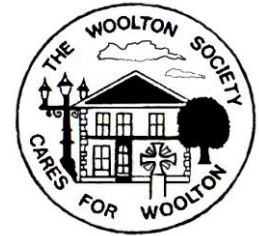


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

wooltonsociety@hotmail.co.uk

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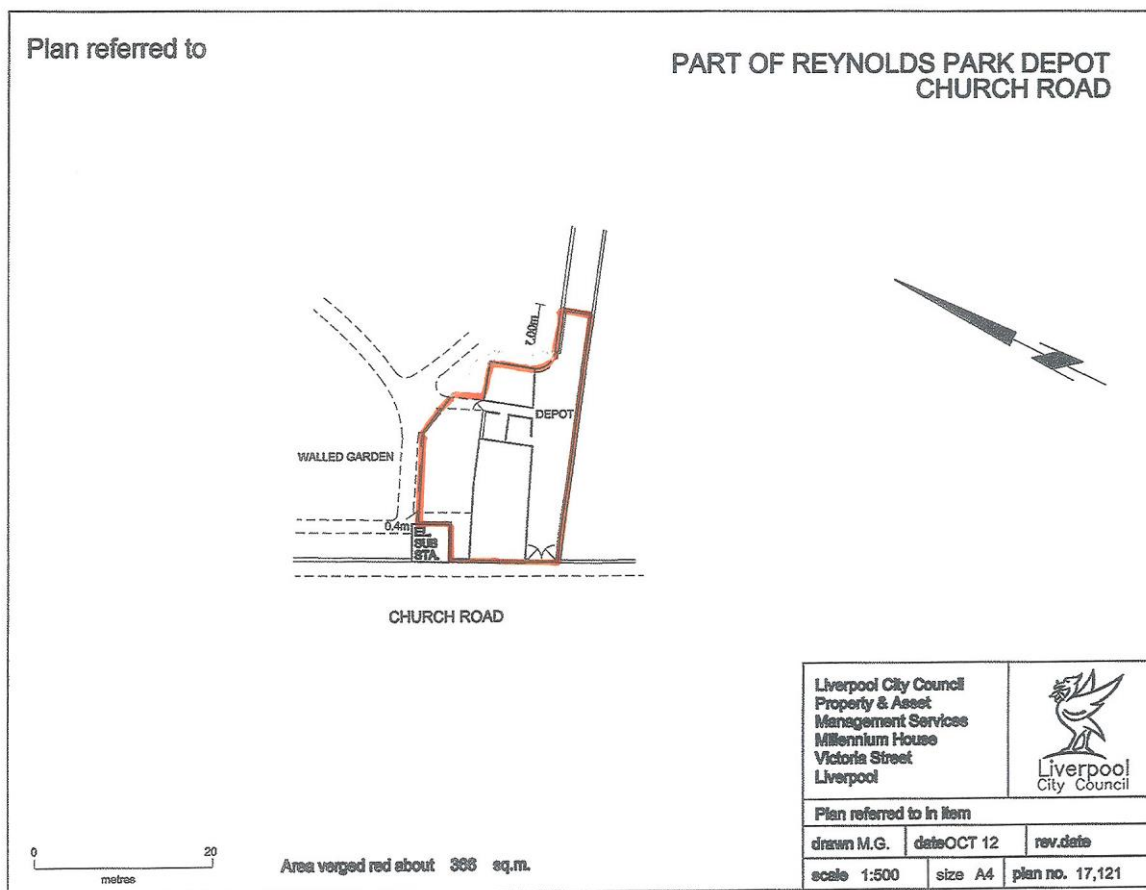


THE WOOLTON SOCIETY - SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS

NEWSLETTER

Threats to Reynolds Park?

See report on page 5



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Society news

Annual General Meeting of October 2012

At the AGM on 17th October the officers & committee of the Woolton Society were agreed:

Chairman: Edith McGlashan

Vice Chairman: Paul King

Hon.Secretary: Roger Pointon

Hon.Treasurer: Charles Davies

Environment Secretary: Meryl Kelbrick

Membership Secretary: Jean Bates

Committee members: Les Baldwin, Jean Davies, Ann Fearon, John Hibbert, Henry Stott, Brian Watt, Paul Wilkie; Paul is to have responsibility for creating & maintaining the Society's website. We hope to have this up and running about four weeks after you receive this newsletter.

