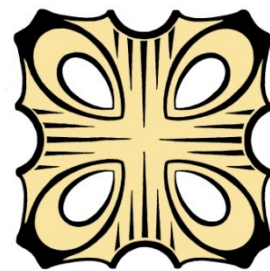


# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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

**ISSUE NO 362 March/April 2022**

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 50 YEARS



## NEWSLETTER



*Woolton Society founder Janet Gnosspeilus (right) with Sylvia Lewis of the Gateacre Society.*

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# *Society News*

## **Talks in February & March**

The programme of talks resumed in February with Dr Janet Hollinshead & Blue Badge guide Marie Passey speaking on the history of Woolton's High Street. This was a very well attended talk, with members impressed by the information & images on display. Our speakers had spent lockdown in researching the village via a daily walk, & the depth of their knowledge was much appreciated. The buildings on High Street were constructed at various times over the nineteenth century & were put to many uses, such as boarding houses a school for young ladies, as well as residences. The lodges for Woolton Hall were also sited on High Street, then the perimeter of the hall's estate & now the centre of the dual carriageway. Marie & Janet were warmly thanked for the talk, which had been followed by an engrossing question & answer session as many High Street residents were present.

It was fourth time lucky for the speaker in March, as the pandemic had caused the cancellation of her talk in 2020 & two in 2021. The wait was worthwhile as Elaine Allen gave a very entertaining talk on the history of the red telephone box. We heard of the many designs for the box, from K1 (K is for kiosk) to K8, as K9 is Dr Who's dog. The talk was full of information such as the iconic K2 design by Giles Gilbert Scott being deemed by the authorities to be too heavy & at £50 too expensive to be widely used. Its use was therefore to be limited to London plus a few other favoured places. A lighter & cheaper model, the K3, was to be used for the rest of the country. No change there then. Mrs Allen told the audience of her holidays scouring the country for rare examples of telephone boxes, & several models as well as many photographs were on display. We heard also of the police phone boxes, large enough to act as a temporary cell, the boxes used by the AA & RAC, & the various colour schemes in use (cream in Hull, grey in conservation areas). Mrs Allen was thanked for a very entertaining evening.

## **The Woolton Society's programme of events for the remainder of 2022**

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm: David Hearn: the first Mersey tunnel.**

The Queensway tunnel was opened by King George V in July 1934. It had cost over £7 million to build & had to cope with cross-river road traffic between Liverpool & Birkenhead until the Kingsway tunnel was opened by the Queen in June 1971. This connected Liverpool with Wallasey. David Hearn gave a very well received talk online in April 2021, speaking on Liverpool's famous skyline & the architects who designed it. His account of the first Mersey tunnel promises to be equally informative.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30: Mike Chitty: the garden suburb story**

Mike Chitty, of the Gateacre & Wavertree societies will be giving an account of the birth of this movement, an example of which is very close to us in Wavertree Garden Suburb.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30: Quiz Night.**

This will be the fourth quiz night, as the event was not held in 2020 or 2021. The defending champions are the Layton Ramblers who won the coveted trophy in June 2019.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at approx. 1.30pm: coach tour to Another Place in Crosby**

More details on page 3

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm: a guided walk. *Off The Beaten Track* in Liverpool**

More details on page 3

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30: Stuart Rimmer: the pubs of Woolton, part 2.**

Stuart Rimmer gave his talk on the pubs of Woolton to a packed audience in March 2018, & sold many copies of his book *The Old Inns & Taverns of Woolton*. A second edition of the book was issued last year, with new additions & illustrations. This promises to be a very interesting & entertaining evening.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm, Rob Kirby: The Atlantic Convoys: 1942 the cruellest year?**

Committee member Rob Kirby is our resident plane buff, with highly praised talks on the Dam Busters raid of 1943 & the AVRO Lancaster given to the society in recent years.

This talk will link three contributions to the war effort from our city: the secret role of the young women at the Western Approaches Command Centre, the emergency CAM ships with a deck mounted catapult firing a single protecting fighter, & the Speke aerodrome based Merchant Ships Fighter Unit which trained the pilots. Rob promises many unseen images of this vital element of the war.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>h</sup> November at 7.30pm: 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society**

All members are invited to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM & the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. Celebrations are planned!

