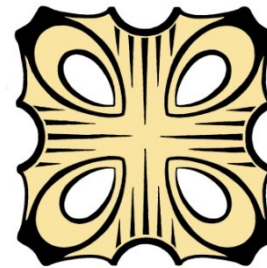


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

www.wooltonociety.org.uk
Instagram: @thewooltonociety

ISSUE NO 373: Winter 2025



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY: SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

NEWSLETTER



The society's newest plaque on the Village Club

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WS QR code

Society News

Annual General Meeting

The 51st AGM was held on 13th November, with the business of the evening followed by a lively social gathering with refreshments. The officers & committee are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies

Hon. secretary & vice chairman: Paul Wilkie

Hon. treasurer: Charles Davies

Membership secretary: Jean Bates

Environment secretary: Janet Hudson

Committee: Bob Collins, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Rob Kirby,

Talks in September & October

The talk in September was cancelled at very short notice as we heard that our speaker, Judy Kinnin, had had an accident that day & needed medical attention. Mrs Kinnin contacted the society after her discharge from hospital promising to reschedule her talk as soon as possible. Happily, this will now take place on February 20th, with details below.

October saw a return of Gary Lunt of Reel Tours, speaking on music in the movies. He gave a very entertaining talk on the role of music to set the atmosphere before the time of *The Talkies*, & the impact of modern music on cinema audiences. This led to some attendees in the 1950s & 60s being inflamed into riotous & unbecoming behaviour. However, the audience of Woolton Society members behaved impeccably, with no dancing in the aisles or scuffles in the car park, *as far as we know*.

Plaque on Village Club

The ninth WS plaque has been installed on The Village Club on Allerton Road. The club was opened in 1885 as a place for the whole community to use. The inscription reads "At the heart of the community in Woolton Village"

The plaque was made by Photocast in Speke, a company which has made all the society's plaques, as well as the information spiky beside our tree in Reynolds Park.

Programme of talks for 2025

The talks in February, March & October will be held on Thursday afternoons, starting at 3pm, so avoiding the dark evenings. The talks in April, May & September, the Quiz Night in June & the AGM in November will be on Wednesdays starting at 7.30pm. All talks are held in St Mary's Hall, off Church Road. The hall has step-free access & a large adjacent car park, with bus stops nearby on Church Road. Complimentary refreshments will be served at the afternoon talks from 2.30pm

Fuller details of talks later in the year will be in newsletters 374 (March) & 375 (June), on the website & Instagram & on the notice board in the village centre beside the former Coast café.

Thursday 20th February at 3pm, Judy Kinnin: The forced repatriation of Chinese seamen in 1945/6

In a talk postponed from last September, Judy Kinnin will be speaking on her life-long search for information about her father. He disappeared from her life when she was only eighteen months old, with no explanation given to his wife, along with hundreds of other Chinese seamen who had worked for the British navy during wartime. The truth about his disappearance is shocking, & was featured in a BBC television programme: "*DNA Family secrets*."

Thursday 20th March at 3pm, Martin Land: The Mersey Tidal Power Project

Developing the tidal force of our river could mean generating enough power for thousands of homes & the creation of many local jobs. The region could become a worldwide centre of excellence in a vital

industry of the future. Martin Land will be speaking on the chance to deliver a cleaner & greener future for generations to come.

Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm, Ken Pye: Beer, Bars & Boozers

The popular speaker & local broadcaster Ken Pye will be returning to speak on Liverpool's numerous pubs, bars & alehouses. He will be bringing a selection of his own books for sale.

Wednesday 21st May at 7.30pm, Paul Wilkie: Liverpool, Home of Citizens Advice.

Paul is the society's long serving deputy chairman & secretary. He is also chairman of the local CAB & will be speaking on the vital role this organisation plays.

Wednesday 18th June at 7.30pm, Quiz night

The seventh annual quiz night will see the 2024 & 2023 champions The Fantastic Four defending their title. All members are invited to take part & challenge the current holders of the coveted Quiz Cup. There will be prizes!

Summer outing

An outing is being planned for July, with details in the next issue of the newsletter.

