



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

BULLETIN 41



Avenue House, Central Avenue, Wigston Magna - J R Colver

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FEBRUARY TO AUGUST 1995

Wednesday 15th February 1995

A.G.M. followed by short talks by members on the theme of Wigston People & Places.
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 15th March 1995

The Battle of Naseby, 350th Anniversary Talk - Derek Lewin. 7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 19th April 1995

Prison Life - Mr. J.M. Barton, Governor of Gartree Prison. 7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 17th May 1995

'Counter Revolutions' a History of Shops & Shopping in the 20th Century - Stefan Mastoris, Curator of Market Harborough Museum.
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 21st June 1995

Visit to Naseby Battlefield Museum - Guided by Mike Westaway, followed by a meal at Naseby Rectory (now a private house). Coach from Paddock Street Car Park. Meet 6.30p.m.

Wednesday 16th August 1995

'Grave Moments' a guided tour of Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester -Derek Seaton.
Meet 6.45p.m. Paddock Street Car Park to share transport or 7p.m. at the Cemetery. Parking is permitted inside.

FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Jim Colver's drawing for this issue of the Bulletin features the substantial ex-farmhouse known as Avenue House. The main part is thought to date from the 1840's with the rear outbuildings housing bakehouse, brewery & cheeseroom being older, perhaps late 18th Century.

The property was once part of the Wigston Hall Estate & was bought by the Wigston Co-op Society together with the land on which Central Avenue is situated about the end of the last century. The house was retained by the Society for some years & was let to senior employees. It is now used as a veterinary surgery.

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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 the publication date please.

Joint Editors: Mrs. Chris Smart, 197 Queens Road, Leicester.

Mrs. Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale Road, Wigston.

OCTOBER MEETING

Member Bernard Elliott was the speaker and his subject was the local saint, Wistan, who was murdered at Wistow. Wistan was a Christian prince of the Kingdom of Mercia. The capital of this midlands region was at Litchfield but a summer palace existed at Great Glen and councils were held locally, notably at Gumley.

After the death in 840 of King Wiglaf, Wistan's grandfather, the Kingdom became weakened due to internal conflicts and early raids by the Danes who first reached the area in 841. The rightful heir was challenged by his 2nd cousin Brifardus. The two met at Wistow on 1/6/849 and Brifardus murdered Wistan. The body was taken back to Great Glen and then transported to the Royal Mausoleum at Repton. Wistan was later declared a saint and martyred and St. Wistan's Church, Wistow, was built and dedicated to his memory. Some churches on the route to Repton where the body is believed to have rested overnight were also dedicated to the Saint, these were at Wigston, Bretby and Repton itself.

It is said that for 30 days after the murder a pillar of light marked the spot where the body fell and that each year on 1st June, for just one hour, a tuft of hair can be seen growing amongst the grass in the churchyard.

In 1020 the body was removed to Evesham Abbey by order of King Canute. It became the 3rd most important shrine in England and was visited by many pilgrims. By 1067 Walter of Cerisy, the first

Norman Abbot of Evesham, had some doubts as to the authenticity of the remains and decided to test their sanctity by the procedure of the day 'Ordeal by Fire'¹. After a three day fast and special service the bones were tested but as they did not change colour he was satisfied. The bones were replaced in the shrine and remained there until 1207 when the Abbey tower collapsed and destroyed it. A new shrine was built only to be destroyed again this time by the actions of Henry VIII.

Wigston is very unusual in having two churches. It is thought that All Saints' served the Saxon community and that St. Wistan's was used by the Danes. There is said to have been a jewelled statue of St. Wistan in the latter church in the 1500's and pilgrims used to visit this and a nearby spring and holy well. The name Spring Lane commemorates this though the site of the well is now unknown. This church later became known as St. Wolstan's and fell into disrepair. It was eventually restored and then rented by the Congregationalists until they built their own church in 18th century. It then served as the village school for many years. It came back into use as a church in the 1850's and officially reverted to its original dedication on 10/9/1957 after research by Prof. W.G. Hoskins.

