

North Civic



Meols Society

Spring 2009

Chairman's Letter.



No we have not disappeared! We have been quietly working away on issues concerning the Civic Society in Marshside, Crossens and Churchtown.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our monthly meetings owing to a lack of support. We have tried to bring in speakers on subjects that we hoped would interest our members but we have not succeeded. We did try joining up the two branches of our organisation, the new Botanic Gardens Action Group and the Civic Society but without success.

So the Executive Committee will continue with our aims and we will organise occasional meetings on topics that hopefully will draw in members of the public as well as our members.

We hope that you will continue to support us in two ways. *Firstly* let your friends and contacts know what we are doing, that we are not a 'talking shop' but we do get things done. *Secondly* by still helping to fund us so that we can produce newsletters, write to the authorities and other 'nitty gritty' matters.

We have decided that, instead of laying down a set of subscription rates that we should ask for voluntary donations, we suggest **£5** for an individual or whatever you can afford in this credit crunch time.

Please send the donation to the Treasurer,

Joan Lowe, 52 Byrom Street, Southport PR9 7AD.

Thanks for your past – and we hope - continued support.

Ken

Conservation Appraisal Churchtown and North Meols Conservation Areas.



Every Local Authority has had to produce an appraisal of the conservation areas within their authority. Sefton has gone to Consultants to produce an appraisal for two of our areas. (The third area is 'Hesketh Road Conservation Area').

Neither the Civic Society, nor the local councillors were made aware of the appraisal until householders within the Churchtown Conservation Area received an invite to a display at St Cuthbert's Church. We did, later, manage to get hold of a copy of the report and then we had a meeting with the Conservation Officers when we made comments on the appraisal.

Briefly the main points within the Churchtown area concerned poor signage both on shops and the highway. Lack of uniformity in the colours used on business premises and the use of white plastic doors and window frames on houses. These are all matters that the Civic Society has pressed for over the years. We need to conserve the appearance of the area. It was also suggested that the Churchtown Conservation Area be extended to include the cottages in Mill Lane, which are not included at the moment although they are 'listed' properties.

There was concern about the state of the Museum and Cafe building and the boat house. We were already aware that a figure of £4M has been quoted as being required to renovate the Museum and bring it up to modern standards (Disabled Access etc) The Consultants did not like the haphazard car parking in front of the main gates and suggested that the vehicles be removed with signs indicating the Car Park in Verulam Road. This is being looked at as the Action Group had already identified a lack of dropping off or picking up facility for coaches etc.


Cont p4

Churchtown Fair

The Society is hoping to resurrect the Churchtown Fair which we ran for several years in the 1990's. We had to stop due to the restrictions on using the highway. The Fair originates from 'Big Bathing Sunday'. That was on the Sunday around the end of August when people used to travel to Church Town to 'take the waters' and bathe in the sea. This was the start of South Hawes and the Southport as a Seaside Town.

In the late 1800's and upto the WWII the fair was held on land between Bibby Road and Manor Road where St. Clair Drive now stands. It had the usual village fair atmosphere, side shows, stalls selling food and other items and a boxing booth as well as fairground rides.

Instead of holding the fair on the highway we will be holding it in the Botanic Gardens on the King George V Playing Fields on Saturday 29th August in conjunction with the Botanic Gardens Action Group and Sefton Leisure Services.

We would like other organisations to **join us**. It is an opportunity for **charities, voluntary organisation, local groups and youth groups** to advertise their facilities etc. There will not be any cost but they will have to provide their own stalls and help to organise events. The type of events we anticipate will be mainly for children. Races, throwing contests, skills contests, fancy dress competitions, and pet competitions.

If you are a member or know, of any suitable organisations please get in touch with Ken at chairman@northmeols.merseyside.org or 01704

**Saturday August 29th
Churchtown Fair**

**Massed Brass Bands
Monday August 31st**

IN THE

Botanic Gardens

Garden.

The Gardens goes from strength to strength. We have now got a shed in which we can keep a few odds and ends – nothing valuable! The RSPB gave us some old paving flags for the base and we managed to get the shed, a metal one, in the sales.

We are also going to purchase our own petrol mower, it won't be kept in the shed! It will be used by Park Lodge Nurseries workers in our garden and also Churchtown School garden, who are paying half the cost. Park Lodge Nurseries are a charity and are located at the greenhouses in Rotten Row. They will be helping us in other areas of North Meols that need some attention such as The Stray.

If you want bedding or house plants and flowers please support them. They have a sales area in Rotten Row.

Children from Churchtown School practiced their willow weaving skill, helped by Mike and Bill, by creating a 'Willow Lollipop man' in honour of their favourite Lollipop-man, Harvey Bentley, which they have placed in the Civic Garden.



Continues from page 2.

When the appraisals have been finalised they will go to the Council for approval, this does not mean any money will be available to carry out the proposal though! We hope then to arrange a public meeting to show

The Fog Bell.

Last year the Society was invited to join a bid for £1.2M Lottery Fund grant under the Landscape Partnership scheme. The aim was to link communities to the coast. Sefton Coast management and the RSPB were proposing an improved footpath/ cycle path along



Marshside Road extension from Elswick Road to the coastal road, with a pedestrian crossing across the coastal road.

The Civic Society supported this bid with the addition of a heritage link from Marshside to the Coast based on the Shrimping Communities history and heritage. We suggested renovating the Fog Bell building and its surrounds. We wanted to involve the school children in this by bringing in a mosaic artist to help the children put together a mosaic pavement depicting the shrimping industry and its history. A figure of £10,000 was included in the bid for this.

