



Letterbox

Oadby & Wigston
BOROUGH COUNCIL



oadby-wigston.gov.uk



OadbyWigstonBC



@Oadby_Wigston

Dear Resident,

Over the summer Leicestershire County Council called for the abolition of the existing county council and seven district councils to create a single 'new model' council across Leicestershire. The County did not provide details of this proposal though it is understood the details will be made public over the coming months. Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will consult its residents on the best way of delivering local services in the next edition of The Letterbox.

Cllr John Boyce,
Leader of the Council



'Battle's Over', a nation's tribute

November 11 2018 marks the 100th year since the guns fell silent, signalling the end of the First World War.

In remembering the sacrifice of millions of men and women, Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will be joining "Battle's Over", a unique series of events in the morning and evening, involving organisations and communities the length and breadth of our nation and many countries abroad.

In remembrance of the end of the war, over 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit throughout the UK at 7p.m. to symbolise the light of hope that emerged from the darkness of war. Oadby & Wigston Borough Council will be lighting a beacon at Brocks Hill Country Park.

The event also commemorates the many men and women on the home front who underpinned the war effort by keeping the wheels of industry turning and bringing home the harvests. Further details of remembrance events in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston will be published on the Council website in October.



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Beacon of Light (event open to the public)

- 6:50 p.m. Tribute to the Millions (a reading)
- 6:55 p.m. Last Post to be played
- 7:00 p.m. Beacon of Light is lit
- 7:05 p.m. Ringing Out for Peace*

*Over 1,000 churches and cathedrals are expected to ring their bells simultaneously in a fitting conclusion to a day of contemplation, commemoration and, ultimately, celebration.

Events in Oadby, Wigston & South Wigston

- 11.00 a.m. Remembrance parades and services

First World War memorial benches

The Council has purchased three commemorative benches as a lasting memorial to those who lost their lives in the Great War - 1914-18.

These are located in Ellis Park, Oadby, Peace Memorial Park, Wigston and at the South Wigston War Memorial.



Meet your new Mayor

Mayor of Oadby and Wigston, Councillor David Carter, has lived in Oadby for over 35 years and has been a Councillor for Oadby St Peter's ward for the last seven years. He is married to Janet and they have three adult children. His interests include conservation volunteering, walking and bird watching.

After retiring from a career in further education, David became involved in a number of community initiatives, including Pride of the Borough, Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 and Oadby Community Stakeholders. During his mayoral year David will continue to play an active role in the Borough.

He has chosen the Alzheimer's Society as his charity for the year and over the next 12 months David will be fundraising to support the work of the charity, which focuses on several key areas:

- Research into a cure for Dementia
- Campaigning to raise the public's awareness of Dementia
- Delivery of support services to help improve the lives of people living with Dementia.

Councillor Carter said, "I am honoured to be elected as first citizen of the Borough and look forward to a busy year representing Oadby and Wigston, celebrating the work of local organisations and voluntary groups, in addition to meeting as many residents as possible".

This fundraising year will include the following:

- A Memory Walk – Abbey Park – September 2018
- A Ceilidh/Barn dance at Parklands Leisure Centre – October 2018
- A Civic Carol Service at Oadby Baptist Church – December 2018
- Curry evening at Cuisine of India – February 2019
- The Leicester Grammar School's Big Band concert – April 2019

Please contact the Mayor's Secretary if you require further details on these events, on mayor@oadby-wigston.gov.uk or **0116 257 2712**.



Former Mayor raises £51,000 for Leicester Children's Hospital

Former Mayor for Oadby and Wigston, Cllr Samia Haq, has raised a massive £51,000 for her chosen charity. Samia chose the new-build Children's Hospital, which is to be built at the Leicester Royal Infirmary site because of her first-hand experience with the current children's hospital when her daughter was extremely unwell.

Samia was amazed at the excellent, compassionate care the hospital provided despite the challenges hospital staff face on a daily basis in meeting the care needs of their patients and families.

"It has been a huge privilege and honour to serve the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, an amazing experience which was made all the more special by the amazing success to my charity appeal. At the heart of that success was the generosity of our residents."

Cllr Haq held several events to raise money for her charity and was supported with generous donations from the local community, staff events and bucket collections outside supermarkets.



Oadby Remembers 1914-1918

Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 is a community project affiliated to the Imperial War Museum First World War Centenary. It is supported by the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Residents Forum, the Oadby Village Hall Trust, Oadby Education Foundation and Leicester Diocese.

The project was conceived in April 2014 with the aim of recognising not only the sacrifice made by the 73 men named on the Oadby War Memorial, but also the hardship suffered by the survivors and their families. Our research has uncovered a further seven casualties with links to Oadby whose stories are included.

The project is specific to Oadby's story of the war and will culminate in a commemorative book in 2019, for the benefit of the community. This addition to the local history archive will present a biographical story for each of the 80 men who fell and a picture of life on the Oadby Home Front, showing how personal tragedy and war time politics affected everyday life in the village.

In doing so we want to pull together the large and varied number of family stories, photographs and historical memorabilia from the First World War which we know exist in Oadby. In 1914 Oadby was a village of some 2,800 people, yet today it is a large multi-cultural town. Part of our aim with the Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 project is to recognise the contribution made by these 'Old Oadby' families to the history of our town and to the war. But additionally to demonstrate the price paid by Imperial Forces and their links to the soldiers from Oadby who they fought alongside.

Our group comprises eight volunteers, including military historians, family history researchers, local historians and archivists. We have also enlisted the support of further historians with specific subject knowledge, in presenting exhibitions and a programme of illustrated talks.

Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 has established contact with soldiers' descendants who attend commemoration services in memory of their ancestors and made contact with previously unknown members of their extended families.

We have created a website, www.oadbyremembers.org.uk, where all exhibitions and additional information about local soldiers can be viewed. Photos and stories of historic Oadby and its families can also be found on the 'Oadby – Remembering the Past' Facebook page.



OADBY REMEMBERS
1914-1918 

Get involved

The Oadby Community Stakeholders, as part of the Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 project, would like to invite individuals, families, schools, and community organisations to take part in a community activity to honour Oadby's fallen.

One hundred years ago over 400 Oadby men and women enlisted to serve their country, of whom 80 did not return. The aim is to create a community mural featuring 80 decorated silhouettes, demonstrating the scale of the village's sacrifice.

The 5ft soldiers can be decorated any way you like to reflect something of the individual or group creating it. Each silhouette will bear the name of one of the fallen and a biography of your soldier can also be provided, so that they might become a real personality rather than just a name on the war memorial.

During Remembrance weekend all 80 figures will come together in St Peter's Centre opposite the War Memorial, to be viewed alongside the commemorative Oadby Remembers 1914-1918 exhibition.

If you would like to contribute a silhouette, please contact Jan Bryars at info@oadbyremembers.org.uk or on **07512 237344**, or Cllr Anne Bond at a.a.r.bond@btinternet.com or on 07866920989. Alternatively, send a message on the 'Oadby-Remembering the Past' Facebook page.