Bernard concluded his talk with two incidents of wife beating in Oadby! Then after questions and discussion he was thanked by the chairman, Edna Taylor, for a most interesting evening.

Various forthcoming events were announced. Duncan Lucas is holding a repeat of his very successful Heritage Fortnight, this time jointly with the U.R. Church, in March 1995. He also mentioned the 350th anniversary of the Seige of Leicester in 1995 and hoped members would become involved in planning commemorative events. Colin Towell mentioned that the Framework Knitters Museum was holding a flower festival with arrangements by Wigston & Knighton Floral Society on 27/28/29th May 1995 and that the museum is now open each Sunday afternoon throughout the winter. The meeting closed at about 9.00p.m.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Dr. Jim Coaton, formerly of Thorn EMI, was this months guest speaker - his subject - the history of lighting. His interest began early in his career when part of his duties was to examine patent files to check if some 'new' invention had in fact already been discovered.

In the earliest times people would rise at dawn & go to bed at dusk so lighting was not particularly important. If illumination was required wood was plunged into a fire and held aloft. This was later refined to the use of brand poles where the end was bound with cloth & then soaked in oil making it much longer lasting. By 20,000 BC oil lamps were in use. These were initially simple devices of hollowed out stone for the oil, which might have been animal or fish based, & a plant fibre wick. Next came rush lights & candles, both tallow & beeswax. The candle makers guild was formed in 1300. The first recorded street lighting was in Paris in 1588 when blazing pitch pine pans were placed at each end & in the middle of the main streets. A really big improvement to the oil lamp came in 1782 when a Swiss chemist invented the hollow wick & put a glass chimney round the flame. This stopped the flickering & smoking. In 1800 it was discovered how to extract gas from coal & in 1813 the Gas Light & Coke Co., was formed in London. By 1823 there were 3 rival companies, but gas lighting was very crude & dangerous being merely a pipe with holes from which the flames emerged.

Meanwhile progress was being made with the discovery of electricity. In 1799 Alessandro Volta, an Italian physicist, made the first battery & in 1802 Humphrey Davy (better known for his miners lamp) demonstrated an early arc lamp when he connected batteries to a platinum strip which glowed. In 1831 Michael Faraday showed that a current is produced by passing a wire through a magnetic field & from this discovery the development of the generator followed by a French scientist. As early as 1848 in U.S.A. Starr developed an incandescent lamp with a glass dome & the air removed with mercury. But it was not until 1879, in England, when Swann, who invented the carbon filament, & Stern, the vacuum pump, got together that the first commercially viable version was produced. At the same time others, notably Edison in U.S.A., were developing similar products & there was a rush to patent the new inventions & expensive court cases to try & settle disputes. In the end Edison & Swann solved their differences by amalgamating.

The first electric street lights were installed in Godalming in 1882, but progress was much delayed because the government would not change the law & allow electric companies to dig up roads for cable laying.

The introduction of the gas mantle made gas lighting better for a time, then two Viennese scientists discovered tungsten & by 1915 electric light was far superior. The gas companies conceded defeat & concentrated thereafter on promoting their fuel for heating & cooking. Neon lamps were produced by passing a current through a gas. In 1930 these were first coated with a special paint to produce the fluorescent tube. Today's yellow/orange street lights use sodium vapour lamps & are particularly effective in fog.

After answering some questions the Chairman thanked Dr. Coaton for a most informative evening and closed the meeting at about 9.00p.m.

December meeting

On Wednesday the 21st of December the Society met for its annual Christmas Party.

The evening commenced with a picture quiz, organized by Edna, which consisted of questions about current news, geographical locations, Civil War and local views.

This was followed by a "Can you identify this object?" quiz, organized by Tony Lawrance, with artifacts from the Wigston Museum. The uses of many of the objects were not immediately apparent and much discussion ensued.

This was then followed by an excellent buffet supper organized and prepared by Mary, Cynthia and friends.

