

# Greater Wigston Historical Society

White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna  
Leicestershire

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## BULLETIN 65



**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2003**

**Wednesday 19th February 2003**

A.G.M. followed by:  
Part II of his account of Potters Bar - Tony Lawrance  
7.30p.m. U.K. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 19th March 2003**

Serving in the Womens' Land Army in World War II - Joan Poultney  
7.30p.m. U.K. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 16th April 2003**

The Walled Town of Leicester - Robert Gregory  
7.30p.m. U.K. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

**Wednesday 21st May 2003**

Visit to Breedon on the Hill Church (under threat due to proposed extension of E.M. Airport).  
Meal at Three Horse Shoes (included in price), drinks extra on the night  
Coach from Paddock Street 6.30p.m.

**Wednesday 18th June 2003**

Visit to Appleby Magna, tour of church & Sir John Moore's School, with mention of the almshouses & Manor House, tour to include cup of tea. Coach from Paddock Street 6.30p.m.

**Wednesday 20th August 2003**

Visit to Leicester Cathedral  
Please bring a donation, say £2 per person to include coffee, on the night.  
Meet Paddock Street 7.15p.m. to share transport.

**Wednesday 17th September 2003**

Roman Leicestershire - Peter Liddle 7.30p.m.  
U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

**Anyone planning to leave a car on Paddock Street car park during the summer trips please note the parking regulations.**

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The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1 st 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: Mrs. Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale Road, Wigston.

## FRONT COVER

Recalling that a cricket ball maker was drawn for Issue 63, Jim Colver stays with this theme and portrays a cricket bat maker busy with his spokeshave.

Correction to Issue 64 - the canal barge clearly had an engine and was not horse drawn as stated in the text! Sorry Jim! !

## OCTOBER MEETING

This month Gareth King explained the origins of some of the names of villages in Leicestershire.

Very early examples come down to us only as folk law and legends, Roman ones seem to have gone out of use except for roads etc., so generally the names we have today date from the Old English/Saxon (OE), Old Norse/Viking (ON) or Norman/French (N) periods. They are usually based on one or both of two categories as in the following:

1) A word to describe the place i.e. ham = (OE) home as in Wymondham, by = (ON) village as in Kilby, ley = (OE) pasture/meadow land as is Hinckley, glen = (OE) valley as in Great Glen, ton = (OE) enclosure later village as in Carlton, thorpe = (OE) hamlet or daughter settlement as in Countesthorpe, burrough = (OE) hill or fortified place as in Burrough on the Hill, worth = (OE) enclosed homestead as in Kibworth, stow = (OE) holy place as in Wistow, ston/stone = (OE) stone as in Whetstone, well = (OE) spring as in Harwell., Cot = (OE) cottage as in Cotes de Val.

2) A family or individual's name or a word associated with a place Le.Wistan = (OE) as in Wistan's Stow or Wistow. The Norman influence is very apparent in such examples as Ashby de la Zouch, Kirby Bellairs, Kibworth Harcourt & Beauchamp, Normanton Turville, Gracedieu, Belvoir and Cotes de Val.

It is generally accepted that Wigston Magna is derived from Vikings Tun, a Viking Town. The magna part means great and similarly parva means small.

A glance at a map of Leicestershire will reveal how many village names do end in by showing the very considerable influence of the (ON) Vikings on the county. With all these and other clues it is possible to deduce the likely origin of most of the place names around us.

Afterwards members were given the opportunity to ask for an interpretation of their own place of special interest and then Edna Taylor thanked Gareth very much for an interesting evening which gave us all much to think about.

## **NOVEMBER MEETING**

For this meeting we welcomed Carolyn Holmes, the Community Officer at Holly Hayes Environmental Resources Centre, Birstall, a section of the Leics. Museums Arts & Records Service, who gave her talk 'Discovering the Heritage on your Doorstep'.

