

Don't forget our Summer Break!



We will NOT be meeting in August.

Our monthly meetings will resume on Tuesday
15th September and the talk will be:

'CAMMELL LAIRDS'

The history of the builder of the world's finest ships,
now one of the few major shipyards remaining in Britain.

by
Derek Arnold.



2026 Members Outing

on

Tuesday 21st July

'A Walking Tour of Eastham Village'

by

David Allan

(Commencing at 6.30pm)



- Please meet at the Church Lychgate at **6:15pm**.
- Please bring your donation of **£5 per person**.

Our June meeting.

'THE FALL AND RISE OF A VICTORIAN SEASIDE RESORT'

A history of New Brighton on The Wirral Peninsula'.

by

Barry P. Humphreys

A native of New Brighton, Mr Humphreys gave a very interesting talk in which he described how the land was bought for development and the new town became a very successful seaside resort beloved by people from both sides of the Mersey.



EPL&FHS

Ellesmere Port Local and Family History Society

**If you would like to become a member
of our Society,**

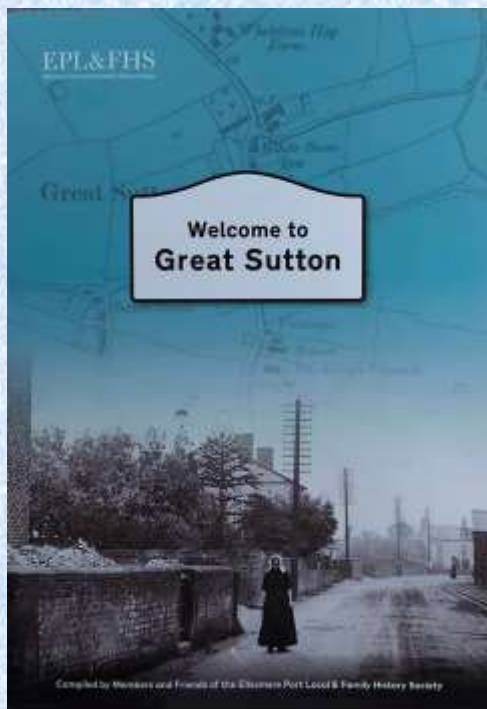
Annual subscription - £16

We have 9 Monthly Speakers, an Annual outing
and a one month Summer break.

We also distribute a Monthly Newsletter!

Just pay at the front desk at the next meeting.

We can accept **cash, credit cards** using our
SUMUP machine or **Bank Transfers**.



'Welcome to Great Sutton'

Price £18

This book has been selling fast
But copies are still available to buy
either from:

- **T.E. Hughes, Great Sutton**
or
- **the 'Press Clippers'**

who meet on
Wednesday mornings
at Ellesmere Port Library
10-12:30pm

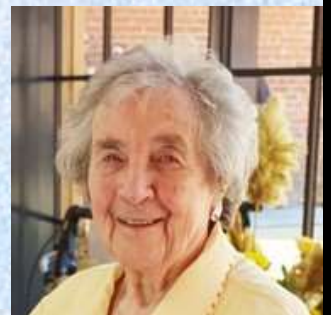


Margaret Disbury (1928 – 2026)

Margaret was the eldest daughter of local
businessman, Stan Offley who founded Offley Bros,
Whitby with his brother Cecil.

She taught at Whitby Heath Primary School and her
husband, Arthur Disbury was Headmaster of Overpool Primary School for
25 years.

Margaret was a wonderful source of knowledge when we were researching Whitby Village and she
loaned us many important photographs which were published in the 'Whitby Village' book.



‘Womens Gallery’

Years ago, as post-war Britain was rebuilding itself, those who returned from the War as well as those who had lived through the War at home, were determined to improve the future lives of everyone.

In **1964**, the Ellesmere Port Pioneer featured a series of articles under the heading of **‘Women’s Gallery’** which identified twenty women who were recognised for their efforts to help the Town.

We will bring details of these women, taken from the articles in the Monthly Newsletter.

Perhaps some of you will have memories of these ladies?

1. Mrs H Brice

“Daughter of a local Methodist preacher, wife of a local Methodist preacher, Mrs H. Brice of 3 Bedford Avenue, Whitby is herself a fully recognised local preacher. Although Mrs Brice has been preaching at services for over 40 years, it is only during the last two years that she has studied for the necessary examinations to become a fully qualified local preacher. Mrs Brice’s father was **Mr James Bedwell**, who was prominently associated with Whitby Methodist Church for many years and later, the Holiness Mission.



