



Greater Wigston Historical Society

White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna, Leicester.

BULLETIN 86



HOLLY LODGE, BOUGHTON, NORTHANTS.

J.R. COLVER.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – MARCH TO AUGUST 2010

Wednesday 17th March 2010

Along the Gartree Road – Gerry Broughton
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 21st April 2010

Working with the 'Time Team' – Peter Liddle
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

***Wednesday 19th May 2010**

Visit to Rothley Court Hotel – talk on Knights Templars & Babington Family in the chapel followed by meal in hotel – Terry Sheppard
Meet 6.40p.m. Paddock Street Car Park to share transport.

***Wednesday 16th June 2010**

Guided walk of Gumley (talk in the church if wet) – Derek Lewin
Meet 7.00p.m. Paddock Street Car Park to share transport.

Wednesday 18th August 2010

Leicester's Pre-fabs – Brian Johnson
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

***Please Note** – members need to book and pay in advance for the May and June visits. A list will be started and money taken at the March and April meetings. Directions, suggestions on parking and where we are to meet, will be available at Paddock Street on each evening. If drivers have already arranged their passengers and are planning to travel direct, please telephone Tricia (2880156) the week before for this information.

Extra to Programme – Please see Page 11 for details of Coach Trip, 21st July

The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1st March, July and November. Articles etc. (which are always welcome) should be submitted to the editor, Tricia Berry, three clear weeks before publication date please.

FRONT COVER

Jim Colver's drawing this time features Holly Lodge, Boughton, Northamptonshire. It was built as a lodge to Boughton Hall which is situated three miles north of Northampton.

William Wentworth, 2nd Earl of Strafford (1722-1791) lived at Boughton Hall and during the 1760/70's built several spectacular follies in the grounds to commemorate notable people and events. The Earl also owned Wentworth Castle, Nr. Barnsley where more follies are to be found.

The Hall changed hands and was rebuilt in 1844. In 1857-1861 Holly Lodge was designed by Alexander Milne for the then owner Philadelphus Jeyes. It is built in the Gothic style with castellated walls, window slits and the front arch designed to replicate exactly the arch in the Spectacle (one of the follies). It is Grade II listed.

Philadelphus Jeyes had opened a 'chymist' shop in the Drapery, Northampton in 1810. His younger brother John founded Jeyes Sanitary Compounds and developed the world famous Jeyes Fluid. The Jeyes family still run a pharmacy, gift shop and tea room, in nearby Earls Barton where our society enjoyed refreshments some years back following a visit to the splendid Saxon church.

Boughton Hall has now been divided into two and the stables converted into dwellings. Also much of the park has been built on but happily the follies and lodge as well as the Hall still survive.

NOVEMBER MEETING

In November the Society welcomed Patrick Crecraft who gave a most interesting talk on the Naseby Battlefield Project. He first outlined the history of the Civil War, reminding us that there had been a number of engagements between the two sides prior to the deciding battle at Naseby on 14/6/1645.

On the day the Royalists were led by Charles I and Prince Rupert, and had an estimated army of 10,150 made up of 4,600 foot soldiers under Lord Astley and 5,550 cavalry under Prince Maurice and Sir Marmaduke Langdale. The Parliamentarians with their New Model Army, only formed in January 1645, were superior in numbers with an estimated army of 13,576 led by Sir Thomas Fairfax. This consisted of 7,500 foot soldiers under Philip Skippon, 5,400 cavalry under Oliver Cromwell and Henry Ireton, and 676 dragoons under John Okey.

After the defeat the Royalists fled with many being butchered locally, but Charles eventually made it to safety in Scotland. They suffered 500 dead, 5,000 prisoners and also lost 8,000 items of ordnance and important papers. The Parliamentarians lost 200 dead and 500 prisoners.

The Battle of Naseby, which led to the formation of British democracy and the start of Parliament as we know it today, is considered as important nationally as the Battles of

Hastings and Bosworth, both of which sites have far more impressive visitor facilities. The Naseby Battlefield Project exists to raise money and address this. View points and key places have been provided with interpretation boards, the Obelisk refurbished, and the Cromwell monument cleared and improved. A field has also been purchased where it is hoped to build a fortified house and hold battle re-enactments. There is an exhibiton at Kelmarsh Hall. Future plans include raised statues of the main participants on horseback.

