

# Parkgate Society Newsletter

Number 27

Autumn 1984

President	JR Cochrane	
Chairman	GW Place	336 2891
Vice-chairman	SC Edwards	336 1190
Secretary	Mrs AM Clarke	336 1069
Treasurer	EPD Taylor	336 4321

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please put these dates in your diary !

→ Sunday, 16th September, 2.30 pm. Meet at the Wheatsheaf in Raby for a GUIDED WALK round RABY, led by Clive Edwards.

If you missed Clive's very interesting walk in June, here is your chance to join the repeat performance.

→ Monday, 15th October, at the Parkgate Hotel.

At 7.30 pm, the Annual General Meeting, followed by at 8 pm, BURTON in WIRRAL, a talk by Edward Hilditch.

Edward is Chairman of the Burton & South Wirral Local History Society and one of the authors of their highly acclaimed book on the history of the village.

→ Monday, 12th November, 8 pm at the Parkgate Hotel,

The FURNITURE COLLECTION at the LADY LEVER ART GALLERY will be described for us by Lucy Wood.

→ Monday, 3rd December, starting at 7.30 pm,

A CONCERT by the SCHOOL CHOIR in the CHAPEL of MOSTYN HOUSE SCHOOL

The choir, who have sung in the cathedrals of Chester, Carlisle and Liverpool this year, will entertain us from their repertoire, directed by their choirmaster, David French. Their organist, Philip Benbow, who is a member of the Society, has promised to play some solo organ pieces while the choir regains its breath. The audience will have the opportunity to join in some carols.

Please note the earlier time. If you arrive by car, enter the school grounds opposite Neston Cricket Club and you will see the chapel at the end of the drive. You will find its entrance on its right-hand side.

You may also enter the school building through the door on the Parade immediately next to the Ship Hotel. There will be stewards to take you from this door to the chapel, between 7 pm and 7.30 pm. After 7.30 pm this door has to be locked.

The Mayor, Councillor Norman Angel, has kindly consented to be present.

Coffee will be available after the concert.

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

Distant Early Warning

We shall be holding a CHEESE and WINE PARTY on Monday, 21st January 1985 at Brooke House, The Parade, Parkgate. We hope that Racster Dingwall (who was kept from us last year by illness) will be able to entertain us on that day.

You will receive a letter just after Christmas, giving the details.

Our Meeting Place

No longer shall we be meeting at the Boat House, which has been sold. Mrs Clarke has given the staff there a small token of our gratitude for the warm welcome we have always received since we started meeting at the Boat House in 1978.

Peter Barnes, who sold the Boat House and has acquired the Parkgate Hotel, has most generously invited the Society to follow him, thus returning in fact to our first meeting place. At the AGM on 15th October we hope to present Mr Barnes with a tangible expression of our thanks for his kindness.

Meanwhile, the Boat House will be refurbished with a new image and menu intended to appeal to a younger (but adult!) clientele. Have no fear, though: the new owners, the brewers Tetley Walker, have taken the trouble to arrange a meeting with some of this Society's officers and show us their plans. No alterations are proposed for the outside, except for a bit of colour (and we have advised against splashing on too much of that!) and the internal design promises to be attractive. We feel encouraged that the new owners seem sensitive to local opinion.

Yes, Minister

The second round in our attempt to improve the parking situation on the approach to the Old Quay corner started with a letter to the Ministry of Transport to find out why we may not have yellow lines (to warn motorists they can't park) as well as double white lines, which prevent overtaking but also carry an oft-neglected prohibition on parking. We received a most helpful response from the Ministry which explained the position in detail. In short, the law does permit both types of line together (contrary to advice given at this end) although the Ministry recommends against the mixture.

We have been monitoring the parking on this stretch throughout the summer, and if we think the evidence justifies another approach to the Highways Committee, we shall try again.

Discussions

In our last Newsletter we reported some very helpful conversations between the committee and a number of people whose ideas may be of value to Parkgate. These discussions have continued. Geoff Topp, our retiring councillor, explained a variety of local government procedures and policies to us. We have found him a great help during his years on the council, and we earnestly hope that he will retain a forceful interest in the local scene. To this end, we have invited him to join our committee.

Our current councillor, Mrs Brenda Dowding, has also been very helpful in discussing our queries and problems, and in making enquiries on our behalf.

Our most important of these meetings has discussed the possibilities of a Visitors' Centre at Parkgate. The chance to establish one is still distant and vague - perhaps it will remain so - and we can claim no more at present than an attempt to focus the idea in receptive minds. To this end we arranged, with the help of the Director of Cheshire's Countryside and Recreation department, a discussion which included representatives of our own Borough Council's planning department, of Wirral Borough Council (for the Wirral Country Park), the County Council, the Civic Trust, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. We are grateful to all these people for their interest and good advice.

We hope we may have clarified the issues and possibilities a little. This is a long-term project to which we shall apply some discreet pressure at intervals.

### Littoral Litter (shorely not !)

Sorry, but one has to try to joke about this seemingly intractable problem.

On 2nd June we organised a clean-up of the marsh along the sea wall, prompted by the generous offer by a member of the Society of a lorry and driver. We are grateful not only for the lorry but for the considerable help provided by the local Cub packs. We are ready enough to organise these sorties against the besieging litter, but we are aware that our long-suffering members have grown rather tired of picking up other people's discards, year after year, with no observable improvement. One answer, we have often hoped, would be to persuade the local authority to accept some responsibility for the appearance of the foreshore. We have an idea on this head, and we are discreetly pushing it.

