

# THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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

**ISSUE NO: 344 October 2017 - AGM issue**

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 45 YEARS



## NEWSLETTER

### Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the forty fifth Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 15th November 2017 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 fourth AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
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.**

#### Newsletter contents in full:

**Minutes of the 44th AGM of November 2016: pages 2-3**  
**Society news: pages 3-5**  
**Environment news: page 5**  
**Woolton news: page 6**  
**Membership forms: pages 7-8**

**Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society held at Woolton Village Club,  
Allerton Road, Woolton on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30 pm.**

**Attendance:**

**Committee members:** Jean Davies in the chair, Paul Wilkie (ViceChairman/Hon. Secretary), Charles Davies (Hon. Treasurer), Chris Darnton, Janet Hudson, Janet Hollinshead, Jean Bates, Viv Hicks, Tom Tewksbury, Bernard Krasner, John Hibbert.

**Members:** I Jackson, L McNamara, I Keane, D Maguire, B Watt, E Toke, G Hale, Anne Wilkie, Anne Brayford, Joan Dowson, Rose King, Paul King, Christine Vane, Henry Alty, Alan Grant, Thelma Grant, Monica Lowe, Bob Collins, Sheila Nimmo, George Kuruvilla, Linda Parsons.

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documents published in advance in the society's newsletter No 340, together with the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 August 2016 distributed at the meeting.

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

**2. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were noted from Peter Bates, Henry Stott, Sue Carmichael

**3. Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting** held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and distributed in advance to all members were proposed as read by Mr Toke and 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 2016 and commented on some items. The accounts showed a surplus for the year, due largely to the success of the publication of the Quarry Book. Another factor was the receipt of the first claim for gift aid. 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 no 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. Viv Hicks organised another six outstanding talks, attracting very good attendances. This year the society again organised a visit, this time to the Williamson Tunnels.

This year saw the publication of "Woolton Stone and Liverpool Cathedral", marked by a launch event in June attended by the Bishop of Liverpool. The book has proved very popular, being sold by the society at talks, and on a stall on the Woolton farmer's market which we regularly take to recruit new members and publicise the work of the society. In addition Brown's Newsagents and the Cathedral bookshop are also stocking copies. The society has also produced a booklet "Who Lived in Woolton Hall", written by committee member Janet Hollinshead which is the first in what is hoped to be a series of booklets.

At the last AGM the issue of boundary changes was referred back to the committee. After consideration it was decided that we could not manage a significantly increased area, and since members were against reducing the southern area, we would have to leave the boundaries unchanged.

ii) The membership secretary Jean Bates reported membership (that is those who have paid their subscriptions) for the 2015/16 period peaked at 294 members. This did not quite match the bumper year we had last year with a total of 305 members but is still higher than the previous 7 years.

Of those members the methods they choose to receive their newsletter:

Method of receiving newsletter	No
Email	119
Post (members who live outside the area)	19
Hand delivery	156
Total (Paid members)	294

We also hold an electronic mailing list to allow the Woolton Society to email members with information on any of the campaigns the society is currently supporting or any events taking place.

We have 200 people on the electronic mailing list so far. If any of you have not given us your email address but would like to receive email notifications then please add your name and email to the sheet on the table after the meeting.

(iii) The environment secretary, Chris Darnton reported that the new St Julie's is now taking shape, and is much more dominating because it is closer to the village, and partly on a public park. The city council refuses to remove the rest of the field from the local plan. The promised donation of the woodland owned by the school appears to be heavily constrained, it seems that access will only be through a single gate located inside the walled garden.

Woolton Hall continues to deteriorate, but the owners seem reluctant to either develop or sell it.

On a more positive note, the sale of Woolton Golf course has now fallen through, the developer having failed to make the necessary payment.

If members are not happy with what is going on, don't rely on the single voice of the Society take ACTION yourselves. 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.

## **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 offered his resignation from the committee, but stated he 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 offered his resignation from the committee, but stated he was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Membership secretary: The current incumbent, Jean Bates offered her resignation from the committee, but stated she was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Environment secretary: The current incumbent Chris Darnton announced his resignation from the committee due to pressure of work. Committee member Janet Hudson was nominated for the post, and elected.

Bob Collins stood for election to the committee.

All the above were proposed, seconded and, there being no other nominations, were duly elected. The resignations from the officers met the requirements of the constitution for resignations.

## **7. Any other business.**

### **7.1 Defibrillator**

Dr Toke enquired whether the society had access to a defibrillator for meetings. The committee did not believe this to be the case, so Dr Toke offered to donate one to be dedicated to his late wife. The chairman offered to investigate this.