After some questions and discussion the Chaiman, Mike Forryan, thanked Mr. Crecraft for a most interesting presentation of a very important site.

DECEMBER MEETING

This year the Christmas Meeting took the form of a social event. Mike and Linda Forryan brought along crisps and various nibbles, with a choice of sherry or soft drinks, and Pam Woolley kindly baked a generous supply of mincepies.

Sustained by these we worked our way through a quiz set by Mike Forryan. After hearing all the answers we thought we knew, but actually couldn't quite remember, it turned out that Tricia Berry was the winner by one point.

Mike then switched on his laptop and showed some of the old photographs from the Society's collection which he plans to put on the Historical Society website. These were uncaptioned so we had a go at identifying the people and places, even dates, which make them of so much more interest and value. Linda made notes so that the images could be properly labelled for future reference.

JANUARY MEETING

In January the Society welcomed Mary Matts who shared her extensive knowledge of The Leicester Line, the name originally given to the waterway from its junction with the River Trent at Soar Mouth, Nottingham via Leicester to Norton Junction, where it joined the Grand Junction Canal just south of Watford, Northamptonshire.

Historically trade in Leicestershire had always been held back by the lack of good transport links with the rest of the country. The Soar was the biggest river and though a reasonable size between Soar Mouth and Leicester was unfit for navigation by boats of a commercially profitable size. By 1778 the section between the Soar Mouth and Loughborough had been upgraded and opened as the Soar Navigation, Leicestershire's first navigable waterway. This was followed by the next section from Loughborough to Leicester being upgraded and opened as the Leicester Navigation, which terminated at West Bridge.

By 1792 plans were afoot to extend to the south by building a canal to link Leicester with the Grand Junction Canal at Norton and thus have access to London and the south. After surveying several different routes and negotiations with landowners, a final choice was made, the name Leicestershire & Northamptonshire Union Canal Company (LNU)

settled upon and the Act of Parliament given Royal Assent on 30/4/1793. The route involved making the River Soar navigable from West Bridge to the old pack-horse bridge at Aylestone. It then left the river and continued as a new cut, though still following the Soar closely until near Whetstone, where it turned east to follow the River Sence to between Saddington and Fleckney. Many problems were encountered not least with Saddington Tunnel, whose construction was started from both ends and then discovered to be out of straight and needing expensive adjustment. The project reached Debdale Wharf by 1797 and was opened thus far, but further progress halted by lack of money.

By 1799 more capital had been raised, Saddington Reservoir was constructed, and the project continued to Foxton and by 1808 had reached Market Harborough. There was a big opening celebration in Harborough, but it was then decided the project should stop for good, again because of lack of funds.

Business people from Northampton were very disappointed at this and raised the money, obtained a new Act of Parliament in 1810, and re-started the project with a new name, The Grand Union Canal (GU), which continued the LNU scheme from Foxton, via Husbands Bosworth, Crick and on to Norton, including a cut to Welford. Foxton Locks was opened in 1813. The GU section was completed in 1814 and officially opened on 9th August, which was a great occasion with a procession of boats from Norton to Foxton, then on to Market Harborough.

Due to a decline in trade the Grand Junction took over the two canals, the LNU and GU in 1894. By 1929 due to further decline the Grand Junction became part of a great canal amalgamation under the revived name of Grand Union. In 1948 the canals were nationalised and British Waterways took over.

Mary illustrated her talk with her own wonderful photographs of landmarks along the Leicester Line. These included the Ratcliffe cooling towers, Loughborough Basin, Space Centre, West Bridge, Freeman's Weir where the Green Bicycle was found, Blaby Wharf, Kilby Bridge Wharf, Turnover Lock (where the tow path crosses to the other side of the water at the insistence of the Countess of Denbigh, a large landowner in Wistow and Newton Harcourt who wanted to discourage people straying on to her land). Continuing to Saddington Tunnel and Reservoir, the locks and rebuilt boiler house at Foxton, Millennium Sundial at Harborough Basin, Laughton Hills, Welford Lime Kilns, Crick Marina and Watford Locks.

