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The Blue Bell Inn – Bell Street

Mike Forryan – Extracts from the GWHS Archive

This public house built c1860 has suffered few alterations except for its outbuildings. The licence was transferred from the Blue Bell Inn in Bell Street which was demolished in 1847. Drake's Directory first mentions The Bell in 1861 and gives the landlord's name as James Tabberer. Subsequent directories list

William Cook 1870,

Thomas Bowbridge Potter 1875,

Simeon Pole 1884,

Charles Ward 1888,

Edwin Vamam 1894,

Henry Boothaway 1916,

Walter Hipwell 1928,

Ernest E Gamble 1932-1941.

In 1764 an Act of Parliament known as the “Wigston Act” was passed. This gave lands in lieu of tithes to the Duke of St. Albans and to the vicar, and divided the rest of the land between the various other landowners. A further Act was passed in the following year making a turnpike road from Welford to Leicester, which became the main route of the mail coach from Leicester to London. The Blue Bell Inn, which stood in Bell Street, was a noted coaching hostelry.

Near the top of Bell Street on the left hand side we would have found the old Blue Bell Inn, an old Coaching Inn, which became Shipp's Shop, now also gone, but it stood almost opposite Long Lane.

Shipp's was the “The Harrods of Wigston”. It was also the Post Office at one time.

End



GREATER WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name and Contact Detail of Person Supplying The Information

Text of information found

end



Photographs



8-43 Bell Street Wigston Magna - Shipp's
Shop formerly The Blue Bell Inn



8-19a Bell Street Wigston Magna