



# Greater Wigston Historical Society

White Gate Farm. Newton Lane, Wigston, Leicester.

## BULLETIN 79



LEARNING THE USE OF A GAS MASK .1939 Jim Colver

**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - OCTOBER 2007 TO FEBRUARY 2008**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Countesthorpe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a Disorderly Community? - Dr. Michael Thompson  
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys, Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007**

The Slave Trade, Nationally and the Local Connections - Dr. Margaret Bonney  
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys, Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Christmas Social with supper & quizzes. 7.30p.m.  
U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

Newsreels from the 1940s - Mike Forryan & Tony Lawrance  
7.30p.m. U.R. Boys' Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

A.G.M. followed by a Bring & Tell 7.30p.m. U.R.  
Church Boys' Brigade Rooms. See **note below**.

**NOTE REGARDING FEBRUARY MEETING**

The idea for this evening is that members are invited to bring along an interesting historical object and give a short talk about it. This could involve what it is, how they came by it (perhaps a family heirloom), why it is special to them, maybe its value. We need eight people to take part, and each talk will be restricted to five minutes. We will need to know who wishes to do this, and what they are intending to bring, so that we end up with the right number and no duplication of objects. Please give it some thought and if you feel you would like to contribute to the evening, let the secretary, Tricia Berry know.

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The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1<sup>st</sup> February, June and October. Articles etc. (which are always welcome) should be submitted to the editor three clear weeks before the publication date please.

Editor: Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale Road, Wigston. Leics. LE1 8 3RX.

## FRONT COVER

Jim Colver's drawing this time is of an era which will be well remembered by many members. The dreaded gas mask was issued to the entire population in 1939. Babies had special cradle type ones which totally enclosed them. Air had to be continually pumped in through a filter on the side using a hand pump. Children up to five years had ones in bright colours which had 'eyes' and were supposed to look like Mickey Mouse. Older children and adults had the type shown in the drawing. Horses were vital for farm work and transport and even some of them were issued with masks. The masks came in cardboard boxes with long string handles. Their distribution was organised locally. Families went in alphabetical order to schools or halls to be fitted with their masks. They then went to a gas mask testing station, where they were put in a shed with about twelve other people, and tear gas pumped in. People had to carry their masks with them at all times and regular checks were made to catch out the careless. Vans would park outside a school or factory and throw tear gas bombs as people came out. Those caught out suffered for days from sore eyes and throats and did not do it again. It is likely that this testing and checking was only carried out in large towns as I have never heard it was the practice in Wigston. Thankfully the feared gas attacks did not happen and the masks were not needed.

## JUNE MEETING

In June our society visited Broughton Astley where we were the guests of the local Heritage Society. Our guide Cynthia Thomas led a walk round the village pointing out what remains of its feudal past, and what has changed over the years. A little leaflet showing the route had thoughtfully been prepared especially for the visit.

Some of what remains includes the old Manor House (now The White Horse), the Manor Farm, dovecote, church, moated site with mound, and the Old Mill Farm with mill pond and water mill. Of note from a later date is the Rectory, some Georgian farm houses, the village hall and War Memorial. We passed the entrance of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Arkwright House which was built by a descendant of Richard Arkwright, the inventor of the water powered cotton spinning frame, who, by coincidence was profiled recently in Bulletin 77. Mrs. Arkwright planted an oak tree in the village to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

We returned to St. Mary the Virgin Church to learn something of its history. The nave and walls of this lovely building date from 1100/1125. The chancel is 13<sup>th</sup> century and the spire 15<sup>th</sup> century. The font is Norman but much of the inside, such as stained glass windows and monuments, has sadly been lost to Victorian and later modernisation. However buried under the floor near the altar is Sir John Grey, who died 1611, and his mother Anne who died 1614. Sir John was a first cousin once removed of Lady Jane Grey. The Greys were related to the Astley family who were Lords of the Manor of Broughton. The village coming to adopt the family surname of Astley as part of its name.

The evening finished with a welcome cup of tea/coffee and cakes while we listened to

the bell ringing practice. The Vice Chairman, Mike Forryan, then thanked Cynthia and her assistants (one of whom was our member Dorothy Gurr) for a most enjoyable and informative evening.

### **AUGUST MEETING**

For this month we welcomed David Bell who came to speak on some of the county's famous ladies.