She described the varied work carried out at the centre which involves the collection and storage of information on wildlife and other features at risk in the countryside of Leicestershire and Rutland. This information is then made available to planning authorities, conservation organisations and anyone else interested. The records can be in the form of aerial photographs, maps, village projects and wildlife surveys etc. The subjects covered include birds and animals, landscape features such as ridge and furrow fields, ponds, wet lands, ancient trees and hedgerows, geological outcrops, archaeological sites, ancient buildings and industrial heritage.

The centre works with amateur naturalists and natural history groups assisting them in developing and recording projects and running training days. Particularly mentioned was the recent sharp decline in numbers of garden birds. They are also a base for Heritage Watch, set up with the assistance of Lottery Money to create a network of Heritage Wardens for each parish to safeguard and monitor their area's most important sites (Wigston has three Heritage Wardens). This scheme also operates the Parish Investigation Project (PIP), supplying information packs and guidance to help groups discover and record the natural heritage and landscape of their area.

Information is then collated to give an overall picture of what is happening to the wildlife and from this the local Biodiversity Action Plan is drawn up. They then work with conservation bodies to select the best habitats as Wildlife Sites which are given priority and protected for the future.

Carolyn mentioned two useful 'rule of thumb' methods for amateur recorders. For trees find one on an ordnance survey map and if it still exists give it a hug! The main trunk increases by an average 2.5cm per year so its approximate age can be calculated. For old hedgerow measure a 30 metre length and count how many different woody species it contains. Do the same again with two more 30 metre lengths and then take an average. Multiply this average by 100, i.e. if the average was 8 the approximate age of the hedge would be 800 years old. Some hedgerows particularly those marking parish boundaries can be 1,000 years old.

After some questions and discussion Edna Taylor thanked Carolyn for a most interesting talk. We shall now surely all be a little bit more aware of our natural surroundings when we go out and about, and full of gratitude for those who are making an effort to preserve it.

## **DECEMBER MEETING**

December means it is that time of year again when the society holds its annual Christmas social.

The evening followed a tried and tested formula which seems to work well. It started with a quiz set by Edna Taylor and Brian Bilson consisting of a series of questions pinned on the wall. This kept everybody very occupied, with nobody appearing to sit down as if they had finished ages ago! After this we divided into groups and enjoyed Stella Tweed's local history and general knowledge quiz. For this the questions had to be collected one at a time from a box at the end of the room. When the papers were marked Bob Wignall's team emerged as the worthy winners.

There followed an excellent supper prepared by Caroline Bodman ably assisted by her husband Reg, after which it was time to raffle a basketful of interesting goodies. A very pleasant evening came to an end about 9.45p.m.

(The committee sometimes wonder if the Christmas Social is getting a bit predictable. The format has not been changed because it seems to work well and appears to be popular the way it is. However, if anyone would like to see any new features introduced or has any suggestions to make generally, do please have a word with any committee member).

## JANUARY MEETING

In January the society gathered to hear Mick Rawle's fascinating account of his research into his ancestors' Rawle shipping company based in Devon, and in particular his G. G. Grandfather's brother Captain Edward Rawle whom he discovered was tried for manslaughter following the loss of 'The John' and most of its emigrant passengers in 1855 whilst enroute to Canada.

At about this time huge numbers of people left Great Britain bound for the colonies, driven by hunger, unemployment and lack of opportunity. In the space of just 10 years the population of Ireland was halved by death and emigration caused by starvation (the Potato Famine). In the 60 years between 1840/90 431,001 people emigrated from the Devon ports alone. As most would have departed from Liverpool, London or Southampton this gives a clue to the huge numbers involved.

'The John' was a 465 ton barque built in Chester, Pennsylvania. It set sail from Plymouth at 4p.m. on 3rd May with a crew of 18 and 244 passengers bound for Quebec. When just off the Lizard it collided with a notorious outcrop of rock known as the Manacles and sank with the loss of 198 of the passengers.

From contemporary reports it appears the accident was due to a navigation error, but was this because of a faulty compass (having just been re-installed following repair), or the Captain being drunk and generally disinterested (though other reports said he and his crew were all perfectly sober). The loss of life would certainly have been less if there had been more life boats and those that were carried were in a sea-worthy condition (but the vessel had been inspected and passed before sailing).

