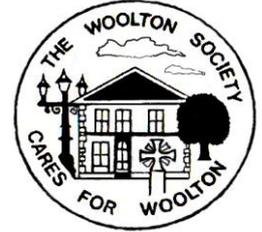


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk

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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Baths and Library: the fight goes on

Woolton Library closed its doors on March 31st. The Baths closed over a year ago. Despite vigorous campaigns to prevent closure we are no nearer to seeing either facility re-opening, & the Council is adamant that no money is available to help any interest groups in achieving this aim. For fuller reports see pages 3 to 5 of this issue.

Royal Visit to Woolton

HRH the Duchess of Cornwall opens the new Jubilee gates in Reynolds Park. See page 5 for report.



Newsletter contents in full:

Society news: page 2

Woolton news: pages 3 to 5

Planning news & applications: pages 5 to 8

Society news

The Folks Who Lived on the Hill: Wednesday 16th May at 7.30pm

Our next speaker is Mrs Beryl Plent of the Gateacre Society. She will be giving a presentation on the people & grand houses of Woolton Hill, showing some fascinating & rarely seen photographs, in what promises to be a very informative evening.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 18th July at 7.30pm: Claire Moorhead of the Friends of Williamson's Tunnels will be speaking on the work of the Mole of Edge Hill, Joseph Williamson. Fuller details of this talk, as well as dates for our Autumn season, will be published in issue 324 of the Newsletter, & on our notice board beside the HSBC bank on Allerton Road.

All talks are held in the upstairs room of the Village Club, starting at 7.30pm.

Our last speaker, on Wednesday 21st March, was Mr Richard Baker, also known as Richie the Ranger. He gave us a very entertaining evening, appearing in full Victorian costume as Henry Yates Thompson, explorer, gentleman adventurer & local benefactor. An appreciative audience enjoyed his tales of the founding of several of Liverpool's parks, which included a poignant ghost story set in Sefton Park & featuring audience participation!

A Message from the Treasurer

The committee has decided to give up the Post Office box number owing to very large increase in fees over the last two years. ***The P.O. box number has now been removed from our masthead, & should not be used for any correspondence from now on.***

There will be new arrangements for the payment of subscriptions for those who pay by post when due in the Autumn. These will be on the renewal form included with the Autumn newsletter. Any queries re. membership should be sent to the Membership Secretary on mwhitty@blueyonder.co.uk

A History of Woolton to be re-printed

Thanks to a grant from the Woolton Educational & Recreational Charity, the Society has been able to begin reprinting *A History of Much Woolton* by Janet Gnosspelius & John Lally. This edition was printed in 1975 & priced at 85p. Our last remaining copies were sold at the Society's stall at the Farmers Market last September. Since then we have had many requests for more, & have heard of a Woolton resident who paid £10 on an internet site for a second hand copy! The reprint of 1000 copies should be available within the next few months. The price has yet to be decided, but it will not be 85p. Further details in issue 324, or at our next meeting.

Research Request

The Society has been contacted by Mr George Wilson who has an interest in military history. He is researching the King's Regiment, & would like to know more about Sgt. Major Martin Swanick, whose family lived in Quarry Street in the 1900s. He won the D.C.M. during the war of 1914-18 when serving with the 1st battalion of The King's Regiment, & served also in the Boer War. His father, also Martin, was a Master Carter, who carried the first blocks of stone for the Anglican Cathedral.

Any information can be sent to Mr Wilson at Flat 4, 5 Bramhall Road, Liverpool L22 3XA, phone 079 320 77837 or e-mail wilsongluk@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter 324

The June/July issue of the Newsletter will contain dates for our Autumn programme of talks, as well as details of the Heritage Weekend of openings in September.

Contact the Newsletter on jeanldavies@talktalk.net

Woolton News

A report from Woolton society founding member Sue Carmichael.

Woolton Baths and adjoining former stables (ex Much Woolton UDC fire station) both now Grade 2 Listed.