**Alice Hawkins** - was born in 1863 and moved to Leicester as a young girl. She worked in the boot and shoe trade and soon became aware that men were paid more for the same work than girls. Her move to Equity Shoes, a workers' co-operative which encouraged trade union membership and participation in political activity, fired her enthusiasm to agitate for change. She founded the Leicester branch of the Womens' Socialist & Political Union. She later joined the suffragette movement and went to prison five times in her fight for the vote for women. Her husband Alfred was also an active socialist and fully supported her. During World War I all militant action was suspended, and by 1918 the old attitudes had changed, and women over 30 were given the vote, in 1928 this was lowered to 21, the same as men. She died in 1946.

**Lady Jane Grey** - was born in 1537 at Bradgate House. Her Royal connections (her maternal grandmother was Mary Tudor the sister of Henry VIII), led to her downfall. When Henry died he left his sickly son Edward on the throne and his two daughters Mary and Elizabeth as next in line. The power crazy Duke of Northumberland fearing his interests would be damaged if the Catholic, Mary, became Queen persuaded Jane's parents to agree to a forced marriage between her and his son Guildford Dudley. This took place in May 1553 in London. Edward having been persuaded to name Jane his heir died on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. Jane was crowned Queen at the Tower of London four days later. However, the people did not support Jane, who knew Mary, despite her religion, was the rightful heir. 30,000 soldiers marched on London in Mary's support and she was proclaimed Queen. Jane and her husband were imprisoned in the Tower and executed on 12/2/1554. She was just 16 years old.

**Clare Hollingworth** - was born in 1911 in Knighton. Her family then moved to Shepshed when her father became manager of the family boot and shoe company. Educated at home, then boarding school, she later obtained a scholarship to the School of Slavonic Studies at London University followed by a course at Zagreb University. She was appointed a senior official at the British Consulate, Katowice, Poland, then became a journalist for the Daily Telegraph under correspondent Hugh Carlton-Greene in Warsaw. A few days before World War II was declared she managed to drive into Germany and noticed many tanks lined up at the border ready to invade Poland, but her reports back to England were not believed! She later went to Egypt to report on the North Africa campaign. After the war she travelled to trouble spots all over the world, becoming the leading woman correspondent on war and defence topics, in 1963 she was the first to discover that the spy, Kim Philby, had disappeared. She married twice but her lifestyle was not conducive to domestic life. She lives in retirement in Switzerland.

**Lady Florence Dixey** - was born Florence Caroline Douglas in 1865, the daughter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Queensbury. She married Beaumont Dixey of Market Bosworth Hall and the couple had two children. Very much the extrovert tomboy she went with her husband and two brothers to explore South America on horseback. She brought back a jaguar and alarmed the locals by taking it for walks on a lead in Bosworth Park! Further travels took her to North America, then Africa, where she reported for the Birmingham Post on the Boer War. In later life she adopted liberal and feminist causes, coming to detest blood sports in spite of her upbringing. She championed equality of the sexes and argued that all titles including the Monarchy should pass to the first born child whether boy or girl. She was a noted author, writing of her travels, and also several novels and poems. She died in 1905 in Scotland.

**Sue Townsend** - was born in 1946 off Hillsborough Road hi Eyres Monsell. She disliked school due to having to wear a uniform, the morning assembly, (because she was not religious), and the discovery that children from the bigger houses on the other side of the A426 were forbidden by their parents from playing with the children from her side. She did however enjoy reading and greatly appreciates the primary school teacher who introduced her to comic literature. This was to sow the seeds of her future writing career. She became resident playwright at the Phoenix Theatre in 1978 and won the Thames TV playwright award. She is best known for her novels which include the Diary of Adrian Mole series, The Queen and I and Number 10. The Mole books have been translated into 42 languages and have sold 10 million copies. She is married with four children and lives a quieter life these days due to mobility and eye sight problems. However, she still writes, dictating for her husband Colin to input into the computer.

**Eliane Plewman** - was born Eliane Browne-Bartroli in Marseilles in 1917, the daughter of a Spanish mother and a British father. She grew up bilingual in French and English, fluent in Spanish and with some Portuguese. In 1937 she was lodging in Oadby and working for a Leicester clothing exporter as a translator. In 1942 she married Tom Plewman a British Army officer. In February 1943 the S.O.E recruited her as a courier to work in occupied France. She was instructed how to use weapons, make parachute jumps, how to kill commando-style and how to blend in and be unnoticed. Under the code name 'Gaby' she was parachuted into France and disguised as a French housewife conveyed over 400 messages, documents and even equipment, by truck or train between different resistance groups. She also undertook sabotage of trains and aircraft. Eventually she was betrayed and captured by the Gestapo. Tortured for three weeks she gave away nothing so was sent to Dachau Concentration Camp and shot, aged just 26, with three other similar brave girls. She was posthumously awarded the King's Commendation and the Croix de Guerre. Tom travelled to Dachau in 1975 to attend the unveiling of a plaque in honour of the four, he lived in Lutterworth and died in 2000.

