

Wigstons' Voice

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY
REPRESENTING WIGSTON MAGNA,
SOUTH WIGSTON & KILBY BRIDGE**

SPRING 2018



**2 Orange Street, South Wigston
One of the buildings to be featured in the
South Wigston Heritage Walk 2018
(See article on the back page of this issue)**

**www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Founded in 1978**

***“we strive to make the
Wigstons a better place in
which to live work and shop”***



EDITORIAL

Thank you again to those who submitted articles for this edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to Colin Towell who, through his articles, continues to keep us all informed of the changes taking place in Wigston.

Please do not leave it too late to buy your tickets for the Annual Lecture on 13 September (see notice in this issue).

Peter Cousins

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE AS ELECTED AT THE AGM MAY 2017

Chairman	Peter Cousins	chairman@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Vice Chair	Maureen Waugh	vicechair@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Secretary	Colin Towell	secretary@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk 07813 782 899
Treasurer	Val Beesley	treasurer@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Val Beesley	membership@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Website Administrator	Peter Cousins	webadmin@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Publicity/Events	Nicola Alexander	publicity@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Peter Cousins	news@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
Other Committee Members: Roy Hughes, Peter Holmes, Colin Hames, Yvonne and John Woodward		

Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston Magna, starting at 7.15pm. All Members Welcome

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

INCLUDING A PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATIONS

WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2018 AT 7PM

VENUE: THE MAPLE ROOM,
Age UK PADDOCK STREET
(REAR ENTRANCE)
WIGSTON LE18 2AN

FOLLOWED BY
MIKE BATES

Member of Leicester U3A and the Leicestershire and O&W Field Workers.
Member of The Friends of the Record Office and Brocks Hill

TALKING ON:
‘ANCIENT TRACKWAYS AND ROADS, AND
THE MERE TRACK’

The Romans are said to have built over 8,000 miles of metallised roads in their first 100 years of occupation. What was there before and how did the ancient people get around? What of our local Roman Roads and the local long-distance track, the Mere Track, that runs for part of its way along the parish boundary of Wigston?

ALL MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME
ADMISSION FREE (NO BOOKING NEEDED)
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED

YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Leicestershire County Council is considering a proposal for a major change in the way our local libraries in Oadby and Wigston operate: libraries will have longer and more standardised opening hours but will only be staffed for up to 22 hours per week. When unstaffed, users can gain access using a personal swipe card. This proposal follows a three-month pilot study and survey at Syston Library in spring, 2017.

Users in Syston found both advantages and drawbacks to the new Library+ scheme. Users liked the greater flexibility and convenience of longer opening times, but some missed the help of friendly staff. However, there were concerns about possible vandalism and difficulties if equipment, such as computers and photocopiers and printers were not working.

Wigston Civic Society discussed this proposal and raised some other issues. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult, but this could be problematic for teenagers who want to use the facilities of the library for homework. In the event of a power cut, how would users get out of the building?

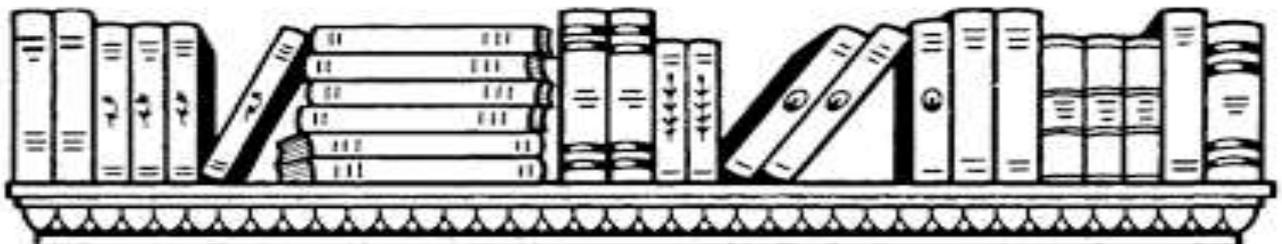
There is a brief summary of the main points of the pilot study on the Wigston Civic Society website.

Maureen Waugh

www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk

and the Society welcomes your comments on this issue.

Please email: **chairman@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk**.



