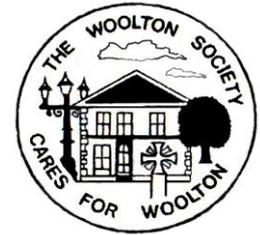


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



The Save Woolton Woods Campaign spells out its opposition to the council's plans for the re-development of St Julie's school.

See page 6 for an update on the St Julie's application.

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Society News

Annual General Meeting of November 2014

At the AGM held on November 19th, the officers & committee for the society for the following year were elected.

Chairman: Jean Davies, **vice chair & secretary:** Paul Wilkie, **treasurer:** Charles Davies, **environment secretary:** Chris Darnton, **membership secretary:** Jean Bates.

Committee members: Les Baldwin, Ann Fearon, John Hibbert, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Janet Hudson, Paul King, Brian Watt

Thanks were given to former Vice chairman Henry Stott who became acting chairman after the loss of Edith McGlashan in May. A minute of silence was held to remember Mrs McGlashan, as well as other former society stalwarts lost recently. These were former vice chairman Rex Ayres, & former secretary Beatrice (Bee) McKenzie.

Yew Trees at St James' Church

The Woolton Society continues to be an environmental watchdog, active in our opposition to acts of civic vandalism. St James Methodist United Reformed Church on Church Road South has illegally destroyed two ancient yew trees that were subject to tree preservation orders (TPOs). Concerned neighbours, led by society environment secretary Chris Darnton found that tree surgeons had arrived at the church on December 17th and were about to fell the two trees. After checking the Council's internet planning explorer to see if there had been an application to fell the trees, they found nothing. However, a report was found, made by the council's tree officer in December 2009 stating that due to the church's previous application to work on these trees being inappropriate they were being made subject to TPOs. Chris Darnton went to the site and spoke to two of the church's estates managers. One informed him that they did not need permission as they were on church property and the other stated that he had spoken to the council that morning and had been given permission to remove the trees. **The managers were shown the letter confirming the preservation orders but chose to ignore it, insisting that they could proceed.** When asked why they wished to get rid of the trees the response was "because they keep some light off the church and the grass does not grow under them". Planning enforcement at Liverpool City Council were contacted who confirmed the status of the trees and that no permission had been granted to carry out any work on them. Planning enforcement then contacted the tree surgeons directly and instructed them to cease all work. By this time the trees had been destroyed, despite vociferous protest from society members, & later the presence of a film crew from BBC news. Chris Darnton & Sue Carmichael were interviewed by the BBC's Andy Gill, & appeared on the North West News programme that evening, making clear & cogent arguments against the work. The following day the council's tree officer again confirmed that he had previously made the trees subject to a preservation order and that no permission had been given to work on them. They also confirmed that it is a criminal offence to destroy trees subject to a TPO, although there is little likelihood that a prosecution will follow. The council has informed the Society that **"there is little purpose in attempting to undertake any legal action against the church in this instance, given that the advice they were given was incorrect"**.

Officials from the planning department have now met with the church to seek to resolve the matter in the most appropriate way, which will see trees back on site. The church has offered to replace the felled yews with 1.5 m saplings, which the Society considers to be an inadequate response. Replacing with trees of a similar size to those mutilated will be extremely expensive but this may well be the price that the church has to pay.

Church Road South now has a very bare look to it with the trees between the back of Barclays & St James' Hall having been cut down. This was on land sold by the Village Club to a Manchester based developer, with a block of flats resembling a Lego brick soon to be built in this conservation area.

Diary Dates & next talks

The programme for Spring & Summer 2015 has been drawn up, with all talks being held in Woolton Village Club on Allerton Road, starting at 7.30pm. For our talks we now have the use of the former

snooker room, which has recently been refurbished. It is downstairs to the right of the entrance hall, which will save everyone from toiling up the stairs.

Dates for your diary are as follows: **March 18th, May 20th, July 15th, September 16th, October 21st, November 18th (AGM).**

Committee members are present at all talks, & from now on will be introduced at the start of the evening so that Society members can approach them with any local concerns.

