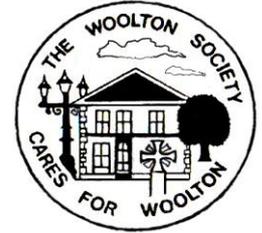


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS



NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the fortieth Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 17th October 2012 at 7.30pm at Woolton Village Club, Allerton Road, Woolton Village, Liverpool L25.

Agenda

1. Notice convening the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the thirty ninth AGM held on 26th October 2011.
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 & celebrations will follow the AGM.

Newsletter contents in full:

Minutes of the 39th Woolton Society AGM of 26th October 2011: pages 2 - 4
Society News: page 4
Forty Years On: A Brief History of the Woolton Society by Sue Carmichael: pages 5 & 6
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Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting held at the Village Club, Allerton Road, Woolton, on Wednesday 26th October 2011 at 7.30 pm.

Present:-

Committee: Edith McGlashan in the Chair; Paul King (Vice-Chairman);
Henry Stott (Hon. Secretary); Charles Davies (Hon. Treasurer).
Jean Davies; Meryl Kelbrick; Maria Whitty; Les Baldwin; Brian Watt.

Members and Visitors:-

Ladies M Condy; V Stott; E Pimblett; A Brayford; M Fulton; A Wilkie; P Whitcombe;
J Hudson; L Knowles; D Chance.
Gentlemen G Whitty; J Pope; G Topham; D Massey; H Mantel; M Chitty; P Wilkie;
D Griffiths; E Clement-Evans.

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documentation published in advance in Issue No 320 of the Society's newsletter, plus the financial statements made available. The following relate to the numbered items of the agenda:-

- 1 **Notice convening the meeting.** This was read by the Chairman.
- 2 **Apologies for absence** Apologies had been received from-
Mr & Mrs Baker; Mr & Mrs Hesketh; Ann Fearon; Rene Curran;
Hilary Rock-Gormley; A G Gaskin; and N Callaghan.
- 3 **Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting** held on 27th October 2010 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 society's accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011, and explained the figures appropriated to certain items and, where relevant, in comparison with those for the previous year. Adequate insurance is included in the membership fee of the British Association for Local History (BALH) which we have joined. A massive increase in the charge for our PO Box facility will be reviewed before the next renewal date. Supplies of the original "History of Woolton" are now exhausted, and the economics of a reprint are under review – any contacts with printers would be welcomed. The influence on the overall financial position of generous donations, and our support for the Save Woolton Pool Appeal, were highlighted.

(The society appreciates the work of Hamilton-Burke Dufau Ltd, who have again compiled the accounts, under very favourable terms).

- 5 **Chairman's Remarks** Following established precedents the chairman invited other officers of the committee to make statements in their respective spheres, as follows:-
 - (i) The **Hon. Secretary** (Henry Stott) advised that the committee had met 5 times during the year, and we are grateful to The Elephant Hotel for use of a room there. 5 Newsletters were published in the same period, and the enhanced issues, often in colour, are a tribute to the editor Jean Davies, as are the lists of Planning Applications prepared by Charles Davies, with additional comments by Meryl Kelbrick. Jean Davies also organised a fine programme of talks – 3 in Autumn and 3 in Spring. We have actively supported the Save Woolton Pool Committee in their efforts to have the pool reopened, and a society member, Sue Carmichael, has led a project to have the Baths listed as a historic building. Similarly we have supported efforts to keep Woolton Library open, and continue to support "Woolton in Bloom". (N.B. An announcement of another gold award in the North West in Bloom large village category was received with applause). A new "Woolton Oak" was planted in January in the High Street central reservation and dedicated to the late Janet GROSSPELIUS. Placement of a memorial stone is under consideration. Regarding her archive materials it is hoped that advice will be given by Liverpool Record Office's Local Studies Service on their classification and conservation.

