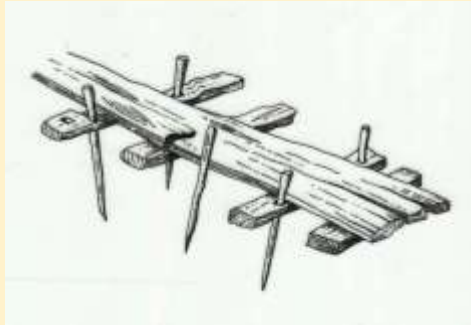




Tuesday 20th October

'The Early Trackways And Roads'

by

Michael Anthony Blackburn

What do you know about the possible ancient travelling routes from 3500 years ago through Roman roads, drovers roads and bridge building through the centuries linking communities?

Why not come along and find out?

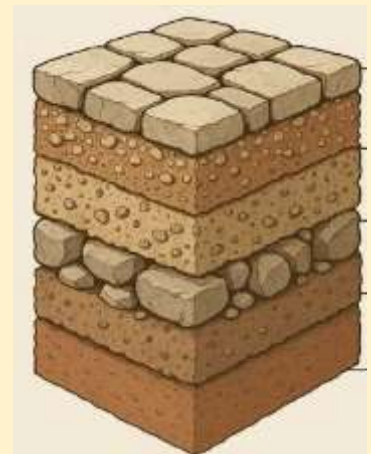
WHERE ? In the café at the **The Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port**

TIME ? **7:30pm** with the doors open at **7pm**

£ Visitors are charged **£5** per meeting.



Refreshments are available



'Womens Gallery'

In July, we told you how 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. Our newsletter featured ten of those women and this month, we are including the remainder. The breadth of the voluntary work undertaken by these women is a wonderful reflection of the spirit of post-war Ellesmere Port.

Perhaps some of you will have memories of these ladies?

11. Councillor Mrs Isabelle Reeves

In **1953**, Mrs Isabelle Reeves of 21, Hillcrest Road, Little Sutton, was a member of the **Ambulance Service of the Civil Defence**. Now she is **Transport Officer of the W.V.S.**

It is her responsibility to see that drivers are available to distribute the **'Meals-on-wheels'** – and to drive the van herself at times.

As well as being very active in the W.V.S. Mrs Reeves is also a **Conservative representative for Poole Ward on the Borough Council**, serving her second term of office.

For the past five years, Mrs Reeves has been **Secretary of the Sutton and District Branch of the Women's Conservative Association**, and is an active canvasser at election time.

At the end of August, Mrs Reeves will be spending a weekend-end course at the home of Lord and Lady Masham at Swinton, having won a scholarship in May.

Councillor, Transport Officer and housewife, Mrs Reeves leads a busy life. Of her fellow members of the W.V.S., Mrs Reeves says, "They are a wonderful band of women", an observation with which I wholeheartedly agree.



12. Mrs Nellie Woodhouse

"Sometimes I sit down and wonder how I do everything but I enjoy it very much." Said Mrs Nellie Woodhouse, of 95 Church Street, when I spoke to her this week.

After Mrs Woodhouse had related to me some of the things she does, I, also, wondered how she managed to fit in all her voluntary work.

A founder-member of the **Ladies' Lifeboat Guild**, Mrs Woodhouse is the **Press Secretary** of the organisation; a founder-member of the **Voluntary Committee of Sutton Beeches** and a member of the **Cancer Campaign**. "I have been in every pub and club in the Port collecting." She says. As a member of the **Deva Hospital League of Friends**, Mrs Woodhouse has 'adopted' three patients, and visits them regularly.

For the past 12 years Mrs Woodhouse has been a member of the **Ellesmere Port and Stanney Women's Institute**, and is also a member of the **Women's Electricity Guild**.

Pressure of work forced Mrs Woodhouse to give up her assistance to the 'Meals on Wheels' service and her help to the **Community Centre in Queen Street**, but she still assists the W.V.S.

"I have been doing voluntary work for the past 27 years," Mrs Woodhouse told me, "and best of all, I like doing anything for old people and children."



13. Mrs Elizabeth (Beattie) Price

Think of Mrs Elizabeth (Beattie) Price of Somerville Crescent, and one will immediately think of **Morris Dancing**.

Mrs Price, with her husband, former Councillor Fred Price, formed the **'Parklets' troupe** around 1962. At that time, there were about four other troupes in the town, but Mrs Price's is the only one still going strong.