Silhouettes must be returned fully decorated by October 20 2018. Further details will arrive with your silhouette.



Members' Allowance Scheme 2018/19

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Public Notice

The Notice is published in Accordance with Regulation 16(1) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

At its meeting on 24 April 2018, the Council considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel ("the Panel") established to review the Scheme of Members' Allowances ("the Scheme") and adopted a Scheme for allowances for the period 10 May 2018 until 9 May 2019.

The main features of the Scheme are set out in the Schedule attached to this Notice.

Copies of the full Scheme (and Record of Allowances) are available for inspection by members of the public from Democratic Services, Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2DR during normal office hours or on the Council's website: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/members_allowance_scheme.

Schedule of allowances

A Basic Allowance of £4,750 shall be paid to each Councillor. A Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) shall be paid to those Councillors (in addition to the Basic Allowance) who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the Authority as specified below. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY	SRA (£)
Leader of the Council	10,000
Deputy Leader of the Council * halved where shared	2,500*
Leader of the Opposition Group (# pro rata based on the total membership of groups where applicable)	2,500#
Chairman of Policy, Finance & Development, Service Delivery, Development Control	3,500
Vice Chairman of Policy, Finance & Development, Service Delivery, Development Control	1,150
Chairman of Council (Mayor)	3,500
Vice Chairman of Council (Deputy Mayor)	1,000
Chairman of Licensing & Regulatory Committee	2,500
Vice Chairman of Licensing & Regulatory Committee	1,000
Generic Task Group Chairman Allowance (pro rata if the Group disbands)	1,000
Change Management Committee Chairman	1,000
Community Engagement Group Chairman	1,000
Children and Young Peoples' Forum Chairman	1,000
Community Safety Partnership Chairman (where it is a Member of the Council)	1,000
Place Shaping Working Group Chairman	1,000
Health and Wellbeing Board Chairman	1,000
Residents' Forum Chairman(s)	1,000
Members Standards Complaints - Adjudication Panel (up to 4 hours*, over 4 hours** per attendance)	50* or 100**
Member of Licensing Panel (up to 4 hours*, over 4 hours** per attendance)	30* or 60**
Member of Internal Interview Panel (up to 4 hours*, over 4 hours** per attendance)	50* or 100**
Representative on Outside Body (up to 4 hours*, over 4 hours** per attendance)	30* or 60**

Councillors shall be permitted to claim no more than two SRA's.

Members' Allowances Record 2017/18


Oadby & Wigston Borough Council

Public Notice

The Notice is published in Accordance with Regulation 16(3) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The total sum(s) paid by the Council under the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2017/18 to each Member was as follows:

Members Name	Basic Allowance (£)	Special Responsibility Allowance (3)	Travelling & Subsistence Reimbursements (3)	Total (£)
Atwal, Gurpal	715.05	-578.25	0.00	136.80
Barr, Edward	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Bentley, Lee	4,749.96	3,510.34	0.00	8,260.30
Bond, Anne	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Boulter, Garth	4,749.96	4,644.30	0.00	9,394.26
Boyce, John	4,749.96	13,008.52	173.48	17,931.96
Broadley, Frank	4,749.96	1,081.95	0.00	5,831.91
Broadley, Linda	4,749.96	3,677.52	0.00	8,427.48
Carter, David	4,749.96	2,238.49	39.60	7,028.05
Chalk, Kerree	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Chamberlain, Marie	4,749.96	931.95	60.00	5,741.91
Charlesworth, Michael	4,749.96	3,510.22	0.00	8,260.18
Darr, Latif	4,749.96	1,118.24	0.00	5,868.20
Dave, Bhupendra	4,749.96	2,237.08	0.00	6,987.04
Eaton, Lynda	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Eaton, Robert	4,749.96	-205.96	0.00	4544.00
Fahey, Robert	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Gamble, Dean	4,749.96	1,149.96	0.00	5,899.92
Haq, Samia	4,749.96	7,468.16	0.00	12,218.12
Kaufman, Jeffrey	4,749.96	3,235.34	31.10	8,016.40
Kaufman, Lily	3,166.64	131.94	0.00	3,298.58
Khong, Teck	4,749.96	371.68	0.00	5,121.64
Loydall, Helen	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Loydall, Kevin	4,749.96	999.96	0.00	5,749.92
Morris, Richard	4,749.96	999.96	0.00	5,749.92
Morris, Sharon	4,749.96	3,631.77	0.00	8,381.72
Thakor, Ravendra	4,749.96	0.00	0.00	4,749.96
Total	122,630.69	53,163.17	304.18	176,098.04

Information on how to get a copy of this record can be found on page 4.

OADBY REMEMBERS
1914-1918 

The Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance

St Peter's Centre stands on what was the Oadby village green and where, a 100 years ago, families gathered to remember their dead.

This year the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance will be held at St Peter's Parish Church at 10a.m. when they will join rest of the nation in a minute of silence at 11a.m. A reception for the Oadby community will be held in St Peter's Centre after the laying of wreaths.

Remembrance events will also be held in Wigston and South Wigston. Check the Council website for more details.

Have your say

Future Local Plan Consultation

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Planning Department regularly undertakes wide ranging public consultations and offer people living or working in the Borough the opportunity to have a say in what they like about the area, as well as how they would like to see things change.

To achieve this the Council is encouraging residents and business owners to contact the Planning Department so that they can be added to the Local Plan consultation database.

The Local Plan consultation database

As part of each public consultation undertaken by the Planning Department, individuals and other stakeholders are sent a letter to make them aware of the consultation, where the relevant consultation material can be found and how to submit a comment.

On the May 18, 2018 the Planning Department sent a letter to everyone on the Local Plan consultation database, asking whether they wish to remain on the database and if so, that the Council had permission to hold the consultee details. Although the response was positive, the number of consultees that are now held on the Local Plan consultation database has significantly decreased.

To ensure that the Planning Department is continuing to do all it can to consult on the Local Plan process, it is encouraging individuals and organisations to sign up to the Local Plan consultation database.

Please note, the Local Plan consultation database is only relevant for ongoing and future public consultations relating to the Local Plan itself and any other planning policy document that is subject to public consultation. The database is not related to development management or planning control public consultations that are related to planning applications.

If you would like to be contacted regarding ongoing and future Local Plan related public consultations, please send the following details.

- For an individual: name; address; email address; contact number; preferred contact choice and confirmation that you allow the Council to hold such information for consultation purposes only.
- For organisations or businesses: name; name of organisation or business; address; email address; organisation contact number; preferred contact choice and confirmation that you allow the Council to hold such information for consultation purposes only.

Send via post, to: **Planning Policy Department, Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston, LE18 2DR** or email planning.policy@oadby-wigston.gov.uk. The Council will contact the requester to confirm they are happy for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council to hold your details in their database.

Uplands Park outdoor gym

The outdoor gym equipment currently installed in Uplands Park, Oadby, is reaching the end of its life and residents are being asked for their views on replacement equipment.

The concept of an outdoor gym has grown in popularity over the last few years with studies showing that exercising outdoors can have additional health benefits of both lowering blood pressure and reducing stress.