In late January I finally had the good news following English Heritage's recommendation and *countersigning comments*: by the Department of Culture Media and Sport(DCMS)) to the Minister for Tourism and Heritage. These are the following principal reasons for Grade 2 designation:

* **Architectural interest**: it displays a good level of architectural detailing externally, most notably in the striking Baroque Revival entrance facade, which is constructed of high quality, locally-sourced sandstone, and the subtle ornamentation of the pool hall and former slipper baths ranges.

* **Rarity**: it is a rare example of a small late-C19 village swimming baths.

* **Intactness**: the exterior is little altered and the interior retains many original features, including the main pool hall's original wrought-iron and timber roof structure, pool tilework, ladder entrances, scum troughs, cast-iron grab rails and gallery

* **Historic interest**: it is relatively early in date and is a good example of a philanthropist-funded, public swimming baths that reflects the wider philanthropic nature of the late C19/early C20.

It also noted: Good quality carved stonework sourced from the local Woolton Quarry. The Baths' design also maximises the awkward-shaped site upon which it sits and its materials blend well with those of the neighbouring village buildings, including the nearby Grade II listed Woolton Library (early C19 and originally a Methodist chapel).

Simon Inglis (co-author of *Great Lengths* and editor of the *Played in Britain* series for English Heritage.) on hearing of the Grade 2 Listing has eloquently said:

'Woolton Baths is a genuine little treasure and, for me, forms an integral part of the area's village feel and ambience. So many baths from the late 19th century are closing or being demolished that I feel we are in real danger of losing an important part of our cultural heritage. Here was a genuine hub of the community, and one that still has much to offer. In our research for Great Lengths, we met lots of swimmers who are turned off by modern 25m pools and by leisure pools with flumes and all, and want just a basic pool for everyday use and for their families, on their doorstep. Woolton fits that description to a tee, complete with some lovely original details, and on a welcoming scale. Properly restored and marketed as a heritage attraction I can see it becoming popular with swimmers from all over Merseyside. Above all I am delighted for Woolton, a very special place with a range of really charming historic buildings. Let us hope that this listing will help to reinforce its identity.'

NEWS UPDATE:

Having submitted our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Pre Application we are due to meet our HLF Development Manager in early May. The draft SWPF Business Plan was submitted in January to the city council for the re-opening and long term sustainable future operation of the building for which HLF assistance is critical; applications for charitable and other essential match funding are also being made. The wider Woolton heritage and local involvement is an important aspect providing a wealth of opportunity for intergenerational participation. We have here an unused wealth of opportunity for intergenerational participation. Unused space in the Baths/ stables buildings could become a 'heritage hub' within Woolton Village which is in turn a local, regional and potential national heritage attraction for visitors interested in our almost intact historic village centre. Many visitors are also interested in Woolton's Lennon and McCartney connection as the many Beatles tours testify! Not only have their local homes recently been Grade 2 listed, we also know that both swam at the Baths when young which will make it an added attraction.

The oral history of older Wooltonians, particularly of many years ago, will also prove invaluable and we hope to develop a project. Next year, 2013, being the 100th anniversary of Much Woolton (and Little Woolton/ Gateacre) becoming part of Liverpool from Lancashire will be a rare opportunity for people of all ages in local schools, groups and organisations to appreciate and celebrate Woolton's

past history and look forward to helping to shape its future. Please dig out your deeds, photos, and ephemera relating to Woolton village history and local families who often go back several generations. Please make contact with distant Woolton ex pats too.

We welcome the fact that a number of volunteers have offered their time and varied skills in assisting us to get the Baths re-opened. To progress the heritage aspects more volunteers are needed!

