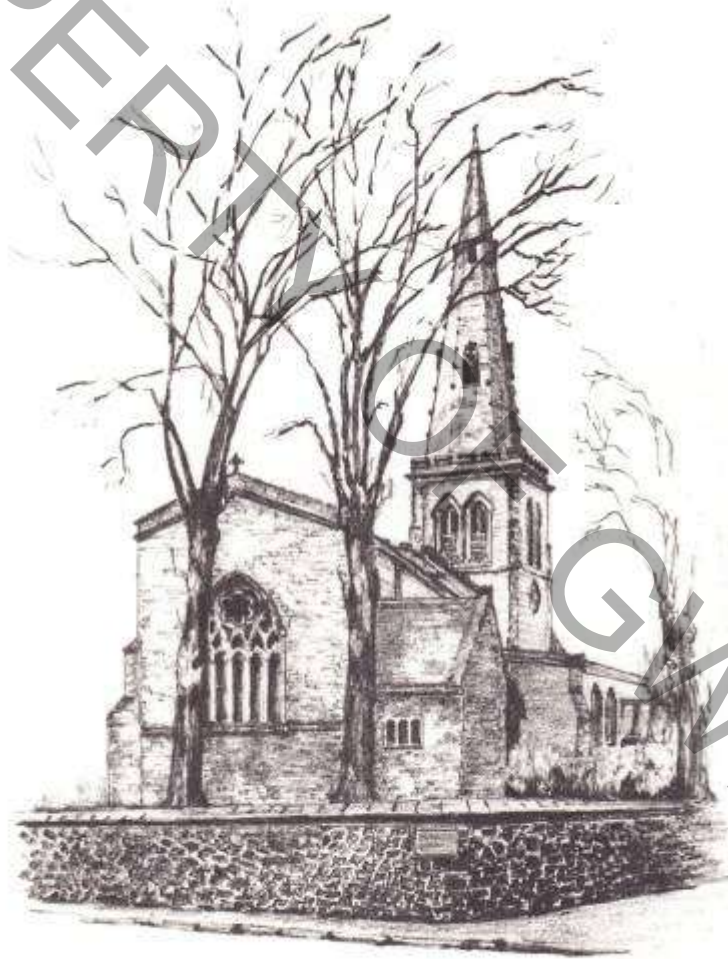




Greater Wigston Historical Society  
White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna Leicestershire

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## BULLETIN 34



All Saints Church, Wigston Magna.

J.R. Colver.

**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OCTOBER 1992 TO FEBRUARY 1993**

**\*Wednesday 21st October 1992**

Photographs of Old Wigston - Bill Ward.  
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

**Wednesday 18th November 1992**

Hadrian's Wall - Dennis Manton.  
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

**Wednesday 16th December 1992**

Christmas Party - Games organised by Jim Colver.  
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

**Wednesday 20th January 1993**

The Baptist Movement - Rev. A. Thacker of Oadby.  
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

**Wednesday 17th February 1993**

A.G.M. & Member's Evening. Talks, slides etc. for approx. 10 minutes  
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

\* Please note this evening was to have been a visit to the new Wigston Premises of the Leicestershire Record Office. Owing to continued problems with the building work the Office has not yet been able to move in, and it seems likely will not be able to do so before Christmas.

Bill Ward has very kindly stepped in to fill this vacant evening, with what he assures us will be some new material. However, these picture shows with the fascinating commentary are always popular whether they are old favourites or views not shown before.

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The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1st February, June and October. Articles etc. (which are always welcome) should be submitted to either of the Joint Editors three clear weeks before publication date please.

**Joint Editors**

Mrs. Chris Smart, Firtree House, Broad Lane, Markfield.  
Mrs. Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale Road, Wigston.

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**JUNE MEETING**

Forty two members met at the Liberal Club car park & set out on a coach to visit All Saints' Church, Brixworth (originally Bricklesworth) in Northants. Our party was welcomed by guide, Mr. Peter Woodhead, who was accompanied by the Treasurer. Mr. Woodhead explained a little of the Church's impressive history and then pointed

out the different building materials & architectural styles which had been incorporated over the years.