Summer break in August

Wednesday 17th September at 7.30pm, Eric Cohen: The history of the Princes Road Synagogue

Liverpool once had a large & vibrant Jewish community largely based in the city centre, with this synagogue built in 1874. However, in the twentieth century the community started to move away to the suburbs, such as Childwall & Mossley Hill, with new synagogues built there. The shul on Princes Road has recently celebrated its 150th anniversary with a programme of talks & events. Synagogue elder & guide Eric Cohen will be taking us on a virtual tour of this breathtaking building, built in the Moorish Revival style by architect George Audsley.

Thursday 16th October at 3pm, Alastair Baker: The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The CWGC is concerned with the care & upkeep of many thousands of war graves, with several in Woolton cemeteries. It honours & cares for the graves of the men & women of the commonwealth forces who died in wars, ensuring that they will never be forgotten.

Wednesday 19th November at 7.30 pm: the fifty second annual general meeting

All society members are invited to the AGM. There will be refreshments after the business of the evening is concluded.

Please note that the society has the use of St Mary's Hall from 2.30 to 4.30 on Thursdays, & from 7 to 9 pm on Wednesdays, to allow for setting up & clearing away. Early attendance by members is appreciated to enable to allow the talks to start promptly at 3pm or 7.30pm.

Subscriptions

All subs became due on 1st September, with the majority of members now paying by standing order. This is much appreciated by the treasurer & membership secretary as banking up cash is a very lengthy business. With the closure of the Allerton Road branch the nearest Barclays is on Lord Street in the city centre. The society has used a card reader for the past year at markets & meetings which has reduced the amount of cash taken.

The society has not raised subs for many years, as membership numbers are sufficient to cover all costs incurred. With membership starting from £4 a year, this is very good value for money.

Adult (single) £6

Adult (joint) £9

Over 60s /student (single) £4

Over 60s (joint) £6

Members who have not yet renewed their subs will be sent a reminder with this newsletter. It would be helpful if any changes in circumstance, such as a house move or the death of a member, could be passed on to the membership secretary.

Newsletters are emailed to all members as part of their subs. A paper copy may be supplied at an extra charge of £8 per year to cover printing & postage charges.

Good Works continue

Since the fiftieth anniversary in 2022, the WS has made a practice of using a portion of our funds in supporting good causes in the village.

A mini-Christmas tree was sponsored, as in 2023, as the society has pledged to fund a tree for three years.

Fifty copies of pamphlet eleven, A History of Reynolds Park, were donated to the Friends group, & sold well on Reynolds Day in September. The pamphlet was written by FORP chairman Geoff Kendall, & is also available at the market stall & meetings.

Daffodil & tulip bulbs were bought for Woolton in Bloom, & will be planted by volunteers along the dual carriageway, all to keep the village blooming.

The latest plaque was installed in December on the Village Club with several more planned for 2025. All the society's plaques have been manufactured by Photocast, a nationally renowned company based in Speke. The plaques are entirely funded by the society, with no costs at all to the building owners.

The Jubilee tree, a mountain ash, was planted in Reynolds Park in January 2023, & is thriving despite the gales with a brave display of golden berries last Autumn.

All WS outings are subsidised for members, & sometimes free. All talks are free to attend, with complimentary refreshments served at afternoon talks & at the AGM. Visitors are not charged at talks, as it is hoped that membership will result, & often this is the case.

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 2025 are:

8th February, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November, 13th 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 & eleven 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 high-quality cotton 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. Woolton Heyes; 10. The Woolton Spitfire; 11. A History of Reynolds Park.

All the pamphlets are priced at £1, with numbers 1-3, 6-7 & 9 written by Dr Janet Hollinshead, number 5 by Dr Hollinshead with Paul Wilkie, numbers 4 & 8 by Jean Davies, number 10 by Dr Rob Kirby & number 11 by Geoff Kendall

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.

Environment, planning news & applications

Recent planning applications of note

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:

www.liverpool.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control

25H/0030 24 Bower Road L25 4RQ

Planning application to vary condition 2 attached to application **23H/2690** (to demolish existing single storey extension, conservatory side garage; to erect double storey front porch & feature glazing, double storey side & rear extensions, alterations to the roof to allow for rooms in the roof & the erection of a single storey detached pool house & gym, with associated landscaping to garden) so as to make changes in the number of roof lights, to amend the windows & sliding door, facing material revised to brickwork & extension levels including stepped access to suit site topography.