Five items of outdoor gym equipment were installed into Uplands Park in 2010 and the area has since proved very popular. Following discussions with residents at Oadby Forum, funding has been made available to replace the existing equipment and increase the number of items available. A public consultation will run throughout September to gain the views of residents.

If you would like a say, visit the Uplands Park page of the Council website at www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/our_parks. This consultation closes on September 30 and results will be used to determine what items will be purchased and installed, ready for use in the Spring of 2019.



Re-opening of Florence Wragg play area

On Friday July 13 the newly refurbished play area at Florence Wragg Way re-opened, just in time for the summer holidays.

The project was started in 2017 when residents approached the Council asking for new equipment to be installed. A public consultation followed, with residents and children being invited to submit their thoughts on the type of equipment they would like installed.

Council officers used the consultation results to draw up a specification for the equipment, which included swings for all ages and abilities and two slides; one for toddlers and one for juniors. The junior slide is incorporated into a bespoke climbing unit which offers a fun challenge for users, as the slide can only be accessed via monkey bars or a climbing wall.

Ward councillors Dean Gamble and Bhupen Dave, and local resident Sanjay Mistry, were involved in the project and have kept a keen eye on progress.

The new equipment, which cost £46,000, has been entirely funded by Section 106 Contributions - money paid to the Council by a developer to mitigate the impact of new homes and other buildings which create extra demand on facilities. Oadby & Wigston Borough Council appointed Wicksteed Leisure to implement the scheme after a competitive tender process.

The new equipment includes toddler and junior swings, a basket swing, two climbing units suitable for children up to 12 years, a springy and a 'swirl' roundabout accessible for users of all abilities including wheelchair users.

Florence Wragg play area has open public access and can be found off Florence Wragg Way in Oadby.



Fun, challenge, adventure and skills development

Scouting is a fantastic opportunity for young people to make new friends, have fun, challenge themselves and learn new skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

The 112th Leicester (Little Hill Wigston Magna) Scout Group is currently looking for new members (boys and girls) in each of its three sections

- Beavers (aged 6-8)
- Cubs (aged 8-10 1/2)
- Scouts (aged 10 1/2 - 14)

Each section meets at Little Hill School on Monday evenings during term times with the occasional additional trip or camping.

Please contact Richard on [07960 262296](tel:07960262296) for more information.



Introducing Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a new benefit administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). For working age claimant's it will replace: Tax Credits, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Income Support, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) and Housing Benefit. This means you will claim Universal Credit instead.



If you already receive any of the benefits listed above these benefits will continue. However, if you have a change of circumstances you will be advised if you will need to claim Universal Credit.

I'm a pensioner, will it affect me?

Universal Credit does not apply to single claimants or couples of pension age. In these cases, you will continue to claim Pension Credit and/or Housing Benefit.

However, where you are a member of a couple where only one of you is pension age you will have the option of switching to Universal Credit.

How do I claim Universal Credit?

You will need to make a claim online. Support is available from the Council or job centre if you do not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone, or if you need help in completing the claim.

Can I claim if I am working?

Yes. Whether you qualify will depend on your income and not the hours you work, so if you receive Universal Credit and move into, or out of work, your payments will be adjusted and you won't need to make a new claim, as long as you still qualify.

When will I get paid Universal Credit?

Universal Credit is paid a month in arrears and you should receive your first payment five weeks after you claim. Payments will be made direct to your bank account. If you can't wait five weeks for your first payment, you can ask for an advanced payment loan, but be aware that this will need to be paid back each month over a maximum of twelve months.

Additional support

If you need help managing your money, please contact the Council or the work coach at your job centre.

Will Council Tax Support be included in my Universal Credit?

No, you will need to claim Council Tax Support separately. You can do this online, by visiting the Customer Service Centre or by calling the Council. Any Council Tax Support award will be credited to your Council Tax bill. You will be responsible for paying your Council Tax.

Will free school meals be included in my Universal Credit?

No, these will need to be claimed separately via Leicestershire County Council or at your child's school.

Discretionary payments

If you claim Universal Credit and you pay rent and/or Council Tax you can still claim for Discretionary Housing Payments or Discretionary Council Tax Support from the Council.

If you have any queries relating to this article please contact Mick Bullock, Benefits Team Leader for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, on **0116 257 2713** or email **mick.bullock@oadby-wigston.gov.uk**

Renting your home

This section applies to Council tenants, Housing Association tenants and tenants of Private Landlords. Rent is known as 'housing costs' under the new Universal Credit scheme and any money paid towards your housing costs will be included in your monthly lump sum payment. You are responsible for paying your rent.

How do I pay my rent?

You should speak to your landlord immediately about paying your rent (ideally by setting up a direct debit) or if you get into difficulty with your rent payments.

Can my rent be paid direct to my landlord?

Yes, but only in limited circumstances. Please speak to your landlord or the DWP for more information.

More information at: www.gov.uk/universal-credit or at: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/universal_credit.



Wildflowers at Brocks Hill



Once autumn arrives, many wildflowers at the country park fade to be replaced by the warm hues of the season. But over summer, many types of wildflower bloomed: bright oxeye daisies, deep purple knapweed, yellow bird's-foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw and delicate pink musk mallow.

Some of the smallest flowers, such as red and white clover are favoured by pollinators such as bees, which feed on nectar in early summer. This year has been very good for butterflies and bees, with some of the highest numbers of butterflies recorded at the country park and over 500 bumblebees recorded in one survey in July.

Some of the most important plants in the country park are the wildflowers, also known as weeds. These plants aren't tolerated in gardens, formal parks or on agricultural land, but nevertheless they are native wildflowers that are essential food-plants for hundreds of important insects such as beetles, butterflies, hoverflies, moths and more.

Management aims to control some of these weeds where possible, but in other areas plants such as thistles, ragwort and burdock are allowed to flower and set seed. Without these plants growing in the more disturbed areas, there would be less food-plants for many important insects, upon which we depend for pollinating our food crops and all of our flowers.

Local businesses join 'Dementia friendly' campaign

A group of Police Community Support Officers are the latest to become 'Dementia Friends' as part of a campaign to tackle the stigma and lack of understanding around Dementia and Alzheimer's.

Other groups attended free one-hour information sessions at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church, next to Zeph's café, run by local Dementia Friends Champion, Lesley Green. Speaking about the session, Lesley said: "I was so pleased to see business people showing their support for people with Dementia, by coming along to the session and becoming Dementia Friends.

"I am part of the local Dementia Forum and we aim to help businesses in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston be more "Dementia Friendly" so those affected feel understood and included. Dementia Champions are ready to run more free sessions locally. Our aim is for our Borough to be known for being Dementia Friendly".

Mayor David Carter has chosen the Alzheimer's Society as his chosen charity and is delighted to support this initiative. Oadby & Wigston Borough Council has also recognised Dementia as one of their main priorities.

Visit dementiafriends.org.uk for more information, to support the campaign or for details of upcoming sessions. You may also contact Lesley Green on outreachmc@outlook.com.