HEDGES OVERHANGING FOOTPATHS

In the last issue of the "Letterbox" (the O&W Council's Newsletter) we highlighted the serious problem of hedges overhanging on to pavements, making them a hazard to pedestrians. We received a good response of several email's, texts and phone calls on the subject from concerned residents, all of which have been reported to the Highways Department of the Leicestershire County Council.

They informed us that their Enforcement Officers would be sent out to investigate the problems, and to issue notifications to the occupiers where necessary. Please keep reporting any issues to us, and we will forward them to the LCC.

chairman@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk or phone 07702 127313

You can now also report any issues such as hedges and many other concerns directly to the LCC on a submission form on their website. There is a link to this on the home page of the Wigston Civic Society website at: **www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk**

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

2018 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Wigston Civic Society under the auspices of the former Civic Trust, now Civic Voice.

During the year the Society will be commemorating the founding of the Society in various ways. Keep your eye on the Wigston Civic Society Website for details as they are released:

www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk

**NEW FRAMEWORK KNITTERS
MUSEUM WEBSITE
www.wigstonframeworkknitters.org.uk**

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR PRIDE OF THE BOROUGH DISCOUNT CARD 2018?



The Pride of the Borough Membership card for 2018 is still only £5 per calendar year. This is the fourth year of the scheme and the number of participants, both members and businesses, continues to grow.

Joining not only shows your tangible support for the work we do to help improve the environment of our borough throughout the year, it also supports local traders and businesses. Members of course can easily gain the membership fee back from the many generous offers and discounts available.

Funds raised through the scheme are being put to use in many of our projects including the purchase in autumn 2015 of 12,000 spring flowering bulbs, planted by volunteers across the borough.

Details at: www.prideoftheborough.org/membership-card
or call in to the Oadby And Wigston Council service shop in
Bell Street, Wigston.

Offers may change and new businesses are joining the scheme so please check the website regularly. Make the most of the benefits of your membership and support local businesses and traders.

- Pride of the Borough encourage members to use local trades and businesses but take no responsibility for the goods or services provided.
- Participating businesses reserve the right to change and/withdraw their offers at anytime.
- You will find that offers are not on sale items or other special offers.
- Restaurants require you to book in advance stating use of card.
- You should show your Membership/Loyalty Card before making a purchase.

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY AGM

Wigston Civic Society will be holding its AGM and talk on Wednesday, 9 May at 7pm at Age UK Oadby and Wigston in Paddock Street. Members of the public are very welcome to come along and see what the Society does. After a short business meeting there will be an illustrated talk about the historic Meres Walk through Wigston and beyond.

In addition, Wigston Civic Society will be making presentations to owners of new and recently renovated buildings that have enhanced the area of Wigston Magna, South Wigston and Kilby Bridge. If you are aware of any building (domestic, commercial or industrial) which you feel should be honoured please email the name of the owner and the address to Colin Towell at cftowell@aol.com or phone 07813 782 899.

PARKING

The Christmas holiday period and the dark nights have highlighted a developing problem of parking both on the road and on pavements. The latter is a matter that Wigston Civic Society has long campaigned on, but it is becoming worse on local estate roads where households often have more than one vehicle, and sometimes a works van, but do not have the space on their driveways or front gardens to use for parking.

At one time the Society was also campaigning for the retention of front gardens, but it seems that this is not realistic as long as they are properly and legally paved over to accommodate vehicles. Residents are urged to think of their neighbours and the safety of other road users and pedestrians and access for emergency vehicles, when they find that they must park their vehicles on the road because space on their own land is full or insufficient

PLANNING BRIEFS

The last six months has again been busy on the planning front with major applications that, along with the already approved Newton Lane scheme for 450 units, could see over 625 new homes being built mostly on greenfield land.

Horse and Trumpet decking and footpath: the saga continues, the decking has been built but the footpath has NOT been diverted, and the work is complete. The County Council must now deal with the diversion of the footpath and an order is expected to be issued at any time, to which the Society will object. If the process had been correctly followed in the first place the Borough Council could have prevented the footpath from being diverted when the application for the decking was considered at the Development Control Committee. Watch this space.

