

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

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ISSUE NO 376 Autumn 2025

THE WOOLTON SOCIETY: SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the fifty second Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society will be held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7.30pm at St Mary's parish hall on Church Road, Woolton Village, L25 5JF

Agenda

1. Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 51st AGM held on 13th November 2024
4. Chairman's remarks
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Membership secretary's report
8. Environment secretary's report
9. Election of officers
10. Election of the executive committee.
11. Any other business.

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Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Woolton Society held at St Mary's Church hall, Woolton on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Attendance:

Committee members: Jean Davies in the chair, Paul Wilkie (Vice Chairman/Hon. Secretary), Charles Davies (Hon. Treasurer), Janet Hudson, Bob Collins, Jean Bates, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead.

Members: Anne Brayford, Janet Collins, Mike Cullen, Diane Graney, Richard Lawrence, David Graney, Val Farmer, Mike Farmer, Sandy McMillan, Ann McMillan, Steven Kenny, Alan Hicks, Bill Hayes, Ken Foulkes, Alan & Thelma Grant, Hugh Mantle, Linda Downes, Margaret & Terry Davies, Irene Keane, Lesley McManara, Sandra Sandland, Frank Kynaston, Brian Daugherty, Alan Fletcher, Irene Keane .

The chairman welcomed all present and referred them to the meeting documents published in advance in the Society's newsletter No 372, together with the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 distributed at the meeting.

1. Notice convening the meeting. This was read by the chairman.

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were noted from Anne Wilkie, Rob & Jeanette Kirby, Jeni French, Colette Harris, Linda Parsons, Ian Brown, Jenny Brown, Sheila & John Laverick, Dr & Mrs Zsigmond, Gwen Rawlinson, Stephen Ralph, Gary & Liz McIntosh, Graham Halsall, Andrew & Liz Spencer, Judy Smith, David Massey, Elsie Stephenson, Betty & Brian Welsh, Maggie Fulton, Stephen Downes, Gillian Kenny.

3. Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2023 and distributed in advance to all members were proposed as read by Viv Hicks and accepted as a true record, on a show of hands.

4. Chairman's Remarks.

The chairman remarked on some of the areas the Society had been involved in, and thanked members of the committee for their efforts, with special thanks to Treasurer, Sec/Deputy chairman, Membership & Environment Secs who all keep the show on the road.

She invited other officers of the committee to give a report for their areas of responsibility.

i) The Hon Treasurer Charles Davies presented the accounts for the year ending 31 August 2024 and commented on some items. The accounts were accepted on a show of hands.

ii) The Hon. Secretary, Paul Wilkie reported that the Executive Committee met 5 times during the year, no additional members were co-opted, and there was one resignation, Jenny French. In the same period there have been 4 issues of the Society's newsletter, ably edited by our Chairman Jean Davies. Thanks are due to all involved in production and distribution of the newsletter. The society has continued to take a stall on Woolton market which provides a valuable mechanism for communicating with members as well a medium for sales of Society publications and merchandise to raise funds and spread knowledge of the area. There were some issues with the website during the year which resulted in it being unavailable for a while, these have now been resolved.

(iii) The Environment Secretary, Janet Hudson, gave the following report
The Mountain Ash tree variety Sunshine was planted in Reynolds Park to celebrate 50 years of The Woolton Society. It is now thriving and producing yellow berries to celebrate the golden anniversary of this society, which was a couple of years ago.

The Committee has agreed that they would give money to Woolton in Bloom again this year, so that they can purchase a thousand bulbs, which will be a mixture of daffodils and tulips for the central reservation and have kindly agreed that their wonderful volunteers will also plant them for us!

Problems with a property in Ashton Square have finally been resolved. Last November the Council ordered the existing extension of a terrace house to be removed and rebuild it in keeping within the restrictions of being in a conservation area. New builders took over, the sandstone which had been discarded was reinstated, the planning application was followed and now this building fits in with the rest of this Grade Two listed terrace of cottages.