Join Father Christmas for the annual Christmas Craft Fair at Brocks Hill

Enjoy a unique Christmas shopping experience at the Brocks Hill Country Park Christmas Craft Fair.

There will be lots of exciting and original stalls selling handmade arts and crafts from local artists and makers. It's a brilliant chance to buy a special gift for your family and friends.

This is a free-to-attend event, held between 10:30a.m. and 3:30p.m. on November 17, featuring demonstrations, arts and crafts (adult: £1, child: free), a visit from Father Christmas and more.

There is plenty of parking on site and hot and cold food available from the café. Please contact brockshillevents@everyoneactive.com for more details.



Join the Local Sport and Active Recreation Alliance

Oadby and Wigston Local Sport and Active Recreation Alliance is looking for new members from local communities and a new Chair to drive this work forward.

Are you interested in physical activity or sport? Would you like to help shape local opportunities in the future? If so, the alliance are looking for individuals who have a desire to develop, deliver and promote sport and physical activity across the Borough.

Meetings take place four times a year with representation made up from voluntary groups and organisations, local clubs, Everyone Active, Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport and the Council. The alliance aims to work alongside these representatives to identify new opportunities and influence the delivery of future sport and physical activity, locally.

If you are interested in learning more, or would like to join the local alliance then please email Avril Lennox via avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.



Parklands Leisure Centre and Wigston Pool

Learn to swim

What better way to get your children active than at the local swimming pool with national award-winning swimming provider, Everyone Active.

Everyone Active at Parklands Leisure Centre and Wigston Pool and Fitness Centre offer swimming lessons for everyone from babies through to senior citizens.

With fully qualified and experienced teachers available and a wide range of times at a reasonable price, you could be learning a skill that could one day save your life or that of someone else.

Following the structured ASA swim program swimmers will learn the basic's right through to advanced techniques and who knows, someone out there could be the next Adam Peaty or Rebecca Adlington.

Call Parklands on **0116 272 0789** or Wigston on **0116 288 5346** for more information.

Parklands Children's Holiday Camps

Parklands Leisure Centre will be hosting its popular Holiday Activity Camps throughout the October half-term holidays – with various sports activities, arts and crafts, bouncy castle, swimming and lots more to do. Children from age 5 to 14 can be booked on for the day or the week and with very competitive pricing.

Eddie Benskin, Activities Manager for Parklands Leisure Centre said “The holiday camps are going from strength to strength with lots of children coming along, being more active, making new friends and most of all having lots of fun. We now include swimming, soft play and climbing in the activities available so there is lots for children to do.”

The activity camp runs throughout the school holidays. It is highly recommended that you pre-book in advance as spaces book up fast. Lunch can be provided at a very reasonable cost. For more details please call Parklands on **0116 272 0789**.



For more information on the services and clubs mentioned above, please contact the relevant fitness centre on **0116 288 5346** (Wigston) or **0116 272 0789** (Parklands).

Grants for higher education students

If you are a resident of the parish of Oadby and are in, or will be going into, higher education, whether university or a level 4 or above apprenticeship, the Oadby Educational Foundation (OEF) may be able to help.

The OEF provides financial support to students and trainees in the form of a book grant, or by funding specialist tools to begin a new career.

Call into St Peter's Centre, Wigston Road, Oadby, LE2 5QE to collect an application form. Applications must be made by October 6 and include a stamped, addressed envelope. Grant cheques will be posted in November.



Community and Youth Grants

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Community and Youth Grants scheme aims to provide financial assistance to local voluntary groups and clubs that are active within the Oadby, Wigston or South Wigston area.

The funding can be used to assist with travel, equipment or costs associated with setting up a new project, but will not support 'every day' expenditure such as rent or room hire.

All grant applications must be submitted in sufficient time to be assessed by the panel prior to the project start date. The scheme is unable to accept applications from educational establishments or commercial organisations, but applications from individuals will be considered in exceptional cases.

Visit the council website for more information about the grant criteria and for a copy of the application form: www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/community_grant_scheme.



Community resilience is alive in Oadby

Over the past 12 months volunteers from schools, faith communities and the library have come together to create the Oadby Community Response Team.

With the guidance and endorsement of Resilience Partnership and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, the Team has developed a Community Response Plan for the area which has been well received. The plan sets out how the Team will come together to respond to an emergency and outlines ways they can work to keep residents safe.

After successfully developing the plan, the Response Team were presented with £600 worth of funding for a Community Emergency store of useful equipment to help them respond to a variety of emergencies. A copy of the plan can be found in Oadby Library. For more information about the Oadby Community Response Team, or to volunteer to be part of it, please contact Jo Knight at: joknight1@virginmedia.com.

If you are a community leader from Wigston or South Wigston and would like to be involved in creating a Community Response Plan for your area, please get in touch with the OWBC Resilience Officer, Kimberly Jebson at: kimberly.jebson-hambly@leics.gov.uk.

Red Cross Emergency Reserve Volunteers

The Oadby Response Team members are also Red Cross Emergency Reserve Volunteers; why not become one yourself?

As a Red Cross Reserve Volunteer you will be trained to help your community get back on track in the event of an emergency, in a way that is coordinated by a highly respected, global organisation. Find out more at reserves.redcross.org.uk.



'Ageing Well' with health and wellbeing

The Oadby and Wigston Health & Wellbeing Board has recently updated their priorities for 2018/19. One of the key priorities this year is 'Ageing Well'.

The following information has been put together for the benefit of local residents. In addition, a dedicated webpage can be found on the Active Oadby Wigston website, providing information about local services, activities and opportunities available across the Borough: www.activeoadbywigston.org.uk.

Advice and information services

Helping Hands Community Trust	Provides help with all aspects of welfare benefit advice and assistance, including help with debts, domestic abuse, housing, government forms, and consumer issues.	0116 278 2001 66-68 Blaby Road LE18 4SD office@helpinghandscentre.co.uk
Oadby Library	Free library membership allows you to borrow books, audio books, large print, dual-language and DVDs. Free computers to use and friendly staff.	0116 305 8763
Wigston Library	Opportunities to enjoy crafts, games, book groups, organised talks and lectures, shared reading, socialising.	0116 305 3689
First Contact Plus	Supports Leicestershire residents aged 16+ in accessing information, advice, signposting or onward referral to a wide range of preventative services. Areas covered include improving your health, fall prevention, families and relationships, money, debt and benefits, your home, feeling safe, independent living and work, learning and volunteering.	www.firstcontactplus.org.uk A self-referral can be made online if needed.