After some questions the Chairman, Mike Forryan, thanked Mary for a really interesting presentation which will give us many new things to look out for during summer walks.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The Society held its AGM when approximately 35 members were present. The agenda was as follows:

- 1) Apologies for absence – were received from Sue Woolley and Stella Tweed

2) Minutes of February 2009 AGM – were read by the Secretary, Tricia Berry. These were agreed correct by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3) Matters Arising – none

4) Chairman's Report – Mike Forryan welcomed everyone and reported another successful year with excellent speakers and trips out to Willoughby and Lutterworth (the latter somewhat marred by rain). He said our notices continue to be removed prematurely from the Council Notice Boards, but progress is being made. The data base of photographs is growing & will be useful if speakers cancel etc. The scanning of Transactions is complete and on a searchable database. A start is being made on the Bulletins. When all is complete it is hoped to put them on the web. The 'Little Know It All' free publication had asked if we could contribute a regular article which we intend to do, to help raise the Society's profile. The Committee's efforts have helped the membership to grow but members are invited to help with this by telling their friends etc. Mike thanked the Committee for their support over the year and invited any member to join it new input is always welcome.

5) Acting Treasurer's Report – Colin Towell handed out copies of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31/12/2009 which showed a surplus of £85 80. This was good in view of the 'one off' expense of £40 25 for the hire of recording equipment for Rev. Green's talk, but needed to be watched as other costs were likely to rise in future. He confirmed the auditor Gary Davies was willing to continue for the next year.

6) Membership Secretary's Report – Mike Forryan read Linda's prepared report. In her first year in the post a change had been made to move with the times and comply with Health & Safety Rules. This was to register attendance at the door when people arrive. It had been an excellent year with 21 new members joining, but sadly two had died and two others had resigned. There are now 81 compared with 64 last year. We also welcomed 46 visitors. She thanked all who offered assistance as she got to know the job this year.

7) Election of Officers – Tony Lawrance offered to resign as Vice Chairman, because he is often not available to attend meetings, but there were no offers to take his place and as the Chairman is a regular attender it was not a pressing problem. However the input of additional members on the Committee would be very welcome & anyone interested was asked to come forward later. As no nominations had been received the officers for the coming year would be: **Chairman:** Mike Forryan, **Vice Chairman:** Tony Lawrance, **Secretary/Bulletin Editor:** Tricia Berry, **Treasurer:** Colin Towell, **Membership Secretary:** Linda Forryan, **Auditor:** Gary Davies.

Committee Members: Edna Taylor, Sue Woolley and Ruth Granger.

8) Any Other Business – It was agreed that the subscription rate should remain unchanged at £10 00 full, & £7 00 concessionary for this year, but that it would rise by £1 00 per head next year if the Committee thought it necessary. It was agreed that a £100 00 donation be made to the O & WBP Trust (FWK Museum) as previously. A show of

hands indicated that about a third of GWHS members also belonged to the Friends of the FWK Museum. It was agreed that Colin Towell should be termed Treasurer (Not acting Treasurer) in future. He agreed to this so long as it was understood he would still not be able to attend Committee Meetings. The recording of Rev. Green's talk was available on disc to borrow.

Duncan Lucas reported the following: that in the latest LAHS Transaction there was mention of the discovery of a Roman ditch in Horsewell Lane, this together with other Roman discoveries near the cemetery suggested a large settlement. That he would be willing to lead one of his popular evening coach tours for the Society during the summer. That he had donated his Magic Lantern to the Record Office which should be available to borrow if required. That the Society should consider buying good quality recording equipment for aural histories.

Finally the Officers & Committee were thanked for their work over the year.

Members were reminded that subscriptions were due and should be paid that evening if possible.

There followed some member's accounts of their first jobs – as follows:-

Portland Shoes, Leicester

I started my working life at Portland Shoes which was the trading name of T. Roberts & Sons. It was founded in 1872 by Thomas Roberts who came from Hardingstone in Northampton to Leicester. The business was originally in Pelham Street and then moved to Asylum Street which later became Gateway Street, in the Newarke.