A founder member of the **Ellesmere Port Townswomen’s Guild**, Mrs Brice was President of the Guild when Ellesmere Port became a Borough. It was she who presented H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent with a Salver on behalf of the Guild.

Keenly interested in music, Mrs Brice is a member of the **Music Choral Society** and frequently entertains old people’s organisations.

Local Council Elections have also interested Mrs Brice. She unsuccessfully opposed Alderman G. Astbury in Central Ward in 1960.

The local **Standing Conference of Women’s Organisations** can indirectly owe its beginnings to Mrs Brice. In 1949, she formed the idea of a **United Women’s Service** for all organisations. About 400-500 people attended the service, and it was held annually in different churches throughout the town. This, unfortunately, has now ceased. It was at these services that the nucleus of the Standing Conference was formed and is now flourishing.”

2. Mrs A P Cresswell

A member of the **Parochial Church Council**, Mrs Cresswell is the Parish’s delegate to the Diocesan and Rural Deanery Conferences. Her Husband Mr ‘Bob’ Cresswell is also a member of the P.C.C. Mrs Cresswell is also one of the **representatives of the parish on the inter-church Christian Unit**.

For the past eight years Mrs Cresswell has been secretary of the **Standing Women’s Conference of Women’s Organisations** and she is a past Chairman of the **Ellesmere Port and Great Stanney Townswomen’s Guild**.

Old people’s organisations in the borough have benefited from Mrs Cresswell’s interest. She is a member of the **Old People’s Welfare Committee** and for the past seven years, has been Chairman of the **Ladies Voluntary Committee at “Sutton Beeches.”**

Many charitable organisations have cause to thank Mrs Cresswell, for she is one of the stalwarts when it comes to collecting for their funds. Mrs Cresswell is also on the local committee of the **C.A.B.**; the **W.V.S.**; the **Ladies Lifeboat Guild**, and the **World Refuge Committee**.

3. Miss Dorothy Anderson MBE.

Her main interests were tennis and music.

In **1967**, she was awarded the **MBE** for **Social Services, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.**



A former pupil of **Queens School, Chester** she was:

- Winner of 'Walter Welsby Memorial' Senior Games Prize (1925-26).
- Captain of the 1924-25 Lacrosse Team.
- Captain of the 1925-26 Hockey Team.
- Member of 1925-26 Cricket Team.
- Played first pair 1925-26 Tennis Team.
- She also played hockey for Cheshire.

[Ref 'Have Mynde' – Magazine of The Queens School, Chester]

Tennis continued to play quite a large role in Miss Anderson's life...

'She played at Hooton Tennis Club and won 1928 Club Ladies Singles Trophy outright then won the North of England Lawn Tennis Tournament at West Didsbury, Manchester after which she progressed to Wimbledon.'

[The History of Hooton Lawn Tennis Club' by Michael K. Ashton. 3/1/1985]

As a former pupil of the **Royal Academy of Music in London**, Miss Anderson is well-known locally as a teacher of singing and pianoforte, and she also trains and conducts the choirs of the **Great Stanney Townswomen's Guild** and **Great Sutton Women's Institute** which again brings her into contact with elderly people when the choirs are often called to entertain.

When a person works for various charitable organisations, it is difficult to pinpoint one that is a favourite, but one that is closest to the heart of Miss Dorothy Anderson, of 'The Pines', Berwick Road, Little Sutton, is the welfare of the **Blind and Elderly**. "After all, we all grow old" she said when I spoke to her this week. "The Pines" is the focal point of the meetings of the Blind of the Borough."

The **Soroptimist Club**, of which Miss Anderson is the present President, also takes a keen interest in the Blind. Earlier this year their '**Garden For The Blind**' opened at the Civic Centre.

Miss Anderson is the centre organiser of the **W.V.S.** and in 1956 in celebration of the 21st year of the organisation, she was fortunate enough to be chosen to attend a reception at **Buckingham Palace**.

The **Lifeboat Institute** is another of Miss Anderson's interests, and she serves on the local committee.

Whatever the job, Miss Anderson tackles and puts her greatest effort into it. "It is a full life, but I do enjoy it", she told me.