Eight plaques have been installed by the Woolton Society around the village so far. Number 9 should appear soon on The Village Club on it will be written 'Woolton Village Club Opened 1885 At the heart of the community in Woolton Village'. It is under new management and they are busy refurbishing the building.

The Woolton Picture House.

In March 2020 it closed during the Covid-19 lockdown and has remained shut ever since. Local people had criticised the owners for "not being transparent" after a fundraiser raised over £24,000, but no progress was made and the owners ignored requests for updates, although the local councillors did try to contact them on a number of occasions.

In August 2024 the owners of Liverpool's oldest cinema submitted a Planning Application to turn it into a sustainable cinema and cultural events space. These proposals would see the building completely renovated, with a new roof, solar panels installed, a glass frontage and a ramped access added. Everyone hopes this will happen and planning permission has been granted, however it expires in Oct 2027. A submission of materials used in the construction needs to be approved of in writing by the planning authority for the roof, canopy and ramp ensuring that refurbishment works are in keeping with the building's heritage.

This summer a Planning Application was made for the former La Mennais Community House, 23 Beaconsfield Road. This is for a three storey eighteen bedroom apartment building at the back of the plot and two large detached houses following the demolition of the existing residential building with associated landscaping and parking. It is next door to Abbots Lea School and opposite the junction with Quarry St.

I wrote to Council on behalf of the Woolton Society in July about this proposal. Among other points I mentioned the sheer size of this development, which is not sympathetic to surrounding buildings on Beaconsfield Road, many of which are listed, there will be traffic issues, parking issues with so many apartments, no consideration taken as to the building materials proposed in a sandstone area is to build using orange bricks and limestone. The two huge houses will dominate the road. I wrote that the Woolton Society appreciates there needs to be more housing however consideration must also take into account that this development must be in keeping with the surrounding area, smaller in size, possibly smaller houses on the site, use of different building materials, so that it would make less of a visual and ecological impact on this site. No decision has been made as yet. I wrote to the Principal Heritage Officer with our concerns and in October received this reply. "In relation to the La Mennais site, I have provided comments to the Case Officer and the Council who are currently seeking amendments to the scheme as proposed."

On the same road Beaconsfield Rd is the Knolle Park/St Gabriel's site. A building firm were fined last Nov: 2023 £80,000 for letting a Grade Two listed building built in 1828 fall into decay. The Council said it had been allowed to rot and it had become a blot on the landscape and had ignored a listed building enforcement for five years. Poor security meant vandals could access the property and there had been at least three serious fires there. The Council hopes that this judgement sends a clear message to any company that is looking to renovate a historic building in Liverpool. There is a Planning Application for a house to be built next to the remains of the old orangery.

Perhaps the sandstone wall of this estate which is breached towards the end of Church Road may one day be repaired! I have contacted the Highways Dept and Council about this on a number occasions since 2017 and I did have a response once saying they would come and look at it.

Woolton Hall was the main reason that the Woolton Society was formed over fifty years ago, as people were concerned about the deterioration of this building and it was finally granted Grade One status. It claims to have some of the finest examples in the North of England of Robert Adam's work the famous architect. The hall has been empty since approximately 2003 and was sold to its current owners, Woolton Hall Ltd in 2005. Over the years I have been involved I have written to a variety of organisations, local councillors, the local MP Maria Eagle etc even speaking to some of them by phone about our concerns about the deterioration of this building both both internally and externally. It is regularly visited by vandals who have caused some damage to the furnishings etc removing paintings off the walls one was even found outside in the woods. It claims to have security around this land however when I rang a couple of years ago the person I spoke to was not too sure if they still looked after the property and would get back to me but never did.

In 2019 a Facebook page was started called Save Woolton Hall and it now has over 800 members. During these years various members have been trying to contact a variety of organisations and getting as frustrated as I am with the lack of interest and or even response to emails or phone calls. The Woolton Society were concerned that the publicity had a down side too, as folk appeared to be entering the hall without permission, posting photographs and so encouraging more trespassing.