The original church is Saxon & was founded either in 680 or 750 as a monastery. It can claim over 1300 years of continuous Christian worship, one of only 2 or 3 buildings in the entire country with such a record. Originally larger & squarer than now, it was constructed in Northamptonshire stone by a group of monks from Medeshamstede (now Peterborough) who chose the site as a suitable centre for spreading the Gospel to the heathen natives of the middle kingdom of Mercia. Only the main nave, presbytery, central section of the tower & the sunken ambulatory round the apse survives today.

The first alteration occurred in the 9th or 10th Century when the stair turret was constructed and the tower rebuilt. Later changes include the Lady Chapel built on the South side in the 13th Century and the spire extended in 1350 using stone from Leics. The apse is 13th or 14th Century & the South door Norman.

Inside, some of the arches are constructed with a haphazard arrangement of Roman tiles, the remainder, the more orderly work in Boughton stone by 19th Century restorers. The great arch separating the nave from the presbytery dates from c! 400 & replaced a triple arch very similar to that on the West wall. There is some wonderful 14/15th Century stained glass & a 15th Century oak screen. The furniture includes a huge wooden bench & chest, a Saxon cross shaft which was discovered in the vicarage garden in 1897 & a 20th Century needlework picture of the Madonna & Child by Helen Campbell.

The Church was originally dedicated to St. Boniface & a throat bone believed to have been his was retained until modern times when it was removed for safe keeping.

Mr. Woodhead was thanked by Chairman, Edna Taylor, & the return journey was made via a short stop for refreshment at the Shoulder of Mutton at Foxton.

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### August Meeting ...

On Wednesday the 19th. of August the Society met at the Liberal Club car park to travel by car to Wistow.

We were joined at the Church by a group from Oadby. Mrs. Brooks, our guide, was waiting at the Church to greet the group.

Inside the Church we sat in the pews and Mrs. Brooks gave us a most interesting talk. She started by telling us the story of Wistan's murder and how the other three churches in the U.K. dedicated to St. Wistan were the resting places of the body on its way to Repton.

The Church has some Norman remnants but it was largely re-modelled in the 18th century, the large arched windows filled with clear glass give the interior a very light and airy atmosphere. Around the Church are monuments to members of the Vaughan

and Halford families who were former owners of the Hall. Sir Henry Vaughan was the Eoyal Physician to Geo.III, Geo.IV, William IV and Victoria.

Mrs Brooks then gave us a brief history of the development of Wistow Hall up to her own occupation in more recent times.

About 45 members of the Society were present. Our our Chairman thanked Mrs Brooks for a most interesting and enlightening talk. We were then free to wander round and the visit ended at about 8.30 p.m.

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### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Approx. 40 members gathered for the first indoor meeting of the season to hear a delightful talk entitled 'A Basketful of Legends'. The speaker, Mrs. Lynne Mellor, is one of the official Leicester City Tour Guides and she kept everyone entertained with her fascinating tales and pleasant easy presentation. She told us her interests also include narrow gauge steam at Cadeby and folk dancing.

Her basket contained:

**A Tea Towel** illustrating different English Country Dances.

**A Pig** for Richard Ill's White Boar emblem, the soothsayer who foretold his ,defeat at Bosworth & the possibility he was the father of a Richard Plantagenet buried at Eastwell, Essex in 1550.

**An Emery Board** for the long nails of Black Anna the witch who lived in a cave at Dane Hills.

**A Stone** for the incomplete spire on Beeby Church & also the Humberstone & the fate of any who should move it.

**A Hangman's Noose** for the Grey Lady of Swithland Rectory who was hanged from her 4 poster bed.

A Tankard for George Davenport the highwayman of Wigston.

A Bandage for the bleeding tomb at Edmondthorpe.