Adult Learning Services (Leicestershire County Council)

Learning for wellbeing	Supports adult learners to improve their wellbeing, both physically and mentally, providing a range of creative adult learning courses including drawing and painting, pottery, cooking, crafts, upholstery, crochet, upcycling, dressmaking, ballet, pilates, astronomy and photography.	0800 988 0308 for more information or to request a 'GoLearn' brochure.
British Sign Language (BSL) and Deaf Awareness	Supports learners, giving them the tools and skills to communicate with someone who has a hearing impairment. Courses help to break the communication barrier, which can reduce isolation. Offer a range of courses from Deaf Awareness taster to 10-week British Sign Language for Beginners.	0800 988 0308 for more information or to request a 'GoLearn' brochure.
LALS ESOL	Offers courses for learners whose first language is not English and who need to learn or improve their English for life, community and work in the UK.	0800 988 0308 for more information or to request a 'GoLearn' brochure.
Languages	Offer daytime and evening classes in French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Greek and Italian at various levels.	0800 988 0308 for more information or to request a 'GoLearn' brochure.

Leisure facilities and opportunities

Wigston Pool and Fitness Centre	Provides a 25 metre, 6-lane swimming pool, sauna facilities, swim sessions for all age groups and a fitness gym with fitness motivators to help you meet your fitness goals.	0116 288 5346
Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby	Provides a 25 metre, 6-lane swimming pool, swim sessions for all age groups and a fitness gym with fitness motivators to help you meet your fitness goals. Also available are a range of classes for all ages and abilities, including active life sessions with exercise to music, badminton and gym sessions suitable for those aged over 50.	0116 272 0789

'Ageing Well' with health and wellbeing

Activity and support services		
Alzheimer's Society Leicestershire and Rutland	Dementia support offering information and practical guidance in Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Leicester hospitals for carers and people with Dementia, face to face, over the phone or in writing.	0116 231 6921
WomenToday health and exercise class	Exercise and friendship group for women over 45. Exercise class every tuesday 9:30a.m. – 10:30a.m. at The Elms, Wigston. £3 per session. No membership, first session free.	womentoday@virginmedia.com 07547677934
Local Area Coordination	Work with individuals, their families, carers and local communities in South Wigston and Wigston Magna to provide information and support to enable people to solve their own problems and help them to pursue their vision of a happy life.	Wigston - Sue Renton 07834 177184 South Wigston – Mary Flynn 07834 177175
Age UK	Free advice and information to over 50's living in Oadby and Wigston. Services include, charity shop, day care service, restaurant and café, room hire, hairdresser and chiropodist, Dementia support and regular activities such as line dancing, Tai Chi, gentle exercise, indoor bowling.	Leicester (0116) 2885203 51 Paddock Street, Wigston www.ageuk.org.uk/oadbywigston/
Senior Citizen's Action Group	Free and confidential membership providing information on Forums, events and trips for residents of Oadby and Wigston aged 55 and over.	Helen Loydall 0116 367 6055
J and S Day Service	Provides a specialist day service for people with Dementia related illnesses, or physical and sensory needs, in a relaxing and social environment. Numerous activities are delivered, including kurling, boccia, and skittles.	0116 2785444 JandSDayServices@outlook.com 1 Tigers close, LE18 4WS
Community Action Partnership – Community Transport	Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles to take older or vulnerable people to various destinations, such as appointments, shopping, social events. Clients must be registered with the service. There is a small charge for the service.	0116 2887482
Oadby and Wigston Muslim Organisation Ladies only	Yoga/Pilates for all ages and abilities with friendly accommodating qualified instructor. Tuesday 10.30a.m.-11.30a.m. Coffee morning with regular walking as well as outside speakers on popular and informative topics. Wednesday 10.30a.m.-11.30a.m. Gentle exercise for all ages and abilities. Thursday 10.30a.m.-11.30a.m.	Sandhurst St, Oadby. www.owma.org.uk Mobile no: 07929825309
'Welcome on Wednesday'	Wednesday afternoon fortnightly discussion/talks group. Held at 2.30p.m. on alternate Wednesdays. A small fee to cover speaker's expenses. Call into Oadby Trinity Methodist Church between 10a.m. and 3:00p.m. Monday to Friday to pick up a copy of the new programme.	
Ministry of Nordic Walks Community Group	Free Nordic walking taster sessions for groups and individuals. Free half hour sessions for those with Parkinson's etc. Nordic walking instruction and regular weekly social Nordic walks available from Penny Fielden through Ministry of Nordic Walks for all ages and fitness levels.	Penny Fielden 07502 576764
Ladies Sangam Group	A ladies group providing a variety of activities, including exercise, health, art and craft, poetry, outings and visits. Held at Zeffs Café every Monday, from 11a.m. to 1p.m.	Tasleem Malick 07941055167
QuitReady Stop Smoking Service	Provides stop smoking support and advice, including free medication and e-cigarettes. Includes 12-weeks of behavioural intervention. Offers appointments over the phone or face-to-face.	Text 'Ready' to 66777 0345 646 6666 quitready@leics.gov.uk

If you know of a group, or are involved in a group that helps to meet the "Ageing Well" agenda, please send all relevant information to **Avril Lennox, Head of Leisure & Wellbeing Services, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Station Road, Wigston, Leicester LE18 2DR** or email avril.lennox@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.

In future editions of The Letterbox the Council aims to provide a list of local services covering other health and wellbeing priorities; specifically mental health and healthy weight. If you deliver an advice service, activity programme or support service that helps to address these health and wellbeing priorities, please forward the details to Avril Lennox.

Competition winners announced

Winners of the 'design our new bin lorry' competition announced

Young residents were asked to get creative, think green and help to design the side of a brand new Oadby and Wigston refuse collection vehicle (bin lorry). With nearly one hundred entries they certainly did not disappoint.

The competition was launched by Oadby & Wigston Borough Council and aimed at all primary school aged children, who were asked to draw a picture of what recycling means to them. The winning drawing would then be turned into a design featured on the side of one of the new bin lorries, and the selected lorry named after the student.

The drawing could be anything to do with recycling, including what items can be recycled, what the benefits of recycling are or what recycling means to them as an individual. It was hoped that the competition would raise awareness on the importance of recycling and get children involved from an early age.

The overall winner was Jai, who attends Water Leys Primary School in Wigston. Jai will get to see his winning design come to life from September 2018.

Three runner up students will also have vehicles named after them. These are:

- Yusaira – Brookside Primary School
- Finley – Fairfield Community Primary School
- Freya – Water Leys Primary School

The Council would like to offer a huge thank you to all the schools and pupils who got involved. More details will be published on the Council website.



Over 60's Christmas dinner

South Wigston residents over 60 are invited to join the free annual Christmas dinner, held on Saturday December 15 at Elliot Hall, South Wigston. This event is organised by the South Wigston Chamber of Trade and Commerce and will include a festive meal with seasonal music and a gospel choir.

To register your interest or book a place, please call **0116 288 7482**.



A helpful recycling reminder

What can go in your new wheelie bin for recycling?

Just a reminder that all your items for recycling can be placed into the new brown-lid wheelie bin, where they will be sorted into different material streams at Casepak. The materials are sorted using high tech machinery then baled and passed on to other organisations for reprocessing before being recycled into new items. Find out more at www.lesswaste.org.uk.