A group wanted to use the Hall as a paranormal venue with ghostly tours and had been tidying up some of the rooms and claimed to have put in security cameras. Woolton Society wrote to the Principal Heritage Officer who replied "We have been in touch with the owners who have assured us that they are not granting access to the people who are advertising this event/proposal. We have reminded them of their responsibilities in relation to the care of the Listed Building." On Facebook in June a message appeared that "Woolton Hall is no longer being used as a paranormal venue and that cameras and posters have been removed." The Hall was visited in July 2024 by Heritage Officers to meet with the owners and noticed some furniture had been moved no formal application have been received from either the owners or the paranormal investigators.

Save Woolton Hall has some members who have been extremely diligent this year and used the Freedom of Information Act for information about the Hall and the part Liverpool City Council has played in trying to save it. In November Jonathan Wild got a thorough response. The LCC had received complaints for Open Access, Dangerous Building Complaints and did a Spontaneous external visit by LC Council Officers. No further action was recorded. Some of this information I have taken from this report.

Enforcement and Building Control colleagues recently received a 'dangerous building report' (24.02.24) and their subsequent inspection revealed that the building was not considered to be immediately dangerous. It is, though, accepted that it is in a poor condition. Officers are contacting the owners again and, if there is no response, will consider the use of our 'powers of entry' to inspect its condition.

In relation to the preservation of artefacts/paintings etc, these are not part of the building and therefore, fall outside of the remit of the Local Planning Authority. As such, this is a matter for the owner of said artefacts/paintings.

The building remains on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register. Whilst there are several statutory powers available to the Council to pursue the owners, such as an Urgent Works (Section 54) Notice; or a Repairs (Section 48) Notice, both require the Council to be in a position to undertake these works should the owner not comply. Furthermore, the Section 48 Notice is a pre-cursor to compulsory acquisition of the property which would require a significant budget.

However, a comprehensive review of the City's Heritage at Risk is currently being undertaken and a priority list prepared to inform spend should a resource be identified. Woolton Hall would be considered as part of this review. Written in May 2024 Chief Executive Office.

I received the following response from the Principal Heritage Officer in October 2024 saying "I can assure you that Woolton Hall is very much within the forefront of our thoughts. We have visited the building quite recently in response to Enforcement complaints. A member of our Enforcement team also makes a priority of visiting the perimeter of the site to check that the main entrance is secure. We have also alerted Historic England to the situation and are hoping they may accompany us on a site visit in the future.

We are awaiting internal confirmation to proceed with some further contact and warning letters to the owners to encourage them to take seriously their responsibilities with regards to the security and condition of the building." The Council do have powers such as Urgent Works Notices but these have significant financial implications for the Council who are obliged to carry out works if this action is not forthcoming by the owners in the time frame given.

I have written to The Merseyside Preservation Trust and to my delight got a very positive quick response and notice that Jon Wild had done the same. He was informed that they are considering various strategies and are having a meeting about various buildings on 10th Dec; and that Woolton Hall will be a priority. Historical England's Regional Director and Steve Rotherham will be there, so hopefully the future of this Hall maybe a little brighter.

The Public Footpath from Vale Rd to New Mill Stile onto Church Rd is getting very overgrown with ivy at each end, almost completing an arch over the top of the path in places. This has happened before and it was pruned back fairly quickly. I have informed The Ramblers Footpath Officer and a City Council Officer.

A member of the Society complained about the vegetation coming over the wall and railings from Woolton Hall onto the Speke Road pavement and that it is getting worse! I wrote to the Council and another Principal Officer

sent this response in October 2024. "I think that our tree people would only become involved if the vegetation is a highway or safety concern or if it is obstructing power or telephone cables, but will check with colleagues."

Changes within the Village

The site which used to be the Menlove car and garage site on the corner of Menlove Ave and Vale Rd appears to be nearing completion. This will house 31 apartments for over 55's year olds with parking for 15 cars only, which the Woolton Society and Councillors objected to as there is very little parking along Vale Road and the Derby Arms pub opposite this building and some people probably come to it by car.

There does not appear to be any developments on the land which was owned by Rushton Developments near Hillfoot Ave and Allerton Rd. Planning permission was sought for a number of detached houses and the creation of a wildlife area. The sandstone wall on Hillfoot Road needs repairing in places but I have been informed by the Council it is the responsibility of the landowner.