A Board of Trade enquiry held at Falmouth concluded that the Captain was responsible for the tragedy. On 2/8/1855 at Plymouth the Treasury prosecuted the Captain for manslaughter. Was he guilty or not? We had to decide.

The talk was enhanced with copies of newspaper accounts of the accident, diagrams and pictures of The John<sup>1</sup>, a family tree and documents from the P.R.O. such as Edward Rawle's Seaman's Register Ticket. After some interesting questions and discussion, the President, Duncan Lucas thanked Mick for a most interesting evening.

Announcements followed: Shirley Hensman invited anyone interested to apply for tickets for a Skittles match at the Plough at 7.30p.m. on 18th February to include supper. Proceeds for the FWK Museum. Duncan Lucas suggested the possibility of holding a fund raising event (Flower Festival/Local Heritage?) to benefit all the Wigston churches and the FWK Museum, all of which are in need of large amounts of money for repairs. Best wishes were expressed to our Chairman, Edna Taylor, who was absent due to having broken her wrist the previous afternoon.

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### OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the death on 2nd December of Peter Bains. He had been suffering for quite some time from an illness he knew would ultimately prove fatal but coped with this in a truly brave and positive way.

Peter was born in Leicester, but emigrated as a child with his family to Canada, from where he retained many very happy memories of adventures in the wide open spaces out there. They returned when he was a young man and he spent most of his working life back in Leicester in the wine and spirit trade. Redundancy in later life saw him make a career change into training.

Peter and Diane joined our society about 1985 and his quiet and regular attendance amongst us will be most sadly missed.

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### BULLETIN EDITORS

Sadly Chris has decided to stand down as joint editor due to pressure from other commitments in her life. Looking back it seems amazing but it is 14 years since she and I decided to offer some help to Ian Varey who at the time was editor of this bulletin and also the newly launched FWK one as well. We held a discussion about it at Glenmere Primary School where Caroline and Matthew were then pupils. Now they have both finished university and are well on into their working lives!

Grateful thanks are sent to Chris for her interesting articles and general contribution over the years. Also her help to me in getting to grips with using a computer.

I shall continue with the bulletin but would be very happy to receive contributions for inclusion from members. Most people I think must have some memories of the past which could be made into an interesting article. Have a think....

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## LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETIES - SOME LOCAL CONNECTIONS

The Alliance & Leicester Bank announced its 150th anniversary in 2002 with much celebration and the issue of a special anniversary bond. This seemed a good enough reason to look back at its history. The bank was created in recent times by the combining of three large building societies. It is the oldest of these, the Leicester Permanent Building Society (which was founded in 1852 as the Leicester Permanent Benefit Building Society) which gives rise to the 150 year milestone. The next component was the Leicester Temperance Building Society (founded in 1875 as the Leicester Temperance & General Permanent Building Society) with which Leicester Permanent merged in 1974 to form the Leicester Building Society. Then followed the Alliance Building Society (based in the south and with headquarters in Hove) with which the Leicester merged in 1985 to form the Alliance & Leicester Building Society.

In 1990 the Alliance & Leicester Building Society purchased Girobank pic from the Post Office, thus being able to offer limited banking facilities to its customers. In 1997 it was floated on the Stock Exchange to become the Alliance & Leicester Bank we have today, where it qualified to join the FTSE 100 Index.

The need for housing of course dates back to when man stopped being nomadic and started to establish permanent settlements. First of all caves and then very basic self built shelters would have been used. As society became more civilised some prospered more than others. The less well off rented from landlords or lived in 'tied' houses linked to their employment, a system dating back to feudal times. About 200 years ago it was still only rich merchants, craftsmen and landowners who could afford to buy the house they lived in.

