

Greater Wigston Historical Society

White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna
Leicestershire



BULLETIN 64



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - OCTOBER 2002 TO FEBRUARY 2003

Wednesday 16th October 2002

Origins of the Names of Villages around Wigston - Gareth King
7.30p.m. U.K. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 20th November 2002

Recording the Heritage on your Doorstep - Carolyn Holmes of Leics. Museums
Heritage Watch Project, Holly Hayes, Birstall 7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade
Rooms.

Wednesday 18th December 2002

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

Wednesday 15th January 2003

The Sinking of the John - Mick Rawle. The speaker's ancestor Captain Rawle was
charged with manslaughter over this maritime disaster in 1855. Was he guilty? We
hear the evidence and then decide. 7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 19th February 2003

A.G.M. followed by members' contributions
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

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FRONT COVER

Jim Colver's illustration this time shows a horse drawn barge making slow and stately
progress along a stretch of canal. The cargo of what looks suspiciously like beer
barrels are stacked in two neat rows along the length of the vessel.

It is hard to imagine in today's busy and fast world that it is only 170 years or
approximately 6 generations ago that this was the normal way of transporting goods
anything more than short distances!

* * * * *

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

Joint Editors: Mrs. Chris Smart, 197 Queens Road, Leicester
Mrs. Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale Road, Wigston.

JUNE MEETING

In June the Society spent an enjoyable evening at the Old Brewery Inn, Somerby, a 16th century former coaching inn.

The journey there though was not without its problems. The driver, unfamiliar with the route, took us through the village of Twyford instead of using the top road further on as recommended in his 'routes suitable for coaches book.' Twyford main street is narrow with no pavement in parts. Add various residents' parked cars and a delivery of new bricks and you have a road impassable to large vehicles, but this was not apparent until we had negotiated some of the hazards and rounded a bend when it became apparent we could not proceed either forward or back. A lady emerged from one house and expertly guided us forward with only inches to spare. She was so competent it was no surprise to learn she was herself a coach driver. We still needed one car removed but the owner refused, apparently making some sort of stand because this had happened before. He eventually reluctantly moved it just a few feet and we squeezed through.

When we finally arrived we split into two groups and the owner Mr. Parish showed us his brewery at the rear of the premises and explained the brewing process. Parish's Real Ale is a heady brew with over 11% alcohol content. Some has been produced with up to 23%! There was the opportunity to handle some of the barley grains used and some which had been burnt to give the beer a dark colour and an almost liquorish taste. Samples were offered for tasting and purchases could be made. One member who shall remain anonymous was seen leaving with a whole boxful!

Later we enjoyed a buffet supper before an uneventful journey back taking the correct route and leaving the residents of Twyford to enjoy the remains of their evening in peace.

AUGUST MEETING

This month a group of members met at All Saints Church in Highcross Street. We were shown round by Rev. David Cawley, vicar of St. Mary de Castro, who has charge of this church and also nearby St. Nicholas.

All Saints was closed for regular worship in 1982 and the building taken over by the Redundant Churches Fund in 1986. It is however still occasionally used for services notably on 1st November, All Saints Day. Sadly some of the fittings have been removed. The eight bells are now in Sproxton Church, another bell remains which was formerly in St. Matthews and this was rung especially for us. The more energetic climbed the tower and watched this being done. There has also been some theft, notably the organ console in 1982 and the boy and girl striking jacks from the clock in 1970's. Copies of these latter have recently been made and can be seen at the Guildhall.

The building while not considered outstanding has many notable features. There is evidence of a Norman building and two doors of that period one of which was badly

damaged in a recent ram raid when some ancient woodwork and other items were stolen. There are some unusual 12th century semicircular buttresses and a very tall arch from the tower to the north aisle. The clerestory and top of the tower are Perpendicular. The chancel was rebuilt in brick in 19th century and is now closed off and used for storage. The pulpit is 15th century, one of only a few in the country, and the font Early English.

There are interesting stained glass windows, one in memory of Alderman Newton who is buried in the church yard, a very pleasant oasis of calm in an otherwise busy urban environment. Next door is an interesting old building once occupied by the All Saints Brewery.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On Wednesday the 28th of September the Society met to hear a talk on the National Trust. The planned speaker had had to pull out because of illness and Mr. Allison very kindly stepped in at short notice.

This illustrated talk gave us some facts and figures about the National Trust and information about some of its earliest acquisitions.

