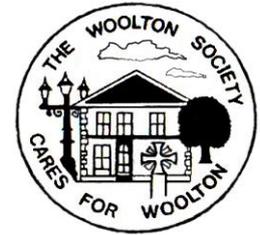


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO:335 Summer 2015

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



Jean Davies, chair of the Woolton Society, and Phil Sykes, Liverpool University librarian holding Pigeon Post, one of the books in the Janet Gnosspelius bequest. Also from left, Charles Davies the society's treasurer and Paul Wilkie the society's secretary and vice-chair.

See page 3 for article on the bequest.

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Society news

Diary Dates & next talks

The next talk will be on **Wednesday 15th July**, when Curator of Costumes at Liverpool Museum, Pauline Rushton will be speaking on Mrs Tinne's wardrobe. Mrs Tinne was a wealthy socialite in pre-war Liverpool who amassed a vast clothes collection. This wardrobe formed the basis of a very successful exhibition at the Walker Gallery a few years ago, with some items still on view at Sudley in Mossley Hill. The talk will be illustrated with images of the collection, & promises to be a fascinating evening.

On **Wednesday 16th September** Diana Goodier will be speaking on The Vikings on Merseyside, & bringing a collection of Norse artefacts.

Wednesday 21st October will see John Boyce taking us on A Walk through Kirkdale.

The Annual General Meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th November**.

All talks & the AGM will be at the Village Club, starting at 7.30pm. Fuller details of the Autumn events will be in issue 336 of the newsletter, & on our website & notice board.

Talk of 20th May: The conservation of Woolton's stone buildings.

Peter Lloyd gave a very well attended & informative talk on the care & conservation of heritage buildings, with particular reference to Woolton. The receptive audience were able to glean many tips on how to care for the stone buildings in our midst.

2016 programme

We have now begun to add dates for 2016, & hope to have a more regular programme of talks than in recent years. We will be keeping to the third Wednesday of each month, taking breaks over the Summer & Christmas periods.

Already pencilled in for **Wednesday 17th February** is a representative from the Mersey Gateway project, who will be speaking on the subject of new Runcorn Bridge. More details in future newsletters.

A summer evening outing to St James' Gardens: Wednesday 8th July

In September 2014 Robin Riley of The Friends of St James Gardens spoke to the Society, giving a photographic tour of the oldest public park in Liverpool, dating from 1767. Plans were discussed for an outing to the gardens during the Summer months & this has now been arranged for **Wednesday 8th July**, meeting at 6pm at the Anglican Cathedral.

The walk will be led by Robin Riley & Emlyn Williams of the Friends group, who will lead a tour of the gardens & the ancient cemetery. The tour will take between one & a half & two hours, & will involve walking up & down some steep inclines, so not suitable for the less agile.

Members are to make their own way to the gardens, & use the Cathedral car park. Numbers are strictly limited to 25, so those interested should ring 428 2680 as soon as possible to reserve a place. A car sharing scheme may well be possible, so please indicate if you will need a lift, or can offer a space in your car when calling.

The Society will not be making a charge for this tour, but we are asking those on the visit to make a donation to the Friends group of £5 a head.

As we anticipate a brisk demand for this outing, please ring to reserve a place without delay. The tour is open to non-members of the Society, but In case of high demand, priority will be given to members.

Heritage Open Day: Saturday 12th September

The Woolton Society has registered to take part in Heritage Open Day for a third year, with several events in the village going on. See page 8 of this issue for more details.

The Woolton Society plans to have an architectural highlights walk, plus Beatles tours. In past years these walks have proved to be very popular, with a waiting list for the architecture tour which takes in

such local landmarks as Woolton Hall & the 19th century Mechanics Institute. Paul & Debbie Gregory, owners of the Mechanics Institute have offered to provide tea & biscuits at the end of the tour. All walks will be leaving from the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road, with booking essential for the architecture walk. The Beatles trail takes in St Peter's Hall, where it all began, the grave of Eleanor Rigby, & a visit to Strawberry Field on Beaconsfield Road, & Mendips on Menlove Avenue. Details of times will be released nearer to the date, but it is envisaged that the Beatles tours, which need no booking, will leave from the SPC at 1pm, 2.30pm & 4pm.