By the 1750s as a result of the Industrial Revolution many workers moved to towns and the 'tied' system became very unsatisfactory. Whole streets of cheap, back to back houses were hastily erected in urban areas to cater for these new workers. The results, though filling an immediate need, were unhealthy, squalid and soon became slums. Even these were soon in short supply and the more enterprising workers realised if they were to have somewhere decent to live they would have to provide it themselves. So they clubbed together to form societies. Each member contributed an agreed amount each week and when enough had been collected it was used to buy land and build houses. As each property was completed it was allotted to a member by ballot or auction. Once every member was housed the society was wound up. These early societies were known as 'terminating' societies. The first is believed to be the Ketley Building Society which was in existence in Birmingham in 1775.

In order to increase the pace of house purchase societies began in the early 19th century to accept deposits from people who did not want to buy a house but were merely seeking to invest their savings. Interest had to be paid to this type of member and so had to be charged to those who were in effect borrowing their money. In 1845 the first 'permanent' society was established to provide a continuing organisation for accepting investments and making loans for house purchase. Building societies were legally recognised in 1812 and the first Act of Parliament to regulate them was passed in 1836.

Often these early members who clubbed together to form societies were special interest or self help groups already and they named their societies accordingly hence we have the 'temperance', 'co-operative' and 'conservative' societies etc. The Leicester Temperance Building Society remained true to its early principles for 100 years, until its merger, by not advancing money on property which was licensed for the consumption of alcohol, such as public houses or hotels.

Some groups formed land societies instead. These served two purposes, first to enable members to buy their own plot to cultivate but secondly, in the days when the right to vote was only open to property owners, to widen the franchise. The Leicester & Leicestershire Freehold Land Society was founded along these lines in 1849. The first president was John Biggs, the well known MP, hosiery manufacturer & benefactor whose statue in Welford Place was funded by public subscription. His involvement in such ventures was no doubt part of the reason for his great popularity. These land societies generally evolved into building societies over time or sometimes ran alongside them, operating from the same premises and run by the same manager. This was the case with the Leicester & Leicestershire Freehold Land Society and the Leicester Permanent Building Society who by 1877 were both run from 14, Friar Lane by the same manager, Samuel Davis.

In Wigston there is evidence of several of these land societies operating. The sites of Victoria/Gladstone Streets, Burgess/Frederick Streets and part of Leicester Road were bought and laid out by the Great Wigston Freehold Land Society, and Central Avenue by the Co-operative Land Society. Granville Road was laid out by the previously mentioned Leicester & Leicestershire Freehold Land Society. There were probably many other examples.

In Horsewell Lane two fields on the north side known as The Horsewell (Sacres Ir 28p) and 'Stevens Close' (Sacres 3r 8p) were sold on 12/4/1872 for £1654 1s 3d, by farmer, Michael Taylor, to Josiah Langham and Edward Dann (both FWK's of Great Wigston) who were acting as agents for 30 other Wigston men who wished to own their own allotments. The purchase was assisted by a mortgage of £1200 at 4.5% per annum from a Leicester builder named Jonathan Beaumont Collins. The name of this society is not given but the members were:

John Pawley, George Noble, George Wood labourer, William Carter, Edward Smith, Thomas Walker, Henry Buncher, Thomas Carter, George Spence, William Vann, Samuel Smith, William Wood labourer, Benjamin Carter, Isaac Trueman, William Harding of Moat Street, George Randall shoemaker, Henry Tailby, Sampson Hurst, James Vann, Edwin Hill, Thomas Tailby, Isaac Hill, Henry Hill grocer, Charles Carter, John Powell, Charles Hurst carpenter, Joseph Trueman, John Hackett, Edward Robinson, & William Harding of Newgate End. All were framework knitters except those indicated otherwise.

By 29/9/1892 Jonathan Beaumont Collins and his wife had died and their 3 daughters as executors sold the mortgage on 'The Horsewell' part of the allotments to Charles Hurst, builder, and Henry Hill, hosiery manufacturer, both of Great Wigston for £842 10s0d.