The Trust was founded in 1895 by three Victorian philanthropists, Miss Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley. Concerned about the impact of uncontrolled development and industrialisation, they set up the Trust to act as a guardian for the nation in the acquisition and protection of threatened coastline, countryside and buildings.

The Trust is a independent charity which relies completely on the continued generosity of its supporters, through membership, subscriptions, gifts and legacies. The Trust employs nearly 4000 full-time regular staff about the same number of seasonal staff and staggering 38,000 volunteers who give their time each year to the Trust.

The Trust now protects and opens to the public over 200 historic houses and gardens and 49 industrial monuments and mills. It owns more than 612,000 acres of beautiful countryside and almost 600 miles of coastline.

Many thanks to Mr. Allison for standing in at short notice and for delivering such an interesting talk.

* * * * *

CONTINUATION FROM BULLETIN 62 OF TOM AGAR'S LETTER TO HIS PARENTS 17 MONTHS AFTER HE LEFT BARDON, LEICS. IN 1854 FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

New York is a very fine city, there are over eight hundred thousand inhabitants. The Theatres, Saloons and Public Places of Amusement are very tastefully got up. They far surpass England in ferry and steamboat travelling. Some of the boats surpass anything I ever saw, you can compare them to floating palaces.

I came across Bill Goulsby in York. He was at work at a shipping store in Fulton Street. I went to Gardens Amphitheatre with him. He took me to see another friend, who should it be, but Mr. Simmonds that formerly lived at the Fleur-de-Lis in Belgrave Gate, Leicester. He was at that time waiting behind the bar at the Miner's Arms, Front Street, near the Battery, New York and just before I left York, his brother came to him with Slater's son that formerly kept a pot shop at the corner of Upper Charles Street.

I succeeded in obtaining employment in a publishing office at copying at 9 dollars a week, but I did not remain long at it for I had formed too many acquaintances and I could plainly see that I would never be able to save a cent (that is the value of a half-penny) and probably might be worse off at the end.

So I therefore took another notion of going further into the country. I made an attempt to go along with a party (that had formed in York) to California, the overland route, but I found on consideration that I would not have sufficient to purchase an outfit.

I afterwards saw an advertisement in the New York Sun that the ship Ravenswood was to sail in December to East Florida on a Government Surveying Expedition and that several assistants were required. I applied at the office and saw the Manager, a person by the name of Perry and engaged with him for 5 months at 40 dollars a month and board, signed an agreement to that effect and went aboard the 8th December 1854.

We weighed anchor and put out to sea, the ninth. The weather was bitterly cold and snowed very hard. The ship's crew were composed of Nigger Sailors and Spaniards, 5 of them got frost bitten, one of them died during the passage. After being 3 days out, we put into Old Point Comfort in the State of Virginia. I got a pass from the Captain to go ashore until morning. I went to a place called Hampton, a short distance from Old Point Comfort and enjoyed myself first rate I assure you. Its not a very large place, the inhabitants are chiefly slave traders. I saw hundreds of slaves, men, women and children.

We took several more hands on board and put out to sea again on 13th. We saw great numbers of flying fish. We had pretty rough weather crossing the Gulf Stream and was driven back a good deal.

On Christmas Day I had a very good view of the Bahamas Islands, there was some queer thoughts come into my head. I thought to myself that I little thought the Christmas before when I went to dine at Mr. Ward's, that the next Christmas Day, I would be sailing past here.

We landed the owner's provisions on Key Biscayne Island on New Year's Day and the ship went on to Cuba. This is not a very large island, the only inhabitant on it is a lighthouse keeper, a Spaniard. There are a great many peculiar kinds of shells on the island. Cocoanuts [sic] grow wild, there are also plenty of bears, wild cats, panthers

and raccoons. We shot a large brown bear and her two cubs. We roasted the cubs the following day and I can assure you they were fine eating.

We went from here to the Miama River and surveyed from there to Lake Okee-Cho-Be. We are, each of us armed with a rifle, a six barrel revolver and a large knife.

You get pretty well paid for this kind of work, but I can tell you, its no easy work, what with going through swamps and sometimes up to your middle hauling canoes over oyster beds and one thing or another, its pretty hard and often dangerous too, for the creeks and inlets are full of aligators [sic] and venomous water snakes. I saw in one creek over 30 aligators. One of our men even had his dog taken with one. The dog went to drink at a creek and there was a large aligator lying by the side of the bank. You would think to look at it, it was a large log of wood. The dog had no sooner commenced to drink but what the aligator seized him, sprung into the water and disappeared. We hunted him for over 3 hours and at last succeeded in killing him, we got him out, he measured over 12 feet long.

