

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PARKGATE AND  
DISTRICT SOCIETY MARCH - OCTOBER, 1972

Report and Newsletter of Acting Honorary Secretary

Although my last newsletter came out just two months ago, this is a report of our six months work as well as a newsletter.

In my last newsletter mention was made of a conservation meeting we had hoped to hold in September; however, an extra executive committee meeting had to be convened with Cheshire Conservation Officers and now we hope to hold a full meeting of the Society in November.

The individual events and work of each sub-committee will be dealt with in detail under the report of the relevant sub-committee, but there are a few points relating to the Society as a whole about which I feel you would like to be informed.

Our membership at the moment numbers 276 and as we felt it would further the interests of the Society we have affiliated ourselves to the Wirral Society and the Wirral Green Belt Council and we send a representative to the relevant meetings.

The views of this Society have been invited by the district council and the County Council, particularly with reference to the important decision regarding the Parkgate Conservation Area.

One small point regarding future publicity:- we have decided to have a uniform poster with a red border and 'Parkgate and District Society' written as a heading. This poster will be used for all events with the relevant information printed inside this border. We hope this uniformity will make the posters easily recognisable.

We have felt for some time that there was a need for two extra sub-committees to be concerned with a) Traffic b) Trees. The traffic problem in Parkgate has been apparent for some time and we hope that by working with Cheshire Council a new traffic sub-committee may be able to provide some solutions.

The conservation and planting of trees in Parkgate was one of our original aims. The formation of a tree sub-committee will help support and maintain these aims which embraced not only the protection and conservation of existing trees, but also the planting of new trees in Parkgate.

This is the last newsletter from your current Honorary Secretary. All the committee members who have served for the last six months are willing to serve again with the exception of the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary, both of whom are moving from the district.

## Report of the Historical Sub-Committee

On the historical side Olive Wilcox and Hylde Wall Jones are gathering material for a book about Parkgate. The more we delve into its history the more we find is yet to be uncovered, which should add to the interest of the book which we hope to publish some time next year. (Needless to say, if any members have helpful information we shall be more than pleased to hear from them)

The OLD PARKGATE project showed photos, prints and documents relevant to the history. The exhibition was held at The Boathouse on August 1st and 2nd by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Bassett. This display created tremendous interest and hundreds of people visited it,

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some making two or three visits and others coming from a distance. The press gave us excellent coverage even though there was a newspaper strike immediately before. B.B.C. Radio Merseyside came over, interviewed and put out an interesting recording on the Thursday. They have promised to give the Society the tape.

To those who thought the exhibition should have been extended to a week; we would point out that the responsibility for the many uninsurable exhibits, i.e. the old family photographs, was a real anxiety. Had they been lost, a visual part of Parkgate's history would have been lost too. It was a great success, however, and the Society is indebted to all the people who loaned us their valuable exhibits and to professional artist, Mr. David Scott, who helped us so much in the setting up of the display.

## Report of Dee Crossing Sub-Committee

Shortly after the public meeting appointing the provisional executive committee of the Parkgate Society, it was found that Neston U.D.C. were to discuss proposals from Cheshire County Council regarding the proposed Dee crossing.

The Committee wrote to Neston U.D.C., with copies to other interested parties in Cheshire, explaining our opposition to a Gayton-Greenfield crossing because of the adverse effect it would have on Parkgate.

This letter was followed by a general meeting of the Society which, you will recall, was held at Neston Town Hall on Monday, the 17th of April. The members present unanimously supported the point of view taken by your committee after we had heard a most interesting talk on the subject by a member of Cheshire County Planning Department.

We wrote to Cheshire County Council informing them of our members' views in time for them to be considered at their Council meeting, which decided to recommend to the Ministry of Environment the Burton-Flint crossing and reject the Gayton-Greenfield crossing. The Ministry have postponed their decision on the Dee Estuary scheme until the Water Resources Board report has been published in the early part of next year. The Sub-Committee, therefore, now has to wait until this report is published before we can take any further action.

## Report of the Conservation Sub Committee

Following the public meeting of the Society earlier this year the Chairman of this committee visited the Planning Officer of Cheshire County Council who is in charge of the Parkgate area. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the information necessary for Parkgate to become a Conservation Area.

The main conclusion of this meeting was for the Society to define the area we thought should become the Conservation Area. The executive committee met the officer at a meeting in July when our suggestions were finally agreed upon. These were to include 'the front', roughly from the old swimming pool on the North West side, to the end of the sea wall on the South East side. (This would include properties inland from the front but not as far inland as the Wirral Way. The main approaches to Parkgate were thought to be particularly important and so a strip up to Earl Drive was included; also Boathouse Lane, up to and including the houses of Leighton. The latter was for historical reasons, but also since any development bordering would be most unfortunate for Parkgate and for the view of the estuary which can be observed from this road.

The initial report from Cheshire County designating the area and giving the objectives of the Conservation policy's development control was also considered following publication in April this year.

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A further progress meeting was held earlier in September when two officers of Cheshire Council's planning department met the executive committee again to give a progress report on the Conservation report. The detail and some sketches of local buildings were shown to the committee and we were informed that the report would be ready for approval by the Cheshire Planning Committee on 28th September, 1972.

The committee during the last few months have carried out individual surveys of our area and tabulated this information. This will be invaluable for the work to be carried out following the publication of the report.

## Report of the Litter Sub-Committee

On April 23rd, the foreshore of Parkgate was cleaned up. Members, voluntary organisations and the Council helped to clear one hundred tons of accumulated rubbish and debris. Since that time temporary litter bins have been placed along the front. For one month afterwards they were emptied by the Countryside Rangers of the Wirral Country Park as an exercise in litter control to determine the source and contents of the litter. These bins are now being emptied by the Council.

Since this time the four members of the litter sub-committee have cleared the foreshore approximately once every month.

We have placed notices in the local shops and similar notices on the litter bins along the front urging people to 'Please keep Parkgate clean' with the name of our Society underneath. These are, we hope, tasteful notices and ones of which we hope people will take notice.

There are many places in Parkgate which have an individual litter problem; the Council, for instance, have been asked verbally if they could place some receptacle in Park's Fields, and also if they would contain the road rubbish which is burnt daily in the public car park behind the toilets. So far a large oil drum has been provided for the car park rubbish, but the condition of Park's fields, especially at the entrance gate, remains unfortunately unchanged.

The design for the new litter bins along Parkgate front is under way, and we hope soon to see the prototype. The design of these bins will, of course, be conditional upon acceptance under the ruling relating to Conservation Areas.

A report is shortly to be sent to the Council which will encompass the litter problem for the whole of Parkgate.

One of our forthcoming meetings will be concerned with the litter problem, and we hope the talk and film will encourage responsible people to help Parkgate become tidy and attractive.

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