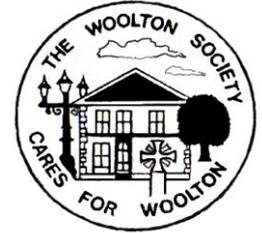


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk



ISSUE NO: 328 Autumn 2013

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the forty first Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 16th October 2013 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 fortieth AGM held on 17th October 2012.
4. Hon. treasurer's report.
5. Chairman's remarks.
6. Election of officers:
 - (a) Chairman
 - (b) Vice-Chairman
 - (c) Hon. Secretary
 - (d) Hon. Treasurer
7. 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).
8. Any other business.

Refreshments will follow the AGM.

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Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society held at Woolton Village Club, Allerton Road, Woolton on Wednesday 17th October 2012 at 7.30 pm.

Attendance: Committee members: Edith McGlashan in the chair, Paul King (vice-chairman), Henry Stott (hon. secretary), Charles Davies (hon. treasurer), Jean Davies, Ann Fearon, Meryl Kelbrick, Les Baldwin, Roger Pointon, Brian Watt.

Members and visitors: A Hesketh, I Curran, M McDonald, G Chittenden, D Chance, V Hicks, J Bates, L Knowles, P Roy, I Keane, E Pimblett, A Wilkie, T Grant, P Brookfield, D Hayes, A Brayford, M Condy, V Stott, A McGorian, S Carmichael, L Hesketh, D Upton, A Chittenden, H Mantle, R Collins, G Topham, D Massey, P Bates, D Griffiths, J Pope, P Wilkie, A Smith, D Maguire, N Callaghan, A Grant, J Whalon, N Brookfield, N Hayes, R McGorian.

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documents published in advance in the society's newsletter No 325, together with the year end accounts for the year ended 31 August 2012 distributed at the meeting. The published agenda was then followed.

- 1. Notice convening the meeting.** This was read by the chairman.
- 2. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were noted from: Hilary Rock-Gormley, Mrs Parry, A G Gaskin, R. Bancroft.
- 3. Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting** held on 26th October 2011 and distributed in advance to all members were accepted as a true record, on a show of hands.
- 4. Hon. treasurer's report.** Charles Davies presented the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2012 and commented on some items:
Receipts from membership fees were down on the previous year, indicating a slight reduction in membership.
The receipt of a grant of £1055 from Woolton Educational & Recreational Trust was used to reprint 1000 copies of the society's 'History of Much Woolton', now on sale.
The payment of £58 is our membership subscription to the British Association for Local History, which also provides the society's insurance.
The society has terminated its PO Box facility, with a substantial saving.
- 5. Chairman's Remarks.** In lieu of a personal statement the chairman invited other officers of the committee to give their reports, as follows:
The **hon. secretary** (Henry Stott) advised that the executive committee had met 5 times during the year. In the same period there have been 5 issues of the society's newsletter, ably edited by Jean Davies. Thanks are due to all involved in production and distribution of the newsletter. Jean Davies also organised another splendid series of talks, attracting good attendances. In December, Meryl Kelbrick organised a raffle on behalf of the society in aid of Save Woolton Pool Fund, with prizes of 'meals for two' donated by local restaurants. The event raised £1600. Sue Carmichael, one of the original founders of the society, succeeded in having the baths listed as a grade II historic building, helping to secure its physical if not its operational future. We completed two projects related to the late Janet Gnosspelius. Firstly, her 'History of Much Woolton', written in conjunction with Dr John Lally, has been reprinted in a facsimile edition. The society has printed 1000 copies using a generous grant from the Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity, which are to be sold at £3. Secondly, a memorial stone was unveiled in July alongside the society's Woolton Oak on High Street. Made from Woolton sandstone, the memorial was funded from earlier donations made in her memory. Some progress has been made in documenting the extensive archive bequeathed to the society by Miss Gnosspelius, and the secretary appealed for volunteers to further this process. There has also been a revival of interest in the draft chapters of the 'Quarry Book' started 30 years ago by society members with a view to possible future publication.
Finally, the society has backed, in principle, a proposed Woolton oral history project which, if it proceeds, will invite village residents (the older the better) to record their recollections of life in Woolton, for posterity.
Concluding his last report, the secretary hoped his successor would have an equally eventful term of office. (Documents relating to the foundation and early operation of the Woolton Society were shown, to the interest and amusement of all present. The vice-chairman paid tribute to the retiring secretary's contribution to the present standing of the society, from near extinction in 2004)

(ii) The Committee currently lacks a **membership secretary**. The chairman advised a membership total of approx. 230, plus 8 honorary members. The total makes allowance for losses due to known deaths and other causes, and recruitment at meetings and at Woolton Farmers Market. Cases of lapsed payment of membership fees, indicating possible reduction in numbers, are being investigated. The chairman repeated the recent newsletter appeal for a volunteer to fill the position of membership secretary.

