



THE GREATER WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Greater Wigston Historical Society was formed in 1980 by Duncan Lucas and a group of keen local historians to preserve and research the history of the Greater Wigston area, which includes Wigston, South Wigston, Glen Parva and Kilby Bridge, and we now also include Countesthorpe.

Starting from a small band of enthusiasts, the Society has expanded over time and in 2024 has over 170 members locally, nationwide and worldwide.

The society is run by an elected Committee and a dedicated group of volunteers who regularly give their time helping to organise and maintain the society's many activities.

ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2024, ON THE KINGS BIRTHDAY, THE SOCIETY WAS AWARDED THE “KINGS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2024”.

THIS AWARD IS THE EQUIVALENT TO AN MBE FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS.



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

THE GREATER WIGSTON HERITAGE CENTRE

In 2019 we opened the Greater Wigston Heritage Centre on the Wigston Academy/College Campus. Our volunteers set up and manned the very popular centre for 5 years. Due to rebuilding work on the site we will have to close. We are actively looking for a new venue so *watch this space*.....

The Society meets once a month in the evenings (except July and August) where we provide talks on historical subjects. In August we have an outing to visit places of historical interest, whilst the other 10 monthly meetings are held at:

**LITTLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
LAUNCESTON ROAD, WIGSTON LE8 2GZ**

At 7.15pm on the third Tuesday of each month.
(Subject to change)

Details of all meetings and activities can be found at:
www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk/Meetings.html

For full details please see our web site:
www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Enquiries: enquiries@wigstonhistoricalsociety

AFTERNOON TALKS

For Members and visitors who prefer daytime talks, we hold regular Thursday afternoon talks (with small nominal charge) during the year at the Pavilion in the Peace Memorial Park in Long Street, Wigston. See details at:



www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk/Afternoon-Talks-2024.html

WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER ?

Contact: chairman@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk
FOR FURTHER DETAILS

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH MATERIAL

Available on our website are a range of documents, articles and transactions, all giving an insight into the history of the area. As a member you will have access to the website, Members Only area documents via your own personal log-in, which you can apply for when you join.

Also, on the website you will have access to our unique photographic archive, containing well over 16,000 photographs which give an insight to the changing face of Wigston over the years. Copies of these photographs can be ordered via the website. This is a free service, but of course donations are always welcome!

To give you a feel for the history of the area, you can take a “virtual” walk around the history of Wigston in photographs, maps, and videos with our range of very popular narrated historical DVD’s that are available:

- **DVD1 - WIGSTON WITH TWO STEEPLES** A walk through Wigston Magna along Leicester Road, Bell Street, The Bank, Bull Head Street, Moat Street and Long Street.
- **DVD2 - BRIDGE TO BRIDGE** A journey from Kilby Bridge and Wigston Magna to the “Spion Cop” Bridge on Station Road.
- **DVD3 - A MIX OF MEMORIES** Video memories of Pageants, Carnivals, The Wigston Museum and South Wigston railways.
- **DVD4 - FROM FIELDS TO A TOWN** The Development of South Wigston.
- **DVD5 - WIGSTON CEMETERY** History of the Cemetery and some of those at rest there.

DVD’s are available by post from the website or at meetings.

A series of “**Window on The Past**” books, volumes 1 to 5, with stories and articles about the area, it’s history and famous people of the past, are available from the website and at some meetings.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR NEWS AND UPDATES

www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk

The Society is a Member of The Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Forum

www.lrhf.co.uk

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to all Society meetings and events (afternoon talks small nominal charge).
- Access to the Members Only area of the website containing hundreds of historical documents, transactions, and Wigston genealogical data.
- Free 3 times a year Bulletin newsletter containing articles submitted by members, news from the past and much more.
- Automatic entry to the mailing database for regular updates and news.
- FREE family history research, local, national or worldwide, details on website, undertaken by very experienced genealogists.

JUST A FEW OF THE FEATURES ON OUR WEBSITE.....

- FREE DOWNLOADS OF WIGSTON HISTORICAL BOOKS
- “VISIONS OF WIGSTON” SEE WHERE YOU LIVE IN EARLIER TIMES
- STREET NAMES INDEX - SEE THE HISTORY OF YOUR STREET NAME
 - SOUND ARCHIVE - LISTEN TO LOCAL PEOPLE
- THE HISTORY OF THE PEACE MEMORIAL PARK ON LONG STREET
 - NEW COUNTESTHORPE HISTORY PAGE

www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

JOIN OUR CLOSED GROUP

Wigston – Remembering the Past

The group was started to attract visitors with memories and photographs of Wigston, and now has over 6,500 members worldwide.

GWHS MONTHLY MEETINGS 2025

**VENUE: LITTLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL LAUNCESTON ROAD,
WIGSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE LE18 2GZ**

Doors Open 6.45pm, Talks Start at 7.15pm

**Tuesday 21st January
DISCOVERING "10-ROW" WIGSTON
Mark Startin**

**Tuesday 18th February
HENRY V11 ROUTE TO BOSWORTH & THE CROWN - Eddie Smallwood**

**Tuesday 18th March
MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGES FROM LEICESTERSHIRE Peter Liddle**

**Tuesday 15th April
HIGHFIELD - LEICESTER'S 1ST SUBURB. A story of corporation
corruption, bankruptcy, and a local hero
Richard Warren**

**Tuesday 20th May
40 YEARS OF RAILWAY CLANGERS
(from the Orient Express to Richard Branson) Bill Devitt**

**Tuesday 17th June
EDWARD ELGAR; THE MAN AND HIS MUSIC
Sam Dobson**

JULY NO MEETING

**Tuesday 19th
August OUTING - Desford Heritage Trail**

**Tuesday 16th September
NOEL CHAVASSE - The only man to win
2 Victoria Crosses in World War 1
Peter Cousins**

**Tuesday 21st October
REVOLT AGAINST THE POOR LAW. The history of the Poor Law and Workhouse
in Leicester from the 1830s through to the 20th Century - Ned Newitt**

**Tuesday 18th November
LADY JANE GREY - Sally Henshaw**

**Tuesday 9th December
CHRISTMAS PARTY plus MYTHS OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE
Dancing Talk & Demo With Refreshments & Drinks
£4.00 for Members, £5 for Visitors/Guests**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to become a member of the
Greater Wigston Historical Society

Mr / Mrs / Miss

First Name/s

Surname

Address

Post Code

Telephone

E-mail

SignedDated

Subscription Rates For 2025

Full	£16.00 per year per person
Concession (60+)	£13.00 per year per person
Student	£ 7.00 per year per person
Overseas	£ 8.00 per year per person

Our subscription runs from January to December. A 50% discount is applied for people joining from September to the end of December. *After joining, when yearly subscriptions are due, and are not paid by the end of June, then membership will be cancelled, necessitating a NEW application if further membership is requested.*

Please send the form with payment, cash or bank transfer, to our Membership Secretary:
3 The Tofts, Wigston, Leicester LE18 2NF

Bank Transfer Details: HSBC Bank, Account Number: 71045768 Sort Code: 40-46-33

Alternatively, you can bring the form and cash with you to one of our meetings. Or join at the Heritage Centre where you can pay by credit or debit card.

Data Security Declaration

The Greater Wigston Historical Society (GWHS) processes personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. Personal data is used for the purpose of maintaining an accurate membership record, to allow us to contact you in respect of membership matters, events and publications.