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### Continuing our serialisation of Geoff Andrews' fascinating book, *Memories of a Lifetime Past*, about the life and times of Parkgate fishermen, Chris and Jim Peters

Frank Griffiths had been Chris's friend before I was born. I would listen to stories Chris told me about him, then I met him and read his two books, *Angel Visits* and *Winged Hours*, and I found him to be a very fascinating man. Educated at Mostyn House School, Parkgate, he loved to go boating, and camping on the beaches around the River Dee, from Thurstaston to the Point of Ayr, bribing the officer in charge with a couple of bottles of beer to allow them out.

Frank worked for his father on leaving school for a short time, over in Liverpool. His uncle had a business and when Frank went to join him during the depression from 1926 to '29 his uncle paid him 18/6d weekly. He also had a small shrimping boat called *Olive*, on which he had built a cabin and did a spot of fishing and shrimping, on the Dee in summer. He laid it up in the Salthouse dock in Liverpool in the winter and he lived on it.

One episode he had on the *Olive* was that he was knocked overboard, while fishing single-handed with the sails up and the engine going and him holding on to the trawl warp. He was heading in the general direction of Ireland; for the life of him he couldn't pull himself back on board, against the pull of the boat. With his strength ebbing fast and half of the sea inside him and wishing that he had a mate on board, his feet touched bottom. The swell kept knocking him down and he realised the boat had turned and run up the Hoyle bank. He waded to the boat to drop the sails and pull the engine out of gear, and with the net still out in deep water, managed to pull the boat back to it. Surprise, surprise, it was full of fish, which he sold in Liverpool market for 15s (15 shillings – about 75p).

Frank has always had a guardian angel watching over him. His books relate how he has been the sole survivor of a bomber crash in the war over France. He walked to Spain, was put in prison and finally freed, and arrived home on a tug along with hundreds of other servicemen. To know more about this remarkable man, the books *Angel Visits* and *Winged Hours* (from biplane to jet) are well worth a read.

He has a remarkable sense of humour too. On one occasion, while flying a Walrus Seaplane over the Dee Estuary, and knowing the area quite well, he put it down alongside Sam Roberts, who was trawling for fish in his nobby, Pat. "Can you spare us a bucket of fish!" he shouted. Sam obliged him and Frank emptied the bucket of flapping fish into the bottom of the plane, put half a crown (about 25p) into the bucket and gave it him back. He taxied away, then took off. I believe the fish were still flapping about when they landed at his station in Worcester.

## Royal Liverpool Magazine

Royal Liverpool Golf Club, the historic championship golf links in Hoylake, Wirral, has published the 2018-19 edition of its innovative annual magazine.

With 64 well illustrated pages and intriguing contributions, many of them written by members of the Club, the free magazine promotes Royal Liverpool in particular and the game of golf and its history in general.

With a print run of 7,000 copies and an estimated readership of at least 30,000 people, the RLGC magazine is supported by advertisers who buy not only space but also the chance to entertain guests at the Company Golf Day in September.

This year's editorial content looks back 35 years to 1983 when the Walker Cup was last fought for at Hoylake, and forward to next year when the Match returns.

There's an interview with Nathaniel Crosby, a competitor in 1983 and Captain of the USA team that will defend the Walker Cup at Royal Liverpool. Nathaniel is the son of entertainment legend Bing Crosby, once described as "a golfer who likes to sing".

Detective work reveals the facts behind the man responsible for two of the most famous portraits of the great American Bobby Jones, and Hoylake's rising amateur star Matt Jordan reflects on his career to date and the lure of the professional game.

There's a guide to playing golf in Wirral.

Royal Liverpool's Head Professional, John Heggarty, has more of his Top Tips for Low Scores. John is the current Captain of the PGA.

Reflecting the fact that Royal Liverpool has the finest collection of golfing memorabilia outside St Andrews, the magazine's 10 year mission to tell the History of Hoylake in 100 Objects reaches artefacts 61 to 70.

Editor Mark Gorton says: "We try to publish a magazine that has plenty in it for members and visitors alike. We're keen to share the course with golfers from home and abroad and we distribute the magazine to airport lounges across the country, as well as at major events like The Open and the Women's British Open.

"If people read it and enjoy it, great, and if as a result they decide to come and play Royal Liverpool, so much the better. It's good for the Club and also our modest contribution to Wirral's important tourism economy."

**To view an online version of the magazine visit:**

**<https://express.yudu.com/item/details/3933119/>**

**ROYAL-LIVERPOOL-GOLF-CLUB-MAGAZINE-2018-2019**



The 16th green (David Cannon)