



Parkgate Society

Newsletter 35

Autumn 1988

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

OUR FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

Monday, 24th October, at the Parkgate Hotel, followed by
at 7.30 pm, the Annual General Meeting, followed by
at 8 pm, an illustrated talk by Bill Davies,

STAINED GLASS

There will be a pause between the AGM and Mr Davies' talk, so that you need not come for both if you do not wish to. Mr Davies has his own stained glass works and also designs windows.

Monday, 21st November, 8 pm at the Parkgate Hotel,

CHESTER CATHEDRAL

will be described by a representative of the cathedral staff, Can Bidell.

Monday, 16th January, 8 pm at the Parkgate Hotel,

at a joint meeting with our friend from Neston and Burton, Professor Broadbent will wage

CHEMICAL WARFARE in the GARDEN

Everybody who heard Leonard Broadbent's stimulating talk on the history of gardening will be eager to hear this talk.

If you need TRANSPORT to attend our meetings, do ring Mrs Clarke, 336 1069

Of course, you must have paid your subscription for 1988 months ago: but in case you haven't, the subscription rates are still only

Single or family membership £2

Senior Citizens (single or family) £1

Your subscription should be paid to our Membership Secretary, Mrs V. Place, Pendmore, Station Road, Parkgate.

Geoff. Topp, who has produced the last two Newsletters, now finds that pressure of work prevents him from continuing. We hope that he will nevertheless remain on the Committee, where his experience and advice are greatly valued.

Mostyn Square

Now that our Saxon Stones project is over, we have been wondering where else we can spend money to advantage. Our eye has fallen on Mostyn Square, where the bus shelter in particular looks a mess. While the responsibility for some of the mess can be laid at the door of the council, we feel that the Society's funds can properly be used to help improve the scene. So we suggested to the council that if they were to repair and repaint the shelter, we would pay for some other improvements.

We would like to see these things done:

1. Inside the bus shelter there is a large, ugly, drawn-on and quite useless noticeboard. We want it removed.
2. Inside the shelter there is a bench, damaged, which is absurdly close to the ground. We want this replaced with a sound bench at a normal height.
3. The window is made of odd panes of glass, some of which are not fully transparent which, we think, might invite danger. We want the window to be reglazed with transparent, toughened glass.
4. The wooden parts of the shelter badly need repainting, not in the prevailing dirty cream, but in white.
5. The broken remains of a seat to the left of the shelter should be removed.

All these things are, we feel, the responsibility of the council. For our part, we offered:

6. To pay for a seat to go immediately in front of the shelter.
7. To pay for a litter bin to go beside the shelter - and while we are at it, for a second one to go on the Parade, in front of the Old Quay inn.

After discussions with the Planning Department, it emerged that it would be simpler to ask that all these things should be included in next year's budget, and to offer a sum of money from the Society's funds towards the total cost.

We have offered £500, and must now wait and see. These things take time !

In the course of all this, we found that some bright red posts have been planted round the public lavatories. It seems these are to preserve the structure from encroaching cars, and we have to put up with them. Perhaps we can get them painted white rather than red !

Our Treasurer

If you have not heard already, you will be sorry to learn that Mr Peter Taylor, our long-serving treasurer, has been in hospital. We earnestly hope that he will be with us again in due course: he is now home again and on the mend.

Meanwhile our vice-chairman, Clive Edwards, has gamely stepped into the breach and has prepared the accounts for the AGM.

Our Meetings

At our March meeting we heard about the British Nuclear Fuels processes at Capenhurst, together with a brisk resume of how nuclear energy produces electricity.

In April a scientist from Bidston Observatory described to us the research into tides which was pioneered there and which still continues despite constant amalgamations with other seats of learning.

Our meeting in May, at which we should have heard about shire horses in Merseyside, was a damp squib because no speaker appeared, with or without a horse. It transpired that the speaker who originally agreed to come from the Merseyside Heritage Trust had left that organisation; they found a replacement who did not take the precaution of asking how to reach Parkgate. We put on an impromptu 'Any Questions' about Parkgate and then went home. At that moment, of course, the speaker appeared.

In our last Newsletter the editorial was critical of those representatives of the tourist industry who would like to impose a 'Leisure Water Centre' on Parkgate; and recently we learn that our Council has been lobbied on behalf of yet another such scheme. At one of our meetings Mr Cox, who is a member of this Society, displayed his own suggestion for a lagoon widened from the existing gully, and his plans attracted considerable interest. Mr Cox's ideas, in agreeable contrast to those which would impose more concrete than water on the Parkgate front, have the virtues of modesty and common sense.