Newton Lane: at long last there appears to be some activity in the last few weeks when site huts have been erected. Also, names for the 24 individual roads on the estate have been announced by the Council, all of which incorporate suggestions made by either the Civic or Historical Societies. There is concern in some quarters that the archaeological survey was not sufficiently thorough and on certain parts of the site there may be interesting remains which will be lost.

Meadow Hill/Cooks Lane: this scheme named Thornhill Fields by the developer, is well under way and it is understood that 16 of the 53 plots on the site have been sold before they are completed. Again, the Council has announced its chosen street names and although the Society submitted suggestions these were largely not needed as the names used were Meadow Hill and the current Cooks Lane and Welford Road.

Premier Drum site: it is clear that the construction of the new Lidl and Wickes stores is progressing well, and work is starting on the alterations to Station Road over the bridge to accommodate the right turn lane into the site.

Denby Dale: an outline application was submitted for 56 houses on this site off Wensleydale, but after strong objections were raised by the Society and local residents this was refused. Apart from traffic (which, amazingly, the County Council had no problems with) the main objection was that the site is in the green wedge between Wigston and Oadby. The applicant considered that the Council's calculation for housing need,

which can be met, was too low and therefore additional dwellings were needed.

Land west of Welford Road near Kilby Bridge: an outline application for up to 49 houses has been submitted for this land after a consultation meeting was held by the owners' agent late last year. The Society has submitted comments, but the application has not yet been considered by the Council's committee.

Long Street W M C site: an amended application has been submitted by the owner for this site which addressed the previous concerns and was generally supported by the Society. This application has not yet been heard by the Development Control Committee.

Central Avenue: an application has been submitted for 7 houses on the land currently occupied by huts which were, until recently, used by a nursery, just off Central Avenue. A strong objection has been submitted on the grounds of over development and because the access is used by children attending the All Saints Junior School to avoid the narrow Long Street.

Applications for 29 flats on the Nautical William site and 2 houses at the rear of the Old Crown have been refused. There is no news on the compulsory purchase order for the Hat and Cap factory in Canal Street, and the redevelopment of the former Admiral Factory and Hubert Hall's shop site in Long Street. It is understood that work on demolition of the former Glen Parva Young Offenders Centre is due to start in May 2018.