Woolton Manor a Grade Two listed building which was a Nursing Home and closed rather suddenly has now reopened as Woolton Acre Retirement Living, they are apparently charging £1,500 per week and they presently have ten vacant spaces.

Woolton Swimming Pool which opened in 1893 and closed abruptly in October 2010 when tests revealed the filter system had corroded. Determined campaigns to save the baths have been launched over the years. Woolton Baths was open on a Heritage Open Day in 2014 and there was an exhibition of the future plans for the pool inside the building. Fundraising was organised to help with the cost of the necessary repairs etc. Since then I am not aware of any progress to reopen it or work being done on it. I have written to the last person known to be involved with this project and had no response. The Councillors have also tried to find out what is happening to this building and the money raised from the general public to help save Woolton Baths with no success.

One night in January 2024 a high wall in Reynolds Park English Garden blew down when we were experiencing very strong winds. Fortunately no-one was hurt. The Council are aware of this and the Friends of Reynolds Park have been trying to get it repaired. The cost of this is rumoured to be £80,000. Friends of Reynolds Park have just found out that the council has discovered funds to repair the wall in due course. More good news the sandstone sun dial and plinth should be back on display in this park very soon.

There have also been problems with antisocial behaviour in the walled gardens in both Reynolds Park and Camphill, as these gardens are now left unlocked at night. Youngsters are seen congregating in groups in the park often on bicycles, which damage the grass and they can be quite intimidating for dog walkers or for folk who just want to go for a walk if they are challenged about their poor behaviour.

There continues to be issues in Woolton village in relation to parking, the state of the roads and litter. Antisocial behaviour has been raised on a number of social media sites this year. I have seen this for myself the gathering of young teenagers quite late at night especially outside Village News shop. This convenience store was closed in October initially for three months but there is a possibility that their licence to trade being revoked permanently owing to serious nuisance to members of the public after being found to be engaging in criminality, some of which was dealing in illicit vapes, many obtained on the black market, where a large quantity of illicit vapes were on display at times selling to underage customers. This had been going on for at least two years. A total of 145 products were seized in October 2022, which had been stored in the shop, while in March this year, another 183 illicit vapes were also taken away. In June the shop was informed it would be the subject of an underage sale test, which was also failed when a 15-year-old boy was able to buy a £6 device. The shop remains closed.

Last week Woolton in Bloom volunteers worked hard around the village busy planting the new winter bedding. This is appreciated by many locals and visitors alike. Last Saturday 9th Nov: most of their hard work was destroyed by a large group of vandals, who pulled many of these small plants out of the planters, especially around the containers on Woolton Street. A handful of plants have been saved, however the cost of all this planting has to be raised, as no money is given by the Council and it costs thousands of pounds for the plants and other essentials. Woolton in Bloom must be so disheartened as this is not the first time that their hard work has been destroyed. A request has gone out for anyone who saw this happening to report it to the police. Other incidents of poor behaviour in the village have been reported on Social Media over the last year from throwing

eggs, fireworks, even stones at pedestrians, cars or houses, to bins being dragged into road, so that the police had to come and divert the traffic one evening. Many of these perpetrators are surprisingly young.

There's a notice outside the Village Club which is out of date now which says, "A consultation in respect of proposed Public Spaces Protection Order in parts of Woolton". That no-one in the `restricted area stretching from the High St near Tesco's down to Sainsbury's round the back of Sainsbury's to Out Lane over to Church Road by the St Peter's Church down to Allerton Rd, along Allerton Rd back to Tesco's slip road. In brief the effect of this order would mean that no-one at any time in this restricted area could use face coverings, verbal abuse or gestures which can cause offence or make the public feel intimidated, not to throw a ball, stones, eggs, fireworks at persons, housing or buildings. To not gather in more than groups of six from midday to 7am. These people will be asked to leave this restricted area and not return for twenty-four hours by an authorised person such as a Police Officer. I do not know if this Order has been agreed upon.

iv) The Membership Secretary Jean Bates reported that the final number of members who have paid up to 31st August 2024 is 321. This is the year end figure for 2023/24 and is an increase of 11 on year end 2022/23 (310). This is the highest number of paid members recorded during the time I have been keeping records.