Recently we have been told that we are no longer part of this bid. We have not accepted this state of affairs and the Chairman has held talks with local councillors to resolve this matter.

Watch this space.....

PHOTO GALLERY



Lancashire Day



Open Air Play - 'The Twits'



The Churchtown Dragon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - BOTANIC GARDENS

| Month | Date | Time | Event Name |
|--------|------|-------|---|
| April | 23rd | 1:30 | St Georges Day Pramble Sefton Leisure Services |
| May | 24th | 2pm | Brass Band |
| May | 26th | 10am | Scarecrow making demonstration - Civic Soc & BGAG |
| May | 28th | | Family Picnic -Linaker Childrens Centre |
| May | 31st | 2pm | Poutlon le Fylde Brass Band |
| | 31st | 2pm | Scarecrow Competition |
| June | 7th | 2pm | Brass Band |
| June | 13th | 2pm | Pond Dipping Park Rangers |
| June | 14th | 2pm | Formby Band |
| June | 21st | 2pm | Rivington and Adlington Brass Band |
| June | 28th | 2pm | Chorley Silver Youth Band |
| June | 29th | 10:30 | Teddy Bears Picnic -Sefton Leisure Services |
| July | 5th | 2pm | Maghull Wind Orchestra Band |
| July | 12th | 2pm | Tarleton and District Brass Band |
| July | 19th | 2pm | Marshside Brass Band |
| July | 26th | 2pm | Banks Brass Band |
| August | 2nd | 2pm | Flixton Brass Band |
| August | 9th | 2pm | Brindle Brass Band |
| August | 16th | 2pm | Coppull and Standish Brass Band |
| August | 23rd | 2pm | Brass Band |
| August | 29th | 2pm | Churchtown Fair - BGAG & Civic Society |
| August | 30th | 2pm | Hesketh Bank Silver Band |
| August | 31st | 2pm | Massed Brass Band |
| Sept | 26th | 1:30 | Make a Bird Feeder - Rangers |

Best Neighbourhood Competition 2009

Following the success of the Civic Garden in last years Sefton in Bloom competition, the Civic Society have entered Churchtown Village in this competition which is run as part of the Britain in Bloom Competitions. The area covered is Manor Road, Botanic Road, 'Little' Cambridge Road, including the Church green area.



Shops, offices and homes are being asked to support the bid and our garden team will be available to give help and advice.

For further details contact - David Barton. 01704 226640

Email- garden@northmeols.merseyside.org

Plant Sales, including hanging baskets during May at the Civic Garden on a Saturday. Watch out for posters at the Garden for dates!

Botanic Gardens

This year sees the 50th Anniversary of the Sunday afternoon, Brass Band Concerts. Lets hope that we get some decent weather for the concerts and let us support them whenever we can.



It will also be the year when the Botanic Gardens Action Group joins forces with the Brass Band Association to launch an appeal for a proper Band Stand. We are hoping to raise funds to enable the building of a structure that not only will provide a stage for the brass bands but will enable other performances to be staged. Last year Churchtown School put on some really good performances but had to rely on good weather.

We have suggested that the Band Stand could be named after the famous Southport born Brass Bandmaster and Composer, **William Rimmer**. Not only did he conduct the Southport Corporation Military Band but also conducted such famous band as Wingates, Black Dyke Mills, and others. His music is still played today and there is hardly a brass band concert without one of his pieces being included.

Sefton Leisure Services have produced a possible design and will assist further when we put together a structured proposal which we are in the process of doing with the assistance of Sefton Council for Voluntary Services.

The '*Rimmer Society*' has promised to support the venture by circulating their worldwide members in order to start the fund raising. Now the crunch bit – the estimated cost will be in the region of £85,000.! So it will take us a few years to reach our goal but we will get there with your help and support.

We need names to show that we have the support of the public.

Officers and Committee.

Chairman - Ken Bridge, Tel: 01704 507284;

email - chairman@northmeols.merseyside.org

Vice Chairman - David Barton, Tel: 01704 226640;

email - garden@northmeols.merseyside.org

Secretary - John Dodd, Tel: 01704 231840;

email : mail@johndodd.co.uk

Treasurer - Joan Lowe, 52 Byrom Street, PR9 7AD

Tel; 01704 505185

Webmaster -David Proffitt, webmaster@northmeols.merseyside.org

WEB Page northmeols.merseyside.org

Hon. Legal Advisor - Wendy J TysonLLB. Cockshott Peck Lewis

143 Cambridge Road, PR9 7LN 01704 211649

Membership ffffffffffffffffff

Membership renewals are now due. As reported earlier instead of stipulating a membership subscription fee we are asking for donations.

We suggest £5 for individuals and £10 for organisations.

Please send or give to any committee member above.

ffffffffffffffffffffffff

Other Associated Organisations

North Meols (Southport) Family History Society.

Meets at the Mormon Church on Preston New Road on the third Thursday of the month at 7.45pm.

Botanic Gardens Action Group

Meets at Churchtown School. 6.30pm to 8pm

Wednesday 13th May 2009 - further dates to be announced.

‘Growing Business’ at Park Lodge Greenhouses, Rotten Row.

Telephone 01704 550635

Bedding Plants, Indoor Plants, Shrubs, Hanging Baskets,

Containers . Look out for plant sales at the Civic Garden in May.

Edited and photos by Ken Bridge