

# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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



*ISSUE NO: 332 Autumn 2014*

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

## NEWSLETTER

### Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the forty second Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 19th November 2014 at 7.30pm at Woolton Village Club, Allerton Road, Woolton Village, Liverpool L25 7RA.

#### Agenda

1. Notice convening the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the forty first AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
4. Hon. treasurer's report.
5. Chairman's remarks.
6. Election of officers:
  - (a) Chairman
  - (b) Vice-Chairman
  - (c) Hon. Secretary
  - (d) Hon. Treasurer
7. Election of members of the executive committee. (Four of the 10-12 members of the executive committee retire each year under Rule 7. Retiring members are eligible for re-election).
8. Any other business.

**Refreshments will follow the AGM.**

#### **Newsletter contents in full:**

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**Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society held at Woolton Village Club, Allerton Road, Woolton on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 7.30 pm.**

**Attendance:**

**Committee members:** Edith McGlashan in the chair, Paul King (vice-chairman), Henry Stott, Paul Wilkie(acting Hon. Secretary), Charles Davies (Hon. Treasurer), Jean Davies, Jean Bates, Ann Fearon, , Les Baldwin, Brian Watt.

**Members and visitors:** A Hesketh, R Curran, D Chance, V Hicks, P Bates, E Pimblett, A Wilkie, V Stott, R McGorian, S Carmichael, L Hesketh, H Mantle, A Smith, S Sandland, J Soo, M Fulton, M Lowe, P Farside, A Lloyd, K Eitner, C Darnton, I Brown, M Chitty

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documents published in advance in the society's newsletter No 328, together with the year end accounts for the year ended 31 August 2013 distributed at the meeting. The published agenda was then followed.

**1. Notice convening the meeting.** This was read by the chairman.

**2. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were noted from: Meryl Kelbrick, Roger Pointon , Janet Hudson, Eric Toke, V. I. Stern, Hilary Rock-Gormley,

**3. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting** held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and distributed in advance to all members were accepted as a true record, on a show of hands.

**4. The Hon. Treasurers report**

The Hon Treasurer Charles Davies presented the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2012 and commented on some items. Income from subscriptions was up, but the comparison of figures for income with the previous year was distorted by the grant for the reprinting of the "History of Much Woolton" book. Stationery costs were inflated by the inclusion of the cost of the new banner, but despite this, and the cost of the sound system, the accounts showed a pleasing surplus for the year.

**5. Chairman's Remarks.**

In lieu of a personal statement the chairman invited other officers of the committee to give a report for their areas of responsibility. The chairman noted that Roger Pointon had been unable to attend due to illness, and was offering his resignation from the post due to pressure of work.

i) The Hon. Secretary being unable to attend, Paul Wilkie advised that the executive committee had met 5 times during the year. In the same period there have been 3 issues of the Society's newsletter, ably edited by Jean Davies. Thanks are due to all involved in production and distribution of the newsletter. Jean Davies also organised another five excellent talks, attracting very good attendances. During the year the Society have purchased a PA system to ensure that the larger audiences could hear properly, and a video projector has been donated to the Society by Myerscough College. We have also purchased a splendid vinyl banner for the Society, which has been used at a stall on the Farmer's Market to recruit new members and publicise the work of the Society. Additionally, to help communications with members and recruit new members, the Society has launched a website, [www.wooltonociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonociety.org.uk) which is attracting a growing number of visitors. Copies of the reprinted "History of Much Woolton" have been selling well, both from the Farmer's market stall and through Brown's newsagents who have supported the society by selling this since its original publication. There has been some further progress on computerised typing up of draft chapters of the "Quarry Book" by original authors and others, together with recovery and reconciling photographs with appropriate texts. However, the ultimate outcome of this project, regarding publication, remains undecided. Work has also started on transcribing three "Woolton Walks" originally produced by Janet Gnosspelius discussing the history, architecture, and occupants of buildings in Woolton.

2013 marks the centenary of Woolton's incorporation into the city of Liverpool, and as part of the celebration of this the society organised a number of walks around Woolton to coincide with the national Heritage Open Days weekend. One of these walks was based on the "Woolton Walks" previously mentioned led by David Massey and Charles Davies, and there were also a number of Beatles Walks led by Jean Davies. We also took the opportunity to sell copies of the "History of Much Woolton", and recruit new members, with considerable success.

(ii) The Environment Secretary, Meryl Kelbrick, was unable to attend. In her absence Paul King gave a brief report. He noted that she was tendering her resignation from the post, and expressed

the thanks of the society for the work she had done. This was unanimously supported by those present.

A successful campaign was conducted by the Society in conjunction with the Friends of Reynolds Park to oppose Council plans to dispose of part of the Park as a garden for the Lodge which was to be sold as a private residence. The council have agreed to review this decision.

