

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk

ISSUE NO: 337 February/March 2016

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



Woolton Hall “vulnerable” says Heritage England.
For report see page 4 of this issue.

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Society News

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on November 18th the main topics were the elections of officers & committee members for the following year, and also the discussion of amendments to the constitution. After consultation with members present at the AGM most of the amendments were passed, with only the proposed boundary changes provoking much debate. It was decided that the society's boundaries shall remain unchanged for now, with further discussion of the changes at a later date.

The officers & committee for 2016 are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies

Secretary & vice chairman: Paul Wilkie

Treasurer: Charles Davies

Environment secretary: Chris Darnton

Membership secretary: Jean Bates

Committee: John Hibbert, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Janet Hudson, Bernard Krasner, Tommy Tewkesbury

October talk

The talk on October 21st was given by John Boyce, who took us on a very entertaining virtual walk around the Kirkdale district of north Liverpool. The tour took in Stanley Park, & led to Bevington Bush, taking in some of the local characters along the way such as the street entertainers around Scotland Road.

Mr Boyce asked for his speaker's fee to be donated to Leonard Cheshire Disability at The Orchard on Woolton Road.

Our new publication: Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral

The book on the vital role played by Woolton's quarry & its workforce in the construction of Liverpool's Anglican cathedral has been in gestation for three decades or more. The writing is now finished, & the book is in the final stages before printing, with illustrations being added. The book is seen as a companion volume to our History of Much Woolton, & will be sold at our usual outlets as well as, we hope, at the cathedral shop.

Publication is a few months away, but we have reserved a date in June for an official book launch to celebrate the event. Copies of the book will be on sale, speeches will be made & toasts will be toasted, so make a note of the date, **Wednesday 15th June**, 7.30 at the Village Club.

If Woolton Society members or residents should have any additional information about the quarry or the workers which might well be of interest to the editors it would still be possible to incorporate it even at this late stage. Please ring 428 2680 to discuss any material.

Farmers Markets & merchandise

The tea towels showing views of the village have been selling well at talks & at the farmers market, with many bought as Christmas presents. We hope to have copies of our new publication for sale soon, together with our History of Much Woolton.

We take a stall at the monthly farmers markets whenever possible, so look for us on the second Saturday of each month.

Diary dates for 2016

Please note that we have planned a more frequent programme of talks than in the past, with a speaker or an outing every month apart from our Summer & Winter breaks. All talks are held in the Village Club, starting at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 17th February will see our first talk of the year when Eric Hill, a Mersey Gateway project volunteer will speak on the subject of the planned new Runcorn crossing. This promises to be a lively talk, as many questions have been raised about the crossing, particularly the tolls which are proposed for the old bridge as well as the new one.

Wednesday 16th March: Cliff Porter is a local beekeeper & member of the Liverpool Beekeepers Association. He will be speaking on how to look after these invaluable visitors to our gardens.

Wednesday 20th April: Bill Sergeant, author & local historian will be speaking on Noel Chavasse, double V.C winner in World War One. Captain Chavasse was raised & educated in Liverpool, & became a doctor, joining the King's Regiment, the Liverpool Scottish in 1914. Chavasse Park in Liverpool One is named in his honour.

Wednesday 18th May: Hugh Daghish: My life as commander of HMY Britannia. Hugh spent two years as commander of the royal yacht, & is in great demand as a speaker relating tales of his life on board.

Wednesday 15th June: book launch for our new publication *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral*. See page 2 of this issue for more details.

In **July** a visit is to be arranged to Williamson's Tunnels. Details will be announced closer to the date.

Wednesday 21st September: Elaine Middleton, head of service for Age Concern Liverpool will speak on the valuable work done by the charity.

Wednesday 19th October: Simon LeFrenais will speak on Charles Darwin

Wednesday 16th November: Annual General Meeting. Our yearly reports, followed by an informal gathering with refreshments.

All Woolton Society talks are free, & open to non-members as well as members. We have the use of a downstairs room at the Village Club, with talks starting at 7.30pm. Fuller details of talks can be found on our notice board beside the HSBC bank, & on our website www.wooltonociety.org.uk

Members may remember Anthony Smith, wildlife artist, who gave a very well received talk in July 2014. He was artist in residence at Chester Zoo, & showed some of his work & his painting methods to a very appreciative audience. He has an exhibition of his paintings opening soon at the View Two Gallery, 23 Mathew Street, L2 6RE, which will be well worth seeing.

The exhibition opens on **Thursday 25th February** from 6 to 9pm, & runs until **Saturday 26th March**. It will be open Fridays & Saturdays from 12 until 5pm, or by appointment, ring Bob Williams on 0787 5060086. Anthony has asked us to point out that the exhibition is up 3 flights of stairs, but that there is a tea room half way up for a base camp.