	31/08/2023	31/08/2024
Paid	310	321
Pending Standing Order	3	2
Not Paid	40	40
Complimentary	14	13
Total	367	376

5. Election of new committee members.

There were no nominations for new committee members.

6. Election of officers.

Chairman: The current Chairman Jean Davies offered her resignation from the Committee and was nominated for the position of Chairman, and duly re- elected.

Paul Wilkie offered his resignation from the committee, but stated he was willing to continue as Vice-Chairman, and was nominated and duly re-elected to the post.

In the absence of nominations for the role of Hon. Secretary, Paul Wilkie volunteered to continue in this role, until a candidate could be found and was duly elected.

Hon. Treasurer: Charles Davies offered his resignation from the committee, but stated he was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Membership Secretary: The current incumbent, Jean Bates offered her resignation from the committee, but stated she was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

Environment Secretary: The current incumbent Janet Hudson offered her resignation from the committee, but stated she was willing to continue and was duly re-elected.

All the above were proposed, seconded and, there being no other nominations, were duly elected.

The resignations from the officers met the requirements of the constitution for resignations.

7. Any other business.

The chairman thanked SBA Accounting for the help they had provided to the Society, St Mary's for the use of the hall, and everyone for their attendance and closed the formal part of the meeting at 8:29 pm, when the appropriate officers signed the Society's accounts.

Members are asked to bring copies of the minutes if attending the AGM

Society News

September's talk

Eric Cohen gave a very well entertaining talk on the Princes Road synagogue on the 17th of September. Mr Cohen is a guide & historian at the synagogue, which was built in the flamboyant Moorish Revival style in 1874. At the time there was a large Jewish community in the area, now largely dispersed to the suburbs where new synagogues were built. Mr Cohen told us of the history of the synagogue, & took us on a virtual tour of this beautiful building, which is open to the public on Heritage Open Days & also by appointment.

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

The CWGC is concerned with the care & upkeep of the many thousands of war graves, of which there are several in Woolton. It honours & cares for the last resting place of the men & women of the Commonwealth forces who served & died in wars, ensuring that they will never be forgotten.

As this is an afternoon talk there will be refreshments available in the hall from 2.30pm. The talk will start promptly at 3pm.

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

All members are invited to attend 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. Any member interested in joining the committee would be welcomed, & very much needed if the society is to continue. Please contact any current committee member at talks or at the market to learn more.

The current officers & committee are as follows:

Chairman: Jean Davies	Vice chairman & honorary secretary: Paul Wilkie
Treasurer: Charles Davies	Membership secretary: Jean Bates
Environment secretary: Janet Hudson	
Committee members: Bob Collins, Viv Hicks, Janet Hollinshead, Rob Kirby	

Subscriptions

Subs became due on 1st September. They are excellent value, starting from £4 per person, as the society has not increased its subscriptions for many years. We hope that all members will renew their subs promptly, with forms on pages 11 & 12.

Members paying by standing order will have their membership renewed automatically, there is no need to fill in another form. Members who are not already doing this are urged to think about doing so now as the closure of local banking services makes the paying-in of cash & cheques a lengthy business. The nearest branch of our bank, Barclays, is now on Lord Street in the city centre.

We now use a card reader which has cut down on the amount of cash taken, & is in use at all talks & on the market stall.

Please note the delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter costs an additional £8 to all subs.

Programme of talks for 2026

The programme is being put together, with full details in issue 377 of the newsletter, out in January or February of 2026. The first talk will be on Thursday 19th February at 3pm.

Market stall

The WS usually takes a stall at the markets held in the village on the second Saturday of each month, selling our publications as well as taking membership subs & enquiries. Family & holiday commitments

mean that we will not be able to run a stall in October, November or December this year. Any membership enquiries should be made to the membership secretary with all details on page 12 of this issue, or at the talks & AGM. All other enquiries via the website www.wooltonsociety.org.uk or at our talks.