The committee were also invited to a meeting with the architects and developers of the proposed development in Church Road South, to provide the Society's input on the scheme. From the floor Chris Darnton reported that a planning application had been lodged that day, and he had been advised that the application would be opposed by local councillors.

Another cause of concern is the application for additional classrooms for Abbot's Lea and Palmerston which has been approved. Whilst the Society is not opposed to this development, we are concerned over the lack of mention of the felling of trees which was not covered in applications. This is of particular concern since a number of trees that are going to be felled have Tree Preservation Orders on them. The Society proposes to approach the head of Planning jointly with the Gateacre Society over this matter.

In conclusion Paul King reminded members that they should not leave it to the Society to be their sole voice, if they had a complaint they should make it individually as well as through the Society to give more strength to the opposition. Paul Wilkie pointed out that there was a link to the Council Planning Applications on the Society's website.

iii) The Membership Secretary Jean Bates reported that membership had grown from 191 paid members at the last AGM to a current total of 236, a total just short of the highest for 6 years. More people are going over to receiving the newsletter by email which aids distribution. There was a question from the floor about the email address used for the distribution of the newsletter, to which Jean Bates replied that since the launch of the website, they would always come from a wooltonsociety.org.uk address.

## **6. Election of officers.**

Chairman: The current Chairman, Edith McGlashan, was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Vice-Chairman Paul King offered his resignation, and Henry Stott was duly elected in his place.

Hon. Secretary Roger Pointon offered his resignation, Paul Wilkie had volunteered to take on this role, and was duly elected.

Hon. Treasurer: Charles Davies was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Membership Secretary: The current incumbent, Jean Bates was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Environment Secretary: Meryl Kelbrick offered her resignation. Chris Darnton volunteered to take on this role, and was duly elected.

All the above were proposed, seconded and, there being no other nominations, were duly elected.

## **7. Any other business.**

Congratulations were offered on behalf of the Society to the Woolton in Bloom team for achieving a gold medal in the 2013 Britain in Bloom competition, winning in the National Urban Community category. Congratulations also to Kerry Peacock for her individual Community Champion award (Presented to an individual or individuals who demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to the Britain in Bloom cause in their community.)

Thanks were also offered to those organisations which support the Society: The Village Club for the rooms for the talks, The Elephant who provide a room for committee meetings, and our accountants HBD Accountancy Services LLP.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.30 pm, when the appropriate officers signed the society's accounts.

**Please bring these minutes if you plan to attend the AGM on November 19th.**

# *Society News*

## **St Julie's update/Save Woolton Woods Campaign**

A crowded consultation meeting was held at St Julie's school on 10<sup>th</sup> September, with representatives from several local societies speaking. Many parents of St Julie's pupils were in attendance, naturally arguing that they wanted only the best for their daughters. Unfortunately the Save Woolton Woods campaign was seen by many parents as an attack on St Julie's presence in the village, which is very much not the case, & there were many heated exchanges on this point.

The Woolton Society, WVRA and Save Woolton Woods Campaign support St Julie's School remaining in the village, but there is a serious concern about the Mayor and the City Council plans for Woolton Woods. It is unreasonable and unfair of the Council to attempt to use the school and parents to support it while failing to be completely truthful about its true proposals.

**There is a Liverpool Local Plan which was not mentioned at any of the recent consultations, but which was discussed at a Council meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The report, by the Regeneration, Housing & Sustainability Select Committee, refers to "a need to review Green Belt, Green Space & Greenwedge designations & policies so as to ensure enough land for housing". In other words, no green space in the city is safe.**

Those who are on the Society's e-mail list have already received notice of a meeting to discuss these plans. This will be at St James Church, on Church Road South, at 7pm on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. The Woolton Society, Save Woolton Woods Campaign and Woolton Village Residents Association will be in attendance, & the meeting will be presented by our Environment Secretary Chris Darnton. Invitations will be sent to Mayor Anderson & local Councillors.

We appreciate that this meeting may well be too late for those who receive the paper copy of the newsletter, but we shall update members in future issues, & on our website & notice board.

## **Heritage Open Day, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Heritage Open Day was celebrated in bright sunshine, with the Woolton Society taking part in this national scheme. An architectural heritage walk toured the Village, taking in Woolton Hall, a Grade 1 listed building, & finished with refreshments at The Mechanics' Institute, a 19<sup>th</sup> century building which was renovated by architect & Society member Paul Gregory. Our thanks to Mr & Mrs Gregory for their generous hospitality.

Three Beatles trails left from the Simon Peter Centre, visiting the graves of Eleanor Rigby & George Smith, John Lennon's Uncle George, with whom he lived at Mendips, then on to Strawberry Field & Mendips itself.