Corn for the young ladies from Braunstone & Glenfield who were lost in Leicester Forest & gave straw for the church floor in thanks for their rescue.

A Devil who materialised at Quorn & Barrow-on-Soar to those who worked on Sunday.

A Bucket for the Griffin at Griffydham Well & also a draught at Prestwold 400 years ago.

After some questions & discussion. The Chairman Edna Taylor, gave a warm vote of thanks to Mrs Mellor. Three new members were welcomed & best wishes were conveyed to Ralph Wignall who is at a convalescent home following removal of a toe.

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### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Jim Colver's drawing on the front cover of this issue is of All Saints Parish Church. Much has already been written about this ancient and beautiful building. Rather than

try to write another piece I am taking this,' description directly from the 1877 White's Directory.

The picture postcard view of the interior came to light recently. It is impossible to date accurately because it has not been posted. It's likely to be between 1905 and 1925. Can anyone think of a way of identifying the vicar?

Tricia Berry.



"The Church (All Saints) is a large and handsome structure, in the style of the 14th century, consisting of a nave, aisles, chancel, and a fine tower, containing six bells, and surmounted by a lofty spire. The chancel is separated from the nave by an open oak screen, and among its monumental slabs and mural tablets are many memorials to the Davenport and Clarke families. One of the latter was High Sheriff of the county in 1788. The pillars on the south side of the nave are octagonal, the capitals ornamented with foliage, heads, human figures, and the ball flower. Those on the north side are circular, and have plain capitals. The building is principally of decorated architecture, but the clerestory is Perpendicular. The roof of the nave appears to be of the same period, but it bears the date 1637, and its beams are ornamented with the Tudor flower; crosses, beads, crescents, mullets etc. The south aisle contained an ancient piscina, and its window is filled with stained glass, the centre light containing a medallion displaying the lion of St. Mark.

The north aisle contains, beneath a fine sepulchral recess, a stone coffin, the lid of which bears a fine floriated cross. In this aisle are also a Piscina and a marble monument to William Seddon, Esq. ; and its east window is filled with stained glass in patterns, and has in the centre of a cinquefoil an angel bearing a scroll inscribed 'Gloria in excelsis Deo.' The chancel has sedilia for three priests, and the vestry door has a shouldered lintel. The east window is of five lights, with geometrical tracery,

and is filled with beautiful stained glass by Warrington. It was inserted by Captain Baddeley, in memory of his mother and son [probably his wife and son], at a cost of £200, and represents the Adoration of the Magi, the Baptism, the Crucifixion, the Last Supper, and the Resurrection. A window has been filled with stained glass, depicting 'Christ among the Doctors' in memory of Thomas Ingram (ob. 1842) and his wife (ob. 1864). The church was thoroughly restored and filled with open benches in 1863, at a cost of about £2000. All the windows in the nave contain stained glass, and a new south porch was erected in 1872, at the expense of T. Ingram Esq. The tower, which, is engaged, is open to the church, and a beautiful quatrefoil window, filled with stained glass, representing an angel in the act of praise, was inserted by members of the choir and other friends in memory of the late Miss Seddon, who formed an efficient choir, and was for some years honorary organist. The churchyard is shaded by lime trees."

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### DONATIONS FOR THE POOR IN WIGSTON

The Editors have received from Brian Bilson, details of charitable donations made for the benefit of the poor of the parish up to 1786, & would like to thank him for making them available to us.

His explanation is detailed below and the return is transcribed on the following page. In 1786 an Act of Parliament was passed requiring parishes to make a return of all charitable donations. In 1788 a circular letter was sent out regarding omissions. The amendments were, in the original published abstracts, printed in red. The list on the following page is as amended. There were only two, donations given in money were altered to land, which agrees with the note, and the Henry Clark & Sarah Norton donations had the annual produce inserted.

