

### **43. Weeks 45 and 46 of Neston life in the Great War, and Moorside Ladies are still knitting**

Moorside Cottage, the old house that stood where Moorside Avenue joins Moorside Lane, was a small private school for young ladies and the home of the Richardson family. The ladies had formed a knitting group at the start of the War, and were still working hard, having produced over 1,000 pairs of socks for the soldiers, plus scarves, mufflers and mittens. The Oxton family of Bridge House on Burton Road, opposite to the present Youth and Community Centre, were also knitting socks and had turned out 250 pairs so far.

Joseph Mealor of White House Farm by the Green in Little Neston, was Chairman of Wirral Farmers Club, and had problems to tackle; would there be enough labour available for the hay harvest this year? Various ideas were discussed at the Club's meeting, such as using volunteers, perhaps people on holiday, schoolboys, disabled soldiers, women – though the latter, however willing they were, needed to be experienced. The workers would need supervising, and of course there was the question of the liability of the employer in case of accident. It was agreed that as yet the situation was not too bad (and it became much worse before the War was over.) The farmers were warned to put their completed haystacks in different parts of their fields, in case of air-raids.

The popular whist-drives at the Parkgate Red Cross Hospital were still being regularly held, the prizes being given by local tradesmen this week – Corkills of Liverpool Road, bakers, Quayles of Parkgate Road, who sold carpets and upholstery, Griffiths bootmakers (Age UK shop on the Cross), and Sam Mealor of High Street, the fishmonger. Lady Mackinnon, wife of the General in charge of Western Command had visited the Hospital on June 16<sup>th</sup>. A week later nine more patients arrived, a total of 160 being brought to various Wirral hospitals via Woodside Station. The patients for Parkgate were met by the Neston Ambulance Brigade men and ferried to Parkgate in cars loaned by local residents.

A.G.Grenfell, Head of Mostyn House School, was engaging in discussion with the council on his idea of a swimming bath on the foreshore, though it did not materialize until 1923. Grenfell was also in discussions over the wooden steps he had erected onto the shore from the Parade, hence interfering with the sea wall.

Private George Butcher of the Liverpool Scottish, whose letters we have occasionally shared over the last few months, had written to his family in Hinderton Road, after he had been injured. He was now Lance-Corporal, and on June 16<sup>th</sup> had been involved in an advance on German trenches on Bellewardde Ridge near Ypres; many of the Scottish were killed and injured, and George had been hit on the cheek by a piece of shell. Whilst going to get it dressed he got struck by more shrapnel in his knee and eventually ended up in hospital in Norwich.

Local bowling greens were seeing action this summer, Harrison Park (New Brighton) versus Neston Institute on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> Thornton Hough played Kirby Park on the green behind the Neston Hotel (opposite to the Town Hall). The Institute and Neston & District teams were in the Inter Association Bowls Competition. There was also a Cheshire County Individual Merit Competition with Neston bowlers T. Tickle, W. Oxton and T. Jennion involved.

This article covers roughly June 10<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 1915.