The name Portland was taken from Portland Street which was opposite the original works in Pelham Street. The building in the Newarke (or Gateway Street) was erected in 1889 and was completely destroyed by fire in 1908. It was rebuilt a year later and over the years extended many times.

There were five Chantry Houses which were Priests' dwellings within the vicinity of Portland Shoes of which two remain. One of these, a Medieval building, was next door to the Portland Shoe factory entrance. This became the Vicarage of St. Mary de Castro. The top storey of this Chantry House was removed around 1948 as it was deemed unsafe. To this day the bottom half still stands as it is a listed building and is used now as a usability lab for De Montfort University. The other remaining Chantry House, survives despite some WWII damage and that is William Wigston's Chantry House, adjacent to the Newarke Houses Museum.

During my time at Portland we referred to the Chantry as "The Old Vicarage". It was used as a leather store and also stored advertising material, such as the 1930s showcard I have brought along. Portland made ladies high quality fashion shoes which were sold under the brand name Portland, and by national advertising became widely known. In my 25 years with the company I saw many changes in the fashions of shoes, sandals and ladies wide fitting boots.

I joined the company as an office junior in 1965 straight from school. I then went into the advertising department as junior and eventually became in charge of the department under the Sales Director. I then became his personal secretary. When I first started it was a family concern run by the Roberts family. However the company was taken over by the Ward White Group in the late 1970s, early 1980s, and eventually the business was transferred to Northampton. The building still stands and is now called the Portland Building, and is used by the De Montfort University.

I had a varied career at Portland. As Personal Secretary to the Sales Director my duties included looking after a team of representatives and attending many trade exhibitions around the country. I was also chosen (although I do not know why) to model and promote a new range of boots called maxi tops, these fitted ladies with wide calf measurements and this was a very successful venture. They were also advertised in the National newspapers and women's magazines with a picture of myself and a slogan "phone Ann as soon as you can". This invited members of the public to phone in or write for a brochure and to find out their local stockist of these wide fitting boots.

I left Portland Shoes in 1989 when the company closed down, but the brand name continued for future years trading from Northampton. According to Google the brand name and logo are still in use, the shoes being manufactured abroad and sold on the internet. It is nice to see that the history of Portland has not been lost as there are over 60 documents and files at the Leicestershire record dating from 1880s.

Ann Cousins

R & W H Symington, Market Harborough

At the time when jobs were plentiful and easy to obtain I worked at R & W H Symington, the corset factory as it was known then. Remember the Liberty sign on the roof?

When I was small I had to wear Liberty bodices, my Aunt Kathleen worked there so we had them cheaper. I never thought that I would be in the factory making them. I remember that all the women there would be covered in flock and fluff, not good for anyone with breathing problems. I worked there twice during the 1960s, the second time I worked on maternity clothes, swimwear and packing. The firm was quite big and had factories all over the place, even Australia I think. We had a large canteen which was used for entertaining, dinners and functions. Once we had the BBC come with a lunch time programme, something like a 'Workers' Playtime', I remember Vince Hill was the star and all us girls thought he was lovely. We also had football teams, a tennis club, cricket and bowls, the recreation ground was large.

We had 'Music While You Work', the younger ones would groan as it was all old fashioned music but we still sang along with it. At Christmas time each department would have a small do with the usual party foods, what is amazing is alcohol was permitted and this was where machines with very sharp blades with no guards were being used, no 'elf n safety then.

Sadly in 1970 the factory was taken over by Courtaulds and we were put on a three day week. As I was engaged to be married I stayed. Of course, like Cadbury's we were told no jobs would go, but of course they did. I worked there until we were married and now its just a memory. It was started in the 1850s and closed in the middle 1970s, so was in business for 120 years. The building survives and now houses Market Harborough Council Offices and the Museum.

My Aunt worked there until they closed. Now again the corset factory comes to mind as when looking into my family history I find my paternal grandmother Francise Lount worked there in 1901, also I am still wearing the fleece fabric, not as underwear but as a coat and hat.

