

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk



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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the forty fourth Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 16th November 2016 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 third AGM held on 18 November 2015.
4. Chairman's remarks.
5. Treasurer's report
6. Secretary's report
7. Environment secretary's report.
8. Membership secretary's report
9. Election of officers:
 - (a) Chairman
 - (b) Vice-Chairman
 - (c) Hon. Secretary
 - (d) Hon. Treasurer
 - (e) Hon. Membership secretary
 - (f) Environment secretary
10. 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).
11. Any other business.

Refreshments will follow the AGM.

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Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society held at Woolton Village Club, Allerton Road, Woolton on Wednesday 18th November 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Attendance:

Committee members: Jean Davies in the chair, Paul Wilkie (Vice-Chairman/Hon. Secretary), Charles Davies (Hon. Treasurer), Chris Darnton, Janet Hudson, Janet Hollinshead.

Members: I Jackson, D Massey, L McNamara, I Keane, D Maguire, B Watt, E Toke, J Callaway, T Tewkesbury, G Hale, S Kenny, O Brown, A McGowan, R McGowan, K Fawkes, L McNamara, M Lowe, B Krasner .

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documents published in advance in the Society's newsletter No 336, together with the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 August 2015 distributed at the meeting.

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

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were noted from Jean & Peter Bates, Viv & Alan Hicks, Henry Stott, Viv Stern, Hilary Rock-Gormley, Paul King, A Wilkie, L Baldwin, M Chitty and Dorothy Chance.

3. 42nd AGM minutes. Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on 19th November 2014 and distributed in advance to all members were accepted as a true record, on a show of hands.

4. The hon. treasurer's report. The hon. treasurer Charles Davies presented the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2015 and commented on some items. The accounts showed a slightly reduced surplus for the year. The accounts approved by the executive committee were accepted on a show of hands.

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.

(i) The hon. secretary, Paul Wilkie reported that the executive committee met 7 times during the year, no additional members were co-opted, and there were three resignations. In the same period there have been 4 issues of the society's newsletter, ably edited by our chairman Jean Davies. Thanks are due to all involved in production and distribution of the newsletter. Jean Davies also organised another five outstanding talks, attracting very good attendances. This year the society again organised a visit, this time to St James' Gardens to follow up on the excellent talk. This guided tour was both interesting and instructive, and was well received by those attending.

During the year the society has purchased a stand for the video projector, and a freestanding vertical banner for use at talks and other society functions. We continue to regularly take a stall on the Farmer's Market to recruit new members and publicise the work of the society. To aid in publicity for the society, we have purchased an additional quantity of "Woolton Tea Towels", which have sold well at the Farmers Market, attracting a number of people to the stall.

Copies of the reprinted "History of Much Woolton" continue to sell 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.

Through the work of our past vice-chairman Henry Stott and committee member Janet Hollinshead, there has been considerable progress on the "Quarry Book" and it is now hoped to publish this early next year.

Once again for Heritage Open Days weekend the society ran walks. One of these walks was based on the "Janet Gnosspelius Woolton Walks" led by Charles Davies and Paul Wilkie, 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 some success.

During the course of the year members of the committee have been working on cataloguing Janet Gnosspelius's archive. Much of this is now complete, and the material has been lodged with the Liverpool Record Office. This also revealed a number of books by Arthur Ransome which had been mistakenly placed in the archive boxes. These were taken to the Liverpool University Sidney Jones Library to whom they had been bequeathed.

The committee were also invited to meetings with the architects and developers of a number of proposed developments during the year, to give the society's view on their proposals.

ii) In the absence of the membership secretary, Paul Wilkie reported membership for the period rose to 305, the highest for many years. Of these, 165 received newsletters by email, representing 39% of households. Apart from 16 which are delivered by post, and the remainder are hand delivered.

(iii) The environment secretary, Chris Darnton reported that this year we have seen the ongoing & contentious issue of St Julie's being rebuilt partly on a public park. This now looks, after a long battle, as though it is going ahead.