Printing Blocks

One of the boxes of material left to the society by founder Janet Gnosspelius contained the printing blocks used for the original print run of our History of Much Woolton. There are 94 in all, one for each illustration in the book, & are brass or copper plates fixed to a wooden block. Enquiries have been made as to what to do with these blocks, but as they are old technology they are of no use to a modern printer, nor have we found anyone who collects printing blocks. It seems wasteful to throw them away, & which bin would they go in? If anyone should have an idea as to their future please contact us. Sensible suggestions can be given to committee members, or ring 428 2680

From our archives

This is a verbatim extract from issue 118 dated March 1987, when the society's chairman was Dr Carl Warner.

THE OLD QUARRY - GOOD NEWS AT LAST

Councillor McVeigh has let us know that following a Prohibition Order served on the liquidator of C.W. Rubber Exports Ltd who owns the tyres, he has requested the Local Authority to carry out the work of removal of the tyres. This will result in a land charge on the property which will be recovered on the sale of the property.

An order to carry out the work has been issued to Surewaste Ltd. The operation is likely to take a few weeks.

This is a very satisfactory result & has come about by the combined efforts of our local councillor, The Woolton Society & the pressure exerted by local residents.

LITTER

A meeting was held early this month when representatives of many local organisations met to formulate plans for a concerted attack on this problem. We hope that in Environment Week (April 25th - May 4th) we will organise a clean up of the village & we hope to carry out an educational campaign aimed at the youth of Woolton with the co-operation of the local schools.

You will have noticed the new style Litter Bins (Green) in the City Centre. Although we have been pleased to see the new small Litter Bins (Yellow attached to Lamp Posts) which now adorn our Village Centre, we hope that - come April - we will have some of the larger free standing Yellow Bins in our Area & that they will, in future, be regularly & frequently emptied.

You will have noted with pleasure that The Lodes Pond area has now been tidied up & the litter removed & we thank the City Cleansing Department for this. Despite its tidy appearance now, we do not doubt that when Environment Week comes further attention will be required.

This is an opportunity for YOU to do something to improve the Environment of your own Village. Please consider whether you could lend a hand during the week April 25th - May 4th. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

The problem of litter is not a new one, as shown by this report from 1987. See page 8 of this issue to read of an initiative to clean up the whole of the country in a weekend of activity supported by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

More extracts from our archives in future issues.

Environment, Planning News & Applications

Woolton Hall

Issue 336 of the newsletter contained a report outlining the Society's fears for Woolton Hall, a grade 1 listed building. Since then, environment secretary Chris Darnton has applied to Heritage England (HE), formerly English Heritage, to have the hall put in its At Risk category. An inspection was carried out by a representative from HE on 20th November, & a reply was received in January. The inspector wrote that *"there does not appear to be significant continuing water ingress"* & that *"a responsive maintenance scheme is now in place"*. Because of this *"it is not currently proposed to add the hall to the Heritage At Risk register. However, it is classed as vulnerable, so we will keep the situation under review"*. The reply referred also to plans which the owners have for the hall.

This is seen as an inadequate response, with Chris Darnton's reply to HE pointing out that the owners do not have any current planning applications with the council. In 2003/4 they were granted permission for a care village on the site, incorporating Woolton Hall itself. No work took place, & this permission will by now have expired. The reply went on to ask exactly what the "responsive maintenance regime" consisted of. Surely this means waiting for damage to occur before acting? It would be far more appropriate for a listed building to have a *proactive* programme of maintenance, & it is to be hoped that HE will put pressure on the owners to do this.

It is known that last summer a bid of £2.5 million was made for the hall, by a developer who had plans for an up-market wedding & conference venue. Sympathetic & skilled restoration of the interior was planned, with landscaping of the grounds to provide a suitable backdrop to the venue. This bid was turned down, & the hall remains empty & unused, as it has for the last ten years.

We appeal to the current owners, & to HE to act on the neglect of Woolton Hall, before further deterioration occurs.

St Gabriel's site

The potential developers of the site of the former St Gabriel's convent, at the junction of Church & Beaconsfield Roads, held a consultation meeting with residents on October 13th. The planning application was

made in mid-November, but there has been no news since then from the planning committee. If plans are approved then the developers hope to be on site as soon as possible with phase 1, which is the conversion of Knolle Park House, & a new apartment building.

The Woolton Society has seen the plans, which are considerably less intrusive and more sympathetic to the site than those for a mammoth care village that were submitted several years ago. This caused great concern to local residents, particularly the issues of site access & the felling of mature trees. **(See summary details of the planning applications at the beginning of the planning list below).**

Woolton Golf Course

There has much speculation in the press about the future of Woolton Golf Course. A proposed sale of the 45 acre course would leave the club without a home, with some suggesting that it hopes to move to the municipal course at Allerton. The club's land, a significant part of Woolton's green space, would, of course, be used for housing.

