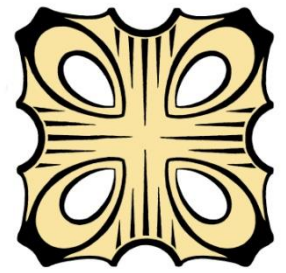


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk
Instagram: @thewooltonociety

ISSUE NO 370 Spring 2024

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



NEWSLETTER



The collapsed wall in Reynolds Park, see page 6.

Newsletter contents:

Society news: pages 2-4

Environment & planning news: pages 5-6

Woolton news: pages 6-8



WS QR code

Society News

Talk in February

The first talk of the 2024 programme was held on Thursday 15th February when archaeologist turned stonemason Ronan Mooney gave a very well received talk on the conservation of pre 1919 buildings. Great attention was paid to Ronan's many practical suggestions, showing that conservation is close to the heart of many members. Ronan has generously offered to act as an honorary consultant to the society, so that we can call on him for advice. Those wishing to contact Ronan in his professional capacity may do so on rmooneyarch@gmail.com

Special mention must go here to eight-year-old Jessica, who gave up part of her half term holiday in order to serve the refreshments at the talk. This she did with great efficiency & charm. Thank you, Jess.

The Woolton Society's programme of events for the remainder of 2024

Please note that the talks in March & April are as advertised here, not as in issue 369 where they were inadvertently transposed.

Thursday 21st March at 3pm: Chris Tigwell: The Rainhill trials of 1829

Chris is a member of The Rainhill Railway & Heritage Society, & had been booked to speak in 2020. As his talk was cancelled during the first lock-down we are very pleased to welcome him back to our programme. He will be speaking on the speed trials of 1829, when George Stephenson's *Rocket* was first put through its paces. Ten locomotives were tested, competing for the contract to supply engines for the nascent Liverpool to Manchester railway. Stephenson's belief that his engine would have the best motive power was proved to be correct, as only *Rocket* completed the trails & so was declared the winner.

As this is an afternoon event complimentary refreshments will be available from 2.30pm, with the talk starting promptly at 3pm.

With the clock change to Summer Time, the talks in April, May, June & September will be at 7.30pm on Wednesdays.

Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm: Ken Pye: A matter of life & death!

Well-known local author & broadcaster Ken Pye will be speaking on Liverpool's many historic & fascinating graveyards. Ken will be bringing a selection of his publications for sale.

Wednesday 15th May at 7.30pm: Tony Banks: The history of the RNLI

Tony is a Water Safety & Community Presenter for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, & will be speaking on the vital work carried out by this well-loved national institution. The RNLI celebrates its two hundredth anniversary this year, still staffed by volunteers & funded by donations.

Wednesday 19th June at 7.30: Quiz Night

Our sixth annual quiz night will be held at St Mary's, with the reigning champions being The Fantastic Three. Last year saw a close-run contest, with the previous champions The Layton Ramblers narrowly missing out. All are invited to attend, to make up a table of four to challenge the holders, with participants allowed to bring their own refreshments. The Woolton Society Quiz Cup, freshly engraved with the 2023 champions will be awarded to the winners. There will be prizes!

Sunday 14th July at 1pm: coach tour to St George's church Everton, & Everton Park

The coach tour has seen steady bookings since the first announcement & is already half full, four months before the event. Those wishing to join should contact the society via info@wooltonociety.org.uk or at

the market or at any of the society's talks. Tickets are a subsidised £10 for members or £17.50 for non-members.

The coach will leave Woolton at 1pm, heading north through The Georgian Quarter, with a commentary en route from Blue Badge guide Marie Passey. With a stop at Everton Park to enjoy the magnificent view from one of the city's highest points we shall go on to St George's church, one of the two cast iron churches in the city. With further commentary on the building from Marie, as well as Dr Janet Hollinshead, we will be provided with tea & biscuits by church workers.

St George's is sited in one of the most deprived communities in the city, which is itself in an economically depressed area. The Woolton Society will be making a donation to the church, as it is opening especially for our visit. There is a food bank run by volunteers at the church, with any donations of foodstuffs from members on the day being welcomed.