Edna concluded the evening by presenting prizes to the quiz winners and thanking those responsible for the refreshments.

The evening closed at about 10.15p.m.

JANUARY MEETING

1995 commenced with an excellent talk on the Grantham Canal given by Mr. Dick Harrison who is the son-in-law of our member Marjory Pitts.

He began by explaining that the canal network was created to facilitate the movement of goods in an age when the only other option was horse drawn wagons on roads which for much of the year were muddy, deeply rutted tracks. It was mainly the owners of coal mines who had the necessary influence & the most to gain who put up the money for these huge projects.

The Grantham was opened in 1793 at the height of 'canal mania' when 26 were already completed & a further 12 under construction. The project was designed by William Jessup, the main engineer of the second phase of canal building, the main engineer of the first phase being the more well known James Brindley. The Canal was 33 miles long & had 18 locks, it meandered through the Vale of Belvoir linking Grantham with Nottingham. The "Navvies" who dug it out earned 2/- per day & for that were expected to move 14 tons, the craftsmen earned 3/-. The Canal had an 'active life' of about 50 years before being bought in 1846 by the Great Northern Railway. This Railway maintained it to a good standard & many of the bridges today are repaired with the familiar blue engineering bricks so common in railway construction. It finally closed to traffic in 1927 & was left to deteriorate, some sections being empty of water.

The talk with slides followed the route of the canal showing some before & after pictures illustrating derelict features now restored by the local council & the two preservation societies (which originally was one until a dispute caused some members to form a breakaway group). Interesting features along the way were pointed out, for example Belvoir Castle (where in 1813/15 the Duke of Rutland had his own tramway connected to the canal), Harlaxton Manor & the Hickling Basin, now a picnic & leisure area.

After some questions the Chairman, Edna Taylor, thanked the speaker for a most enjoyable evening. She then announced with great sadness that society member Fred Parsons had died that day. Fred had been fighting serious illness for over a year but still managed to attend most society meetings & also fund raising meetings & events of the F.W.K. Museum of which he and his wife Pat were keen supporters. The Society had only the day before sent flowers & a message of support to them both when it was learned that Fred had been admitted to L.O.R.O.S. This gesture was much appreciated. The meeting extended sympathy to Pat & a warm welcome back as soon as she feels ready. The meeting closed at about 9.30p.m.

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FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Mike Forryan subscribes to a project named Roots-L which is run from the University of North Dakota. This organisation produces huge computer printouts of many genealogy researchers around the world & the surnames with dates & places that they are researching. Anyone who is trying to trace ancestors abroad could well find this most helpful. Mike is very willing to discuss this & show anyone who is interested.

Mike's worldwide communications recently put him in touch with a lady in New Zealand who is trying to trace her great grandfather, John Broughton's, roots in the village of Kilby from where he appears to have moved

c1842 to join the army. We have looked up the known details at the Record Office for her, but have only had a limited amount of success so far, in finding out more.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A skittles evening is to be held on 3rd February at The Old Crown, Moat Street at 7.30p.m. As on previous occasions a team from the Society will compete for a trophy against a team from the F.W.K. Museum. Perhaps we will win it this time! Tickets costing £5 include supper & can be obtained, subject to availability, from Colin Towell (Telephone 288 9638).

Duncan Lucas & Tony Lawrance from the Folk Museum are, in conjunction with the Society, organising another Heritage Event from 7th to 18th February at the U.R. Church, Long Street. A welcome repeat of the most successful one held two years ago. There will be many previously unseen items & displays to view & a genuine magic lantern slide show featuring Leics. scenes on the last evening at 7.30p.m. Opening times for the displays are 2 to 8p.m. proceeds to be shared between the Church & the Folk Museum. Volunteers of help from members to act as stewards would be much appreciated. Please contact Doris Chandler (288 1978) if you can help in this way.

