

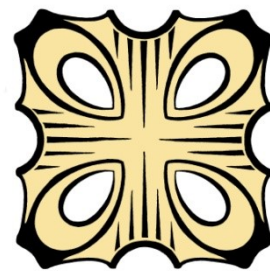
THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

Instagram: @thewooltonsociety

ISSUE NO 366 Spring 2023

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



Spring in Reynolds Park

Newsletter contents:

Society news: pages 2-4

Environment & planning news: pages 4-6

Woolton news: pages 7-8



WS QR code

Society News

Talks in February & March

The year got off to a flying start with two very well attended & fascinating afternoon talks at St Mary's hall, with complimentary refreshments beforehand.

February saw Ken Pye speaking on the neighbouring village of Hale, which has much of historic interest as well as the tale of The Childe of Hale. Few present had previous knowledge of the Duck Hunt, an ancient method of trapping wild fowl, the site of which is still possible to visit on guided tours. In March David Hearn spoke on Liverpool Memorials, guiding us to many previously overlooked commemorations of local people, & one animal, that of Jet the rescue dog awarded the PDSA's Dickin Medal & whose memorial is in the rose garden at Calderstones Park. David left us with a question: *would a memorial to a dentist be a plaque?*

Thanks to Ken Pye & David Hearn for such interesting & well-presented talks.

The Woolton Society's programme of events for the remainder of 2023

Please note that with the clock change to Summer Time, the talks in April, May, June & September will be at 7.30pm on Wednesdays.

Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm: Ron Martin: Liverpool Tramways

Liverpool's last tram ran in 1957. Ron Martin will be remembering the days when these clanking giants ruled the roads, rather than private cars.

Wednesday 17th May at 7.30: Quiz Night

Our fifth annual quiz night will be held at St Mary's, with the reigning champions being The Leyton Ramblers. All are invited to attend, to make up a table of four to challenge the holders, with participants allowed to bring their own refreshments. The new Woolton Society Quiz Cup will be awarded to the winners, & there will be prizes!

Wednesday 21st June at 7.30: Max Steinberg: Such stuff as dreams are made of.

Max Steinberg CBE is chairman of Shakespeare North, & will be speaking on the challenges of establishing & fundraising for a new theatre during the pandemic. The theatre in Prescot opened last year to great acclaim.

Society outings

The very popular society outings return this year, with a coach tour to Port Sunlight, led by Marie Passey, on **Sunday 28th May** & two guided walks on **Sunday 4th June** led by David Hearn.

The coach tour will be subsidised by the society, with members paying a token £5 each, & will be leaving from Woolton Village. There will be a commentary along the way from Marie, up to & including The Wirral & the village of Port Sunlight. There will be time to visit the Lady Lever Gallery while there. David will be running two guided walks on the same day, morning & afternoon, taking members on *A Liverpool Safari*. This will be looking for the many animals in plaques & memorials that can be found in the city. The walking tours will be free to members, with a maximum of fifteen in each group. Those wishing to enrol on any of the tours should sign up at the market on **April 8th**, or at the talk on **April 19th**, or by emailing the membership secretary Jean Bates with your full contact details on membership@wooltonociety.org.uk

Details of times & places to set off will be sent to members well in advance of the dates.

Wednesday 20th September at 7.30: Dave Joy: Liverpool cow keepers.

More details of this talk will be in newsletters 367 & 368

Thursday 19th October at 3pm, Dr Janet Hollinshead: The Nuns' Tale in Woolton

A community of Benedictine nuns arrived in 1795, settling in a house in Woolton Street. The nuns are the subject of Woolton Society pamphlet number 7, written by Dr Hollinshead. The society is now in the process of application for a plaque to be installed on their convent at 45 to 47 Woolton Street. As this is a listed building the process is a lengthy one, but it is hoped that a plaque could be installed later this year.

Wednesday 15th November at 7.30pm: 50th Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society

All members are invited to the AGM, where officers & committee members will be elected for the following year, & accounts presented. Refreshments will be provided after the business of the evening is concluded.