25PH/0008 325 Hunts Cross Avenue L25 8SY

To erect a single storey extension at rear with one roof lantern. The extension will extend 4.66m beyond the original house, the maximum height of the extension will be 3.13m, the height of the extension to the eaves will be 2.46m.

25DIS/0017 Menlove Car Sales & Car Wash Vale Road L25 7SE

To discharge condition 11 (Remediation Verification Report) attached to planning application **20F/1605**.

24PH/2486 17 Monica Road L25 8QL

To erect single storey extension at rear. The extension will extend 4.5m beyond the original house, the maximum height of the extension will be 4m, with the height to the eaves being 2.45m

24H/2464 9 Priorsfield Road L25 8TL

To erect a 2-storey extension to side & single storey extension to rear following demolition of existing garage to side & conservatory to rear.

24F/2492 65 Quarry Street L25 6EZ

To install one EV charging point to the rear of the property.

25H/0003 29 Greendale Road L25 4RP

To erect a single storey side extension over garage.

24LP/3249 29 Colton Road L25 1NH

Application for a certificate of proposed lawful development to use the premises as a 6 bed HMO (house in multiple occupancy)

24L/3200 & 24H/3199 37 Woolton Street L25 7TG

Application to replace windows throughout.

24F/3177 72 Kings Drive L25 8RH

To erect a 2-storey dwelling with 4 solar panels, air source heat pump, & carry out associated landscaping works following demolition of existing garage.

24DIS/3208 Springhill, Runnymede Close L25 5JU

To discharge condition 5 (Highways), 6 (Construction Method Statement), 10a (Arborial check of works), 11 (Drainage), 13 (Reg. 55 licence), 17 (Method statement, mammals & amphibians), 18 (Method statement plants), 19 (Construction environment management plan), & 22 (Level access shower), attached to planning reference **22F/2554**.

24H/3162 7 Pasture Close L25 8SX

To erect a single storey extension to front rear & side following demolition of existing conservatory & garage to side.

24H/3737 14 Mackets Close L25 9NU

To erect single storey rear extension & new hardstanding works to front following demolition of rear conservatory.

24H/2956 28 Woodrock Road L25 8RF

To erect part 2/part single storey side extension.

24NM/2990 Former Menlove Car Sales 231 Vale Road L25 7SE

Application for non-material amendment of ref **20F/1605**: To erect a part 3/part 4 storey building to comprise 31 apartments for over 55s, with associated carparking & amenity space following demolition of existing building; conversion of existing lodge building to form 2 apartments. Carry out work to existing boundaries & footpaths with associated landscaping so as to make changes to the central fenestration, kitchen & bathroom windows & Juliette balcony.

24DIS/2180 The Dairy School Lane L25 7UA

To discharge conditions 7 9 11 12 & 16 attached to application **21F/1466**

24H/2803 29 Greendale Road L25 4RP

To erect first floor extension to front & side, alter fenestration to front & convert existing garage into habitable accommodation.

24H/2758 16 Bancroft Close L25 0LS

To erect first floor side extension, with extension to existing dormer, erect single storey rear extension with 1 roof lantern & convert garage.

24DIS/2796 & 24DIS/2794 25, & 27-29 Allerton Road L25 7RA (Lake House & former Barclays Bank)

To discharge conditions 3,4, & 5 attached to planning ref **24L/0302**.

To discharge conditions 3,4,5 & 7 attached to planning ref **24F/1200**

24DIS/3175 Land to rear of 14-16 Jeudwine Close L25

To partially discharge conditions 3a, 5a b & c, & 7a attached to application **21F/1193**

Woolton News

Woolton in Bloom

There are still a few copies of the 2025 WIB calendar available, at the market stall & at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street (428 2408). The calendar's theme is the Open Gardens Day in July last year, when a dozen local gardens were opened to visitors. The next open day will be in 2026

The displays in the village centre have been the target of vandalism in recent months, notably many plants were uprooted hours after they were put in for the winter display. The volunteers were downhearted at seeing their work vandalised repeatedly. Local schools have been asked to provide more security at the beginning & end of the school day, which seems to be having an effect.

Work parties of volunteers go out on Wednesdays & Saturdays, planting & weeding, led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Their work keeps Woolton blooming, as no financial aid is received from the council. Those wishing to take part should meet at the lock-up opposite the car park on High Street at 10am on those days, or enquire at the WIB stall on market days.