**Mary Linwood** - was born in 1755 and moved to Leicester when a child. Her father, a wine merchant, died young and her mother opened a school in Belgrave Gate. When her mother died Mary took over the school and continued it for 50 years. She began creating pictures in needlework when aged 13, and was still doing so at 79. Many were copies of paintings by famous artists such as Gainsborough, Reynolds and Stubbs. In 1766 her work was shown at the Royal Academy exhibition in London.

Later she had her own exhibition which also went on tour. She met most of the crowned heads of Europe. She exhibited in Russia and Catherine the Great offered £40,000 for the whole collection while the Tsar offered her £3,000 for one example. However, Mary refused as she wished her work to remain in England. She received a medal in 1790 from the Society of Arts and was invited to an audience with Queen Charlotte. She continued to run her school and live in Leicester visiting London once a year to inspect her permanent exhibition. She never married and was the last person in Leicester to use a Sedan chair. She died aged 89 and was buried in St. Margaret's Church. Mary Linwood School (lately pulled down) was named after her. Some of her pictures are held by the New Walk Museum.

Vice Chairman, Mike Forryan, then thanked David for his sympathetic and at times amusing account of the lives of some truly remarkable ladies.

### **SEPTEMBER MEETING**

This month we welcomed Rowan Roenisch, an architectural historian, and care work adviser for the National Victorian Society. She talked about William Morris, one of the most influential people in Victorian Art and Architecture, and regarded as the founder of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

William was born in 1834 in Walthamstow, Essex of wealthy, evangelical parents. He studied Theology at Oxford, and there became friends with artistic young men with whom he they formed a group called The Brotherhood. After a brief spell articulated to an architect he turned to painting. He married Jane Burden in 1859 and commissioned a friend, Philip Webb, to design him a new home, The Red House, Bexley Heath. Because he could not find good textiles and furniture for the house he decided to design some himself.

This was a turning point and with several friends including Webb, Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Madox Brown, he formed a small firm called Morris & Company, to sell the products they designed. Under his leadership this was a success and products increased to include, stained glass, wallpaper, china, tiles, Oriental carpets, tapestries and furniture. The designs were typically 'busy' and featured birds, plants or animals, often on a dark background. His furniture was solid with dovetail joints (no nails). He also started his own dyeing and printing operations. He acted as an acquisitions adviser to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

In later life his socialist leanings became quite radical and he was once put before the courts for disorderly conduct. It caused him great distress that his handmade quality products, (he did not approve of machine made items), were too pricey for ordinary people, in later life he moved to Kelmscott House in Hammersmith, where he died in 1896 aged 62. One of his two daughters followed her father and became a designer.

His influence was far reaching; he once attended a lecture at the Secular Hall in Humberstone Gate, Leicester staying overnight with Sidney Gimson, a member of the engineering and timber supply family. Here inspiring the young Ernest Gimson, an architect responsible for many notable buildings in Leicester. Red House is now owned by the National Trust, and there is a William Morris Gallery at Walthamstow and a

museum in the garage and basement at Kelmscott House.

After some questions and discussion the Vice Chairman, Mike Forryan, thanked Rowan for a really interesting talk.

There was some discussion and a show of hands as to the catering arrangements for the Christmas Social. As opinions were pretty evenly divided, it will have to be a committee decision whether we have the usual buffet or go for fish and chips for a change.

### **BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME**

Our Society's joint venture with the Wigston Civic Society to place Blue Plaques on certain properties within Wigston Magna and South Wigston, to commemorate their association with notable people from the past, has finally come to fruition. After several years of planning and a number of set backs it is hard to believe it has actually happened! At the time of writing eleven of the fourteen plaques are in place, and the remainder should be so, eventually, when repairs and restorations of the properties allow. A launch at the Council offices on 4<sup>th</sup> October is arranged. An illustrated booklet giving details of the scheme and some biographical information on the subjects chosen will be available from this date. These will be on sale for £3 00 at the Record Office in Long Street, Library in Bull Head Street, Harcourt Gallery in Frederick Street, Osbornes Stationers in Leicester Road (to be confirmed), and Brocks Hill off Oadby Road in Wigston. And in South Wigston at the Post Office in Canal Street, Library in Bassett Street, and Annies at 13, Blaby Road. Copies will also be available from Colin Towell, Colin Hames or Tricia Berry at the October and November meetings.