Books & tea towels are available at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street, 428 2408.

The tea towels are also available from the Woolton in Bloom stall.

Newsletters archived to Liverpool Record Office

In 2015 a nearly complete set of Woolton Society newsletters, from the very first issue in 1973 to number 335, were taken to the record office based in Liverpool's Central Library. They were welcomed by the archivists there as an invaluable record of a thriving civic society, & made available for research purposes.

In September this year copies of newsletters 336 to 375 were also admitted to the city's archive & will be bound before being added to the collection. A complete set of newsletters from 1 to 375 is held by the society in our own archive, together with many books & photographs of old Woolton.

Woolton Grove

In July the Woolton Society website attracted an enquiry from New Zealand, from a great-great-grandchild of Francis Robinson seeking additional detail about his time in Woolton, specifically at Woolton Grove. This was a property previously unknown to the society but it was found on the large-scale map of 1904, on the Woolton side of Halewood Road just after the junction of Out Lane.

Francis Robinson came to Woolton from Cowley Hill (St Helens) in c.1823, when he relocated his boys' school to Woolton Grove. It is not certain, but it is suspected that Woolton Grove was a property that belonged to John Ashton Case (died 1836) of Woolton Heyes. Francis's son, Gilbert was born in Woolton in 1830, but in 1835 his family had moved to Manchester. Francis Robinson died in Manchester during the 1840s. Gilbert Robinson moved with his family to New Zealand in 1891.

One pupil of Woolton Grove academy was the ecclesiastical architect Matthew Hadfield (1812-1885). He came from Derbyshire, moved to Sheffield and became well-known for his Gothic revival-style Catholic churches in much of northern England, including Salford Cathedral.

During the 1820s Woolton would have been a sensible choice for a small Catholic school or academy as it was an isolated agricultural village. The major landowners at Woolton Hall had been supportive of the Catholic faith throughout the 18th century, and the small chapel (later called the Priory) had been paid for by the Woolton Hall family. They also supported a Benedictine priest.

Who followed Francis Robinson in Woolton Grove is uncertain but by the 1870s the Janion family had moved there. Robert Cheshyre Janion was a general commission merchant with an unusual range of trading. He sent goods in clipper ships to the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii) and to Vancouver and San Francisco on the west coast of America. His wife had been born in Chile and one of his children in Honolulu. Robert died in 1881, his widow in 1911, still in Woolton Grove.

During the 1940s and wartime the Women's Land Army used the property, and after the war the house was demolished. The area was redeveloped with new housing.

Our correspondent in New Zealand is now an honorary Woolton Society member, our first in the Antipodes.

Newsletter 377

The next issue of the newsletter will be in January or February 2026. It will contain full details of the programme of talks & events for the next few months.

Woolton News

Woolton Hall

The fire which devastated Woolton Hall on the evening of August 19th has saddened, but not surprised the community as there have been many fires & break ins at the property, which has been empty for nearly twenty years. It had always been the hope that the hall would be sold to a sympathetic buyer who would restore it to its former glory.

It should be remembered that the hall was saved from demolition in 1971 by action from two local architects, Janet Gnosspelius & Sue Carmichael. They saved the hall, then went on to form The Woolton Society in 1972. Their efforts saw the hall being awarded Grade 1 listed status in 1982. Despite the fire, the hall is still a grade 1 listed building, which means that no action can be taken without consent from the local planning department. This means that the hall cannot be demolished unless it can be shown that demolition is the only viable option. Otherwise, the requirement is to rebuild or restore the structure to preserve its special historic or architectural interest. Any failure to comply with this regulation could result in prosecution.

The Woolton Society has been in close contact with the planning department, & will keep members informed as to all developments.