Deer, wild turkey, wild ducks and many other kinds of wild fowl are very plentiful. We shot a turkey weighing over 20lbs, pelican are very numerous, you may frequently see over two thousand in one flock.

We live in tents and camp just where night overtakes us. Panthers and wolves some nights you may hear them howling all round you, but they will not face the fire. The wolves do not run very large, they go together in packs of 30 or 40, their cry is hideous. We were encamped in pine woods one night convenient to a thick hammock which extended about 30 miles, as soon as we pitched the tents, we heard the cry of a panther. It much resembles a person's cry that is in distress. In the middle of the night, he made bold enough to come into the tent that I and three more were sleeping in and so frightened one of the dogs that he leapt a top of me which aroused us. We seized our rifles and two shots were fired at him, wounding him slightly, but however made his escape into the hammock. The following afternoon, one of our party of name of Holdern, a Virginian, wounded a deer and had no sooner done so but what a large panther seized it and split it down the back, just as if some skilful butcher had cut it with a knife. He fired again at the panther and wounded him but still he got away from him. Holdern came into the camp and five of us went after him with four dogs. We hunted him full an hour. At last the dogs scented him. He took refuge in a pine tree, 3 shots were instantly fired at him. Two of them struck him wounding him pretty badly. He sprang from the tree and killed one of the dogs. Two more shots were fired and down he fell. They both lodged in his head. We brought him into the camp and skinned him. He measured over 6 feet long.

The only thing I have dread for, are the snakes which are very numerous, particularly the rattle and the copperhead. Their bite is instantaneous death. There is a kind they call the whip snake. They just for all the world resemble a wagon whip, their bite is not venomous.

We came across an Indian hunting party, 4 men, 3 women and 2 children in a place called the Battleground named after a great battle fought by Gen. Taylor during the last Florida War. They seemed rather afraid of us at first, but one of our party could

talk their language pretty good and he spoke to them, told them not to be afraid and we had not come to do them any injury. Fear then seemed to leave them, but the women still seemed a little afraid and kept back. They were cooking some deer and bear meat. Seven or eight pieces more of it were strung up on sticks to dry. The men asked us to eat some and we did taste.

Each of the men were armed with old flint rifles, and they had taken out the screws and tied the barrels on with strips of skin. The men stand about 5 feet 10 or 11. Stout and well made, they wear a kind of deer skin drawers just about sufficient to cover their nakedness. All the other parts are naked. The women wear a sort of skin skirt extending from the middle of their waist to just below their knees and a sort of shawl made from skins and ornaments with feathers. Round their necks, two or three links of beads and shoes made from skins. They are tolerably good looking, but very filthy. I saw a spoon that was cut off a piece of.....and an aligators head carved on, which was first rate done.

We camped about 50 yards from them that night. We left them the following morning, we had not got more than 12 miles from them when we perceived the woods on the back of us all on fire, but whether the Indians set them on fire or whether the grass taken fire from the camp we had made, we could not say, but it looked rather suspicious. However the wind happened to be in the wrong quarter for to do us any injury. The woods were on fire for over 30 miles in extent and a grand sight it was to see.

I got paid off on the 25th May 1855 at a place called Spanish Town, a short distance from Tampa Bay, Florida. This place contains about 300 inhabitants, chiefly Spaniards. I got acquainted with a Spaniard of the name of Tolodir and we agreed to go shares with a turtle net and live on the Indian River which is noted as the best river in Florida, both for oysters and turtle. We purchased the net, paid \$200 for it and came to live on the river, the 27th June, built ourselves a log shanty and cultivated a pretty good garden and remained to the present time. Turtle catching pays pretty good. We dispose of them every 6 months. A schooner puts in for them, and takes them to Charleston, South Carolina. We shoot a few bears during the laying season of the turtles on the beach.

Indian River is a very rich one, oysters, fish and turtles are very plentiful. We have caught turtles weighing over 350lbs, as for fish, you may fill a boat in a very short time. Mullet and trout, the river is full of them. Game is also abundant in the woods. Cattle are pretty cheap in this state. Towards the St. John's River, you may go into the bush and drive in as many as you want to purchase at \$5 per head.

Many rich fruits, particularly limes, prunes, peaches, grapes and figs grow wild. Cocoanuts, oranges and other kinds of fruit are cultivated with success. Its also very good soil for the cultivation of cotton and sugar. I have seen several fine crops of sugar. The pines, palms, cypress, cedars and chestnuts grow to an extraordinary size and height.

