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JULY 2026 - ISSUE 124

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Hello & Welcome...

...to my one hundred & twenty fourth edition of L25 Woolton Times publication - Established over 24 years!

Hope you are all well and at the time of writing my intro experiencing very hot weather and no letting up in the future week ahead. So now it's much too hot to be in our gardens during the day so we have all be attending them when it cools down in the evening. feel so very sorry for our WIB volunteers as they no sooner had all their bedding plants in place and the heat wave arrived and then watering the whole of the Woolton Village had to commence daily early morning - If anybody out there would like to join the WIB volunteers they meet every Wednesday and Saturday morning 10- 12 at the lockup on High Street.

I would like to welcome all our new advertisers to this edition of L25 edition for July 2026. My best wishes go out to both my new advertisers and to my loyal advertisers who have been with me some since I started my magazines back in 1992!

We have had a great deal of things going on – keeping the magazine up to date were we felt it needed a bit of updating. Check out my refurbished website www.margaretpublishing.co.uk – its looks great and easy for you all to use. Lots going on in the area to let you know – Woolton Cinema are showing 51 films up to Christmas – take a look at their website, and the other great one is The Village Cat opened up in the old Coast building on Friday 17th July, I am sure with coffee cakes in the day and bar later things will go really well with owners Andy, Chris & Rich they certainly know what they're doing as its their 4th venue in Liverpool. Our old Bear & Staff on Gateacre Brow has now completed its total refurb turning it into a Hickory Smoke House and opened its doors on Friday 17th July – I was invited at a pre-launch and was totally amazed and the décor and how their transformation now looks.

Finally we celebrated a 2 yearly event Woolton Open Gardens which was on Sunday 12th July – it was a remarkable event with 12 open gardens within Woolton Village to visit, tea/coffee and cakes provided by Women of Woolton WI in their pop up café at The Bishops Lodge, Tombola, various stalls and entertainment by The Waltons, Tai Chi demonstration and the Rock Choir did and amazing performance. This great event was organised by Kerry Peacock & her team. Please take a look at our new advertisers within this edition and support them as much as you can – they need your help to remain on the high street.

I'll close now - take good care of yourselves – keeping safe and healthy and enjoy our summer2026.

Regards, Margaret



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Woolton in Bloom



Stephen and Terry - two of our Mighty Volunteers!

At the time of writing I hope you are all enjoying this long spell of sunny weather we are having, unfortunately the flip side of this as you are all aware the ground is extremely dry it is just dust.

We had not long finished all our summer bedding plants when the heat wave arrived and we are doing our best to water all our plants throughout Woolton Village but this is extremely hard work.

Can I ask if you live or work near one of our WIB planters please feel free to water the plants – we would be very grateful.

We have just recently celebrated WOOLTON IN BLOOM'S OPEN GARDENS event at The Bishops Lodge which was a huge success with over 12 gardens open for public viewing in and around the village. This event is a great financial boost for WIB as you all know there is NO funding from Liverpool City Council at all, so thank you to you all who attended the event or who helped the Woman of Woolton WI for serving delicious cakes, coffees and teas at their pop up café within the grounds of The Bishops Lodge in Woolton Park on Sunday 12th July on a very hot day

As ever we are looking for volunteers all the time to help WIB if you are interested we meet in the lock up on the High street Woolton Village every Wednesday and Saturday 10-12 No gardening experience needed – we are a great group sharing lots of experience and managed by Kerry Peacock our Horticultural Director- you will even be given a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit if you come.

Kerry Peacock, Horticulture Manager.

Mobile: 07969881270 Email: kerry.peacock13@gmail.com



*Please get in touch if you can help us...
Contact: Kerry Peacock, Horticultural Director*

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We will be running themed film weekends every month and spending the time in between completing repair works on the building.

We hope that each time you come, you will see something new!

As well as our themed weekends, we have started **CLASSIC FILM CLUB** on a Friday afternoon, starting with **Sunset Boulevard** at the end of this month.

Classic Film Club will be showing an all-time classic film with the added bonus of a free scone at the interval. - We hope you enjoy it!

THEMED WEEKENDS...

24 / 26 July - 80s Weekend

28 / 31 August - 90s Weekend

25 / 27 September - 2000s Weekend

30 October / 1 November - Halloween Weekend

27 / 29 November - 2010s Weekend



We have got some incredible films lined up, including: **Bedknobs & Broomsticks**, **The Lost Boys**, **The Princess Bride**, **The Bridge On The River Kwai**, **Pulp Fiction**, **Unforgiven**, **Nosferatu**, **La La Land** and many, many more.

Have a read of the full listings by scanning the QR Code.

All of the money raised from the films over the summer will go into the pot for refurbishment so come and enjoy a film and invest in the future!

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LITTER ISSUES

We have heard from several residents of Hunts Cross Avenue and noticed for ourselves, that the row of shops and surrounding area in Hunts Cross Ave, Kings Drive end, has a significant litter problem. Sophie and I have carried out several litter-picks and created posters that the shop owners have put in their shop windows reminding people of the importance of putting their litter in the bins provided. We have also had litter-picks in other parts of the ward, including Watergate Way next to Much Woolton School and The Nook. We know the importance of keeping areas clean and litter free to encourage a sense of pride in our community and togetherness and we will continue to work with shop owners to encourage this. If you would like to join us on a litter pick in your area, please do get in touch

REINSTATING BUS STOP

The bus stop outside the shops, at the bottom of Hunts Cross Ave, by Linkside Road, had the bus stop removed after a vehicle had crashed into it. Years later, it has still not been reinstated which is a safety concern for residents. People are parking over the double yellow lines in front of this stop which is making it unsafe for those wishing to catch the bus. With the help of residents, we have sent a letter to Merseytravel to request the bus stop be reinstated as soon as possible, highlighting our safety concerns.

CELEBRATING GARDENS IN THE WARD.

Reports have indicated that the UK has lost nearly half of its natural biodiversity, with only 53% of its original nature remaining intact. Domestic gardens are at the frontline in protecting this biodiversity and protecting us from the powerful effects of climate change.



Brian Ashley of Rosefield Rd

They have the power to conserve, protect and support a wide variety of species, plant and animal life, and help maintain a healthy planet. According to reports, In the UK, garden spaces support over 50% of the nation's butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, and more than 40% of our bird and mammal species. For this reason, we have started to deliver 'Thank You' letters to residents who have nurtured their garden spaces, allowing nature to flourish.

FREE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

We have been holding a Free Children's library monthly at the Woolton Village Market to celebrate the National Year of Reading 2026. Children are free to take any books they like, and we have seen so many happy, excited little faces since we started. We truly believe in the power of books and their ability to expand children's minds; educating, inspiring and empowering them. We love seeing the same children come back and pick new books and sometimes donate books themselves. If you have any books that you would like to donate, please get in touch and we can pick them up.

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Dear Resident,

Work is now underway with the Traffic Light Improvement Work at the junction of Menlove Avenue and Hillfoot Road

Over the years, following a number of traffic collisions at this junction I have raised concerns about highway safety which has led to road marking being repainted. I had also received complaints from residents about there not being a pedestrian phase to enable pedestrians to cross safely. This was continuously raised with the council and therefore I was pleased when late last year the council notified me that it would improve the traffic lights at this junction and include a pedestrian phase, and that the council would notify all local residents about this work when it was due to start. I wrote about this in my November article.

It was disappointing to find that not all residents living close by had been contacted by the council ahead of the work starting. There is going to be traffic congestion in this area whilst driving through the road works, which is not helped by the council starting this work before the work further along Hillfoot Road by Asda is not yet finished, however once work is complete we will have a safer junction and hopefully less collisions.

The benches in Woolton Village have been starting to look unsightly over the past 12 months with paint wearing off them. Rather than wait for the council to get around to re-painting them I decided to do what I done a couple of years ago and get out the paint and brushes to paint them myself. They are now looking much better and improve the overall look of the area.

In my last article I mentioned about the complaints I had received about vehicles parking on the pavement outside the Yorkshire Building Society, which causes an obstruction to pedestrians who have to walk into the road to get around them and how I had funded and helped to place planters at this location to stop it from happening. Many residents have since spoken to me to say how much this is working and I have not seen any vehicles parking there since, which is much safer for people getting around this part of the village.

Each month we have a farmers market in the Village, which is enjoyed by everyone who attends, however in recent months council staff have nearly not been able to set the market up because of cars being

parked with the road closure leaving limited space to set up the stalls. Then quite worryingly cars owners are re-turning back to their parked vehicles and driving them off through the people who are attending the market, which is a clear traffic offence and is actionable if police see this happening. This has been raised with the council's Highways Department and at the last Farmers Market a number of vehicles did get ticketed. I would ask any motorists who normally park their vehicles in this part of Allerton Road to make sure that the area is not parked up on the night before the Farmers Market. I know that Parking Services will continue to monitor this.

At the end of June I attended the unveiling of a memorial rose garden at Strawberry Fields in honour of Beatles producer Sir George and Lady Judy Martin, who was patron of Strawberry Fields. The memorial included a striking curved wall featuring a biography of Sir George's career alongside 30 discs commemorating the No.1 UK hits produced by him. Sir George's and Lady Judy's son and daughter were on hand to help with the unveiling.

This was a very moving event and is a wonderful addition to Strawberry Fields for visitors from all over the world to see; it is a fantastic place to visit and does tremendous work for young people with Special Educational Needs starting out in employment.

Also, very well done and thank you to all of the residents of Woolton who opened up their gardens for the 'Open Gardens' event organised by Woolton in Bloom on Sunday (12th July) and all of the volunteers who helped on the day. It was a scorching hot day but everyone, including myself, thoroughly enjoyed seeing the variety of gardens and the amount of work that had gone into them. It is events like this that makes Woolton so special.

Woolton Village continues to host a Farmers Market on the second Saturday of the month with the next two markets taking place on Saturday 8th August 2026 and Saturday 12th September 2026. Please come along and support our market.

Best wishes, **Malcolm Kelly**

Councillor Malcolm Kelly (Woolton Village Ward)
malcolm.kelly@liverpool.gov.uk





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SPRINGWOOD WARD

 Springwood Councillor - Kimberley Berry



Dear Residents,

I hope you're all enjoying the summer and making the most of everything our community has to offer. As always, I wanted to update you on some of the work I've been doing across Springwood ward and some exciting developments taking place locally.

I'm delighted to confirm that plans remain on track for work to begin later this year on the **former St Bernadette's Church site**. I recently met with Regenda Homes to discuss progress, and the new supported living development will provide 11 high-quality apartments for adults with learning disabilities, helping people live independently. You'll begin to see preparatory works taking place over the coming weeks, and I'll continue keeping residents nearby updated as the project progresses.



One of the highlights of recent weeks was joining pupils from **Springwood Heath Primary School** on their visit to residents at **Kingswood Manor Care Home**. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm, kindness and confidence as they spent time chatting with residents over afternoon tea. The handmade gifts they had created for residents were a thoughtful touch, and the smiles they brought to everyone's faces were a reminder of the strong community spirit we have here in Springwood. My thanks go to the pupils, staff and everyone at Kingswood Manor for such a memorable afternoon.

I'm also pleased to share some great news for local families. Liverpool City Council has introduced **free swimming and gym memberships for all under-18s** at our Lifestyles centres. I was proud to support this as part of this year's Council budget because I know how important it is that young people have opportunities to stay healthy and active, without cost being a barrier. I hope many local families will make the most of this fantastic initiative.

Finally, I'm delighted to confirm that the hugely popular **Allerton Hall Crafters Market** will return on **Saturday 29 August**. Having worked with the Council's Markets team to bring this to our community, it's been fantastic to see them become such a well-supported fixture in the local calendar. With a great selection of independent traders, artisan food, handmade crafts and unique gifts, it's a wonderful opportunity to support local businesses while enjoying a day out in the beautiful surroundings of Allerton Hall. I hope to see many of you there.



As always, if you're a Springwood resident and there's anything you'd like to discuss, or if I can help with an issue in your neighbourhood, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below.

Best wishes,

Kimberley

Councillor Kimberley Berry
Springwood ward

P.S. Don't forget - You can follow me on Facebook. I'm often publicising useful information and community events, along with some of the work that I do here in Springwood.

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Runnymede St. Edwards School, North Dr, Sandfield Park	0151 281 2300

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All you need is fabric and a pattern and we will teach you how to make beautiful, quality clothes. Alternatively and re-fashion your own wardrobe by vamping up your old garments.

We guarantee we will unleash creative skills you never knew you had!!

Adults:

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Saturday – Sunday: 5am – 11am

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***“Include Me”... a local group,
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Include  Me

We started our group in September 2013 tackling Isolation and loneliness in our local community. During that time we have welcomed so many people of all ages and abilities who have become an integral part of our group.

We know that we are making a difference in people's lives as we have seen new friendships created. We have now moved to Strawberry Field, a lovely friendly and welcoming location in Woolton.

We would love to meet you or anyone you know who may be interested in our group. So don't be shy, come along and be part of our “Include Me” group.

Our motto is “Working together, we can achieve so much more”

Every Wednesday 10.00am to 12.0pm at Strawberry Field, Beaconsfield Road, Woolton, L25 6EJ

For further Information, contact Janet on 07894 585689 Email: janb33@hotmail.com

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THE Woolton Society



The Woolton Society's recent talks & events were all held on Wednesdays at 7.30 now that the clocks have changed to Summer time & we have lighter evenings.

May saw John Coventry give a fascinating talk on the search for The Holy Grail, June's event was our annual Quiz Night, with reigning champions Chips Ahoy! retaining the coveted trophy, while July 4th saw a guided tour of Shakespeare North in Prescot. The tour was subsidised for members, with refreshments included, & was a very enjoyable afternoon with a peek backstage not normally available to theatre goers.

The next event will be in September, with speakers from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission giving a talk on Wednesday 16th at 7.30pm, while in October we will revert to afternoon talks, with The Hidden History of the British Restaurant. This will be on Thursday 15th October at 3pm, with refreshments available from 2.30. The fifty third AGM will be on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm, when officers & committee will be elected, & accounts presented.

Woolton Society plaque number eleven is now in production, & will be installed in Ashton Square by the end of the summer. The houses in the square are Grade 2 listed, & were built to accommodate workers on the Woolton Hall estate around 1780.

More details on all Woolton Society talks & events are in the newsletters sent to all members, as well as on the village notice board & the website www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

Membership of the society is available from as little as £4 a year, with subscriptions for 2026/27 due in September. Again, all details in the newsletter & on the website.

www.wooltonsociety.org.uk

or find us on Instagram **@thewooltonsociety**

Jean Davies, Woolton Society chairman

If you are interested in your local environment why not join the Woolton Society.

By joining you can:

- Increase the Society's influence •
- Keep in touch with the things in your area which you think require attention •
- Attend talks organised by the Society • Receive newsletters •

Membership of the Society does not require any commitment of time

...although of course we always welcome help!

Adult membership - single £6.00, joint £9.00

Pensioner or student membership - single £4.00, joint £6.00

Membership forms can be downloaded off the website. Ideally to keep costs down we would prefer payment by Standing Order, and if possible to fill in the Gift Aid form which enables us to claim back tax on your subscription. The address to send the form to is shown on the form - for security reasons we cannot take the form electronically.

Alternatively, you can join at one of the talks.



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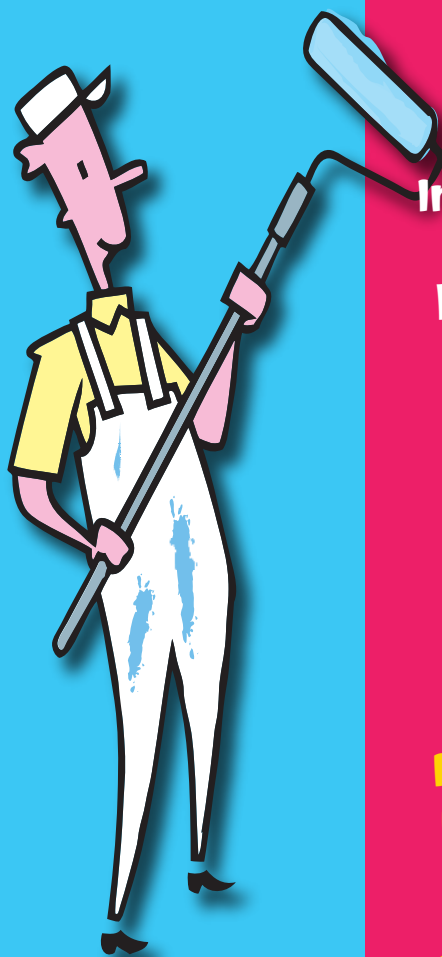
Mon	<u>Games Club</u> 10.30-12noon A weekly drop-in, with a free cuppa and biscuits/cake. All welcome. <u>Tea and Tales</u> 10.30-12noon A weekly shared reading group, with refreshments.	<u>Craft Group</u> 10-12 noon £4pp for resources Meets fortnightly, <i>excluding bank holidays</i>; 6th & 20th July, 3rd & 17th Aug, 7th & 21st Sept <u>Pins & Needles (Sewing)</u> 10-12 noon *Group currently full* Alternate dates with the Craft group above on 13th July (break for school hol) 14th & 28th Sept and fortnightly.	<u>Minnows</u> 1.30-3pm, Church Hall Meets weekly <i>during school term time only</i> with toys, activities & refreshments for pre-school children & babies with their parents & carers. £2 per family.
Tue	<u>Family Space</u> 10am-12noon An open stay-and-play school holiday session for all ages of children with their parents/carers. Includes craft, art, indoor and outdoor games, toys, books, drinks, snacks and fruit. £2 per family. Dates; 21st & 28th July, 4th, 11th & 18th August	<u>Lyfe</u> 9-10.30am Drop-in for fellowship, prayer & bible discussion, <i>during school term time only</i>, for parents. <u>Art as Worship</u> 14th July & 8th Sept 11.30-1pm Explore scripture through art, all materials provided. Book your place: https://sokastudio.co.uk/artasworship	<u>Knit & Natter</u> 10.30am-12.30pm Meets weekly, with home-made cake and hot drinks. Experienced knitters and beginners welcome alike. We regularly knit for a range of charities & good causes. (<i>Meets in the church during Family Space sessions only.</i>)
Wed	<u>Sing-a-long</u> Monthly on the 1st Wednesday 10.30-12noon Includes hot drinks & cake. <u>Quiz Morning</u> Monthly on the 3rd Wednesday 10.30-12noon with refreshments	<u>Bingo</u> Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday 10.30-12noon Lots of prizes to win! <u>Musical Jam</u> Monthly on the 4th Wednesday 10.30-12.30pm A musician's drop-in. NHS SWAGGA Social prescribing Drop-In 1st & 3rd Weds 9.15am-1pm	<u>Police Surgery</u> 3-weekly 10-11am Speak to Grace, one of our local PCSOs about any concerns. Confirmed forthcoming dates: 8th & 29th July, 19th Aug, 9th & 30th Sept.
Thu	<u>Tea, Coffee, biscuits & cake</u> 12noon - 12.45pm Weekly/fortnightly in the Hub, whenever there's no lunch.	<u>Lunch 12-1pm</u> All welcome for a light lunch and cake for only £3pp on the following dates: 2nd July & 17th Sept only. Please phone to book ahead. <i>This lunch is free if you need it to be, please say when you book, thank you.</i>	<u>Minnows</u> 1.30-3pm, Church Hall Meets weekly <i>during school term time only</i> with toys, activities & refreshments for pre-school children & babies with their parents & carers. £2 per family.
Fri	<u>Table Tennis</u> 9.30-11.30am Meets weekly with refreshments, all welcome.	<u>NHS SWAGGA Social prescribing</u> 9.15am-12noon Appointments available to book with Diane, call 0151 317 8577 to arrange.	<u>Hubbub</u> 11-12.30pm A weekly Christian faith discussion group, including refreshments.

The Hub will be closed on bank holidays.

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Abbot's Lea School honoured with prestigious ARC Alex Timpson Attachment Award

A south Liverpool specialist school has been named the winner of the ARC (Attachment Research Community) Alex Timpson Attachment Award, within the North West special and PRU category.

Abbot's Lea School in Woolton received the award in recognition of its unwavering commitment to creating a culture where relationships, emotional wellbeing and a deep understanding of each child's needs are at the heart of learning.

The prestigious ARC Alex Timpson Awards celebrate schools and educational settings that demonstrate excellence in attachment-aware and trauma-informed practice, recognising organisations that create safe, nurturing environments where children and young people can thrive.

The specialist school delivers high-quality; holistic education for students aged three to 19 living with autism and other complex needs. The school's approach is built on a simple but powerful principle: children learn best when they feel safe.

For many autistic learners, the world is experienced through heightened sensory responses, communication differences and uncertainty. For others, early experiences of adversity, instability or disrupted care further influence their emotional development and capacity to engage in learning.

Recognising these complex needs, Abbot's Lea School has moved away from traditional behaviourist approaches based on rewards and sanctions. Instead, it has embraced a relational, attachment-aware model that seeks to understand behaviour as communication, responding with empathy, curiosity and co-regulation.

The school's transformation was driven by the head teacher, Mrs Ania Hildrey, whose vision was to create a school where relationships are the primary



intervention, challenging behaviour is understood as a form of communication rather than merely a defiance, and staff respond to distress with curiosity, empathy and readiness to help with emotional co-regulation.

Central to that vision is empowering students to develop self-awareness, voice and a sense of agency.

To support this approach, the school has invested in an in-house multidisciplinary team, bringing together specialists in positive behaviour support, speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy. Students co-produce their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and Personal Education Plans (PEPs), ensuring their voices are central to decisions about their learning and development.

The school's commitment extends beyond the classroom through a dedicated 52-week safeguarding team, providing consistent support to students and families throughout the year.

The school has also established an in-house ADHD clinic in partnership with Alder Hey Children's Hospital, helping to reduce anxiety and minimise disruption to learning.

Mrs Hildrey commented: "This award is a tremendous honour and reflects the commitment, compassion and professionalism of every member of the Abbot's

Lea School community.

"We know that meaningful learning can only happen when children feel safe, understood and valued. By placing relationships at the centre of everything we do, we have created an environment where our students can flourish both emotionally and academically. We are incredibly proud that our work has been recognised by the Attachment Research Community."

Abbot's Lea School was nominated for this award by the head teacher of Virtual School Liverpool, Carolyn Lawler.

Carolyn said: "I was proud to nominate Abbot's Lea School for this award because it exemplifies what happens when relationships are placed at the heart of education. The school's commitment to understanding, nurturing and championing every child, particularly those with the most complex needs, is extraordinary.

"Through compassion, expertise and an unwavering belief that no child should ever be left behind, Abbot's Lea has transformed lives and has become a shining example of inclusive practice, both locally and nationally. Congratulations to the school community – they are very worthy winners!"

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RICHIE THE RANGER Guided Walks August 2026

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST 1.00PM HISTORY OF WOOLTON VILLAGE

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SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST 1.00PM TALES FROM AN ANCIENT CEMETERY

Join us for another fascinating walk as we venture into the depths of this ancient cemetery as we hear tales of facts, myths and legends associated with this old burial ground. Meet outside Main Door at the Anglican Cathedral £2.50 per person

TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST 1.00PM NESTON VILLAGE, HISTORY & FEATURES

A fascinating walk that discovers the history and features of this intriguing township. We explore the beautiful Churchyard; the historic houses and we learn of the areas fascinating history. Meet at Neston Library, Parkgate Rd, Neston CH64 6QE £ 2.50 per person

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST 1.00 PM HEROES & HEROINES OF WALLASEY

A fascinating walk at Rake Lane Cemetery that discovers tales of bravery and dedication surrounding some of the resting places of heroes and heroines in this beautiful cemetery. An amazing look into local history

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TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST 1.00PM DISCOVER PARKGATE

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SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 1.00PM THE GREAT VICTORIANS

A fascinating walk that discovers tales of great Victorians and their influence on our modern-day society. Discover tales of Philanthropists, adventurers, sporting greats, inventors and more. Meet outside the Palm House, Sefton Park £2.50p

WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST 1.00PM THE VILLAGE OF OVERTON, HISTORY & HERITAGE

A short but fascinating walk around this small village. We discover its history, its architecture and the opportunity to visit the 11th century church and graveyard. Meet in Car Park, St Lawrence Church, Church Rd, Frodsham WA6 7DU £2.50 per person



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Solar technology has advanced significantly over the last decade. Modern systems are more efficient, more affordable and capable of delivering substantial savings on electricity bills throughout the year. By generating your own electricity during daylight hours, you can reduce the amount of energy you need to purchase from your supplier while lowering your properties carbon footprint.

However, the real game changer for many customers is battery storage. A battery system stores excess electricity generated during the day so it can be used later when your property needs it most - during the evening, overnight or during periods of higher electricity tariffs. Many systems can also be programmed to charge overnight using cheaper off-peak electricity, allowing you to use low-cost energy throughout the day.

Battery storage isn't just for properties with solar panels. Many domestic and commercial customers are now installing standalone battery systems to take advantage of time-of-use electricity tariffs, reducing their overall energy costs without needing a solar installation.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that battery systems are only worthwhile if you own your property. In reality, many modern battery systems can be professionally removed and reinstalled at a new address should you relocate. This makes them an attractive option for tenants, businesses operating from leased premises and landlords who may wish to retain ownership of the equipment. Whether you are moving home or relocating your business, your investment can often move with you.

We understand that investing in renewable technology is a significant decision, which is why we offer a range of flexible finance options designed to spread the cost into manageable monthly payments. In many cases, the monthly savings on energy bills can help offset a substantial proportion of the finance repayments, making renewable energy more accessible than ever before.

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Whether you are looking to generate your own electricity, reduce your reliance on rising energy prices, or future-proof your property with intelligent battery storage, Verdant is here to help.

Contact Verdant today for a free on 0330 128 1582, for a no-obligation consultation and discover how solar panels and battery storage could transform the way you power your home or business



WOOLTON GRANGE

Meet the Manager: Woolton Grange

At Woolton Grange, a welcoming care home within the We Care Group family, compassionate leadership and a genuine commitment to residents' wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do. Laura Madigan our Home Manager shares her journey into care and what makes Woolton Grange such a special place to live.

Having dedicated almost two decades to Woolton Grange, Laura knows the home, its residents, and its values better than most. Her career began at the age of 20 when she joined the team as a night carer. Through hard work, passion, and a commitment to delivering exceptional care, she progressed to Senior Carer, Deputy Manager, and ultimately became Registered Manager in 2018.

Woolton Grange has been a huge part of my life, & she explains that she has had the privilege of growing my career here while building lasting relationships with residents, families, and colleagues. Watching residents thrive and knowing you've made a difference to someone's day is incredibly rewarding. Her passion for care started long before her professional career. Inspired by her mothers work within the care sector and through volunteering in residential care homes during her school years, she quickly developed a deep appreciation for supporting older people. Those early experiences taught me the importance of kindness, patience, and treating every person as an individual. That's something that remains at the centre of my approach today.

When asked what makes Woolton Grange unique, the answer is immediate - The family atmosphere. As soon as you walk through the door, there's warmth that people notice straight away. We treat our residents as members of our extended family, ensuring they receive the love, respect, and personalised care they deserve. This commitment to patient-centred care begins from day one. Every resident is supported according to their individual needs, preferences, and life experiences, helping them maintain independence, dignity, and a sense of belonging.

Moving into care can be a significant transition for both residents and their loved ones. Our role is to make that journey as smooth and reassuring as possible. We take time to get to know every resident and work closely with families to ensure they feel supported throughout.

Under Laura's leadership, Woolton Grange continues to provide a caring, homely environment where residents can enjoy comfort, companionship, and the highest standards of care.

I'm incredibly proud of our team and the culture we've built together. We strive every day to create a home where people feel safe, valued, and happy. That's what Woolton Grange is all about

For families seeking a caring and supportive environment for a loved one, Woolton Grange offers not just excellent care, but a place to truly call home.



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BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Birkenhead School Announces Free Transport for Liverpool Students

Travel to award-winning independent school made easy
Birkenhead School - named North West Independent Secondary School of the Year 2025 by The Sunday Times - has announced an exciting new initiative offering free transport for Liverpool-based students, making it easier than ever for families across the region to access its outstanding education.

Located just 15 minutes from Liverpool city centre, and with more families than ever from South Liverpool choosing Birkenhead School, the School is ensuring that families across the Mersey can easily access its exceptional education and wide-ranging opportunities.

Free transport on the School's bespoke bus services will be provided for all primary pupils for the duration of their primary education in Prep, ensuring a smooth and supportive start to their educational journey.

In addition, new entrants joining Birkenhead School into Seniors (Year 7 to Upper Sixth) will benefit from a year of free transport.

Currently, the School operates two dedicated bus services serving South Liverpool, offering a convenient and safe daily journey for pupils. With demand for places continuing to grow, this initiative further strengthens Birkenhead School's commitment to supporting Liverpool families and broadening access to its exceptional provision.

"More Liverpool families than ever are choosing Birkenhead School, drawn by our academic excellence, rich co-curricular offering, and strong community values," says Mr Paul Vicars, Headmaster. "By offering free transport, we're removing a barrier to joining our thriving School community. Average journey time for many of our existing students from South Liverpool is just over 30 minutes. We encourage families to come and join many of our existing families who use our bespoke Liverpool travel network each day. This initiative builds on our established provision and highlights our on-going commitment to accessibility and convenience." This initiative complements the School's ethos of providing accessible, values-driven education, combining academic rigour with personal development and exceptional opportunities - now with even greater convenience for Liverpool families.

The School is oversubscribed for Seniors entry, so families are encouraged to join in Prep or to attend the Seniors Assessment Days for Year 5 pupils held in June.

For more information about Birkenhead School, admissions, and transport routes, please visit www.birkenheadschool.co.uk



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North West Dry Rot are one of Liverpool's leading experts in damp and timber treatments. Whether you have just bought a property with damp issues, are selling and want to get the best price, or you need to make repairs to an existing property, we are the team to call. Our team has been supporting buyers, sellers and owners since 2020 and is well-known in the area for providing quality services at affordable prices.

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SBW LAW

Legal Insider name SBW Law as Litigation Law Firm of the Year 2026

We are proud to share that SBW Law has been named Litigation Law Firm of the Year 2026 by Legal Insider - a recognition that marks another significant milestone in our journey following a multi-award winning 2025. This latest award is further testament to the dedication, expertise, and determination of our entire team. At SBW Law, we have always been driven by a clear purpose: to improve access to justice and deliver strong, meaningful outcomes for our clients. Being recognised independently like this reinforces the impact of our mission and the progress we continue to make.

A Commitment to Access to Justice

We are proud to be a multi-award-winning litigation firm committed to helping individuals pursue the claims they deserve. Our approach is built on removing barriers to legal support and ensuring that clients can access expert representation without unnecessary complexity or financial risk. Across areas such as Data Breach, Clinical Negligence, Housing Disrepair, Personal Injury and Financial Litigation our focus remains the same: delivering clear advice, acting with integrity, and achieving the best possible outcomes for those we represent.

Driven by Results and Client Care

This latest award reflects not only our legal expertise but also our client-first philosophy. We understand that behind every case is an individual seeking support, clarity, and resolution. That is why we prioritise transparency, communication, and efficiency at every stage of the legal process. Our teams work tirelessly to resolve cases effectively and often without the need for lengthy court



proceedings. We do this while ensuring that client's feel informed and supported throughout.

Building on Continued Success

The Legal Insider award builds on a period of strong growth and achievement for SBW Law. Over recent years, we have been recognised across the legal sector for our innovation, performance, and workplace culture, demonstrating our commitment to evolving and improving as a firm. Each accolade reinforces our belief that high-quality legal services should be accessible, efficient, and centred on the needs of the client.

Looking Ahead

While we are honoured to receive the Litigation Law Firm of the Year 2026 award, our focus remains firmly on the future. We will continue investing in our people, processes, and technology to ensure we deliver the highest standards of service.

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GRANT EDIT

Grant Edit was founded by sisters Lindsey and Laura, brought together by a shared belief that everyone deserves to feel confident in their skin.

Based at Doe Park, Woolton Golf Club, we've created a calm, private clinic where evidence-based skin health meets a warm, welcoming approach.

Whether you're new to aesthetics or looking for expert guidance, our aim is simple: to help you achieve healthier skin with treatments tailored to you.

As a pharmacist-led clinic, clinical knowledge, safety and integrity sit at the heart of everything we do. We believe aesthetics should never be about chasing youth- it should be about helping you look and feel your best at every stage of life.

From pregnancy and postpartum to perimenopause and beyond, we create personalised treatment plans that support your skin as it changes over time.

Quality is central to every decision we make. We carefully selected Skin Rocks because of Caroline Hirons and her commitment to evidence-based skincare. We chose SkinPen®, the original FDA-cleared microneedling device, because we believe our clients deserve treatments backed by robust clinical trials.

We're also completing nationally recognised Level 7 qualifications in Aesthetics, not simply to prepare for future regulation, but because we believe investing in the highest standards of education is part of providing the safest quality of care.

At Grant Edit, we're here to help you invest in your skin- with honesty and expertise.'

Please give us a call on 07386 362406 to discuss your skin health with Laura & Lindsey or email us on Grantedit@outlook.com



THE VILLAGE CAT

We opened our first venue on Smithdown Road back in 2017 and over the past 9 years it's grown and evolved into a great place for good beer and even better vibes! We now have Black Cat currently on 3 venues- Smithdown Road, Rose Lane and Parr Street in the city centre.

All our venues are welcoming, inclusive space for everyone, Black Cat has had some great nights at Smithdown, and the most relaxing sun soaked afternoons at Rose Lane.

Our last venue in Parr Street opened in October 2025 and this month of May 2026 we are opening another in Woolton Village. The owners of Black Cat Pub are Andy Scott, Chris Welsh and Rich Midgley.

Brought together by a love of Beer, Music and never having a day off!

We're all incredibly excited to open our 4th venue in the heart Woolton Village; it's been a dream of ours for years. Although it's part of the Black Cat family, Woolton will be a slight departure from our usual style as we go for a more homely, country vibe under the name The Village Cat. We'll still have the same great range of craft and cask beers, amazing wines hand-picked by R and H Wines on Allerton Road, and cheeseboards from the Woolton Cheese Company. Not to mention delicious Crosby Coffee and Cakehole Cakes.

We will also be opening our back garden bar and planning amazing Garden Tap Takeovers during the summer months with local breweries from Handymans to Azvex and more.

Much like our other venues, Woolton will also operate as a craft beer off licence so you can take some amazing beers home with you that you wouldn't find in most shops!

We will have Quiz nights as these are some of our favourite nights of the week! We'll be hosting a weekly quiz with prizes from bar tabs to bonkers nonsense. Win £40 in beer tokens, or a copy of Jimmy Corkhill's Autobiography - who knows!?

Gift Cards will be available - The best present for any beer aficionado. These can be used in all four venues!

Margarita Mondays will be hitting Woolton at last! Two margaritas for £10 all day, every Monday! Plus we'll have our Cask Club Cards, buy 8 pints get 1 free (and the same for coffee too!). We will have regular brewery tap takeovers and tastings, where you can meet the brewers and find out the secrets behind your favourite new beers.

Our Smithdown venue is a popular coffee shop by day, and a pub by night - and we'll be carrying that on at Woolton too. It's a great space for a coffee whether you're chatting to friends or getting your work done (a good excuse to get out of the house!). We serve incredible Cakehole Cakes - "Boss Cakes that happen to be vegan". As well as cheeseboards and charcuterie boards from local suppliers.

Come along and meet us shortly at THE VILLAGE CAT 5 / 7 Allerton Road L25 7RA

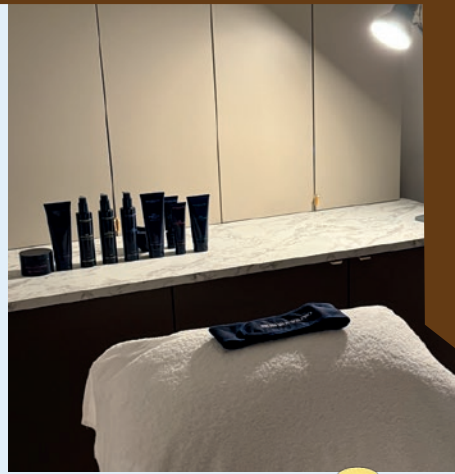


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Meet Skin Rocks

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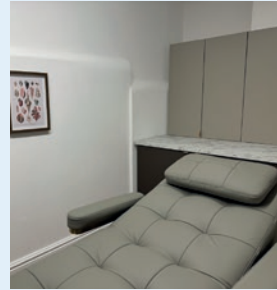
About Us

Grant Edit is a pharmacist-led skincare clinic built on evidence, honesty and personalised care.

Every consultation is tailored to your skin, your concerns and your goals - because no two faces are the same

We believe in natural-looking results that prioritise long-term skin health.

Open Saturday, Sunday, Monday - plus, evenings appointments throughout the week.

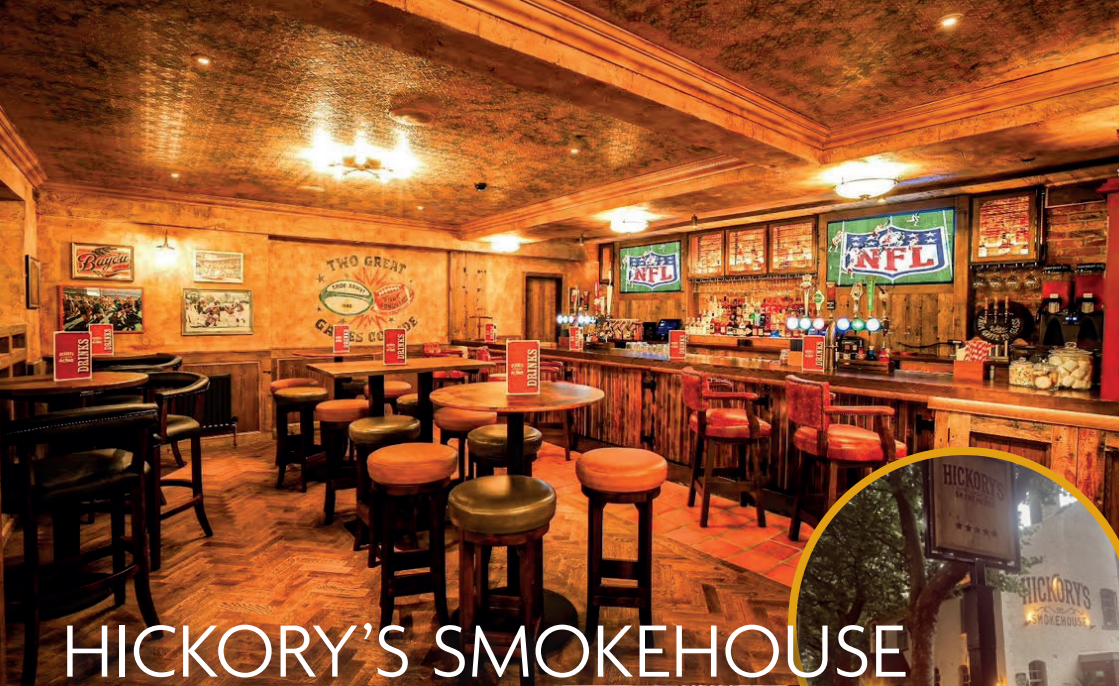


GRANT EDIT



☎ 07386 362406 ✉ Grantedit@outlook.com 📷 [Grantedit_](https://www.instagram.com/Grantedit_)

📍 1st Floor, Woolton Golf Club, Doe Park, Speke Road, L25



HICKORY'S SMOKEHOUSE

Barbecue restaurant group Hickory's Smokehouse has opened its first Liverpool location on Gateacre Brow.

Founded in Cheshire in 2010, the company has expanded to over 20 sites across the Northwest, including two in Merseyside. Hickory's Smokehouse confirmed it acquired the Bear & Staff pub in Gateacre to make its long-term plans a reality. An emphasis on delivering a warm and welcoming bar area is central to the development to ensure locals still have a place to socialise and drink during this new chapter.

A "significant investment" has been made to bring the concept to fruition and is expected to create 100 jobs for the area. Hickory's Smokehouse scheduled its opening on Friday 17th July.

"The team at Hickory's are thrilled to be coming to Liverpool (Gateacre)! We are delighted to be heading to Liverpool - it's been on our radar since the very beginning and Gateacre seems like the perfect place to call home."

"We are so happy to be finally planning our first Hickory's in the city, we've got to know so many guests from across Liverpool who have been visiting our neighbourhood bar and restaurants in West Kirby, Chester and Southport for many years now. We are delighted that the people of Liverpool will finally get a Hickory's on home turf.

We'll be spending time getting to know the local area and our ambition is to create something truly special. We are looking forward to becoming part of the community for many years to come."

"Coming to Liverpool and having a home in the heart of Gateacre is genuinely exciting for us all. Along with our smokin' BBQ and everything you can expect from a Hickory's, the bar will be a big focus for us, with a relaxed vibe."

"Guests are equally welcome to join us in the bar for drinks as they are for dining. We can't wait to swing open the doors as we head into summer."

Bookings are open now.



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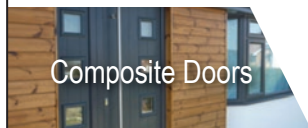
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THE FLOWERS OF HARTHILL & CALDERSTONES PARK

Although work on establishing the Nature Reserve, after saving the area from being developed for housing, started only six years ago, our remarkable nature archivist and photographer, Eliza, has recorded almost a hundred wild flower species now growing there [as well as 37 different bird species, 20 species of butterflies and moths, 32 different types of bees, flies, spiders and ants, 2 dragonflies and 15 types of fungi and slime moulds, together with numerous cultivated plants, ferns, shrubs and trees].

In this, and in our next article, we would like to introduce you to some of our wild flowers – their common and country names, the country remedies for which they were used, a little of their history and present day uses. Not all produce beautiful flowers, but all have their places in the English countryside and in our Nature Reserve.



LADY'S BEDSTRAW

Also known as Lady's Tresses. The frothy yellow flowers are honey-scented when fresh but smell of new-mown hay when dried. It used to be the custom to include the dried flowers in the stuffing of straw mattresses, especially for use by women about to give birth. The dried flowers were also used in potions for skin conditions, as a mild sedative and made into a soothing bath for tired feet.



SNOWDROP

One of the earliest signs of spring, the Snowdrop's country names include Mary's Tapers, February Fairmaids and – perhaps best known of all – Candlemas Bells, so called as their flowering coincides with the Christian festival of Candlemas [2 nd February], symbolising hope and renewal after the dark days of winter.



CORNCOCKLE

Known as Kiss-me-Quick, its purple flowers are furled like a flag before opening. Despite this being a poisonous plant, it was often used in folk medicine. Recent research suggests that it might also have anti-cancer and cholesterol-reducing properties.



CORN MARIGOLD

Also known as the Corn Daisy, its bright-yellow flowers are top producers of nectar and pollen, but this plant was a serious weed in cornfields. In 13th -Century Scotland, a farmer who allowed a single Corn Marigold to go to seed in his fields would be fined a sheep!



CORNFLOWER

Its country names include Bluebottle and Blavers. Fields full of the vibrant cornflower-blue flowers were a common sight up to WW1. The petals, which taste of cloves, are edible and are used as garnishes for salads, cakes and desserts. In traditional medicine, Cornflowers were used in herbal teas to soothe eye infections and as a general anti-inflammatory potion.

CLEAVERS

This well-known scrambling plant – famous for sticking to clothing – can grow over three metres in a season. Its many country names include Goosegrass, Catchweed, Sticky Willy, Stickleback and Robin-run-by-the-hedge. Cleavers were used as food for geese and chickens, and, combined with nettles, to make a drink like ginger beer. The tender new shoots can be eaten raw in salads or cooked in soups and stews.

Before the days of the widespread use of herbicides, cornfields were full of 'Cornfield Weeds' such as Corn-cockles, Cornflowers and Corn Marigolds.

To the farmers, these flowers were a menace as, if left amongst the harvested corn, they gave bread a bitter taste and could even be poisonous. Now, these lovely flowers grace uncultivated areas in the countryside and our Nature Reserve.

These are just a very few of the flowers of the Nature Reserve which give a spectacular, beautiful and traditional display from now throughout the summer.

We shall be describing more of our flowers in our next article, but, in the meantime, why not visit and see for yourself. We're open every Tuesday from 10.00am to 3.00pm and on various Open Days, including:

Sunday 19th July – National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens Weekend: Allerton & Grassendale Gardens [11.00am – 4.00pm]

Sunday 2nd August – As part of the national Love Parks Week, 24th July–2nd August [11:00am – 4:00pm]

Further information can be found on our Facebook page, Calderstones Park Forever.

FUTURE EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE F.H.C.P

Thursday 9th July – Trip to Dunham Massey [N.T]. Altrincham

Wednesday 30th September – Talk on the subject of Japanese Gardens by John Appleton, Northern Region Lead and member of the National Committee of the Japanese Garden Society, at Calderstones Mansion House [2pm]

For details of forthcoming events or about membership of the Friends, please contact nadine.taylor@live.com

COUNCILLOR MIRNA JUAREZ

INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL
FOR MUCH WOOLTON AND HUNTS CROSS WARD

Dear Residents, I hope you are well and enjoying our summer.

A FEW WORDS FROM MY NEW HELPER



First of all, here are a few words from my new helper and fellow Independent campaigner:

"Hi there! My name is Rafaela Brauner and I will be working alongside Councillor Mirna Juarez in Much Woolton and Hunts Cross, helping to improve our community.

"I have lived in Hunts Cross since the day I was born and have grown up loving our neighbourhood, which is why I have chosen to work with Mirna. I went to primary school in Woolton and secondary school in Liverpool 8 and recently graduated with an honours degree in law from the University of Leicester. I also work as a lifeguard and swimming teacher, specialising in helping SEND children to develop their skills in the water. I am excited to bring my knowledge and experience to improve our community and respond to the needs of residents."

WOOLTON WOODS AND CAMP HILL

I've been asking for this for years and I am now pleased to report that new bins have now been installed at Woolton Woods and Camp Hill. This will help keep our precious green space clear of litter and ensure that our wildlife is not affected by discarded bottles, cans and other rubbish. Please do make use of the bins and help keep our area lovely and clean. Some of the bins are marked for recycled rubbish only, so please use the other bins in the park to dispose of dog waste bags. I have been contacted with concerns from residents regarding maintenance issues relating to the trees at Woolton Woods and have taken up these concerns with Liverpool City Council officers. I have also reported overhanging branches on Hillfoot Road coming from trees in the park. I have asked for these branches are cut back as they are making it difficult for pedestrians to use the pavement.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns that you wish to draw to my attention, or if you are isolated and need help. Best wishes, Mirna

COUNCILLOR MIRNA JUAREZ

Email: mirna.juarez@liverpool.gov.uk TELEPHONE: 0151 448 9393 or 07954 434 476

Surgery 6-7pm 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month term time only at the Loft Allerton Road, Woolton



WOOLTON CONVENIENCE STORE SHUT DOWN

Back in May Woolton Convenience Store on Woolton Street shut its doors after Liverpool City Council was granted a three-month closure order. The case went to court and the store owner was ordered to pay the council £2,378. The same premises previously had a three-month closure order back in 2024 but after it re-opened, reports were received that the store was selling illicit items and also age-restricted products to local schoolchildren. After many complaints from me and other residents, the council investigated and tried to work positively with the business. Unfortunately, the store did not comply with the law and carried on selling illegal cigarettes and age-restricted products to children. The director of the business has indicated to the court and the council that the store will not be re-opening after the latest three-month closure order. It is a shame that the community now has a shuttered property instead of a local business but we cannot allow a situation where our children are getting their hands on products that they should not be able to buy and which put their health and futures at risk. Nor can we have businesses that do not comply with the law, so I welcome this enforcement action by our council officers.

CLARKE GARDENS FARMERS' MARKET

Don't forget that on Saturday August 29, from 11am -4pm, there will be another Farmers' and Craft Market outside Allerton Hall in Clarke Gardens. I am really pleased that the council markets team is putting this on, as I set up the first ever market at this wonderful venue several years ago.





The Friends of Reynolds Park

The park has had a great amount of work done and looked immaculate when judges visited the park recently with a view to granting a prestigious Green Flag award.

We eagerly await their decision.

A Place for Us Theatre Company will be presenting William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet and Hamlet on Saturday August 7th and Sunday August 8th at 5pm.

Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.com

We will be delighted to welcome you to our next meeting at 7pm Wednesday 9th September in the Woolton Tesco cafe.

*www.friendsofreynoldspark.co.uk :: [facebook.com/ Friendsofreynoldspark](https://facebook.com/Friendsofreynoldspark)
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Your LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

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2nd Saturday of the Month
8th AUGUST 8am-2pm

Allerton Rd / Garthdale Rd
3rd Saturday of the month
15th AUGUST 8am-2pm

Lark Lane
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The Gateacre Society



*Guarding the Past
Safeguarding the Future*

GATEACRE SOCIETY TALK

The Knicker Spy: Marjory Booth

**A Talk by Bernard Nevin - Monday 7th September
7.30pm at Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow**

The Gateacre Society is delighted to welcome historian and speaker Bernard Nevin for what promises to be a fascinating and thought-provoking evening exploring the remarkable life of Marjory (Margery) Booth, the Lancashire-born opera singer whose extraordinary wartime activities earned her the nickname "The Knicker Spy."

Born in Wigan and later achieving success on some of Europe's most prestigious opera stages, Booth appeared to be living a glamorous life in Nazi Germany during the 1930s and 1940s. Admired by leading figures of the regime and celebrated for her musical talent, she was seemingly part of the cultural elite of the Third Reich. Yet behind this public image lay a far more dangerous reality. While continuing her successful singing career, Booth was secretly gathering and passing intelligence for Britain, placing herself at enormous personal risk.

Bernard Nevin's talk reveals how this talented Lancashire woman operated in the heart of Nazi Germany, outwitting the Gestapo while maintaining her cover as a celebrated performer. Her story includes secret information hidden and transported under the noses of the Nazi authorities, performances for British prisoners of war, arrest and interrogation by the Gestapo, and her eventual return to Britain after the war. Despite her courage and service, her achievements were largely overlooked and misunderstood for many years.

Drawing on local history, wartime espionage, political intrigue and music, this talk shines a light on one of the North West's most extraordinary yet little-known figures. It is a compelling story of bravery, resilience and sacrifice, bringing together themes that will appeal to anyone interested in local heritage, the Second World War, intelligence history or the lives of remarkable women whose contributions have too often been forgotten.

As with all Gateacre Society events, the evening reflects the Society's commitment to promoting and preserving the rich history of Gateacre, Liverpool and the wider region. We welcome both members and visitors to join us for an engaging presentation and the opportunity to learn more about a fascinating chapter of Lancashire's hidden past.

Admission is open to all. Visitors interested in local history, heritage and the stories of extraordinary individuals are especially welcome.

OPEN AFTERNOON

As part of the spirit of Liverpool's Heritage Open Days celebrations, Gateacre Chapel will once again open its doors to the community for a special Heritage Open Afternoon on Sunday 13th September, from 12 noon until 4.00pm.

Visitors are warmly invited to explore this historic local landmark and discover some of the fascinating stories that have shaped Gateacre and the surrounding area. Throughout the afternoon, members of The Gateacre Society will be on hand to share a wealth of local history resources, photographs, publications and displays, highlighting the rich heritage of one of Liverpool's most distinctive villages.

Joining them will be representatives of the Pre Fab Project, whose work preserves the social history and memories of Liverpool's post-war prefabricated housing communities. Their displays and research offer a unique insight into everyday life in the city during a period of significant change and rebuilding, helping to ensure that these important local stories are not forgotten.

Heritage Open Days is all about celebrating history, architecture, culture and community, and this event provides an excellent opportunity for residents and visitors alike to learn more about the people, places and events that have shaped Gateacre's identity. Whether you have lived in the area for many years, have family connections to the village, or are simply interested in local history, there will be something of interest to discover.

The afternoon will provide opportunities to browse historical displays, ask questions, share memories and meet others with an interest in Liverpool's heritage. The event is designed to be informal, welcoming and accessible to all ages.

Free admission – donations appreciated

Hosted by The Gateacre Society and the Pre Fab Project.

Please email for more information:

thegateacresociety@gmail.com

or visit our website: www.gateacresociety.co.uk

The Gateacre Society



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MSB Woolton FC

MSB Woolton F.C. is an English association football club based in Woolton, a suburb of Liverpool, Merseyside, recognized as the largest grassroots football club in the United Kingdom. With roots tracing back to 1930 as Woolton Boys' Club and a modern formation in 1994, the club operates over 230 teams - including youth squads from under-6 to under-21 levels for both boys and girls, seven senior teams (six men & one women's), and a veterans team - serving more than 2,400 players and supported by over 400 volunteers.

Their first team competes in the North West Counties Football League First Division North, having joined the league for the 2025/26 season after winning the Liverpool County Premier League in 2022/23 and 2024/25. The club emphasizes community engagement and player development, generating an estimated £5.5 million in annual social value by reaching around 30,000 community members through its programs, which contribute to health benefits, reduced youth crime, and local economic impact. Affiliated with the Liverpool FA and holding FA Charter Standard Community Club status, MSB Woolton has been awarded Club of the Year in 2014 and 2024, and partners with Nike as an official club.

History-Origins and formation

The origins of MSB Woolton F.C. can be traced to the 1930s, when local youth football initiatives in Woolton, South Liverpool, were spearheaded by the Woolton Boys' Club, a community organization aimed at engaging young boys through sports and social activities. This early entity, supported by figures such as the local school headmaster, town councillors, and the Reverend Rector of Woolton, established strong ties to the area by providing accessible football opportunities amid pre-World War II efforts to promote youth development in working-class neighbourhoods. The club's heritage reflects broader pre-WWII initiatives in Liverpool, including the acquisition of playing fields in Woolton by 1925 for boys' clubs, which laid the groundwork for organized local football. The modern club was officially formed in 1994 as Woolton Youth Centre F.C., evolving from the loosely affiliated junior teams that had operated out of the Woolton Youth Club since the post-war era.

Initially, these teams functioned without a formalized senior structure, emphasizing community involvement and grassroots participation over competitive hierarchies, with management handled informally by a committee of team leaders. This formation marked a pivotal step in consolidating the club's community-focused mission, building directly on the 1930s foundations to serve South Liverpool's youth.

Development and restructuring

In the early 2000s, MSB Woolton F.C. underwent significant restructuring to manage its rapid expansion from loosely affiliated youth teams operating under the name Woolton Youth Centre FC. A general meeting led to the election of a formal committee, the establishment of a constitution, and the adoption of codes of practice for players, coaches, parents, and spectators, with all managers and coaches required to achieve at least FA Level 1 qualification. This process, which took several years due to the growing number of teams, culminated in the club's application to the Football Association (FA) by 2005, resulting in the award of FA Charter Standard Development Club status that year. By 2010, the club had advanced to achieve FA Charter Standard Community Club status, the highest level in the FAs development pathway for multi-team organizations providing high-quality social, training, and playing opportunities, with a particular emphasis on creating structured youth- to-senior player pathways. This recognition underscored the club's commitment to formalizing connections between its junior sections and emerging senior teams, fostering progression for young players into competitive adult football. Following this milestone, the club articulated ambi-



tions to elevate its men's senior team to the North West Counties League, enabling better opportunities for player development and integration from youth ranks. The early development of the senior teams involved their entry into regional competitive leagues, with the establishment of multiple adult sides by the early 2010s to support the pathway goals.

By 2014, the club had been named Liverpool County FA's Charter Standard Community Club of the Year, reflecting its progress in senior integration alongside junior growth. This period marked the emergence of MSB Woolton as a major grassroots club, with team numbers increasing to over 150 by the mid-2010s and player participation exceeding 3,000, supported by around 270 volunteer coaches.

Recent promotions and challenges

The senior team of MSB Woolton F.C. entered competitive league football in the 2014-15 seasons, joining the Liverpool County Premier Leagues Second Division as simply Woolton. They secured promotion that year and followed it with another elevation to the Premier Division in 2015-16, marking successive advancements within the Liverpool County structure. In 2016, following these early successes, the team adopted the name MSB Woolton, reflecting the club's sponsorship and community ties. Building on this foundation, the team established itself in the Premier Division, achieving its first major senior success by clinching the 2022-23 championship with 19 wins from 24 matches.

In the 2024 - 25 season MSB Woolton captured the Premier Division title once more, finishing with 17 wins, 3 draws, and 2 losses to earn promotion to the North West Counties League Division One North for the 2025/26 season. This step up to Step 6 of the non-league pyramid, as of the 2025/6 seasons, highlighted the culmination of a decade-long progression from grassroots origins.

Teams and player pathways

MSB Woolton F.C. operates an extensive team structure encompassing over 250 teams across junior, senior, and veterans levels, involving more than 2,400 players and supported by over 400 volunteers. The club self-describes as one of the largest grassroots football organizations in the UK, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and development from an early age. The club's youth setup includes boys and girls squads ranging from Under-6 to Under-21, with training sessions commencing at age 4 on Saturday mornings at Camp Hill.

These teams provide foundational coaching focused on skill-building, teamwork, and enjoyment, adhering to FA Charter Standard guidelines to ensure safe and progressive environments. At the senior level, MSB Woolton fields six men's teams, including the first team competing in the



North West Counties Football League (NWCFL), two women's teams, and one veterans team, all participating in their respective premier divisions. This structure allows for competitive opportunities across age groups while maintaining high standards of play. Player pathways are designed to facilitate seamless progression from youth academies to adult football, with the ambition to elevate teams into Step 6 of the England Football Pyramid for smoother transitions. Supported by a Nike partnership for kit and resources, as well as involvement in the FA Club Leaders Programme, the club prioritizes sustainable development, coaching quality, and long-term player retention to bridge junior and senior levels effectively. Over the last 12 months MSB Woolton has also set up a disability football section which is run by Colin Windrow and Phil Wasley and operated in conjunction with The Walton Lea Partnership.

Governance and community impact

The clubs 1st team governance is led by chairman David Woods, with key committee members including manager Mike Harvey, secretary Andy Scregg, and directors such as Keith Glover, Christopher Leahy, and Colin Windrow. Supporting roles encompass coaches like, Gary Hearn, Adam Leadbetter, and Adam Scregg.

It also has a successful reserve team competing within The Liverpool County Premier League and managed by Phil Wasley, Jay Maguire and Kev Sheahan. The reserve team is the first port of call for players looking to progress to step 6 football.

The club generates significant community impact, producing £5.5 million in annual social value and reaching approximately 30,000 community members through its programmes. Among its contributions, youth initiatives yield £1.2 million in combined social and economic value via health and crime savings, while adult programmes deliver £658,000 in similar benefits.

As one of the largest grassroots football clubs in the UK, with more than 2,400 players across over 230 teams and over 400 volunteers, MSB Woolton emphasizes inclusivity for all ages and genders, fostering broad participation in South Liverpool. The clubs vision prioritizes sustaining an enjoyable environment for players, promoting respect and fair play among all members, and ensuring long-term viability through volunteer support and community programmes.

Facilities

Training and youth grounds MSB Woolton F.C. primarily conducts its training and youth development activities at two key sites in Woolton, South Liverpool: Camp Hill and the Simpson Ground. These grounds function as the central hubs for the clubs extensive youth programmes, accommo-

dating over 230 teams across various age groups and genders. They support daily operations focused on grassroots football, including skill development, matches, and community engagement for more than 2,400 players starting from age four. MSB Woolton has over 400 volunteers in coaching and administration, ensuring comprehensive support for player growth. The clubs commitment has earned it FA Club of the Year awards in 2014 and 2024, underscoring their importance in promoting inclusive football.

Senior match venue

The senior men's team of MSB Woolton F.C. plays its home matches at Simpsons Hub on Hillfoot road. Admission for the 2026/27 season is priced at £6 for adults and £4 for concessions, with match day programmes available for £2.

League titles

MSB Woolton F.C.s senior team has secured three championships in the Liverpool County Premier League Premier Division since adopting their current name in 2016, marking significant milestones in their ascent through the English football pyramid. The first victory came in the 2022 - 23 season, representing the clubs inaugural major senior title. This success solidified their position within the Premier Division and laid the groundwork for sustained competitiveness at Step 7 of the non-league system. The team won the title again in the 2023/24 season but were unable to secure promotion due to ground-grading issues. Building on these achievements, they clinched the title for a third time in the 2024/25 season, earning promotion to the North West Counties Football League Division One North for the 2025/26 campaign.

Cups and other awards

MSB Woolton F.C.s senior team has achieved success in regional cup competitions, notably winning the Zingari Cup in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons, which are organized by the Liverpool County Football Association for Premier Division clubs. These victories highlight the team's competitive prowess in knockout formats, complementing their league performances.

Beyond on-field triumphs, the club has received prestigious accolades recognizing its broader contributions. It was named Liverpool County FA Club of the Year in both 2014 and 2024, honours that celebrate its excellence in grassroots football operations and community involvement. In 2010, MSB Woolton attained FA Charter Standard Community Club status, an accreditation maintained to the present day, affirming high standards in coaching, safeguarding, and inclusive participation. These awards emphasize the clubs pivotal role in youth development and community engagement, extending its impact far beyond senior-level play by fostering accessible football programs for over 2,400 young players across numerous teams.



We welcome players of all abilities, anyone interested in participating at any age group or level should initially either visit Camp Hill on a Saturday morning for mini-soccer. For all other age groups, please make contact via email enquiries@wooltonfc.org.uk or visit our website: www.wooltonfc.org.uk

Walking Tour of Toxteth Park Cemetery

The is delighted to announce the return of its popular walking tour of Toxteth Park Cemetery with historical fiction author JP Maxwell.

The tour explores the final resting places of a wide variety of people from the area. This includes the graves of historical figures such as James Dunwoody Bulloch, the Confederate naval agent who coordinated secret shipbuilding operations from Liverpool during the American Civil War; and John Hulley, the early Olympic pioneer and co-founder of the National Olympian Association.

Hear stories of local people from Victorian artists to MPs. Visit war graves and pauper plots, learn about Titanic connections and unsung lives etched in fading stone.

This tour blends storytelling, social history and urban archaeology. Attendees are invited to consider the relationship between death and place - how burial sites shape memory, and how stories shift as we walk among the dead.

The tour takes place on Saturday 29th August. Places are limited. To be the first to get notified when tickets become available, sign up to the Smithdown Litfest newsletter at www.smithdownlitfest.com.



JP Maxwell is the author of "Water Street" and "The Americans of Abercromby Square", both rich with the hidden histories of Victorian Liverpool. His work brings historical figures vividly to life, revealing the transatlantic ties of war, espionage, and resistance that shaped the city.

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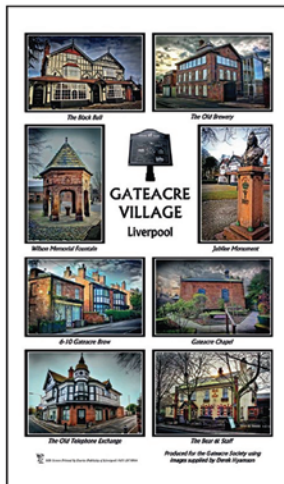
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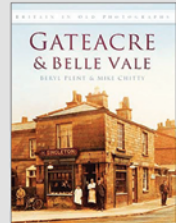


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- Rights of Way -
- Pedestrian access -
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- Bus routes and facilities -
- Street 'clutter' -
- Local History



Our book of old Gateacre & Belle Vale photographs and our tea towel of Gateacre Village landmarks are on sale at our public talks, which take place in Gateacre Chapel, Gateacre Brow L25 3PB



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A Strong Voice in Tough Times



WOOLTON PICTURE HOUSE UPDATE

It was great to return to Woolton cinema to hear about how they smashed their fundraising target and have not only raised the funds needed to reopen their doors but have with the aid of an anonymous donor secured a 101-year lease to keep the cinema running for generations to come. This will see the Cinema hopefully celebrate its 200th birthday in 2127.

The team are also making a documentary about the campaign to re-open Woolton Picture House and I was happy to be interviewed about the importance of the cinema as a community asset and a valuable community space going forward.

They've announced another 51 classic films that will be shown between now and November, with weekends themed around movies from the 70s and 80s right up until the modern day. I'm so pleased that the campaign was a success and that work can now begin on restoring the building to its former glory. I'll continue to support the Picture House.

LABOUR COMMITS MORE FUNDING AND RESOURCES TO DEMENTIA CARE

June 15th to the 21st was the UK's annual National Care Home week and I called in at Woolton Acre Retirement Living to meet residents and staff on a tour of their facilities in the grounds of Woolton Manor.

Their week finished on the Saturday with a World Cup-themed open day for local residents to come in and see the recently-refurbished facilities. Woolton Acre has capacity for 48 residents, with 27 already living in, and is a large facility sat in tranquil green surrounds.

Activity Co-ordinator Hayley showed me round the building, introduced me to some residents and explained that they have just been approved to provide residential dementia care.

Liverpool Garston has around 15 care homes that provide 900-1000 registered beds, with between 40% and 50% of beds able to support dementia care. Dementia figures are rising, with around 3,500 Liverpool residents living with a formal diagnosis, though there are estimates that around a further 1,600 people have undiagnosed dementia. Forecasts warn that changing demographics could see dementia caseloads exceed 7,000 cases by 2040. The cost of providing care nationally is projected to rise from £40 billion to £80 billion by then.

The Labour Government is taking this increase in people living with dementia seriously and has committed to introducing a range of measures to tackle the issue, including improving dementia care through the NHS 10-Year Plan, developing a Modern Service Framework for dementia and frailty, investing £150 million in clinical trials and early diagnosis and recruiting more specialist dementia nurses. This will be vital for care homes like Woolton Acre and illustrates again the difference Labour makes in Government.

ADVICE SURGERIES

I am currently offering telephone, virtual or in-person surgery appointments.

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WOW - Women of Woolton WI - JULY 2026

WOW (Women of Woolton) Women's Institute is part of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Our monthly meetings cover crafts, campaigns and issues of the day as well as providing a forum for an active and friendly social life.

We are so happy to have our Monthly Members meeting at Woolton Golf Club which has a beautiful function suite & accommodates our 100 members comfortably.

We have had some great speakers so far this year with a full program planned for 2026/2027 including well known- Lady Dodd. Our February to October meetings are held in the evenings 7pm – 9pm. & afternoons in November and December 1pm- 3pm.

With no meeting in January and our AM in April our latest speaker was Tina Saunders – excellent speaker - her talk was titled an "Embroiderers Tale" she was an expert in her field and worked for Jimmy Choo the shoe designer using her talents embellishing shoes and sandals, fame came when she was employed at Buckingham Palace creating garments for the late Queen Elizabeth II. Our speaker for June was Sarah Satchell whose talk titled 100 years of Hairstyles with one of our members having a new hair style.

Our July Members meeting was entertained by Hilary Mckinskey whose talk was titled "Back stage at the Ballet" - it was tremendous talk as Hilary was the top designer for the Northern Ballet for over 8 years meeting Royalty and Rudolf Nureyev.

We continue with small controlled groups at the Simpson ground covering various crafts during the year. We continue with reading, walking, quizzes, board games, art & ukulele tuition and our very popular Supper & Breakfast Clubs going from Strength to strength visiting many restaurants within Woolton Village & surrounding area throughout the year. Our latest being Supper Club at Eureka on High Street Wavertree and our Breakfast Club at ODA in Allerton Road and attended by over 20 of our members – very popular and most enjoyable time was had by all.

Membership from March 2026 is currently full even with renewal of memberships we still have a waiting list of 18 ladies waiting to join - but you can still come as a visitor by pre arrangement.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Margaret Davies
WOW WI PR Committee Member
Woolton
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A Selection of free Events at Palm House Sefton Park

TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST 1- 3PM

GROW WELLBEING FAMILY SESSION

Join us in the garden of the Palm House this summer holiday for family forest sessions. Children will have the chance to engage in a range of nature connected activities including creating animal dens and fairy homes, making bubbles, nature crafts like clay modelling and nature mandalas. There will be time to play, explore, relax in a hammock and make new friends in a safe outdoor setting.

FREE EVENT, DROP IN - Donations Appreciated

WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST 1- 3PM

PLANTS PICNIC

Our in house story time team will be welcoming you on the grass surrounding the Palm House for stories, songs and a picnic.

In the style of a Teddy Bears Picnic we bring you... Plants Picnic.

Expect plenty themed crafts, stories and rhymes to accompany your picnic. Dressing plenty is of course not required but encouraged!

*Please bring along your own rug, folding chairs and picnics to enjoy on the grass.

This event will take place in doors if the weather isn't suitable.

No barbecues allowed within the grounds of the Palm House please.

FREE EVENT - Donations Appreciated

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST -4PM - 6.30PM

GARDEN LATES

ASYLUM LINK MERSEYSIDE CHOIR

The Choir at ALM was recently described as an 'explosion of joy'.

You might not think Asylum Seekers have anything to be joyful about, but that leans more on the label than the people behind it. Each week they get together on a Thursday afternoon and sing their hearts out and through the music and the dance, each person makes their own mark in their community. They provide a place to belong, where you can bring parts of your old life and weave its music into the lives of others.

Their Music creates something new from what went before and, in many ways, it reflects people's journey to the UK, their past lives, and the lives of the community in which they find themselves today. The Choir has members of many faiths and none, it spans 10 different nationalities, 11 if you count Scouse. Its songs encompass Oshiwambo, Swahili, Lingala, French, Spanish, Welsh and snippets of other languages. The Choir alters as people join and leave, and has been singing for over 10 years.

Local choir bringing fun vibes to this summer evening in Sefton.

Garden Lates | 4pm-6.30pm | Free Event

Garden Lates with Asylum Link Community Choir

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST 2PM - 7PM

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Pop-Up in the Palm House is back with their Summer Market.

here will be food, Pimms bar and live music, alongside some of the best creators from the North of England offering unique produce and artworks. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the makers.

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TUESDAY 28TH 6PM - 7PM

TRANQUIL TUESDAY SOUNDBATH

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This event is donate what you can afford, please make a donation upon arrival to further support the Health and Wellbeing programme at the Palm House.

Summer Sound Series (with Alta Sound) : offers a space to slow down, soften, and reconnect through the restorative power of sound.

Summer often draws us outward - into movement, brightness, busyness, and constant stimulation. These sessions offer a moment to pause within the fullness of the season and gently explore the emotional landscape within.

A blend of ancient wisdom and modern musical theory, sound healing often acts as a sonic massage — using considered, composed sound to guide the body and mind into a deeply restorative state. Through immersive therapeutic sound, you are invited to drop into an altered state of consciousness where the nervous system can settle and the inner world becomes easier to access.

Rather than processing through words or force, sound offers a gentler way to explore thoughts, feelings, and sensations - allowing whatever needs attention to arise naturally.

Each session within the series will softly focus on a different area of the emotional landscape, offering space to explore different themes, feelings, and inner states. The sessions are designed to be experienced either as individual stand-alone journeys or together as a deeper unfolding across the summer weeks.

Held by certified sound healer Alta Sound, each sound bath will include Himalayan and Crystal Singing Bowls, Gong, Voice, Therapeutic Percussion, and Shruti Box - carefully woven together to help you regulate, relax, reconnect, and listen more deeply to yourself.

Come as you are.

Leave feeling softer, clearer, and more grounded.

- A yoga mat, blanket, cushion, eye mask, pillow, duvet - get cosy!

- Water bottle

- If you've never experienced sound healing before and are a little nervous — bring a friend to listen with you!

- Optional: aromatherapy oil

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DOES ANYONE REALLY THINK THAT CLIMATE CHANGE DOES NOT EXIST?

Article by Richard Kemp

As I sat stewing in my back downstairs room, the coolest in the house, a few days ago I wondered, "does anyone really not believe in climate change now?" The hottest weather on record in the early summer and the wettest spring on record must mean something. If it was just one year perhaps it could be classed as an unfortunate set of circumstance but is now year after year. It's affecting the way we behave and in extreme cases is leading to earlier deaths particularly amongst older people and those living in poor housing. Early returns show more than 400 early deaths because of excess heat in continental Europe with a similar pattern in the UK, especially in South and South West of England. Some of the changes are good. We can now buy more and better English wine! But most of the changes are bad. The way that rain is now likely to fall in torrents is causing severe problems in our sewage and ground water removal.

It is now almost 3 years since Mr and Mrs Marco died in a torrential flooding of Queens Drive under the railway bridge with two major floodings that year which could have been expected in either 210 or 240 years. That is the old weather pattern. Some crops on which we depend are more difficult to grow.

Globally the changes in weather patterns are forcing people to move away from traditional areas of agricultural as the rain dries up and the crops totally fail. It is starvation or the threat of it that forces people to migrate and some to become refugees and asylum seekers.

But there is good news around especially in the way that we generate power and reduce our dependency on fossil fuels. This move was already under way. For the first time, renewable energy – solar, wind and hydro – last year overtook coal-fired power as the leading source of electricity, providing a third of the global total. Add nuclear – not renewable, but zero emissions – and the total non-fossil generation was 42%.

Solar energy is expanding at an astonishing pace. It grew 30% in 2025 – the single largest annual increase of any electricity source in history. Battery storage – not an electricity source in its own right but needed as part of a package with variable solar and wind – grew 66% from a lower base.

This is a revolution that we all can and should take part in. Get solar panels or heat pumps. There are grants available for many people to help pay. Use the bus, other types of public transport or walk. Get a smaller car. When people ask, "what difference does one person or family make?" the answer is. "A small contribution to solving the problem." But if we all make small savings, we can safeguard our planet for our children and grandchildren. Remember all these things not only save our climate but also save our purses.



Cllr Richard Kemp CBE, Councillor for Penny Lane, Liverpool Lib Dem Housing Spokesperson

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