

Parkgate Society Newsletter

Number 24

Spring 1983

Chairman	HO Vollers	336 1359
Vice-chairman	GW Place	336 2891
Secretary	Mrs AM Clarke	336 1069
Treasurer	EPD Taylor	336 4321

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please put these dates in your diary :

→ Monday, 7th March, 8 pm at the Boat House

David Parker, from Ness Gardens, will describe

NATIVE WILD PLANTS

with special reference to Wirral. Several times in past years we have heard about local bird life: it will be interesting to hear about the plants.

→ Monday, 11th April, 8 pm at the Boat House

Kenneth Burnley, author of the book 'Portrait of Wirral' and editor of the Wirral Journal:

OLD HALLS OF WIRRAL

Mr Burnley is much more than a writer; he is interested in every aspect of the local scene.

→ Monday, 23rd May, 8 pm at the Boat House

Geoffrey Place's talk is called,

FROM COCKFIGHTS TO CRICKET

or, Sports and Pastimes of Neston and Parkgate.

We have invited our sister organization, the Neston Civic Society, to join us for a joint meeting to hear this talk.

GUIDED WALKS

This year our Guided Walk, led by Geoffrey Place, will take us round some interesting parts of Little Neston. Come and hear about those vanished pubs, the Durham Ox and the Bull & Dog.

The same walk will take place on two dates:

→ Friday, 24th June, at 7 pm, starting outside Woodfall Lane Primary School

(This walk is also for the County Guided Walks scheme)

→ Sunday, 18th September, at 2.30 pm, starting outside Woodfall Lane Primary School

(This walk is primarily for the Burton & South Wirral Local History Society, but others are welcome)

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

Your SUBSCRIPTION for 1983 is still only £1 for single or family membership, and 50p for Senior Citizens. Please make your payment to Mrs Place, Pendmore, Station Road, Parkgate.

Hylde Wall-Jones

If you came to our AGM you will know that Mrs Wall-Jones has decided, after more than ten years of loyal service to the Society, to retire from the Committee. Hylde is a founder member, and at the very first meeting, even before the Society was officially launched, she gave a talk on the history of our village. With Olive Wilcox she wrote 'A Stroll Through Parkgate', our first publishing venture which gave us the financial confidence to keep our efforts up and our subscription down. In Committee, Hylde never failed to give us, sometimes in forthright tones the benefit of her experience. It is typical of her that she adamantly forbade us to offer any gift to mark her long service.

Our Newsletter Cover

We hope you like our new cover, which has been designed for us by Mrs Cochrane, the wife of our President. The Spring issues will be green to herald the awakening year, and the Autumn issues will be yellow, to echo the falling leaves.

The Old Quay Public House

At our original meeting with the brewery's representatives, reported in our Newsletter of a year ago, it was agreed that a further discussion would be arranged if the Society thought it necessary. It had become evident to us that, despite assurances both from the brewery and from the police that problems associated with the influx of motorcyclists were being taken seriously, a further meeting was desirable. It took place on November 16th.

We were interested to hear that the pub has formed a motorcyclists' club which it is hoped will be a responsible influence. The management has provided a car park attendant who tries to encourage the patrons to leave quietly. The brewery would like to segregate the motorcycles into their own 'corral' in the car park, but the Society has expressed reservations about this proposal. There is also an intention to erect baffles to deflect the noise, and we have asked to see the plans of these baffles.

We understand that the Environmental Health Officer has been recording sound levels. The situation is, therefore, being monitored, in several different ways.

The Library Exhibition

Mrs Archer, the Librarian at Neston, and her staff, have been to a great deal of trouble to see that the 75th anniversary of the Library building should be fittingly celebrated. Our own Society has helped in several ways. First, we arranged an exhibition of the Parkgate Society's work, which was in the Library for four weeks over Christmas and the New Year. The exhibition seems to have been admired, and over a hundred copies of an information leaflet describing the Society's work were taken by members of the public. Secondly, our committee was present in force at a celebratory reception on January 3rd, the actual date of the Library's opening in 1908. Geoffrey Place gave a talk on this agreeable occasion, in which he described the development of schooling in Neston and the formation of the library. Finally, we took that opportunity to present to the Library a copy of our Panorama of Parkgate, framed for us by David Scott. Mrs Archer was good enough to say some appreciative things about the support which this Society has always shown to the Library.