Diary Dates & next talk

The first talk in 2013 will be given by Mrs Teresa Smith, cousin of founder member Janet Gnosspelius. Mrs Smith will have as her subject *A Search for the Icelandic Saga Sites*. The grandfather of both Mrs Smith & Miss Gnosspelius was W.G. Collingwood, private secretary to John Ruskin. In 1897 he visited Iceland in search of the Saga Sites, & many of his discoveries are now in the National Museum in Reykjavik. Collingwood is an important figure in Icelandic historical & artistic circles & his granddaughters have played key parts in the discovery of his letters & paintings. This talk will be on **Wednesday 20th March**, at 7.30 in Woolton Village Club.

Our speaker on **15th May** is to be Dr Sally Sheard, lecturer in the History of Medicine at Liverpool University. She will be speaking on the establishment of public baths & wash houses in Liverpool in the 19th century, in a talk entitled *Profit is a Dirty Word*.

Dr David Harrison, an Adult Learning Services lecturer, will be our speaker on **17th July**. He will have as his topic the Wallace case of 1931, the sensational murder trial held at Liverpool Crown Court.

Fuller details of the May & July talks will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

Talks are held in the upstairs room of the Village Club, starting at 7.30. Non members are welcome to attend.

The National Trust in Liverpool

Our speaker in November was Simon Osborne, keeper of the National Trust's Liverpool properties. He gave an enthralling & amusing photographic tour of Mr Hardman's house, Speke Hall, & the childhood homes of John Lennon & Paul McCartney, speaking for nearly 90 minutes without notes. Listeners to Radio 4's Food Programme recently will have heard him speaking on the food likely to have come out of the kitchen in Forthlin Road, Allerton, in the 1950s. It was mainly very plain food, with a lot of tinned fruit & evaporated milk, according to Paul McCartney, also on the programme. Our thanks go to Mr Osborne for a very well attended & entertaining evening.

History of Woolton

The reprinted History of Woolton, first published in 1975, has been selling well, with copies available at all talks, & at Brown's Newsagent on Woolton Street, priced at £3.

Membership

A reminder that membership subscriptions were due in October. Those who have not yet renewed their subs should do so as soon as possible to ensure future delivery of the Newsletter. Payment by Standing Order is an easy & reliable way to renew. Forms are available from the Treasurer or Membership Secretary and also, shortly, on the society's website at www.thewooltonociety.org.uk

Woolton News

Friends of Reynolds Park

FORP joins with The Woolton Society in opposing the Council's plan to sell off Reynolds Park Depot also known as the Gardeners Bothy (see Newsletter 322) together with a portion of the Walled Garden in Reynolds Park. See our report on page 5 for news on this, & the proposals for the Reynolds Park Lodge on Church Road.

The dove sculpture at the edge of the large field has had to be felled as the trunk was found to be decaying. The original plan was to place the dove itself on a plinth in the Walled Garden, but this too was found to be in a very poor condition after felling. Both dove & trunk are now resting on the grass, providing a natural habitat for wildlife.

On a happier note, FORP has been able to restore the sundial professionally, after a successful appeal for funds.

The next meeting of FORP will be at 7.00 on **Wednesday 13th March** in Tesco's coffee shop.

Woolton in Bloom

Belated congratulations to WIB, who despite having to change category from Large Village to Urban Community at the insistence of the RHS, triumphed once more at the awards ceremony in Southport last October. After winning the top award in their category, WIB was invited by the RHS to enter the prestigious Britain in Bloom contest as well as North West in Bloom so there will be two separate days of judging this Summer. Planting for Spring & Summer displays will begin soon, & clean-up days will be held regularly before judging. Volunteers are welcome to join in with planting, & tidying up in the village. Dates will be published in the newsletter as well as WIB's noticeboard beside The Lodes Pond. The next meeting for WIB will be on **Monday 18th March** at 6.00 in Woolton Youth Club. New volunteers are always welcome.

Ticket To Read: Woolton's Community Library

After the grand opening on February 12th of the new venue for Ticket to Read, The Simon Peter centre on Church Road, the times & venues are as follows:

The Victoria, Quarry Street: Mondays 4.00 to 6.00

Linksvie Tower, Vale Road: Thursdays 1.00 to 3.00

Simon Peter Centre, Church Road (refreshments available):

Mondays 1.00 to 5.00 Wednesdays 11.00 to 3.00 Fridays 10.00 to 2.00

Many people have now signed up for this FREE book exchange service, & hold library cards once more, so do go along to a session & give your support. Donated books, in good condition, are welcomed, as are volunteers to go on the staffing rota.