Mrs Price did not set out with the idea of forming a troupe of Morris Dancers; originally, she had a concert party which entertained to raise money for the Labour Party funds. At a charge of 6d. per head, including refreshment, a profit was still made!

Trophies and certificates are liberally displayed around the sitting room of Mrs Price's house – the exact number awarded to their troupes can't be remembered.

One aspect of 'being in the business' for so long is that Mrs Price is now training children whose mothers were in the original troupe.



14. Miss Mary Elizabeth (Hetty) Johnson

"You'll last a month," was the forecast when Miss Mary Elizabeth Johnson of 13, Stanley Road joined the local Corps of the **Salvation Army** when it was formed in Ellesmere Port.

Miss Johnson completes **52 years with the Army** next January, and one of her proudest possessions is her 50-years badge. She told me she was the only person in Ellesmere Port to have one.

Miss Johnson has been Treasurer of the Corps since she joined. At that time, meetings were held above a shop in Merseyton Road.

The only obstacle that has her having a hundred per cent attendance at meetings has been illness – and this has only barred her from comparatively few meetings.

Miss Johnson is justifiably proud of her record of service but one disappointment in her life is that she has not been able to serve in wider fields. Her unfulfilled ambition was to be a Missionary Office.

During her 51 years in the Army, Miss Johnson reckons to have served under nearly 100 officers.

"I have been very happy," Miss Johnson told me, "but I would dearly have loved to serve in a wider sphere of work."

Miss Johnson can console herself with the thought, "Charity begins at home."



15. Mrs D.E. Hyde

"St John's has been my whole life and I have been very happy," said Dorothy Edith Hyde, Cadet Superintendent of the **St. John Ambulance Brigade**, when I visited her at her house, 30, Rugby Road, Wolverham last week.

A native of Little Neston, Mrs Hyde was a member of the **Neston Operatic Society** until she came to Ellesmere Port and made the Ambulance Brigade her life. She joined the local Corps in 1937, becoming a full member the next year. She is the proud possessor of a 15-years' service medal and two bars. Nurse V. Corson was the Superintendent of the Ellesmere Port Division when Mrs Hyde was training.

During the war, Mrs Hyde did Voluntary work at the District Hospital.



16. Mrs L. Pate

Mrs L. Pate of Cambridge Road, is a person who seldom reads the news yet she is a stalwart of the **Parish Church**, the **Mothers Union**, and the **St. John Ambulance Brigade**.

Mrs Pate is one of the few founder-members who are still active in the Parish Church Mother's Union and she rarely misses attending Communion at The Parish Church on Sundays for about 19 years. Mrs Pate was a Sunday School Teacher at the church for 14 years when she had to resign due to her late husband's ill-health.

Mrs Pate, who is a native of Ellesmere Port, has been a member of St. John Ambulance Brigade since 1932 and for 10 years, has been a sergeant in the Women's section.

During the war, she did regular duty at the District Hospital, and is still called upon to attend functions where the help of the Brigade might be needed.

"I think the Brigade is a wonderful organisation." She said when I visited her, adding that she is the proud possessor of a long service medal with two bars and another bar is due shortly.

Mrs Pate, who was a keen tennis player in her younger days, spends her spare time nowadays, reading.

One thing she would like to see is more young people joining the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and Mrs Pate's long service and love of the life is a good recommendation for anyone who is toying with the idea of 'enlisting'.



17. Mrs Florence Baddley

Well-known in local bowling circles, Mrs Florence Baddley of 50 Belgrave Drive, was for many years associated with the **Co-Operative Women's Guild Bowling Club**, but for the past few years has been playing for Whitby Park in the Ladies' Bowling League. A position she has held for the club is that of Secretary.

As well as playing bowls for the Co-Operative team, Mrs Baddley was President of the Co-Operative Women's Guild and one of her wishes is to see the Guild re-formed.

She is a member of the **Parents' Association of the Grammar School**, of which her daughter is a pupil.

Mrs Baddley is also a member of the **Voluntary Committee of 'Sutton Beeches'** and helps to man the trolley there.

18. Mrs Phyllis Cranage

The smell of greasepaint and the glamour of the professional stage lure many people. Some have a dream of being professionals without doing anything to help make the dream come true. Others find fulfilment by joining amateur groups and having the 'best of both worlds' – a settled home life and an outlet for their talent.

