also heard of his selection by the Queen, using a bodkin to pierce the vellum scroll with his name on. The bodkin's first user was Queen Elizabeth 1, so a very real link with history. Robert has now completed his term of office as High Sheriff, & is the current Deputy Lord Lieutenant, so we hope to hear from him again on his further experiences.

The first talk of 2019 was on the afternoon of February 21st, when a packed audience heard Rob Kirby speak on the development of the AVRO Manchester, the legend behind the Lancaster bomber. Many visitors attended, attracted by the topic, with Rob making the technical aspects of the development very accessible, appealing to a wide audience. He spoke too of the bravery of the crew members, many of whom lost their lives in bombing raids.

At the close Rob mentioned that he has other talks in his repertoire, including one on the Dam Busters. He was immediately pencilled in by our talks secretary for a spot in 2020.

At the end of his talk Rob was approached by an audience member who asked for help in finding information on a relative, flight lieutenant R.H. McGowan, who was killed on a mission in December 1944. This information has been found, but the audience member left no contact details, & does not appear on our list of members. If she should be reading this report, or if anyone should know of her, please contact the Woolton Society via the website.

Wednesday 17th April, John Hatfield: The Liverpool Overhead Railway

Our next talk will be held on the evening of 17th April at St Mary's hall, beginning promptly at 7.30pm. Local historian John Hatfield will be speaking on the history of Liverpool's much missed Overhead Railway, which connected the dock area until its demolition in 1956. The railway was known as the Dockers' Umbrella, with the demolition, for reasons of structural weakness, being vigorously opposed at the time by loyal users.

Programme of talks & events May to November 2019

Wednesday 15th May at 7.30, Roy Wainwright: Mr Hardman's House

Mr Hardman's house is a National Trust property on Rodney Street in the city centre. It was the home for many years of society photographer Edward Chambre Hardman & his wife Margaret, who lived in a tiny flat on the top floor, above the studios & darkroom. The house has been left as it was at the time of Mr Hardman's death in 1988, with the kitchen cupboards full of tins & packets from the 1940s & 50s, & the studio sets used as dramatic backgrounds for his society portraits still in place.

The National Trust's Roy Wainwright will be speaking on the house's acquisition by the Trust, & the many treasures found there.

Wednesday 19th June at 7.30, Quiz Night

This will be the third quiz night organised by the Woolton Society, with a team of defending champions holding the coveted trophy.

All are welcome to attend, members & non-members, so come along to pit your wits against Woolton's finest. There will be prizes!

Sunday 7th July at 2pm, a guided walk around the Hope Street area will be led by Blue Badge guide Marie Passey. The guided walks are very popular so booking beforehand will be essential. There will be a charge of £5 per person, payable in advance. Bookings will be taken at the talks in April & May, & at the quiz in June.

No talk in August.

Wednesday 18th September at 7.30, a volunteer from The Daniel Adamson Trust will be speaking on the restoration of this venerable steam tug. The Daniel Adamson featured recently in a television programme on canals presented by Prunella Scales & Timothy West.

Thursday 17th October at 3pm, Val Jackson: The Chavasse Family. This talk will be on the many distinguished members of the Chavasse family, such as Bishop Francis, who was Bishop of Liverpool at the foundation of the Anglican cathedral in 1904, as well as his son Noel, Great War hero & double VC.

Val Jackson is archivist at Liverpool cathedral.

Wednesday 20th November at 7.30pm, 47th Annual General Meeting for members, followed by an informal gathering with refreshments provided.

No talks in December 2019 or January 2020.

Fuller details of the Autumn programme will be in newsletters 351 & 352.

All Woolton Society talks are now held in St Mary's hall, off Church Road, starting promptly at 7.30pm, or 3pm for the afternoon talks. St Mary's has its own adjacent car park, step free access to the hall, & disabled toilet facilities.

Non-members are welcome to attend talks, which are all free of charge. Membership forms will be available from committee members.

Plaques for Woolton

Issue 349 carried a report on the society's wish to commission commemorative plaques to mark people & places worthy of note in Woolton. The committee has drawn up a list of possible sites, & it is hoped that the first three of these will be in place this year, if & when all permissions have been granted.

