

# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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

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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

## NEWSLETTER

### Woolton Stone and Liverpool Cathedral



Published by  
The Woolton Society

*(above) The cover of our forthcoming publication*

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# Society News

## Newsletter

We apologise for the unexpectedly long period between issues 337 & 338, for reasons beyond our control. The issue was written, but we could not access the council's planning register as the *filter by ward* facility was not working. This is the problem we faced in January with issue 337, & we were assured that it would be addressed. It has not. Fortunately, an officer in the planning department has helped us by sending the relevant information directly. We thank him, & Councillor Norris for his help in accessing the planning applications.

A second problem has been with the printing, as our usual printer has not been available. This problem does not affect the e-newsletter, of course, which has been sent out without delay. However, those members who receive only the paper copy of the newsletter could well be reading this in mid-May, & should note the efficiency of the e-mail version. We have no immediate plans to phase out the paper copy in favour of an e-mail version, but we may well be forced to consider this option in the future.

## Recent Talks

The first talk of the season on February 17<sup>th</sup> had standing room only, with over eighty people eager to hear the talk on the new Mersey crossing. Eric Hill ably fielded some tricky questions, as many present wanted to learn about the proposed tolls on both bridges.

The March talk saw Cliff Porter speak on the topic of bee keeping, which was a very informative & entertaining evening, with a lively question & answer session to follow.

Bill Sergeant was our speaker in April, with double VC Noel Chavasse as his subject. Every seat was filled, with some standing, to hear the talk. Bill was an eloquent & inspiring speaker, who spoke for nearly an hour with a model of the statue now in Abercromby Square as his only visual aid. A substantial donation was made to The British Legion at the close, as Bill gave out copies of his book, *Liverpool Heroes*, volume 3.

## Dates for your diary

Our next talk will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May** with Hugh Daghish speaking on his 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.

On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June**: we have a book launch for our new publication *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral*, which is illustrated on the cover of this issue. All members are invited to the launch, which will be in the Village Club as usual. Copies of the book will be on sale, with wine, refreshments, & speeches from invited guests. We hope to see many members on the night, to give the book an excellent start

A visit has been arranged to Williamson's Tunnels on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July**. These are the tunnels built by The Mole of Edge Hill, Joseph Williamson, allegedly to provide work for the unemployed. Many members have already signed up for the tour, which starts at 2pm. There are still a few places available, so ensure that you are on the list by contacting committee members at talks, or e-mailing [jeanldavies@talktalk.net](mailto:jeanldavies@talktalk.net) or [vivhicks3268@hotmail.com](mailto:vivhicks3268@hotmail.com) to reserve a place. Tickets are £4, payable on the day. Members are to make their own way to the tunnels, & should wear suitable footwear for the event. The meeting place will be at The Old Stable Yard, Smithdown Lane, L7 3EE

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September** will see Elaine Middleton, head of service for Age Concern Liverpool speak on the valuable work done by the charity.

On **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October** our speaker is Simon LeFrenais, who will speak on Charles Darwin.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**: Our yearly reports will be presented, 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 in issue 339 of the newsletter, on our notice board beside the HSBC bank, & on our website [www.wooltonociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonociety.org.uk)

### **Printing Blocks**

Following the report in issue 337, the WS was contacted by the Juniper Press, based in Bluecoat Chambers. They have collected the blocks, used for the initial printing our History of Much Woolton, & intend to use them for educational & training purposes. We feel that this is a fitting use for them, & one that would be approved by our co-founder Janet Gnosspelius. We have since learned that her first architectural practice was based in Bluecoat Chambers, which makes the move even more appropriate.

### **Merseyside Big History Event**

The Woolton Society took part in the Big History Event at St George's Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. This was a well-attended event, which resulted in excellent publicity for the WS, with nearly £100 taken in membership & merchandise, & hundreds of our leaflets distributed. Over sixty local groups were present, including the Gateacre & Wavertree Societies, together with the British Lawnmower Museum, the Merseyside Industrial Heritage Society, & the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. The weekend was organised by well-known local speaker Ken Pye, who promises to make this an annual event.