Our next talk: The history of the Bibby Line.

The speaker will be Christina Spencer, who has worked for Bibby's for 25 years & is their archivist. Before Bibby's Mrs Spencer worked for the German Foreign Office in the Liverpool Consulate General, & was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the equivalent of an MBE in 2005. In 2008 she was made an honorary Scouser by the Lord Mayor for services to the City of Liverpool. Mrs Spencer will be giving an illustrated talk on the Bibby Line, founded in 1807, & which has always had its headquarters in Liverpool up to & including the present day. The line has survived the many ups & downs of nineteenth & twentieth century shipping, & can claim to be the world's largest deep sea shipping company. This will be on **Wednesday 18th March**, at 7.30pm in Woolton Village Club

On **Wednesday 20th May** the talk will be on the conservation of Woolton's stone buildings. This will be given by Society member & historic buildings consultant Peter Lloyd, & will cover the care & preservation of our many sandstone houses & walls.

The talk on **Wednesday 15th July** will be given by Pauline Rushton, Curator of costumes & textiles at Liverpool Museums who will be speaking on Mrs Tinne & her clothes. Mrs Tinne's wardrobe from the first half of the twentieth century has been the subject of an exhibition at the Walker Gallery, & a selection of her clothes are on view at Sudley House in Mossley Hill.

Fuller details of the May & July talks will be in issue 334, on our notice board beside the HSBC bank, & on our website.

Talk of October 15th

Dr Donna Jackson of Chester University was our speaker in October, with modern heritage & the Beatles as her topic. This was a very entertaining & well received talk on how the Beatles changed the world, beginning with Woolton, with a lively question & answer session to follow. As if speaking to the Society was not a career highlight, Dr Jackson appeared on the television quiz programme Pointless a few weeks later, & won.

Subscriptions

All subscriptions to the society were due at the time of the AGM, however there are still many members who have not yet paid for 2014/15. These members will be receiving a reminder from our membership secretary, so please check that your standing orders have gone out & that you have paid the correct amount. The subs are excellent value for money & are as follows:

Adult (single) £6	Adult (joint) £9
Senior/student (single) £4	Senior/student (joint) £6

For those who live outside the hand delivery area please add £3.00 to cover postage charges.

Farmers Market The Society plans to take a stall at the market on **Saturday 14th March**. The stalls are always very successful in terms of attracting new members, & selling copies of our History of Woolton, photographs of old Woolton, & printed tea towels. These are also available at Brown's on Woolton Street as well as at all Society talks.

Heritage Open Days

HOD, organised by English Heritage, will be from 10th to 13th September this year, with many properties not normally open to the public throwing open their doors to visitors. The Liver & Cunard buildings & the Princes Road Synagogue are among the many fine buildings which take part in the scheme.

The Woolton Society plans to take part again on **Saturday 12th September**, with guided walks around the village. Further details will be in your newsletter, & on our notice board & website.

From Our Archives

This is a verbatim extract from issue 91 in October 1984, when the Chairman was John D. Ross. (N.B. All punctuation is as in the original.)

The Changing Character of Woolton Many locals are of the opinion that recent developments will alter the style & character of our village. Following the changing of The Coach & Horses to The Everglades, & the Disco & Pool Room at the Elephant, you will have read of the alteration to The English Rose, & we have now seen plans for "updating" The Coffee House. Alterations are also afoot at The Grapes, The Derby Arms &, although just outside or area, at The Bear & Staff in Gateacre. It is felt that the great financial input by The Breweries on these alterations will attract customers from a wide area of South Liverpool & its surroundings & that it is inevitable that this influx in the evenings & at weekends will cause Noise, Disturbance & possibly Violence. In addition, the change in the appearance of our friendly neighbourhood pubs will detract seriously from the look & feel of the Village.

Lodes pond/Litter We have received a reply from the Director of Recreation & Open Spaces saying that owing to "the current financial situation" they can provide only "basic maintenance".