The first tranche of plaques will include two listed buildings, the Mechanics' Institute on St Mary's Street, & the former library on Allerton Road. The third building is on Linkstor Road, the home of the Woolton Wireless Wizard, Edgar Menzies, whose story was related in newsletter 341 from Spring 2017.

Listed buildings permission is currently being sought for the first two, with lengthy forms being completed by the owners & the society before we can proceed.

The plaques will be made by Photocast, a nationally renowned company, based in Speke. This company made the plaque which is next to the society's noticeboard, on the wall of the new Crust

restaurant. It was made in 2013 to mark the centenary of Woolton's incorporation into the City of Liverpool in 1913. An image of the plaque is shown on the front cover of this issue.

At this time no final decision as to the shape & colour of the Woolton Society plaques has been made. Once selected, this will be the house style, & all future plaques will be the same shape & colour.

The plaques will be commissioned & paid for by the Woolton Society, with no cost to the home owners, all of whom are delighted to be taking part in the project.

A progress report will be in issue 351.

Society merchandise & Farmers Markets

The society has two books & five pamphlets to its name now, with several more in preparation. The chairman of the Friends of Reynolds Park group, Geoff Kendall, has finished writing a pamphlet on the history of the park which features many previously unseen photographs. This will be available later in the year. Pamphlets 1 to 5 are on Woolton Hall, Lord Woolton, Hillfoot Villa, Woolton walks, & Woolton convalescent home. In preparation are Woolton walks part 2, with illustrations by the late Tony Moscardini, & The Beatles in Woolton, recording the Fab Four's links with the village. All pamphlets cost £1.

Perhaps a future pamphlet could be a guide to Woolton Society plaques, with a map & fuller details of the historical background to each building.

The History of Much Woolton (£3) & Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral (£5) are on sale at all talks, at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street & also at the Anglican cathedral shop.

Also available are aprons (£12) & tea towels (£4), each with a design of local landmarks.

The Woolton Society aims to take part at the monthly farmers markets held in the village, which we find to be very worthwhile in terms of publicity & sales of our merchandise. However the markets in December & February were cancelled at very short notice after weather warnings, while in March the market was abandoned at 10.15 am as high winds made the stalls dangerous, our apologies to members who looked for us on the day. We hope to have a presence on Saturday 13th April, & Saturday 11th May, weather permitting. When we are present all our books & pamphlets are available, together with membership forms & books sold on behalf of members. These are *The Old Inns, Taverns & Beer Houses of Woolton* (£14) by Stuart Rimmer, who gave a talk on this subject in March 2018, & *Starting Over* (£15) by Charles Roberts, about his friendship with John Lennon. The markets are held on the second Saturday of each month, on Allerton Road in the village, from 8am to 1pm.

From the Archives, an occasional series

The following verbatim extract is from Newsletter 125 from November 1987, showing that controversy surrounding Woolton Manor is not new.

Woolton Manor

You will remember that a Planning Application for permission to use the Manor as a Nursing Home was turned down. This decision has been the subject of an Appeal & we now have the result.

It appears that a new Act (June 1987) has changed the situation, in that whereas under the previous regulations the use as a "Nursing Home" involved a "change of use" now there is technically no "Change of Use" & therefore no Planning Application is required & there is nothing to stop the use of Woolton Manor as a Nursing Home.

You will note that this decision only applies to the smaller 6 acre site on which the Manor stands. The larger 13 acre site for which planning permission for "development" has been applied for, & which was turned down, is still the subject of appeal.

Also in issue 125 were other items of Woolton News:

Cable Television

Merseyside Cablevision Ltd. are applying for a Licence for the installation of cables, some of which will be underground, in South Liverpool.

We propose to comment on the necessity of care being exercised in the Woolton Conservation Area so that our Environment is not subjected to further change.

Sunnybank, Speke Road

Members will already be aware that the Marie Curie Foundation is hoping to build a new & modern Nursing Home on this site. A Planning Application has now been made for the demolition of the present Home on Speke Road. In order that the position can be appreciated, we are informed that the plan is to build the new Home in the gardens below the present buildings &, when that is completed & occupied, the present building will be demolished so leaving an open frontage to Speke Road.