Ruth Granger

Leicester Temperance Building Society, Leicester & Wigston

I left school in 1961 with 6 O Levels. I intended to be a surveyor, like Dad, but no Physics O level. Dad heard that a place was available at Leicester Temperance Building Society so he took me to an interview with Mr. E E Davis, the General Manager. I got the job, I am not sure if there were other people interviewed, also not sure if I knew I was going to work in the accounts department, but that is where I started in September 1961. I recall saying I wanted the full holiday before I started out to work, clearly I didn't want the money.

The offices were in Halford House, Charles Street, they were quite new, previously the offices were in Belvoir Street. Jack Hurst was the accountant, Norman Clark was the office manager and Gill Newnham was supervisor. She got me started on accounting, I'd probably never even realised what accounts were until then. The rest of the accounts office staff were young women, all very interesting and a bit of a problem for a young lad like me, but all good people to work for and with.

The hours were 8.45 to 5.15 with 1.5 hours for lunch and 15 minutes morning and afternoon for a break in the canteen which was reached by lift to the room behind the huge clock at the top and in the middle of the building. We then did alternate Saturday mornings on the counter. If overtime was required it was highly organised with a 30 minute break at 5.15 with tea money when we usually went up to Brucciana's at the bottom of Horsefair Street, then worked till 7.30 at time and a half.

The ledgers were kept on Burroughs Sensimatic accounting machines, about six of them and they were noisy. No computers or calculators. We had adding machines, either electric or manual with a full keyboard with 10d and 11d keys, pre decimalisation. There were trolleys with ledgers on them and these were locked in a fire proof strong room at night. No back up memory sticks. We used thick books of tables to manually work out interest on investments and mortgage redemptions, mortgage rates were then about the same as they are today.

Every six months on the savings account and annually on the mortgages a statement was sent out to the borrowers and investors, also cheques for the interest were sent out when the saver did not want interest added to the account. Address labels were created on plates on an Addressograph machine, again very noisy. Once printed the statements were folded and stuffed into window envelopes by some ladies brought in specially for the job. I then followed on operating the glueing machine to seal down the envelopes, no self seal envelopes then. The statements usually caused lots of queries mainly because of wrong postings, this created interesting accounting detective work which I liked and got a bit of a reputation for. We also had to fill in the mortgage interest onto cards supplied by the Inland Revenue so that they could give tax relief to the borrower, this being before MIRAS.

Once I was sufficiently experienced at working on the counter I was sent, on my own, (what would Health & Safety say now) to the local branch offices in Narborough Road and Evington Road. These were very small offices and very quiet, I spent the time reading and writing long letters to girl friends. I was also sent to the Wigston office which is where the local connection comes in. This was bigger and had a manager, John Vincent. Originally, the office was about where Neville Chadwick's studio is now with the Midland Bank next door. It was a very old shop with a solicitor upstairs and the Joke Shop next door. At first I cycled there from Leicester Forest East where we lived otherwise it was bus into town and then the L8 out to Wigston from Northampton Square outside the Police Station. The Temperance had recently taken over the Greater Wigston Building Society.

Later the office moved to a new building on the corner of Bell Street where Lawson West's office is now (currently closed). The official opening was carried out by Mr. Gunning, Clerk to the Council, who opened the first account. I was asked by a newspaper reporter how much he invested and told them, I confessed to this indiscretion but survived to see another day.

I wonder if we were before our time as we had late night opening on a Friday to catch people with their pay packets. Not many if any shops opened late. John Standley used to bring in about 20 savings books for each of his Boys' Brigade members to save for camp. In the new office I used to watch out for by girlfriend, later my wife, to walk by on a Saturday morning or, during our year off, I would send messages to her via her sister hoping to get her back again. But some older people did not want to be seen in the office so we had some screens put up at the window.

All the jobs were very labour intensive. All transactions were written onto a duplicate pad of about ten strips, different pads for mortgages and investments, the account number, name and amount had to be written down. The strips were then torn up like raffle tickets and sorted into numerical order and then added up and balanced to the carbon copy of the originals. We also had to balance our till at the end of each day before going home and face the Chief Cashier, Mr. Williams, if we didn't agree.

I left in 1964 and went to Chemstrand on Vaughan Way. The Temperance later merged with the Leicester Permanent Building Society who then merged with the Alliance based in Hove on the South Coast, we all know the rest, as Santander now own the BANK.