The List gives totals for Wigston  
 Of £12 10 00d in money  
 And £24 2 8d in land

and for Leicestershire  
 of £1024 3 £4877 15  
 and £1024 3 £4877 15

and for England & Wales  
 of £48,243 10 5d in money  
 and £210,487 8 10d in land

NAME of the PERSONS who gave the Charity	When given	Whether by Will or Deed	DESCRIPTION of the CHARITY and for what purposes given	Whether in LAND or MONEY	IN WHAT NOW VESTED	Gross amount of that given in money	Annual Produce of the money
Wm. Law	1595	Deed	Coals for the poor	Land	Churchwardens do & Overseers	3 6 8	
Simon Brat	1601	Will	For increasing above stock	do		10 0	
Wm. Langton	1603	-	For the above purpose	do		10 0	
John Evans	1618	Deed	For bread to the poor	do		10 0 0	
Thos. Hames	1633	Will	To the poor	do		10 0 0	
Frances Freer	1675	do	For bread to the poor	do		5 0 0	
Francis Smith	1679	do	do	do		5 0 0	
Geo. Lavenport	1680	do	To the poor	do		20 0 0	
Randolph Boulter	1699	do	do	do		2 10 0	
Eliz. Manton	1699	do	do	do		2 10 0	
Zachariah Pauley	-	do	For bread to the poor	do		30 0 0	
The Town	-	-	For teaching poor children out of the Town Stock	do		14 0 0	24 2 8
Wm. Horrick	-	-	For a Town Stock	do		1 0 0	
Thos. Fox	-	-	do	do		8 0	
Wm. Pauley	-	-	do	do		1 0 0	
Wm. Freer	-	-	do	do		10 0	
Geo. Abbott	-	-	do	do		5 0	
Nicholas Wild	-	-	do	do		10 0	
Wm. Reynor	-	-	do	do		1 0 0	
Wm. Jacomb	-	-	do	do		10 0	
John Noon	1706	Will	To the poor	do		5 0 0	
Jane Jackson	1725	do	For bread to the poor	do		5 0 0	
All the above sums, were by the town, laid out for the purchase of land in the Liberty of Little Glen, and in the Lordship of Wigston, land tax included.							
Henry Clark	1755	Will	To the poor	Money	John Clark	20 0 0	1 0 0
Sarah Norton	1755	do	For teaching 12 poor girls, their parents not receiving parish relief, bread to poor housekeepers, not receiving parish relief, & for coals to the said housekeepers not receiving parish relief.	do	Wm. Cooke	230 0 0	11 10 0

Abstract of Returns of Charitable Donations for the Benefit of Poor Persons made by the Ministers and Churchwardens of the several parishes and townships in England & Wales 1786-1788. Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 26.6.1816

### **WIGSTON WHO'S WHO NO; 3 CHARLES MOORE**

Charles Moore could well be described, for the greater part of his life, as one, if not the, most widely known person in Wigston. Hardly an occasion of any importance took place without his familiar presence as conductor of the Wigston Temperance Band, popularly known as "Charlie Moore's Band.'

Charles was born in Moat Street, Wigston on 11/5/1878, the sixth child of a family of ten children. He left Wigston National C. of E. School at the age of 11 and went into the hosiery industry, working variously in Wigston, Oadby, Market Harborough and Leicester. In 1912 he left this trade to concentrate on his musical interests, opening a piano and sheet music shop in Station Road, Wigston, which he transferred the following year to its still remembered location at 117, Blaby Road, South Wigston, on the corner of Canal Street.

There was a musical tradition in the Moore family and Charles was involved with church music from the age of 7 years. He commenced cornet lessons and showed such promise that by the age of 19 he was receiving his instruction from Mr. Edward Matthews of Oadby, a professional musician who played the cornet at the Leicester Opera House. In 1903 he married Mr. Matthews' daughter Kate. Mr. Matthews himself came from a very musical family and he helped and influenced the young Charles with his own musical career.

While still employed full time in the hosiery trade, Charles joined his father-in-law as a cornet player at the Opera House and fulfilled lunchtime and teatime engagements at Winn's Oriental Cafe, where he played the cello in a trio.