### **Farmers Markets**

We hope to take a stall at the farmers markets in the village on the second Saturday of the month. In April we were at St George's Hall, but look for us at the markets on **Saturdays May 14<sup>th</sup> & June 11<sup>th</sup>**. We'll be there from 8.30 am to 1pm.

We hope to have our latest publication *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral* on sale soon, together with our *History of Much Woolton* & the very popular tea towels showing views of the village. Membership forms are also available, for those wishing to renew subs or join the society.

### **From our archives**

This is a verbatim extract from issue 92, dated November 1984 when the society's chairman was John D. Ross, with John Hall as treasurer.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Considering that our membership still stands at more than 500 the attendance of about 40 members was disappointing.

The secretaries' report outlined the Society's activities during the year. There had been 7 Members' meetings with an average attendance of about 60 & we had organised a most successful outing to Salmsbury Hall in the Summer. There were 11 Committee Meetings & the second-hand Bookstall, which was again run by the Society at the Woolton Village Fete, was a great success & raised £165 for local charities. The Society had prepared a leaflet setting out the Aims & Achievements of the Society & we hope that this will be of help in spreading knowledge of the Society & attracting new members. Our thanks are due to the member who suggested this venture.

THE QUARRY BOOK SUB COMMITTEE continues its work in recording how Woolton Stone was extracted & used in the creation of the Anglican Cathedral. Miss Gnosspelius has completed a survey of the Quarry Wall (707 feet long). Any information regarding the working of the Quarry will be welcomed.

THE HONORARY TREASURER presented the Accounts for the year & reported that we had finished the year £23 down on last year- a reasonable result, leaving a Balance of £1,282. However, when it is realised that over the years the sales of "The History of Woolton" had resulted in a profit of £1,083 it means that we are failing to make ends meet, & so your Committee have reluctantly raised the Subscription Rates for the ensuing year as has already been advised in the Newsletter. The New Rates are  
Individuals...£2            Husband & Wife...£3            Single Students & Pensioners ..£1  
and Husband & Wife Students & Pensioners ...£1.50

ALAN GASKIN Our immediate Ex-Chairman, in a most helpful speech, regretted the apparent lack of appeal to members of the Members' Meetings & thought that, although 500 was a respectable number of members, it really should be a great deal more considering the population of the district that we serve.

Your Committee are continually on the look-out for ways of attracting new members & would welcome ideas for attractive subjects for future meetings.

Your Editor would also welcome contributions & letters from members & would endeavour to give publicity to them.

Some things have changed since 1984. The quarry book is now ready for production & will be on sale soon. Neither are we considering raising our subscription rates which are still excellent value for money. We are, of course, always looking for new ideas to attract & retain members.

Issue 92 went on to advertise a talk in November 1984 entitled *Storm Force 10: 160 Years of Lifesaving* by Dennis Price, & contained an article, *Woolton Sixty Years Ago*, by Reg Owen, one of several he wrote concerning the village in the 1920s. An extract from his reminiscences is planned for a later date.

**More extracts from our archives in future issues.**

## *Environment, Planning News & Applications*

### **St Julie's site**

Work has now begun on the rebuilding of St Julie's school, with part of Woolton Woods fenced off to facilitate this. Protesters have been camped out in the parkland, but have been roundly castigated by the head of the school for being on private land! This is public green open space, & the protests will continue, despite the council's decision to ignore the covenant on the land.

### **St Gabriel's site**

The proposals for the site of the former convent at the junction of Church & Beaconsfield Roads will be going to Planning in May.. Some changes have been made to the Grecian Lodge and Orangery House, essentially reducing the scale of the new build and responding to a few suggested amendments from the Council's heritage advisors. The Woolton Society has seen the plans, & they are considerably more sympathetic & less intrusive than those that were submitted some years ago, when a vast care village was planned.