4. Mrs Gladys Godbold

A ringing of the telephone could mean a child – or children – is coming to stay for an indefinite period at the home of Mrs Gladys Godbold, at 69 Bailey Avenue, Overpool - for she is a **Registered Foster Parent**.



Mrs Godbold regularly hears from her former children – one girl is in Hong Kong – and through the years she has fostered about 30 youngsters. At the moment, Mrs Godbold deals with emergency cases only.

Joyce's Jive Club was formed by Mrs Godbold and named after her foster daughter. It is a thriving organisation, meeting once a week, and the proceeds pay for gifts to residents of Overpool who are ill.

A keen worker for charity, Mrs Godbold organises coffee evenings in aid of the **Cancer Campaign**. She has also organised tombola's for the **Children's Ward of the District, Birkenhead and Clatterbridge Hospitals**.

During the War, Mrs Godbold was nicknamed 'Spitfire' – but only because she did so much for the Spitfire Fund. Many nights Mrs Godbold has sat by candlelight making Golliwog toys which she sold in aid of the fund. People brought her scraps of wool from which she made numerous Golliwogs; in fact, she said she could not fix a number on how many she made.

She even raffled a budgerigar in aid of charity!

It is Mrs Godbold's love of children which over shines everything else, however.

Married for 25 years, she and her husband have none of their own, but there are many throughout the country who remember their 'mum and dad' with love and affection – and there is an ever-open door in Bailey Avenue to welcome more.

5. Mrs Alice Gillman

"Why me? There are many women in Wolverham who work hard".

This was the reaction of Mrs Alice Gillman of 6, Lancing Road, when I asked her to be this week's subject for the Women's Gallery.

As Mrs Gillman has recently been elected to serve her third year as Chairman of the **Ladies Committee of the Wolverham Welfare Association**, I thought the time was opportune to pay tribute to her work. The dances arranged by the Association have been very successful and these successes can be attributed in part to the hard work of Mrs Gillman who, with Mrs J. Flavell, have been responsible for booking the groups who have appeared at them.



The main aim of Mrs Gillman is to see the erection of the Community Centre at the junction of Cheltenham Road and Wolverham Road, for which planning permission has been obtained. It is hoped that building will start later this year.

Although working for the Wolverham Welfare Association is practically a full-time job for Mrs Gillman, she still finds time to collect for charity, including assistance for the **Cancer Campaign**.

She is also a member of the **Mother's Union at the Parish Church**.

"I feel one is doing some good with one's life, when one is working for others," said Mrs Gillman.

6. Cllr Mrs Catherine Essery

Welfare work takes up much of the time of Councillor Mrs Catherine Essery, of "Carrig", 2 Berwick Road, Little Sutton - work that she has done practically all her life – perhaps due to the influence of her mother, who was also keenly interested in it.

Mrs Essery is the **Conservative representative for Sutton Ward** on the Borough Council and in 1955 **was Chairman of the Parks Committee**.

The same year she represented the Council at a conference of the National Playing Fields Association. She was elected **Mayor of Ellesmere Port (1970-71)**.

The local branch of the **Citizens Advice Bureau** owes its formation to the hard work of Mrs Essery and this year the seventh anniversary of the branch was celebrated. Mrs Essery is the honorary secretary of the **Ellesmere Port C.A.B.** and has for the past three years been the representative for Cheshire on the London Committee.

As well as being a member of the **Deva Hospital League of Friends**, Mrs Essery is a member of the **Chester, Runcorn, Northwich and District War Pensions Committee**, and does much welfare work in this respect.

Mrs Essery also represents the Council on the **Chester Marriage Guidance Committee**, and supports charities through the **British Legion**, of which she is also a member.



7. Mrs Frances Howell

If you visit the **Community Centre in Queen Street** you are very likely to meet someone who knows you or a member of your family. Or, if you are fairly new to the borough, you will find someone who will relate to you tales about the 'Port'.

I visited the Centre recently and was quickly engulfed in the friendly atmosphere, and soon found myself being questioned about my family – and although it was my first visit, I really felt that I 'belonged'.

This atmosphere of friendliness and comfort is largely due to Mrs Frances Howell, of 63 Merseyton Road, who is in charge of the Centre.

With her team of helpers, she sees that tea is served whenever it is wanted and provides something to eat for her 'customers.'