All talks & events are held in St Mary's hall off Church Road. There is an adjacent car park, & step free access to the hall. Bus stops are on Church Road as well as in the village centre.

The Rev. Leicester Drinking Fountain

Rev. Robert Leicester was a local benefactor as well as perpetual curate & later rector of St Peter's church from 1827 to 1875. He established the drinking fountain at the junction of Church & Allerton Roads which was unfortunately badly damaged by a lorry reversing into it some years ago. Rev Leicester was also instrumental in the installation of the *dolphin* lamp in the village, though in fact the dolphins are lions.

The Woolton Society is exploring the possibility of restoring the drinking fountain as part of our anniversary celebrations & would welcome any images of it before it was damaged as it would be very useful to be able to see it in its original form. Any images could be sent to the website www.wooltonociety.org.uk or brought along to any WS event.



This image is of the fountain in its current damaged state.

Memorials to Janet Gnosspelius

An oak tree was planted on High Street's dual carriageway in 2011, to commemorate Woolton Society co-founder Janet Gnosspelius, & also in advance of the society's 40th anniversary the following year. The oak tree is now well established & thriving, & the adjacent memorial has been cleaned recently by volunteers.

It reads: *An English oak planted in 2011 by The Woolton Society in memory of Janet Gnosspelius. Local historian & a founder of the society.*

There is also a plaque on her former house in Hightor Road, which is detailed in WS pamphlet number 8: A Guide to Woolton Society Plaques.

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 8th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 11th & December 9th.

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; 8. A guide to Woolton Society plaques.

All the pamphlets are priced at £1, with numbers 1-3 & 6-7 written by Dr Janet Hollinshead, numbers 4 & 8 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.

Environment, planning news & applications

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/>

22H/0559 & 22L/0567 26 Church Road L25 5JF

To erect part single/part three storey extension to rear elevation of property & erect dormer extension to rear roof plane & carry out internal alterations to property.

22L/3013 & 22F/2994 37 Woolton Street L25 7TG

Replacement timber front & rear sliding sash & casement windows

22F/3009 Woolton Delivery Office 27 Woolton Street L25 5NH

To retain the divided two units & shop front alterations & to continue to use the units as a Post Office & shop with ramp outside the shop for access "Amended description"

23L/0504 & 23H/0493 86 Allerton Road L25 7RQ

To carry out replacement of windows, replacement of single storey flat roof with pitched roof & roof lights & internal alterations.

23H/0341 74 Kings Drive L25 8RH

To erect single storey extension to front & side, incorporating new porch, hip to gable roof to side & rear incorporating loft extension, to install Juliet balcony to rear & 1 roof light at front.

23TC/0075 St James Methodist Church L25 7TE

To carry out tree works in a conservation area.

23H/022527 Greendale Road L25 4RP

To erect dormer window to front, replace existing roof & remove 1 chimney stack.

23H/0236 151 Quarry Street L25 6DY To construct a grasscrete driveway over vacant land at Hillview Gardens, erect new gateposts, gates & boundary fence, & lay out an area of hard standing to the rear of the applicant's property, identified as 151 Quarry Street. This is a resubmission of **22F/0564**

23H/0049 7 Parkwood Road L25 4RJ

To erect single storey extension to rear with hip to gable extension & to install 4 roof lights.

23H/0220 201 Vale Road L25 7SE

To demolish existing sheds at rear, & to erect a single storey extension at side & rear.

23L/0125 The Elephant 1 Woolton Street L25 5NH

To carry out first floor internal alterations including installation of fixed seating & joinery features, removal of existing partitions, kitchen & bar areas, replacement of light & electrical fittings, floor levelling & redecorating.

22H/3367 6 Rose Street L25 7SN

To retain boundary fence at front, side & rear of property.

23F/0126 43 Allerton Road L25 7RE

To erect a single storey rear extension.

23H/0518 Riffel Barn 23A Woolton Park L25 6DR

To erect a single storey extension with flat roof & associated lantern roof lights, & to alter existing 3 windows into dormer windows.