(iii) The **environment secretary**, Meryl Kelbrick, preferred to use the opportunity to invite comments or questions from the floor. None were forthcoming. However, in a later comment but recorded here for convenience, Brian Watt paid tribute to the environment secretary's hard work in formulating the society's responses to relevant planning applications, and dealings with council departments. He reminded those present that despite the projects already referred to, the Woolton Society is, first and foremost, dedicated to conservation issues, and referred to the detailed attention currently being given to the proposed development of Knolle Park.

6. Election of officers.

Chairman The current Chairman, Edith McGlashan, was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Vice-chairman Paul King was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Hon. secretary Roger Pointon had volunteered to take on this role, and was duly elected.

Hon. treasurer Charles Davies was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

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

7. Election of members of the executive committee. The 4 members retiring under rule 7 of the society's constitution were: Ann Fearon, Meryl Kelbrick, Les Baldwin and Henry Stott. All were willing to serve and were duly re-elected without opposition.

8. Any other business.

a. In response to a query about future projects, the outgoing secretary referred to those listed in his report, i.e. archives, oral history, and the quarry book. Re the latter, Sue Carmichael updated the meeting on the current situation.

b. In response to a query about the Woolton Village Residents Association the chairman said that, arising from dual membership, we have a good relationship with WVRA and exchange newsletters etc. She hoped our members would support WVRA's forthcoming table sale in aid of the village Christmas tree fund.

c. Attention was drawn by Paul King to the society's new notice board at the side of HSBC Bank. The chairman then advised the meeting that the new board had been donated by committee members Norman Callaghan and Brian Watt. We recorded our appreciation of their generosity.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.20 pm, when the appropriate officers signed the society's accounts. An invitation was then given for everyone to join in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Woolton Society on 25th October 1972.

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

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STOP PRESS! Proposal for residential development of land on Church Road South

There has been considerable speculation about the piece of land owned by the Village Club on Church Road South in between Barclays Bank & St James' Church Hall. The development company, Dreaming Spires has invited The Woolton Society to view the plans in advance of a public consultation. ***The public are invited to meet with them and their planning consultants anytime between 2 - 7pm Tuesday 1 Oct at Woolton Village Club.*** We urge all who are concerned about this proposal to attend and voice their views. We shall report on this in the next issue, together with our regular *Planning News & Applications* feature. ***Go to our website for further developments.***

Society News

Heritage Open Day & Anniversary



High Sheriff of Merseyside, Ian Meadows receiving a Woolton pie from a member of Woolton W.I. at the opening event in St Peter's

Saturday 14th September, Heritage Open Day throughout the country, was used by Woolton & Gateacre to mark 100 years of their incorporation into the City of Liverpool.

The Woolton Society's contribution to the day was a great success, with a heritage walk led by member David Massey visiting the site of Woolton Hall, taking in the architectural features of the village, & finishing with tea & scones at The Mechanics Institute. Many thanks to owners & W.S. members Mr & Mrs Gregory for their generous hospitality. There were also several Beatles trails, taking in sites such as Strawberry Field, Mendips, & the grave of Eleanor Rigby. Many enquiries about Woolton were answered as visitors came from all parts of the country, over fifty copies of our History of Much Woolton were sold, & the village looked its best in the Autumn sunshine.

The actual anniversary of the incorporation will be in November, & on the 9th of that month a plaque will be unveiled by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Ian Millar. This will be sited on the wall of the HSBC bank, adjacent to the society's notice board. Details of times will be on our notice board & website as soon as they are finalised.

See also the article on the Anniversary Plaque by Sue Carmichael on page 5 of this issue.

Diary Date

Our final talk of 2013 will be on Wednesday 20th November, when the warden of Mendips, Colin Hall, will be speaking of his time as live-in curator of John Lennon's childhood home. He will also speak of his childhood memories of Woolton.

All talks are held in the Village Club starting at 7.30pm, & are open to non-members as well as members.

Journeys Through My Family Tree

Our talk on Wednesday 18th September was given by archivist Janice Tullock. This was a fascinating talk on tracing family archives, with many people seen to be taking notes. A free site mentioned as being useful for those researching family history is www.ancestry.co.uk available in libraries. Our website www.wooltonociety.org.uk has details of several more sites mentioned by Mrs Tullock.