A fund raising Charity Night for TTR is to be held at the Village Club at 8 pm on **Friday 22nd March**. A band, The D.T.s will play, with a quiz & raffle. Tickets are £5. Ring 07511 194 133, or email wrcrc2012@aol.co.uk

Women's Institute opens in Woolton

The Women's Institute has now opened a branch in Woolton, with the first meeting in January overflowing the Simon Peter Centre. The second meeting, in February, met in the much larger St Peter's Church Hall, where about 80 new members enrolled, & heard a talk on bee keeping. Future meetings will be at the latter venue, on the second Monday of each month, at 7.00.

11th March is to be a craft night, while on **8th April** there will be a talk on the life of a magistrate.

Centenary Plans

November 2013 marks 100 years of Woolton's absorption into The City of Liverpool. Or alternatively, 100 years since Liverpool joined Woolton. Plans are being made to mark the occasion, a re-creation of the Village Green, beside the Cross, being one suggestion. The anniversary may be marked in September, to coincide with Heritage Weekend events. Fuller details will be reported in issue 327.

Childwall Parish Church

Although not in our area of concern, we are pleased to report that the Diocese of Liverpool has dropped its plans to develop the Grade 1 listed parish church on Childwall Abbey Road, & build a large circular extension in the graveyard. This was after considerable local opposition, when it was realised that many graves, ancient & modern, would be disturbed. This aspect of the plan was not clear in initial applications. It should be noted that vigorous opposition can be effective.

Baths Update, a report from Sue Carmichael

1 'Pooling Memories'- Hidden Stories (1920-60): Grade 2 Listed Woolton Baths Oral History Project: Heritage Lottery Fund 'Your Heritage' Application'

This online re application was submitted for the 31st January deadline and will be considered at a meeting on 20th March. We understand that with even more applications in this highly competitive process there are no guarantees of success. In the meantime we keep receiving more welcome titbits of memories, photos and other information. For example the Garston and Woolton Weekly 'Woolton Baths - a quiet reopening' (5th June 1936). The Baths were closed for nine months to enable the original oval bath(!) shaped form to be made rectangular to increase swimming area and for shower and changing facilities to be improved.

I have photos (from the Catalyst Museum) of the old, now demolished, Widnes Baths, also oval shaped, like Woolton funded by Holbrook Gaskell and designed by the same architects. Does anyone have photos of our original Baths interior? I have also recently been told that a group of women who worked at Bear Brand used to swim in the Baths during their lunch break in the 50's so we are adding this person's name to the list of potential interviewees. Any more contacts information etc. welcome: singswimsue@gmail.com.

In the meantime members might be interested in 'The Moseley Road Baths Oral History Project' in Birmingham; a huge HLF funded three year project called 'Pool of Memories' it has just been forwarded to me: <http://www.poolofmemories.co.uk/2013/02/celebrate-pool-of-memories/>

Please keep on buying the lottery tickets, even if you, like me, do not agree with gambling as such! I now just see it as another form of voluntary tax which has some public benefit like the Olympics, and one day, we hope the restoration of Woolton Baths.

2 The Lease and CCTV survey:

The Woolton Village Residents Association which is taking responsibility for the building restoration (in partnership with Save Woolton Pool Fund - responsible for eventual pool operation) is in the advanced stage of negotiating a lease with the City Council - a process started in April 2012. Once agreed we are ready to carry out underground surveys to check the condition of the pool's iron framework structure to ascertain how watertight the casement really is (there had been substantial leakage). Funding is in place for CCTV surveys of the old pipe work and filtration circulation system fitted in 1936 when the pool was modernised from oval to rectangular structure. The survey will assist in indicating potential repair costs and thereby the financial viability of the pool for future use. We have a team of expert volunteer engineers who live locally and are ready to assist in minimising repair costs.

3 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Stage 1 Application: Restoration of Grade2 Listed building:

We had submitted a Pre Application over a year ago alongside the Oral History Pre Application and were encouraged by HLF to proceed with the latter first.

The main grant rules have recently changed so Peter Eustance of the WVRA and I attended a training session at HLF last month and are going to a further event at Deane Road cemetery this week. We expect to continue work on this substantial Application which if successful leads on to Stage2 for which we would have paid consultant support.

Planning News and Applications

Threats to Reynolds Park

As reported in previous newsletters, the Council proposes to sell off the Gardeners' Bothy in Reynolds Park. To make the sale more attractive to prospective buyers a section of the Walled Garden will be added to the plot. A similar situation exists at The Lodge beside the park gates, where parkland will be added to the footprint to enlarge the plot for sale. As St Gabriel's further along Church Road is now earmarked for development is there any green space that is safe in Woolton? As we go to print, representatives of the Woolton Society & FORP are about to meet with council officials whom seem to be unaware that the park was left for the enjoyment of the public by the Reynolds family, & is not there to be used as a cash cow whenever the Council is hard up. Memories of 25 years ago come to mind, when it was proposed the Mansion House should be sold off to be used as a Fun Pub. This plan was abandoned after vociferous local protests, led by The Woolton Society.