WIGSTON LIBRARY HERITAGE GROUPS NOTICE BOARD

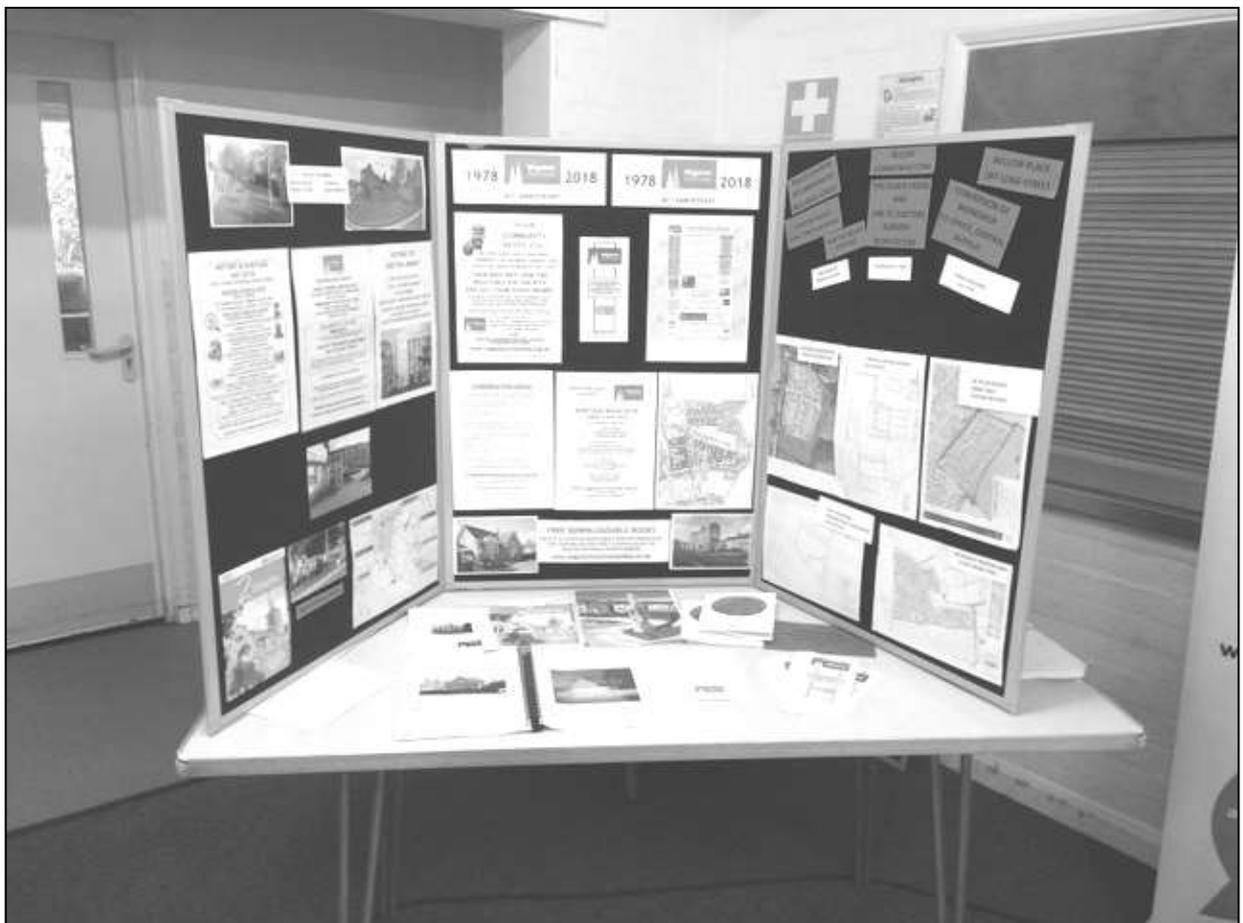
The notice board in Wigston library, for use by local Heritage Groups such as Greater Wigston Historical Society, Wigston Civic Society and Wigston Framework Knitters Museum, has recently been relocated within the library to the local studies and computer area.

Next time you are using the library, have a look for information about these organisations and their current events.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE DAY 2018

On a dreary wet March Saturday morning the Civic Society took part in the Heritage and History Day 2018 held at the Age UK premises in Paddock Street, Wigston. With the damp weather we did not know what the turnout would be like, but we need not have worried – from the opening time of 9.30am there was a steady stream of visitors, in fact over 60 in the first hour alone, with around 200 during the day.

The local societies and organisations who exhibited put on an excellent show of their archives and facilities, especially busy were the Western Front Association and the Century of Stories project with information and databases of World War 1 Leicestershire Regiment soldiers.



The display stand for the Wigston Civic Society

Particularly busy were the Greater Wigston Historical Society with their vast archives of photographs and scrapbooks of Wigston history.



Display of World War 1 artefacts by the Western Front Association

Visitors were able to peruse the archives and information on local and military history and also they were able to look into their family histories, whether a starter or, as a lot of people are, stuck against a brick wall in their researches.

A very busy and successful day, made even better by the volunteer catering staff of Age UK who all day kept exhibitors and visitors supplied with endless teas, coffee and wonderful home -made cakes, and of course “bacon butties”. Many thanks to Emma, Garry and Anne for their sterling efforts throughout the day.

If you missed the day keep your eye out for an event in 2019!

THE LOCAL PLAN

The final version of the Local Plan was consulted on in the weeks leading up to Christmas, but changes were only permitted if they relate to the soundness of the plan or to legal aspects. Therefore, the Society did not respond to that consultation. It is expected that the Plan has now been submitted to the Secretary of State with a view to its adoption in the summer of 2018. The Society was pleased to see that the Plan contained its proposals for the list of Significant Buildings in Wigston, South Wigston and Kilby Bridge as well as guidelines on room sizes in new and refurbished developments which had not applied locally in the past.