United Reformed Church

We have been consulted about a plan to convert this building into a Nursing Home. It appears that the present building would remain largely unchanged as far as the exterior is concerned & we are co-operating with the Architect on some of the details.

In 1987, before concerns about privacy & data protection were thought of, the names, full addresses & phone numbers of all the Woolton Society's committee members were published. Perhaps some older members will remember the names of the officers & committee of thirty two years ago?

Chairman: Carl Warner

Vice chairman: Rex Ayers

Joint hon. secs: Grace Blundell & Beatrice McKenzie

Hon. treasurer: Gordon Nickson

Committee members: J. Brown, D. Chance, J. Ellison, J. Gnosspeious, L. Hodgetts, N. Jaques, S. Lewis, C. Metcalfe, E. Mooney, W. Whiteside, E. Woolley

Co-opted member: E. Goldsmith

Environment, Planning News & Applications

Byron Court/Glenacres footpath

The long running issue of the wall built across the footpath through the Byron Court/Glenacres site has been reported in newsletters for the past two years. The public inquiry began in March 2018 & continued, with several adjournments, until August.

In December the independent inspector ruled that the path should be added to the official list of Public Rights of Way & so the wall should be demolished. The Byron Court Management Company were given time to appeal the decision.

Mike Cassidy of the city's highways department has now confirmed that the BCMC did not seek a judicial review within the 42 day period allowed, & so have accepted the inspector's decision. The

BCMC have now had a meeting with Mr Cassidy & are in the process of drawing up plans to prevent vehicles from using the footpath, while allowing pedestrian access after a partial demolition of the wall. Once the plans are approved the BCMC will provide quotes for the work, & then hold a meeting to gain the approval of members. Mr Cassidy expects that the work will be completed by the end of April, & so will not serve an enforcement notice upon the BCMC as a completion date has been agreed. However, enforcement measures could be taken if the work is not undertaken within the agreed timetable. That is, the council could demolish the wall & present the bill to the BCMC. It is hoped to show an image of the cleared footpath in issue 351 of the newsletter.

The Woolton Society is grateful to Mike Chitty of the Gateacre Society for providing this information, & for leading the case for the establishment of a public right of way at the inquiry last year.

Land adjacent to Woolton Manor

At the time of going to press no information about planning application 19F/0025 has been received. This is the application by Rushton properties to build a gated community of houses on Green Wedge land at the perimeter of the village.

Members will be notified of any developments.

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. The progress of each application can be checked online using the Planning Explorer at:

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

Application number 19A /0190 08.01.19

Proposal: To replace double sided advertising paper panels with double sided advertising digital panels forming integral part of the shelter.

Location: Bus shelter outside Post Office, 27 Woolton Street, L25 5JD

Applicant: Mrs K.Rowland, 1 Schoolhouse, Second Avenue, Trafford Park Village, Manchester M17 1DZ

Application number: 19F/0247 18.01.19

Proposal: To use dwellinghouse as retail/office (use classes A1/A2) & install new shopfront.

Location: 43 Allerton Road, L25 7RE

Applicant: Mr A. Wakefield, 43 Allerton Road, L25 7RE

Application number: 19H/0392 20.02.19

Proposal: To erect two storey extensions to the rear of both properties, install dormer windows to front of number 33, & carry out external alterations.

Location: 31 & 33 Orient Drive, L25 5NY

Applicant: Mr J. Quirk, 31 Orient Drive, L25 5NY

Application number 19H/0667

05.03.19

Proposal: To erect detached building to the rear, to be used as a gym/games room.

Location: 4 Vyner Road South, L25 3PU

Applicant: Ms B. Baines, 4 Vyner Road South, L25 3PU

Application number: 19F/0751

14.03.19

Proposal: To change use from A1 to A3 at ground floor level & basement. Erect single storey extension to the rear. Retain residential use on first & second floors.

Location: 17 Woolton Street, L25 5NH

Applicant: Buffalo & Tabasco, Mr M. Farouk, 17 Woolton Street, L25 5NH

Application number: 19H/0745

14.03.19

Proposal: To erect single storey extension to the rear, two storey bays to the front. Reconfigure & increase height of roof at first floor level to the side.