Woolton Picture House

The WS has been working with the group who are hoping to renovate & re-open the cinema. We are very optimistic about their plans, as they are the people who revived The Royal Court, & have already held several public meetings to raise awareness of the project. The Community Interest Company (CIC) that has been set up to purchase & run the cinema has had more than five hundred local people at the meetings, with hundreds more contacting them online. The community has been very supportive, supplying many ideas & offers of help. The next part of the project is to raise the £700,000 needed to make it all happen. Fundraising plans will be announced in the next few weeks. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact the group on www.wooltoncinema.com

At the market in September the WS stall sold cloth bags in aid of the cinema with the slogan *I love the Woolton Picture House*. The bags will be on sale priced at £10 (cash only) at talks & the AGM. All proceeds to the cinema's fundraising appeal.

The former Barclays Bank, Allerton Road L25

The bank building has been sold & converted into separate units. The corner unit is to be a bridal shop, Lake House is to be an accountancy business.

Woolton in Bloom

The very popular calendar will be on sale from the end of September, with the theme for 2026 being Images of Old Woolton. The cover illustration is of Woolton Hall. Priced at £5, including a card envelope if wanted. It will be available at the market stall on the second Saturday of each month, & also at Brown's newsagent on Woolton Street. This year the calendar will not be wrapped in plastic, in an effort to reduce waste.

Volunteers for WIB go out on Wednesday & Saturday mornings, from 10.00, led by horticultural manager Kerry Peacock. Meet at the lock-up, opposite the car park in the dual carriageway on High Street.

The Open Gardens event will be held in July 2026, with all details in later editions of this newsletter.

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

Friends of Reynolds Park

Reynolds Day will be celebrated on **Saturday 4th October** from 11 am with Friends present to inform visitors about the park, with a raffle & litter pick also taking place. On sale will be Woolton Society pamphlet number 11, *A History of Reynolds Park*, written by FORP chairman Geoff Kendall, priced at £1.

The next FORP meeting will be the AGM on **Wednesday 12th November** at 7pm in Tesco's coffee shop. All are welcome to attend.

The Gateacre Society

The Annual General Meeting of the Gateacre Society will be held on **Sunday 19th October** at 2pm in Gateacre chapel.

The next talk will be on **Sunday 2nd November**, when John Coventry will be speaking on the Pendle Witches. This will be at 2pm in Gateacre Chapel.

Gateacre Society talks are free to attend, but non-members are encouraged to make a donation.

The Reader

The Reader organisation, based at The Mansion House in Calderstones Park, is the largest shared reading project in the UK, with outposts throughout the country & also at Shakespeare North in Prescot. There are many volunteering opportunities available at The Reader, such as working in the bookshop, heritage room & on the welcome desk as well as leading shared reading groups or as Reading Heroes helping children.

After the success of the open-air cinema screenings over the Summer they will continue into the Autumn months, under cover as well as outdoors. Booking is via the website. Films are:

Room on the Broom: **28th & 29th October** at 11.30am

Hocus Pocus: **28th & 31st October** at 4pm & 8pm

Hotel Transylvania: **29th October** at 4pm

Practical Magic: **29th October** at 8pm

The Addams Family Values: **30th October** at 4pm

Rear Window: **30th October** at 8pm

Beetlejuice: **31st October** at 8pm

The Nightmare Before Christmas: **1st November** at 4pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: **1st November** at 8pm

Live events at The Mansion House include:

In Conversation with Mahesh Rao on **6th October**

Autumn wellbeing workshops on **25th October & 16th November**

Yoga & live sitar on **26th October**

Gothic Literature evening on **1st November**

Murder at the Mansion on **22nd November**

For further information on all activities or volunteering visit the website www.thereader.org.uk or call in at The Mansion House in Calderstones Park.

Arts Society of Liverpool

The programme of talks for the 2025/26 season has now been published. Membership costs £50 a year, though non-members may attend for a fee of £6. Meetings are held at the Bridge Chapel on Heath Road L19 4XR. The next few talks are as follows, all Wednesdays at 2pm:

Sarah Dunant: The Creative Courtesan, **15th October**.

Siobhan Clarke: Gloriana: Elizabeth the first & the Art of Queenship, **19th November**

Lucrezia Walker: Vermeer: Delft, fame, & The Girl with the Pearl Earring, **21st January**.

Bill Powell: Salvador Dali, **18th February**.