**THE WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HAS A NEW UPDATED WEBSITE AT:
www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk**

The site contains a wealth of local information:

Articles About Wigston History

Database of All GWHS Bulletins

Links to History Sites

Details of All the Society Meetings and Outings

Downloadable Free Books

Access to The GWHS Archive of over 8,000 pictures

Watch the Website for Further Details

SOUTH WIGSTON SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS WALK 2018

Last year the Society organised a walk of Wigston Magna to cover the newly published Significant Buildings list and the history of the Conservation Areas and Blue Plaques. The walk was so well supported that those attending had to be split into two groups.

In 2018 the Society will hold the second part of the walk to cover the area of South Wigston. This will take place on **SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018** at 2.00pm.



See the notice on the back page of this issue or check the website www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk for details.

To book a place contact: chairman@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk or phone **0116 2884638**

GREATER WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

Archived copies of the GWHS bulletins since 1980 and the Civic Society newsletter "Wigstons' Voice" from Spring 2015 are available on their websites:

www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk/Bulletins.html

www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk/Newsletter.html

6th Annual Public Illustrated Lecture

Thursday 13 September 2018 @ 7.30pm

**“THE ORIGINS AND DECLINE OF THE
GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY THROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE”**



**AN ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION BY
MALCOLM RIDDLE**

Venue:

Age UK 51 Paddock Street, Wigston LE18 2AN

Admission £4.00 Per Person

Including Refreshments

BOOKING ADVISABLE

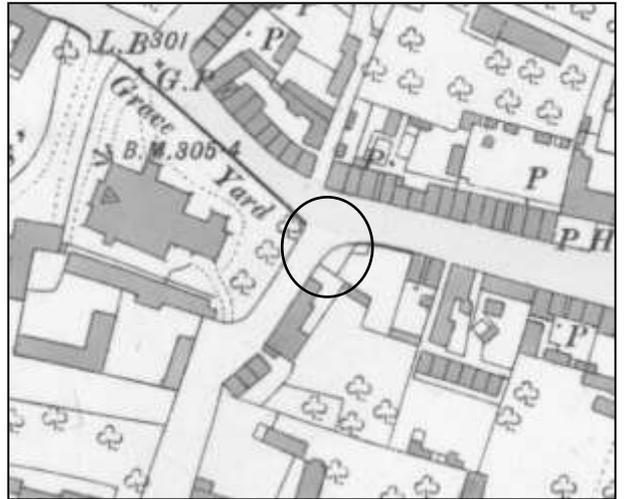
Contact: Colin Towell – 0116 288 9638

Or 07813 782 899

THE PINFOLD

Some long term Wigston residents may not appreciate that the small paved area on the corner of Moat Street and Newgate End (opposite the corner of All Saints churchyard) is called the Pinfold. In times before the enclosures when animals could wander almost at will there was a small walled or fenced area in most villages (the Pinfold) where an animal that had strayed too far from its home ground could be rounded up and kept safely until it was claimed by its owner. In Wigston Magna such a compound was on this site.

Although in the past the site had been surfaced in brick and a seat has been placed there it was considered by the Pride of the Borough team that it could be made more attractive and informative. They have designed a scheme to fit the site that incorporates a seat, a planted trough and an information board.



The seat has an agricultural design incorporated into its back rest and is similar to the WW1 seat installed in Oadby opposite St Peter's Church. The planted trough is to be created from an authentic redundant cattle trough and the information board uses historical detail provided by the Greater Wigston Historical Society.

The total cost will be in the region of £2500 of which Wigston Residents Forum has agreed to pay £900, the Greater Wigston Historical Society £100, the Civic Society £50 with the rest, about £1,450 coming from the Pride of the Borough's own funds (mainly resulting from the sale of the loyalty cards).

It is hoped that the eye-catching scheme will be installed in time for the Britain in Bloom judging in the summer of this year

**HERITAGE WALK 2018
SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018**

TO CELEBRATE SOUTH WIGSTON'S

**BLUE PLAQUES
SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS
CONSERVATION AREAS**

Start at 2.00 pm

Approximately 1½ Hours

**Outside the South Leicestershire College
Corner of Blaby Road and Canal Street**

**Finish at
The South Wigston
Methodist Church, Blaby Road
For Tea/Coffee**

**PRICE £4.00 Per Person
Including Tea/Coffee**

**www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk
To Book a Place
Telephone (0116) 2884638**