Membership renewal/Gift Aid. *Subscriptions are due in October. See page 7 for current rates. Please check that you are paying the correct rate and note the increase in the postal rate if you receive your newsletter by Royal Mail – this is because of the large increases in the cost of stamps. It would greatly assist the administration of the Society if all members would consider going over to standing order and, of course, it is easier for you as a member to have your subscription automatically renewed. Also have you considered receiving your newsletter by email? Again this would assist in the efficient running of the society. To sign up for this, please tick*

the box and give your email address on the renewals form. **Gift Aid** enables us, as a registered charity, to reclaim tax on subs paid, with no cost to the member. We urge all members to fill in a Gift Aid form, available on page 8, at all meetings or from the Treasurer. If you have already completed a Gift Aid form, there is no need to do another one.

Committee Members: An Appeal

As several committee members will be standing down at the AGM we are appealing for new people to join us. We are in particular need of an environment secretary to monitor the planning issues in Woolton, & also people to co-ordinate the distribution of the newsletter to our band of deliverers. Committee meetings are held five or six times a year, so do not take up a lot of time.

Please consider joining the committee, as without active members the Society will become ineffective. Contact any committee member for details or attend the AGM or via our website.

Woolton News

The story of Woolton and Gateacre's 1913-2013 centenary plaque (from Sue Carmichael)

Delving through century old papers while researching for Woolton Baths listing application (in early 2011) I had a eureka moment. After 20 years since opening in 1893 there was evidence the baths management had suddenly, on 9th November 1913, passed from Much Woolton local board to Liverpool's responsibility. This discovery signalled that Much and Little Woolton had been incorporated into Liverpool from Lancashire - a highly significant moment in our local history. It also heralded the once in a century chance for a future celebration two years later so we started alerting others to this exciting opportunity. Steve Binns, community historian, confirmed that Liverpool's growth by absorbing outlying former Lancashire villages had not been universally popular - there had been street fighting in some places. Thankfully not so in Much and Little Woolton!

As part of the centenary celebrations, we have already had, on Saturday 14th September, a Woolton and Gateacre Centenary Heritage Open Day to coincide with the national Heritage Open Days. This was a sunny and successful day ably opened by our new High Sheriff of Merseyside, Ian Meadows.

It was agreed at an early meeting of the Centenary Group that 9th November, the official day, should be marked by the unveiling of a plaque by the Lord Mayor, Gary Millar. Early discussions suggested it was important to include visual symbols of the three key historic visual symbols for Woolton: the village cross, the red rose of Lancashire and the liverbird. Gateacre, having decided not to have its own plaque, was invited to be included. With gentle arm twisting, Tony Griffiths, fellow retired Woolton architect, was recruited to design the plaque. He not only has long experience in designing for sensitive conservation contexts, but also of 'Hatchments' (funereal coats of arms - see late 18th / early 19thc. examples in Childwall church).

Many issues were considered regarding the design and location of the plaque. These included location and positioning, security, access for all, legibility, longevity, maintenance, visual design, content quality – wording, symbolism, materials - eg local Woolton sandstone or bronze, manufacture, installation and production timescale, and, not least of all, formal consultations and permissions and, finally, available budget!

One location considered was adjacent to our village cross, originally erected c. 1350 marking the (then) north boundary of the village centre, 'town garden' or 'the green'. This otherwise highly apt location was soon rejected as being too small and close to a busy traffic junction. Another possibility was a floor or column based plaque in the pedestrian space or close by our giant 'landmark' listed lamp post near Lodes Pond. Also considered were by the semi circular stone seats near the traffic lights, replacing the irreparably damaged drinking fountain at the Allerton Road Church Road junction and above the doorway of Morecroft's solicitors also at that junction.

These were rejected for various reasons such as access, visually legibility, need to negotiate with building owners, security, maintenance, etc. The major stumbling block has proved to be negotiating

permissions with Liverpool City Council planners and engineers. The city council has to charge fees for all permissions, even for this plaque which is marking a key moment in city history! The combined fees for the extensive negotiations required by the engineers as well as with the planners would be soon approaching £1500 and so well exceeding the cost of the plaque and column itself - what a paradox! This factor tipped the balance towards a wall mounted solution. The final decision was therefore to have a wall mounted plaque; this meant a swift redesign from the original free standing plan.

So decision finally made, local company Photocast were commissioned to make and install it. (Photocast in Speke has worked nationally for The National Trust and English Heritage as well as producing Gateacre's stylish interpretation board). The Much and Little Woolton 1913-2013 Centenary plaque is now to be mounted on the wall of HSBC bank near the Woolton Society notice board and unveiled by Gary Millar, the current Lord Mayor at a ceremony on 9th November.