As you go around the area look out for the following:

Orson Wright at 2, Orange Street

\*Gertie Ghana at Marquis of Queensbury

\*Charles Moore at 56, Blaby Road

\*Henry Walter Bates at Station Street

Thomas Ingram at Abington House, Station Road (Abington School Campus)

Hiram Abiff Owston at Bushloe House

Samuel Davenport at Royal British Legion, Bushloe End

William Ewart Boulter at 9, Central Avenue

Don Ross at 41, Long Street

Henry Davis Pochin at United Reformed Church, Long Street

Alonzo Harry Broughton at the King's Centre, Bull Head Street

William Eggleston at St. Wolstan's House, Bull Head Street

Thomas Burgess at The Grange, Bull Head Street

William George Hoskins at 12, Sandy Rise

• These are the plaques not yet in place at the time of writing.

## THE ROSS FAMILY - 250 YEARS OF BAKING

The idea for this article came about when Gordon and Sandra Price kindly made available the old deeds to their home at 29, Moat Street. At the rear is a brick building where Sandra now runs her hairdressing business. It is known that this building had previously been used as a bakery by the Ross family. There was an upper floor entered through a trap door which was used for the storage of flour. The earliest date recorded in the deeds is 1885 and as other local records suggested the family had been bakers in Wigston considerably earlier than this date, further research was undertaken to see what else could be discovered.

The earliest reference found was in the Shearsby Parish Records when George Ross of Great Wigston married Cornelia Willson of Knaptoft in the chapel on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1800. The hamlet of Knaptoft is in Shearsby Parish and it appears that the reference to 'the chapel' (as opposed to the church) means the marriage took place in Knaptoft itself, as did some other marriages recorded about this time. Perhaps Knaptoft Church was not in quite such a ruined state then.

Five months later the Leicester Journal of 27/2/1801 announced an auction of a number of Wigston properties due to the bankruptcy of the owner Thomas Spencer. One of the properties was "a messuage and bakehouse occupied by George Ross, baker". There is no indication where in Wigston the property was. This forced sale, and the arrival of a new owner of the premises he occupied, could have been the reason why George and Cornelia moved to Oadby, where George had been born and his family settled for many years previously. George appears to have remained in Oadby for the rest of his life running his own bakery business and training various apprentices over the years. The 1841 Census places his premises as situated on the north west side of the Turnpike (main London Road), the third property from The Green and one property short of Wigston Lane. He died in 1848, his wife Cornelia having died earlier, in 1826. Both are buried in Oadby churchyard.

The couple's eldest son John trained as a baker and ran his own business in London Road, Leicester. The third son Andrew, another baker, married Sarah Ann Ward in Oadby in 1835. He remained in Oadby a year or two after this and then moved to Whetstone c.1837 and then to Littlethorpe c.1840. By 1844 he had returned to Oadby to work with and eventually take over his father's bakery.

In 1855 the Wigston Church rate book lists a George Ross as the ratepayer on a house and orchard in Moat Street. The Post Office directory for the same year describes him as a baker and flour dealer. This George was the son of Samuel Ross, a Wigston farmer and hosier, and grandson of the George Ross who owned land in the parish at enclosure in 1766. He had been brought up in Wigston but married a Houghton-on-the-Hill girl, Hannah Holley, and had spent his working life up to about 1855 as the baker in that village. What made him return to Wigston to start a business in later life when he would have been aged about 64 is not known, though he could perhaps have inherited the property. He could also have been influenced by the fact that a steam powered mill had recently been opened in Wigston. This was situated rather naturally in Mill Lane, which has since been renamed Frederick Street. Steam mills were quite an innovation for bakers as they produced a finer flour which was more suitable for



making pastry and fancy cakes. This George Ross is pretty certain to be the founder of the bakery business at Moat Street. There is no evidence to suggest there was a bakery in Moat Street before this time, and no Ross family working as bakers in the village anywhere according to the 1841 and 1851 censuses and trade directories. However, George's return to his home village was not to last very long as he died in December 1859 aged 68 years. His body was taken back to Houghton for burial and Hannah herself returned to live there. She worked as a seamstress and lived to the age of 82 before being buried with her husband in 1874. The couple had no children.