Those members who have booked a place on the tour but not yet paid are asked to do so as soon as possible. The society now has a card reader in use, with payments being taken at the markets or at talks.

Wednesday 18th September at 7.30: Judy Kinnin: The forced repatriation of Chinese seamen 1945/6

Mrs Kinnin is a member of Liverpool's Chinese community, whose father disappeared after the war. She will be speaking on the effects of growing up not knowing what had happened to him, or to the many other Chinese men who were forcibly deported after the war. This was despite many having settled in Liverpool, with families, & who had served as seamen during wartime.

Thursday 17th October at 3pm: Gary Lunt: Rock & Roll! Music in the Movies

Gary runs Reel Tours, which takes groups around film sites in the city. He gave a memorable talk in September 2023, speaking on movie making in Liverpool. He returns to speak on music in the movies, specifically Rock & Roll. We have examined the terms of our rental agreement with St Mary's & find that dancing in the aisles, if of a decorous nature, will be allowed at this talk.

Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm: 51st Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society

All members are invited to the AGM, where officers & committee members will be elected for the following year, & accounts presented. Refreshments will be provided after the business of the evening is concluded.

All talks & events are held in St Mary's Hall off Church Road. There is an adjacent car park, & step free access to the hall. Bus stops are on Church Road as well as in the village centre.

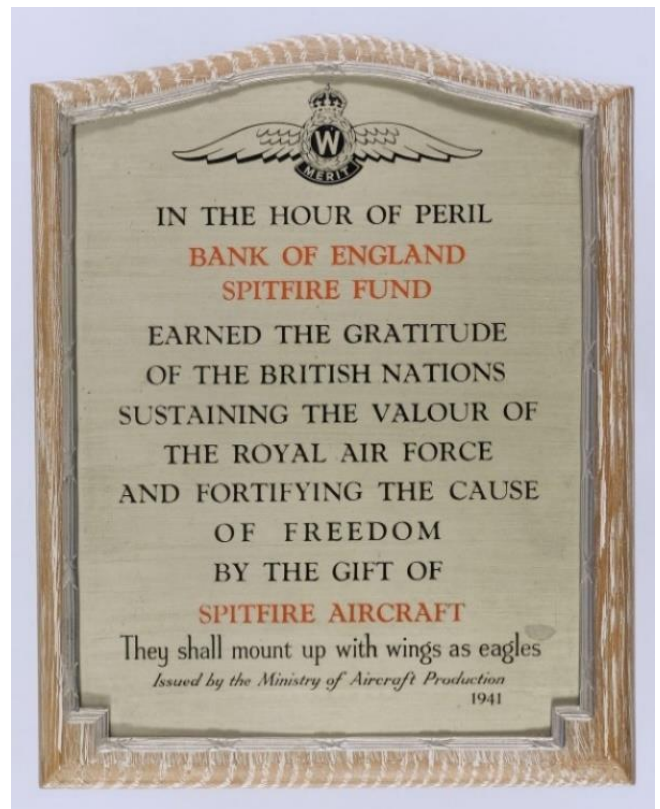
New Pamphlet: The Woolton Spitfire

Issue 357 in January 2021 saw a report on a little-known aspect of wartime which had been researched by member Bryan Workman. This was when communities fundraised to contribute towards the cost of a Spitfire fighter plane. In this case Woolton residents worked with Lewis's department store to raise £5,000. The link with Lewis's is highly likely to be because the general manager at the time was Sir Frederick Marquis, a Woolton resident living on School Lane. He was later ennobled as Lord Woolton in order to sit in the wartime cabinet as Minister of Food, & is remembered largely for his recipe for Woolton pie.

The pamphlet on Woolton's own Spitfire has been researched by committee member Dr Rob Kirby, who has unearthed photographs & documents from the Imperial War Museum in London. The plane bought partly by local subscription in 1941 was the R7199, named *Woolton*, with its image on the cover of the pamphlet. These planes were known as Presentation Aircraft with a plaque being awarded to the communities which contributed towards the funds. There is no record of such a plaque being awarded to Woolton, but perhaps a member reading this will be able to provide some information?