- (ii) The acting **Membership Secretary** (Paul King) advised a current paid-up membership total of 232 plus 1 honorary member. The welcome increase is in no small part due to the recruiting efforts of Jean Davies at farmers markets in the village. Thanks are due to those members who give rounded-up subscriptions as donations. We do need help with distribution of Newsletters to members, particularly in the Woolton Hill Road area. Fully computerised membership data has now been handed over to a new Membership Secretary, Maria Whitty.
- (iii) The **Environment Secretary** (Meryl Kelbrick) explained that, while she did the main investigations and put her name to the society's communications with the council on matters relating to planning applications, the issues involved were always discussed in committee. Members were encouraged to become the eyes and ears of the Society and to take a pro-active role in reporting developments which may be in contravention of planning regulations in our conservation area. Lists of applications are included in our newsletters for the information of members, but the following cross-section was outlined to exemplify the diversity of issues involved :-
- (i) Allerton Priory. Proposed equestrian centre and an eco-house. As yet there is no decision, but we have stressed that the site is part of the Green Wedge.
 - (ii) 21 Woolton Street (the former William Hill premises). Application for yet another take-away. Not yet validated.
 - (iii) "Winster", Woolton Park. Another application (after the first was withdrawn) to demolish the original house and erect a 3-storey building with 16 apartments. Do we really want this in Woolton Park?
 - (iv) 22b Woolton Street (Salisbury Lodge by Lodes Pond). This has been converted into a "clinic" without a planning application for change of use or changes to the building itself – this in the very centre of our Conservation Area!
- (v) 60 Allerton Road re change of use to Therapy Rooms. An example of an application which should have had a separate one to cover shop sign/advertisement. In response to our comments the planning officer advised having contacted the applicant on the matter, but that "people can not be forced to put in an application". What are planning regulations for?

The Chairman thanked the above officers for their reports, and the committee at large.

5 Election of Officers

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| 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 | Henry Stott was willing to continue and was duly re-elected, but has given notice of his intention to step down at the next AGM. |
| Hon.Treasurer | Charles Davies was willing to continue and was duly re-elected. |

All the above were subject to formal proposals, duly seconded, and, there being no other nominations, were approved without opposition.

The Chairman welcomed Maria Whitty to the role of Membership Secretary.

6 Election of Members of the Executive Committee

The four members retiring under Rule 7 of the Society's Constitution were named as:- Norman Callaghan, Jean Davies, John Hibbert and Brian Watt.
All were willing to serve and were duly re-elected without opposition.

7 Any other Business

- (i) Meryl Kelbrick is organising a raffle on behalf of the society, in support of the Save Woolton Pool Fund. A number of local restaurants have generously offered prizes such as a meal for two. She has had some 4000 tickets printed and launched their sale to members present. The draw will take place in December.
In response to a query from the floor it was confirmed that the establishments involved will receive the next newsletter, in which they will receive publicity re their Christmas menus.

- (ii) A member asked if local supermarkets were or could be represented on the society's committee. The chairman advised that we had decided not to become indebted to them in any way in case conflicts of interest arose in the future.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.20 pm after announcing that the society's accounts were then to be signed off by the appropriate officers.

Please bring these minutes if you plan to attend the AGM on October 17th

Society News

Memorial to Founding Member of The Woolton Society

The memorial to founder member Janet Gnosspelius was unveiled in a simple but moving ceremony on July 18th. The stone, appropriately made from Woolton sandstone, was unveiled by Sue Carmichael, who spoke of Janet's dedication to the cause of conservation, & her love of Woolton. Her ashes are to be scattered at the site, beside the Woolton Oak on High Street, at a later date.

Diary Date

Our final talk of 2012 will be on Wednesday 21st November, when The National Trust's Simon Osborne will speak on the challenges of caring for the Trust's Liverpool properties: Speke Hall, Mr Hardman's House & the Beatles homes. The talk will be in the Village Club at 7.30pm.

September 19th Talk

Our speaker on Wednesday 19th September was Radio Merseyside's Steve Binns, who gave an appreciative audience a very entertaining talk on the events leading up to the swallowing up of Woolton by the City of Liverpool in 1913. A lively question & answer session followed.