Though all recyclable items are now collected together, the quality of the materials that are sent for recycling is important and it does make a difference. A few points to remember:

- Empty and rinse - leftover food or liquids can contaminate other items and affect the quality of the materials. Equally, paper and card that is dirty or stained with food or grease cannot be recycled.
- Lids on – lids can be left on all bottles, jars and cartons, whether they're made from plastic, glass or tetra pak. This will ensure that the lids are captured. Lids for food tins can be popped inside the tin.
- All bottles, containers, boxes and packaging should be empty; this will help ensure that the machinery can sort items correctly.
- No need to squash – the machinery can sort the materials better if they're in their original shape. It's fine to squash items though if you're short of space.

✓ Yes Please

Plastics:	All plastic bottles and lids, including bottles from the kitchen and bathroom, such as washing up liquid bottles, shampoo and conditioner. Pots, trays and tubs (with lids), including yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, punnets and food trays and carrier bags. No black plastic.
Metals:	Drink cans, food tins, clean aluminium foil and containers, empty aerosol cans
Glass:	All glass bottles and jars with lids
Mixed paper and card:	Newspapers, letters, magazines, junk mail, envelopes, shredded paper, plain greeting cards, plain wrapping paper (no foil), writing paper, directories and catalogues, paperback books, cardboard packaging, cereal boxes and corrugated cardboard boxes and tetra pak food and drink cartons

✗ No Thanks

Textiles, clothing and shoes - clothes suitable for re-use can be taken to charity shops or recycled at the designated textile banks located across the Borough, or taken to the Recycling and Household Waste Site
No black plastic, plastic plant pots or seed trays
No food wrappers, such as crisp packets, foil pouches, sweet and biscuit wrappers
No kitchen paper, tissues, cotton wool, wet wipes, sanitary products or nappies
No dirty or greasy paper or card, such as takeaway pizza boxes or sandwich packaging
No hard plastics such as plastic coat hangers, children's toys or plastic furniture
No general waste; food and drink, garden waste, pet bedding, polystyrene or foam food trays, building materials, broken glass, vases, drinking glasses, crockery, Pyrex, cookware, wallpaper, bubble wrap

Wigston Framework Knitting Museum

Your museum needs you

Wigston Framework Knitting Museum is looking to recruit volunteers to help show visitors around the house, grounds and workshop. The museum is open every Sunday afternoon to the public.

Volunteer opportunities are also available in helping maintain the Victorian gardens and assisting in the garden on Monday afternoons. If any of these are of interest to you please contact Cllr Bill Boulter on **0116 288 0089** for more details.

Social Car Scheme

If you have difficulty using public transport, or have limited or no access to public transport, then you may be able to use the Social Car Scheme (subject to criteria).

- Flexible, door-to-door service to meet your needs
- Friendly drivers, all DBS checked
- Charges are based on the distance you travel to help cover the driver's fuel costs

Community Action Partnership runs a scheme that covers all of Oadby and Wigston. They use volunteer drivers to help keep residents independent within the community, for example for shopping trips, social events and appointments.

For more information call **0116 288 7482** or email community@communityap.org.uk.



Clean up after your dog

The Council has agreed to enact a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) regarding dogs across the Borough. Signage is in place to highlight the issues. A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if they:

- Fail to remove faeces on land which the public, or any section of the public, has access (unless the owner can prove they have taken all reasonable precautions).
- Do not comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer of the authority to put and keep the dog on a lead.
- Do not have an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog.
- Allow the dog into a designated area where dogs are excluded, such as some children's play grounds.

The full Order and the areas identified can be seen on the Council website:

www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/public_space_protection_orders

The Council will be using Officers and CCTV cameras to enforce the Order, as dog fouling causes distress to many residents. Any breach of the Order could result in the issuing of a £100 fixed penalty notice or a fine on conviction of up to £1,000.

Would you like to work for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council?

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council employs around 170 people in a variety of roles, such as housing officers, planning officers, human resources and finance. They also employ several people at the Customer Services Centre based in Bell Street.

The Council advertise vacancies both on their website and on external job websites depending on the type of vacancy. Last year they advertised 23 vacancies in total.

Since 2013, the Council has paid the Real Living Wage which is currently £8.75 per hour for over 25-year olds. The Real Living Wage is the only UK wage rate that is voluntarily paid by over 4,300 UK businesses.

If you think you might like to work for the Council, visit www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/jobs for current vacancies.

Oadby & Wigston U3A are looking for members

The Oadby & Wigston University of the Third Age (U3A) hold a monthly meeting at The Elms Social Club, Wigston Magna, on the last Wednesday of every month, from 2pm until 3pm. The objective of the U3A is to provide members with varied and interesting monthly talks covering a wide variety of subjects.

They also have groups where members with specific interests, such as history, music, languages, art and gardening can attend in addition to their monthly meeting.

Contact the Membership Secretary for more information, on **0116 288 8365**.

Environmental Health

Don't let fire 'takeaway' your livelihood

The Environmental Health Department and the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue service are working to tackle issues for people living above takeaways and other catering establishments, where the risks of fire are high.

Do you own a fast food outlet or takeaway and do you, your family or employees sleep at the premises? If so, fire safety law applies to you and you must take action.

In Leicestershire there have been a number of recent fires in businesses such as fast food outlets, takeaways, cafes and restaurants, where upper floors are being used for sleeping accommodation. These fires often result in significant financial loss, with a high risk of injury and even death.

It is particularly important to consider and put in place the right fire safety arrangements to protect not only the lives of you, your family, your employees and your customers, but also your property and your business.

In many cases it has come to light that people are sleeping in rooms and flats above businesses, often accessed by a single unprotected staircase from the main public or kitchen area of the building.

Recently a Leicester restaurant owner received a three month suspended prison sentence relating to a number of serious breaches of the Fire Safety Order. The company that operates the business was also ordered by Leicester Crown Court to pay a total of £8,000 in fines and court costs.

Andy Galway, Leicester Fire and Rescue Service's Head of Operational Support said: "Staff sleeping in a workplace must be able to escape safely in the event of a fire. We are determined to protect the lives of those living and working across Leicestershire and so we will continue to take action when businesses, large or small, do not take their fire safety responsibilities seriously".

Please go to the LFSR website for more information: www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk.



Make sure your favourite restaurant is safe

The Environmental Health Department are responsible for ensuring food premises within the Borough are operating safely and hygienically.

The system they use is governed by the Food Standards Agency, who administer the Food Hygiene rating scheme, through the website: <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/>.

Understanding ratings

A food safety officer from the Council inspects a business to check that it follows food hygiene law so that the food is safe to eat. At the inspection, the officer will check the following three elements:

- how hygienically the food is handled - how it is prepared, cooked, re-heated, cooled and stored
- the physical condition of the business –including cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation, pest control and other facilities
- how the business manages ways of keeping food safe, looking at processes, training and systems to ensure good hygiene is maintained

The rating given shows how well a business is doing overall, based on standards found at the time of inspection.

The rating scale

The hygiene standards found at the time of inspection are rated on a scale from 5 to 0. 5 means the hygiene standards are very good and fully comply with the law, while 0 means urgent improvement is needed.

To get the top rating, businesses must do well in all three elements referenced above. If the top rating is not given, the officer will explain to the business the necessary actions they can take to improve their hygiene rating.

