

14. Early October, life and death in Neston 1914.

Many aspects of Neston life continued as normal as the town drifted into autumn. Harvest services were held at the various churches on Sunday 4th October when children carrying flowers marched from Neston Sunday School (the Liverpool Road 'top' school) to the Parish Church for a special service. Perhaps the vicar was still not recovered from his bicycle accident, as his brother gave a sermon on Sunday.

The new St Michael's Little Neston Mission Church held its first ever flower service for children. Led by Captain Scholey of the Church Army, and the surpliced choir, the children carried their flowers from the school in Ness Holt (on School Lane), singing hymns, to St Michael's. The flowers were said to have been sent to the Church Army HQ in London, for the 'slums'. The Fisherman's Church in Parkgate had flowers and plants, and also a fishing net provided by Tom Bushell, representing the harvest of the sea.

The series of winter lectures started in the Presbyterian Lecture Room (U.R.C schoolroom) on Wednesday nights, the first one being "*Camping Ways and Days*" with coloured lantern slides. "*Natural Manures*" was the title of the first of a series of horticulture talks on Mondays at the Burton Road school.

The Parkgate Auxiliary Military Hospital was ready and waiting for patients, and a long list of gifts, loans and promises of contributions of food supplies and groceries was made. Lots of equipment had been sewn or built by enthusiastic local help. Employment was being sought for the Belgian refugees, and Mr Grenfell, headmaster of Mostyn House School had found work for a couple of them. The plan was for any wages they earned to be saved and given to them when they returned to Belgium.

Mr and Mrs Palmer of the Royal Oak in Little Neston, who had three sons at the Front and one still at camp in England, heard from one of the sons in France that he would like some English newspapers, and more tobacco. "I do not think the war will last long" he wrote.

There were no Neston deaths reported from the war as yet, but a 22-year-old man, Wilfrid Jones, from Chemist's Yard (Cabry's Cottages) died suddenly this week from pneumonia. He was a plate-layer on the railway; many locals including his five brothers and sisters attended his funeral.

On Saturday Neston Nomads played well, and beat Wallasey Borough 4-1 on the Institute ground, both these teams having been promoted because so many others had been forced to drop out of the West Cheshire League as their players went off to fight.

Across the water, Liverpool played Everton in a League match at Anfield on Saturday, 6d (2 ½ p) admission, with some of the gate money going to the National Relief Fund for assisting families affected financially by the war.