All the walks were well attended, with a waiting list for the heritage tour. It was very pleasing to hear such positive comments made about Woolton from the visitors who came from out of town, & many copies of our History of Woolton were sold.

## **Talk of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Robin Riley of The Friends of St James' Gardens gave a fascinating photographic tour of this ancient burial ground, which is adjacent to the Anglican Cathedral. We saw how the Friends had to clear tons of rubbish, including thousands of hypodermic needles & several burned out cars in order to restore the gardens to their former glory. Much work still needs to be done, but with Heritage Lottery Funding the Friends are now able to buy in professional help, such as stone masons who once worked on the cathedral.

We have made provisional arrangements to visit the gardens in the Spring or Summer of 2015, so look out for details in future newsletters.

## **Our next talk, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October: "I Believe in Yesterday", Modern Heritage & The Beatles"**

Dr Donna Jackson, senior lecturer in History at the University of Chester, former Secretary of The Beatles Fan Club & local resident will be speaking on the impact of The Beatles on modern life, & how the Fab Four changed the world, beginning with Woolton.

All our talks are held in Woolton Village Club on Allerton Road, starting at 7.30pm. Talks are free, & open to non-members as well as members.

## **Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Our AGM is being held in November this year, to allow the accountants more time to peruse our books at the end of the financial year. This move is at the suggestion of our late chairman, Edith McGlashan.

We urge all our members to attend the AGM, as with the loss of our chairman in May several significant changes to the committee will have to be attended to.

**Please note that all subscriptions are due in October, with the relevant forms & subscription rates being on pages 7 & 8 of this issue.**

## **Appeal for committee members & volunteers**

All societies need a core of active members, & especially committee members, in order to flourish & move forward. We also need volunteers to deliver the newsletter. The Woolton Society is very active, with talks, outings & campaigns, & so if you feel that you could offer your services in any way please do not be shy but come forward & make yourself known. Apply to committee members, visible at all talks, or ring 428 2680.

## **Farmers Market**

We hope to take a stall at the Woolton Market on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**. This will be an opportunity to renew subs, buy a copy of our History of Woolton & printed tea towels, or to volunteer for committee or delivery duties.

We do not plan to take another stall on the market until Spring 2015, but copies of the History & tea towels are available at Brown's on Woolton Street.

## **From our Archives: Woolton Park Walk**

With the Heritage Open Day walk fresh in our minds, this is a chance to revisit 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1987, when a walk was undertaken around Woolton Park. The report is from issue 120, when the Society's chairman was Dr Carl Warner, & the Bishop of Liverpool was David Sheppard.

*This walk through Woolton Park, with its many Victorian villas & their lodges, was led by Janet Gnosselius & John Dewsnap. The success owed much to the meticulous research that had been done by Janet with Sylvia Lewis, & John Dewsnap regaled us with his wealth of knowledge of Victorian architecture.*

*We started at Hillcroft, where it all began. This house was built in about 1810 & soon after was occupied by James Gore, the stonemason & builder, whose home & workshop it was, & he it was who proceeded to build & develop Woolton Park for the up & coming merchants of the day. It is interesting that the houses in the Church Road half of the Park were built to let, whilst the other half were owner-occupied. We saw the Victorian houses that remain in the Park & then visited Cliff Cottage, peeped into the adjoining quarry, & admired the Reynolds Park lodge at the Church Road entrance.*

*Unhappily, the weather was far from kind, stormy, cold & wet, but none the less a full complement of walkers turned out &, despite the conditions, we all enjoyed a most interesting & enjoyable afternoon. After the rigours of the day it was very pleasant to take a cup of tea with in the warmth & friendly atmosphere of the Bishops Lodge & we are most grateful to the Bishop & Mrs Sheppard for their kindness in inviting us in.*

*We are most fortunate in having such keen researchers & a Victorian expert, all of whom are prepared to share their knowledge & enthusiasm with us .A big thank you to Janet Gnosselius, Sylvia Lewis & John Dewsnap.*

*NOTE This is only the briefest outline of some of the interesting things that have emerged about Woolton Park. A booklet which goes into detail, not only of the houses but also of the Development, Drainage, Water Supply & of the owners & residents who lived there is available. This runs to 48 pages & has been produced by Janet Gnosspelius & Sylvia Lewis. It is on sale at the bargain price of 50p & can be obtained at our meetings or from our Secretaries.*

More extracts from our archives will follow in future issues.

## *Woolton News*

### **Woolton in Bloom**

After judging in the Champion of Champions category on July 31<sup>st</sup>, WIB is now awaiting the results, which will be announced on **October 16<sup>th</sup>** at a ceremony in Bristol. With only five other entrants in this category in the whole of the U.K., Woolton has been greatly honoured to be chosen to represent the North West.

Winter planting will be starting soon, with the red floral display around "Tommy" on King's Drive replaced with white blooms. Watering is now provided by Home Bargains, a generous & long-time supporter of WIB.