The Everglades of Florida are the chief resorting places for the Seminole Indians. These are immense swamps or tracts of marshy land, covered with water and grass interspersed with small islands. Some places, no white man can travel.

The mosquito for about 5 months during the year commencing about the middle of May are very bad, so much so that you are compelled to live and sleep in mosquito houses. You cannot work only for a little in the middle of the day. Its also pretty bad for fever and agues. I have been sick with it since last October but I am now getting over it. Its very hot here in the summer season. I have seen the thermometer stand over 110 . In the winter its very pleasant.

We are now (and have been since Christmas last) in an unsettled state and probably will be for sometime, in consequence of an outbreak of the Indians. They are and have been depredative, burning shanties and murdering the inhabitants. People are leaving in several places. They attacked a party of 11 soldiers, under the command of Lt. Hartsoff, 1st Artillery, on the 17th day of December last, that were engaged in repairing an old road that was used during the last Indian war. The Indians came out of what they call the large cypress swamp just at the break of day and butcherly murdered and scalped 5 of them, wounding the lieutenant and 3 more who fortunately managed to escape to Ft. Myers, about 20 miles distance. They shot down also 18 mules. Soon after this affair, they went to a place called Miama and shot 2 citizens and shot at another one, the ball passing through his coat without doing him any injury.

They have not paid us a visit so far, but God knows how long it may be before they do. We do not even go for water without taking our rifles along with us. We keep a pretty sharp look out for them I can assure you. If they do pay us a visit, they will not go away without an ounce or two of lead in their shanks. There are six of us living together, 4 of them pretty handy coons, been in the bush pretty near all their lives and through most of the last Indian war, and if they don't know a dodge or two, where will you find the men that do?

We have built a small block house of pine logs and shingled the roof with cypress shingles and cut port holes through the logs about 6 feet from the ground, so that no Indian can come within rifle shot of it, but what we can knock him into the middle of next week almost before he knows where he is.

They are raising volunteers in different parts of the state to put them out, but I think they will have enough to do. There is estimated by the Indian agent to be over 500 warriors in the state of Florida that they know to and I dare say there are a great many more that no white man has seen.

The nearest shanty (or log house) to ours, is about 7 miles distant. There are 3 men living in it, there's another one about 35 miles distance at Jupiter Inlet, 4 men and a boy living there and then for over 150 miles there's not a white man living, go in which direction you may.

I did not like a backwoodsmans life at all at first, but now I have got used to it and can do as well as the next man, lie down and sleep in the bush whether it rains or not.

A person may think he cannot go through this, nor he can't do this thing, nor the other, but the best way is to give it a trial and then he is able to judge.

America is a good country for the working man, but he must not lounge about the cities, but must penetrate into the heart of the country to do well, but still there are pretty good wages given in some cities, far better than what you are given at home. A man will not offer you less than a dollar or a dollar and a quarter per day. Government land runs about a dollar and a quarter per acre.

In concluding letter, I beg to tender my sincere love to you both, to my brothers and sisters, grandfather and grandmother (if living), aunts, uncles and cousins.
And Remain,
Dear Father and Mother,
your affectionate son,
Tom Agar.

P.S.

I particularly wish to be remembered to the following:
Orlando Huntingdon, James Ward, Tom Whittering, Alice Bell, Selina, Mr. & Mrs. Munrow, Mr. & Mrs. Ward and Harry, not forgetting Young Chicker.

TA

I sent a newspaper soon after landing in York, did you receive it?

One wonders whether Tom survived the many dangers he was exposed to. If so whether he ever married and has descendants who would today experience a so much easier life style. Also whether his parents and friends were comforted to receive his letter or left just as concerned as they must have been before about his welfare.

.....

NOT QUITE RIGHT BUT WE KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

Until compulsory education was introduced in the 1870s most people were illiterate. This meant that when required to give their details to the authorities they could only do so verbally and were unable to assist with any doubtful spelling. Strong local accents added to the problem and the consequences could be quite amusing. Here are two recently spotted examples.

William Hurst of Long Street's 10 year old daughter is entered in the census return as Hemmar.

Wigston Census for 1851. (The 1861 Census confirms that the little girl's name was Emma).

In 1819 a Settlement Removal Order was made for Joseph Dann from Louth, Lines House of Correction to WeekstonTwo Staple.