### **Public Right of Way, Glenacres/Byron Court**

In early March, a wall was built between Glenacres & Byron Court obstructing the footpath linking Woolton Park with Acrefield Road. It would seem that the owners of Byron Court were advised by both the Council's Planning & Highways departments that there is not a PRoW there, & that no permission would be needed for a wall. It appears that the council has wrongly interpreted the wording of the Highways Act here, & do not appear to recognise that a PRoW, even across privately owned land, can be created by usage, and is not just the

result of the council drawing a line on the map. Evidence is being collected to this effect, so if you have used this footpath at any time within the past 20 years please contact our environment secretary on [environment@wooltonociety.org.uk](mailto:environment@wooltonociety.org.uk)

**As many people as possible need to complete the Public Right of Way evidence form (known as 'Form E'), setting out the years during which they have used the pedestrian route, how many times a year, going to & from where & for what purpose. Form E is available from Mike Cassidy in LCC highways department: email [michael.cassidy@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:michael.cassidy@liverpool.gov.uk), or phone 0151 233 0325. The form can also be downloaded from the Gateacre Society website at <http://www.gatsoc.org.uk> .**

We are grateful to Mike Chitty of the Gateacre Society for his work in establishing the facts of the PRow, & for providing the details for this article.

### High Street dual carriageway

British Gas has assured residents that the site will be restored within five working days of the pipe work being completed. Good news, as with the giant Lego brick being constructed on Church Road South (in a conservation area) & executive homes springing up on the Sunflower Centre site, & on the footprint of the former Williams' Garden Centre, the village seems to be a vast building site.

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.wooltonociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonociety.org.uk) re planning matters.

<b><u>Application No: 16H/0333</u></b> 05-February-2016 <b>Case Officer/Team:</b> City South <b>Ward:</b> Woolton				
<b>Proposal:</b> To erect two storey extension to the side and part two storey part single storey extension to the rear				
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent Address</b>	
85 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NU	Mr Zhen Peng Yang	85 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NU	Malbrean Design	60 Elm Road Seaforth L21 1BL
<b><u>Application No:16H/0669</u></b> 18 -March-2016 <b>Case Officer/Team:</b> City South <b>Ward:</b> Woolton				
<b>Proposal:</b> To erect two storey extension to the side and single storey extension to the rear, carry out garage conversion with new driveway to the front				
<b>Location: Address</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent</b>	
77 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NU	Mrs Wendy Bowden	77 Hunts Cross Avenue Liverpool L25 5NU	Mr James O'Rourke	14 High St Wavertree Liverpool L15 8HG

**Application No:** 16F/0633 07-March-2016 **Case Officer/Team:** City South **Ward:** Woolton

**Proposal:** To erect one dwelling house (alternative to application 15F/1065 - refused) with revised access details

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent Address</b>
Land adjacent to 1 Winhill Liverpool L25 6JR	Mr Mark Roche 1 Winhill Liverpool L25 6JR	Hardie Brack	Pekin Building 23 Harrington Street Liverpool L2 9QA

**Application No:** 16F/0869 01-April-2016 **Case Officer/Team:** City South **Ward:** Woolton

**Proposal:** To erect two storey extension to the side and 'Granny' bungalow in the garden

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent Address</b>
32 Cresttor Road Liverpool L25 6DW	Joanne Eales 18 Crawford Drive Liverpool L15 8AE	David Backhouse Architects	Old Hall Court South Drive Sandfield Park Liverpool L12 1LQ

**Application No:** 16H/0452 16-February-2016 **Case Officer/Team:** City South **Ward:** Woolton

**Proposal:** To erect 2 storey extension to the side, single storey extension at side and rear

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent Address</b>
7 Cambrian Way Liverpool L25 5NT	Mr Robert Faulkner 7 Cambrian Way Liverpool L25 5NT	K. Morris	167 Seabank Road Wallasey CH45 7QL