The very popular official WIB calendar is now available, & selling faster than hot cakes. The theme is again Woolton Old & New, & features many photographs from the family album of Bea McKenzie, former Society secretary & long-time Woolton resident. There are intriguing images of a traffic free Church Road, Church Road South before the building of St James' church, & also McKenzie's Motors, situated in Allerton Road.

The calendar is priced at £4.50, & available at the WIB stall on farmers' market days, or at Brown's on Woolton Street. Fund raising sales & raffles will be at Sainsbury's & Tesco in the weeks before Christmas.

The Christmas trees & giant tree at the Dolphin lamp will be switched on at a ceremony on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**.

### **Woolton Community Life**

This group, established to combat loneliness in Woolton, will have its official launch on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**, from 3 to 5pm in St Mary's church hall. All Woolton Society members are invited to this event, which will launch the Directory of Services which lists all societies & organisations in this community. The Woolton Society has contributed to the printing costs of the Directory, & will take a stall at the event, alongside representatives from the local churches, & organisations such as the Women's Institute, Ticket To Read & Woolton in Bloom.

Look out for notices nearer to the date, & copies of the Directory in shops & surgeries. The committee hopes also to hand deliver copies to all households in the Village.

### **Ticket To Read**

Woolton's FREE community library is based at The Simon Peter Centre, & is open for business Mondays & Wednesdays 1.30 to 4.30 pm.

It also operates from Linksvie Community Centre on Vale Road on alternate Thursdays from 1.00 to 3.00.

Do go along & support this free service, which was set up after the closure of Woolton Library & is run entirely by volunteers. There is a wide variety of fiction & non-fiction, as well as Large Print & audio books & a section for children.



# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

Registered charity no. 506224

## NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWALS

Subscriptions are due 1st October and rates for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 are as follows, (please tick):

Adult (single)	£6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult (joint)	£9.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pensioner (single)	£4.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pensioner (joint)	£6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student (single)	£4.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (joint)	£6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Note**  
If you already pay by standing order and your details have not changed, there is no need to complete this form; your membership will renew automatically. If your details have changed then complete this form to update your details.

- Method of payment:
- by standing order – form to complete overleaf.
  - by cheque payable to 'The Woolton Society'
  - by cash/cheque at Meetings or Farmers' Market

I/we enclose the sum of £ .....

**Please help the society earn extra money on top of your subscription by competing the Gift Aid form overleaf.**

- I am / we are:  Renewing my / our subscription  
 Joining as a single member / joint members

**Full Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

..... **Post code:** .....

I wish to receive my newsletter by: (please tick one delivery method below):

- Hand delivery  (For members living in the local area who wish to receive a paper copy)
- Royal Mail delivery  (For members who live out of the hand delivery area who wish to receive a paper copy. **Please make sure you have added £3 to your subscription to cover postage.**)
- Email  (Make sure you have completed your email address below)

**Important:** Even if you choose to receive your newsletter by hand delivery or Royal Mail, please could we have your email so that we can keep you in touch with you concerning events and any urgent issues such as the Save Woolton Woods campaign.

Email address: .....

**Please include this form with your payment and send to:**  
The Membership Secretary, The Woolton Society, 11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY  
or hand in at one of our Meetings or at a Woolton Society stall at the Farmers' Market.  
PTO for Gift Aid and Standing Order Forms



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION (for new or amended subscriptions)

To ..... Bank, bank address: .....  
..... postcode: .....

Please pay: Barclays Bank, 29 Allerton Road, Woolton, Liverpool L25 7RD  
sort code no.20-50-82 account no. 50868930,

for the credit of The Woolton Society payment ref no: ..... (for completion by the membership secretary), the sum of £ ..... amount in words: .....  
**initially on receipt of this instruction** and annually on 1<sup>st</sup> October thereafter until further notice.

**PLEASE CANCEL ANY PRE-EXISTING STANDING ORDER TO THE WOOLTON SOCIETY**

Signature: .....

Sort code: ..... Account number: .....

Account Name: .....

Home Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Date: .....

Gift Aid Declaration



The Woolton Society - Registered charity no. 506224

**Please treat all gifts/subscriptions of money that I have made to the Woolton Society in the past 6 years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.**

**Donor's details:** Title ..... First name ..... Surname .....

Home address .....

.....Postcode .....

Date ..... Signature .....

The Woolton Society will be able to reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2008.

**Please notify the Treasurer of The Woolton Society if you:** Want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay tax on your income, pensions or/and capital gains.

**Please note that you must pay an amount of Income Tax (this can be tax on pensions, incomes or savings) and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year**

**If you pay income tax at the higher rate,** you should include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

**Please return these forms to: The Membership Secretary, The Woolton Society, 11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY**