

# Parkgate Society Newsletter

Number 23

Autumn 1982

Chairman	HO Vollers	336 1359
Vice-chairman	GW Place	336 2891
Secretary	Mrs AM Clarke	336 1069
Treasurer	EPD Taylor	336 4321

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please put these dates in your diary !

→ Monday, 11th October, at the Boat House  
at 7.30 pm, the Annual General Meeting, followed by  
at 8 pm, Mr E.L.Knowles will show his own

### LOCAL FILMS

Eric Knowles has been filming the local scene, to a very high standard, for many years; his latest film, made this summer, is about Parkgate.

→ Monday, 8th November, 8 pm at the Boat House  
Mr C.M.Thornton, Curator of the Williamson Art Gallery:

### HOW TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

→ Monday, 6th December, 8 pm at the Boat House  
Mr M.J.Heighton, who lives in Parkgate, will describe

### The MERSEYSIDE MARITIME MUSEUM

of which he is the Director.

If anyone needs TRANSPORT to reach our meetings,  
do ring Mrs Clarke at 336 1069

The Society will mount an exhibition in Neston Library between 20th December and 9th January, as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Library building.

Members may be interested to know that on 30th October, at Ness Gardens, there will be a day conference on

### The FAMILY in HISTORY

from 10 am to 5 pm. It is organized by Liverpool University and hosted by the Burton & South Wirral Local History Society. Two professional historians (one at least is a most entertaining speaker) will speak in the morning. In the afternoon a series of short papers will be presented by members of local history societies. The cost is £3 (half this for Senior Citizens) and details will be available at our next meeting or from GW Place.

If you have not yet paid your SUBSCRIPTION for 1982, please do so to Mrs Place, Pendmore, Station Road, Parkgate. The rates are only £1 for single or family membership, and 50p for Senior Citizens.



### Our Tenth Birthday Party

Thanks to the great generosity of David and Mary Ann McCaig, who threw open their garden and their energies for us, despite the fact that they were moving house a week later, our tenth birthday celebrations were a considerable success. About fifty came for tea in the afternoon; over seventy for the barbecue in the evening, We aimed to cover expenses rather than to make a profit, but we were able to send £10 to the South Atlantic Fund.

Our dramatisation of Olive Dehn's story 'The Price of Shrimps' was received with great kindness, although it must have been obvious that we had had only a single afternoon's rehearsal. It was certainly fun for the cast, and we are especially grateful to the younger members who so willingly took part. Leonard Walker took some photographs of the play and the tea party: they will be displayed at our meeting on 11th October (some will be used in our Neston Library display) and we can get extra prints if any members want them.

Mary Ann McCaig, who has brought her own inimitable style and eagerness to our Society's activities, has now moved with her family to Devon. We have presented her with an engraved goblet from Meadow Glass as a memento of her stay in Parkgate and a token of the Society's appreciation.

### Trees for St Thomas' churchyard

The appearance of Mostyn Square has recently been altered by the loss through Dutch elm disease of a number of trees in the churchyard. We enquired whether a gift of new trees would be acceptable: it would, and we have now offered to pay for new trees to the value of £60. The reply from the secretary of the Parish Church Council said, "I have been asked to express our gratitude to the Parkgate Society for such a handsome gift which will go a very long way to enhancing the churchyard at St Thomas', and we hope will give much pleasure to all the residents and visitors to Parkgate."

The actual details of what trees shall be planted, where and when, are of course not up to the Society, but will be decided by those responsible for the churchyard.

### Our Other Meetings

We heard a talk about the Clwyd Theatre which, despite an unusual start (no speaker !) turned out in the end to be entertaining. Our next speaker gave a most proficient account of the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port.

In May, Geoffrey Place resumed his series of talks on Parkgate's history with a description of some of the far-reaching changes which took place in the 19th century village. In June he led a guided walk round the Neston Conservation Area. Incidentally, the Neston Civic Society is actively preparing a guide to Neston which will be based on that walk.

### Our new Greetings Cards

Many members will already have seen these cards, which will be on sale at all our meetings. There are four designs, taken from drawings in 'This is Parkgate', printed on card of four colours, so that there are sixteen variations altogether. No message has been printed inside, so that the cards can be used for all occasions.

The cards cost 10p each, with a 10% discount if 20 or more are bought, and a 25% discount if 100 are bought.



Election of the Committee

The existing officers and committee members of the Society are willing to serve again, with the exception of Mrs McCaig who has left the district. In her place, Muriel Tinker has been co-opted during the summer and is now proposed for election.

Our Constitution lays down that, "Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by proposer and seconder and the consent of the nominee must first have been obtained."

Any nominations should therefore be sent to the Secretary (Mrs AM Clarke, Sea View, The Parade, Parkgate) by September 27th.

Those already nominated are: Chairman, HO Vollers; Vice-chairman, GW Place; Secretary, Mrs AM Clarke; Treasurer, EPD Taylor. Those nominated as Committee members are: Mrs DP Britt, SC Edwards, ADJ Grenfell, Mrs V Place, Miss M Tinker, DL Walker, Mrs H Wall-Jones.

The AGM on October 11th will start at 7.30 pm, and there will be a pause between the Society's business and Mr Knowles' films at 8 pm, in case you prefer to come for the films only.

Activities

Our contribution to the flower festival at St Thomas' was to decorate the pulpit, another of the tasks undertaken for us by Mrs McCaig. Now that she has left, if any of our members would enjoy doing some flower arranging occasionally on our behalf, do please let us know.

Our chairman has not only managed to replace the missing plaque from the Jubilee seat on South Parade, he has also mended a broken bar on a seat on the Donkey Stand. On our behalf, too, he attended a Civic Trust seminar on how to tackle the Local Authority ! Other committee members have represented the Society at the Parkgate Primary School's Summer Fair, and at the 'Scoutaround' on Parks Field.

As usual, local planning applications have been referred to the Society for our comments, and we have represented local opinion on proposed changes at the Old Quay public house, at Chompers, and at the Porthole restaurant (formerly the Marie Celeste).

Dee Wildfowler

The story of Harold Gill, Parkgate resident and lifelong wildfowler, has just been published under this title and is well worth reading. The only drawback is that a good map, which explains the many placenames mentioned in the text, is essential (as this Society pointed out when the manuscript was first circulated). Unfortunately the poor map which has been provided has some of the most important names lost in the binding. Nevertheless, the book is of great interest.

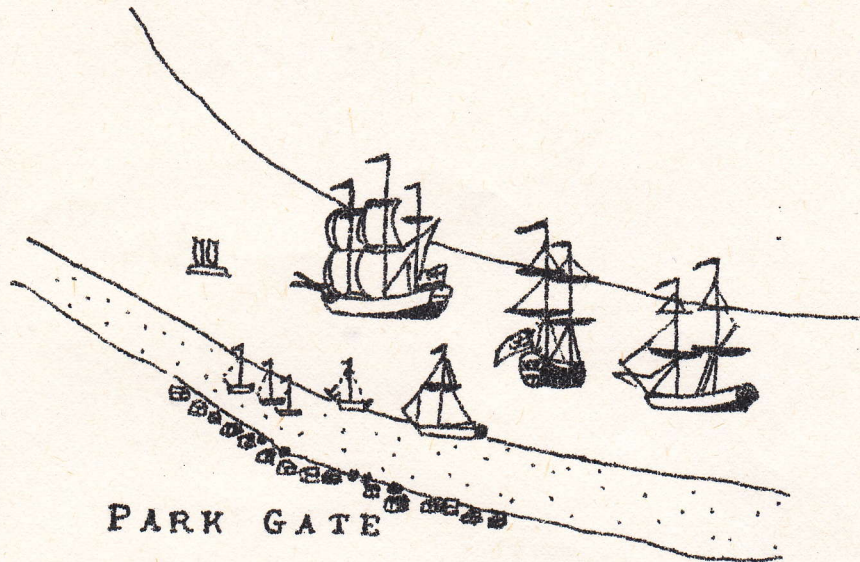
We were less pleased to see that the exhibition on the Shipping in the River Dee, which the Grosvenor Museum in Chester has been staging this summer, was riddled with inaccuracies so far as Parkgate is concerned. We have pointed them out, of course.

On the plus side, many members will have seen that a squad has been repointing the sea wall, a task originally suggested by this Society to the Manpower Services Commission. We are also delighted to see that, at long last, the footpath from Moorside Lane to the Old Quay House, along the old shoreline, has had some firm footing provided at the muddier places.

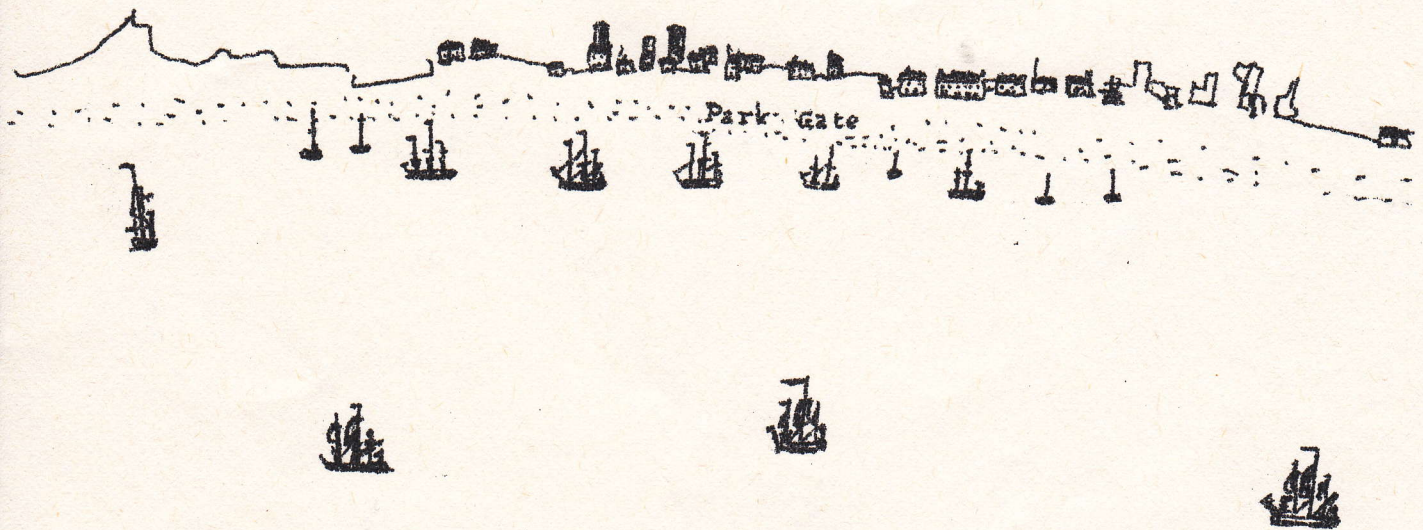


Ships at Parkgate

These two drawings from maps made in the eighteenth century give some idea of the view from Parkgate in the shipping days. Notice in the lower picture that there was no roadway, no sea wall and no landing stage in Parkgate then: the houses gave directly on to the shore.



From Thomas Boydell's Plan of the Lands of the River Dee Company, 1770 and 1771



Ships on the Parkgate shore, from the Mostyn estate map, 1732