Great Wigston Conservative Building Society evolved from this Horsewell Lane society. It operated for many years from the National School in Long Street and in 1877 Edwin James Andrews, a schoolmaster there, was the manager. Later Samuel Alfred Ross became headmaster of this school and also manager of the building society, his wife Kate continuing to run it after her husband's death. The late Mrs Kathleen Jepson (daughter of A.G. Shipp) could recall the school being opened on Saturday mornings to accept deposits. After this a clerk from Owston's solicitors kept the books. Owstons always having acted for the society. Over the years several locals were involved as directors, these included Albert Carter, A.G. Shipp (coal merchant), Ernest Broughton (hosiery manufacturer), Samuel Laundon (sadler), Arch Wilde, Mr. Hassall (decorator), Mr. Adams (plumber), Mr. Sampson (solicitor's clerk), E.H. Rawson (hosiery manufacturer) & Frank Woodward (farmer).

Eventually in 1957 members voted by the necessary majority that they should be taken over by the Leicester Temperance Building Society.

Another society, the Great Wigston Permanent Benefit Building Society, evolved from the Great Wigston Freehold Land Society. This one was formed in 1866 and incorporated in 1890. It conducted its affairs from the British School also in Long Street later transferring to Bell Street School where teacher, Mr. E. A. Preston, was an early secretary. Also involved over the years were C.A. Print, J.G. Snowden and J.T. Proctor.

This society was probably also merged with a larger one but I have been unable to find out which or when. If anyone has any more information on either of these early societies I should be very pleased to hear from them.

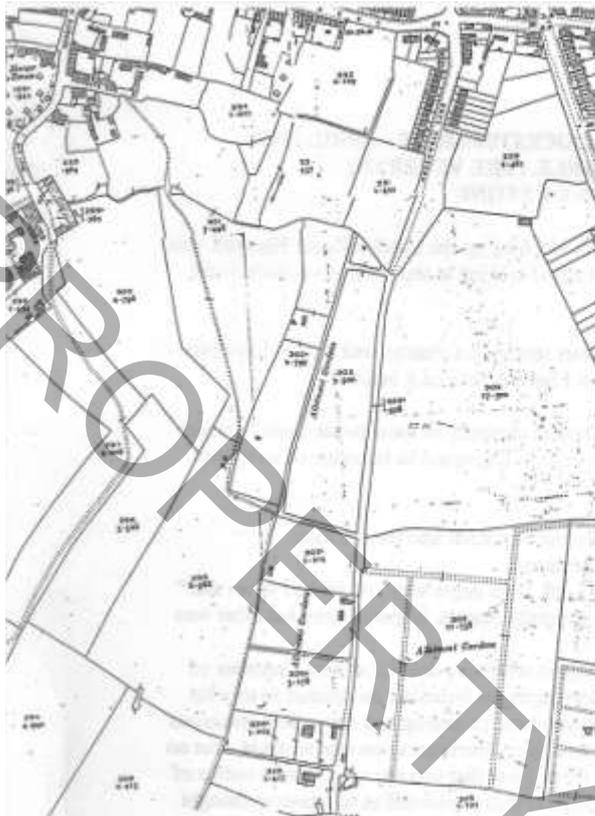
Tricia Berry

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Sources: *Understanding Building Societies* by The Building Societies Association, 1987 & newspaper cuttings kindly supplied by Alliance & Leicester, various directories, *Abstract of Title to Horsewell Lane Allotments* in private hands, *Taking Stock, Issue 15*, by Alliance & Leicester, Records of the Leic & Leics Freehold Land Society at LRO 18/D/70.

