

WIGSTON NICK NAMES

Produced by Mike Forryan President - Greater Wigston Historical Society

Updated

12-Feb-24

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>VILLAGE</u>
Apple Pie Corner	Cottage at the corner of Spa Lane and Mosley End	1850	Wigston Magna
Ashcroft Spinney	On Newton Lane by the first bend	1700	Wigston Magna
Black Pad	linking Station Road/Bushloe End with Central Avenue.	1950	Wigston Magna
Blue Brick Bridge	Bridge at the end of Aylestone Lane crossing the railway line.	1963	Wigston Magna
Blue Lagoon	The deep water pond between Mason's farm and Kilby Bridge also known as Lime Delph	1900	Wigston Magna
Bobo	Local names for horses	1800	South Wigston
Bordies	The Bord School in Long Street - Now the Records Office	1900	Wigston Magna
Candle Light Cottages	Next to the Horse & Trumpet pub on Bull Head Street. Got the name as the builder, Mr Merrick, built them in the evenings and often worked by candle light.	1890	Wigston Magna
Cookoo Bridge (South Wigston)	Cuckoo bridge nickname for the railway bridge next to nebisco. The Cookoo bridge I knew was the blue brick built arched bridge that carried the Leicester to Rugby railway line over the Countesthorpe Road near its junction with Lansdowne Grove next to the old Premier Drum factory at South Wigston. It was known to me as the Cookoo Bridge because your voice echoed when you walked under it on the raised path at the side. As a young boy I would always call out "Cookoo" as I walked or rode on my bike under it and listen out for the echo. I suppose this "custom" was started by my parents when I was very young and was always referred to by this name. After the line was closed the 1960's the bridge was demolished and the road levelled. This allowed double-decker buses to run to Countesthope over the two hump-back bridges over the canal and River Sence - a bit of a squeeze! Later on these bridges were rebuilt and widened.	1940	South Wigston
Cookoo Bridge Kilby Bridge	A second bridge with this name and located at Kilby bridge and refers to the railway bridge over the main Welford Road		Kilby Bridge
croggie	give me a ride on your crossbar (of your bike) down the allyway.	1940	
Crowe Spinney	Along the Meres neat to Beauchamp School	1700	Wigston Magna
Devil House	41 Long Street A house with a "Wyvern" on the roof. Local children called it The Devil house	1900	Wigston Magna
Fairfield	A field where the old fair used to set up in South Wigston. Just over the railway bridge onto the now named Fairfield Estate.	1850	South Wigston

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Flee Pit	The Ritz cinema. Built by Mr George Smith.	1930	South Wigston
Frog Alley	Cedar Avenue	1930	
GeGe	Local names for horses		South Wigston
Gilliver Hill	The hill from the old village green at the Moat Street Bull Head Street junction up Welford Road. This came about because of the Gilliver flowers that appeared each summer. The area was on the left hand side travelling along the Weford Road towards Leicester.	1800	Wigston Magna
Ginnels	any of the allyways linking roads through estates that were "no cycling" paths.	1960	
Helicopter Field	So called because of the ash trees with falling seeds. Sited just over the railway bridge at Kirkdale Road	1930	South Wigston
Hollywood	Bus conductors would shout out Hollywood, for Landsdown Grove bus stop.	1950	
House of the Fairies	Bell St with Shipp`s on the left and "Thacnashee" on the right..The name translates as "House of the Fairies"(Pic from Wigston Streets Past & Present	1850	Wigston Magna
Lime Delph	The deep water pond between Mason's farm and Kilby Bridge also known as Blue Lagoon	1900	
Manchester	Manchester - the allotments between Blunts Lane and Chapel Lane - not sure if it applies to those across Long Lane too, or only those on the Long Street side? Not sure of the origin - think they were officially called this.	1920	Wigston Magna
Nashy, Bugs and Fleas	All Saints National Junior School Long Street students were called this.	1900	Wigston Magna
Navvies Pit	Navvies Pit is the lake near the footbridge over the Leicester to London railway line which takes the footpath from the Little Hill Estate (Barford Close) to the Double-Rail Lock and beyond.I believe it was called this because it was dug out by Navvies to provide materiel to build the railway embankments and the hole left flooded. In the late 1960's when I was a student at Guthlaxton College several of us did some fresh-water ecology studies there with a biology teacher Mr Minchin. In those days the new houses on the estate were in the far distance together with the spire of All Saint's Church.The fields inbetween though were soon to be built on. The Pit nowadays is used for private fishing.	1850	South Wigston
Niffy	Due to the smell from the sewage works at Countesthorpe	1870	Countesthorpe

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Peacock Cottages	Cottages at the bottom of Moat Street opposite the new Sainsbury's. Called this because there was a peacock that sat on the roof of the cottages.	1880	Wigston Magna
Railway Town	South Wigston was known as this at the turn of the century	1900	South Wigston
Rally Bridge	Bridge over the railway at the back of Little Hill Estate. In the old days this was a nice walk from Newgate End across the Rally bridge to the canal and along the tow path to Kilby Bridge and back up Welford Road	1930	Wigston Magna
Rat Alley	Used to be called rat ally dut to the tip being there	1950	South Wigston
Spa Lane	Local Spa Lane pronounced spa as in play		Wigston Magna
Spion Kop Bridge	The Bridge was finished in the same year of the battle in South Africa at Spion Kop. Soldiers returning from the battle came into Wigston Station. Locals gave it the name to commemorate the troops.	1902	Wigston Magna
Starlings (birds)	Jean Dann says my grandfather always said starlings were called 'starnels' in Wigston.		Wigston Magna
Tangle Town	Due to the carrying on between the Army lads and the local girls AKA Hooley Estate	1940's	South Wigston