An image of a plaque awarded to another community appears in the pamphlet, (*pictured right*). This is a fascinating read, available at the market stall & talks priced at £1.

For further reading on Lord Woolton see WS pamphlet number 2 *Who was Lord Woolton?* His home in School Lane is featured in pamphlet number 3 *Hillfoot Villa/House*.



Markets and merchandise.

The society usually takes a stall at the local market which is on the second Saturday of each month. The dates for the remainder of the year are:

9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 10th August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November & 14th December

The markets are an excellent way of publicising the society, with many new members joining after chatting with the committee members manning the stall. Merchandise as well as information is available, with the society's two books & ten pamphlets on sale, as well as a tea towel (£6) showing images of the village, & designed by WS member Jenny Brown. There are also a few aprons still available, now reduced to £6, with a design by local artist Sandra Hepworth.

The publications list comprises:

The definitive *History of Much Woolton* (£3) written by WS founder Janet Gnosspelius; *Woolton Stone & Liverpool Cathedral* (£5) edited by Dr Janet Hollinshead

The pamphlets are 1. Who Lived at Woolton Hall; 2. Who was Lord Woolton; 3. Hillfoot Villa

4. Woolton Walks; 5. Woolton's Convalescent Home; 6. Medical matters; 7. The Nuns of Woolton; 8. A guide to Woolton Society plaques; 9. The Heyes; 10. The Woolton Spitfire

All the pamphlets are priced at £1, with numbers 1-3 & 6, 7 & 9 written by Dr Janet Hollinshead, numbers 4 & 8 by Jean Davies, number 5 by Dr Hollinshead with Paul Wilkie, & number 10 by Dr Rob Kirby

The books & tea towels are also on sale at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street (428 2408). The book on Woolton's contribution to the building of the Anglican cathedral is on sale at the cathedral shop.

Money, money, money

The Woolton Society has banked with Barclays since the late Gordon Nickson was manager at the Woolton branch & also society treasurer. This branch closed in 2022 which enforced a move to Allerton Road in L18. The society has been informed that this branch will close in May, so all business will have to move to the city centre Barclays on Lord Street. This will make the banking of cash & cheques more difficult. A majority of members now pay their subscriptions by standing order or direct credit so from this Autumn all our members will be urged to pay this way if at all possible. The relevant forms will be in the AGM issue of the newsletter, out in September, & are always available on the society's website. Once set up the standing order will be paid automatically, which will benefit members as well as the

treasurer. A card reader is now in use at the markets & at talks which is hoped to reduce the amount of cash taken.

It is remembered that until very recently the village had five banks, as well as a library, swimming baths, cinema, two pet shops, several independent grocery shops & greengrocers, chemists & a fresh fish shop. All gone, mainly replaced by hairdressing establishments, coffee shops & bars. Surveys have shown that a village needs an optician, a pharmacy, & a baked goods shop in order to survive. It is fortunate that Woolton still has these, as does neighbouring Belle Vale. Yes, specs & drugs & sausage rolls are all we need.

Environment, planning news & applications

Facebook group & Woolton Hall

Issue 369 reported on a social media group which has recently become interested in Woolton Hall. They have now contacted our society, & been informed of the many interventions made over the years by residents & councillors as well as the WS. We support them in their aims, & will offer advice wherever possible.

Recent planning applications of note

Many recent applications have been for tree works or single storey extensions. Reproduced here are the applications for larger works, or those of particular interest to members. Please note that the development description is the one provided by the applicant/agent & is subject to change by a planning officer when the application is validated. The progress of each application can be checked online using the Planning Explorer at:

<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/>

24L/0548 The Elephant Hotel 1 Woolton Street L25 5NH

To retain replacement windows at first floor level.

24H/0417 33 North Linkside Road L25 9NS

To erect a two-storey side extension, single storey front & rear extensions with whole property finished in a white render colour.