The F.W.K. Museum is holding a coffee morning & bring & buy at the home of Jackie Oakley, 64B, Moat Street, from 10a.m. on 18th March. This presents a pleasant way of raising funds & a wonderful opportunity to be a guest in one of Wigston's oldest houses!

WIGSTON WHO'S WHO NO: 10

CHRISTOPHER DUFFIELD BRIGGS M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.

Christopher Duffield Briggs was born on 30/9/1856 at 8, Guthlaxton Street, Leicester. He was the son of Charles Briggs, a paper merchant, and his wife Ann Byers Briggs, nee Duffield. When he was quite young the family moved to Tamworth, Staffordshire. Christopher was educated at Hurstpierpoint and Ottery St. Mary's and then studied medicine at University College Hospital, London and also in Edinburgh.

He embarked on a career in the East and was surgeon to the Agency, Bangkok in 1883. It was while on board ship that tragedy struck. He was blinded in both eyes when an experiment went wrong and a bottle of volatile liquid exploded in his face.

He returned to England and had arrived in Wigston by 1895 when he leased The Chestnuts, Spa Lane. He shared this house and practised medicine with Arthur Lacey Ekins, the last medically unqualified doctor in the village. After Dr. Ekins death he continued the practice alone and to share the house with Mrs. Ekins. By 1908 he shared the house with a Samuel Henry Webb. He had patients in Oadby as well as Wigston and also in South Wigston where he held a surgery at 14, Blaby Road on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

In 1921, by then aged 65, he married Catherine Rosa Cooper, daughter of Richard Anderson. Mrs. Cooper was the widow of Alfred Allen Cooper who had formerly lived at Wigston Hall but had later moved to 38, Bell Street next door to Shipp's the drapers shop, now part of the site of the Sainsbury store. Upon his marriage Dr. Briggs moved into this house which was named Thacnashee, thought to mean 'House of the Fairies.' Catherine Cooper's first husband had also been blind and her neighbour Mrs. Shipp asked why she should consider taking on the responsibility of another blind husband. Her reply was, who was better able to understand and cope than herself.

Dr. Briggs had a sister who ran a boarding school in Wales. During a visit there soon after their marriage the couple met a pupil named Margaret Lawton. Margaret, known as Meg, was about 11 years old at the time and had lost both her parents. She walked with a slight limp as a result of contracting polio. They decided to adopt her and so brought her back to Wigston to share their life. Catherine Briggs, who was close in age to her husband, lived long enough to bring up Meg. She died aged 76 and was buried at Wigston Cemetery on 28/10/1932. Their 11 years of marriage appear to have been very happy because on her gravestone the doctor had placed the words. .

"a loving perfect gentlewoman."

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As Meg grew up she became more useful to the doctor. She would go out with him to visit patients, describing to him their visual symptoms and generally acting as his 'eyes. She married in due course, Stephen

Taylor, a member of the Leicester organ building family, but her married life was sadly cut short when her husband was killed in a motor accident. She remained with Dr. Briggs for the rest of his life.

It is quite amazing that anyone who was blind could possibly succeed as a doctor, but he did do so and was very highly regarded. His sensitive hands and high degree of skill did much to compensate for the lack of sight. Many Wigston residents were helped into the world with his care and assistance. He liked to walk everywhere unaided and did not use a white stick. He was only driven to those patients who lived in outlying areas.

He is remembered as often wearing a Norfolk jacket, plus fours and a large flat cap and being accompanied by a dog. He was fond of children and always carried some sweets in a black tin in his pocket. When approached by a group he would enquire how many were present and then hand out the requested number. Highly respectable Wigston residents have admitted that they used to exaggerate their numbers in order to get more than their share!

He encouraged sports and gave the Dr. Briggs' Challenge Cup for local inter-school cricket and a bat and ball respectively to the two players with the highest batting and bowling averages. The cup and prizes were presented by the doctor after the final match which was played each year on the 'Prims' Cricket Ground on Welford Road. He supported the St. John's Ambulance Brigade and was one of their lecturers. He was an accomplished bridge player and enjoyed the game with his friends at the Conservative Club. He made his own Braille cards by pricking them with a pin thus making a slightly raised impression which he could then read.