For more information contact the Customer Contact Centre on **0116 288 8961** or email: environmental.health@oadby-wigston.gov.uk



The Borough currently has 323 businesses eligible for a food hygiene rating:

246	5 Rating
46	4 Rating
25	3 Rating
5	2 Rating
0	1 Rating
1	0 Rating



Stronger Together Pest Control Service

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Pest Control Service expanded its coverage with a new vehicle purchased in January 2018, with services now offered to both domestic and commercial customers in the Borough and to Blaby District residents and businesses.

The Council continue to offer excellent pest control services to Borough residents and have expanded to provide the same high quality domestic service to business customers. Using a qualified and expert staff the Pest Control Service offer a reliable, competitively priced range of services to both residential and business customers.


Bookings can be made through the Customer Service Centre on **0116 288 8961** and time slots are allocated to suit you. Services are punctual and deliver effective results.

If you are a new business customer and are interested in using this service please contact the Council's Customer Contact Centre on **0116 288 8961** to book your free quote from the Pest Control Team or email: environmental.health@oadby-wigston.gov.uk.



Stronger Together Pest Control Services

Domestic customers

TREATMENTS	PRICES FROM JULY 2017	
RATS AND MICE	£90 inc. three treatments.	
BEDBUGS	£180 inc. three treatments. Additional visits will be charged at £60 per visit.	
FLEAS	£80 inc. one visit. Additional visits will be charged at £40 per visit.	
SQUIRRELS	£90 inc. three treatments. Additional visits will be charged at £45 per visit.	
WASPS	£66 for one nest. Additional nests will be charged at £45 per visit.	
COCKROACHES	£200 inc. three treatments. Additional visits will be charged at £35 per visit.	
IDENTIFICATION OF PESTS	£70	

Oadby & Wigston Lions Club

Message in a bottle

Three members of Oadby & Wigston Lions Club took part in a community event at Wigston Library to promote the 'Message in a bottle' campaign. If you would like a 'Message in a bottle' of your own, call into any library or police station in Leicestershire to pick up your free bottle.



The Rotary Club of Oadby Launde

Hamble Green

Working with the Rotary Club of Oadby, the Club planted 60 trees on Hamble Green near St. Paul's Church, Oadby, following consultation with the Council. The Clubs have also installed protective fencing and will maintain the immediate grass cutting until the trees establish, at which time management reverts to the Council. The Clubs would ask the local community to help in protecting the young trees until they establish.



Peace pole

Working alongside the Rotary Club of Leicester Novus, the Clubs jointly donated over £2,000 and a considerable amount of time to the creation of a peace garden at Falcons Primary School.

The garden was opened on May 3, and the Club would like to offer congratulations to the reception children who unveiled the peace pole and those students who sang beautifully at the event.



Great Glen library

The Club continue their work supporting the library at Great Glen by purchasing new outdoor furniture. The new outdoor leisure area was officially opened on June 16, with a celebration marking two years of management by the new volunteer Board of Trustees. The Club and library trustees are now reviewing other areas of support.

Young Designer winner

The Rotary Club of Oadby Launde recently sponsored student Lucy Ring as part of the Young Designer competition and were delighted when Lucy won second place at the final held at De Montfort University.



For more information about the Rotary Club of Oadby Launde, contact Roger Corlett at rogercorlett@yahoo.co.uk

News from South Wigston



Psychic readings

Elliot Hall will be hosting a psychic reading event on Sunday September 30, 2018. Readings will include mini readings, tarot cards and palm readings. Each reading will cost £8 and tickets are available either by pre-booking or payment on the door.

For more information or to book, please email rcelliot@btinternet.com, or call **07703 441894**.

Christmas Capers

The South Wigston festive lights switch on will take place on Saturday December 1, along Blaby Road with: stalls, street entertainment, late night shopping, fun fair, Santa's grotto and much more. The event will be open from 2p.m. until 6p.m., with the light switch-on at at 5:30p.m.

Youth Group

Tuesdays and Fridays 6p.m.-7.30p.m.
Elliott Hall, Albion Street, LE18 4SA

Children aged 8 till 16 years

Wide range of indoors and outdoors activities
arts and crafts, computer zone, tuck shop, trips,
safety talks, and lots of fun.

Run in a safe environment with trained staff.

For more information please visit
www.stepoutyouthgroup.com



All Minds Matter

South Wigston All Minds Matter (Swamm) is a drop-in group welcoming everybody who has a mental health challenge and offering a safe space where you can talk to others who understand.

Swamm deliver different activities each week looking at coping strategies and building self-confidence. There are also quizzes, games and crafts you can join in with if you wish, or just pop in for a chat.

Meetings take place every
Wednesday, 10:30a.m. to
12:30p.m. at Elliot Hall.



Oadby & Wigston Lions Club

Best concert ever

Oadby & Wigston Lions Club and the Bardi Wind Orchestra staged their annual charity concert, held at the De Montfort Hall. Over 700 people attended the event and the words 'best concert ever' could be heard as the audience left the hall.

The concert was a celebration of the successful heart unit in Leicester and supported the new children's heart unit.



It's great to donate

Throughout the year members of the Oadby & Wigston Lions Club take part in a variety of fundraising activities, but the best day is when they can pass the collected donations on to the charities they are supporting.

This year the Mayor of Oadby & Wigston, Cllr. David Carter, helped Lion President Richard Darlaston hand out cheques to many local groups, including: Prostaids, Bridge, Leicestershire and Rutland Blood Bikes, Step Out Youth Group, Gateway Club, Air Training Cadets, RNIB Talking Books, Leicester Children's Charity and School for Parents.



Help is always needed

Richard Darlaston, Club President presented the 'Club Fellowship Tankard' to club member Cllr Kevin Loydall for the work and effort Kevin has put into the Club during Richard's year as President.



Our newest Lion

After a very successful re-launch of 'Message in a bottle' across Leicestershire and Rutland, Inspector Mike Cawley from Wigston Police Station so enjoyed working with members of the Oadby & Wigston Lions Club that he's decided to join. Welcome to the Club, Mike!



News from the Wigston Civic Society



Trees and tree wardens

Wigston Civic Society promotes the planting of additional trees in the Borough and monitors work to trees in Conservation Areas, or those subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

In 2016, members planted four new trees on the approach to Willow Park from Central Avenue with funding from the Residents' Forum. The Society is now looking to plant additional trees on Holmden Avenue, which they hope will complement the new housing at the top of the road and help prevent damage by parking to the existing verges.

Owners of trees which are in Conservation Areas or which are subject to TPOs have a statutory responsibility to apply for permission to prune or remove those trees. Tree Wardens are asked for local advice when such an application is made. They also give early warning to the Council when works are required to ageing or damaged trees.

Annual public illustrated lecture

A last-minute reminder about Wigston Civic Society's sixth annual public illustrated lecture, on the 'ORIGINS AND DECLINE OF THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY THROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE'. Thursday September 13, at 7.30p.m. AgeUK, Paddock Street, LE18 2AN. Free parking opposite. Tickets are £4 and available on **07813 782899** or **0116 288 4638**.