Leics. & Rutland Family History Society Strays Booklet Vol VII

Tricia Berry

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

In this the year of our present Queen's Golden Jubilee it seems appropriate to look back and see how Wigston celebrated the last Royal Golden Jubilee, that of Queen Victoria, in 1887.

Planning started with a public meeting being held in the National Schoolroom on 9th May. Mr. Thomas Ingram was voted to the chair. Various ideas were discussed and eventually a programme of events agreed upon and the following were appointed to a committee to carry it out:- Messrs. J. Wignall, Thomas Ingram, J. Cooper, C. Sharp, J. Abbott, H.A. Owston, A.A. Cooper, W. Bentley, O. Wright, J.T. Jeffrey, Thornton, Browitt, Rev. S.R. Robinson, Rev. E. Dean, Wilde, Thos. Boulter, W. Sharp, Col. Seddon, J.H. Garton, S.B. Matthews & Thomas Goodin. Messrs. S.B. Matthews & Thos. Boulter were elected joint secretaries. The costs were to be born by public subscription, Col. Seddon, H.A. Owston and T. Ingram having already pledged £10 each, to start the fund off.

Planning proceeded at speed because by Tuesday 14th June the final general meeting was held when the programme was considered and adopted. The Chairman, Thomas Ingram, stated that the Wigston Gas Company had agreed to supply gas gratis to anyone who wished to illuminate their premises and who could find the apparatus for the purpose.

The Leicester Chronicle & Leicestershire Mercury of Saturday 25th June gave the following report of the event:-

"The celebrations commenced on Monday 20th June when at 2.30p.m. the children attending the mixed schools assembled on the Bank, and having sung the National Anthem, they, headed by a brass band, paraded the village, and adjourned to their respective schools for tea, which over, all the school children formed a procession, and marched to Mr. Ingram's grounds [on Station Road where the school base is now], where a lengthy programme of 22 races for boys and girls was gone through. Meantime, the aged people and widows, to the number of about 350, partook of a substantial meat tea at the Village Hall, and in a shed in Mr. C.E. Sharp's yard, followed by an entertainment in the hall, at which wine, ale, stout, tobacco and snuff were freely distributed. Messrs. A. Abbott, A. Hill, J.T. Sharp and J. Clark took part in the entertainment, and subsequently dancing was indulged in. It was highly delighting to see old men and dames of upwards of eighty years forget for a time their infirmities and trip to the music. During the entertainment, at the request of the Rev. S. Robinson, who presided, the aged guests drank the health of the Queen with musical honours, by singing the National Anthem. Those unable to attend from age or other infirmities were given an equivalent in kind the next day. In the field some thousands of people gathered. The decorations, though not of a gorgeous nature, gave the streets a lively appearance, and the gas illuminations at night were of various designs. There was a display of fireworks about 11p.m. The decorations remained on Tuesday and at night the illuminations were repeated. On Tuesday, Mr. Joseph Hassall, farmer, gave at his residence in Bull's Head Street an excellent dinner to his workpeople, the evening being spent in a convivial manner."

The next issue of the paper on Saturday 2nd July carried a further report:-

"On Sunday afternoon a special service was held in the Parish Church, when the congregation was a fairly large one. The Vicar Rev. W. Romanis conducted the service and gave an address appropriate to the occasion. The choir and friends sang special anthems, the Jubilee Hymn, and the National Anthem, and at the close a collection was made in aid of the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen."

Sources: Items relating to Wigston transcribed from the *Leicester Chronicle and Leicestershire Mercury* by Bob Wignall and compiled by Jim Colver into No. 9 of this Society's Transactions. Thanks to Duncan Lucas for pointing them out and supplying a copy.

OLD FASHIONED EXPRESSIONS

A few more familiar ones with a note of their meaning. We might:

- 1) Refer to extra not always welcome people as 'Hangers on.'
- 2) Take a break from work & fear this might cause a 'Backlog.'
- 3) Enjoy reading a work of fiction otherwise a 'Novel.'
- 4) Say we had got away with something 'Scotfree.'
- 5) Agree a deal or 'Strike a bargain.'

Origins:

- 1) When someone went to the scaffold people were recruited to hang on to the body & pull because the execution was rarely quick.
- 2) At Christmas servants would place a huge log as far back in the grate as possible & were permitted time off while it remained alight, causing a backlog of duties.
- 3) Early books were always on serious subjects so when the first fiction was written it was a novel idea.
- 4) Scot & Lot was a tax paid by urban dwellers for the upkeep of facilities. The forerunner of today's rates.
- 5) Traders often concluded a deal with the striking of a gavel, as indeed auctioneers still do.

