

PARKGATE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

Chairman:	J.R. Cochrane	336-2378
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. H. Wall-Jones	336-2420
Secretary:	Mrs. A. Clarke	336-1069

NEWSLETTER NO.8

Spring 1975

"THE ORIGINS OF PARKGATE"
TALK BY MR. G.W. PLACE
THURSDAY, 17TH APRIL, 8 P.M.
PARKGATE HOTEL

AFTER WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET ALL
MEMBERS FOR A SOCIAL EVENING

As those Members who attended the Annual General Meeting will know, the Society has a new Chairman, Mr. James Cochrane. He is Second Master at Mostyn House School and has lived here since 1946. The Committee is confident we have 'the right man in the right job' and look forward to a long and happy partnership.

We were pleased to see over 75 members present at the A.G.M. which was followed by a most interesting talk from Mr. R.J. Bernie, Chief Executive Officer and Mr. A.J. Plant, Planning Officer at Ellesmere Port. The main point that emerged from the evening was the feeling of co-operation between the officers at Ellesmere Port and this Society. It is to be sincerely hoped this understanding will continue for many years to the mutual benefit of both parties.

Conservation - Chairman Mr. H. Vollers 336-1359

As you may know, 1975 has been designated European Architectural Heritage Year and we are delighted to inform you we are undertaking to renovate and refurbish the Donkey Stand. We are most grateful to both Cheshire County Council and the Wirral Society for their financial assistance, without which this proposal would never have got off the ground. The Donkey Stand was originally the foundation of a narrow, three-storey house, which was demolished at some time between 1828 and 1849. This house contained an Assembly Room in the 1780's and in 1812 it was converted into a Bath House, providing salt-water baths for invalids. When the first stretch of sea-wall was built, probably in the early 1800's this house was at the southern end of the wall. Later, the wall was continued southwards, round the foundations of the house. In the late 19th Century, donkeys used to be on hire at this point to carry children to the South Slip and back. We hope that the work will be finished in a few weeks' time.

Mrs. H. Wall-Jones and Mr. H. Vollers represented the Society at the recent Public Enquiry in Neston into the refusal for development of land between Leighton Road and Wood Lane. They both made known the feelings of the Society and we await the result to be made known next May.

The Committee held a special meeting to discuss the proposed oil-fired Power Station at Connah's Quay. Committee members Mrs. B. Moore and Mr. H. Vollers attended an exhibition mounted by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

It was decided that this plan was preferable to the original, in that there were to be only 2 cooling towers as opposed to the original 8. We agreed that the main objection was the spoiling of the view from Parkgate and the alteration to the skyline, as the tallest building would be 55 metres (180 ft.) high and the main chimney would be 200 metres (650 ft.) high.

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We informed Ellesmere Port Borough Council of our opinion and asked to be notified of any and all future developments of the Dee Estuary as a whole, in view of the many piecemeal proposals at present under discussion. We also added our voice to those calling for a Public Enquiry.

Dee Barrage - Chairman Mr. G. Edwards 336-4744

There is little to report in this respect, but the Chairman will maintain a watching brief on behalf of the Society.

Historical Chairman Mr. G.W. Place - 336-2891

We have been urged by the Civic Trust to enter our booklet "A Stroll Through Parkgate" for a 'Guidebooks' Competition being organised by the Design Council during European Architectural Heritage year. The Entry Form has been completed and despatched, together with a copy of the booklet, so keep your fingers crossed!! The results should be available at the end of April.

Litter - Chairman Mr. M.C. Morrison 336-4319

It was noticed that some of the litter bins on the Parade have become unserviceable and Mr. McGarva, Borough Engineer, promised to replace these, at least as a temporary measure, until a suitable design for new bins is decided upon. This work has now been carried out - another instance of co-operation.

We hope you were able to attend the 'Clean-up' Campaign which took place on Sunday, 9th March, last when some 70 volunteers helped to remove all the rubbish on the Marshes at the foot of the Sea-Wall. We are grateful to Mr. McGarva for supplying a lorry with driver to take away the heavier items and wish to thank all those stalwart members who took part in this most essential task.

Trees - Chairman Mr. F.W. French 336-3113

There are 54 remaining trees of those planted in 1973 all but two of which appear to have rooted. It is hoped to replace these at some future date.

We are pleased to report that, in celebration of National Tree Week, we planted a further 14 trees on three local sites. We hope these will not suffer the vandalism inflicted on some trees planted in 1973.

You may have noticed that, during our 'Clean-up' we removed the small tree growing out of the Sea Wall by the Donkey Stand. This was thought advisable because, as the tree grew, it could have caused considerable damage to the Sea Wall. Mr. McGarva has agreed to see that the stump is suitably treated.

Members will be pleased to note that the Buggen Lane Development has been referred back for further consultation, thanks mainly to the many groups and Societies who wrote to the Council deploring the proposed desecration of this charming lane. We, in turn, made our opinion known in the appropriate quarter and now await further developments.

Mr. F.W. French and Mrs. A. Clarke represented the Society at a most successful 'Open Evening' at the Town Hall on 20th November last. Some 400 residents attended and many enquiries were made, and two new members signed up!

We have successfully seen to the removal of two unsightly 'For Sale' notices sited on the fence of the Cricket Club, referring to a property not visible from there.

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We heard an interesting talk from Mrs. Jane Ratcliffe on 19th November last and are pleased she signed copies of her book for those who purchased on the night. Members who may be further interested in badgers and are willing to help in a project being undertaken by Mrs. Ratcliffe, are asked to contact her direct at 051-327-5140.

Residents, especially those living in the vicinity of 'The Moorings' on the Parade, may have noticed untreated sewage flowing from a land drain directly on to the Marsh at the foot of the sea wall. This matter was brought to the attention of our Secretary, who contacted the local Public Health Inspector and Mr. Armitage of the Dee & Clwyd River Board. The latter was the Authority responsible and responded valiantly, after a gentle 'prod' from us! Apparently, the obnoxious sights and smells resulted from one of the pumps sited round the large hole on the Parade by the 'Old Quay' having seized up. The Contractors were persuaded to supply new equipment. We trust the matter is now cleared up, but should anything further occur, please let us know.

The last sentence not only applies to the delicate matter of untreated sewage, but to any problem which may affect Members or their property. We look forward to hearing from you, if only to break the monotony in the otherwise hum-drum life of our Secretary!!

The Chairman and all Committee Members are readily available should you wish to discuss any matter of local interest and their telephone numbers are listed under the appropriate headings. Do keep in touch!!