"Don't put your daughter on the stage," advised Noel Coward but that advice is not taken as seriously as it was during the last century, when to announce that one was an actress would cause eyebrows to reach the hairline. Today, actresses are often revered and to have only a 'bit part' lends glamour to a person.

Ellesmere Port is fortunate in having a number of flourishing amateur societies. Included in these are the **Theatre Club, the Operatic Society and the Original Pantomime Company**. All also have a common denominator – Phyllis Cranage of 27 Maxwell Close, is a member of all of them.

Mrs Cranage, although 'thrilled' – was a little hesitant about being singled out from the many hard workers that each society has when I approached her. She has, however, taken leading roles in many of the productions put on by each society. They range from drama to light comedy and she has ably mastered each one for which she has been cast. At one-time Mrs Cranage had dreams of being a professional, but that was not to be.

As well as appearing in local shows, she has taken part in the **Miracle Plays at Chester**. Although she was not the star, she counted appearing in them as a great honour.

What kind of part does she prefer to play? "Well, for my own mental satisfaction, I like drama," she said, "although I enjoy musical comedy immensely,"

A native of Birkenhead, Mrs Cranage (unlike most actresses, she does not use her maiden name) spent most of her early life at Bromborough, attending New Chester Road School. A mistress there encouraged her in her flair for acting "She seemed to sense, without my saying, that I loved it." she recalled. As well as belonging to three amateur societies, Phyllis is a member of the **Drama Section of the Ellesmere Port and Whitby Townswomen's Guild**.

Reading lines, you may think, would deter some from reading for the fun of it but not so Phyllis. She derives considerable pleasure from reading history and autobiographies - of actresses. The story of Sarah Bernhardt she has read a number of times.

Has this actress of many parts passed on her talents to the next generation? She has a daughter who is taking elocution lessons and shows an interest in acting. Although Mum would not 'push' her into the rigorous life of an actress, she would not follow Noel Coward's advice.

19. Mrs G.F. Bradbury

Magistrate, charity worker, youth worker, school governor and doctor's wife, yet Mrs G.F. Bradbury of Atherton Lodge, Pooltown Road, considers that she is not a local personality. Indeed, it was with reluctance that she agreed to appear in Women's Gallery this week.

Mrs Bradbury was made a **J.P. in 1956**, and since then has been called upon often to fulfil her duties on the Bench. Perhaps, however, it is largely for her work on the local committee of the **British Empire Cancer Campaign** that Mrs Bradbury is most widely known.

Which branch of her voluntary work gives her the most pleasure?

Mrs Bradbury said working for young people and animals was the most rewarding. She is governor of a number of schools in the borough, and until about eight years ago, was **District Commissioner of the Ellesmere Port Girl Guides**. She is still a member of the Local Association, however. Mrs Bradbury is also a member of the Divisional Executive.

The recently formed local committee of the **R.S.P.C.A.** was brought into being largely through her instigation.

"I am not a political figure, but I quite enjoy doing things in the background," Mrs Bradbury told me.

One thing she is proud of is her Scottish origins. She is a native of Fifeshire - "where Robinson Crusoe was born" - and has lived in Ellesmere Port for about 17 years, it does not take a budding Sherlock Holmes, however, to trace her ancestry, Mrs Bradbury's lilting Scottish accent is an immediate give-away.

Be she local personality or not – and everyone is entitled to their opinion – if more committees had more background workers like Mrs Bradbury, they could surely be invigorated.

20. Miss M.E. Jones

"I think discipline is good for one. After all, we are dealing with human lives." Said Miss M.E. Jones, **Matron of Ellesmere Port Hospital**.

I had asked Miss Jones what she thought of cartoonists and comedians who portrayed Matrons as dragons or ogresses. She said she thought it was an adverse criticism of the profession.



A native of Southsea, Miss Jones came to Ellesmere Port from Galashiels, Selkirkshire, but has trained and served in many hospitals in the country. It was at Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Market Drayton, that Miss Jones received her Tuberculosis Association Certificate and took her training for her S.R.N.

From Market Drayton, she moved to Warnford General Hospital, Leamington Spa and later returned to Warnford Hospital for her House Training.

Since coming to Ellesmere Port, Miss Jones has become a member of the **Soroptimist Club**. One of her main interests, however, is gardening.

Guiding is another of her interests and among her activities this connection is that of badge tester to the Local Association.

