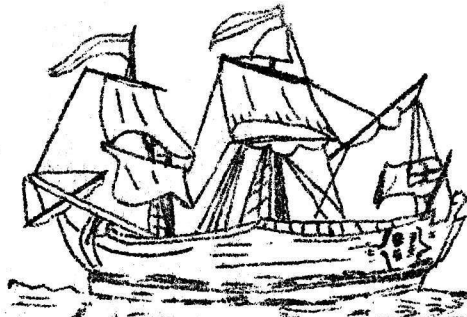


PARKGATE



SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 18

Spring 1980

Chairman	JR Cochrane	336 2378
Vice-Chairman	HO Vollers	336 1359
Secretary	Mrs AM Clarke	336 1069
Treasurer	EPD Taylor	336 4321

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

→ Please put these dates in your diary ! ←

→ Tuesday, 18th March, 8 pm at The Boathouse,
a talk by J.N.Barlow on

WIRRAL TRANSPORT IN THE LAST 150 YEARS

Jack Barlow has been a railway and timetable enthusiast all his life, and in this talk he will trace the development of the local train and bus systems.

→ Saturday, 19th April, at 11 am
Please come and help us to

CLEAN THE FORESHORE

We will meet as usual at the South Slip (by the Old Quay Inn) and clear the debris following the Easter bank holiday. Clive Edwards will arrange for sacks - wear Wellingtons; and old gloves are advisable. Come and glow with community spirit !

Please note that this is not the same day, or at the same time, as previous years' clean-ups.

→ Tuesday, 20th May, 8 pm at The Boathouse,

Geoffrey Place will give the sixth in his series of annual talks on Parkgate's history. This year his title is,

CUSTOMS and SMUGGLERS !

→ Saturday, 26th July, at 11 am, starting at Mostyn Square,
Geoffrey Place will conduct a WALK which will follow the boundaries of the medieval Neston Park from which Parkgate derives its name.

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

If you would like to pay your subscription for 1980 at any of these meetings (£1 for single or family members, 50p for Senior Citizens) we shall be glad to have it. If you prefer, send it to Mrs Place, Pendmore, Station Road, Parkgate.

Our Activities

Our Annual General Meeting in October was well attended. The officers of the Society, who are named on the first page, were re-elected, and Committee members were elected as follows: SC Edwards, ADJ Grenfell, Mrs MA McCaig, GW Place, Mrs V Place, JH Reynolds, Mrs H Wall-Jones. The Chairman briefly reviewed our recent activities, and presented personal gifts to two of his colleagues on the committee whom he had worked especially hard during the year.

The AGM was followed by Mr Camenisch's excellent photographic tour of Liverpool. His eye for buildings in particular must have encouraged many of us to raise our eyes from the pavement.

The date for the next AGM has been fixed for 30 September.

Our November meeting allowed us to welcome Bob Gomes, the new warden of the RSPB reserve in the Dee estuary. He disarmed us by his frank and friendly account of the questions that lie open before him as he starts to assess his new job. He also gave us a most interesting account of the work of his Society. We have offered to Mr Gomes the cooperation of the Parkgate Society.

In January our new Committee member, Mrs McCaig, organized a Junior Clean-Up. Some 30 young people, with various adult hangers-on, were induced to pick litter from the marsh by the lure of bangers and baked spuds at the far end. The base of the sea wall had been looking particularly awful, and it was heart-warming to see it cleared. The promised food was demolished with impressive speed! No doubt, however, the litter will return in force, and we will need everybody's help on Saturday 19th April, when we shall attack it again.

Parkgate Affairs

It has been a quiet six months for Parkgate, and there have loomed few changes to please or worry us. The promised litter bins arrived in November and were firmly screwed to the pavement. We are very pleased with their appearance, for they manage to be obvious yet unobtrusive at the same time. Let us hope our visitors enjoy using them. We should like to express our thanks to the Borough Engineer's staff for being so cooperative with us about the choice and the siting of these bins, and to our two local councillors, Mr Sander and Mr Topp, for their efforts in obtaining the money for them.

Those seats on the Donkey Stand have not been forgotten; the Borough Engineer has assured us that he will repair them "as soon as I have the necessary labour available."

Two greatly respected friends of the Parkgate community have recently retired, and the Society has felt it right to mark the occasion with gifts on your behalf. In the summer of 1979 it was Mr Jim Barker, who had been postman to Parkgate for 29 years. Last summer it was Miss Edna Medcalfe, who has been delivering milk in our village for over 20 years. Both were concerned to look after people, as well as letters or milk. We have presented each of them with framed copies of the Panorama of Parkgate, and we wish them both a very happy retirement.