### **Jubilee celebrations**

2022 marks fifty years since the society was founded by local residents & fellow architects Janet Gnosspeilus & Sue Carmichael. Their aim was to prevent the demolition of Woolton Hall by the council, & in this they succeeded, eventually winning Grade 1 listed status for the hall.

Sadly, Janet Gnosspeilus died in 2010, & Sue Carmichael left Woolton to settle in Bristol in 2020. Both remained very active within the society & the community, with Sue working as an architect & committee member, & Janet serving as chairman as well as founding the Gateacre Society, & advising on the foundation of the Wavertree Society. One of the plaques recently commissioned by the WS is to commemorate Janet, with more details in the following item.

There are several events for members planned to mark the anniversary, the first being a coach tour to *Another Place*, also known as The Iron Men, in Crosby. This will be on the afternoon of **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June** & will be aimed at members who would prefer a more relaxed outing than our usual guided walks. The coach will leave from Woolton & travel to Crosby along the waterfront, with Blue Badge guide Marie Passey providing a commentary. After a stop in Crosby (low tide is forecast for 3pm) we will return to Woolton. Refreshments will be provided. Numbers are limited, as the coach seats 48 passengers.

A guided walk will take place on the afternoon of **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July**, with Marie Passey again leading a tour *Off the Beaten Track* around the hidden byways of central Liverpool. This is a more demanding tour than the one in June, & not for those with mobility issues. The tour has a maximum group size of 25, & members should make their own way to central Liverpool. A waiting list will be made, if necessary.

A guided tour of Woolton will take place in September, to coincide with Heritage Weekend. More details in issue 363 of the newsletter.

Please note that all the events are aimed at society members only, & are free to attend. Members are asked to choose either the coach trip or the guided walk in July, not both please, as numbers are limited. Booking will be at the talks in April & May, at the quiz in June, & at the market stall, or by contacting the society by way of the website.

### **Tree Planting**

A tree will be planted in Reynolds Park later this year as a lasting memorial to the fifty years of the society. Permission has been granted by the park operations department, & a suitable site identified with the invaluable assistance of the chief gardener Peter Moss. Peter has advised the planting of a mountain ash, either a *Sorbus aucuparia* or *Sorbus* "Joseph Rock". These would be well suited to the

conditions in the park, & should thrive there. The tree will be purchased & planted by the society, with the full consent of the council department. More details & pictures will be in newsletters later this year.

### **Plaques Project**

Three new plaques have now been commissioned, & are currently under manufacture at Photocast in Speke. This is a nationally renowned business which also made the three plaques commissioned in 2019.

The three plaques are first to commemorate Dr Charles (Carl) Warner, a GP in the village from 1938 until his retirement in 1984. Dr Warner was a Quaker & a pacifist, but joined up in 1939, serving with the RAMC. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1943 after tending to casualties while under fire at the battle of Alamein. After the war he returned to Woolton, living & working in Woolton House. He was also a founder member of the Woolton Society, chairman in the 1980s & later our first & only president until his death in 2002. The plaque will be on the gable end of Woolton House Medical Centre. As this is a grade 2 listed building, listed buildings consent was necessary before the society could proceed with the project.

The second plaque will be placed on the former home of Janet Gnosspelius in Hightor Road. Janet was the society's co-founder, with Sue Carmichael; she later went on to found the Gateacre Society, & advise the founders of the Wavertree Society. She was an architect by profession, one of the first women to qualify in architecture at Liverpool University in 1948. Janet had a life-long concern for the built environment & was a stickler for accuracy in all matters concerning planning regulations. She served as environment secretary & chairman of the society.

The third plaque is to be affixed to the former court house on Quarry Street, now converted into apartments. The building dates from 1873, & once housed a court room as well as a bridewell & cells, & also accommodation for the police sergeant. Later the building was used as an ambulance training school.

Images of the plaques will be in issue 363, as well as reports of unveiling ceremonies.