In 1902 he became a founder member of the Wigston Temperance Band. He progressed to become the conductor and under his guidance it won many prizes. The name was changed to Wigston's Temperance Silver Prize Band and Mr. J.D. Broughton became its president until his death in October 1917. The band kept its trophies at his home, The Elms, Bushloe End, in a glass case in the drawing room. Later it went on to reach the Championship Section at the Crystal Palace contests in the 1920's. It still thrives today, being now known simply as the Wigston Band. Charles Moore helped to found and train other bands in the county such as those at Kibworth, Great Glen, Fleckney, Croft, Oadby, Burbage, Barlestone, Melton and Countesthorpe Cottage Homes Boys' Band which he conducted for 37 years. He was also involved further away with bands in Norfolk and Warwickshire. His many band arrangements were used widely but sadly none were published. One march he wrote called 'Hurricane' was played recently when the band celebrated its 90th birthday. He was involved in the formation of the Leicestershire Brass Band Association and connected with the National Association. He adjudicated at contests at both Crystal Palace and Belle Vue.

In church music he was choirmaster at Blaby and Cosby and at St. Thomas's Church, South Wigston for 25 years. He was connected with the Church Lad's Brigade in Leicester and taught wind instruments to the boys at Alderman Newton's School during World War II.



He represented Fairfield Ward on Wigston Urban District Council from 1938-1953 and was Chairman in 1946/7.

Charles and Kate had four children, a son Edward Coltman (Ted), who followed his father into the business and the band, and three daughters, Kathleen, Millicent and Norah. The Family home was at 56, Blaby Road, South Wigston. There are two grand children and six great-grand children.

His hobby was collecting old and interesting wind instruments and these are now on loan to Leicester University where they form part of a display.

Charles Moore died on 18/3/1962, aged 83 years, and is buried at Wigston Cemetery. There were many tributes to this remarkable man. The one /from fellow councillor, Mr. R. Curtis-Weston was - "he was a man of the highest integrity and deepest sincerity. He was always willing to help any cause, and was constantly concerned about other people."

Tricia Berry

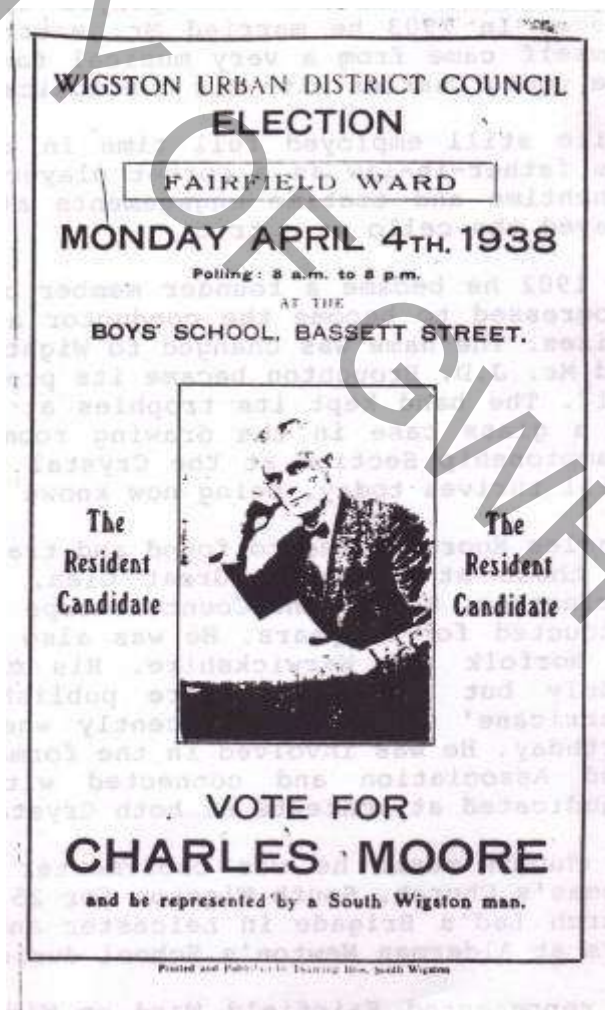
I would like to thank Mr. Moore's daughters Millicent and Norah for supplying the great majority of the information for this article.