A member of the **W.V.S.** for about 10 years, Mrs Howell is now on the Centre staff. When she joined the W.V.S., one of her first duties was to serve tea at the local hospital.

Mrs Howell helps at the **Charity Balls held by the Mayor**, is a regular attended at the **Parish Church**, and is also a keen bowler.

Having no family of her own, Mrs Howell regards the people who attend the Community Centre as her 'family'.

"I enjoy doing this work very much," Mrs Howell told me. "I like coming to the Centre. In fact, there is never a dull moment there."

How could there be a dull moment? With a person like Mrs Howell in charge, the Community Centre is bound to be a pleasant retreat.



8. Mrs Alice Burke

Every organisation has the stalwarts who work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes and rarely have any publicity.

Such a person is Mrs Alice Burke, of 14, Newnham Drive, who, for the past eight years has been a member of the **W.V.S.** She helps with the '**Meals-On-Wheels**' and at the **Community Centre in Queen Street**.

A member of the local committee of the **British Empire Cancer Campaign** for 11 years, Mrs Burke is very busy at the present time organising the

house-to-house collections in the Wolverham area. She hopes that this feature will prompt some women to volunteer their help for this.

A member of the **Women's Section of the British Legion**, she is also occupied at the present time preparing for the 'Poppy Appeal'.

Mrs Burke was a founder member of the **Wolverham Welfare Association**, and is its publicity agent. When dances are held by the Association, it is usual to see Mrs Burke sitting by the door selling tickets – a necessary task and one that helps to the success of the events.

"I am interested in anything to do with elderly people", Mrs Burke, a widow for the past five years, told me. "I find that this sort of work fills in the time in a useful way."



9. Councillor Mrs Pauline B. Richards

School Teacher, Housewife, Councillor, and Social Worker - these few words sum up Mrs Pauline B. Richards of 314 Chester Road, Whitby.

History Teacher at **John Street Secondary School** for 18 years, Mrs Richards also represents Whitby Ward as a Conservative on the Borough Council.

It was a case of third time lucky when Mrs Richards was elected to the Council in 1962, for she had twice previously contested Grange Ward unsuccessfully.

Mrs Richards is very interested in social work.

She was President of the **Soroptimist Club** from 1959-60; is the local auxiliary secretary of the **R.S.P.C.A.**; vice-chairman of the **Guide Dogs for the Blind Association**; a member of the **Cancer Research Committee**; a member of the **Conservative Association**; and Chairman of the **British Legion Women's Section**.

Mrs Richards, who was born in India, is the daughter of the late **Major G.A. Rickards**, and it is from her father, that she inherits her love of social work.

Which aspect of her social work does she enjoy the most? - Mrs Richards said it was difficult to choose, but perhaps the British Legion would come first, as her father was so closely associated with the organisation.

10. Mrs Gladys Godbold

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More Ladies to follow in our next Newsletter.....



We are always very grateful for donations of photographs and memorabilia for our Archive.

We have recently accepted two separate donations of a couple of lovely photographs and a set of Title Deeds from the Little Sutton area.

Donors often wish to remain anonymous and avoid publicity but we would like to acknowledge their kindness in helping to preserve the History of Ellesmere Port.

Thank you!

Calendar of Events for EPLFHS (as at 7th June 2026)

Tues 21st July	Members	Members Visit To Eastham Village
Tues 18th Aug	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
Tues 15th Sept	Members Mtg	REARRANGED 'CAMMELL LAIRDS' - The history of the builder of the world's finest ships, now one of the few major shipyards remaining in Britain. by Derek Arnold
Saturday 10th Oct	EVENT	Cheshire Local History Association History Day <u>'Cheshire Towns and the March of Time'</u> Tarpoley Community Centre, High St, Tarpoley
<u>Sunday</u> 11th Oct	EVENT	<u>Wirral Postcard Fair</u> at Thornton Hough
Tues 20th October	Members Mtg	'THE EARLY TRACKWAYS AND ROADS' A look at possible ancient travelling routes from 3500 years ago through Roman roads, drovers roads and bridge building through the centuries linking communities'. By Mike Blackburn
Tues 17th Nov	Members Mtg	'A new look at The Gallipoli Campaign in 1915' by Alan Robinson
Tues 15th Dec	Members Mtg	CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MEMBERS

Thank you for reading this newsletter.



Have a lovely Summer Break!!