When the 1861 census was taken Andrew Ross was still living and working in Oadby. His eldest son John Ward Ross, aged 25, was married to Ann and ran his own bakery business at 231, Belgrave Gate, Leicester. His second son George aged 20 had moved to Moat Street, Wigston and was a baker and listed as head of the household. His sister Cornelia lived with him and acted as housekeeper, while the third member of the household was their young brother, 15 year old Walter, who was a baker's assistant. This move into George Ross of Wigston/Houghton's premises seems to indicate that the Oadby Rosses were related to him but it has not been possible to establish just what this connection might be.

In the summer of 1863 this young George married Stella Ann Smith, the daughter of William Smith an Arnesby baker, and moved to 1, Bedford Street, Leicester where he ran a bakery and grocery business. His father Andrew then left Oadby completely and moved to Moat Street, Wigston to run that bakery business.

In 1871 Andrew is still the baker at 31, Moat Street. By 1881 he is a 70 year old widower, Sarah Ann having died in 1878. He employs a housekeeper and also living with him is John Smith, a journeyman baker. He also employs another baker, James Allen, who lives with his family in the neighbouring property, 29 Moat Street.

Andrew died in 1883 and it seems there was no bakery operated from the premises for a few years. The deeds indicate that Andrew's son George Ross had raised a mortgage on the premises, probably to pay out inheritance entitlement to his siblings. The property is described as "all those two messuages or tenements with yards, gardens or orchards, bakehouse, store rooms, stables and outbuildings thereto belonging in Great Wigston.... known as 29 & 31 Moat Street...."

About 1889 George moved back to Wigston and resumed the baking business, in 1891 he and Stella are listed in the census as living at 31, Moat Street. However, about 1897 they returned to Leicester for good, to a new address at 48, St. George Street. Their son George William and his wife Florence arrived in Wigston to continue the business though the property remained in the ownership of George senior, in the 1901 census George William and Florence are still living with their children at 31, Moat Street. A new cottage, number 27, has been added to the property and George William's sister Cornelia lives there with her husband, saddler and harness maker, Samuel Laundon. They have a two year old daughter, Dorothy S. Laundon. Many people still remember Dorothy who was known by her second name of Stella. She was a much respected school teacher in Wigston who married Alfred King the chemist in later life.

George senior died in Leicester in 1923 and his wife Stella died the following year. The property was left between their four children and George William bought his three siblings out. He remained in Wigston running the bakery until his death in 1938, when his wife Florence continued it on her own. In Kelly's 1941 directory she is listed as a baker and pastry cook.

In 1945 Florence sold 3200 square yards (two thirds of an acre) at the rear of the houses to Oswald Tomlin Johnson, a Newgate End farmer. She died the following year and her daughter Maggie Swift the wife of John H.A. Swift, who were then living at 31, Moat Street, sold the three houses, with remaining land and buildings to Arthur Johnson, market gardener, of 41, Manor Street. This transaction ends the Ross family connection with the property and the baking business in Wigston.

There was a tradition of working as a master baker within the Ross family. Between c.1800 and the 1940s, there were, in addition to the ones mentioned in this article, another six members of the Ross family working as bakers in and around Leicester. Like all craftsmen of the time they had to qualify and be admitted as Freemen of the city in order to be permitted to trade. The Register of Freemen of the City of Leicester has proved most helpful in tracking them down.