Presumably "Basic Maintenance" does not include any effort to clear the area of litter. You will have seen the picture in The Liverpool Star showing The Lodes Pond flooded because of its blocked drain, & we are continuing to apply pressure in our efforts to have this onetime pleasant place tidied up.

St George's Hall It is terrible to realise that this - probably Liverpool's most famous building - has been closed. It seems that the City cannot stand the expense of keeping it open now that the Law Courts have been removed to their new accommodation. We are told that the City Fathers are keen to re-open St George's Hall but feel that they cannot do so unless a new use can be found for it. So - if you have any suggestions or bright ideas please let these be known. In the first place, to one of our Officers or a Committee Member.

Issue 91 also included Woolton 60 Years Ago: Further reminiscences of Reg Owen about Woolton in the 1920s, & advertised talks on birds of the Dee estuary, the lifeboat service, & the Annual General Meeting to take place that month.

More extracts from our archives in future issues.

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

Belated congratulations to WIB who were awarded a gold medal at the Champion of Champions ceremony held in Bristol on 16th October. The Britain in Bloom judges were impressed by the beauty & the quality of the planting in the village, & especially by Tommy, the World War One soldier at the centre of the display on Kings Drive. The whole village looked stunning in the summer sunshine during the judges' visit in July, a credit to the WIB team.

Special mention was given to the very high standard of cleanliness in the village, for which we must commend the small army of volunteers who swept & polished in the weeks before the judging.

After their triumph at the awards the WIB committee has decided that although they will continue with their work in the village, they will no longer enter the North West in Bloom or Britain in Bloom competitions. This will no doubt come as a relief to the many other entrants around the country who are used to coming second to Woolton. Many congratulations to the WIB team, led by Kerry Peacock, & long may they keep Woolton blooming.

The WIB official calendar for 2015 has nearly sold out, but a few copies may be found at the WIB stall on Woolton Farmers Market days, or at Brown's on Woolton Street. The theme of *Woolton Old & New* has proved to be very popular, with many of the *old* images taken from the family album of the late Woolton Society member Bee McKenzie. The *new* images were taken by society treasurer Charles Davies.

Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP Chairman Geoff Kendall met with the Mayoral lead for parks Councillor Peter Mitchell recently & together took a tour of the park. Cllr Mitchell was asked about increasing the man hours worked there especially during the summer months, as often Peter the gardener is working alone. The rapidly deteriorating lodge by the Church Road gates, & the Bothy store house, now derelict, were discussed, as well as the many broken litter bins. FORP is awaiting a response.

The Britain in Bloom judges were very complimentary about the Friends group:

"Funding cuts have affected the ability to maintain Reynolds Park to the standard it deserves. It is only due to the dedication & hard work of the Friends group that some degree of quality & interest remains."

On FORP's *Poetree Trail*, tree 12 has been wrongly identified. It was labelled as a tree of heaven, but then produced a crop of walnuts last year! It has now been re-labelled as a black walnut.

FORP plans to hold clean-up days & a planting day in the wildflower meadow later in the year. More details will be on their notice board near the Church Road gates.

The next FORP meeting will be on **Wednesday 11th March**, 7pm in Tesco's coffee shop.

Ticket To Read

TTR will soon be celebrating its second birthday, with tea, coffee & cakes given to browsers on **Monday 9th & Wednesday 11th February**. We urge our members to support this FREE community library, which is open on Mondays & Wednesdays 1.30 to 4.30 in The Simon Peter Centre on Church Road, & also at Linksvie Community Centre on Vale Road, alternate Thursdays 1.00 to 3.00.

All are welcome to browse the large selection of fiction & non-fiction, large print & audio books, but please remember that cakes will be on offer only on the **9th & 11th**.

Woolton Community Life

The opening of WCL on 6th November was a great success, with hundreds of visitors to the grand inauguration, including the Lord Mayor, Councillor Erica Kemp. Cllr Kemp was so impressed by the efforts of the WCL in establishing a network of groups to combat loneliness in Woolton that she has set up a similar operation in her own area. The Woolton Society took a stall at the event, & attracted much interest from visitors & several new members.