The plans, showing the proposed incursions into the park, can be seen on the front & back pages of this newsletter.

We urge all our members to contact their Council representatives to object to this scheme.

St Gabriel's Site & Beaconsfield Road

Planning permission has been granted for the St Gabriel's site but the Society has no date as to when work will start.

The site is part of what is called 'Green Space'. which under the UDP - OE11 and OE12 have particular conditions as to future development and how it will impact on the Green Space. However the St Gabriel's proposal pays very little respect to these conditions, & will see most of the site covered in concrete and tarmac with mature trees being felled. It is unfortunate when any proposal sees the demise of mature trees for the sake of maximum development.

Opposite this site on the other side of Beaconsfield Rd, the UDP Green Space continues with the land surrounding the various educational institutions; some of these sites are the subject of current planning applications.

12L/2875 12F/2873 both refer to Abbots Lea and give approval to demolish a stable block and to erect a new structure comprising four classrooms with associated car parking.

12F/2873 Palmerston School and Lower Lea. To erect a new structure comprising four classrooms with associated parking.

13PM/0078 To demolish all vacant and disused buildings of the former Lower Lea School. As the buildings on this site are unsightly and of poor quality their demolition will be welcome. However, the site also has a number of trees with preservation orders.

A web site from Liverpool Vision 2011 gives the following information in regard to Lower Lea:

The site is owned freehold by LCC with a total area of 1.02 Ha.

The Council would wish to encourage proposals for a discrete number of high value detached dwelling houses.

It is difficult to understand what exactly 'Green Space' means given the parameters outlined in OE11 and OE12. With the Government's initiative of a UK wide building programme, it would be wise to take stock of what we have in terms of what is *Green Space*, *Green Wedge* and *Brown Land*. If more housing is proposed in Liverpool, where is it to go?

RIGHT TO LIGHT. Notes taken from The Daily Telegraph. See the full article at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9878486/Right-to-light-under-threat-in-planning-law-shake-up.html>

Right to Light - 'For more than 400 years a right to light has been gained by householders who have enjoyed unobstructed sunlight through their windows for 20 years. The right which is gained automatically after this time, enables householders to stop neighbours building anything from a wall to a skyscraper that would block out their sunlight'. These historic laws could be scrapped under new proposals.

While the description above is correct, having this right doesn't stop a developer from developing. To find out as to whether a property enjoys this privilege, this can be found by looking at old O.S maps to see what developments or applications have taken place on a particular site with their dates recorded on the sheet. This is available to the public and planning officers. The problems are that many are unlikely to be aware of rights, & if aware, then how to enforce at law. A case cited in this article told of how a high court judgement unexpectedly ordered partial demolition of a building in Leeds City Centre that obstructed a neighbour's daylight. The demolition was ordered after the owner of a Grade II listed building objected to the proposed plans. Once the property had been built he took the developer to court. And, therein lies the the risk of taking someone to court. If th e court found against the owner of the listed building then he could be liable to pay all legal costs. This is where the planning system can fail the average person who may not have sufficient finances to pursue court action.

The following is a summary of planning applications that 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
12F/1790	Tesco Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7SF	To vary condition 11 attached to application number 11F/0450. (To erect single storey extension to retail floorspace at front and east side; erect new storage extension and cage storage area at west side and carry out ancillary works; to vary condition 3 attached to 97P/1651 (granted 23/12/97) so as to allow the gross floorspace to be increased to 4351 sqm) so as to allow the store to open on Sundays between 0900 and 2000 hours between 22/7/12 and 9/9/12.	WITHDRAWN	--	Withdrawn
13F/0530	Land at J.W.James & Co. 29 Woolton Street Liverpool L25	To remove existing 17.5m high slimline monopole column and replace with new 17.5m high slimline monopole column with associated cabinet	REGISTERED	27-02-2013	
13A/0525	Lloyds TSB Bank Ltd 3 Woolton Street Liverpool L25 5NH	To replace existing signage	REGISTERED	27-02-2013	
13NM/0490	Flats 1-10 Deanacres Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RE	Application for non material amendment to 12F/2735 - To install new doors and windows to front and rear and carry out minor external alterations.	REGISTERED	22-02-2013	