The society is still waiting for listed buildings consent for a plaque on the old school house in School Lane which is now in use as a day nursery. The former convent at 45-47 Woolton Street is also under consideration for a plaque. This building, now in apartments, was the home of Cambrai Benedictine nuns, & the subject of Woolton Society pamphlet 7: *Woolton's First Community of Nuns* by Dr Janet Hollinshead.

There will be a pamphlet in due course which will be a guide to all the society's plaques. It will give more information about each person or property, & will include a map giving the location of each plaque.

The Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity provided a grant of nearly £500 for the plaques in 2020; the trustees have been thanked & notified that the grant has contributed to around half of the total cost.

Thanks must also go to Councillor Kris Brown who has contacted the planning department many times on the society's behalf, enquiring about the progress of the listed buildings consent & the granting of permission to plant a tree.

### **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:

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 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 & seven pamphlets on sale, as well as the new 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.

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

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.



***J.E Morphet on the left, Ron Crawford on the right, outside the shop on Woolton Street.***



***Bishop Martin pupils maypole dancing at the Woolton fete in July 1979.***

# *Environment, planning news & applications*

## **Green bin charges**

Residents were notified recently that an annual charge of £40 for the green garden waste bins will apply from April this year. This is not a surprise, as many local authorities charge for this service. It is hoped that there will be an increase in home composting of garden & kitchen waste. However it is more likely that it will result in green waste being put in the purple bins, or worse, an increase in fly tipping.

## **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/>**

The majority of recent applications for the L25 area have been for tree work or for single storey extensions. Others of interest are:

### **22F/0571 & 22L/0647 Barclays, 27 – 29 Allerton Road, L25 7RA**

To carry out external alterations in connection with sub-division of the existing commercial unit into 2 commercial units at ground floor within use Class E (a) – retail, professional services, E (d) indoor sport/recreation, E (e), medical/health services E (g), office/light industrial & a 1 bed C3 apartment at first floor; erect dormer extension & roof lights to rear in connection with conversion of existing first floor apartment & attic space into one 1 bed apartment & one 2 bed apartment & erect a single storey commercial studio unit to the rear with associated bin & cycle storage.

### **22H/0547 50 Castle Street, L25 7SW**

To convert existing garage into habitable accommodation, replace garage door with 2 windows & remove door from front.

### **22H/0459 50 High Street L25 7TF**

To install replacement UPVC windows.

### **22L/0253 & 22A/0255 2a High Street L25 7TE**

To carry out internal & external alterations, make alterations to rear extension & display new signage. To display fascia & hanging & projecting signs.

### **21H/3714 7 The Old Quarry L25 6LF**

To erect a 2 storey extension at side & rear.

### **22F/0131 61 Church Road L25 6DA**

To vary condition 2 attached to **21F/1296** (to erect 1 new dwelling following demolition of 61 Church Road) so as to amend external finishes & materials, internal layout adjustments & addition of solar panels.



# Woolton News

## Woolton in Bloom

The Open Gardens event, not held since 2018, will take place on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**, with a programme giving details of all the gardens, plus a map, available soon. There will be twelve gardens open, with three new to WIB added this year. Admission is via the programme, priced at £5 per person, children free. The programme will be available at the market stall & also at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street. The event will run from 12 noon to 5pm, with refreshments provided by the W.I available at the Bishop's Lodge on Woolton Park.

WIB takes a stall at the markets in the village, fundraising by way of plant sales, a raffle & tombola as no money is received from the council. Those wishing to help with planting, weeding or general tidying up should ask horticultural manager Kerry Peacock at the stall, or speak to any of the volunteers seen about the village.

During lockdown over £100 was raised for WIB by pop up plant sales on Church Road opposite Reynolds Park. We hope that the pop ups will continue this year, so in the summer look out for the stall opposite the park gates.

For more information & pictures go to the WIB site at [www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom](http://www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom)

## Friends of Reynolds Park

The friends have now returned to meeting in person, with all welcome to join the team at the bi-monthly meetings in the coffee shop at the local Tesco.