The two fields of Woolton Woods that front the High Street, still remain on the council's list of potential sites for housing – this is despite several other public parks such as Allerton Towers being removed from the list.

We only have to look down the road to Calderstones Park and see that Calder Kids, Beechley Stables and the miniature railways are to be sold off and developed for housing. Woolton Library has been sold to a developer

although no planning application has been made. The former farriers on Quarry Street, Watergate Lane site and the orchard on Church Road South are now currently under development after being razed to the ground. There are issues with the grade 1 listed Woolton Hall deteriorating, as seen by members on the heritage walk in September, with water coming into the building in multiple locations. The council officers who inspected it at my request have stated they couldn't see much wrong with it – however they did go during a prolonged dry period. After contacting the Liverpool Echo “Stop the Rot” campaign they did not want to get involved with another building as they are concentrating on the buildings they have already discussed in their publication. I contacted Historic England to ask could Woolton Hall be put on their “at risk” register. They said they are now in touch with council officers about arranging a visit which is encouraging

The Woolton Society has been informed that the owners of Woolton Hall turned down a £2.5M offer for Woolton Hall by a developer who wanted to refurbish the hall for the use of high end weddings along with accommodation for guests. This would have been done with the assistance of Heritage Lottery Fund grants so would have had to comply with conditions of keeping the integrity of the Grade I asset. Some of our committee members saw the plans, spoke to the developer and liked what we saw. It seems a shame that the owners were not able to come to some sort of deal.

The Woolton Society is effectively one voice in these planning matters. If residents and people who value our assets and open public spaces and are not happy with the way things are developing then they must take ACTION themselves. People need to object to planning applications, take the elected councillors to task as well as council officers responsible for protecting conservation areas and other public assets.

It has been encouraging to see the new businesses in the village continuing to thrive. The addition of outdoor seating at Coast and The Istanbul restaurant gave the village a continental feel over the summer.

6. Election of officers.

Chairman: The current chairman Jean Davies offered her resignation from the committee and was nominated for the position of chairman, and duly re-elected.

Paul Wilkie was willing to continue as vice-chairman, and was nominated and duly re-elected to the post. In the absence of nominations for the role of hon. secretary, Paul Wilkie volunteered to continue in this role, until a candidate could be found 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: The current incumbent Chris Darnton was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Les Baldwin resigned from the committee, this making the fourth resignation required under the constitution. Bernard Krasner and Thomas Tewkesbury stood for election to the committee.

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

7. Any other business.

7.1 Constitution

Paul Wilkie presented the proposed changes to the constitution, pointing out it was nearly 40 years old, and also mentioning that due to the technology of the day, there were multiple slightly different versions in circulation, with no definitive copy. Each of the changes was presented individually, and after some discussion the meeting concluded that further work was necessary on redefining the boundary of the area of interest. David Massey also pointed out that it might be necessary to get permission from the Charities Commission to change the area of interest.

The revised constitution without the boundary changes was accepted on a unanimous show of hands.

7.2 Thanks

Thanks were also offered to those organisations which support the Society; the Village Club for the rooms for the talks and committee meetings, Riverside Screenprints Ltd. who have housed Janet Gnosspelius's archive for the society, and our accountants HBD Accountancy Services LLP.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.40 pm, when the appropriate officers signed the society's accounts.

Please bring these minutes if you plan to attend the AGM on November 16th.

Society News

Alan Gaskin, Woolton Society's first chairman

We have been notified of the death of the Woolton Society's first chairman, Alan Gaskin, earlier this year, aged 93. Alan was a founder member of the society in 1972, & chairman for several years with co-founder Janet Gnosspelius as secretary.

Alan was born in Liverpool, & educated at Liverpool College. He volunteered in 1941 & served in North Africa & Palestine with the King's Dragoon Guards Regiment, Tank Division. On his return he worked for Princes Foods, becoming Managing Director. He retired to North Wales, but returned to Woolton in 2009, living at Reynolds Court on Vale Road. He continued to take an active interest in the society until his death in April this year.