12F/2809	Dovercroft & Dealcroft Cheddar Close Woolton Liverpool L25 7UX	To create 2 apartments to existing void space on ground floor with associated external alterations and layout additional parking spaces.	FINAL DECISION	01-02-2013	Approve with Conditions
13F/0283	14-16 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HE	To change use from B1 (office) to C3 dwelling house	REGISTERED	31-01-2013	
13F/0199	St James United Church Church Road South Liverpool L25 7RJ	To remove section of boundary wall, to provide pedestrian access, including new gate.	REGISTERED	23-01-2013	
12H/3186	Cape Lodge Woolton Park Liverpool L25 6DU	To erect first and second floor extensions (incorporating 2nd floor roof terrace at side/rear, 3 dormer extensions in side elevation, 2 Juliette balconies in side elevation), erect single storey extension at rear and carry out associated minor external alterations.	REGISTERED	22-01-2013	
12F/2806	Lymecroft & Rydecroft Evesham Close Liverpool L25 7GA	To create two apartments to existing void space on ground floor and layout 5 parking spaces accessed through Links View.	FINAL DECISION	22-01-2013	Approve with Conditions
13PM/0078	Former Lower Lee School Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EF	To demolish all vacant and disused buildings.	REGISTERED	11-01-2013	
13F/0080	St Gregorys House Halewood Road Liverpool L25 3SL	To erect 4 storey building, incorporating 20 apartments and layout associated car parking and landscaping	REGISTERED	11-01-2013	
13H/0022	35 Hillview Gardens Liverpool L25 7XE	To erect 3 storey extension at rear, single storey extension to the rear and first floor extension at side.	REGISTERED	08-01-2013	
13F/0003	County Court Hotel 103 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6HB	To install new external spiral fire escape to the rear	FINAL DECISION	02-01-2013	Approve with Conditions
12H/2959	33 Quickswood Drive Liverpool L25 4TP	To erect single storey extensions to both sides of dwelling and at rear, increase height of roof (overall height 5.5 metres) and erect dormer extensions to front and rear.	REGISTERED	20-12-2012	
12L/2875	Abbots Lea School Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To demolish stable block including associated ancillary buildings, and create new doorway at rear.	REGISTERED	12-11-2012	
12F/2874	Abbots Lea School Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To erect new classroom block comprising 6 classrooms with associated car parking and ancillary works following demolitions.	FINAL DECISION	12-11-2012	Approve with Conditions
12F/2873	Palmerston School and Lower Lea Beaconsfield Road Liverpool L25 6EE	To erect new classroom block, comprising four classrooms with associated car parking and ancillary works	FINAL DECISION	12-11-2012	Approve with Conditions
12F/2544	56 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RG	To use premises as a restaurant (Use Class A3) opening between 1100 and 2330 hours, erect single storey extension at rear and extraction flue at rear.	FINAL DECISION	07-11-2012	Approve with Conditions
12A/2739	47 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RE	To display 1 non illuminated fascia sign and 1 non illuminated projecting sign.	FINAL DECISION	29-10-2012	Approve with Conditions
12A/2405	The Quarry 47a Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RE	To continue to display 'halo' lit signage at front.	FINAL DECISION	24-09-2012	Approve with Conditions

12A/2016	47 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RE	To erect 1 non-illuminated fascia sign, 1 non-illuminated gable sign and 1 internally illuminated projecting sign.	FINAL DECISION	10-08-2012	Refuse
12F/1886	Sainsburys Supermarkets Ltd James Road Liverpool L25 5QA	To install external plant equipment on the roof	FINAL DECISION	30-07-2012	Approve with Conditions
12F/1856	75-77 Allerton Road Liverpool L25 7RF	To alter and extend storage premises including raising roof, installing roof lights and balcony at side and use as one, three bed dwelling. (Alternative scheme to application 07F/3263 incorporating lean-to roof to rear, chimney flue and additional fence along rear boundary).	FINAL DECISION	26-07-2012	Approve with Conditions
12A/1838	The White Horse Acrefield Road Liverpool L25 5JL	To display 1 fixed canopy over entrance.	FINAL DECISION	23-07-2012	Refuse
12F/1674	55-57 Quarry Street Liverpool L25 6EZ	To vary condition 2 attached to 11F/2532 (To change use of public house to a 5 bed dwelling, including partial demolition and external alterations and erect 2 no. 3 bed dwellinghouses) so as to reconfigure/rebuild boundary wall between application site and 59 Quarry Street.	REGISTERED	05-07-2012	