24H/0432 26 Bower Road L25 4RQ

To retain the widening of the main dwelling, changes in proportion & style of the approved fenestration, a dual pitch roof over garage & 1 rooflight to the front. Proposed alteration to the front porch/gable in line with previously approved plans **21H/1348**

24H/0362 2 Baroncroft Road L25 6EH

To install a pitch tiled roof with additional no. 3 rooflights & erect a dormer extension to rear incorporating a balcony.

24L/0302 & 24F/0200 25 & 27-29 Allerton Road L25 7RA (Lake House plus the former Barclays Bank)

To carry out internal & external alterations in connection with the subdivision of the existing commercial unit into two 1 bedroomed C3 apartments at ground floor, one commercial unit at ground floor within use class E(a), E(b), E(c)(i), E(c)(ii), E(c)(iii), E(e), & E(g)(i), & one 1 bedroomed apartment at first floor, along with external works including bin/cycle stores & the adaptation of the existing external access staircase.

24LP/0249 17 Bower Road L25 4RG

Application for Certificate of Proposed Lawful Development to carry out part conversion of garage to habitable accommodation & alter fenestration to side.

24H/0114 1 Gorsewood Road L25 2QN

To erect a two-storey extension to side, a single roof light to rear extension & alter fenestration to rear.

24H/0088 49 Wallgate Road L25 1PP

To erect a two-storey extension to side, following demolition of existing garage to install a new pitched roof over existing single storey rear extension, & to extend front porch.

24PT/0123 Footpath opposite 279 Hunts Cross Avenue L25 9ND

To install a 12metre high 5G telecommunications mast with associated cabin equipment.

23H/336 Camphill Road L25 7UF

To erect a two-storey side extension & single storey rear extension with new hard standing to front & rooflights to front & rear. (Amended description).

23DIS/3005 2a High Street L25 7TE

To discharge conditions 13 & 14 attached to application **22L/0253**

Woolton News

Good Friday service

St Mary's, St Peter's & St James' churches will together be holding a Good Friday service in the village at 12 noon by the dolphin lamp. This will be on **Friday 29th March**. All will be welcome to this joint service.

Woolton in Bloom

The Open Gardens event will be held on **Sunday 7th July**, from 12 noon until 5pm, with several gardens open to visit. A brochure will be available from April, with a map & details of all gardens. The hub will be the Bishops Lodge on Woolton Park, with refreshments provided by the Women of Woolton W.I. A number of entertainments are planned for the lodge, with full information in the brochure. In addition, many of the gardens have plant sales & refreshments. The brochure is priced at £5 per adult, giving admission to all the gardens. Free entry for children.

A plant sale with all proceeds going to Woolton in Bloom will be held on **Friday 12th July**, opposite Reynolds Park gates. This will coincide with the WI's annual picnic in the park, & will be open from around 11am until all plants are sold.

Planting continues in the village, with work parties going out twice weekly led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Volunteers should go to the lock-up on High Street at 10am on Wednesdays or Saturdays, with all made welcome.

More information on Woolton in Bloom can be found at the monthly markets stall, or from any of the volunteers seen in the village.

For more information & pictures go to the WIB site at www.wooltoninbloom.wix.com/wooltoninbloom

Friends of Reynolds Park

The gales in January caused much local damage, including the collapse of a large section of the wall in the park's walled garden. Fortunately, the collapse occurred overnight, with no damage to life or limb, but tons of brickwork now lie on the pathway between the garden & Calvert Court. Many climbing plants attached to the wall have been cut off, although the flower beds are largely unscathed.

It is hoped that the wall will be repaired, with estimates being sought by the council & sources of funding being explored. In the mean-time the pile of bricks is not fenced off, merely surrounded with orange tape. An image of the collapsed wall is on the cover of this issue of the newsletter.

There will be a Spring clean in the park on **Saturday 16th March** from 10.00 to 12 noon. All volunteers will be welcomed.

A play will be performed in the walled garden, whatever the state of the wall, on **Saturday 20th July**. This will be Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. More details in issue 371 & on posters in the park.