He never retired and died on 6/10/1946 six days after celebrating his 90th birthday, having attended a patient the day before and assisted at the birth of a child only three months previously. He was cremated, an unusual choice for the time, and his ashes buried alongside his wife. The words "service and courage" were added next to his name on the gravestone.

Meg continued to live at Thacnashee until the site was redeveloped, when she moved to Cottage Road. She died 3/10/82 leaving two brothers who had also been adopted by other families as children.

Tricia Berry

Sources: Who's Who in Leics. by Ebenezer Baylis & Son Ltd., 1935. Birth Certificate. Leicester Advertiser 12/10/1946. Various Directories. Gravestone in Wigston Cemetery. A Mr. Leicester Article in the Leicester Mercury & a Memory Lane Article in the O. & W. Mail.

I would also like to thank Mrs. C. Hodson nee Shipp of Bridport (formerly of Wigston) for sharing her memories & Millicent & Norah Moore of South Wigston for lending the following poem which was written by Dr. Briggs in memory of his patient, John Matthews, of The Yews, Oadby who died 6/3/1910. Mr. Matthews was their grandfather's brother.

Farewell, dear Husband, Father, Brother, Friend, The Family you leave in tears behind Remain to mourn a Parent ever kind, Who did his simple duty to the end.

Though lost awhile we hold thy memory fast, The good example of a blameless life Will give us courage in our time of strife, And stronger hope to meet thee at the last.

We miss the gentle voice, the kindly smile, The ever ready hand to help another, The heart which looked on all as Friend or Brother, So loved, Ah me ! so loved, yet lost awhile.

ed by kis Doctor^
C. D. Bkiccs,
Wigston Magua,

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF LUNACY IN LEICESTERSHIRE,
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NEW COUNTY ASYLUM.

BY R.C. STEWART,

County Asylum, Leicester ; Vice-President of the Section.

The early records are extremely meagre, and very little is known of the provisions made for the care of the insane before 1771.

A Dr. Arnold, one of the chief physicians practising in Leicester, kept a private asylum in West Bond Street; it was provided with an underground passage by which the patients could reach a walled garden opposite for exercise. The celebrated Robert Hall was a patient here. Another one existed in Belgrave Gate under the care of Dr. Hill, and I have been told there was another in Humberstone Road, the gates of which now adorn the grounds of a house in London Road.

The infirmary was opened in 1771, and in 1781, on receipt of legacies of £1000 from Mrs. Topps and £200 from Mrs. Ann Wigley, a south-west wing was added for the reception of patients who could not afford to pay the fees of a private asylum. This was, I believe, the origin of what is called "The Charity" now attached to the County Asylum. For many years the poorer class of the insane population were provided for in this way, and it was not till 1837 that a public asylum was erected. On May 10th of that year the present building designed to accommodate 104 patients, was opened at the cost of £17,948 19s. Ids- and named the Leicester County Asylum. The first staff consisted of Drs. Arnold, Freer, and Shaw as visiting physicians, Mr. Needham and Mr. Thomas Paget, jun. as surgeons, and Mr. Prosser as house-surgeon and superintendent. For several years the funds of the asylum were helped by the aid of bazaars and balls, for in early records there are such items as these: Net produce of a bazaar at Cold Overton, £266 7s. in 1839; net produce of a ball on November 20th, 1844, £154 9s. The ball seems to have been an annual function, for in the report of 1849 I find that "the decease of Her late Majesty, my lamented Queen Adelaide, prevented the holding of the annual ball." There were (1842) four classes of patients - the county, out-county, charity, and independents, which latter paid a much larger sum than any of the others.