23H/0512 16 Cresttor Road L25 6DW

To erect a double storey side extension, single storey rear extension & porch/garage to the front.

23T/0554 15 Kenilworth Way L25 7XH

To carry out tree works.

23H/0282 3 Mount Park L25 6JW

To erect a two storey extension to incorporate Juliette balconies to first floor, raised terrace to rear, create first floor balcony to front accessed by new French doors, erect chimney to side & insert 2 first floor windows to side.

23F/0436 Salvation Army Training & Visitor Centre 8 Beaconsfield Road L25 6EJ

Full planning permission to lay out pedestal to accommodate 2 interchangeable sculptures with associated access pathways.

22F/3355 22 Woolton Street L25 5JA

To erect basement, conversion of first & second floor flat into 1 bed x 2.

22F/2988 10 Woolton Street L25 5JA

To carry out internal alterations, extend existing premises at Unit 12 into Unit 10 & associated alterations to fenestration in connection with the use of premises as a drink establishment with food provision.

22F/3263 2b Beaconsfield Road L25 6EE

To vary condition 2 attached to **19F/3218** to erect a new dwelling house, so as to make changes to front porch, widening of hipped roof, garage reduced in width & height, insertion of door to side elevation of the garage, changes to the floor plans, removal of cantilevered window on eastern elevation, insertion of staircase window on eastern elevation.

22H/3243 4 Tower Way L25 6EB

To erect 2 storey extension to side, 2 storey extension to front, dormer extensions & Roof lights to front, part 2 storey /part single storey extension at rear incorporating Juliet balconies & create a second floor terraced area.

22F/2994 & 22L/1989 37 Woolton Street L25 7TG

To replace timber front & rear sliding sash & casement windows; to remove internal load bearing wall.

22F/2554 Springhill Runnymede Close L25 5JU

Proposed demolition of existing dwelling house regarding parts of the site & construction of 1 detached house Class C3 with associated landscaping, parking & amended vehicular access.

17L/3238 & 17H/3237 6 Ashton Square L25 7TR

To alter & extend single storey extend single storey extension to side, to carry out internal & external alterations to building & erect replacement boundary wall & new hard landscaping. Amended drawings & supporting information received.

To alter & extend single storey extension to side, carry out internal & external alterations to building & erect new boundary wall & new hard landscaping. Amended drawings & supporting information received.

23NM/0104 26 Bower Road L25 4RQ

Application for non-material amendment to **21H/1348**: to erect a two storey porch extension to front, two storey & single storey extensions to rear, with new main roof incorporating 3 rear dormers, & alterations to the existing two storey side extension, so as to make make changes to windows, roof pitch & width of garage.

Woolton Hall & Picture House

Again, there is nothing positive to report on the cinema or the hall. There has been a recent fire at the hall, in an outbuilding at the rear, with fire engines in attendance. Neighbours report regular break-ins to this supposedly locked & secure mansion, which is the only secular Grade 1 listed building outside the city centre. There is no word from the owners of the hall, or from the cinema owners, who pocketed over £60,000 of public money from the British Film Institute & local fundraising. The cinema closed in March 2020 with no signs of re-opening since then. Liverpool Echo journalist Dan Haygarth has reported to the Woolton Society that the cinema owners have been contacted by the BFI who would like to know their plans, as a condition of the grant is that regular updates on re-opening must be provided. The owner's response is still to come.

Woolton News

Good Friday service

St Mary's, St Peter's & St James' churches will together be holding a Good Friday service in the village at 12 noon by the dolphin lamp. This will be on **Friday 7th April**. All are welcome to this joint service.

Woolton in Bloom

An oak tree has been planted on Kings Drive, very appropriately, to commemorate the King's coronation. This can be found on the grass verge opposite Sainsbury's James Road entrance. A plaque will be installed nearer to the date of the coronation in May.

New planters will be installed in time for the summer planting which makes our village so beautiful. All the work for Woolton in Bloom is carried out by volunteers, with work parties on Wednesdays & Saturdays led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Those wishing to take part should meet at the lock up on High Street, near to the Youth Club, at 10am.