Membership Secretary

Sadly our membership secretary has had to step down, so we are appealing for a replacement. As our records are computerised a familiarity with spreadsheets would be an advantage. Please contact any committee member as soon as possible if interested in this role.

Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Please note that all subscriptions are due in October. Rates are printed on the renewal form on page 7.

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.

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.

History of Much Woolton

The History of Much Woolton by Janet Gnosspelius & John Lally has now been reprinted & is on sale at £3. Copies can be bought at all talks & from Brown's Newsagent on Woolton Street.

The Society hopes to have a stall at the Farmers Market on October 13th, when copies of The History will be on sale, together with photographs of old Woolton. This would also be an opportunity for members to renew their subscriptions in advance of the AGM on October 17th.

Forty years on: *Saving Woolton Hall and founding the Woolton Society*

In early 1970 having bought at auction a Listed but completely uninhabitable house, 49 Woolton Street, with a demolition order on it, we finally moved in with our baby, Katy.

Being a near neighbour of Notre Dame School (now St Julies) a notice of an application to demolish Grade 1 Listed Woolton Hall came through our letterbox. I felt outraged at this audacious demolition proposal so its contents were like a red rag to a bull. Being a young architect, whilst very keen to design new buildings, I had, under the tutelage of the late Professor Quentin Hughes (author of *Seaport*) become appreciative of our architectural heritage. I was also mindful of the quotation 'a town without old buildings is like a man without a memory.' (HG Wells). Buying and restoring a historic house in a village conservation area had been a natural step for us, with my husband Peter, also an architect, similarly enthusiastic about historic buildings and soon to be involved in the restoration and conversion of many listed buildings in the city and beyond. The possibility of a nearby Grade 1 Listed building disappearing without a fight galvanised me into action.

However, being a recent newcomer to Woolton, gaining the essential groundswell of public support for a Save Woolton Hall campaign presented a challenge; we were so busy working on our jobs and house and looking after Katy we hardly knew any Woolton people apart from local shopkeepers and the postman. I was expecting our second baby five months later as well as running a small practice and teaching at Liverpool Polytechnic so it was hardly an ideal time to become a community activist. I spoke to a friend, (now Judge) Peter Urquhart, then Hon Sec of the Civic Society/Civic Trust who advised me to get a Conservation Society as a longer term legacy out of the Woolton Hall campaign rather than it just be a short term 'save' initiative; this has certainly proved to be good advice, not only for Woolton it has also spawned many other local societies, but also the idea that short term campaigns should be planned to bear longer term fruit in terms of sustainable legacy as is now the case with Woolton Pool!

We urgently needed to get wide publicity, someone to chair a meeting, identify and book a venue and to set up a steering group. Finding local architects, who might share our concern, seemed a good place to start so I trawled through the RIBA Membership Directory to track down those in the area. Sid Bolland and Janet Gnosspelius were both local, and luckily as their surnames were early in the alphabet, I looked no further.

Sid suggested names of local key people, one of whom was John Mc Glashan, (our Chair, Edith's late husband) who as a solicitor (later a Judge) proved to be invaluable in both his sound legal advice and enthusiasm for setting up our village conservation society. I approached my local Midland Bank Manager, John Hall, who became Treasurer. Alan Gaskin became Chair and others soon came forward. I recall at the public meeting someone asked- '*why wasn't the Woolton Society started years ago?*' I was very tempted to reply that it was because Janet and I had only just arrived in the area, but tactfully held my tongue.

Finding the exotically named architect, Janet Gnosspelius, living in Hightor Road has certainly proved to be the most significant discovery for Woolton village and the Woolton Society as well as local architectural history more widely. No sooner had I rung Janet than she came striding round to our house and loudly and memorably pronounced her overwhelming encouragement; '*More power to your elbow my dear, more power*'. From that moment she became an unstoppable force.

All who have known Janet over the years will realise how her passion, vast architectural knowledge, attention to detail and energy underpinned the case at the Woolton Hall Public Inquiry which eventually followed.

