

PARKGATE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

No. 5

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1974

Walton Sign

We are pleased to report that our efforts to ensure the removal of the Walton Development Company's overbearing sign in Boathouse Lane have now met with success. The company was successfully prosecuted and fined, and the notice removed. We regret to report, however, that the company failed to remove the sign's Super Structure, so that although the offending board has now disappeared it leaves an ugly reminder that development companies are like old soldiers - they never die; they just fade away, and will surely reappear as soon as they believe the climate to be right. We in the Society must ensure that the climate remains "too darn hot".

Litter

The highest tides for some years along the Estuary have also left their visiting cards - massive logs, planks and barrels drums, cases and boxes have been washed up along the shore, and must be cleared as soon as possible. We have decided that it would be prudent to wait until the high tides abate before embarking on a clearance, but we will shortly announce our usual litter attack and will be looking to members to assist. Some members, clearly aware of the difference the afternoon's work makes to Parkgate, turn up regularly, and we are most grateful to them, but we urgently need other helpers - there's always plenty to do, and the more people, the better. Send the kids along if you can't make it; just make sure they (and you) wear old clothes and wellington boots. It's lots of fun for everyone who helps, and when you see the tons of litter moved, there's a real satisfaction to be gained at the end of a couple of hours work.

We now have a new litter organising chairman, Martin Morrison (336 - 4319). Thanks to David Ellis who has held the job to date, and best wishes to Martin.

Help!

On the subject of participation it's not just your brawn the Society's keen to harness; believe it or not, your brain could come in handy too! If you have any skill in legal, architectural, building, planning or any similar fields connected with local government please let us know. A call to our Secretary Angela Clarke (336 - 1069) would suffice, just so we know where we can beg some advice or assistance from time to time. If the Society is to stay as active as it currently is, it has to have regular transfusions of new blood. Unfortunately, some committee members leave the district, or find other pressures intruding and we are looking for committee level help all the time. Experience is not required our only qualification is enthusiasm.

Society Officers' Books.

Not seriously, but just a reminder that subscriptions are shortly due, and should be paid on the enclosed form to the Treasurer. Last year was a disaster from a Subscription point of view, we took far too long collecting, and our income suffered as a result. A Bankers Order form is now enclosed to enable you to cope with the subscription bore once and for all; just complete and return to the Treasurer, Peter Taylor at the address shown. Please use the Bankers Order if possible, they enable us to save a great deal of time and effort chasing small amounts from individual members.

And introduce a friend! Remember the more members the Society represents the stronger its voice. We are already forging contacts in the new Ellesmere Port Authority, but we are inevitably less well represented than in the days of the Neston U.D.C., and our size will be important in ensuring that our views are taken properly into account.

Sic transit gloria?

With the emergence of the new district Authority we regret

to observe the departure of our old local Authority, the Neston Urban District Council. Regret, because despite the inevitable differences which arose between us from time to time the Society has enjoyed a fruitful and cordial relationship with the Council, both members and permanent officials. We are particularly indebted to the latter, and wish Mr. Price the clerk, and his staff and colleagues success in their new appointments.

Library Donation

The Society received a donation from Mrs. D. Jellicoe of Parkgate of a pair of beautiful engravings of the architects' designs submitted a hundred years ago, for Neston Parish Church. We are most grateful to Mrs. Jellicoe, and to David Scott, who restored them and reframed them for us. As we have no permanent offices ourselves, we have arranged for the pictures to be lent to the Neston Library where they are now on display. They are worth a close look.

A Stroll through Parkgate

How many members have already seen the really superb brochure produced by the Society which so vividly recalls the origins and history of Parkgate, and contains such splendid pen drawings by Tony Meyers. The narrative was produced initially by Olive Wilcox and Hilda Wall-Jones, subsequently assisted by Geoffrey Plaice. All three worked diligently in amassing an immense amount of material, only a small proportion of which is contained in the brochure, and we should all be most grateful to them. They are on sale now, price 10p at Nichols, on the Parade, and are selling well, but contact Mrs. Wall-Jones (336 2420) if you can't find one, and she will arrange to get one for you.

We are particularly indebted to Cheshire County Council and its Countryside Officer and Committee, who arranged for us to be able to finance the project. On current sales performance, we should have no difficulty whatever in making the brochure pay for itself - the best tribute to the professionalism of those who produced it.

An Invitation

All members are invited to attend a wine and cheese party at the chairman's house Brooke House, The Parade, Parkgate, at 8.00 pm on Saturday 6th April to meet other members, and in particular, members of the committee, all of whom will be there. Quite informal, but could you please let us know in advance if you would like to come. Just ring Angela Clarke, (336 1069) or Vicky Norris (336 1494).

We will be asking everyone who comes to let us have 25p a head to cover costs, so that those who can't make it aren't paying for those who can!

If you should be unable to get about easily without transport, let either of the girls know, and we will arrange a lift.

Tuesday 11th June - Tatton Park

We are organising a visit to the beautiful Cheshire Statelysthome of the Egerton family during azalea and rhododendron time, Tuesday 11th June. We would propose to travel from Mostyn Square by coach, leaving at 1.00 pm (after an early lunch) and returning about 7.00 pm or 8.00 pm. Tea and refreshments are available at Tatton Park. Weekdays aren't crowded, and the gardens are quite magnificent, so this should be a particularly enjoyable trip.

Cost - £1.00 per head, including transport and entrance. Use the form below to let us know whether you can make it - but please try to come.

Steve Norris
Chairman.