

# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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

**ISSUE NO 351 Summer 2019**

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 47 YEARS



## NEWSLETTER



*Woolton Hall – still standing*



*Wall across official footpath – still standing*

### Newsletter contents in full:

*Society news: pages 2-4*

*Environment &  
planning news: pages 4-6*

*Woolton news: pages 6-8*

# *Society News*

## **Recent talks & events**

The speaker on 17<sup>th</sup> April was local historian John Hatfield, who gave a very informative talk on The Liverpool Overhead Railway. This was a much loved local landmark, known as The Dockers' Umbrella, which connected the dock system until its demolition in 1956. The appreciative audience were shown many unusual & rare photographs & posters of the railway, with a lively question & answer session closing the evening.

The National Trust's Roy Wainwright gave the talk on 15<sup>th</sup> May, speaking on Mr Hardman's House in Rodney Street. This was a fascinating talk, with Roy explaining the technical aspects of some of Mr Hardman's photographs, such as the iconic shot of the Ark Royal seemingly floating over the shipyard at Birkenhead. We also heard of his celebrity clients & active social life, & of the tiny flat on the top floor of the house where Mr & Mrs Hardman lived for many years. Roy is a volunteer room steward at both Rodney Street & Speke Hall, & several audience members were inspired to pick up volunteering forms themselves.

A new team of champions emerged on 19<sup>th</sup> June, at the third annual quiz night. The Layton Ramblers, consisting of members Steve Cropper, John Norton, Ann & Danny Phillips, & Anne & John Paddock won the competition, with The Quarriers, comprising Janet Hollinshead, Marie Passey, Dorothy & Michael Chance coming a close second. There were prizes for the winners & runners up, with the Ramblers also awarded the coveted trophy, theirs to keep until next year. A very enjoyable evening was had by all, with refreshments provided.

## **Guided Walk Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm**

Our next event is a guided walk around the Hope Street area, led by Blue Badge guide Marie Passey. Since the walk was planned the WS has been contacted by society member Bill Taylor, the former President of the Liverpool Medical Institution, which is on the corner of Hope Street & Mount Pleasant. He has offered to open the LMI as part of the tour, & will conduct a tour of the building. This is a rare opportunity to see the building, which is not usually open to the public. This will take in the entrance hall, the library, council room, lecture theatre, stairs, gallery & orthopaedic library. Additionally, he can offer secure car parking at the back of the building from 1.30 to 4.30 to any member needing it on the day. As we go to print there are a few tickets left for this walk, so please contact the WS via the website or on 428 2680 as soon as possible if interested. There is a charge of £5 per person, payable in advance.

Those signed up for the walk will be contacted with details of the meeting place & parking arrangements a few days beforehand.

## ***No talk in August.***

## **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30: The Daniel Adamson**

Peter Johnson & Les Green, volunteers with the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society will be speaking on the restoration of this venerable steam tug, the oldest still afloat. The Daniel Adamson featured recently in a television programme on canals presented by Prunella Scales & Timothy West. WS member & Daniel Adamson volunteer Steve Cropper was able to provide the following invaluable information:

The Danny was rescued from Ellesmere Port in 2004, after being allowed to become a vandalised wreck there, because neither former owners The Manchester Ship Canal Company, nor the museum would fund her restoration. By 2004 the Daniel Adamson was hours away from being towed to

Garston for scrap. Had it not been for the determination of chairman Dan Cross, the Danny would have been lost.

Dan founded the Preservation Society, & bought the vessel for £1. Thousands of hours & fund raising by determined volunteers later, & with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Danny underwent a £3.8m restoration to her current immaculate condition at Lairds in 2015.

For more information visit the website [www.thedanny.co.uk](http://www.thedanny.co.uk)

#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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. The Great War hero & double VC Noel Chavasse was one of his seven children.

Val Jackson is archivist at Liverpool's Anglican cathedral.

Please note that this is an afternoon talk, starting at 3pm in St Mary's hall. Refreshments will be available from 2.45 pm.

#### **Wednesday 20th November at 7.30pm: Annual General Meeting**

This will be the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting for members. The business of the evening will be followed by an informal gathering with refreshments provided.

All members of the Woolton Society are eligible to attend the AGM.

The agenda, & minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> AGM will be in issue 352 of the newsletter, out in Autumn 2019.

### ***No talks in December 2019 or January 2020.***

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.

#### **Programme of talks for 2020**

The programme for next year is being drawn up, & will be published in issue 352 or 353 of the newsletter. One talk already pencilled in will be given by new Woolton Society committee member Rob Kirby, who gave a very well received talk on the AVRO Manchester in February this year. He will be speaking on the Dam Busters raid of May 1943 on a date to be finalised.

#### **Plaques for Woolton**

Issues 349 & 350 carried reports on the society's plan to commission commemorative plaques to mark people & places worthy of note in Woolton.

The first three plaques are intended to be on the home of Woolton's Wireless Wizard, Edgar Menzies, which is on Linkstor Road, on the former library on Allerton Road & the Mechanics' Institute on St Mary's Street.

