

Wigston Civic Society

Chairman's Report 2017-2018

Welcome to all members and visitors to the 2018 AGM in our 40th anniversary year, another busy and successful year for the Society where we have attended events, undertaken certain campaigns and tried to publicise the society wherever possible to promote its work and aims at every opportunity.

The main events which took place during the year were:

14 September 2017 we held our annual illustrated lecture which was a very well-attended, the subject being the Significant Buildings and Blue Plaques of Wigston Magna, presented by myself based on the walk earlier in the year.

On 17 November we held another skittles evening, this time at the Conservative Club in Wigston, and long with a raffle this proved a good financial result for the Society.

Following the successful Wigston Heritage Day in 2017 at the Methodist Church, on Saturday March 10, along with the Wigston Historical Society and the Framework Knitters Museum we attended the very successful History and Heritage Day held here at AGE UK. It was very busy from the opening with over 200 visitors throughout the day. Thanks go to the exhibitors who attended, from both local and county wide, and special thanks to Bridget Blair from BBC Radio Leicester who gave us a very entertaining lecture about the Talking History program. Special thanks to the AGE UK catering staff who did a sterling job keeping us fed and watered.

On Friday 6 April we were challenged to another skittles match evening against the Leicester Civic Society at the Black Horse in Aylestone, and I am sorry to report that this time we were not successful, and the Leicester Civic Society won!

Last year on April 30 we held a Heritage Walk in Wigston Magna to celebrate 50 years of conservation areas and Civic Day 2017. This year, just last Sunday 6 May, we held the second part covering the buildings and blue plaques of South Wigston. 25 people attended the walk, thanks very much to them for their support as all profits from this and other events goes to the Civic Society, and thanks to Brenda Kind and her helpers who supplied the much-needed tea and biscuits in the Methodist Church at the end of the walk.

During 2017 and 2018 we also put on displays about the Society in the Wigston Library .

Events for the rest of this year will include:

This month on Saturday 26 May we will be attending the Leicester Heritage Fair at Bishop Street Methodist Church along with the Leicester Civic Society, The Victorian Society, The Leicestershire Industrial History Society and others. Open from 10 till 4, admission free.

Our 6th Annual Public Illustrated Lecture which will be on Thursday 13 September 2018 @ 7.30pm here at AGE UK in the main dining room.

The speaker will be Malcolm Riddle, who will be giving a lecture on
"THE ORIGINS AND DECLINE OF THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY
THROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE"

Admission £4.00 Per Person Including Refreshments

On Saturday 13 October 2018 we will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary with an event at AGE UK. Full details will be announced soon.

The Committee

As usual meetings have been held each month during the year with steady attendances including some non-committee society members.

At the Elliot Hall in South Wigston on one of the coldest days of the year we held another Away Day meeting, well attended, where we discussed several items in depth not covered at our normal committee meetings. This was followed by lunch at the Fairfield.

The Wigston Voice newsletter continues to be published regularly twice a year, and thanks to committee members and members who give their free time to distribute them making a considerable saving on postage costs.

Regarding publicity we now have regular items in the Oadby & Wigston Council's "Letterbox" news letter published four times a year, from which we do get a good amount of feedback.

Planning Matters.

Once again, we have monitored, discussed and commented on several planning issues within the Borough.

Some projects have been completed, such as the demolition of the Premier Drum site for new Wickes and Lidl stores which should be opening in late summer this year. The development of the previous Heating Elements site has now been completed, with an excellent job being done by Jelson's for which we will be giving a commendation later this year when they officially open the landscaped area and totem pole in the centre of the site.

The Cook's Lane development of over 50 houses is well under way, and work has now started on the Newton Lane development of 450 houses, with the name of Wigston Meadows - could be confusing with the current Meadows estate not far away. Outline planning permission has also been submitted for more housing on the opposite side to the Cook's Lane development, but so far no detailed plans have been seen.

Recently planning permission was sought for over 50 houses off Denby Dale on the Meadows estate. Along with local residents we objected to this proposal and I am glad to say it was turned down.

During the year with considerable success we have campaigned about overhanging hedges in the borough. The items in the Voice and the Letterbox regarding this issue have brought forward many complaints, all of which we have forwarded to the Leicestershire County Council. You can in fact now report any issues directly yourselves with a link provided on the Civic Society website.

Finally, my personal thanks to all of the Committee members and members who have helped in the running of the Society during the past 12 months.