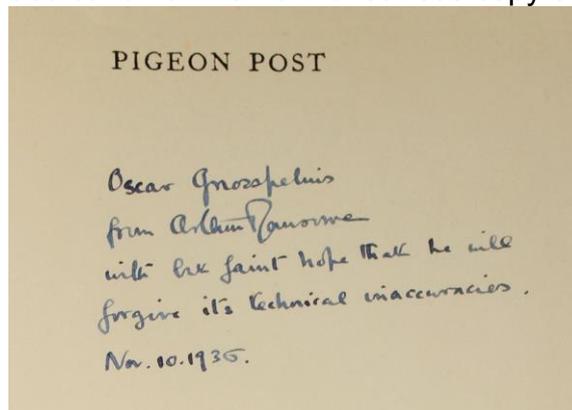
Please note that both walks involve a considerable amount of walking, so not suitable for those with impaired mobility. Walks are free of charge, in accordance with Heritage Open Day regulations.

See our website, www.wooltonociety.org.uk for booking details, or members can ring 428 2680.

The treasure in box 6

When Woolton Society co-founder Janet Gnosspelius died in 2010 she left a large amount of material to the Society, which has been in store in 36 large boxes since then. It has been a huge task to store & sort through the boxes, especially without professional archivist help, but the aim is to create an archive, which could be a resource for students & researchers of local history, with particular regard to Woolton.

A small working party of committee members opened Box 6 in March this year, to find, amongst other volumes, a number of first editions of the Swallows & Amazons books by Arthur Ransome, most with hand written dedications to Janet & her family from the author. An explanation of Janet's background would be helpful here. Janet was the daughter of Oscar Gnosspelius, mining engineer & aviation pioneer. Her mother was Barbara Collingwood, a sculptor, & daughter of W.G. Collingwood, private secretary to John Ruskin. Arthur Ransome was a family friend, who allegedly proposed marriage to Barbara Collingwood & to her sister Dora. The four children in the Swallows & Amazons books were the offspring of Dora, now Mrs Altounyan, & were Janet's cousins. Oscar Gnosspelius was the original for Squashy Hat in Pigeon Post, with Janet as the model for Nancy in that book. The dedication at the front of Janet's copy of Pigeon Post is reproduced below:



Oscar Gnosspelius from Arthur Ransome, with the faint hope that he will forgive its technical inaccuracies. Nov 10 1936. Also in box 6 were early editions of Alice's Adventures In Wonderland, dated 1879, & Through the Looking Glass, dated 1881, plus an edition of the poems of Coleridge, dated 1797. Clearly the books were very valuable, if not literally priceless, but Janet's will was clear that only items relevant to Woolton were bequeathed to the society. Everything else was to go to Liverpool University where Janet was one of the first women to graduate in architecture, in 1948.

The librarian at the Sydney Jones library at the university, Phil Sykes, was contacted, & was delighted to hear that the books, which had been listed as missing since 2010, had been located. The books were delivered in early June by chairman Jean Davies, vice chair & secretary Paul Wilkie, & treasurer Charles Davies. Pictures of the hand-over, the plaque at the university, *Pigeon Post* and dedications to Janet are on pages 1 & 8. The books are now in the Special Collections section of the library, & there will be a display there once fully catalogued. Sorting through the boxes, & creating a local history archive is still going on. We shall keep members informed of progress.

Guided walks for hire! Recently the Society was approached by the Crosby Women's Guild, & asked to provide a guided walk around Woolton for their members. The Guild opted for the Beatles Trail as of most interest, & will be visiting Woolton on September 22nd for their tour. The Society will charge a small sum per head for the tour, all of which will go to swell our funds. We hope to sell a few copies of our history of Woolton too. This is a new departure for us, as the walks put on for English Heritage have to be free, so if your local society would like to hire us for a guided tour please let us know. This is an excellent way to show off our beautiful village, as well as a way of publicising the Woolton Society.

A message from the Treasurer Will the member who renewed his or her subscription at the Woolton branch of Barclays on 2nd February 2015 please contact the treasurer on 428 2680 as no name or details were attached to the transaction. Also, when subs are due in Oct 2015 there will be an increase to £4 for postage on top of the relevant subscription for those who receive their newsletter through the post; this is owing to rising postal rates. You can, of course avoid the postal charge by electing for an email copy of the newsletter when you renew in October.

From Our Archives This is a notice sent to members & residents in March 1974, when the Chairman was Alan Gaskin. The notice was one of many interesting items found in the boxes of material left to us by Janet Gnosspelius.