As accommodation was already becoming very restricted, the Committee erected in 1844 two new wings for 25 patients in each. In 1847 the borough authorities asked leave to join the county, but this was declined; on the other hand, the county of Rutland was invited to do so. In the following year the borough again appealed for admission, and offered to give twelve acres of land towards an increase of the estate, and finally an agreement was arrived at by which their number of patients was limited to 25. Further additions were made in 1849 owing to the admission of Rutland; henceforth the institution was to bear the name the Leicestershire and Rutland Asylum, and, it was hoped, would proceed upon a new and enlarged sphere of usefulness. The hopes of the visitors had not been disappointed, for they considered that Leicester was ten years in advance of any other, and they had reason on their side. They well knew their duty towards the public in those days: "The visitors," they asserted, "have acted, and will continue to act, on the principle that the institution is rather a place of cure than of detention, a hospital in fact where the inmates are treated as invalids, and where no expense is spared in providing whatever the superintendent considers necessary for their health and comfort. They have, in various reports and public notices, urged upon the public that mental disease, like any other illness, required medical treatment at the outset, that to delay the transmission of a patient until the disease had taken such hold as to become chronic and incurable was a course of proceeding the most cruel and unjust to the patient, and in the end most costly and burdensome to the parish."

In May, 1853, Mr. Buck was appointed superintendent on the resignation of Mr. Prosser, and continued to carry on the work single-handed until 1867, when Dr. Finch, who now so ably guides the fortunes of the Borough Asylum, became the first assistant medical officer. Owing to the continued increase in the number of patients the county and borough parted company and the borough opened its own asylum at Humberstone in 1869, to which Dr. Finch was appointed as superintendent. In 1879 the number of patients in the county asylum was 467, and the want of more room was severely felt. Dr. Buck had for some years previous urged the erection of another asylum, and an estate had been purchased at Newtown Unthank with a view to removal; but all these plans came to nought owing to the death of Dr. Buck in 1880, and perhaps fortunately, for the site at Newton was by no means an eligible one. Dr. Higgins succeeded Dr. Buck, and, during his period of office made several important alterations in the structure of the asylum; but the overcrowding still went on.

During the last twenty-three years the question of accommodation has been one of the main topics of discussion, and it has been partially solved by the unsatisfactory (not to say expensive) method of boarding-out in other asylums. The matter has now, I am glad to say, been finally settled, and a new asylum designed to accommodate 912 patients is now in course of erection at Narborough.

Some plans of the new asylum are now placed before you and a few of the leading features will be touched upon.

Owing to the contour of the estate it was not deemed possible to carry out the villa system. At the top of the building site, though narrow, is fairly level, and the front is occupied by the infirmary which is of easy access to the medical officers' quarters.

The heating and ventilation will be a modified plan of the Plenum system, the flooring of most of the wards will be laid in teak, the kitchen, laundry, and engine house will be in Ruabon tiles. One of the chief features is a block for male and female patients of the private class, connected to the main asylum by a corridor, and will contain thirty patients of each sex. The building will probably be opened in two and a half years, and we look forward to having a meeting then of the Medico-Psychological Association shortly afterwards.

Dr. David Bower, as a private asylum proprietor, welcomed the provision for private patients just above the pauper class, but suggested that one detached block would be a more perfect plan could it be managed.

Extract from the British Medical Journal. October 1905

Shirley Hensman

ARTICLE FROM APRIL 1891 ISSUE OF WIGSTON MAGNA PARISH MAGAZINE
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday evening, the 20th March, a public Meeting was held in the National Schoolroom for the purpose of presenting certificates to those candidates who had successfully passed the examination held at Leicester in January last. Classes in connection with this Association, it may be remembered, were newly formed in October, and attended on alternate weeks course of lectures by Dr. Barnley on "First Aid to the Sick and Injured." The result has been highly gratifying both to the lecturer and to those receiving instruction, for of the whole number only two failed in panning the final ordeal.