Alan leaves a son & daughter, & four grandchildren. He will always be remembered as a founding father of the Woolton Society.

Talk of 21st September

Elaine Middleton of Age Concern Liverpool and Sefton gave a very well received talk on this date, the first of the Autumn season. Mrs Middleton spoke of the many & varied aspects of the work undertaken by Age Concern, such as assistance with writing wills, & the day centres run by the charity. A question & answer session followed.

Dates for your diary: 2016

The next talk given by the Woolton Society will be on **Wednesday 19th October**, when Simon La Frenais will be speaking on the life & work of Charles Darwin. He will cover Darwin's early life, & his voyage on The Beagle which led to the publication of his great work, *The Origin of the Species*.

The Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on **Wednesday 16th November**. Refreshments & an informal gathering will follow the AGM.

All talks & the AGM are held in the Village Club, starting at 7.30pm.

The programme of talks & events for 2017 has been drawn up, but space prevents details here. A full programme will appear in issue 341 of the newsletter, on the website www.wooltonociety.org.uk & on our notice board.

Society publications & merchandise

After the very successful launch of *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral* in June (see issue 339), the society has a new publication: *Who Lived in Woolton Hall?* This is the first in what is hoped to be a long series of local history pamphlets, written by Dr Janet Hollinshead who was the driving force behind the completion of this year's book. It is anticipated that pamphlet no. 2, available later in the year, will be entitled *Who was Lord Woolton?* The pamphlets are priced at £1, & available at all talks. *Woolton Stone* is priced at £5, the *History of Woolton* is £3, both are also available at Brown's on Woolton Street & Homesure estate agency on Allerton Road (see page 6 for details). *Woolton Stone* is also on sale at the cathedral bookshop.

The very popular tea towels, with views of Woolton, are also available, priced at £4.

Subscriptions.

Please note that all subscriptions are due in October, with the relevant forms & subscription rates being on pages 7 & 8 of this issue. If you pay by standing order, please could you make sure that your payment is made by 31st November as this will greatly assist the smooth running of our membership records. Thank you.

Environment News

The Draft Liverpool Local Plan

The council has unveiled its 15 year plan for the city & is inviting comments from residents. Described as a "roadmap" for the city's future, the council has in this document outlined its priorities. Key points are the protection of the city's parks; using brownfield sites for building; controls on student accommodation & fast food outlets, helping shops & services within district & local shopping centres.

The plan can be viewed at the Municipal Buildings on Dale Street, at the Central Library on William Brown Street, & at all community libraries in the city.

Feedback is sought from all residents, & should be received by October 31st. Representations can be made by the following methods:

Via the City Council's Consultation Portal

By e-mail at DevelopmentPlan@liverpool.gov.uk

By post at FREEPOST RRUU-KRRT-LATT, Liverpool City Council Planning & Building Dept, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L2 2DH

Residents could also phone the Development Team on 233 3021.

Glenacres Public Right of Way update

The City Council's Highways department anticipated making a decision on the PRoW claim by early September, but as yet we have heard nothing. Assuming the claim is accepted then a Definitive Map Modification Order will have to be drafted & publicly advertised. Interested individuals & organisations will then have six weeks to make representations to the council, either in support of the order or objecting to it. The WS will keep members informed of all progress.

Strawberry Field consultation meeting

The Salvation Army's Strawberry Field Project Team held a consultation evening on September 21st to outline their plans for the Beaconsfield Road site to residents. The plan is to move the sandstone wall to create a layby for vehicles, & demolish the 1960s buildings. The Salvation Army intends to build a centre for vulnerable young adults at the site, & provide a visitor centre & café.

The WS approves of the plans, which show concern for the grounds & parkland, & the layby will improve the traffic flow at this very congested location.

Traffic congestion in the village

The WS has recently approached all three local councillors about the congestion in the village, & car parking problems. All the councillors are concerned about the current situation, where there is gridlock on Church Road at 3.30 every school day, & cars parked thoughtlessly in the village at all hours without fear of sanction by traffic wardens. The councillors have promised a consultation meeting with residents, where views can be exchanged & solutions sought. We will notify members when this meeting is planned.

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

After the very successful Open Gardens event in June, the calendar for 2017 has been produced featuring photographs from the gardens & the Menlove allotments. The calendar is priced at £5, & is on sale now at the WIB stall, at Brown's on Woolton Street, & also at Homesure estate agency.

WIB will be at Sainsbury's on **Saturday 19th November**, selling the calendar & Christmas cards from 10am until 2pm, & also at the farmers markets on **October 8th, November 12th & December 10th**.

As WIB receives no funding from the city council, every penny has to be raised from voluntary contributions. We urge all WS members to support WIB, to ensure that our village remains blooming & beautiful.

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 4pm on **Saturday 26th November**.

Ticket to Read

TTR, Woolton's free community library will be opening on Saturday mornings from **Saturday 1st October**, from 11 am to 1pm. Many new books have been bought thanks to a grant from the Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity. In addition a Kool Kids Read, aimed at 8 to 11 year olds will begin at 11.30. Places are free, but booking is advised, either by calling in at TTR or by ringing Jean on 077 3805 1159.

The very popular Christmas event will be held on **Thursday 8th December**. More details closer to the time, but tickets will be on sale at TTR.

Library opening hours are Monday & Wednesday, 1.30 to 4pm at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road.

Women's Institute

The W.I. now meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at The Quarry, formerly the British Legion. This very popular group has a regular programme of talks, as well as quiz nights, craft & natter, walks & excursions. There is a waiting list for membership, but non-members can attend as guests for a small charge.

Diary dates are **October 4th**, with Hugh Daghish speaking on his time as Commander of HMY Britannia; **November 1st** will feature Sandy Morgan on upcycling furniture; a Christmas celebration is planned for **December 6th**.

Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP's care for the park continues, with the wildflower meadow about to receive its Autumn mowing. The planting will continue in the spring, with Bishop Martin & SFX schools already signed up to take part.

FORP is very concerned about the government's plans for funding parks from March 2017. There will be an open meeting of the Parks Forum to discuss this on **Saturday 26th November** from 10.00 to 1.00pm at Croxteth Hall. Those who wish to attend should contact FORP chairman Geoff Kendall on 428 6409 or gek210345@aol.com

FORP meetings are held in Tesco's coffee shop on Wednesdays at 7pm. The AGM will be on **Wednesday 9th November**. Meetings in 2017 will be held on **January 11th, March 8th, May 10th, July 12th, September 13th & November 8th**.

Activities at The Hub

The Hub at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road now holds an activity session on most mornings.

Mondays: Craft mornings; Tuesdays: board games; 1st Wednesday of the month: Singalong

Fridays: table tennis

All sessions are from 10.00 to 12.00, & require only a suggested donation of £1 (£2 for the craft mornings) which includes a cup of tea.

PROBUS

Woolton Probus Club, founded in 1985, is inviting retired **Professional/Business** men to join. The club meets on the last Thursday of the month for lunch at the Woolton Golf Club in Speke Road. A programme of occasional after-lunch talks is organised with the club making charitable donations to speakers as appropriate. In particular the Marie Curie Hospice, Woolton is supported. Membership enquiries should be addressed to the secretary on 428 3410.

A new business in Woolton

Homesure estate agency has opened at 32 Allerton Road, with the owner contacting the Woolton Society offering to stock our merchandise to show their clients what Woolton has to offer to residents. Homesure now has a stock of our new publication *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral*, as well as copies of our *History of Woolton*, & tea towels. They have also a stock of our publicity flyers, & the WIB calendar.



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION (for new or amended subscriptions)

To Bank, full 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 1st 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

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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**