NASTY SMELLS

There are from time to time obnoxious smells in the district, & we have received complaints from members of the Society in the Hunts Cross area in particular.

To deal with this nuisance the Society has formed a Pollution Sub-committee. Our meetings with the Corporation Pollution Control Unit, & the Public Health Department reveal that there are not enough organised complaints from our area to warrant their taking action. If the Corporation Departments are going to use the powers they have, it is essential that every valid complaint is recorded.

We want the details, as do the Corporation, & we strongly recommend that you telephone or write your complaint(s) to the Pollution Control Unit, & to us, with your details, your name & address; time, date & place, & description of your nasty smell.

A note to readers in 2015

This notice was sent out in March 1974. We no longer have a pollution sub-committee. Please do not contact us about your smells, nasty or otherwise. Thank you.

More extracts from our archives in future issues of the newsletter.

Planning News and Applications

St Julie's school

The planning application concerning the development of St Julie's, & the encroachment on to Woolton Woods will be held at the Town Hall on **Tuesday 16th June**. Representatives from the Woolton Society, WVRA & Save Woolton Woods will be in attendance, & any members who could attend are urged to do so to make their views known.

Tree Tops, Quarry Street

An application has been received to turn this large house into a 50 place day nursery. Concerns have been raised by residents about increased traffic, & also about car parking places for the nursery staff. The Quarry Street/Reservoir Road area is already congested with traffic at school times, because of the proximity to SFX. The Society will monitor the situation & report again in a future issue.

St Gabriel's site, Church Road/Beaconsfield Road

There has been no movement on the plan to create a retirement village on the site of the former convent of St Gabriel at the junction of Church & Beaconsfield Roads, & the planning approval may well have expired. More on this in issue 336.

Officials want people to have their say; to make comments write to Planning at the City Council or comment at <http://liverpool.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment-and-planning/plan-making-in-liverpool/evidence-monitoring-and-information/strategic-housing-land-availability-assessment/>

The following is a summary of planning applications that have been received by the City council since our last newsletter. See

<http://northgate.liverpool.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer17/GeneralSearch.aspx>

Contact the Society at wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk re. planning matters.

Applic'n Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
15H/1322	7 Grangemeadow Road Liverpool L25 4SU	To erect part two storey extension to the side first floor extension to side/rear, Single storey extension to the front	REGISTERED	03-06-2015	
15H/1308	10 Blackwood Avenue Liverpool L25 4RW	To erect first floor extension to the side and single storey extension to the rear, Replace roof rear dormer remove porch replace with canopy replace windows	REGISTERED	01-06-2015	
15LP/1289	70 Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JQ	Application for lawful development certificate for proposed single storey extension to the side	REGISTERED	27-05-2015	
15LP/1288	10 Cresttor Road Liverpool L25 6DW	Application for lawful development certificate for proposed hip to gable roof extension, dormer extension to rear and roof lights to front	REGISTERED	26-05-2015	
15H/0599	38 Hillside Drive Liverpool L25 5NS	To erect single storey extension to side/rear and to install raised decked area to rear	REGISTERED	26-05-2015	
15T/1257	8 Mount Park Woolton Liverpool L25 6JW	Fell one Horse Chestnut	REGISTERED	22-05-2015	
15H/1244	The Croft Woolton Park Liverpool L25 6DR	To erect dormer extension to rear	REGISTERED	21-05-2015	
15H/1236	70 Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JQ	To erect single storey extension to the rear.	REGISTERED	21-05-2015	
15H/1191	3 Rockbourne Avenue Liverpool L25 4TG	To erect part single part 2 storey extension at the side, single storey extension and porch at the front, balcony at the rear, to erect new roof and remodel and render elevations	REGISTERED	19-05-2015	
15H/1139	3 Meadow Oak Drive Liverpool L25 3SZ	To erect part single part two storey extension to the side	REGISTERED	14-05-2015	
15H/1133	94 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RQ	To erect glazed canopy roof to the rear.	REGISTERED	13-05-2015	
15H/1071	9 Blackwood Avenue Liverpool L25 4RN	To erect part single, part 2 storey extensions to the rear and front, alterations tot he roof and balcony at rear	REGISTERED	01-05-2015	
15F/1065	Land adjacent Winhill Liverpool L25 6JR	To erect one dwelling house	REGISTERED	01-05-2015	
15F/0898	Tree Tops Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HD	To use dwelling house as a 50 space children day nursery create new vehicular access to Quarry Street layout hard standing drop off area to front, soft play area to rear and install first floor juliette balcony to rear	REGISTERED	30-04-2015	
15LP/1030	105 Druids Cross Road Liverpool L18	Application for lawful development certificate for proposed single storey extension to the	FINAL DECISION	29-04-2015	Certificate of Lawfulness -