Another point we have constantly pushed over the years is our need for more litter bins of a design suited to a conservation area as well as a windy and seagull-frequented spot. Recently that chunky concrete bin appeared outside the Post Office. While welcoming the spirit of the provision, we could only sympathise with the councillor who called the bright yellow bin "an environmental monstrosity, revolting and objectionable". Its monstrous aspect was made worse by the refusal of the council's workmen to empty the new bins. Councillor Mrs Dowding is in full accord with us on this subject, and is working at it.

### Our Friends

The appearance of the book "Burton in Wirral, a History" (which is very good, by the way) has given us an opportunity to thank some of our friends who have supported us with generous assistance for many years. We have presented copies of the book to Mr and Mrs Jarvis, who have gone to much trouble to sell our publications at the Wirral Country Park centre, Thurstaston; to Mr Williams at the Green Bottle, and to both Thomas families at Nicholl's, for their selfless kindness in selling hundreds of copies of our guide books and other productions.

Similarly we hope to acknowledge Mr Barnes' goodwill in generously providing us with a meeting place at the Boat House for six years, and from now on at the Parkgate Hotel.

Photographs for Clatterbridge

The photos of local scenes given for the benefit of elderly patients at Clatterbridge, has evoked this letter from Sister J.M.Freeman:

On behalf of us all on Richmond Ward I should like to thank you for the photographs. They are exactly what we hoped for and we are all most impressed by them.

Already some of the patients have shown interest in them and have recognised some of the areas.

We intend to frame the photographs so that they will be both decorative and therapeutic. They've also helped to make the ward look more homely.

Problems

It has been a quiet season for planning applications, and our negotiating muscles have been mainly exercised in response to problems of car parking and late-night rowdyism at both ends of the village. Our experience suggests to us that such difficulties are rarely solved over night, but must be monitored constantly.

We hope that the new car parking space at the Parkgate Hotel, together with the evident good intentions of the management, will ease the nuisance caused to nearby residents. We were able to help in getting the police to tackle tiresome revellers.

At the south end of Parkgate, the police tell us that they have caught quite a lot of motorcyclists for speeding (as well, alas, as some residents - one can't have everything !); but our patience with this problem may soon be rewarded. We understand that Whitbread's may shortly decide that the motorbike trade has not created enough business, and that the Old Quay should look up-market at least a little. This answer to our hopes and urgings, if it comes about, will be very welcome.

As foreseen in our last issue, the plaque on the Society's jubilee seat on the Parade in front of the Old Quay inn has been replaced, as immoveably as possible, by Mr G.Cain. We are very grateful to him.

Our Meetings

In March we heard about the International Garden Festival in Liverpool. Although the talk itself was rather disappointing, many members will know by now that the reality is not only much better than we might then have feared, but well worth a visit.

By contrast, Professor Broadbent's talk in April about horticulture through the ages, called 'Gardening since Eden', was widely acclaimed as a great success.

Our May meeting set before us the ways in which Neston and Parkgate entered the modern age. Geoffrey Place explained how the cholera epidemic of 1866 led to the beginnings of local government, piped water, drainage and, as a necessary but much-hated evil, rates.

In June, as already reported, Clive Edwards organised a clean-up of the foreshore, and later led a walk round Raby which was very well attended.

### Sundries

The Society has subscribed to the North West Buildings Trust. This offshoot of the Civic Trust finds money to buy historic buildings at risk, restore them and sell them, so releasing funds for the next venture. It has attempted nothing so far in our own area beyond enquiring about Pear Tree Cottage in Raby; but it seems a cause worthy of our support and perhaps one day we may welcome its help.

The United Reformed Church in Parkgate Road celebrated the centenary of that building, and the Society provided a small display as part of an exhibition of local interest.

Our secretary, Angela Clarke, has had a meeting with the local Community Project Officer of the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

### The Annual General Meeting

The present officers and committee members of the Society are willing to serve again, and offer themselves for re-election. In addition Geoff Topp, who has just completed seven years as Borough Councillor for Parkgate, has been nominated 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 30th.

Those already nominated are: GW Place (Chairman), SC Edwards (Vice-chairman), Mrs AM Clarke (Secretary), EPD Taylor (Treasurer); Mrs DP Britt, JCM Davies, ADJ Grenfell, Mrs V Place, MS Potts, Miss M Tinker, GA Topp, DL Walker.

The AGM on October 15th will start at 7.30 pm, and there will be a pause between the Society's business and Mr Hilditch's talk, in case you prefer to come for the talk only at 8 pm.

### Money Matters

Do remember, as the Christmas card season approaches, that the Society still has a stock of our own Greetings Cards, showing drawings of Parkgate on variously coloured backgrounds, at only 10p each with discount for quantity. Buy some at our next meeting.

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 1984, our Membership Secretary (Mrs V Place, Pendmore, Station Road, Parkgate) will gladly relieve you of £1 for single or family membership, or 50p for Senior Citizens.

### Tailpiece

In 1870 the Local Board arranged for notices banning bathing on the foreshore between the South Slip and the Boathouse Inn, "there having been many a complaint made by visitors, who naturally objected to have bathers disporting themselves right under their windows." This may have been because it was still common for men to bathe naked in 1870.