<p><b>WHY PAY RENT</b> WHEN THE <b>Wigston Conservative</b> <b>Building Society</b> WILL HELP YOU TO BUY YOUR HOUSE? MONEY advanced at 4½ per cent. REPAYMENTS no more than rent. Call on the <b>MANAGER</b> at <b>41 Long Street, Wigston,</b> Between 3 and 4 p.m. any <b>TUESDAY</b> or <b>FRIDAY</b>.</p>	<p><b>LISTEN! . . .</b> I paid rent for forty years and then got turned out of the house—not a brick my own. My advice is to buy your own house through the <b>GREAT WIGSTON</b> <b>Permanent Benefit Building Society</b> (THE OLDEST SOCIETY IN THE DISTRICT) Full particulars of easy repayments from the Secretary— <b>J. G. SNOWDEN, 34 Burgess Street, Wigston.</b> Registered Office: Bell Street School.</p>
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1944 (both)



Horsewell & Steven's Close allotments  
to west of Horsewell Lane

## WIGSTON BUILDING SOCIETY TRANSFER

to the Leicester Temperance

BY AN OVERWHELMING majority members of Wigston Conservative Building Society last night voted in favour of transferring their engagements to the Leicester Temperance Building Society.

At the meeting, which lasted about 30 minutes—"it was purely a formality," said an official—88 per cent of the society's members were in favour of the transfer.

Although no definite date for the transfer has been fixed, it is stated that it will take effect on March 31.

Earlier this year, members of the society, which is in its 11th year, turned down a proposal to transfer engagements to the Bedfordshire Building Society.

"We are sorry to see the Wigston society go," Mr. W. D. Grant, its chairman, told The Evening Mail. Mr. Grant will continue official office with the Leicester Temperance Building Society when the merger takes place.

Only 100 of the 1,000 members of the Wigston society were

present at the meeting last night.

To adopt the resolution, three-quarters of the members present had to vote for it, and, in addition, the written consent of the holders of two-thirds of the whole of the shares had to be obtained.

Now that the merger has been agreed, investing members of the Wigston society will be credited on a paid-up share account with the Leicester Temperance Building Society with a sum equal to their total investment at the time of transfer.

1957

## WIGSTON CONSERVATIVE Building Society

RAPIDLY GROWING

Helps Working People to become their own Landlords at favourable rates of repayment.

DEPOSITORS receive 3½% plus Bonus. Tax free

WITHDRAWALS of Deposits—whole or part—promptly met.

LAST BALANCE SHEET with particulars of the Society forwarded on application to—  
THE MANAGER,  
41 Long Street, Wigston

1927

"BE PREPARED"  
for the future by investing with the

### GREAT WIGSTON PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

*the oldest Building Society in the district*

Established 1846 Incorporated 1888

**3½%**

INTEREST RATE PER ANNUM  
*Income Tax paid by the Society*

**Applications for Mortgages Welcomed**

Registered Office:  
BELL STREET COUNCIL SCHOOL - WIGSTON - LEICESTER  
Secretary: C. A. FREDT, 62 Aylmston Lane, Wigston

1960

## WIGSTON Conservative Building Society

K. ROSS,  
Manager.

41 LONG STREET,  
WIGSTON.

April 15th 1960

1940 Letterhead

**WALKS AND TALKS IN LEICESTERSHIRE - APRIL 1927**  
**BY GEORGE CABLE. (THE VETERAN)**  
**HEADS OF STONE**

A few days ago, a young man was quietly strolling up the London Road. His walk was apparently aimless for he, now and then stood looking in shop windows, occasionally gazing up and down the road.

"What an alteration," he muttered. "I never saw such a change, and it must have been going on for a considerable time, and yet I haven't noticed it before."

From the opposite side of the road, he looked earnestly at some houses, one of which was already converted into a shop, and was too engrossed to be aware of an elderly man quietly watching him.

As he turned to continue his walk, he almost blundered into the old man.

"Just whom I was longing to see," he exclaimed.

"Indeed," returned that party "and here I am, I can guess why you wished to see me."

"I expect you do, you old quizzer, you generally manage to guess right, but what was it I wanted to see you for?"

"As you were intently gazing at those houses which are decorated with a number of heads, it is quite obvious you were endeavouring to formulate an opinion as to what they implied. Needless to say, I suppose you have passed up and down here numerous times, yet even if you have casually noticed them, the impression was so slight, that no fixed idea was on your mind regarding them. Now that you are open to take notice of little things, you observe them more fully, and puzzle yourself as to whoever thought of decorating houses in such a way. Would it surprise you that each one reproduces the same individual?"