**APP01, Approve with Conditions**

**Application No:** 16H/0126 13-January-2016 **Case Officer/Team:** City South **Ward:** Woolton

**Proposal:** To erect two storey extension to side/rear, single storey extension to the front and part single storey extension to the rear

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent Address</b>
75 Wallgate Road Liverpool L25 1PP	Mr Preston 75 Wallgate Road Liverpool L25 1PP		

**APP01, Approve with Conditions**

**Application No:** 16F/0204 19-January-2016 **Case Officer/Team:** City South **Ward:** Woolton

**Proposal:** To erect a two storey detached dwelling with vehicular access, landscaping and boundary treatment (alternative to planning permission 14F/1971)

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Agent (if any):</b>	<b>Agent Address</b>
Land adjacent to Newstead Farm Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6DY	Mr Michael Connell Union Marine Buildings 11 Dale Street Liverpool L2 2SH	MgMaStudio Ltd.	Oriel Chambers: Suite 37 14 Water Street Liverpool L2 8TD

**APP01, Approve with Conditions**

# Woolton News

## Woolton in Bloom

WIB will be hosting the very popular Open Gardens event on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**, with ten local gardens plus the Menlove Allotments open to the public. Full details of the gardens, plus a map, are published in a programme priced at £5. This gives entry to all the gardens, & is on sale at Brown's on Woolton Street, & at Ellie Benson, florist, on Allerton Road, as well as at the WIB stall at the farmers market.

**The programmes will also be on sale at the Woolton Society talks in May & June.**

Refreshments will be provided by the WI at St Peter's Hall on Church Road..

## Ticket to Read

Woolton's free community library is open on Mondays & Wednesdays, 1.30 to 4pm at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road. Many new books have been bought recently, & there is a wide selection of large print & audio books too.

TTR now has Tea & Tales reading group, which meets on Mondays from 1.30 to 2.30 at the SPC. All are welcome to attend this relaxed & friendly group.

## Women's Institute

The WI has recently moved both its venue & meeting day. It now meets at The Quarry (formerly the British Legion) on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. The main meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month, with various groups such as the quiz team, craft & natter, walking & book groups held during the second week. The new premises are larger, which may allow this very popular WI to expand; but please note that there is still a waiting list for membership.

## Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP will be having pre-planting mornings in the park on **Saturdays April 30<sup>th</sup> & May 7<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to 12 noon. Weed-killer has been applied to the ground so there should be no heavy digging involved. This will be followed by a planting day on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, from 9am to 4pm. Pupils from Bishop Martin & SFX will be planting perennials that they have grown from seed, with willing helpers on all days appreciated.

FORP is very concerned that there will be no local authority funding for public parks from 2017, & suggests that this matter is raised with the many candidates for election who will be knocking on our doors in the next few weeks.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May**, 7pm in the coffee shop at Tesco. All welcome.

## The 173 bus

It is excellent news that the 173 bus has been restored to the very steep Woolton Hill, along Church & Woolton Hill Roads, & it has been greeted by delighted waves & thumbs up signs for the past week. The bus was re-routed last September, with the company citing congestion around the Allerton Road & Church Road junction as the reason for this. Common sense has now prevailed, thanks to the hundreds of residents who petitioned the councillors & the bus company, many of whom pointed out that the vast charabanc that is the *Magical Mystery Tour* bus achieves this manoeuvre several times daily. The double yellow lines at the junction are to be extended to Mason Street, or perhaps as far as St Peter's church, reports vary. It remains to be seen if this will deter the motorists who park there, given the almost total absence of parking wardens in the village.

*Just a thought: if the council wants to raise money, why not try some parking fines? It works in other cities.*

**Name the building where this window can be found – there is a visual clue!  
(Answer in the next newsletter)**



## **Old Woolton**

Some residents may recall or know something of this scene. The sign reads “Acrefield Garage”.

Does anyone have any further information on this business?

Email the society at [info@wooltonsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@wooltonsociety.org.uk)