The sundial is being repaired, & it is hoped that it will be back on its pedestal within the next few weeks.

FORP holds meetings in Woolton's Tesco coffee shop, starting at 7pm.

Future meetings will be held on **13th March, 8th May, 11th September & 13th November**

FORP may be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark

www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs

Yellow Book Gardens: a date for your diary

The Yellow Book events, organised by National Gardens Scheme will see several Woolton gardens open to view this summer. Admittance is £5 per adult to include all four gardens open that day, with free admittance for children. This year the opening date is in May, earlier than usual, & with a garden new to the scheme. The date for your diaries is **Sunday 19th May** from 12 noon to 5pm. The gardens are:

4 Hillside Drive L25 5NS

23 Hillside Drive L25 5NR

15 Lynton Green L25 6JB

Green Ridges, Runnymede Close L25 5JU

For more details see www.ngs.org.uk

Woolton Community Life

WCL was started by local GP Dr Geoge Kuruvilla, who saw the impact of loneliness on his patients. The group, which serves the community with its befriending service, is seeking new volunteers urgently. Prospective volunteers should visit the website on www.wooltoncommunitylife.org.uk or email any enquiries to wooltoncl@gmail.com

Clean up days in the village

The Rubbish Friends of Woolton meet at the Lodes Pond at 11am on the last Saturday of each month. Organised by councillors Malcolm Kelly & Kris Brown, volunteers are provided with gloves, litter pickers & bin bags.

The next few dates are: **29th March, 27th April, 25th May, 29th June & 27th July.**

Councillor Brown was stopped by a passer-by at the last litter pick, & his non-local accent was commented upon. He was congratulated for his loyalty & stamina in travelling up from London in order to take part in the village clean up. Well done, Kris!

Women of Woolton W.I. (WOW)

The local WI has a full programme of talks & events, with general meetings, including a speaker, taking place monthly in Woolton Golf Club. There are many sub groups, offering walks, crafts, games afternoons & much more. The group is currently full, with a waiting list but members are allowed to sign in a visitor.

WOW will be providing the teas at the Open Gardens event on **Sunday 7th July**, based at Bishops Lodge on Woolton Park.

The Arts Society

Meetings are held monthly at the Bridge Chapel on Heath Road L19 4XR

The speaker on **Wednesday 20th March** at 2pm will be Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski, on *The golden age of English furniture*.

On **Wednesday 17th April** at 2pm James Russell will speak on *Seafaring: Art & life at sea from Turner until today*.

Wednesday 15th May will see Colin Shindler speaking on *Sixty years on: life in Britain as seen in 1960s films*, also at 2pm.

Kathy McLaughlan will be the speaker on **Wednesday 29th June** at 2pm, with *Renoir in the 1890s: The search for a classical idyll* as her subject.

Arts Society membership is £50 for the year, with talks free to members or £6 to visitors.

Orchid Fever at Croxteth Park

For over two hundred years Liverpool held an unrivalled collection of rare orchids, largely gathered by sea captains on their world-wide journeys. In the 1980s the collection was dispersed to keep it safe, & it went unseen for decades. Now with Heritage Lottery money the collection can be seen again in the glasshouses at Croxteth Park. There is to be an Orchid Fever event on **Saturday 16th March**, from 10.00 to 4.30pm, with tickets costing £16.96.

For details & booking go [to www.eventbrite.com/e/orchid-feverpropagating-andhybridising-orchids-over-the-last-200-years-tickets-802764218387?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/orchid-feverpropagating-andhybridising-orchids-over-the-last-200-years-tickets-802764218387?aff=oddtcreator)

Email: helloliverpoolbotanictrust.org.uk

Knight in armour found

A resident of Acrefield Road contacted the WS after finding an unusual mural while renovating their Victorian house. An image of this knight in armour is reproduced here. If any members are able to provide any information on this please contact us via the website.



Issue 371 of the newsletter will be published in June. Issue 372 will be the AGM issue, out in September.