"Not if you say it is, for I am beyond being surprised at anything you tell me. What surprises me most is that I have never thought of finding out about, or noticing the little things before. To me now it seems astonishing that people pass up and down the streets unobservantly."

The Veteran tapped him on the shoulder, saying "Good lad, good lad. Now I'll tell you about the heads. There is nothing very wonderful about them. Some years ago a local detective retired and having saved a bit of money, built those houses and to commemorate his calling, had replicas in stone made of the various disguises he utilised in the course of his duties. Simple explanation it it not?"

"Quite," said the young man, "but all the same, interesting."

"It is just the same with everything else," returned the Veteran. "That which surprises us, invariably has a simple and easy explanation. All that is necessary is to find out."

There are always means of information available."

"Perhaps so," the young man laughed, but it is knowing where the source of information can be found that no doubt worries folk. Do you know the name of that one-time detective?"

"Yes," the ancient one replied. "I ought to have mentioned it before. He was known as Tanky Smith. I do not suppose Tanky was his Christian name, but Smith evidently was. Regarding your remark relating to knowing where the source of any information can be found. You can take it from me that those that you least credit can give you plenty of information. I know a stone breaker who can discourse on palaeontology, a dustman whose botanical knowledge, I could never hope to excel, and once I met a sweep whom a professor of the classics had to admit was better able to lecture on that subject than he could himself. The Professor had been lecturing and in the course of doing so, had to make reference to a dead language, namely Sanskrit, a portion of which he translated for the benefit of his audience, amongst whom was a sweep. At the close, during question time, the professor was at a loss to give an answer to one, so the sweep, apologising, asked if he might supply it. With a suspicious look, the learned man agreed and was astounded at the knowledge this poor man possessed and his power of erudition. A dialogue immediately took place between the two, and the professor finally had to admit publicly that he was beaten."

"So you see, my lad, you never know amongst those you meet, how much knowledge is possessed by the seemingly unlikely. The world is full of rough diamonds, the value of which more than equals the polished ones."

The young man silently took the Veteran's arm and together they turned up De Montfort Street and so into the New Walk. Alluding to the Presbyterian Church, the old one said "Of course you know that this church once stood by the Midland Railway Station."

"Not until I saw the picture and the announcement in the Leicester Mail recently."

"There was also another by it, which stood where the Wyvern Hotel now stands. It was removed to Melbourne Road, just as well perhaps."

"Can you tell me how and when this pathway got its title?" enquired the young man.

"That is easily answered," replied the Veteran, "but first though, are you aware you are walking on a road most ancient?"

"Of course, the young man said, "many roads are ancient, but I was not aware there was anything particularly ancient about the New Walk."

"Then it will be news to you to know that the Roman Legions often marched up this very road. To them it was Via Devana and ran by Stoughton and Stretton. The Roman South Gate was situated near Wickliffe Street, by which Ratae, as they called Leicester, was entered. It was in 1785 this walk was laid out and the inhabitants used it as a promenade. No doubt the fashionable ones of those days disported their finery, and the gallants oggled the dainty ladies as they meandered leisurely beneath the trees. We will turn back. By the way, you will no doubt be interested in knowing that the

Museum was originally the Proprietary School which in 1848 was purchased by the Corporation for the purpose which it is now utilised.

Here I leave you my lad, and if you should ever feel inclined to take some short walks, I shall be only too pleased to accompany you at convenient times, taking you to parts of the city and point out places of interest."

And so they parted, the young man to wander around the Museum and the old one to plod his way home, where he occupied his time turning over the leaves of his beloved books and filling his mind with more to talk and think about.

Taken from the memorabilia of George Cable, a former Book-binding Company Manager, who moved to Leicester from Surrey. He lived successively in St. Leonard's Road, New Walk and Princess Road. He wrote a prodigious amount in the 1920s, always styling himself the Veteran.

Thanks to Jim Colver for supplying this interesting piece for the Bulletin. It is to be found at LRO under ref: DE3734/2