The Directory of Services in Woolton has now been hand delivered to 95% of local households. It is also available at The Simon Peter Centre Hub on Church Road, & at St James Church. Copies will be available at all society talks, and on our market stall. WCL is now setting up a friendship network, with volunteers visiting or phoning the lonely or housebound. A phone number for information will soon be published; in the meantime those considering volunteering should consult the information line: info@wooltoncommunitylife.org or via the website: www.wooltoncommunitylife.org.uk

A Tale of Two Teds

Former society chairman Ted Clement-Evans has written a book, "A Tale of Two Teds", based on the diary of his grandfather Edward Jones, who as a builder has a considerable part of the city, including Woolton, to his credit. This is a fascinating read, detailing the working life of a successful builder, and is echoed by the younger Ted's own career. The book is available at Brown's priced at £8.95, & we hope to have copies available at our stall at the farmers market in March.

Planning News and Applications

St Julie's update

A planning application has been now been submitted to re-build St Julie's school including encroachment on the public park at Woolton Woods. **It is vital that as many people object to this application as possible. The application can be found on the Liverpool city council planning explorer under application number 15F/0067.** You can lodge objections directly from the planning website by going into the application and then clicking "add comments here". Alternatively, you can write to the council directly quoting the planning reference number.

Please note that the final date for objections is Thursday 12th February

The land is subject to a covenant that was placed on the land by Col. James Reynolds who bequeathed the land to the people of Liverpool. The council intends to break this covenant. The remainder of the fields are listed in the draft Liverpool Local Plan as being possible sites for residential development. It is feared that this is the real reason why the council wants to encroach on the land and break the covenant now.

There is plenty of space on the current St Julie's site to re-develop the school. However, the rest of the St Julie's site is going to be sold for residential development. With a more reasonable approach by the council to this matter there would be room to redevelop the school on the current site *AND* sell off some of the land to residential development. The council refuses to do this. If people do not object to this development and rely on other people to do it then this area of the public park will be lost for ever.

The following is a summary of planning applications received by the City council since our last planning newsletter. See <http://northgate.liverpool.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer17/GeneralSearch.aspx>

Contact the Society at environment@wooltonociety.org.uk re. planning matters.

Applic. No.	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Regist'd	Decision
15F/0159	HSBC 3 Allerton Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7RB	To replace existing ATM with new	REGISTERED	22-01-2015	
15H/0120	Winster Woolton Park Liverpool L25 6DU	To erect porch to the front and single storey extension to the side	REGISTERED	16-01-2015	
15T/0112	St. James Methodist Church High Street Woolton Village Liverpool L25 7TE	Fell and replant two partially dismantled Yew trees.	REGISTERED	15-01-2015	
15T/0080	Churchfield Church Road Woolton Liverpool L25 6DD	Fell 5 trees and prune 1 Beech	REGISTERED	12-01-2015	
15T/0075	Fernlea 123 Quarry Street and 7 Rock Mount Park Woolton Liverpool	Prune 14 trees	REGISTERED	12-01-2015	
15TC/0074	43 Woolton Street Woolton Village Liverpool L25 7TG	Prune two trees	REGISTERED	12-01-2015	