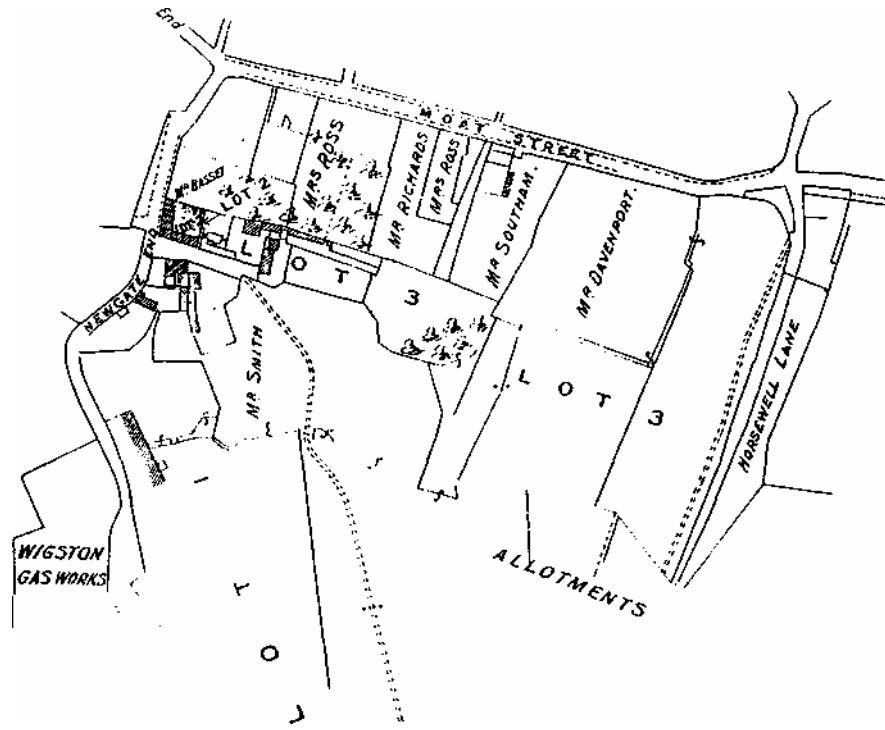
Ross's Lane which runs from Bull Head Street to Long Lane must surely have been named after this family. Though whether this was because it was a short cut to Ross's bakery, or in the other direction the route to the Wyyggeston Farmhouse home in Bull Head Street of George Ross, the enclosure farmer, will probably never be known.

#### **Later history of the property.**

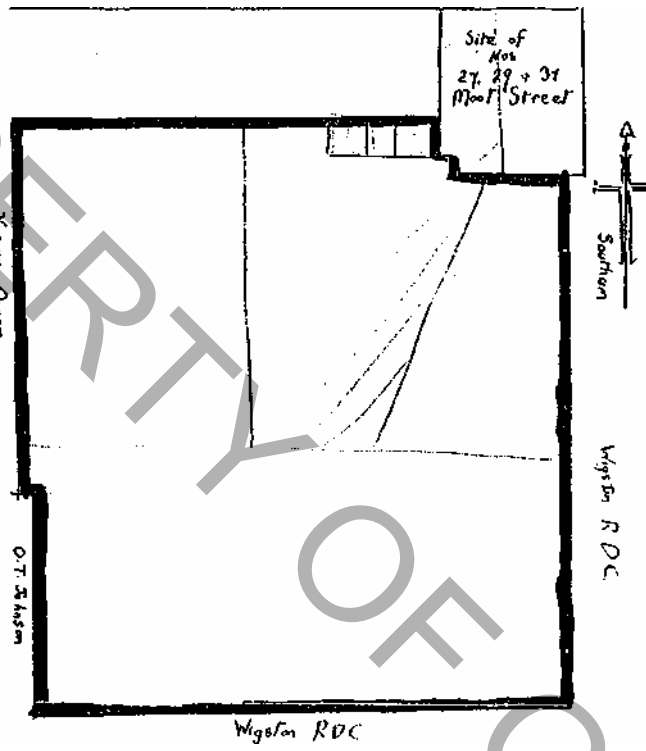
Arthur Johnson moved to 29, Moat Street and died there in 1951. His two children William Arthur Johnson and Alice Maud Bettoney become owners of the property, in the late 1960s various portions were sold off, some to the neighbouring Smith building family, who also purchased Number 27. During this time the other two houses were demolished and the present bungalows constructed. Mrs. A.M. Bettoney lived at number 29. She and her husband both died in 1985 and the bungalow was sold by her executor to the present owners.

Tricia Berry

Sources: Parish records, directories, census returns, newspaper, all as indicated in the text, deeds to 29, Moat Street, Wigston Parish Rate Book 1855 - Leics. R.O. DE3 84/44, The Register of Freemen of the City of Leicester - Leics. R.O.



This plan shows the Ross property clearly even though it was prepared for the sale of neighbouring land. Unfortunately there is no date but as it is in Mrs. Ross's name it is most likely 1923/4. It shows an additional plot bordering Cedar Avenue, which is not included in the deeds.



A rough sketch showing the 3200sq.yds. sold to Mr. O.T. Johnson in 1945.  
**TERRIBLE ATTACK AT WISTOW**

The following brief account of a tragic incident at Wistow appeared in a "looking back 125 years" feature of the Leicester Mercury in 1998. The full account as written in the Leicester Journal of 1<sup>st</sup> August 1873 then follows afterwards.