As the former library & Mechanic's Institute have listed status, listed buildings consent must be obtained before the plaques themselves can be commissioned. The application was submitted in May, & the WS hopes to hear from the planners by the end of July. The plaques will then be made by Photocast, a nationally renowned company, based in Speke.

The plaques will all be circular, & a shade of dark blue known as "Duchess blue". All future plaques will be in this house style, & all will bear the logo of the Woolton Society. (See below for more on the logo).

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.

Progress reports will be in future issues of the newsletter.

### **The Woolton Society Logo**

The current WS logo has been in use since 1997, when it replaced the original which had been used on all newsletters since issue 1 in 1972, & all correspondence. The original logo was a simple design showing the Woolton cross, & was hand drawn on each stencil, probably by the society's founder Janet Gnosspelius herself.

The current logo is an effective but complicated one, showing local landmarks. It has been decided that this design will not show to advantage on the plaques to be commissioned, as simplicity & clarity are vital. The plaques will therefore carry the original logo showing the Woolton cross, & this will be on the masthead of future newsletters from Autumn this year..

### **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 written a 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.

Another pamphlet is being planned which will feature the 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,

It is planned to reprint the tea towels, as they are a popular buy & a steady seller. This will be with a new design, featuring local landmarks.

The markets for this year will be on **July 14<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup> & December 14<sup>th</sup>**. The WS aims to be present, weather permitting, as several markets have been cancelled at short notice recently, as high winds had made the canopies unstable.

## ***Environment, Planning News & Applications***

### **Woolton Hall**

The recent fire at Woolton Hall has made many residents realise that the possibility of losing the only local Grade 1 listed building is a very real one. The present owners cannot be described as good custodians of the property, & so local agencies must act to prevent the hall from further deterioration. Councillor Malcolm Kelly, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for years to save the hall, called a multi-agency meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were the local councillors Barbara Mace, Kris Brown & Mirna Juarez, representatives of the emergency services, several council officers & the Woolton Society chairman.

It was resolved to find a way to protect & preserve the hall, & also the St Gabriel's building at Knolle Park on Church Road. This former convent has been subjected to many acts of vandalism recently, as the building is not secure. A recent change of ownership has not helped council officers to have a constructive dialogue, as planned meetings have not gone ahead, & deadlines for work have not been met.

Further developments will be reported in the newsletter.

### **Byron Court/Glenacres footpath**

The latest instalment of the long running saga of the wall built across the footpath is now unfolding. The issue of the wall built across the footpath through the Byron Court/Glenacres site has been reported in newsletters for the past three 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.

An enforcement order was served in April on the landowner, & on the BCMC to demolish the wall. That time limit has now expired & the wall still stands. Apparently the BCMC cannot find a contractor to do the work, & so have been notified by Mike Cassidy of the Highways Department that the council "will remove the wall & reclaim the costs from Mr George as landowner". This will probably take 4 to 6 weeks to implement.

It has been noted that a fence panel had been removed from beside the wall, through which space it was just about possible for an able bodied & nimble person to scramble. It had been feared that this was the BCMC's answer to the problem of demolition. The company has been notified by Mike Cassidy that this solution is not acceptable "as there was a safety issue in doing so for which they would be liable."

It is hoped that an image of the demolished wall will appear in the next newsletter. A photograph of the wall, showing the missing fence panel to the left, is shown on the cover of this issue.

### ***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/>**

The bulk of recent planning applications in the Woolton L25 area have been for tree works & single storey extensions. Others are:

**19F/0955** 43 Allerton Road: application to use dwelling house as retail (class A1) or office (class A2).

**19F/1009** Bishops Lodge, Woolton Park: to erect new single storey entrance to follow partial demolition of existing glazed extension.

**19A/0834** The Quarry, 47a Allerton Road: application to install halo-lit fascia signage.

However members have contacted the WS over several matters, & we have been awaiting decisions on previous applications. One such is **19F/0025**, made by Rushton Properties. This is the application to build a gated community of prefab-style houses on green wedge land adjacent to Woolton Manor. This was lodged with the planning department, but no decision has yet been made.

The former card shop at 13 Woolton Street has been renamed Nowhere Café, & painted in psychedelic swirls. Many members have commented on the eye-catching colour scheme, the consensus being that it is hideous & completely inappropriate in a conservation area. The planners agree with this sentiment, & are currently in a dialogue with the café's owners which may well result in a repaint.



Camphill Lodge on Hillfoot Avenue is another property which has caused much comment. The extension is completely out of character with the rest of the house, resembling an alien spaceship on the roof of an old building. The extension was built without proper consent, we have been informed, & the owners have now applied for permission retrospectively. This is application **19H/1040**, & should it be refused the extension will have to be demolished.

The Loft at 49a Allerton Road has appealed the latest decision from the planners about their decking & lights, with no further news to report. Also causing concern with decking is The Istanbul Restaurant at 37-39 Allerton Road, application **19F/0871**. It has been noted that the area directly in front of the restaurant premises is owned by the applicant, & is not part of the public pavement.

The Woolton Society spends much time & effort in monitoring the planning applications & handing out brickbats to those who deserve them. One thing we seldom do is to praise those who make an effort to keep to the guidelines for a conservation area, & help to maintain high standards of planning & design.