It is hoped that grants will be available to help maintain the wildflower meadow in the lower field, & also to repair the sundial which is badly cracked & currently fenced off.

There will be a litter pick in the park on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April** from 10.00 to 12 noon. All equipment will be provided by FORP.

The walled garden will be open as part of the Open Gardens scheme on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**. There will be no charge to enter the garden as it is part of a public park, but programmes showing all the gardens open that day will be available.

Reynolds Day will be celebrated on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**, with volunteers in the park.

The next meetings will be held in the coffee shop at Woolton Tesco at 7pm on the following dates:  
**11<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> November**

FORP may be found online at:

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

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

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

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

## St Peter's Church, Church Road

Plans for two new bells for the church were initiated in 2019 but have only recently been fulfilled with St Peter's now having ten bells in the tower. Of the 7,775 church towers in the UK with bells, only 274, now including St Peter's, contain a ring of ten bells.

The pandemic caused all ringing to cease, & it was only in late 2021 that ringing for the Sunday service was able to resume. Friday evening bell ringing practice was restored in January this year.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January St Paul's Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers went to St Peter's when ten ringers successfully rang the first full peal of bells, using a method known as Stedman Caters. This takes three hours & twelve minutes to complete. The event was recorded & broadcast by the BBC, & is still available at [www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00153z6](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00153z6)

St Peter's has a wide variety of events taking place every day at The Hub & the church hall, which were listed in issue 361 of the newsletter.

For more details contact The Hub on 428 6810 or at [www.stpeters-woolton.org.uk](http://www.stpeters-woolton.org.uk)

### **St Mary's Church, Church Road**

The hall at St Mary's hosts many events, with Tai Chi, yoga classes & slimming clubs taking place there, as well as Woolton Society talks.

Afternoon tea & Singalong has now resumed, aimed at those living with dementia & their carers. These sessions are held on the last Friday of each month, from 2pm until 4pm. The next few dates are: **25<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> June and 29<sup>th</sup> July.**

For more details contact the parish office on 428 2256 or at [stmaryswoolton@rcaolp.org.uk](mailto:stmaryswoolton@rcaolp.org.uk)

### **Woolton Community Life**

Founded by local GP George Kuruvilla, WCL aims to alleviate loneliness amongst the solitary or housebound in Woolton. A recent aim is to raise funds for a minibus which would be for community use, enabling the housebound to attend church services or local events.

Those interested in volunteering with WCL should contact them on 07490 572344, or call at St Mary's presbytery adjacent to the church.

### **New business in the village**

The former Barnardo's charity shop on Woolton Street is currently being converted into *Buongiorno, Authentic Italian Deli*. This is good news for the village as too often businesses close only to re-open as offices, beauty premises or coffee shops, all of which we have in abundance. This is an excellent site for a delicatessen, being next door to the Scotch Beef Shop & within a few paces of the Liverpool Cheese Company. The new deli is an offshoot of the shop of the same name in Penny Lane, & is expected to open at some time in April.

### **Clean up days in the village**

The local councillors have formed a new community group named *The Rubbish Friends of Woolton*. This group meets on the last Saturday of each month, at 11am by the Lodes Pond & sets about cleaning up the local area. Dozens of community minded spirits have turned out each month so far, with bin bags & litter pickers being provided by the councillors.

The next dates will be: **26<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> June.**

For more details go to [www.facebook.com/RubbishFriendsofWoolton](http://www.facebook.com/RubbishFriendsofWoolton)

### **Brown's Newsagent**

Brown's on Woolton Street is a long established business, formerly run by WS member Tom Tewkesbury, the son of Doris Brown the original owner. The current proprietor, Michael Bygrave, will be closing the shop temporarily for refurbishment during the school holidays. This will be from **April 11<sup>th</sup>** until reopening on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April**. Newspaper deliveries will continue as usual although the shop will be closed. Please ring Mike on 428 2408 if there are to be any alterations in delivery orders.

### **Woolton Society photo archive**

All the images used in this issue are from the Woolton Society's archives, inherited from Janet Gnosspelius and as far as is known all copyright is with the society.