Sometimes I caught the bus home for lunch, I would walk from Halford House to Kirby & West's dairy on the Boulevard and watch a train going over the Bowstring Bridge while waiting for the bus. I also cycled to Halford House from Leicester Forest East and later bought a Lambretta Scooter. We had an underground car park opposite Halford House under the tax offices. They were good times to start out to work, working in town, sometimes going to the Regency Café in Cheapside for lunch. The Christmas office parties were good and a bit of an eye opener!!

Colin Towell

GREATER WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st December 2009

Receipts		Payments	
Opening Balances as at 1/1/09:		Lecture Fees	210.00
Current A/c	141.07	Bulletin & Programme	52.05
Deposit A/c	1133.95	Room Hire (2009)	180.00
Unpresented chq	223.40-	Christmas Meeting	39.00
	1051.62	Secretary's expenses	69.54
Subscriptions	597.00	Equipment Hire	40.25
Collections/Donations	62.00	Website Fees	22.00
Christmas Meeting	64.00	Visits	232.50
Bank Interest	12.14	O & WBP Trust	100.00
Visits	296.00		
		Closing Balances as at 31/12/09:	
		Current A/c	400.87
		Deposit A/c	996.09
		Unpresented chq	259.54-
			1137.42
	2082.76		2082.76

SUMMER COACH TRIP

The Society are organising an extra event this summer. Duncan Lucas is leading one of his popular coach trips on a mystery tour around the countryside, with a stop-off at a suitable pub. This will take place on Wednesday evening 21st July, we shall be departing at 6.30p.m. prompt from Paddock Street Car Park and returning probably about 10.00p.m. Tickets will cost £8 00 (to include a raffle) and will be available at meetings, or from Tricia on 0116 2880156. Please note that in order to hopefully fill the coach we shall be promoting the trip and selling tickets on a first come, first served basis, so members who would like to come are urged to secure their tickets in good time.

FISH AND CHIP ANNIVERSARY

An unusual subject for a local history article, but this year is believed to be the 150th anniversary of the famous meal. Chips had been around much longer and were invented by either the French or Belgians (both have staked a claim to this), and fish of course has been eaten for centuries, but the idea of combining them to form a complete meal as we know it today is believed to date from 1860. In that year Joseph Malin, just 13 at the time, added battered fried fish, from a fish warehouse, to his mother's home made chips and began selling them in the streets of London. He later started his own fish and chip shop. While in Manchester John Lees was selling fish and chips from a wooden hut at Mossley market by 1863.

To celebrate the anniversary the Leicester Mercury ran a competition. They invited readers to nominate their favourite chippy and then sampled the three most popular choices anonymously, in order to select the winner. This turned out to be the Grimsby Fisheries on Welford Road, so congratulations to them.

How quickly did the idea spread to other areas? The first mention in Leicester trade directories comes in 1877 when three traders are listed under the heading 'Fried Fish Dealers'. They were Alfred Bottrill at 7 Northgates, Henry Trehearne at 49 Wharf Street and Alfred Lewitt at 198 Wharf Street. Lewitt also had a fishmongers and game dealers business at 98 High Street. The following year there were four such businesses and then by 1886 this had increased to 12. The numbers continued steady throughout the first half of the 1890s but by 1904 things had really taken off as 123 traders were listed. Most of these were situated, as you might expect, in the side roads and newly built residential areas, with very few in the main shopping streets.

It was also in 1904 that the first 'Fried Fish Dealers' appeared in Wigston. This is best illustrated with a table, as follows:-

1904	Wigston Magna	None
	South Wigston	Mrs. Emma Christopher Harry Croson
1908	Wigston Magna	John Cawthorpe, North Street
	South Wigston	Harry Croson