One such property is that of Woolton Tuition, the former estate agent on Allerton Road, backing on to the Lodes Pond. This is a well maintained building, with signage appropriate to a conservation area, & the owners are commended for their dedication to the planning guidelines.

**Perhaps the Woolton Society should institute an award to all properties which respect the guidelines & do not ignore them completely, as many seem to do?**



## *Woolton News*

### **Woolton in Bloom**

Summer planting is taking place throughout the village, led by Kerry Peacock & her team of volunteers. The keynote colours this year are blue & yellow, the colours of the Marie Curie hospice, as Woolton in Bloom is helping to celebrate their Diamond Anniversary this year.

The hanging baskets have been delivered to local traders, & are now in place, beautifying the village. Residents missing Tommy the soldier, who had been in place on Kings Drive from 2014 to 2018 can now buy postcards with his image. Many comments have been made that Tommy should be a permanent feature of the village, but he was only ever intended as a temporary structure to commemorate the Great War. Those commemorations are now over, & a new structure is in place on the dual carriageway. The postcards showing his image are priced at 75p, & available from the Woolton in Bloom stall at the monthly markets, or at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street (428 2408).

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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom)

### **Friends of Reynolds Park**

The planting of wild flowers in the meadow with the aid of Abbots Lea pupils was very successful. The pupils were enthusiastic & hard working, according to FORP's chairman, & the plants are now well established, thanks to the generous provision of rain recently. Last year's planting is also doing well, again thanks to the wet weather.

The award from the Woolton Educational & Recreational Trust has enabled FORP to plan another two play features in the park. These should have been installed in mid-June, but difficulties with the contractor's vehicle has delayed the project for a few weeks. The play features should be in place soon.

The Liverpool Network Theatre Group will be performing Shakespeare's *As You Like It* in the park on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**. The performances will both be matinees, starting at 2pm, with tickets priced at £10 & £8. Tickets will be available at the gate, or online at TicketSource. Refreshments will be provided by FORP.

Reynolds Day will be celebrated on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**, when a litter pick will be held, & there will be another opportunity to buy English wild daffodil bulbs, both for the flower meadow & to plant at home.

FORP meetings are held in Tesco's coffee shop at 7pm. The next meetings will be on **Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup> September & 13<sup>th</sup> November**.

FORP can now be found online at:

[www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs](https://twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs)

[www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark)

[www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs](https://www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs)

### **Bee walk: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

A bee walk will take place at Reynolds Park, led by Dominic Knower. Those interested should contact him on [bugsliverpool@gmail.com](mailto:bugsliverpool@gmail.com) to reserve a place. The walk will start at 12 noon & will last about two hours. Those wishing more information can also check the facebook page, which has information on bee ecology walks & talks.:

The Biodiversity and Urban Greenspace Society (BUGS-Liverpool)

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

Please note that the walk will be dependent on the weather. Rain will mean a cancellation of the walk, so please contact Dominic for all 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 the remainder of 2019 are **28<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> October & 22<sup>nd</sup> November** which will be the Christmas special tea.

Contact the parish secretary on 428 2256 for more details.

### **High Rise Newsletter**

Issue 15 of the High Rise Newsletter is now available, with interesting reports on the history of the high rise estate, an article on Marie Curie & the establishment in Woolton of the hospice which bears her name, & also Woolton news & views.

High Rise is written & produced by Ron Brown, & is of particular interest to the residents of the tower blocks on Vale Road.

Contact Ron on [sockratees3@yahoo.com](mailto:sockratees3@yahoo.com) to request an email copy.

### **Woolton Community Life**

WCL aims to help those living locally who may be isolated or lonely. It provides support, advice & befriending to those in need of companionship. It was established by local GP Dr George Kuruvilla, who saw the need for befriending services in Woolton.

Those interested in volunteering with WCL should contact them on 07490 572344, or call at St Mary's Presbytery on Church Road.

### **The EU Pebbles campaign**

Local resident Dr Wiebke Rueterjans has contacted the WS & Woolton in Bloom about the European Pebbles campaign, where stones are painted in the European colours.

For further details contact Dr Rueterjans on [wruet3@gmail.com](mailto:wruet3@gmail.com) or EU pebbles campaign #EURocks

### **The Roscoe Lectures**

Liverpool's John Moores University began the Roscoe Lecture series in 1997, their aim being "to tackle contemporary issues through debate".

Over the past twenty two years there have been many distinguished speakers in the programme, as varied as The Dalai Lama, Ken Dodd, Prince Charles, Michael Heseltine & the current Bishop of Liverpool. The next lecture will be on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October**, with Paula Craig MBE. On **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** Sir Henry Globe will be the speaker.

The talks may well be of interest to WS members as they are always stimulating, & free to attend. They are held in either St George's Hall or the Philharmonic Hall, usually at 5pm.

For further information contact the LJMU events page [ljmu.ac/about-us/events](http://ljmu.ac/about-us/events) or register for tickets via [roscoelectures.eventbrite.com](http://roscoelectures.eventbrite.com)