The market stall raises funds for WIB, staffed again by volunteers. The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month, with **April 8th, May 13th, June 10th & July 8th** the next dates. There are plants for sale, as well as a tombola & a raffle. All funds go to WIB as no money is received from the local council.

For more information & pictures go to the WIB site at www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom

Friends of Reynolds Park

A litter pick on Saturday 25th March was well attended, with many volunteers setting to with litter pickers & bin bags. The park is noted for its tidiness, after the litter pick it was even more spick & span than usual.

Well over 200 native wild daffodils, of the type extolled by Wordsworth, have been planted by FORP in the meadow. They are now in full bloom, & a beautiful sight, as shown in the image on the front cover of this issue.

There has been a delay in the repair of the sundial pedestal, but it is hoped that this remedial work will be carried out soon.

New volunteers in the form of SFX pupils have been working in the park as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. They have been deployed in the meadow & also in the butterfly garden beyond the topiary area. SFX pupils also took part in the litter pick on 25th March.

The next FORP meeting will be held in the coffee shop at Woolton Tesco at 7pm on **Wednesday 10th May**. Future meetings will be held on **13th September & 8th November**.

FORP may be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark

www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

Yellow Book Gardens: dates for your diary

The next open gardens event organised by Woolton in Bloom will be held in 2024. However the Yellow Book scheme, organised by National Gardens Scheme will see several Woolton gardens open to view this summer, as well as two in nearby Halewood. Those marked with a * are also open for WIB. Admittance is £5 for all gardens open that day, with free admittance for children.

Sunday 25th June will see these gardens open from 12 noon to 5pm:

4 Hillside Drive L25 5NS*

23 Hillside Drive L25 5NR

Green Ridges, Runnymede Close, L25 5JU*

Sunday 16th July openings from 12 noon to 5pm:

16 Layton Close L25 9NJ*

71 Manor Road L25 8QF*

89 Oakwood Road L26 1XD

6 Ronaldsway L26 0XE

For more details see www.ngs.org.uk

Buongiorno Italian deli

Good news from the excellent deli on Woolton Street as they have opened a coffee shop a few doors along, in addition to the refreshment facilities in the main shop. The owners are now in the process of establishing Italian classes, so for further information ask Carmelo or Kristina at the shop.

Woolton Community Life

WCL, which serves the community with its befriending service is seeking new volunteers urgently. The charity will be sharing the Woolton Society stall at the market on **Saturday 8th April** to advertise itself & give out information. Prospective volunteers could also visit the website on www.wooltoncommunitylife.org.uk or email any enquiries to wooltoncl@gmail.com

Sainsbury's precinct

With the seemingly permanent closure of the back door to the store, much used by pedestrians, anti-social behaviour has been reported to police & councillors in what is now a dark passageway. In the icy weather before Christmas the lights were out for several days, making the pedestrian walkway & steps very treacherous. Distressing too is the news that the Lloyds Pharmacy within the store is about to close. Reportedly, Lloyds has made the decision to close all supermarket branches, so those who have until now had their prescriptions sent direct to Lloyds will now have to transfer to the chemist within Tesco. This will be a loss both to customers & to Sainsbury's.

Clean up days in the village

The Rubbish Friends of Woolton meet at the Lodes Pond at 11am on the last Saturday of each month. Organised by councillors Brown, Kelly & Mace, volunteers are provided with gloves, litter pickers & bin bags.

The next few dates are: **29th April, 27th May, 24th June & 29th July.**

Women of Woolton W.I. (WOW)

The WOW branch of the W.I. celebrated its 10th birthday in March, having been established in 2013. The branch first met at St Peter's hall, moving on The Quarry in the village; now the one hundred members meet in the comfort of Woolton's golf club. WOW is a very active branch, with walking & craft groups, ukulele classes, a book club & a very successful quiz team. President Angela Birkenhead stood down in March after three years of service, with Liz Spencer voted in as the new president with Liz Jones as vice president. Happy birthday to WOW!

Issue 367 of the newsletter will be published in June. Issue 368 will be the AGM issue, out in September.