She was commissioned by the City Planning Department to carry out a detailed architectural survey of the building. I vividly recall her, very sensibly wearing jodphurs and her characteristic yellow cardigan, being lifted up the face of the building in a 'cherry picker' to inspect the roof and gutters.

Her report proved to be an exemplar in its forensic scrutiny as Janet always insisted in ensuring she was in possession of every possible detail. In the meantime I mobilised different groups elsewhere to write their own cases for preservation of Woolton Hall: The Civic Society, The Georgian Society and so on. I also prepared the Woolton Society's own submission; Janet was to speak about her Woolton Hall Report for the Planning Office making the strong case for its preservation. I little realised at that stage, that as we would not be able, as a new voluntary group, to pay a barrister experienced in planning matters, it would be left to me, a very young architect, with a planning masters degree, but minimal experience, not only to present our case, but also to 'cross examine' the other side - ie the client and architect who wished to demolish the Hall. It was a daunting, but riveting roller coaster experience which lasted a week, demanding absolute concentration in order to find fault with the opposition's argument which we could then raise in 'cross examination'.

Success: - Woolton Hall still stands!

When the Society was set up I became the first Hon. Sec. Janet and Dr John Lally set about writing History of Much Woolton, recently reprinted in facsimile form. I recall devising a residents' opinion survey of Cobden Street and Gladstone Street to make the case for their retention whilst threatened with a Compulsory Purchase Order. I also initiated a proposal to set up a working museum in the Cathedral Quarry site, so that not only would stone continue to be extracted and worked by masons to provide material for repairing the any sandstone buildings in the area, as well as the Grade1 Listed Anglican Cathedral to which it would thereby have a strong link. After we had had several meetings, including with Museum staff, the Cathedral authorities sold the quarry for housing so our working museum had to be abandoned. However we decided to use the research material that had been collected together with photos and drawings Janet had made and to write a book with several people, with Janet and I each taking a chapter. The book remains unpublished in draft form as we moved on to other things. I soon found myself moving away from Woolton Society matters, not only developing a portfolio career in practice and teaching, raising our family, designing and building a new house but becoming involved in wider voluntary activities: locally with the Civic Society in saving the Grade 2 Listed Lyceum and Grade1 Listed Albert Dock; co-starting an education pressure group, followed by The Liverbus Education Project; regionally and nationally on RIBA council and on projects to encourage more women into architecture and construction. Surprisingly I now seem to have come full circle back into Woolton being the 'Heritage Officer' on the Save Woolton Pool Fund and recently researching widely to make a case for its (now) Grade 2 Listing , often reflecting on how much better a case Janet would have made to English Heritage.

Janet, often in partnership with the late Sylvia Lewis of the Gateacre Society, worked on a wealth of architectural and historical research unstintingly building up a phenomenal body of information; this has ultimately become the bedrock on which the Woolton Society has evolved over the years. I trust that a way can soon be found to organise, preserve and make this accessible for future generations. Her obituary reminded us of the breadth as well as depth of her research interests and impact beyond our village boundaries. While her local research collection so thoughtfully bequeathed to the Woolton Society is an appropriate testament to her life's work, the installation of a memorial stone in the village to which she has contributed so much will be a permanent tangible public statement of her significance to Woolton Village and beyond.

Sue Carmichael, a founder member and first honorary secretary.

We are grateful to Mrs Carmichael for her tenacity & sense of purpose in establishing the Society in 1972. We hope that we show similar characteristics today which enable us to continue to achieve our aims. Onwards & upwards for another forty years!



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

Registered charity no. 506224

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Subscriptions are due in October and rates for the period October 2012 to September 2013 are as follows:

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 £2.00 to the amount above to cover postage and packing.

Method of payment: *a. by standing order - as attached.*
 b. by cheque payable to 'the Woolton Society'
 c. 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,
101 Church Road , Woolton, Liverpool L25 6DB

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, 101 Church Road , Woolton, Liverpool L25 6DB

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 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 charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 you gave up to 5 April 2008.
- The charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2008.
- The Government will pay to the charity an additional 3p on every £1 you give between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011. This transitional relief for the charity does not affect your personal tax position.

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.