The Dee Estuary

It was the threat of the Dee Barrage which, with lesser worries, induced the birth of this Society, and other possible threats to our outlook have kept us on our toes ever since. We were most interested to hear of the symposium organized at Mold by the Dee Estuary Conservation Group. It was unfortunate that we received news of this meeting in December so late that we were unable to send a representative. We were pleased to learn, though, that Councillor Geoffrey Topp of Parkgate was one of the few local authority councillors to be there. He mentioned the problem of litter.

The reports of the debate seem reassuring to us; many individuals and bodies are aware of the changing nature of the estuary and the need for watchfulness. This Society has not hitherto been in membership with the Dee Estuary Conservation Group, and we are endeavouring to join.

Snippets of News

As usual, we had a stand at the Open Evening organized at the Neston Civic Centre for new residents. We received several compliments on the excellence of our display.

We have sent a letter to the Wirral Southern Community Health Council to ask for the retention of the accident unit at Clatterbridge Hospital.

It is with great pleasure that we can report that Hylde Wall-Jones, our longest-serving committee member who was in hospital in the autumn, is now greatly restored in health.

Cheshire County Council has asked the Society to arrange a guided walk in Parkgate, as part of the county-wide scheme which they began last year. Geoffrey Place has agreed to act as the guide, and the walk will be a version of the walk planned for our own members on July 26th.

Our Chairman, Jim Cochrane, has just been elected Vice-Chairman of the Lawn Tennis Association, with the prospect of being its Chairman in 1981. We are delighted that he has been accorded this honour, although it means that we shall have to compete for his time !

A Voice from the Past

We have had a letter from a former resident of Parkgate, Mrs Gibson, who now lives in Cornwall. She writes, "In 1913 my parents rented No. 3 Dee Cottages for us to use as a seaside cottage. In 1914 my father purchased the house just past the Watch House. He called it Moaney Moar after his old home in the Isle of Man." Mrs Gibson's father was John Corkill; the house he bought was previously called No. 1 Par Bar Cottages (does anyone know why ?) and the Manx name he gave it means House of the Bog, or perhaps Moor House. Since 1947 the house has been called The Moorings. She adds, "I remember Mr Grenfell building the baths and how thrilled we were when he opened them to the public and we were able to spend happy hours swimming in them. I am sure we never thought that it was only river water and not filtered or disinfected !" She also remembers sitting beside Harold Gill on his sand yacht.

Mrs Gibson's memories are a reminder of the days when many families used to take houses in Parkgate for the summer. The present editor, then in the south of England, first heard of Parkgate from a friend whose family used to rent a house in Cheltenham Place before the First World War.

Memories of former days in Parkgate are of great interest to

present residents and will be increasingly treasured in years to come. If you have letters, or descriptions or souvenirs, or just your own memories, and would care to let us see them, we should be very pleased to copy them for the future. Do contact Angela Clarke or Geoffrey Place, whose addresses are shown at the foot of the last page.

The Parkgate Pilot's Jug

In our last Newsletter we described this commemorative jug, owned by the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, and painted with the name of Barnard Relton, a Parkgate mariner who was registered as a Dee pilot between 1787 and 1806. The owners have generously supplied a photograph of the jug, and the drawing below was taken from it by 13 year old Lee Langton, a pupil of Michael Barton (who illustrated the guide Book 'This Is Parkgate'). Lee has just left Mostyn House with an art scholarship to Worksop College.



The jug is 11 inches high, and holds 10 pints.

The Minerva Ship Bowl

Thanks to the kindness of Mr LA Burman, the Keeper of Decorative Art at the Merseyside County Museums, we have been able to examine an 18th century Ship Bowl which shows an authentic picture of a ship which is known to have carried goods between Parkgate and Dublin.

The Minerva of Chester was a ship-rigged brig, first heard of in 1751 when two shares of her (an eighth and a sixteenth) were for sale at Parkgate, and in the same year it is recorded that she carried Irish vagrants from the Old Quay House of Correction to Dublin. In 1752 Dr Patrick Delany wrote to his sister-in-law that he would send a coach to Chester to take her to Parkgate, "where I will appoint the best vessel upon the coast, the Minerva, with the civilest and soberest Master, Captain Matthews, to meet you."

Both John Matthews and Gwyn Brown were recorded as masters of the Minerva in 1759, when the Chester customs books show that she carried Irish linen, and 'dry'd hog meat', from Dublin to Parkgate. She was still sailing in 1768 and 1769, when John Byrne and Captain Frampton were commanding her, as Lloyds Lists record.

Mr Burman thinks that the bowl was made in Liverpool, perhaps by Christian or Pennington, between 1765 and 1775. The bowl has a diameter of 10 inches, and is made of tin-glazed earthenware. Mr Burman says that it was the practice for artists to go and sketch the actual ship for these commemorative bowls, so we have here a real Parkgate ship of the mid 18th century.

The drawing has been made from a photograph by Lee Langton, the young artist described on the previous page.

