

Parkgate and District Society

Chairman Mr. S. Norris 336 1494      Vice Chairman Mrs. H. Wall Jones 336 2420

NEWSLETTER NO. 4 - SUMMER 1973

Since our last newsletter the Society has continued its involvement in local affairs unabated, although little of the work is the sort to make headlines in the local newspapers. All the sub-committees have been able to progress their projects, and we report on each below. The traffic sub-committee is now part of the conservation sub-committee, because the work of both overlapped and we are very conscious of the danger of becoming overburdened with committees, and surrounded by the red tape we so often have to fight against.

It is a sad fact that the achievements of the Society are of an unspectacular nature. We now have our conservation area; (see below) all planning applications are scrutinised and representations made. Yet still some members of the Society have yet to subscribe for the 73/74 year. Possibly we need a crisis - an outrageous planning application perhaps - to make people realise the value of the Society. If you've subscribed - thank you. If you've been telling yourself to do it for ages, please - 75p for a married couple, 50p for an individual, to Mrs. P.V. Moore, The Slipway, Manorial Road, or to the Secretary, Mr. French at 10, Manor Close.

Sub-committee reports

Conservation - Chairman Mr. W. Adams 342 5673

At last the report on the establishment of the Parkgate conservation area has been published by Cheshire County Council. It lists the buildings in Parkgate which it is proposed should be listed under the Town and County Planning Acts for special consideration and treatment and outlines the effects and consequences of living in a conservation area. We are to hold a public meeting to allow all members of the Society to get to know more about conservation details of this meeting, which is to be combined with the Annual General Meeting (see separate paragraph) are:-

P A R K G A T E      -      A      C O N S E R V A T I O N      A R E A  
a n d   w h a t   t h i s   m e a n s   t o   Y O U

a Talk illustrated with a film by:-

MR. P. WILLIAMS  
(Cheshire County Council)

The establishment of the Conservation Area is the most important event in the history of Parkgate since the war and is of interest and concern to every resident. The Society is proud of its role in urging the project and seeing it concluded in remarkably short time.

Litter - Chairman Mr. D. Ellis 336 2078

As you will have seen from the local newspapers, we held another litter clearance of the marsh and extended it to the whole of Parkgate. The clearance was its usual success thanks to the enthusiasm of those who gave up their time to take part. On this particular occasion we want to say a special "thank you" to the 1st New Guides and the 2nd New Guides, and to their leaders whose help was invaluable.

How discouraging though, to see the marsh as filthy as ever a fortnight later. Prevention of litter dropping is the answer and this means that we must all accept our responsibility to report any person seen dropping litter to the Secretary so that the Society may instigate a prosecution of the offender in the proper manner. There is no point any longer in feeling a "busybody" if you prevent litter; it is the despoilation of our village, and we must actively work to prevent it.

Dee Barrage - Chairman Mr. G. Edwards 336 4744

The Dee Barrage scheme is of course linked to the Water Resources Board report on the utilisation of water conservation resources in the ensuing decade. On 26th July, Charles Quant reported in the Liverpool Daily Post - "The River Dee now seems certain to be preferred to Morecambe Bay for Britain's first ever estuary reservoir ..... The Dee Scheme is a multi-purpose project to push a motorway standard highway across the estuary between Burton and Bagillt, ..... to build pumped storage reservoirs, create recreational and amenity waterways and make land available on British Steel Corporation property for 600 or more acres of industrial development".

Nothing new here, but this is, as we have often warned, a potentially explosive situation which it is important to monitor. Our committee watches all developments and as and when necessary the Society will make sure everyone is clearly aware of the effect of the proposals on Parkgate and District

Historical - Chairman Mrs. H. Wall Jones 336 2420

The drafts of a pamphlet outlining the major features of Parkgate and their historical significance and interest has now been prepared and will shortly be available. It is of immense interest to all, particularly we suspect to those many members, Chairman and Secretary included, who are not natives of Parkgate. The village has so interesting a history as any in the North West, and we know everyone will want to obtain a copy of the pamphlet. This is of course for visitors benefit, and the size of the pamphlet has this in mind. A much more detailed history - in full book size is also being undertaken by Mr. Place, assisted by Miss Olive Wilcox. If any Parkgate resident comes across any item which they think would be of interest to the historian, please let us know.

Tree Committee - Chairman Mrs. V. Norris 336 1494

The committee has been very busy lately in surveying the whole of the area covered by the Parkgate and District Society for locations suitable for tree planting. As you will know "1973 is the year of the tree" and the

Society wishes to give all encouragement to this official project.

As a result of the survey several possible sites have been identified and the necessary sketch maps drawn. Neston Urban District Council, Cheshire County Council, British Rail and one local resident have been approached for their permission for trees to be planted upon their property.

The committee is hopeful that the project would not necessarily bear heavily upon the Society's limited funds as the Wirral Green Belt Council has indicated a willingness to supply certain trees for those sites which come under a heading of "rural".

Although the deadline has actually been reached for advice to the tree sub-committee of possible locations for tree planting should any member have further ideas where this could be carried out and in particular in the area covered by the conservation order would they please advise details immediately to the chairman of the tree sub-committee.

Please get in touch with us if you know of a tree you want to ensure is preserved. Mrs. Norris will be pleased to help you.

Whilst the survey for tree planting locations was being carried out several areas were noted which required either a general tidy up or minor landscaping and details of these were also provided to the Council.

The committee has been pleased to note that two of these, the corner of Boathouse Lane/Barnacre Drive and around the Neston Library have already been dealt with and hope their other recommendations will also receive the same treatment.

#### Annual General Meeting

Will be held at the Parkgate Hotel on Tuesday <sup>16TH</sup> ~~2nd~~ October at 8.0 p.m.

The attention of members is drawn to Paragraph 6 of the Consitution which is, in part reproduced below:-

"Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by proposer and seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. The elections of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members. The Officers of the Society shall consist of:-

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Honorary Secretary  
Honorary Treasurer

all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting....."

For business and personal reasons the Secretary will not be seeking re-election.

#### General

The Society continues to be represented on the Wirral Society, and the Wirral Green Belt Council. Now that the Council for the protection of Rural England and the Wirral Society have formally parted, we must ensure that

the members interests are still represented at this level.

We are concerned with many planning applications as they arise, and now that the conservation area is in being our task is easier. We are not concerned to interfere where it is unnecessary but we are keen to preserve particularly the exterior of the buildings on the Parade. For this reason we opposed the demolition of property adjacent to the Red Lion, and have urged the Council to insist that any alterations to the Deeside Stores involve neither external alteration, nor an aggravation of the already considerable traffic problem. We have insisted on the inclusion of the sea wall in the listed buildings schedule because we believe that that too is an important village feature that should be protected from indiscriminate alteration.

We are watching developments in the legal arguments entered by the British Steel Corporation in defence of their claim to a considerable area of the marsh off the Parkgate front. When this issue is finally settled we will advise members of the outcome.

Finally:- The Society is your society - use it. We are always here to help, it's why we formed. Please let us know of any problem where you feel we could help you.