THE WINDMILLS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Generally speaking, there are three types of windmill, though hybrids are not unknown.

The Post Mill being the simplest and the earliest of all, set mostly in a rectangular tower, consists of a massive upright post with attached sails, the whole of which had to be altered to face the wind by means of a tiller bar, operated by the miller himself. Only one of this type survives in Leicestershire, at Kibworth Harcourt.

The second variety, the Smock Mill, generally had an eight sided wooden frame tower built on a brick or stone plinth and fitted with a rotating cap. Neither county has a surviving example of this type, though Woodhouse Eaves was a possibility. The fire in recent years left only a plinth.

Third, and by far the most successful, is the Tower Mill, eight of which survive in Leicestershire, in some form and four in Rutland. They were almost always built of brick or stone, with a rotating cap.

Leicestershire Arnesby

Ashby Folville	Tower Mill	Completely restored
Gilmorton Kibworth	Tower Mill	No cap or sails
Harcourt	Tower Mill	No cap or sails, now part of a home
	Post Mill	Built 1650, last used 1920, completely restored
Long Clawson		
Swannington	Tower Mill	Has a cap but no sails
Ullesthorpe	Tower Mill	Upturned boat cap, being restored
Waltham-on-the-Wolds	Tower Mill	Has a cap but no sails
Woodhouse Eaves	Tower Mill	No sails, converted to part of a home
	Doubtful	Was wooden, tarred & painted white, only the brick base survives after a fire
Wymondham		
	Tower Mill	Dated 1814, last used 1952 after conversion to steam, undergoing complete restoration

Rutland

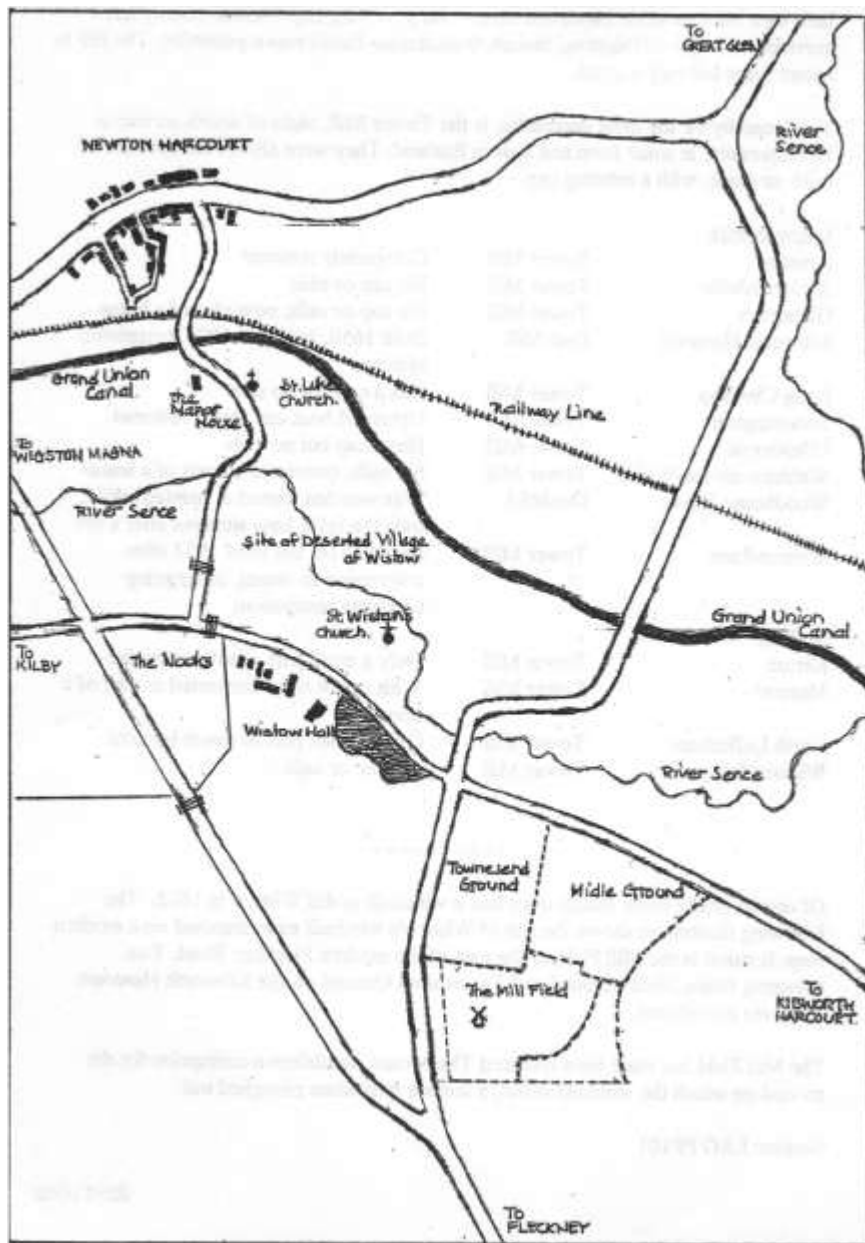
Kerton		
Morcott	Tower Mill	Only a small part of tower remains
	Tower Mill	With cap & sails, converted as part of a home
North Luffenham		
Whissendine	Tower Mill	Only a small part of tower remains
	Tower Mill	No cap or sails

