



## SOME PLACES OF INTEREST...

- The Donkey Stand** - Parkgate's first Assembly Room, for social activities, once stood here, later becoming a sea-water bathing house. From the 1870s it was a place for donkey hire.
- Balcony House** - built in the late 1700s, though the balcony was added around 1870. The large rear extension was another Assembly Room, where dances were held and cards and billiards played.
- The sea wall** - built in three phases in the early 1800s. It was a fashionable place to walk and was never intended for ships to moor against.
- Mostyn Square and St. Thomas's Church** - the Square is named after the Welsh family which owned Parkgate until 1849. 'The fishermen's church' was built in 1843.
- Middle Slip** - once much used by fishermen, and donkey carts collecting shellfish. Opposite, the Watch House was used by H.M. Customs until 1828.
- The Boat House** - an inn was standing here almost 400 years ago, serving an important anchorage offshore called Beerhouse Hole.
- The Old Baths** - the grey walls are the remains of seawater swimming baths opened in 1923. One was 100 metres long.
- Wirral Way** - line of the old Hooton-West Kirby railway line, closed in 1962 which became Britain's first Country Park in 1969.
- Parkgate Station** - Originally the railway line ended at Parkgate and the first station was on the opposite side of the road. Later, the line was extended to West Kirby, a bridge was built over the road, and the station moved here.
- The anti-invasion fort (pillbox)** - built as a gun emplacement in 1940 in case German paratroops landed in the Dee Estuary.
- Nelson Cottage** - the pebbles spell the name of the 1822 owner's nine year old son who drowned in a storm on the Mersey.
- Dover Cottage** - believed to be where Emma Hart (née Lyon), later Lady Hamilton, the mistress of Admiral Nelson, stayed whilst on a sea-bathing visit.
- Mostyn House School** - run by the Grenfell family since 1862, the black and white façade was built in 1932.
- The double hedge** - marks the line of the railway that once ran to the coal mine at Little Neston.
- The Old Quay** - once the site of a large shipping quay projecting into the estuary, used from roughly 1560 to 1690. Thousands of passengers passed through here in some years.
- Moorside Lane** - the original entrance to Neston deer park is thought to have been near here. Later, as the port of Parkgate grew, Moorside Lane was the main route to it, via the shore.





Parkgate's name originated from Neston Park, where deer were kept in the Middle Ages. But the village only grew here from the 1600s as people began to earn their living from the sea.



At first Parkgate was a ships' anchorage, later becoming a major passenger port between England and Dublin. Where you now see saltmarsh, grand sailing ships with up to three masts once anchored. The village also became a sea-bathing resort where it was fashionable to parade along the seafront. Meanwhile, as the estuary silted up, the shipping trade died out and many locals turned to fishing for a living.

Parkgate's fishing industry and popularity as a seaside resort declined in the twentieth century due to the receding tides. But even now the waters still occasionally cross the RSPB-owned saltmarsh to remind us of the village's origins, and visitors still come for Parkgate's character, wildlife and views...and, of course, the ice cream!



### FOOD, DRINK AND ICE CREAM

- ▶ The Boat House (0151) 336 4187
- ▶ The Lobster Grill (0151) 336 1774
- ▶ The Marsh Cat (0151) 336 1963
- ▶ C J Mealor & Sons (0151) 336 1113
- ▶ Mr. Chow's (0151) 336 2385
- ▶ Nicholl's (0151) 336 1274
- ▶ The Old Quay (0151) 336 4343
- ▶ Parkgate Coffee Shop -
- ▶ Parkgate Fudge Shop (0151) 336 5959
- ▶ Parkgate Ice Cream Shop -
- ▶ Parkgate Takeaway (0151) 336 8811
- ▶ The Red Lion (0151) 336 1548
- ▶ The Ship Hotel (0151) 336 3931

### OTHER SHOPS AND SERVICES

- ▶ Artroom 08700 852085
- ▶ Harding Motor Co. (0151) 336 3965
- ▶ Marsh Nurseries (0151) 336 4078
- ▶ Parkgate Hair Salon (0151) 336 2725
- ▶ Parkgate Stores (0151) 336 1007
- ▶ Steve Moore Photography 0800 0831269

### Acknowledgements

*This leaflet has been created using information supplied by the Parkgate Society - more details are available in 'This is Parkgate' published by the Society. The leaflet has been produced with support from the North West Regional Development Agency secured through the Neston Market Town Initiative.*

*This leaflet has been designed by the Graphic Design team at Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council.*



## Walks & Information