### **7.2 Thanks**

Thanks were 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 8.35 pm, when the appropriate officers signed the society's accounts.

# *Society News*

## **Subscriptions and newsletter**

Members are reminded that all subscriptions are due at the start of October. ***If you pay by standing order, please could you make sure that your payment is made by 31<sup>st</sup> November as this will greatly assist the smooth running of our membership records, thank you.*** Also please note that this newsletter is the ***last to use the hand delivery system.*** All members will receive an e-mail edition of the newsletter, unless they opt to have a paper copy which will be sent out by post. The

renewal form on page 7 of this issue can be used to order a postal copy of the newsletter, which will cost an **additional £8** on top of the relevant subscription rate.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** *If you already receive your newsletter by email just renew your membership as usual.*

*If you receive a paper copy, either ensure that we have an email address for you OR add an extra £8 to your sub. for a paper copy to cover postage and printing costs changing your standing order as necessary.*

### **Recent talks and walks**

The talk on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July was experimental in nature, as it was the first to be held in the afternoon, & also at a different venue, the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road. The venture was hugely successful, as the speaker, Dr Andrew Zsigmond, attracted a packed audience who listened spellbound to his tale of the Hungarian uprising in 1956. After exchanging his text books for a gun, the then 20 year old medical student had to flee after the Russian invasion, reaching first Austria & eventually the UK. Here he learned to speak English at the cinema ( "I began a sentence as David Niven & ended it as John Wayne...") & won a place at Liverpool's medical school. We thank Dr Zsigmond for an enthralling talk, & one which has ensured that we shall have several afternoon dates in the 2018 programme.

The guided walk on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July took a group of members around the Ropewalks area of the city centre, & was led by Blue badge guide Marie Passey. This was a very informative & entertaining tour, as we learned of the history of Duke Street, visiting the last back to back terraces in the city, on to Chinatown, then down the historic Georgian area around Parr & Colquit Streets & School Lane. Those on the walk will be well placed to answer many questions at the next Woolton Society quiz night, such as who was Duke Street named after? Thanks to Mrs Passey for such a fascinating tour.

Heritage Open Day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September was marked by a guided walk around Woolton Village led by committee members. The walk started at the dolphin lamp, more properly the Rev. Leicester lamp, & progressed up Church Road via the Simon Peter Centre, St Peter's churchyard, the mere stones, Strawberry Field, Mendips & the old quarry workings. Fortunately the weather stayed dry, & the walk ended at the WI fete in time for tea & cakes.

Bill Sergeant gave the talk on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, with the nurses of the first war as his subject. Entitled Gallant Daughters of England, Mr Sergeant spoke movingly of the sacrifices these young women made in nursing overseas, & of the little known memorial to twenty of their number which is in the Anglican cathedral on Hope Street. Mr Sergeant's speaking fee has been donated at his request to the Royal College of Nurses benevolent fund.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October Dr Tom Preston: The day Robb broke out .....**

In a change to our advertised programme Dr Tom Preston will be speaking on Liverpool's own Robb Wilton. This comedian is inextricably linked with the second world war through his radio broadcasts & music hall routine "The day war broke out..." Dr Preston last spoke to the WS on Fred Waldron & the Wayfarer, & is currently writing the first ever biography of Robb Wilton, a man whose life had more than its share of tragedy & excitement.

#### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

## **2018 programme**

After a winter break the season of talks will begin again in February. The programme is being finalised, & will include several talks in the afternoon. These will be held in St Mary's hall off Church Road, which has the advantage of disabled access & its own car park very close to the entrance. The afternoon talks will be from 3 to 4pm so that there will be no conflict with school traffic at 3.30pm. Refreshments will be provided, as at the talk in July. The evening talks will be at the Village Club, as usual, & will begin at 7.30pm. The full programme of talks will be in issue 345 of the newsletter, on our website [www.wooltonsociety.org.uk](http://www.wooltonsociety.org.uk) & on the noticeboard beside the former HSBC building.

## **Society publications & merchandise**

The Society now has four pamphlets & two books to its name, as well as tea towels & a new line of aprons.

The books are A History of Much Woolton, first published in 1975, reprinted in 2012, priced at £3, & Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral, published in 2016 & costing £5.

The first three pamphlets are on Woolton Hall, Lord Woolton, & Hillfoot Villa, all written by committee member Dr Janet Hollinshead. Pamphlet 4 is a walk around Woolton, written by chairman Jean Davies, with illustrations by treasurer Charles Davies. All pamphlets are priced at £1.