Of course nearly every village once had a windmill as did Wistow in 1632. The following illustration shows the site of Wistow's windmill superimposed on a modern map. It stood in the Mill Field to the east of the modern Fleckney Road. Two adjoining fields, Middle Ground and Townesend Ground on the Kibworth Harcourt Road are also shown.

The Mill Field has since been renamed The Mount, doubtless a corruption for the mound on which the windmill stood, a feature long since ploughed out.

Source: LRO PP101

Jim Colver



WIGSTON GARDEN FETE IN 1959

A programme for a fete held on 4/7/1959 in the grounds of Wigston Hall recently came to light when Michael & Eleanor Armitage were doing some cupboard clearing. Thanks to them for sharing it with us.

The pages are reproduced here reduced by 50%. The images are sure to invoke a few memories. Some of the traders who submitted advertisements are still in business, but sadly not very many. Did any members go to the fete, dance by moonlight on the lawns or enjoy any Wigston rock?? And who could forget Madame Parroy??

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1793 - 1959

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suppliers of
HIGH-CLASS PERFUMERY
and
TOILET
REQUISITES
SINCE
1793

SINCE
1850
LEICESTER'S
LEADING
PHOTOGRAPHIC
CENTRE

FIRST and STILL FOREMOST
YOUNGS
42 BELVOIR STREET
LEICESTER

REGISTERED TRADE MARK

Wigston Hall

Garden Fete
TO BE OPENED BY
Walter Gabriel
OF THE ARCADE THEATRE CITY
ON SATURDAY, 4th JULY, 1959
AT 2.45 p.m.

In the grounds of
WIGSTON HALL
ADMIRAL LOANED BY MADAME PARROY
LONG ST., WIGSTON

In Aid of
**THE CHURCH
RESTORATION FUND**

Musical By
**The Helton Howbray Toy Soldiers
Carnival Band.**

COMMENCING WITH A GRAND PARADE
THROUGH WIGSTON

Admission by Programme etc.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH & ST. WISTANS WIGSTON

South Leicestershire Co-operative Society
Wigston Branch
To be opened shortly
our new

FURNISHING DEPARTMENT

See our extensive range of
BEDDING, FURNISHINGS, CARPETS, LINOL,
RADDI, TELEVISIONS, CLEANERS,
WASHING MACHINES, GROCERY, PAINTS, ETC.

**WIGSTON'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE
HOUSE FURNISHING STORE**

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HIRE PURCHASE, 20 WEEKS' CLUB, CREDIT
AGREEMENTS TELEVISION RENTALS

The
Organisers and Committee
of the
All Saints Church & St. Wistans
Restoration Fund
Wish to thank all concerned
the Advertisers & Helpers
in this effort to raise funds for
the Restoration of our
Beautiful Churches

HAYWARD TYLEE ROUGHAGE
all types of Hay and roughage
Supplied and delivered
Wholesale and Retail
12 MILL HEAD STREET,
WIGSTON, LEICESTER.

A. W. PEARMOY & SON
Desserts, Industrial & Environmental
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100 LAKEVIEW ROAD,
WIGSTON, LEICESTER

WILDENBY BIRDS GARDENS TO VISITORS
On all birds, fish, plants and flowers
July and August: Thursday and Sunday
Hours: 10am to 4pm
Any other day by appointment
Check list enclosed or see leaflet for each garden to request
12th Children's, Wigston, Leicestershire. Special thanks to the Police Authority, 1994 and 1995 for their generous support. 1994, 1995, 1996

W. J. FREEMAN & SON
Baby Bed, Bath, Wigton
FURNITURE, CARPETS,
WIRING, PAINTS, ETC.
Wigton's Great Furniture Shop

CHARLES MOORE & SON
Plumbers, Electric and Gas Fitters
Central Heating, Oil and Gas Boilers,
Biom Biomass, Hot Water
TANKS AND ALUMINUM
WORKS IN ALL
Closely related to the
100 LAKEVIEW ROAD,
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Dry Cleaning either by the hand or the solvent process
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No links to give to a child
You will soon reply.