Pressure of work forced Miss Jones to give up her position on the **Cancer Research Committee** but she is still a willing helper for the cause.

21. Miss Joyce Jobber

Music has played an important part in the life of Miss Joyce Jobber of 138 Princes Road, and Miss Jobber has played an important part in the life of Ellesmere Port.

A member of a well-known family who have all shown a keen interest in music, Miss Jobber is the **Music mistress at Sutton Secondary School for Girls**. The school choir is well known around the district, entertaining at charity functions.

Prior to being appointed a teacher at Sutton School, Miss Jobber was for three years Music mistress at Filey, Scarborough Boarding School.

Her interest in music is not confined to in-school activities. She was the instigator of the formation of the **Ellesmere Port Girls' Choir** in 1961, for which she was conductor and trainer.

Unfortunately, Miss Jobber found later that she was without the services of an accompanist. She 'battled' on, however, but found that she could not conduct and accompany the choir. She hinted, though, that she would like to re-form the choir if an accompanist could be found.

Miss Jobber is also closely associated with **Trinity Methodist Church**, where she is the organist.

Evidence of her interest in gardening are the neat gardens at her home, which promise to be ablaze with colour later this year.

Dressmaking is another hobby. In fact, Miss Jobber makes most of her own clothes.

She and her sister, Hilda, a Midwife, have recently tried their hands at Millinery, but so far, they have not worn any of their creations.

Miss Hilda Jobber, formerly nursed at Clatterbridge Hospital, but has been 'on the district' at Ellesmere Port for about 18 years.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading about the 'Women in the Gallery'.

This information was gleaned from our beloved local newspaper 'The Ellesmere Port Pioneer' which ceased production 27th December 2017, after

97 years in print



Calendar of Events for EPLFHS

Tues 20th October	'THE EARLY TRACKWAYS AND ROADS' A look at possible ancient travelling routes from 3500 years ago through Roman roads, drover's roads and bridge building through the centuries linking communities'. by Mike Blackburn
Tues 17th Nov	'A new look at The Gallipoli Campaign in 1915' by Alan Robinson
Tues 15th Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR MEMBERS
2027	2027
Tues 19th January 2027	<i>'The Story of Wirral'</i> A rapid ride through the history of this wonderful peninsula from invasions by Romans, Vikings, and Normans through to how the rural life of Wirral adjusted to the Industrial Revolution, and the developments of its important City neighbour across the Mersey. This talk brings us right up to date with modern Wirral, and its ambitions for the rest of the 21st century. by Ken Pye
Tues 16th February 2027 <i>Awaiting fee and confirmation</i>	<i>'The Liverpool Tobacco Industry'</i> (1642 to 2007) by Robert S. Jones
Tues 16th March 2027	<i>Society AGM</i> <i>And Members 15 minute Talks</i>

Forthcoming Events by other Societies

Thursday 15th October 2026	<u>Hoole History & Heritage Society</u> <i>'The History of the Albert Dock'</i> By Phil Cook Phil Cook will tell us about the Liverpool Albert Dock area, past present and future with a wide selection of old and modern pictures. Meeting begins at 7:15pm Room 3, Hoole Community Centre
Sunday 18th October 2026	<u>Antique and Vintage Fair</u> 9.30am – 3pm At Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight 
Thursday 29th October 2026	<u>The Family History Society of Cheshire</u> <u>(Chester Group)</u> ‘Researching Merchant Navy officers and seamen’ by Victoria Doran Meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Upton-by-Chester Pavilion, Wealdstone Lane, Chester CH2 1HD Visitors £3
Friday 30th October 2026	<u>Friends of Wirral Archives</u> <i>'Churchyard and Cemeteries. Burials practices from the Middle Ages to the present'</i> by William Meredith Wirral Archives present these FREE local history workshops 2pm in the Wirral Archives Search Room Lower Ground Floor, Cheshire Lines Building Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 1ND
Saturday 31st October 2026	<u>Chester Society for Landscape History</u> <i>'Eastham Pleasure Gardens: A Journey Back In Time'</i> by David Mottram 2pm: Lecture St Columba's Church Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester Admission: Members free, Visitors £4, Student Visitors £2 <u>https://www.chesterlandscapehistory.org.uk/</u>