Please contact me: Sue Carmichael at suec_cfutures@btinternet.com

Update: Save Woolton Library Campaign A report from Ron Travis

The Save Woolton Library Campaign has recently increased its momentum recently as more people have come on board and a Facebook site has been set up. Public meetings were held in the Derby Arms on 11th April and in the Village Club on 25th April . 30+ people attended each meeting. The main points discussed at the last meeting were:-

1. A meeting was held on Monday 16th April with LCVS to discuss setting up the group as a social enterprise company with charitable status. This limits liability and gives us the benefits of charitable status.
2. Another meeting with LCVS will be held to discuss funding options.
3. LCVS advised us to draft a questionnaire to establish community need and find out what residents want.
4. At the meeting some people volunteered to be members of the action group.
5. John Ashby from Grappenhall Library near Warrington explained how they set up their community run library as a social enterprise company. They have bought an IT management system using donations and their books are donated, but they are receiving some financial help from the Council for the first 2 years to help towards their running costs. They have won a lottery grant to improve the toilets.

On Friday 27th April members of the action group attended a meeting called at short notice by Maria Eagle M.P. to discuss the current status of Woolton Library. Wendy Simon, Cabinet Member for Culture & Tourism and Kathy Allen (CRU) were present. It was reported that 4 community organisations had expressed interest in running the library building to provide a community service, but none were interested in running it as a library. Information about these groups must be kept secret at this stage.

The Woolton Library Campaign is not yet organised as a community organisation with a constitution, bank account and track record, so it was unable to register an expression of interest, although a letter of intent was submitted. At the second stage in the process, it may be possible for our group to work as a partner or link with the successful community organisation to provide a small space for books or reading in the building, **but it will not be a library.**

This process has to go through a 3 week notification phase then a report will be prepared with a recommendation to Cabinet. If there are no acceptable community groups the council will look at commercial options. A final decision will be made by the Council by the end of June.

This is disappointing news, but the Save Woolton Library action group will continue the complex process of setting itself up as a social enterprise company in the hope that we can link with another group to provide a service for the community.

Woolton in Bloom

WIB is now gearing up for its Summer planting, hoping to win Gold again in the RHS judging. This year WIB, at the insistence of the RHS, will be in the Urban Community category rather than Large Village. Let us hope that this change will not alter the success of Woolton in the competition. Please note that WIB receives not a penny in funding from Liverpool council; all planting is paid for by fundraising, & the watering by the main sponsor Home Bargains. Principal sources of revenue are the Farmers Market stall (2nd Saturday of each month) & sales of the official calendar.

The Gateacre Society

The Gateacre society will be holding a Jubilee Fair on the Village Green at Gateacre Village on the afternoon of Tuesday 5th June. There will be stalls, & a T'ai Chi display. For fuller details contact the Gateacre Society on their website: www.gatsoc.org.uk or e-mail info@gatsoc.org.uk

Mike Chitty has transcribed notes of several of the famous walks around Woolton made by Janet Gnosspelius, including ones held jointly between the Woolton & Gateacre Societies. These are of the walks around Beaconsfield Road, Woolton Park, & Acrefield Road. To view these notes go to the GatSoc home page, & click on the WALK NOTES link.

Friends of Reynolds Park: Royal Visit

The FORP had something of a coup on April 4th, when the new Jubilee gates at the Woolton Park entrance were opened officially by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. Reynolds Park was as beautiful as ever, but sadly HRH saw only the lower field when performing the ceremony, as the proposed plan to visit the topiary & walled gardens had to be cut short. A large crowd saw HRH give a short speech after a welcome from Geoff Kendall of FORP, followed by a few words from Rev. Crooks of St Peter's church. Also in attendance were the Lord Mayor, & the Lord Lieutenant, Dame Lorna Muirhead, as well as pupils from Bishop Martin school, & representatives from the local societies.

There will be a display of photographs taken on the day at the next meeting of FORP, which will be on Wednesday 9th May, 7.00 in the Simon Peter Centre, Church Road.

New Businesses to Woolton

We are pleased to welcome a new pet shop to the Village, on Woolton Street opposite the Post Office. The owners sell a wide range of pet foods & sundries, including wild bird food.

Ellie Benson, florist, opened earlier this year, in time for Valentine's Day. Since then the beautiful window displays have greatly enhanced Allerton Road.