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At your service from 7.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

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Always a good selection
of Birthday Cakes

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A Drink to fete with
See other days
This is the day
for you to
celebrate
the day of
the year
the day of
the year
the day of
the year

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(Home of the Derby and Division of Rinkets)

Organising
The Musical and Dramatic Society of Belvoir Castle

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Musical, Dramatic, Society - 10.30 am to 6.0 pm
Dance - 7.30 pm to 11.0 pm
Both Building Society and Family - 10.30 am to 11.0 pm

EXHIBITION OF LOCAL COACH COMPANIES

in view to inaugurate New Route

EXHIBITION OF LOCAL CHILDREN'S ART - Look at the work made on Cards

FREE GOLF FAIR

Made on the terrace on Tuesday, August 2nd

PROGRAMME

- 2.15 Parade of the Midland Moulding Toy Soldiers' Carnival
Race on the Victoria Road
- 2.45 Opening Ceremony
- 3.00 Paper Competition - Prize 2 gu., 1 gu., 50s
- 3.15 Best Decorated Wood Lark Competition (up to 4 years of age)
40s - 100s 1 gu., 50s, 20s
- 3.30 Paper Doves for Children up to 7 years of age
Prize 1 gu., 10s, 10s
- Paper Doves for over 7 years of age
Prize 1 gu., 15s, 10s
- 3.45 Parade by The Midland Moulding Toy Soldiers' Carnival
Band
- 4.15 First Pull-Of Top-of-War
- 4.45 "Tales" in which of no less than 4 people representing an historical or biblical incident
Prize 2 gu.
- 5.00 Best First, Top-of-War
- 5.30 Midland Toy Soldiers' Band
- 6.00 Finale, Top-of-War

ROUTE OF PARADE

From the Hall
at
Long Street
Right Turn
Left Drive
Glasshouse Street
Victoria Street
Barr Street
Red Head Street
Long Street
Returns to the Hall

Sponge Cake Competition

Year	Prize	Open to all
197	20/-	10/-
198	20/-	10/-
199	20/-	10/-
200	20/-	10/-
201	20/-	10/-
202	20/-	10/-

A piece of "Walters" Birthday Cake.

Price 1/-

ATTRACTIONS AND SIDE SHOWS

- SWEET AWAY**
SWEET AWAY
SWEET AWAY
SWEET AWAY
SWEET AWAY
SWEET AWAY
SWEET AWAY
SWEET AWAY
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SWEET AWAY
- Have you seen the new Show of the Show? Looking for the best? This is the place! The best of the best! The best of the best!
- E. WARREN**
21 Leinster Road, Wigston, Leicestershire
- WHY NOT SHOP AT J. H. GOODMAN & CO. LTD.**
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- G. E. WIGGINGTON**
The Wigwag, Wigston, Leicestershire
- H. HARRISON**
The Wigwag, Wigston, Leicestershire

AND SO TO THE EVENING Come Dancing

on the lawns
in idyllic surroundings
by moonlight
8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Alan Morell and His Band

Who need no introduction to Wigston
Appetising in barbecue style
Admission 1/6d.
Complete the day in romantic mood with soft lights and sweet music.
(If you like there will be an entertainment of the Wigston Band)

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The Wigwag, Wigston, Leicestershire

H. HARRISON

The Wigwag, Wigston, Leicestershire

THORESBY HALL

THE GREAT HALL, THORESBY HALL
WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

Admission - Adults 1/6d, Children 1/6d
Children under 10 - 1/2d, 1/4d
By Post - 1/6d, 1/4d

Admission - Adults 1/6d, Children 1/6d
Children under 10 - 1/2d, 1/4d
By Post - 1/6d, 1/4d

Admission - Adults 1/6d, Children 1/6d
Children under 10 - 1/2d, 1/4d
By Post - 1/6d, 1/4d

Admission - Adults 1/6d, Children 1/6d
Children under 10 - 1/2d, 1/4d
By Post - 1/6d, 1/4d