1912	Wigston Magna	Thomas Arthur Kibble John Cawthorne, North Street Thomas Allen Mawby, 135 Bull Head Street
	South Wigston	Harry Croson Thomas Arthur Kibble
1916	Wigston Magna	John Cawthorne, North Street Tom Allen Mawby, 135 Bull Head Street Edward Fisher, Bull Head Street
	South Wigston	Hunt & Son
1925	Wigston Magna	Mrs. John Cawthorne, North Street Edward Fisher, Bull Head Street Joseph Jelley, 35 Long Street Tom Allen Mawby, 135 Bull Head Street
	South Wigston	Hunt & Son
1928	Wigston Magna	Walter Hubbard 2, North Street Joseph Jelley, 35 Long Street William Arthur Johnson, 41 Manor Street Tom Allen Mawby, 135 Bull Head Street Willis Scott, 35 Leicester Road
	South Wigston	Hunt & Sons Chas Wells
1936	Wigston Magna	Walter Hubbard, 2 North Street Joseph Jelley, 35 Long Street Tom Allen Mawby, 135 Bull head Street Alfred Scott, 35 Leicester Road
	South Wigston	Walter Geo Price, 9 Countesthorpe Road (+5/7 greengrocer) William Henry Shephard, 35 Healey Street Harry Whitehead, 51 Blaby Road
1941	Wigston Magna	Walter Hubbard, 2 North Street Charles Henry Jarvis, 35 Leicester Road, Joseph Jelley, 35 Long Street Tom Allen Mawby, 135 Bull Head Street
	South Wigston	Walter Geo Price, 9 Countesthorpe Road (+5/7 greengrocer) William Henry Shephard, 35 Healey Street Harry Whitehead, 51 Blaby Road

By 1936 W A Johnson had given up fish and chips, but remained at 41 Manor Street, as a greengrocer. By 1916 T A Kibble had given up fish and chips and worked as a carrier, and by 1936 he was proprietor of the Motor Garage, 1 Saffron Lane.

Tricia Berry

Sources: Directories 1877 White's, 1886/1890s Wright's, 1904/1908/1912/1916/1925/1928/1936/1941 Kelly's.

SAD ACCIDENT OF MR. WILLIAM THRONE CRICK

In the death announcements of the Leicester Chronicle & Leicestershire Mercury for 11/4/1885 it briefly states: "On 4/4/1885 William Throne Crick of Wigston Fields, aged 74 years".

On another page quite an account is given of what occurred.

"William Throne Crick was well known and respected in the town. He had called upon his publishers J & T Spencer and afterwards went to his daughter's home, Mrs. Porter of Leicester, and there met with his death by falling down a cellar occasioning dislocation of the neck. He will be long remembered by his able little work 'The Road: Travellers & Travelling Half a Century Ago'. As a manufacturer and businessman his influence on the trade of Leicester was of the utmost consequence, as he was, in conjunction with his brother the late Thomas Crick of Glen, founder of what is now one of the staple trades of the town, the manufacture of boots and shoes. For many years he carried on one of the most extensive concerns in that branch of production. Though over 70 years he was hale and hearty and his death was therefore quite unexpected. An inquest was opened on Saturday evening by Mr. Coroner Harrison, very shortly after the news of the lamentable occurrence was conveyed, and then adjourned. It was resumed at the Bricklayers Arms, Welford Road on Tuesday evening. The evidence of Mary Jones domestic servant in the employ of Mrs. Porter, Crescent Street, daughter of the deceased was that about 1p.m. Mr. Crick called on her mistress's. Letting himself into the house through the kitchen and into the yard. On returning he again passed through the kitchen and almost immediately witness heard him fall and on going to see what had happened found him lying at the bottom of the cellar steps. Mr. Henry Perry a traveller, who was waiting at Mrs. Porter's for the deceased, said that on hearing a noise he went to Mr. Crick and gave him a little water. He also tried to give him a little whiskey. Dr. Franklin was sent for but death ensued before he arrived."

A verdict in accordance with the evidence was recorded.

William Throne Crick lived at Rood House, Granville Road, Wigston Fields. There is no house of that name now but by comparing maps and census information it appears very likely it was the house at the far end on the left now known as Mitcheldene.

IS THIS A RECORD?

In the birth announcements of the County Press for Herts, Beds, Hunts, Bucks, Essex, Cambridge & Middlesex for 4/3/1843 it states: The wife of Mr. Baily, overlooker, Providence Mill, Baildon, has been delivered of her 24th live child and all single births.

PROPERTY OF GWVHS