Location: Ashfield, Church Road, L25 6DD

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Norton, Ashfield, Church Road, L25 6DD

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

Spring planting is ongoing, with volunteers planting the central reservations on Kings Drive & High Street. The theme is a celebration of the Marie Curie Hospice's 60th anniversary, with blue & yellow the dominant colours. More planting will take place after the daffodils have died down, as these will have to be left in place, with no grass cutting, to ensure a good display in future years.

There will not be an Open Gardens event this year, as it is held bi-annually. For keen garden visitors three of WiB's gardens will be open as part of the National Garden Scheme's programme, together with one other local garden. This will be on **Sunday 14th July**, from 12 noon to 5pm, with £5 giving entrance to all four gardens.

These are Bishops Lodge, on Woolton Park, 71 Manor Road & 231 Speke Road, all featured in the 2019 WiB calendar, as well as 23 Hillside Drive. Refreshments will be available at Bishops Lodge & 23 Hillside Drive. More details can be found in the NGS's Yellow Book, available at garden centres & flower shows as well as online, visit www.ngs.org.uk

WiB's own Open Gardens event will be held next in 2020.

Volunteers are always needed for many tasks: planting, weeding, litter picking & maintenance of the planters. Please ask at the WiB stall at the monthly market.

Every penny raised by volunteers is spent on plants & gardening essentials, as no financial help is provided by the council.

See the Woolton in Bloom website for all the latest news & pictures:

www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom

Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP continues to work with the gardeners to maintain & cherish this lovely little gem of a park. The ground was prepared in the wildflower meadow in mid-March with planting mornings planned for April & May. **Saturday 20th April from 9am, & Saturday 4th May** are the dates to note, with **Saturday 11th May** in case of need.

Future dates to note are **Saturday 6th July** (or possibly 13th, tbc) for an open air production of As You Like It. Reynolds Day will be celebrated on **Saturday 14th September**, with a programme to be confirmed.

FORP's chairman Geoff Kendall has recently finished a very well researched history of the park, with many photographs, which will be printed as a Woolton Society pamphlet & available later in the year. FORP meetings are held in Tesco's coffee shop at 7pm. The next meetings will be on Wednesdays **8th May, 11th August & 13th November**.

FORP can now be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk

www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark

www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

The Great British Spring Clean

The first Spring Clean event will be on **Saturday 6th April** from 10am to 2pm at Reynolds Park. Volunteers will be provided with litterpickers, bags & gloves.

The next event will be held at Woolton Woods on **Saturday 13th April** from 10am until 2pm. Please meet at the High Street entrance, opposite the woods.

The national campaign runs until **23rd April** so if any individual or group wishes to organise a clean-up event please contact Dominic Knowler at bugsliverpool@gmail.com

The Bee Project

Bee ecology walks & talks will soon be advertised on a new Facebook page: The Biodiversity and Urban Greenspace Society (BUGS-Liverpool)

<https://www.facebook.com/BUGSLiverpool/?ref=bookmarks>

Contact Dominic Knowler (details above) for more details.

Songs to Remember at St Mary's

On the last Friday afternoon of each month from 2 to 4pm St Mary's holds an informal friendship group & get together, with songs & music. Those living with memory problems & their carers are particularly welcome.

The dates for Spring & Summer are **26th April, 31st May, 28th June & 26th July**.

Contact the parish secretary on 428 2256 for more details.

Those interested in Songs to Remember may well like to know of the dementia friendly concert to be held at the Philharmonic Hall's Music Room, including works by Mendelssohn, Vivaldi, Debussy & Gershwin. This will be on **Wednesday 5th June** at 1pm. Tickets cost £12.50 which includes tea or coffee on arrival.

Contact the box office on 709 3789 or liverpoolphil.com/get-tickets

The 1918 Club

The next talk given by the 1918 Club will feature Guider Janet Brown speaking on the Guides in the twenty first century on Wednesday 24th April at 12.45pm at The Adelphi hotel.

The speaker on Friday 10th May will be Ian Tabbron, who is interim chief executive of the Shakespeare North Trust. This will also be at the Adelphi, starting at 12.45pm.

For membership details see the website www.the1918club.org.uk or email

The1918club.org@gmail.com