To the Electors of the Fairfield Ward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
I have been requested by a large number of Electors of the above Ward to offer myself as a Candidate at the forthcoming election of a Councillor for the same.

Having lived in Wigston all my life and in the Fairfield Ward for the past 25 years, coupled with the fact that it has always been my pleasure and inclination to associate myself with you all in the various activities of the district, tepts to make me well-known to the community at large.

I am confident that the electors of South Wigston remember with gratitude the services rendered by the past and present Councillors and recognise the high standard that has been aimed at by them.



The future, however, will undoubtedly present many and varied problems which will tax the energies of their successors severely. This position, however difficult, I am prepared to face if elected.

Should you do me the honour of returning me, I can assure you that it is my intention to attend to the duties conscientiously and to be a worthy successor of your late Councillor, Mr. Kendall; to be of real service to the community at large and at all times to be worthy of YOUR support and confidence.

I am,  
yours faithfully,

*Charles Moore*

THE RESIDENT CANDIDATE.

WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ELECTION  
FAIRFIELD WARD  
MONDAY APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>. 1938  
Polling: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

BOYS' SCHOOL. BASSETT STREET.  
The Resident Candidate  
VOTE FOR CHARLES MOORE  
and be represented by a South Wigston man.

A reduced size copy of a Charles Moore election pamphlet.

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### Moreton's Cafe

Moreton's Cafe was the elite cafe of Leicester. It consisted of the shop and the Pink Room on the ground floor, and the Blue Room and the Rose Room on the first floor. The Rose Room was a small room at the end of the long Blue Room and that was where the orchestra played in the very early days.

The picture, no.1 overleaf, shows the original shop, in the later days the 1920s and 1930s the door on the left was made into a double door and a double window was added on the left hand side. The right hand door was the entrance to the bakehouse and the back stairs to the still room on the second floor, a dumb waiter (food lift) connected all the rooms. The bakery floor was red tiled all over and it was kept spotlessly clean.

The last owners of Moreton's Cafe were Walter and Clara Moreton who took over from G. Moreton and J. Bills. Walter was reluctant to take over the business so it was no surprise when Clara took over the reins and became the real boss. In his early years Walter played the organ at the Bread Street Chapel and in his later years he played an accordian at the Sanctuary of Light Spiritualist Church, St.Nicholas Street. The President and medium of the church was Mrs. Edith Pegg who also worked in the still room at the Cafe.

Clara's story was quite different, she told the girls she belonged to a large family and in her schooldays she very often stood with her nose on the window looking at the trays of lovely cakes and as she stood there little did she dream that one day she would be the owner of the business.

The writer worked at the Cafe from 1935 to 1940 when she left to do war work. She helped out in the Cafe and the still room during the busy periods but mostly she worked in the shop.

Many characters of those good old days would call in the shop weekly for their handouts from Clara and this consisted of a bag of cakes. One of these characters was called Blind Harry and he was a Mercury seller. He would come along tapping his stick and when he entered the shop he would ask to see Mrs. Moreton. If Mrs. Moreton was not in the shop the girls weren't allowed to give him anything so he would wait for Mrs. Moreton. The simple reason for this was that Mrs. Moreton would give 2s 6d. as well as his bag of goodies. All of the callers did not receive this treatment as Clara did not like some of them, but they all got something.

Clara must have been thinking of her younger days when a little boy named Tommy came into the shop. (He would ask the girls if they had any broken biscuits and if they said yes he would say well mend them then. He was a cheeky little imp.) Clara took to this little lad and one day she sent a note to his mother and the next day she took him to the shops and fitted him out with new trousers and shirt etc.. Then she told the writer to come dressed up the next day as she was going to take them both to the Opera House to see the pantomime. That was Clara, but on her off days she could be very strict.