Coming Shortly

A 'Town Trail' for Neston, being a guide in leaflet form to the town centre, and following the route taken by our own guided walk of last summer, is now being printed for the Neston Civic Society. It is likely to be on sale in a few weeks' time, and we hope that it will be available for our members at our next meeting. It should make interesting reading.

Flower Power

We have been trying for several years to embellish the Donkey Stand with flowers, the first requirement being flower containers sufficiently heavy to resist revellers. We thought we had acquired a massive wooden trough, but somehow it never found its way to the right place. Now, through the good offices of Councillor Topp, we have some large concrete tubs on the Donkey Stand and at least the promise of flowers.

... and Larger Plants

Our offer to pay for trees to the value of £60, for planting in St Thomas' churchyard, has produced action sooner than we expected. The deputy churchwardens have been busy, and our gifts may well be in place by the time you read these words. A number of large trees in the churchyard have had to be felled because of elm disease, and we are glad to have been allowed to help replace them.

Our Meetings

Our Annual General Meeting was conducted by our President, Jim Cochrane. After the formal business, including the election of the Committee, there was considerable discussion of the problems of noise and other nuisance associated with the Old Quay public house.

We greatly enjoyed Eric Knowles' programme of short films, and admired his skills as a film maker. Apparently it is essential to have a wife in bright clothes who will animate a scene by walking across it. He warned us that his most recent film, about Parkgate itself, was not quite finished; and indeed, the commentary tended to last longer than the scenes it described. Mr Knowles has reworked the commentary since then and the film is now complete. We were grateful to be able to see the film even in its unfinished state, because it shows our village to great advantage.

Mr Thornton spoke to us about tracing one's family history, and for many the most interesting part was at the end, when he showed us pictures of some interesting local gravestones. Clive Edwards had arranged a display of his own family researches for the occasion.

Our last meeting of 1982 was spoiled for some by the fog which deterred them from coming. Luckily our speaker, Mr Highton, lives within yards of the Boat House, and for those who groped their way to join him, his description of the present riches and future prospects of the Merseyside Maritime Museum was a splendid reward.

Our Greetings Cards

Our greetings cards, which show drawings of several Parkgate buildings, have been selling quite well, but we have plenty left, so remember them when birthdays come along ! There is no printed message, so they are suitable for any occasion. They are 10p each, with discounts for quantity.

Any Other Business

Jim Davies, who has helped us greatly in his role as solicitor during our discussions with Whitbreads about the Old Quay, has agreed to join the Society's committee. We are hopeful that another resident of Parkgate will also join the committee during the next few months, when other pressures on him ease.

The Society has been represented at the conference of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England in November, and at the Open Evening held at the Civic Hall in December, when local residents could study the displays of many local organizations.

Once again the Society accepted the task of decorating the pulpit in St Thomas' church for their harvest festival.

We have urged the Borough Council to replace some litter bins on the Parade which have become damaged.

We are grateful as always to our many friends who materially help our work: to the Post Office, the Green Bottle, and the Wirral Country Park who sell our guide book at no profit to themselves; to Julian Grenfell who lends us many things and who makes this Newsletter possible; to Peter Barnes who makes our meetings at the Boat House so comfortable and attractive.

Here are two advertisements which recall the Parkgate of nearly fifty years ago.

**NICHOLL'S
DAIRIES**

Telephone: 211

**Neston and
Parkgate**

DAILY DELIVERIES OF TUBERCULIN-TESTED AND ACCREDITED MILK AND HIGH-CLASS DAIRY PRODUCE

MILK BAR AND ICE CREAM PARLOUR ON
The Parade, Parkgate

● **TALBOT HOUSE**

PROMENADE
PARKGATE

In conjunction with above:

**The Green
Shutter Cafe**
PARKGATE

'Phone: Neston, 179.

Dainty Teas.
Home-made Cakes, etc.

-
-
- Attractive and comfortable GUEST HOUSE of Historic Interest and Charm.
 - Overlooking Dee and Welsh Hills.
 - Lovely Old-world Garden.
 - Tariff on application.

A kind friend gave us these. If you have any similar memento of old Parkgate, and would let us copy it, please let us know.