The chair was occupied by the Vicar, Colonel Seddon and several other friends being present. After a brief sketch of the history of the Association and the objects it has in view, the Chairman called upon the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. H. Garton) to read his report. From this it appears that one forty members attended the class, several of whom are "*certificated pupils*;" that is to say, they have twice undergone re-examination within an interval of not less than twelve months between each, and are therefore considered as thoroughly qualified, and entitled to wear the medallion of the Association. Their attendance at the class was very welcome, as from the practical knowledge they have acquired in the methods of using splints, bandaging, etc., they were enabled to afford valuable assistance to the junior members. The Secretary hoped that an Ambulance Corps would now be formed to meet for drill at stated periods, and whose services might be available when needed. Colonel Seddon, whose presence was warmly applauded, then presented the certificates, and in his genial and happy manner had a kindly word of encouragement to each of the recipients, and which was by no means unappreciated. He following is the list of those who received them :—Messrs. W. Allen, A. Bodycote, W. Bunney, J. Dolby, H. Fletcher, G. Frisby, W. Garton, I. Goodman, W. H. Hancock, G. Hipwell, F. Hurst, W. G. Leach, T. E. Minton, W. Oakley, A. A. Penney, A. Rose, G. Simpson, G. Smith, G. H. Smith, and J. Walker. Messrs. E. Bailey and W. Ward underwent their second examination, and Mr. H. Billson an examination for the third time, which entitles him to wear the Association medallion. Some practical demonstration in Ambulance work was then given, which was not only interesting in itself, but was a visible proof to the friends present of this utility of the instruction received and of the efficiency attained by the members. Then followed a very pleasing feature in the evening's proceedings, viz., the presentation of a handsome electroplated silver cup to Dr. Barnley, and a silver pencil to the Hon. Secretary. The former bore the inscription : " Presented to Dr. Barnley by the members of the Wigston Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association," and in a few appropriate words was presented by Mr. J. Walker. Dr. Barnley thanked the class for their generous gift and the kindly feeling that prompted it. He said that it had been a source of much pleasure to him to conduct a class where the members had shown so much interest in the work. The silver pencil-case was presented by Mr. T. E. M. and bore the inscription : " J. H. Garton, from the Wigston Ambulance Corps, March, 1891." The Hon. Secretary responded in suitable terms, and said that he had always taken a great interest in the Ambulance work since the formation of the class by Dr. Hulme some eight or nine years ago, and that he should be always ready to place his services at the disposal of the members. He thought also that it would be a desirable thing if a public stretcher could be provided and kept at some convenient and available spot, where there would be no difficulty in obtaining it when required for use, a sentiment that met with the approval of all present. And as it is not a matter of considerable expense, we trust that it may not be long ere the Parish is in possession of one. A vote of thanks to Colonel Seddon for presenting the certificates, and to the Vicar for presiding, terminated the proceedings.

IF YOU WERE UNWELL

You would probably buy a box of Mr. Jackson's pills which it seems would cure most disorders.

A GRAND DISCOVERY!

JACKSON'S
Blood and Liver Pills.

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No other Pills known will restore the Blood, Liver, Stomach, Kidneys, and Nerves in so short a time.

THE EFFECT OF ONE BOX IS MARVELLOUS.

Price 7½d., 1/1½, and 2/9 each. Sold by Local Chemists.

Sole Manufacturer and Proprietor, **J. B. JACKSON, Great Wigston.**

This advertisement is featured in Wright's 1892 Directory of Leics. The text states that Jabez Jackson was a chemist & druggist of Long Street. He was very probably the predecessor of Alfred King.

More by accident than design this issue of the Bulletin has a distinctly medical flavour.

The next one, Issue 42, due out at the end of May, is intended to follow a Civil War theme in recognition of the 350th Anniversary, of the Battle of Naseby.

After that the contents should revert to their previous random selection.

Any items suitable for inclusion are most welcome. The Editors feel the more contributors there are the wider will be the choice of material.

It is hoped to start a series on Wigston Businesses. Perhaps you or your family owned a business in the area – either manufacturing, service, retail or farming - or worked for one and could write an article about it?

Please give this some thought.