Rosie Olivia, designer milliner, was featured recently in The Liverpool Echo as making many hats for the glamorous racegoers at Aintree. Her studio is in Woolton. Contact her on info@rosieolivia.com or on 077 8066 8885

Work continues at the former Landy's shop on Allerton Road, but no shop front is in place to give information about the new business. We would be interested to hear what this is to be.

Planning News and Applications

Planning Application 11F/2662. Site at the corner of Quarry Street/Rodick St. To erect 3 storey, 8no, dwelling houses with associated car parking – amended plans received. The first application under the same reference number is to erect 8 no three bed dwellings with associated car parking. This is to include the redevelopment of the Village Inn in to domestic accommodation.

The applications are the same but worded slightly differently.

The architects are Falconer Chester Hall of Temple St, Liverpool and the applicant is Steppingstone Estate Management of Cheshire. We understand that the developer is to convert what was the Village Inn pub into his home. Two Woolton Society members (architect and designer) went to view the drawings at the Falconer Chester offices and felt encouraged by what was being achieved on the site. We discussed issues of traffic, site lines, off/on road parking, and that the car run-in would possibly be better with doors as people need places to store things like ladders etc. and these being best hidden from view. Also, as the scheme achieved a sense of rhythm it would be likely this could be lost if the prospective owners were to eventually start placing a variety of garage doors to the openings. However, sometime later, we were advised by the architects that they had to submit amended drawings. The comparison is marked and has achieved something akin to 'snatching defeat from the jaws of victory!'

The Society has sought advice from CABE – Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment who can't get directly involved but on viewing the amended drawings described them as 'joyless'. From CABE we were directed to 'Places Matter' a comparatively new organization in Liverpool which

works alongside CABE. When viewing the amended plans they provoked the word 'shed'. They are to request a design review with the Council.

It seems that the changes were made due to input from the Council's Urban Design Consultancy and Conservation department requesting that the roof line be changed to match those within the vicinity even though the proposed design has nothing to do with surrounding properties in terms of layout or type/design of dwelling house. Rodick Street in particular has a variety of roofs and a mix of styles would not detract from its appeal. In fact it is part of the quirkiness and delight of Woolton.

It would seem the developer has been taken by the charm of Woolton and in appreciation of this has not only decided to move here but to contract the services of quality architects FCH to ensure a design commensurate with the quality of the area. We await the outcome of a possible design review. **(See designs on page 8).**

The following planning applications have been received by the City council since our last newsletter. See <http://northgate.liverpool.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer17/GeneralSearch.aspx>

Contact the Society at wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk re. planning matters.

Applic'n Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
12H/1119	33 Quickwood Drive Liverpool L25 4TP	To erect single storey extension to each side and rear. New roof windows. Replace windows to the front	REGISTERED	24-04-2012	
12H/1091	17 Hillview Gardens Liverpool L25 7XE	To erect single storey extension to the rear.	REGISTERED	19-04-2012	
12LP/1073	25 Wallgate Road Liverpool L25 1PJ	Application for Lawful development certificate for proposed single storey, first floor extension to rear.	REGISTERED	18-04-2012	
12L/1060	116-118 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RH	To erect single storey extension at rear, widen existing vehicular access, erect raised terrace at rear and carry out internal alterations in connection with use of dental surgery as a dwellinghouse in connection with adjoining property.	REGISTERED	17-04-2012	
12F/1059	116-118 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RH	To use Dental Surgery as a single dwellinghouse in connection with adjoining property, erect single storey extension at rear; widen existing vehicular access and erect raised terrace at rear.	REGISTERED	17-04-2012	
12H/0992	5 Heath Close Liverpool L25 4TB	To erect single storey extension at rear, porch at front, new pitched roof over existing garage and single storey in fill extension between existing house and garage	REGISTERED	10-04-2012	
12H/0966	39 Quickwood Drive Liverpool L25 4TP	To erect single storey extension to the side incorporating dormer extensions to front and rear.	REGISTERED	05-04-2012	
12H/0952	69 Druidville Road Liverpool L18 3EN	To erect single storey extension to the side.	REGISTERED	04-04-2012	
12LP/0869	Orchard End 8 Tower Way Liverpool L25 6EB	Application for a lawful development certificate for side extension.	FINAL DECISION	30-03-2012	Certificate of Lawfulness -