The new aprons carry a design of local landmarks drawn by local artist Sandra Hepworth & are priced at £12. The tea towels, also featuring local views are £4.

All are available at Woolton Society talks, & at the farmers market stall on the second Saturday of the month. The books, but not the pamphlets or aprons, are also available at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street.

# *Environment News*

## **Woolton Hall**

Although we do not report on Woolton Hall in every issue of the newsletter, it is a subject always of concern to us, as the Woolton Society was founded to prevent its demolition in 1972. The hall is becoming increasingly dilapidated, with regular reports of break ins & damage to the interior. At a committee meeting in July the three local councillors attended to discuss Woolton Hall. Cllr Bennett holds the responsibility for heritage, & is greatly concerned at the deterioration of the hall, which is one of only nine Grade 1 listed buildings in the city. Cllr Kelly has been very pro-active in contacting the current owners to discover their plans, if any, for future repairs & renovation. The WS environment secretary keeps in contact with planning officers has also tried to reach the owners several times. All requests for information have been ignored by the owners, & we are not aware of any planning applications for future work on the premises. We shall continue to press for information, & keep members informed of any progress.

## **The Istanbul restaurant**

Issue 342 carried a report of the extension to the Istanbul restaurant on Allerton Road, which was repainted a vibrant shade of lilac entirely unsuited to a conservation area. After representations from the Woolton Society & many residents the owners were instructed to repaint the exterior. This has been completed & the restaurant now has cream brickwork much more in keeping with the neighbourhood.

## **Knolle Park**

A fire at the Knolle Park site at the top of Church Road in the summer resulted in a significant drop in water pressure for residents after several tenders were called to the scene. Little damage was done to the main building.

There has been little sign of activity at the site, with residents receiving a letter some months ago concerning a city council enforcement order for roof repairs, etc. but with no news since then.

**The planning applications have been held over for this issue owing to lack of space. The applications will be in issue 345 in early 2018.**

# Woolton News

## **Ticket to Read**

Ticket to Read has bought many new books recently, with the aid of a grant from the Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity. These are all now in the library & awaiting borrowers.

There will be a fund raising evening on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**, with songs & poems & a hot pot supper. Tickets from TTR, price to be advised nearer the date.

Ticket to Read, Woolton's community library, is open at the Simon Peter Centre on Mondays & Wednesdays from 1.30 to 4pm.

## **Woolton in Bloom**

The very popular WIB official calendar is now on sale, with images celebrating the Beatles festival held in July. The calendar is priced at £5 & is available at the WIB stall at the farmers market as well as at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street.

WIB will also be fundraising outside Sainsbury's on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November** from 10am to 4pm.

The date has been set for the very popular Open Gardens event in 2018. This will be **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**. In the past up to a dozen private gardens have been open, as well as the Bishops' Lodge, with refreshments provided by the W.I. Any local resident who is considering opening their own garden should contact WIB at the market stall or ring Viv Hicks on 428 3268 for more details.

## **Friends of Reynolds Park**

FORP hopes to be a beneficiary of Tesco's charity scheme, whereby shoppers can vote for a good cause by way of tokens placed in the relevant box. All Tesco shops, including the ones in Woolton & Mather Avenue are taking part, but as assistants do not always offer the tokens shoppers should remember to ask for them in order to vote. FORP is doing well at the Woolton store, & has had many votes in Allerton too, with voting ending on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The top award is £4000, which the Friends would use to renew the children's play area in the park.

FORP meets in Tesco's coffee shop, with the next meeting being the AGM at 7pm on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**.

## **Woolton Community Life**

Volunteer befrienders are needed by WCL to visit the lonely & housebound in Woolton, Gateacre & Hunts Cross. Set up by local GP George Kuruvilla after he saw many cases of lonely & isolated patients, WCL also publishes a directory of societies & activities in & around Woolton.

Please contact WCL on 07490 572 344 for more information.

## **The Women's Institute**

Woolton has two thriving WI groups. The Women of Woolton (WOW) meet on the first Tuesday of each month at The Quarry on Allerton Road, & have a busy programme of walking groups, a quiz night, craft sessions, bowls & golf. Day trips & weekends away are also very popular. The website is [www.wooltonwi.co.uk](http://www.wooltonwi.co.uk)

The new group, the Woolton Wanderers meet on the third Monday of each month, at the Simon Peter Centre on Church Road. A programme of events is being established & will be advertised later.

Both groups are now full, but prospective members can go on a waiting list.





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