In September WIB commissioned an information spiky to accompany the tree planted on Kings Drive to commemorate the coronation of King Charles in May 2023.

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

Friends of Reynolds Park

The park has suffered during the past months, with trees blown down & left lying on the ground. In early January a tree fell across the entrance to the walled garden, blocking the entrance.

At the time of writing the gate is still blocked, with the area taped off. A council official has been to inspect the damage, with action to remove the tree promised as soon as possible.

The wall to the garden is also still down after being damaged by the gales of January 2024, with no date yet set for any remedial work as a procurement process has to be completed. It is a tragedy that the council's cost cutting has removed all but the most basic services to the city's parks which are rapidly deteriorating & becoming weed infested. It is a tribute to Peter, the devoted regular gardener at Reynolds Park, that the walled garden has remained an oasis of beauty.



The sundial has now been replaced, with the inscription *Solem quis dicere falsum audent* (or *Who will dare to say that the sun is wrong.*)

FORP chairman Geoff Kendall is the author of the latest WS pamphlet, number 11, *A History of Reynolds Park* which is selling well.

There will be a Spring Clean Litter Pick in the park on **Saturday 22nd March from 10am to 12pm.**

All those concerned about the park could join the Friends, who meet at the café in Woolton's Tesco at 7pm. The next meetings will be on **12th February, 14th May, 10th September & 12th November.**

FORP may be found online at:

www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk

[www.twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs](https://twitter.com/reynoldsparkfrs)

www.facebook.com/friendsofreynoldspark

www.instagram.com/reynoldsparkfrs

The Gateacre Society

The society celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at the AGM in October, with a celebration after the business of the afternoon was completed. Society members were presented with a specially designed bookmark. The first talk of 2025 will be on **Sunday 2nd February** at 2pm in Gateacre Chapel, with Christina Clarke speaking on John Rennie Mackintosh, the influential Scottish painter & designer.

On **Sunday 23rd March** Joanna Williams will be speaking on Lydia Ernestine Becker. Fifty years before women won the vote, a legal loophole allowed up to one thousand women to vote in the general election of 1868. This was because of the single-minded dedication of Lydia Becker, the unofficial leader of the women's suffrage movement in the late nineteenth century.

Talks are free to attend for Gateacre Society members, with non-members asked for a donation. Meetings are held in the chapel on Gateacre Brow.

Contact the society on www.gateacresociety.co.uk emailthegateacresociety@gmail.com

The Reader

The Reader organisation is a literacy charity based at The Mansion House in Calderstones Park. It has the aim of promoting literacy in adults & children, with reading groups & activities held daily. The adjacent Story Barn holds events for children of all ages, with many activities in school holidays.

The Reader welcomes volunteers to work at the charity, both in the house itself & in the gardens. Posts vary, with meeters & greeters on the welcome desk, those based in the shop or the heritage room, & those conducting tours around the house & park. Reading Heroes are also needed, who work with individual children to encourage their literacy skills.

Those interesting in volunteering should enquire at the welcome desk or on www.thereader.org.uk

The Reader also has a café & a coffee shop, plus an ice cream parlour open in the summer months.

Woolton Community Life

WCL is a local charity formed by GP George Kuruvilla to combat the loneliness & isolation he saw in his practice. Befrienders visit those in need, & volunteers are always welcome. All potential befrienders will be DBs checked & safeguarding/first aid trained.

Call 0749 0572 344 for more information or to refer a friend or neighbour who could benefit from the service. The website is www.wooltoncommunitylife.co.uk

The Women's Institute (WOW)

The local WI is known as The Women of Woolton, or WOW, & is a very busy group. Monthly meetings with a speaker are held in Woolton Golf Club on the first Tuesday of the month, with subgroups featuring ukulele classes, a book club, walking groups, knit & natter, gardening & more. The group is currently full, with a waiting list, but visitors may attend for a small fee.

The Arts Society

This meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm at The Bridge Chapel Centre on Heath Road. Lectures are on a wide variety of topics, with **19th February** seeing Mary Cunliffe speaking on The Art of Print Making. On **19th March** Harry Fletcher's topic will be Made in Hartlepool: The Angel of the North. Membership costs £50 a year, with attendance free at talks. Visitors may attend for £6.

Issue 374 of the newsletter will be published in March 2025.