Monday 2nd November 2026	<u>Frodsham and District History Society</u> <i>'1st/5th Battalion Cheshire Regiment - Square pegs for square holes?'</i> by Allen Wales This meeting will be held in the Main Street Community Church, Frodsham Members £2 Visitors £4. Please arrive from 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. <u>https://frodshamhistory.org.uk/</u>
Wednesday 4th November 2026	<u>Backford, Mollington & District Local History Society</u> <i>'The history of Chester's Water Supply'</i> Meeting starts at 7:30pm at The Five Villages Hall, Station Road, Backford, CH1 6NT
Thursday 5th November 2026	Wirral Postcard Club We meet first Thursday of the month. at Thornton Hough Village Hall, Wirral Meeting opens at 2pm with half an hour for buying, selling and socialising before the talk which begins at 2.30pm 
Friday 6th November 2026	<u>Merseyside Branch of the Western Front Association (WFA)</u> "German War Birds" by Graham Kemp At Trinity and Palm Grove United Reformed and Methodist Church, Alton Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH43 1UZ. £2 for members and £4 for visitors which includes coffee or tea at the end of the meeting. <u>https://wfa-merseyside.weebly.com/</u>

Monday 9th November 2026	<u>Hargrave & Huxley Historical Group</u> <i>'From Cook to Pastor to SAS Padre'</i> by Laurie Bradley at Hargrave Church Hall, Church Lane, CH3 7RN <u>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</u> Meeting starts at 7.30pm Non-members £3.00 per meeting https://sites.google.com/site/cheshirelha/member-societies/hargrave--huxley-historical-group
Wednesday 11th November 2026 At 2pm	<u>Ellesmere Port and Chester Postcard Club</u> In the Entrance Hall, Hope Farm Church, Ellesmere Port. If the inner door is locked, please ring the bell on your left marked "Circuit Office". £2 to include tea/coffee and biscuits - or £1.50 without refreshments. 
Wednesday 18th November 2026	<u>The Heswall Society</u> <i>'Comedy Legends of the Wirral'</i> By Mike Haskins at Heswall Hall, 111 Telegraph Rd, Heswall, Wirral CH60 0AF Meeting starts at 8pm Visitors welcome
If you or your Society have any meetings that you would like to advertise, please contact us: eplfhs2026@outlook.com	

Oher Local Events



Wirral Archaeology Conference 2026

Viking and Anglo-Saxon

Wirral

The Hunt for Brunanburh

RESEARCH BY:

Dr. Robert Philpott
'Title of Paper TBC'
Paul Sherman
'The Search for Brunanburh'
Dr. Paul Cavill
'Finding Brunanburh I: History & Place Name Evidence'
Prof. Steve Harding
'Finding Brunanburh II: 'Dingeasene', Isotopes & DNA'
Jim Glenister
'Geophysical Survey at Basingwerk Abbey'
Dave Capener
'Warriors and Weapons of the Viking Age'
Peter Jenkins
'Brunanburh -Where is the 'Dingeasene'?'
Prof. Howard Williams
'Quizzing Wirral's Early Medieval Stones'

Display of local finds and more

Wirral Archaeology CIC Welcomes you to join us at our first research conference. We are a community of amateur historians who are dedicated to discovering Wirral's forgotten past. Come and discover our Viking and Anglo-Saxon history. Joining us on the day are our own Wirral Vikings.

St Andrews Church, Bebington
Wirral, CH63 3DE
Saturday 14th November 2026

A hot lunch, and drinks will be provided on the day. The event will run from 09.30-16.30

Tickets will be available at £30 from Eventbrite from the 1st September 2026
More Information available from our website:
www.wirralarchaeology.org




Saturday
14th November
2026

You Gotta Get A Gimmick: The Paul O'Grady Story



From
Friday 11th December 2026
To
Friday 31st December 2027

**Tickets available to book
from Friday 4th September**

This major exhibition will delve into the private archive of **Paul O'Grady**, revealing his life in front of and behind the cameras.

It will give a first glimpse into the extensive archive of Paul, contextualising him as an LGBTQIA+ icon, an award-winning broadcaster, passionate activist and someone who gave a voice to the voiceless, particularly those with four paws.

From Tranmere to the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, the "blonde bombsite of Birkenhead" to Battersea Dog's Home, the exhibition will present Paul O'Grady is one of Britain's most cherished, and significant cultural figures.

Tickets up to 31st March will be available to book, further dates will be available in due course.

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**.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Why not come along to our Autumn Meetings?