Plans are also now afoot, by the WVRA, for a variety of souvenir replicas of the centenary plaque, I feel sure they will prove popular with local residents and expat Wooltonians near and far for those Christmas 2013 presents and personal or family mementos to keep for future generations as they look forward to the next centenary in 2113!

Ticket to Read

The community library has now extended its hours, which are as follows:

The Simon Peter Centre, Church Road, Mondays & Wednesdays 1.30 to 4.30

Linksvie Tower, Vale Road, Thursdays 1.00 to 3.00

The Victoria, Quarry Street, Mondays 4.00 to 10.pm (please note extended hours).

Ticket to Read will be hosting an event in St Peter's Hall on Thursday 5th December, with readings & refreshments. Further details will be available from any of the TTR venues nearer the date.

Christmas Lights

This year the village will be decorated by *Christmas Decorators* of Wavertree, who have offered to decorate every premise in the centre of the village. Last year, this company was responsible for installing the Christmas tree in Bethlehem, which earned them huge acclaim & publicity. The company's owner, a Woolton resident, has offered to decorate every shop and house front on Allerton Road (up to Quarry Street) & Woolton street, free of charge. This will result in considerable publicity for the village, & has been welcomed by the traders at a recent meeting. The grand switch-on in late November will be advertised widely.

New Businesses in Woolton

We welcome three new businesses to the Village, all on Woolton Street.

Main Street Coffee (428 0113) is at number 8, with a tempting selection of coffee & cakes.

Cards Etc (428 2888) is at number 13 with a wide range of cards & gifts.

First Quarter Liverpool (428 0131) is a gentlemen's hairdresser, & found at number 30-32.

The Woolton Society is always pleased to see new businesses arriving, & we wish them all every success.

Woolton in Bloom

Judges from the Royal Horticultural Society visited Woolton in July & August for the North West in Bloom & Britain in Bloom contests. The village looked its best, as teams of volunteers had been out weeding, pruning & sweeping the streets until the very moment. The judges seemed to be favourably impressed, but results will not be announced until late October.

The 2014 Woolton in Bloom official calendar is now available, priced at £4.50, & on sale at Brown's on Woolton Street as well as at the WIB stall at the monthly farmers market. This year the calendar features photographs of Woolton old & new.



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

Registered charity no. 506224

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Subscriptions are due 1st October and rates for the period **October 2013 to September 2014** are as follows, (please tick):

adult (single) £6.00 **pensioner/student (single) £4.00**

adult (joint) £9.00 **pensioner/student (joint) £6.00**

Please check that you are paying the correct subs. and amend as necessary. If you receive your newsletters by Royal Mail please add £3.00 to the amount above to cover postage and packing.

Method of payment: *by standing order - as attached.*
 by cheque payable to 'the Woolton Society'
 by cash/cheque at meetings

Please complete the renewal form below, to enable us to verify our records.

Please tick if you wish to receive your newsletter by email and give your email address below:

To: The Membership Secretary, The Woolton Society,
11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY

I/we enclose the sum of £ to renew my subscription

Full Name:

Address:

Post code: **email:**

Please include this slip with your payment and send to the membership secretary at the address above or pay at one of our meetings. N.B. If you already pay by standing order and your details have not changed, there is no need to complete this form; your membership will renew automatically.



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

STANDING ORDER (for new or amended subscriptions)

To Bank

Bank address

Please pay Barclays Bank, 29 Allerton Road, Woolton
Liverpool L25 7RD
sort code no.20-50-82

For the credit of: The Woolton Society, Account No. 50868930

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 AMEND ANY EXISTING STANDING ORDER TO THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

Signature:

Sort code: Account number:

Account Name:

Address:

Date:

**After completion, please return to: The Membership Secretary,
11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY**

Gift Aid declaration

The Woolton Society - Registered charity no. 506224

Please treat all gifts/subscriptions of money that I have made 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 Initial(s) Surname

Home address

Postcode

Date Signature

GUIDANCE NOTES:

Please complete the details above and return via the contact address on the membership renewal form (overleaf), or via any committee member or at any Society meeting. The Woolton Society will make the necessary tax reclaim to boost our funds.

Please notify the Treasurer of The Woolton Society if you:

1. Want to cancel this declaration.
2. Change your name or home address.
3. No longer pay tax on your income, pensions and/or capital gains.

Tax claimed by the charity:

The Woolton Society will be able to reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2008.

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.