#### LEICESTER MERCURY 1998 - 125 YEARS AGO FEATURE

One of the most brutal murders ever committed in Leicestershire took place near Wistow Park in the early hours of July 30<sup>th</sup> 1873. At that time, gangs of poachers roamed the countryside in search of game, which they could sell at a high price to people in the towns. Naturally, the landowners in their turn employed large numbers of game keepers to protect their partridges and pheasants. In many parts of the country, there were violent struggles between gamekeepers and poachers, which in some cases ended with fatal results. Such an incident occurred at Wistow Park in 1873, when a gamekeeper was killed. The victim was Thomas Monk, farm bailiff to Colonel Sir Henry Halford, of Wistow Hall.

#### LEICESTER JOURNAL 1<sup>st</sup> August 1873

Early on Wednesday morning a conflict with poachers, unfortunately attended with fatal consequences to one of the persons engaged, and considerable injury to two others, took place on the estate of Sir Henry Halford. For some time we understand, the worthy baronet has ceased to preserve game, and has had it generally killed off, so that there must be little encouragement afforded for trespassing by poachers. However on Wednesday morning at about 4a.m. Mr. J. Monk, Sir Henry's keeper, who lived with his father, Thomas Monk, whom he had superseded as keeper, in a house near Wistow Hall, heard reports of guns while in bed. He informed his father, that he believed there were poachers about, and told him he should go and see after them. His father resolved to accompany him, and they then called up the under gardener, Enos Atkinson, and went off together taking a gun with them. The object was not to take the poachers, but see them off the estate. They had not gone far when they saw four men carrying bags, and followed them until they got about a mile from the hall, near the canal, and about half a mile from Kilby. The poachers, when they got to the crossover bridge, where the towing path changes sides, put down their bags and commenced to throw stones at the keeper and his companions, no doubt intending to drive them off, so that they might get clear away. After continuing this for some time, the two parties came to close quarters. Two of the poachers attacked Thomas Monk, and a desperate struggle followed, in which whether intentionally or not, it is at present impossible to say, Monk was shot in the groin and fell to the ground. His assailants, not content with seeing him fairly disabled, then brutally beat him about the head with the butt end of a gun, literally smashing his skull. They then turned upon the keeper and the gardener, and beat them in a shocking manner for some time. A gun was broken in two over the keeper's legs, and he was very much beaten about the head and face. Atkinson knocked one of the men opposed to him down, but he immediately received such a blow from the others, as prostrated him on the turf, leaving him for some time senseless and disabled. When he recovered he started off towards the hall for assistance. Meantime, Mr. Parsons, the lock-keeper, was about his

business passing a boat along the canal, had his attention called to the scene of the struggle, and on going to the place found the two Monks lying, though so disfigured that at first he hardly knew them. The elder was lying in a pool of blood, and the head and face of the son was bleeding from several wounds. At their wish he went off to the hall for a conveyance to remove them home, and on his arrival found that the gardener had just reached there and told his story of the conflict. A conveyance was at once sent off for the Monks, and they were taken home, which they reached soon after seven o'clock. Mr. Fewkes, surgeon, of Glenn, had been sent for, and he came and rendered what assistance he could to the injured men. Dr. Marriott, of Leicester, also arrived soon after, but Thomas Monk was then dying, and expired about noon, from the effects of the fearful injuries he had received. His son had been seriously injured about the head, and his legs were much hurt. Atkinson's hurts were not quite so bad as those of his companions, but are still rather severe. Information of the outrage was dispatched to the police, and they are rigorously prosecuting enquiries into the matter, which every right minded person will hope may succeed in bringing the parties concerned in this fearful occurrence to justice. The deceased, who was a middle aged man, and had been keeper on the Wistow estate for many years, has left a wife and family to lament his loss.

Thomas Monk was buried in Wistow churchyard where his gravestone gives his age as 42 years. There is no intimation of the circumstances of his death, but the quotation chosen for the stone conveys something of the sorrow which his family must have felt.

*Day by day the voice saith "come  
Enter thine eternal home "  
Asking not if we can spare  
This dear soul it summons there.*

*Had He asked us, well we know  
We should cry, oh spare this blow!  
Yes, with streaming tears should pray  
"Lord we love him, let him stay"*