The view of the committee of this Society, as expressed to the officers of the Council on several occasions, is that we would like to see certain improvements at the foot of the swa wall; notably a solution to the vexed problems of ownership of this strip of foreshore, improved drainage both from the roadway and from the outlets in the wall itself so that water does not run down the wall nor gather at its base, and (as a result of improved drainage) a stable, grassy area at the foot of the wall which it would be attractive to walk on.

We believe that the attraction of Parkgate for those who enjoy its outlook is the vast horizon and the sense of untamed space. We should be sorry to see any development which would enclose our view or make the foreshore artificial rather than natural.

The Saxon Stones Project

The total cost of displaying these Viking cross fragments in Neston parish church was £634, and would have been much more but for the generous gifts of time and labour made to us. The County of Cheshire paid £500 of this from its archaeology and historic buildings funds. The rest of the cost was split between ourselves and the Neston Civic Society, our share being £66, a great deal less than we expected to pay.

The display of mounted stones, with an explanatory placard nearby, is both attractive and interesting. Go and see the oldest man-made objects in Neston !

THE NESTON AND PARKGATE LAUNDRY AND CLEANING CO. LTD.

which Washes or Cleans all sorts of Clothes
very Quickly, very Cheaply and very well

[RING UP "LAUNDRY, 20 NESTON," AND ASK FOR PRICES OF ANY WORK]

wishing to welcome to Parkgate

**MONS. H. SALMET AND HIS MONOPLANE
ON JULY 8TH, 1914,**

has much pleasure in offering

ONE FOUR-GUINEA FLIGHT.

for Ballet amongst

**ITS STAFF OF EIGHTY EMPLOYEES
AND VISITORS TO THE FLYING EXHIBITION PROMOTED
BY THE CHESHIRE AUTOMOBILE CLUB.**

---o---

*Tout le monde sait qu'en WIRRAL on fabrique de bons
Savons; nous autres savons bien les employer.*

---o---

Fill up this Coupon, and hand it to one of the Gatekeepers
before 5-0 p.m., when the draw will take place at
the Tea Tent on the Flying Ground.

J. SMITH, Managing Director.

TEAR OFF HERE

Parkgate Airport

In 1914 a French aviator called Henri Salmot was employed by the Daily Mail, both to demonstrate the new art of flying and to advertise the newspaper. His plane, a Bleriot-Gnome monoplane, had 'Daily Mail' on the underside of the wings. The plane was housed in a large tent on Parks Field, from which Salmot took paying passengers up for a short flight.

The Neston & Parkgate Laundry, which until the 1950s had premises along Old Quay Lane, offered this chance to take the air, greeting the Frenchman with a French pun!

The Annual General Meeting

Our Constitution requires that 'Nominations for the election of officers shall be made in writing at least fourteen 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 October 9th. The present officers and committee members are willing to serve again, and offer themselves for re-election. They are: GW Place (Chairman), SC Edwards (Vice-chairman), Mrs AM Clarke (Secretary), EPD Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs S Britt, Mrs V Place, MS Potts, Mrs S Synge, Miss M Tinker, GA Po... DL Walker.

If you don't want to come to the AGM at 7.30 on 24th October, it is quite in order to come only for the talk at 8 pm.

Flying the Flag

As usual, your Committee has been kept busy studying planning applications and in many small ways keeping an eye on Parkgate's interests; for example, the wooden sign announcing Parkgate on Boathouse Lane needs to be revarnished, and we have asked the Wirral Country Park officers to do that in the autumn.

We manned tables at both the Cricket Club carnival on 19 June and the Town Hall festival fair on 10 September. Although we rarely raise many new members directly on such occasions, we feel it is important to keep our name and purpose in the public eye.

This Society participated with two others in presenting an illustrated talk on 'Victorian Neston' in the Civic Hall on 14 September, when Geoffrey Place shared the platform with Edward Hilditch. At least two hundred people came to hear us, and it was gratifying that so many people should show such interest in our heritage. The audience themselves suggested an imprompty collection to buy something, possibly trees, to commemorate the centenary of Neston's Town Hall: the Neston Civic Society will administer this gift.

Our Secretary, Angela Clarke, was one of several local people interviewed for an article about the Parkgate foreshore in the September issue of 'Cheshire Life'. It is a well-written article of the kind which will, we hope, encourage people to value the present attractions of Parkgate rather than try to turn it into something quite different.

Finally, your Chairman is likely to be presenting Parkgate on television again, so keep an eye on the Granada programmes on Sundays in the early evening.

Tailpiece

In September 1842 Mr John Rigby brought 'his beautiful new steamer The Lapwing to anchor opposite the Mostyn Arms Hotel' and invited the regatta committee on board for wine. A regatta was an annual event at Parkgate from 1827. The last one was held in 1921, and ended hurriedly by the fact that it rained on regatta day in both its final two years.

The year after Mr Rigby's visit, a Dee Yacht Club was founded at Parkgate in 1843 and continued to meet here until 1872.