At a meeting of club members on 12th January opinion was divided, with some preferring to stay in Woolton while others opted to sell the course. It has been reported that Derek Hatton has been involved in the negotiations, employed by the potential developer, but we cannot possibly comment on this, or speculate as to the future of the municipal course at Allerton.

20 mph limit

Many residents will have had a notice from the council advising of a proposed 20mph limit on residential roads. On the face of it this is an admirable idea, as many residents can attest to the high speeds of some cars, particularly around Church Road which is used as a convenient short cut through the village. However, would this limit be enforced? Would effective traffic calming measures be introduced?

It should be noted that the 173 bus was re-routed in September because of parking congestion at the village end of Church Road. As there are double yellow lines in this area which are widely ignored by motorists & are permanently parked up, adding to the congestion, would a speed limit be similarly ignored? As traffic wardens are very seldom seen, would extra policing be added to enforce the speed limit? In the meantime, one of the steepest roads in the city is without a bus route, mainly because of selfish car owners who park thoughtlessly & block the roads. Any proposed speed limit should be backed by rigorous traffic calming measures, as well as consistent enforcement, otherwise why bother?

The following is an abbreviated summary of planning applications that have been received by the city council since our last planning report.

You may note that the summary is not in the usual format; this is because the council's planning search facility on their website is not functioning correctly. This is an ongoing problem and has been reported to the council as an official complaint.

Contact the Society at www.woolton.society.org.uk re planning matters.

Application No: 15F/2676

Case Officer/Team:

29-October-2015

Ward: Woolton

Proposal: To erect extension to, and carry out associated external alterations, in connection with conversion of main building into 35 apartments with undercroft and covered parking; erect 15 new dwellings; extend and refurbish St Gabriels Lodge to create a single dwelling; erect new dwelling utilising the remnants of the Orangery; layout internal access roads, paths and landscaping; close up existing western vehicular access to Beaconsfield Road reconfigure existing eastern vehicular access to Beaconsfield Road; reconfigure and widen access to Church Road; and demolish the German wing extension to the main building, Gardeners Cottage, Taylor House, the Hollies and all other non-listed buildings on site.

Location:

St Gabriels Convent
Beaconsfield Road
Liverpool
L25 6EE

Applicant:

St Gabriels
(Liverpool) Ltd
3rd Floor
Muskers Buildings
1 Stanley Street
L25 6EE
L1 6AA

Agent (if any):

Roman
Summer
Associates Ltd
Liverpool

Agent Address

Suite 2
Hurstwood House
New Hall Hey Road
Rawtenstall
BB4 6AJ

Application No: 15L/2677

Case Officer/Team:
Ward: Woolton

29-October-2015

Proposal:

To erect extension to, and carry out associated external alterations, in connection with conversion of main building into 35 apartments with undercroft and covered parking; extend and refurbish St Gabriels Lodge to create a single dwelling; erect new dwelling utilising the remnants of the Orangery; carry out alterations to boundary walls; and demolish the German wing extension to the main building, Gardeners Cottage, Taylor House and the Hollies.

Location:

St Gabriels Convent
Beaconsfield Road
Liverpool
L25 6EE

Applicant:

St Gabriels
(Liverpool) Ltd

3rd Floor
Muskers Buildings
1 Stanley Street
L25 6EE
L1 6AA

Agent (if any):

Roman
Summer
Associates Ltd
Liverpool

Agent Address

Suite 2
Hurstwood House
New Hall Hey Road
Rawtenstall
BB4 6AJ

Application No: 15H/3016

Case Officer/Team:
Ward: Woolton

07-December-2015

Proposal:

To retain UPVC windows and render to rear elevation

Location:

61 Quarry Street
Liverpool
L25 6EZ

Applicant:

Mr Joseph
Nolan

61 Quarry Street
Liverpool
L25 6EZ

Agent (if any): Agent Address

Application No: 15F/1566

Case Officer/Team:
Ward: Woolton

19-June-2015

Proposal:

To continue to use premises as a daytime cafe opening between 0800 and 1800 hours

Location:

21 Woolton Street
Liverpool
L25 5NH

Applicant:

Applebite

Mr Anthony Hayes
21 Woolton Street
Liverpool
L25 5NH

Agent (if any): Agent Address

APP01, Approve with Conditions

Application No: 15F/1623

Case Officer/Team:
Ward: Woolton

10-July-2015

Proposal:

To extend existing vacant office in connection with conversion into 2 storey dwelling house and to erect 6 dwellings with associated parking and landscaping following demolition of out building

Location:

13A Quarry Street
Liverpool
L25 6EY

Applicant:

Bespoke
Construction
Ltd

111 Mount Pleasant
Liverpool
L3 5TF

Agent (if any): Agent Address

Edward Landor
Associates
P O Box 1983
Liverpool
L3 4EB

APP01, Approve with Conditions

Application No: 15F/2166

Case Officer/Team:

26-August-2015

Ward: Woolton

Proposal:

To replace existing upvc windows to first floor front elevation with single-glazed timber sliding-sash windows

Location:

37 Allerton Road
Woolton
Liverpool
L25 7RE

Applicant:

Dr Martin
Bennett

22/23 Pownall Sqare
Liverpool
L3 6AD

Agent (if any):

Dr M B Bennett

Agent Address

22/23 Pownall
Square
Liverpool
L3 6AD

APP01, Approve with Conditions

Application No: 15F/2478

Case Officer/Team:

29 Sept 2015

Ward: Woolton

Proposal:

To vary condition 4 attached to 13F/2698 (To use vacant light industrial unit as a gymnasium) so as to allow the premises to open between 0600 hours and 2000 hours

Location:

17a Woolton Street
Liverpool
L25 5NH

Applicant:

Fitness For All
(uk) Ltd

Mrs J Purdy
17A Woolton Street
Liverpool
L25 5NH

Agent (if any): Agent Address

APP01, Approve with Conditions

Application No: 15F/1748

Case Officer/Team:

07-July-2015

Ward: Woolton

Proposal:

To erect single storey extension to restaurant at front

Location:

5B Woolton Street
Liverpool
L25 5NH

Applicant:

Mr Rukon
Kamaly

5B Woolton Street
Liverpool
L25 5NH

Agent (if any):

Bhatt Architects
Ltd

Agent Address

5 Platt Court
Wilmslow Road
Manchester
M14 5LT

APP01, Approve with Conditions

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

Although not taking part in the RHS competitions, much to the relief of its competitors, the WIB group is still active in the village. WIB bowed out of competition in 2014 after winning a gold medal in the Champion of Champions category.

Spring planting will be taking place shortly, with volunteers welcome to plant, weed, or tidy up the containers. Ask at the WIB stall at the monthly farmers market.

There will be a Woolton Open Gardens event in June or July, with previous entrants being canvassed as to their availability. This has been a very popular & well attended event in past years, with around a dozen private gardens open to public view. Contact Viv Hicks on vivhicks3268@hotmail.com if you live in Woolton & would like to enter your garden in the event, or could volunteer for stewarding duties.

The very popular WIB calendar for 2016 has been selling well, priced at £5. This year the views are of displays over the 15 years that the group was entering the RHS competitions. The calendar is available at Brown's on Woolton Street as well as at the market stall.

Ticket to Read

Ticket to Read, Woolton's free community library will be celebrating its third birthday during the week of February 8th. Tea & cakes will be offered to browsers, who will have the opportunity to peruse the selection of fiction & non-fiction volumes, as well as large print & audio books. There is also a children's section for younger readers. Find the library at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road, opening hours 1.30 to 4pm on Mondays & Wednesdays

Women's Institute

The Women of Woolton (WOW) group meets on the second Monday of each month, & has a waiting list for membership. As well as the monthly meetings, usually with a talk or demonstration, there are groups for walks, crafts, book discussions, bowls, golf, & quiz nights.

The WI meets at St Peter's Hall at 7.30pm.

Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP recently acted with alacrity in having graffiti removed from the historic sandstone wall bordering the wildflower meadow. The council's anti-graffiti squad was called in & the offending scrawl was swiftly removed. FORP has regular clean-up days in the park, & will be marking Clean for the Queen (see next paragraph, below) with a litter pick from 10am until 12 noon on **Saturday 5th March**.

FORP is ever vigilant in safeguarding the park, & has regular meetings to discuss ways to enhance it. The next meeting will be at 7pm on **Wednesday 9th March** in the coffee shop at Tesco. Further meetings are planned for May 11th & July 13th.

Clean for the Queen

To mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday this year a campaign has been launched to clear litter from the whole of the country. This initiative is supported by the Women's Institute, the Keep Britain Tidy group, Country Life magazine, the Campaign to Protect Rural England & the Wildlife Trusts. A series of events is planned, including a Clean for the Queen weekend from **4th to 6th March**.

Apart from the initiative organised by FORP, we have no details of local events at the time of going to print. Suggestions have ranged from householders cleaning the pavement in front of their own property to a weekend with all the local societies taking part in a mass spring clean in the village. Members will be kept informed of all activities.

Visit www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk for further details.