The writer has served many of the actors and actresses who came into the Cafe whilst they were playing the Opera House or the Palace Music Hall. Some of the stars that / come to mind are Tom Mix, the champion American cowboy; Gertie Gitana whose copyright song was Nelly Dean; Tommy Fields, Gracie Field's brother (who bought the writer a box of chocolates because she was the youngest working there); Lady Isobel Barnett would call in when she was a doctor at the Royal Infirmary before she married Sir Geoffrey Barnett; another client was Harry Crossley who was the cruiser weight champion of Great Britain (he married one of the waitresses). Morning coffee time found the Cafe full of bank employees and the staff of all the high class stores and solicitors' offices and the County Rooms. (One large store that comes to mind is Morgan Squires).

Moreton's were noted for their first class cakes and in the Cafe and shop nothing but the best food was served or sold. When a customer was ordering cakes from the shop the assistant would place them on a serviette on a tray for the customer to inspect then they were placed in a box and packed with tissue paper to stop them getting damaged, only buns were placed in bags. Moreton's buns had a taste of their own; the diamond buns were full of currants; the Chelsea buns or squares were full of mixed fruit and the Bath buns were plain but they tasted the best of the three.

The home made porkpies and sausages were famed for their quality and at Christmas time pork pies were posted all over the country.

The writer had to report for work at 6 o'clock in the morning during the Christmas rush (this meant walking from Braunstone Lane). At the beginning of the Second World War Moreton's stopped making their pork pies because they would only use the best fed pork and this became unobtainable and they refused to use anything else. Another speciality was their own made ice cream with whole fresh strawberries. Moreton's not only catered for their Leicester clients but people from all over the country knew "Moretons" and their excellent fare.

There were many stories and practices that Clara did not know of and one of these was kept secret because it was against the rules and that was the question of meals. The Cafe paid the top wages in the town but there were no privileges with regards to meals, after few days the lady cook said to the writer, "Don't bring any sandwiches for your lunch tomorrow I'll put something out for you". Clara knew nothing of this practice because she rarely went into the still room although Walter did because he could have a laugh with the girls.

No pudding of the day was made as a large one and cut into portions, each diner had their own individual pudding. The gooseberry pies were another speciality and when these were made the bakehouse would make some extra and he would phone the still room and tell the girls that were on the dumb waiter, the girls would stop the lift and take them off along with the extra ice cream. Mrs. Moreton allowed the girls a bun for their evenings; she would send a tray of them up but the girls did not eat them, they would choose something else and they took it in turns to take the buns home at nighttime.

Thursday was a slack time in the Cafe and Walter and Clara took their half day, and so the mice began to play. All the food was ordered fresh daily and some fish would come in full of roe. This roe was never sold in the Cafe so the girls would have a nosh up of roe and chips or salad or whatever they fancied for their tea. Then after their meal they had, of all things, a spiritual sitting with the medium that worked in the still room and the reading of their tea leaves. After that they would all stuck into the washing up that had accumulated during their relaxation. This only took place when the head of the still room was on her half day.

Mrs. Moreton was very strict with the cleanliness of the Cafes, shop, bakehouse and still room also the girls who worked there. The waitresses wore starched collars and pleated frilled aprons which were changed every day. Should any beetles or vermin come in with the potatoes or vegetables a man was sent for from the bakehouse and the matter was dealt with promptly.

When the Cafe closed down the building was quickly snapped up and altered to suit the new business which was a District Bank. So only the older generation know of "Moreton's" and the Cafe's reputation, the younger ones think that the bank has been there all the time.

Macdonalds and Wimpeys and all the take-aways don't know that they are born!  
Written by Mrs. Eunice Limbert of Quorn



**We quote ...**

Any many more, whose names on  
Earth are dark,  
But whose transmitted effluence can  
not die,  
So long as fire outlives the  
parent spark.

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

**We quote ...**

More is missed by not looking than by not knowing.  
- Thomas McCrae 1870-1935