	3HN	side and make alterations to the conservatory			Granted
15H/0978	51 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NU	To erect two storey extension to the side and rear, first floor extension to the rear and porch to the front.	REGISTERED	29-04-2015	
15F/1041	1 - 19 Glenacres Liverpool L25 5JQ	To carry out improvements works to include new boundaries, hard and soft landscaping, layout additional car parking spaces to rear, widening of access from public highway (Acrefield Road) and relocation of brick pier	REGISTERED	29-04-2015	
15H/1015	34 Castle Street Liverpool L25 7SW	To remove window to side of rear extension and infill opening	REGISTERED	28-04-2015	
15H/0963	67 Hollytree Road Liverpool L25 5PB	To erect two storey extension to side single storey extension to the rear	REGISTERED	27-04-2015	
15F/0994	32 & 34 Rodick Street Liverpool L25 7SL	To create new boundaries refurbish existing boundaries, carry out hard and soft landscaping and install new gates.	REGISTERED	27-04-2015	
15H/0939	6 Cam Street Liverpool L25 7RT	To install UPVC sash windows	REGISTERED	23-04-2015	
15F/0791	The Village Inn 57 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6EZ	To convert former public house to 2 dwellings with car park to the rear	REGISTERED	07-04-2015	
15F/0822	56-62, 68-76, 78-82 Woolton Street, Liverpool, L25 7TQ	To carry out improvements including hard and soft landscaping, new gates bin store and cycle shelter	FINAL DECISION	02-04-2015	Approve with Conditions
15L/0800	The Village Inn 57 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6EZ	To convert former public house to 2 three bed residential housing scheme with car park to the rear	WITHDRAWN	01-04-2015	Withdrawn
15DIS/0751	25 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RA	To discharge conditions 3, 4(i), 4(ii), 4(iii), 4(iv), 4(v), 4(vi), 4(vii), 5, 6 and 7 attached to 14L/2710	FINAL DECISION	31-03-2015	Conditions Discharged
15DIS/0750	25 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RA	To discharge conditions 3, 5(i), 5(ii), 5(iii), 5(iv), 5(v), 5(vi) and 5(vii) attached to 14F/2709	FINAL DECISION	31-03-2015	Conditions Discharged
15NM/0745	74 Vale Road Liverpool L25 7RN	Application for non - material amendment to 14H/2325 - To erect two storey extension to the side and single storey extension at rear so as to install high level obscurely glazed ground floor window in side elevation and new window to front elevation in place of garage door	FINAL DECISION	31-03-2015	Non Material Amendment Approved
15H/0744	14 Felltor Close Liverpool L25 6DP	To erect detached garage to the side	REGISTERED	31-03-2015	
15F/0789	72 - 76 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HF	To carry out boundary treatment works lay out hard and soft landscaping and create bin store	FINAL DECISION	31-03-2015	Approve with Conditions
15F/0785	9 - 11 Allerton Road Woolton Liverpool L25 7RA	To erect single storey extension to the rear for use in connection with existing restaurant	REGISTERED	31-03-2015	
15H/0687	59 Linkstor Road Liverpool L25 6DH	To erect two storey extension to the side, single storey extension to the rear and porch to the front	REGISTERED	26-03-2015	
15F/0705	9-33 Rose Street (excluding 21) Liverpool L25 7SN	To carry out boundary treatment works, hard and soft landscaping works, install new gates, handrails, bin stores and ramps.	FINAL DECISION	26-03-2015	Approve with Conditions

15DIS/0689	Blairlea Lodge Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JG	To discharge conditions 2, 3(i), 3(iii), 3(iv), 3(v), 3(vi) attached to 15H/0032	FINAL DECISION	26-03- 2015	Conditions Discharged
15H/0594	10 Cresttor Road Liverpool L25 6DW	To first floor extension above existing single storey extension, erect dormer extension to the rear and make alterations to the roof in connection with loft conversion	REGISTERED	26-03- 2015	

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom Planting is underway for the Summer season, with containers planted by volunteers brightening the village as usual, even though WIB is no longer entering the Royal Horticultural Society's competitions.