The Ballad of Crooked Lane

A play about the life & times of Edward Rushton, blind poet & anti-slavery campaigner, founder of the Liverpool School for the Blind, will be performed at the Valley Community Theatre, Childwall Valley Road L27 3YA on **Monday 6th October** at 7.30pm.

Free to attend, or make a donation. Free parking outside.



Society use only							
Membership	SA	SA+P	Type	How	Amount		
	JA	JA+P	New	Cash	Subs		
	SP/S	SP/S+P	Renew	Chq	Extra		
	JP/S	JP/S+P	Re-join	SO	Total		
	Date			BP/DC	GA	Y	N
				M Nos			

Subscriptions are due 1st September and rates for the period 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026 are as set out below. Please tick where appropriate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - EMAIL NEWSLETTER			SUBSCRIPTIONS - POSTAL NEWSLETTER (Covers printing and postage costs)	
Adult (single)	£6.00	☐	Adult (single) + Postage	£14.00 ☐
Adult (joint)	£9.00	☐	Adult (joint) + Postage	£17.00 ☐
Pensioner/Student (single)	£4.00	☐	Pensioner/Student (single) + Postage	£12.00 ☐
Pensioner/Student (joint)	£6.00	☐	Pensioner/Student (joint) + Postage	£14.00 ☐

Method of payment:	☐ <i>by standing order – instructions overleaf</i>	☐ <i>by bank payment – instructions overleaf</i>
	☐ <i>by cheque payable to 'The Woolton Society'</i>	☐ <i>by cash/cheque at society meetings or Woolton Farmers' Market</i>

Please help the society earn extra money on top of your subscription by completing the Gift Aid form overleaf. Note - if you have completed a Gift Aid form previously, you do not need to do it again.

I am / we are: ☒ **Renewing my / our subscription** ☐ **Joining as a single member / joint members**

		Title	First Name	Surname
1 st Member				
2 nd Member				
Address:				
Date:			Postcode:	

Royal Mail delivery ☐ (Please make sure you have selected the correct subscription above to cover postage and printing costs)

By completing this form, you give permission for the Woolton Society to keep your details in order send you our newsletter, send you details of society meetings and notifications of local issues. Full details of the society's privacy policy are on our website in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation. The society never shares your details with other organisations or individuals.

Important: Even if you choose to receive your newsletter by Royal Mail, please could we have your email so that we can keep in touch with you concerning society events and any urgent issues such as the *Woolton Hall* campaign.

[illegible]

**Please include this form with your payment and send to:
The Membership Secretary, The Woolton Society, 11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY
or hand in at one of our meetings or at the Woolton Society stall at the Farmers' Market.
*PTO for Gift Aid form and payment methods***



THE WOOLTON SOCIETY

METHODS OF PAYMENT VIA YOUR BANK

Details for setting up a standing order directly with your bank or making a bank transfer payment (BACS):

Bank details: Barclays Bank, 48B & 50 Lord Street, Liverpool L2 1TD

Payee name: The Woolton Society

Sort code: 20-50-82

Account number: 50868930

Reference: Please enter your **Woolton Society membership number** as the reference with your bank. ***This is very important to enable us to identify you from our bank statements.*** Your membership number can be found in emails from the Woolton Society or in any letters you have received from the society. **New members can email the membership secretary at membership@wooltonociety.org.uk or ring 0151 428 1501 to obtain a membership number.**

Standing order payments should be set up for a payment annually on 1st September each year until further notice. New members joining after 1st September can pay by BACS for the initial payment then standing order.

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Gift Aid Declaration

The Woolton Society - Registered charity no. 506224

Please treat all gifts/subscriptions of money that I have made to the Woolton Society 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 First name Surname

Home address

.....**Postcode**

Date **Signature**

The Woolton Society will be able to reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2017.

Please notify the Treasurer of The Woolton Society if you: want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay tax on your income, pensions or/and capital gains.

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.

*Please return the Gift Aid form to: The Membership Secretary, The Woolton Society,
11 Manor Way, Woolton, Liverpool L25 8QY or hand in at society meetings*