15L/0072	St Julies Catholic High School Speke Road Liverpool L25 7TN	To carry out alterations to boundary wall in connection with widening of vehicular to Speke Road	REGISTERED	12-01-2015	
15L/0063	Blairlea Lodge Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JG	To undertake works in association with extension to the front, side and rear replacement windows upgrade of services and installation and external works	REGISTERED	09-01-2015	
15F/0067	St Julies Catholic High School Speke Road Liverpool L25 7TN	To erect new school with associated ancillary facilities and widen existing vehicular access to Speke Road and demolish existing school	REGISTERED	09-01-2015	
15H/0053	61 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NU	To erect 2 erect storey side extension first floor rear extension and single storey front extension	REGISTERED	08-01-2015	
15H/0032	Blairlea Lodge Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JG	To erect part single, part 2 storey extensions to front, side and rear replace front windows carry out refurbishment works upgrade services and insulation and external landscaping works	REGISTERED	06-01-2015	
15F/0024	St Francis Xavier's College Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EG	To relocate existing covered muga to tarmac area within school	REGISTERED	06-01-2015	
15H/0007	4 Heath Close Liverpool L25 4TB	To replace timber conservatory with PVC	REGISTERED	05-01-2015	
14H/2916	72 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NX	To erect part single, part two storey extension at side and single storey extension at the rear	REGISTERED	12-12-2014	
14H/2920	Manisty 102 Woolton Hill Road Liverpool L25 4RH	To erect single storey extension and garage at the side (alternative application to 14H/1502 approved)	REGISTERED	12-12-2014	
14F/2914	Land Adjacent to Church Road South Woolton Liverpool L25 7RJ	To vary condition 2 attached to 13F/2556 (To erect 3 storey building incorporating basement car park to provide 8 apartments create new vehicular access and layout hard and soft landscaping) so as to carry out minor design changes	REGISTERED	12-12-2014	
14L/2854	20 Church Road Liverpool L25 5JF	To install hand rails to both sides of front door	REGISTERED	08-12-2014	
14A/2844	Tesco Supermarket Allerton Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7SF	To erect signage in association with use of car park as a hand car wash and valeting service	REGISTERED	08-12-2014	
14F/2842	Tesco Supermarket Allerton Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7SF	To erect freestanding screen, canopy and site office in car park for use a a hand carwash and valeting service	REGISTERED	08-12-2014	
14T/2806	St. Julies Catholic High	Fell 2 Horse Chestnut trees	REGISTERED	02-12-2014	

	School Speke Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7TN				
14T/2742	St. Julies High School Speke Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7TN	Fell one Lime tree	FINAL DECISION	25-11-2014	Approve with Conditions
14L/2710	25 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RA	To erect single storey extension to the rear and carry out internal alterations following demolition of outrigger and yard store to rear	REGISTERED	20-11-2014	
14F/2709	25 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RA	To change use from dwelling to offices (B1) and erect single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	20-11-2014	
14L/2677	25 Allerton Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7RA	To replace 2 UPVC windows with timber frame double glazed windows, and retain works to listed Building 2no. bricked-up doorways in rear and removal of partition wall in storeroom	FINAL DECISION	13-11-2014	Approve with Conditions
14H/2550	Cotswold Woolton Park Liverpool L25 6DR	To erect ground floor extension at front, extend at first floor level and make elevational changes to convert from dormer bungalow to 2 storey dwelling with loft bedrooms	REGISTERED	13-11-2014	
14T/2634	7 Rock Mount Park Liverpool L25 6JL	Fell 3 trees and prune 2 trees	REGISTERED	10-11-2014	
14NM/22 99	Land off Church Road South Liverpool L25	To erect 3 storey building, incorporating basement car park to provide 8 apartments, create new vehicular access and layout hard and soft landscaping.	WITHDRAWN	25-09-2014	Withdrawn
14F/2286	County Court 103 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HB	To convert public house to 6 flats incorporating 3 storey rear extension, dormer extension at rear, single storey extension at rear and associated external alterations	REGISTERED	25-09-2014	
14F/2281	5 - 7 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RA	To vary condition 3 attached to 13F/2917 so as to allow the premises to open between 0830 and 2330 hours Mon-Sat and 0930 and 2330 hours on Sunday	FINAL DECISION	25-09-2014	Approve with Conditions
14F/2191	22 Woolton Street Liverpool L25	To vary condition 8 attached to planning permission 00F/0994 (To use cafe/restaurant and a hot food take away) so as to allow the premises to open on Sunday between 12.30 and 22.00 hours	FINAL DECISION	15-09-2014	Approve with Conditions