The flower bed by the Derby Arms has been replanted with red & yellow blooms, with the Reynolds family crest on a board. The four-tier planters will carry on the red & yellow theme.

Tommy the soldier on Kings Drive will remain in place, & the surrounding area will be tidied as soon as the daffodils have died down.

WIB will be taking a stall at the farmers markets throughout the Summer months, as well as at the Sainsbury's Summer Fair on **Sunday 9th August**. This will probably be on Woolton Woods field, & will have a fairground theme, with sideshows & pony rides. Open from 11 am to 6pm, with all profits from the fair going to the Marie Curie organisation.

WIB will not be able to have a fundraising day at Sainsbury's in December, as company policy has changed. The day to buy your 2016 calendars, & stock up on Christmas cards is **Friday 2nd October**, from 10 am to 4pm. A fundraising day at Tesco is hoped for December.

Friends of Reynolds Park Three local schools, Bishop Martin, St Julie's & SFX have grown seedlings for planting out in the wildflower meadow. A planting day was held in May, with Glendale doing their bit by putting down weedkiller in April to deal with the pernicious weeds which could strangle the wild flowers.

FORP will be hosting a performance in the park of Easy Virtue by Noel Coward on Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July, at 2pm. Tickets available on the gate, with refreshments supplied by FORP.

The next meeting of FORP will be on **Wednesday 8th July**, 7pm in Tesco's coffee shop.

Ticket To Read TTR has now set up a shared reading group which meets at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road on Mondays from 2.30 to 3.30pm. This is free, friendly & fun, so call in at TTR to ask for details.

The community book service continues to fill the void left by the closure of Woolton's own library, with opening hours 1.30 to 4.30pm, Mondays & Wednesdays in the SPC.

TTR will be holding a fundraising charity event on **Thursday 30th July** in St Peter's Hall. The theme will be Midsummer Magic, with music, poetry & readings. Tickets are £8 which includes a buffet. A pay bar will be available on the night. Call in at TTR for more information, or to buy tickets.

Gateacre School's Big Little Library in the Belle Vale shopping centre has now closed, as it had been given the use of a vacant shop unit for a limited time. From opening day in March, until closure in May over three & a half thousand people visited the pop-up library, most leaving with at least one book. Lisa Mitchell of Gateacre School organised the whole event, & promises to re-create the library next year. Volunteers from TTR had been lending their experience to the Big Little Library, & will do so again, whenever needed.

The Women's Institute The Women of Woolton (WOW) is a very active group, with a waiting list for membership. It boasts a walking group, bowls sessions in the Summer & golf lessons in the Winter, trips out, & a programme of talks & demonstrations. WOW also has a highly successful quiz team, who are the current Lancashire Federation champions, with the highest score recorded in the competition.

As the W.I. celebrates its centenary this year, there are many nationwide events planned. On June 2nd Anne Large represented WOW at a garden party at Buckingham Palace. The centenary ceremony on June 4th at the Royal Albert Hall was opened by Her Majesty herself, & broadcast live to many venues, including the Village Club.

WOW meets in St Peter's Hall on the second Monday of each month, at 7pm. Non-members may attend for a small fee.

Woolton Village Residents Association WVRA representatives met council officers at the Cunard building recently, to discuss the proposed changes to the footpath which crosses Woolton Woods. The WVRA has put in an application for a Public Right of Way, evidence for which is now being scrutinised by council planners.

This is highly relevant to the St Julie's rebuilding plans, which encroach upon the open green space which planners propose to violate. The Woolton Society fully supports the WVRA in their efforts.

Heritage Open Day: Saturday 12th September

Several local groups will be taking part in the HOD in September:

The Women's Institute will be holding a craft & produce display based in St Peter's Hall on Church Road, from 11am to 5pm. Categories will include cakes, preserves, bread making, craft, art, photography, floral art, & poetry, with a section for children too. Refreshments will be provided by W.I. members.

Friends of Reynolds Park will be holding their Heritage Trail, with guided maps to the park available at the gate. They will also be having a clean up day in the park.

WVRA In past years the swimming baths have been opened for several days during Heritage Weekend, but at the time of going to print the WVRA was unable to confirm that an opening was possible. Please check nearer the date, as the baths are part of Woolton's history, & a visit is recommended.