News from the Wigston Civic Society

Walking is an increasingly popular activity for all age groups, but it is not always easy to find footpaths and cycle ways which provide suitable routes for rambles or allow traffic-free access. There are public rights of way such as Fludes Lane in Oadby and the footpaths in Wigston leading to the canal which provide valuable links to open space, in addition to preserving the heritage.

However, there are some historic routes which are not on the Definitive Map (official record) and this could be particularly significant when new development is proposed.

Definitive public rights of way, including footpaths, bridleways and by-ways have been recorded since legislation in 1949, but the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states that all rights of way which existed before 1949 and have not been recorded by 2026 will be extinguished. Ramblers, horse-riders and cyclists are concerned that this will mean some existing or historic routes will be lost.

To find out which paths are rights of way, you can view the Definitive Maps for the local area in Oadby Library or contact the County Council via www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/parks-and-outdoor-activities. If you know of a route which may be in danger of being lost, or find that a path you use is not on the Definitive Map, contact Wigston Civic Society via their website.



40 years of local action

This year Wigston Civic Society is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1978. At that time Bell Street was a two-way street being the main A50 road from Leicester to Northampton, and home to a junior 'board' school which developers wanted to demolish.

The Society was formed to try to save the school and though this battle was lost and the school demolished, the Society has continued to keep an eye on what is being proposed for Wigston, South Wigston and Kilby Bridge, with particular emphasis on planning applications in the six Conservation Areas within these settlements.

The Society has also been working to make the area a better place in which to live, work and shop, by carrying out projects including:

- Creating a garden at the corner of Bushloe End and Launceston Road.
- Erecting several blue plaques for local people of prominence
- Creating the 10-mile Two Steeples circular walk as a millennium project
- Erecting a plaque commemorating the link between the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II on Bell Street
- Replacing a lost plaque to commemorate the reopening of South Wigston Station in 1976.

More projects are in the pipeline, if you would like to be a part of this go to www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk.

A walk around central Wigston Magna

Recently, members of the Wigston Civic Society took an evening stroll around the central area of Leicester Road and Bell Street in Wigston Magna, particularly observing the areas behind shops.

Land to the rear of shops to the east of Leicester Road fronting onto the car park and at the rear of the Arcade was in a poor state. The Society ask that shop owners and landlords pay attention to these parts of their properties, as they are on public view and can affect their reputation in the eye of the public.

Despite this, the overall impression while walking the two main roads was good and clean, especially with the flower displays for East Midlands in Bloom.

Overhanging hedges

Over the last six months the Wigston Civic Society has run a campaign for residents of the Borough to report any issues with hedges or trees overhanging on to pavements, which make navigating the pavements hazardous or dangerous.

They have had a lot of feedback which they passed onto the Leicestershire County Council Highways Department, who will inspect the sites and contact the owners.

The Society have asked that you keep your notifications coming via email to chairman@wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk, or call **0116 2884638**. You can also report these and other problems direct to the Leicestershire County Council via their website.

Music in the park fundraising tops £100,000

On June 9 the Rotary Club of Wigston held its Music in the Park concert at Wistow Hall, raising funds for local charities LOROS and Young Leicestershire.

The event was well attended with audiences enjoying a range of music from local bands Ska-aManga and the Ratby Co-operative Brass Band. Singing for the 'Last Night at the Proms' section was led by Sam Bale, who also gave a great rendition of 'Writing's on the Wall'.

The concert ended with a fabulous firework display and the event raised over £9,500 for charity, with overall donations for this annual event now exceeding an impressive £100,000.

The Club's PR Officer, Kevin Howard, offered thanks to all those who attended and the many contributors to the event who helped make it a great success. The Club was extremely pleased to have raised so much for local good causes and are already planning the 2019 event, working towards raising the next £100,000.



Greater Wigston Historical Society

Wigston Magna Railways 1958

Earlier this year Duncan Lucas stumbled across an old reel of 16mm cine film listed as 'Wigston Railways 1958'. Duncan kindly passed this on to John Stevenson, a member of The Greater Wigston Historical Society and keen railway enthusiast.

John arranged for the 16mm film to be converted to DVD and found just over three minutes of footage taken at the Wigston South railway sidings circa 1958. The footage is without doubt a unique record of the sidings and of many of the people who worked there.

Images from the original footage are available on the historical society website at:

www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk/Railways1958.html.

See if you can identify any of the men and women who worked on the railways in Wigston 1958.



The Leicester History Festival

The Greater Wigston Historical Society will be exhibiting at the Leicester History Festival on Saturday September 29, 2018, at the Leicester Grammar School.

The event will see the launch of two new websites;

www.oadbyandwigston.info

A brand-new website to replace the previously printed versions of the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's guides for the Borough.

www.lrfhs.com

Leicester Research and Family History Services - a brand-new genealogy website containing information never published before.

The event is free to attend and doors open between 10a.m. and 3p.m.

More details and a full list of exhibitors can be found at:

www.leicestergrammar.org.uk/leicesterhistoryfestival.

Pride of the Borough

East Midlands in Bloom

This year certainly has been a challenging one for gardeners. 2018 began with what felt like endless cold, wet days, then suddenly it was Spring. Everything grew at an astonishing rate but before we had a chance to enjoy it the sun came out turning everything a shade of brown!

Undaunted, Pride of the Borough worked with volunteers, residents, neighbourhood groups and the Council's 'Clean and Green' team to keep everything looking at its best and ready for the East Midlands in Bloom judges, who visited on July 11 for the annual entry into the regional competition.

PotB have raked grass, picked litter, planted tubs and planters, trimmed, pruned and weeded. It was a huge effort made by everyone and worth it to see the Borough looking so much better.

The results for East Midlands in Bloom will be announced in September and Pride of the Borough have their fingers crossed for another gold. An update will be printed in the next edition of Letterbox and available online at www.prideoftheborough.org or on the PotB Facebook and Twitter pages.



Wigston Pinfold

The corner of Moat Street and Newgate End, Wigston, holds historical importance due to it being the site of the former village pinfold. Volunteers from Pride of the Borough have commemorated the site by installing a seat, information panel, and planted up cattle trough.

Visit the Wigston Pinfold for yourself to learn a little more about the local heritage.



Floral Displays Competition

Despite the adverse weather judges were impressed with the wonderful gardens and containers they have seen during the local Floral Displays Competitions held by Pride of the Borough, which took place in July.

The winners have been announced:

- Best Front Garden: Brian Clarke, Oadby
- Best Container: Timber Day Care Centre, South Wigston
- Best Business Floral Display: Horse & Trumpet, Wigston
- Most Environmentally Friendly Front Garden: Harriet Pugsley, Oadby
- Most Unusual Container: Irene Sibley, Oadby

The winners will receive their awards at the annual awards evening on September 23.

Pride of the Borough would like to offer their congratulations to all entrants, for your hard work and for making the Borough such a pleasant place to live.