					Granted
12H/0865	4 Beechurst Close Liverpool L25 3QB	To erect single storey extension to the side and front incorporating porch.	REGISTERED	30-03-2012	
12H/0844	6 Springmeadow Road Liverpool L25 3PT	To erect two storey extension to side/rear and single storey extensions to front and rear.	REGISTERED	28-03-2012	
12H/0853	Brindle Cottage Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JG	To erect first floor extension at side incorporating balcony in rear elevation.	REGISTERED	28-03-2012	
12H/0770	29 Baroncroft Road Liverpool L25 6ED	To erect two storey extension at rear, single storey extension to front/side bay windows to front, loft conversion and gable features to front roof plane.	REGISTERED	26-03-2012	
12T/0798	1 Church Road South Liverpool L25 7RJ	To carry out Treeworks.	REGISTERED	22-03-2012	
12H/0771	23 Grangeside Liverpool L25 3PN	To erect single storey extension at side	FINAL DECISION	19-03-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12L/0746	Woolton Wood Lodge 7B High Street Liverpool L25 7TD	To erect two storey extension to the rear, carry out internal and external alterations to existing building, relocate gate posts facing High Street frontage and erect new boundary treatment to sides.	REGISTERED	15-03-2012	
12H/0744	Woolton Wood Lodge 7B High Street Liverpool L25 7TD	To erect two storey extension to the rear, carry out external alterations to existing building, layout new hardstanding, relocate gate posts facing High Street frontage and erect new boundary treatment to sides.	REGISTERED	15-03-2012	
12PT/073 2	Gateacre Brewery Gateacre Brow Liverpool L25 3PA	To install 14m high telecommunications mast (telegraph pole design) along with associated equipment cabins.	REGISTERED	14-03-2012	
12H/0705	104 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HG	To erect first floor extension at rear incorporating Juliette balcony with undercroft terrace.	REGISTERED	09-03-2012	
12H/0685	11 Hightor Road Liverpool L25 6DJ	To erect 1st floor extension at side/rear incorporating new pitched roof over existing flat roofed extension, single storey extension to side/rear, porch at front and dormer extension at side/rear.	FINAL DECISION	08-03-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12H/0677	14 Wood View Road Liverpool L25 6HZ	To erect single storey extension at the rear and porch/garage extension at front	FINAL DECISION	08-03-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12T/0608	Palmerston School Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To carry out tree works including the felling of 3 no. trees	FINAL DECISION	07-03-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12H/0646	18 Hightor Road Liverpool L25 6DL	To erect single storey extension to side/rear	FINAL DECISION	06-03-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12NM/063 9	36 Linkstor Road Liverpool L25 6DH	Application for a non material amendment to 10H/2404 to erect first floor extension to the rear so as to alter window in front	FINAL DECISION	05-03-2012	Non Material Amend-

		gable.			ment Approved
12H/0642	7 Tower Way Liverpool L25 6EB	To erect single storey extension to the rear	FINAL DECISION	05-03-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12F/0573	Newstead Farm Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6DY	To sever part of garden and erect detached dwellinghouse with associated vehicular entrance, hardstanding and boundary treatments.	FINAL DECISION	29-02-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12H/0570	25 Gateacre Park Drive Liverpool L25 1PB	To erect first floor extension at side, single storey extension at front, conservatory at rear and dormer extension at rear.	FINAL DECISION	29-02-2012	Approve with Condit'ns
12T/0564	Palmerston School Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To carry out tree works including felling of 1 no tree	WITHDRAWN	29-02-2012	Withdrawn
12H/0494	18 Reynolds Way Liverpool L25 5HX	To erect first floor extension at side/front	FINAL DECISION	23-02-2012	Refuse

Original design for Quarry Street/Rodick Street Scheme:



Revised design for Quarry Street/Rodick Street Scheme:



