

Wigston Time Lines



This is a living and growing list relating to the changes in Wigston Magna and South Wigston across the ages. We would ask you to add to this list with additional items and dates. Please pass these to our Chairman on 07711 083227 or via e-mail chairman@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1500BC	<i>Knife and flint arrowhead found near Parklands proving habitation in the Bronze Age</i>	Wigston
100 - 500	<i>Roman pottery and artefacts found around Parklands</i>	Wigston
500 -1000	<i>Anglo-Saxon brooch found in garden near Parklands</i>	Wigston
1067	<i>Hugh de Grandmesnil & Wife took control of estates in Wigston & Leicestershire</i>	Wigston
1109	<i>Cluniac Priory of Lenton inherited Wigston estates as a gift from Robert de Meulen Earl of Leicester</i>	Wigston
1140	<i>There were two parishes called Wichingeston / Wykineston and Wiggeston each with a church</i>	Wigston
1280's	<i>All Saints Church built, in what is now called The Decorated style, using Leicestershire quarried granite</i>	Wigston
1301	<i>All Saints "St John " Alter built circa 1301</i>	Wigston
1340's	<i>The Black Death plague arrived in Wigston which decimated the population</i>	Wigston
1340's	<i>Agricultural depression following the plague</i>	Wigston
1475	<i>The first record of the Village being referred to as WIGSTON shows that the two parishes merged into one</i>	Wigston
1506	<i>The Priory of Lenton took full possession of the rectorial title for All Saints church</i>	Wigston
1518	<i>Thomas Leyd bequested a sheep to help pay for the lighted candles in All Saints church</i>	Wigston
1524	<i>Agnes Wyllys left the sum of 6s. 8d. Towards the rebuilding of All Saints Lady Chapel</i>	Wigston
1539	<i>Henry VIII changed the rules for the Great and Small Tithes which would have changed the order of things in Wigston</i>	Wigston
1563	<i>Estimated that 80 families were living in Wigston</i>	Wigston
1590	<i>All Saints new bell cast in Leicester</i>	Wigston
1595	<i>William Law Gent, farmer, gave £3. 6s. 8d. For coals for the poor be held at All Saints church yard</i>	Wigston
1597	<i>All Saints Fore and Great Bell Cast</i>	Wigston
1601	<i>All Saints church paid £5 19s. 0d. For casting of the 3rd bell and metal.</i>	Wigston
1632	<i>All Saints Church roof fell in</i>	Wigston
1634	<i>All Saints Bells were rung to announce the visit of Charles 1 and his Queen Henrietta Maria in Wigston</i>	Wigston
1645	<i>Leicester sent prisoners to a temporary goal in Wigston to reduce the food needs of the town during the Royalists seige.</i>	Long Street WM
1645	<i>14th of June 1645 Oliver Cromwell slept at Great Wigston on his way to Leicester</i>	Wigston
1670	<i>Estimated that 161 families were living in Wigston - doubled since 1563</i>	Wigston
1678	<i>George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, or Friends Society visited Wigston</i>	Wigston
1680	<i>First mention of Knitting Frames in a Will of a Wigston person</i>	Wigston
1691	<i>The Farm House (Pochins) in Newgate End built. (oldest brick built house in Wigston)</i>	Wigston
1703	<i>All Saints Vicarage restored by S Newberry Esq. a haberdasher</i>	Wigston

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1732	The Great tithes of Wigston Parish became the property of George, 3rd Duke of St Albans	Wigston
1750	The last "Beating of the Bounds" to confirm the Parish boundaries.	Wigston
1752	The Elms Built by Samuel Davenport now The British Legion Building	Wigston
1761	James Pigott appointed Vivar of All Saints Wigston and stayed until 1812	Wigston
1764	Enclosure Act signed by Parliament to enlose the Great Fields around Wigston	Wigston
1778	2 Newgate End was purchsed by John Wood a framesmaith	Wigston
1781	All Saints Italian alabaster font presented to the Church by Mrs Elizabeth Clarke	Wigston
1781	Alms Houses in Long Street Wigston Magna built by Mrs Elizabeth Clarke	Wigston
1785/6	New Vicarage built, for All Saints church, replacing the original which was restored in 1703	Wigston
1790	John Nichols on his arrival in Wigston noted "the church is large and has five bells"	Wigston
1790	The Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Canal reached the Welford Road. Start of Kilby Bridge hamlet	Welford Road WM
1792	The Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal at Crow Mills opened	Crow Mills SW
1795	A New Gravel pit opened in Wigston to supply gravel to the Welford Turnpike Road (A50 / A5199)	Wigston
1797	George Davenport hanged and buried in All Saint's churchyard	Wigston
1799	Thomas Burgess born Wigston died 1874	Wigston
1801	Population of Wigston as per the Census	Wigston
1818	Primitive Methodist started open air meetings	Wigston
1819	William Kirby of Grt Glenn began to preach at Wesleyan Methodist Church	Wigston
1824	Henry Davis Pochin born Wigston died 1895	Wigston
1834	Wigston Hall Built	Long Street WM
1835	The Lime Kilns between 1835 and 1838 probably the Navigation with a name change	Kilby Bridge
1836	The Blaby Union was formed to comply with the Poor Law Act of 1834.	Wigston
1838	The last Manor Court in Wigston was held	Wigston
1839	Wesleyan Chapel Frederick Street Built	Wigston
1839	National School built to provide a place for lessons that had been held in St Wistan's church	Wigston
1840	Midland Counties Railway comes to South Wigston	SW
1840	Wigston South station opened	SW
1841	Congregational Chapel re-built	Long Street WM
1845	Samuel Hurst Commission found there were between 500 and 550 Knitting frames in Wigston that year	Wigston

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1846	Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in Moat Street	Wigston
1848	Primitive Methodist Chapel in Moat Street was enlarged	Wigston
1850	Bushloe House Built	Station Road, WM
1856	St Wolstans House Built	Oadby Lane WM
1857	Leicester & Hitchin Railway opened	Wigston
1857	Wigston Magna station opened	Wigston
1858	The Black Swan Inn Closed	Kilby Bridge
1862	Great Wigston Working Men's Club opened	Long Street WM
1862	Abington House (Hawthorn Field) was built circa this date on what was called "Saxon - Hanging Hill"	Wigston
1864	London and North Western Railway line to Rugby opened	SW
1867	Wigston Co-operative Society formed	Wigston
1870	1870 Education Act forced children to School and removed cheap labour from the local industries	Wigston
1870	Midland Railway Company started building their extensive Engine Sheds and Wagon Shops in South Wigston	Wigston
1871	Midland Terrace (Twenty Row) was built	Wigston
1873	Bell Street Infants School Built	Bell Street WM
1873	Midland Rilway Roundhouse opened	Wigston
1873	Bell Street Board School Opened	Bell Street WM
1874	Henry Morgan of Camden Lodge died.	Station Road, WM
1874	Abolition of the Frame Rents by act of Parliament in 1874 - Move to more factory working	Wigston
1874	Burton Cottages in Spring Lane nee Mill Lane (once known as Little Frederick Street) built	Spring Lane WM
1875	Alonzo Harry Broughton born Wigston died 1954	Wigston
1876	John Ellis & sons, coal and lime merchants bought the land, which included the works.	Kilby Bridge
1877	Glen Parva Barracks started on land purchased from the Grange	SW
1878	Charles Moore born in Wigston	Wigston
1880's	All Saints church restoration was begun	Wigston
1880	Glen Parva Barracks were fully completed	SW
1880	Land in Long Street Purchased for £650 for site of Board School	Long Street WM
1882	Start of construction of South Wigston to support railway families	SW
1882	Wigston Cemetery opened	Wigston

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1882	Wigstob Cemetery Chapel Built	Wigston
1882	Cemetery Lodge was built	Wigston
1883	Charles Sharpe, builders, were paid £118 3s. 1d. For work on All Saints church restoration	Wigston
1883	Orson Wright begins the major part of the building of South Wigston	SW
1884	Glen Parva Station opened 1st April	SW
1884	Wesleyan Mission commenced in a room in Orson Wright's factory in June	SW
1885	New Wesleyan Chapel built adjoining the old Chapel in Frederick Street	Wigston
1886	South Wigston Mission opens in Blaby Road opposite Countesthorpe Road in the "Tin Hut"	SW
1886	Board School opens in Bassett Street 31st July	SW
1886	Primitive Methodist New Cruciform Chapel opened	Wigston
1887	Church of Christ in Canal Street opened on Easter Tuesday	SW
1887	Hamilton Houses, Egremont Houses and Mapperley Houses built	Wigston
1888	Formation of the Wesleyan Church Cricket Club	SW
1889	"The Great Wigston Gas Act" was given Parliamentary approval	Wigston
1890	A Girls' Friendly Society was formed in the autumn by the vicars wife	Wigston
1891	Dunton Street Board School Opened	Dunton Street SW
1891	Census taken on Sunday 5th April	Wigston
1891	Wigston Magna Population was 3414 Males & 3599 Females giving a total of 7013 people	Wigston
1891	Bell Street Wigston Magna has 286 residents	Wigston
1892	Foundation Stone of St Thomas' Church was laid in July	SW
1892	William Ewart Boulter VC born Wigston died 1955	WM
1892	The second school opened in Bassett Street	SW
1893	St Thomas' Church Completed	Blaby Road, SW
1893	St Thomas' Church consecrated	SW
1893	Ecclesiastical Parish of South Wigston & Glenn Parva was created	SW
1894	Wigston Magna Urban District Council was formed with first meeting at the National School Long Street	Wigston
1894	Orson Wright elected to represent Fairfield Ward on the Wigston Magna Urban District Council	SW
1895	Randolf Churchill visited The Grange on 28th June	SW
1896	Congregational Chapel built - Stone Laying 20th June	Blaby Road SW

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1896	Marstown Terrace built on Saffron Road	SW
1897	Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations	Bank WM
1897	Official opening of the Congregational Church Thursday 4th February in South Wigston	SW
1897	Drinking fountain installed on the Bank to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee	Bank WM
1897	All Saints "Church Wall" built from a donation by Thomas Ingram	Newgate End WM
1898	William Dunmore, owner of Dunmore's biscuit factory in Canal Street elected chairman of the WMUDC	SW
1899	Primitive Methodist New School Chapel Stone Laying ceremony 4th November	SW
1900	The Primitive Methodist Chapel opened	Countesthorpe Road SW
1900	The tower of St Thomas' Church was built, paid for by Thomas Ingram, he also provided a peal of eight bells	SW
1901	The bells of St Thomas' were dedicated on Sunday 27th October	SW
1902	Enlarged Wesleyan Methodist Church on Blaby Road was opened on Thursday 10th July	SW
1902	Spion Kop' railway bridge opened to replace the level crossing	Station Road, WM
1902	4 lines of Railway started operating	Kilby Bridge
1902	Donald Ross born Wigston died 1980	Wigston
1902	New Station Buildings opened	Station Road, WM
1902	All Saints church chancel walls and roof were restored by the Owston family	Wigston
1902	The Wigston Temperance Band created from the Wesleyan Mission Band under Charles Moore	Wigston
1903	Dunmore's Biscuit Factory burnt down	Canal Street, SW
1904	The Girl's School opened in Bassett Street 11th January	SW
1904	The sixth peal of bells at St Thomas' Church on 27th December set a new world record: 17,104 changes in 10 hours and 35 minutes.	SW
1905	6th July Opening Ceremony of St Mary's Catholic Church	SW
1906	Wesleyan Church organ inaugurated 24th January	SW
1906	George Huddlestone opened his business in Blaby Road by the level crossing gates	SW
1907	Rev. A Nichol appointed vicar of St Thomas'	SW
1908	Ada, wife of Orson Wright died 18th June	SW
1908	Freemans Furniture Shop opened in Blaby Road	SW
1909	New Vicarage built for All Saints church to replace the one built in 1786	Wigston
1909	Wigston Magna Church Room built	Wigston

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1909	Deeming Brothers, printers, moved from Station Street to Canal Street	SW
1910	Co-Operative Society building on corner of Long Street and Central Avenue was built	Long Street WM
1911	Coronation Day Street Parties	Blaby Road, SW
1911	Coronation Villas built in Railway Street	SW
1911	Methodist Guild founded, Blaby Road Church	SW
1912	Crow Mills Railway wooden viaduct was replaced by a brick structure	SW
1913	Death of Orson Wright on the 10th April aged 59	SW
1913	Charles Moore's first shop opened in Blaby Road	SW
1914	Railway line upgraded to 4 tracks	Kilby Bridge
1914	First contingent of troops leave from Glen Parva Barracks	SW
1916	Reception at Long Street School for William Ewart Boulter VC. (30th October 1916)	Long Street WM
1919	Sir John Rolleston of The Grange died 9th April	SW
1919	Clocks on 3 sides of the St Thomas' Church tower installed to commemorate the SW fallen soldiers	SW
1920	All Saints window in the south wall was converted to a memorial window to the dead of the 1914 - 1918 war	Wigston
1920	The War Memorial in Blaby Road dedicated	SW
1920	Rev W J Kinchington appointed first resident minister at the Wesleyan Methodist Church	SW
1920	The Picture House Opened in Blaby Road	Blaby Road SW
1920	Charles Moore & Sons moved to the premises on the corner of Blaby Road and Canal Street	SW
1921	W G Hall, photographer, began trading at No. 13 Blaby Road	SW
1921	Opening of Memorial Park in Long Street	Long Street WM
1923	Wigston Magna UDC purchased land in Kirkdale Road, Glengate, Station, Albion and Leopold Streets	SW
1923	Rev W J Manistre appointed minister of Wesleyan Methodist Church	SW
1924	Council houses built in Kirkdale Road, Glengate, Station, Albion and Leopold Streets	SW
1924	Heating and Electric lighting installed in the Blaby Road Congregational Church	SW
1925	Mr John James Grundy was the Station Master of Wigston Station	Station Road, WM
1926	Land in Timber street purchased by the Council on 24th March	SW
1927	Further block of land in Timber Street purchased by the council and building began - this eliminated The Greens	SW
1927	Grand Bazaar held to open the New Constitutional Hall	Cross Street Wigston Magna
1928	St Thomas' Schoolroom dedicated in December	SW

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1928	<i>Lighting installed in Blaby Road Methodist Church</i>	SW
1929	<i>Land in Blaby Road adjacent to the railway line acquired by the council for use as a public park</i>	SW
1929	<i>Wigston Church Rooms rebuilt</i>	Wigston
1929	<i>Church of Christ in Canal Street closed for several months while major alterations are in progress</i>	SW
1929	<i>Old Brickyard chimney toppled</i>	Blaby Road SW
1929	<i>Thornton's Farm purchased by Council to become a public park</i>	SW
1930	<i>Wigston Magna Urban District Council becomes simply Wigston UDC on 30th July</i>	SW
1931	<i>Mr A W Holmes, South Wigston dentist, becomes chairman of the Wigston UDC</i>	SW
1932	<i>Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist Churches merged to become The Methodist Church</i>	SW
1934	<i>Morrison Electricars move from Leicester to the former Brunswick Mills in Garden Street</i>	SW
1934	<i>Opening of the Magna Cinema</i>	Long Street WM
1936	<i>New Adult School in Bassett Street opened on Saturday 11th July</i>	SW
1936	<i>Mr G Smith of South Wigston Picture House voted chairman of Wigston UDC</i>	SW
1936	<i>Opening of St John Ambulance Brigade Wigston Division</i>	Wigston
1936	<i>Moat Street Methodist Church Jubilee</i>	Moat Street WM
1937	<i>New Road Bridges built over the canal and the river sence at Welford Road Kilby Bridge</i>	Welford Road WM
1938	<i>South Wigston Modern School opened in November later to become a Secondary Modern and High School</i>	SW
1938	<i>New facade for the Picture House and it was re-named "The Ritz"</i>	Blaby Road SW
1939	<i>Berry House Kilby Bridge was also a small local Cafe</i>	Kilby Bridge
1939	<i>Mr S H Marshall, South Wigston coal merchant and haulier becomes chairman of Wigston UDC</i>	SW
1940	<i>Nov 16th following a tent mission Bethel Evangelical had an opening service in a wooden hut bought for £10</i>	Wigston
1940	<i>Premier Drum relocated from the East End of London to Canal Street</i>	SW
1941	<i>German Bombers dropped bombs on South Wigston</i>	SW
1943	<i>Wigston's "Wings for Victory" week in March - opening ceremony at the Ritz & service at the Methodist Church</i>	SW
1945	<i>The Elms purchased by the British Legion</i>	Wigston
1945	<i>8th May VE Day- Dancing and celebrations on 'The Bank' organised by the ATC</i>	The Bank WM
1946	<i>Lancaster bomber crashed in Wigston</i>	Wigston
1948	<i>Milk Production ceased at the Co-operative Farm in Newgate End</i>	Wigston
1947	<i>Dunmore's Biscuit Factory is extended down to the corner of Canal Street and Countesthorpe Road</i>	SW

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1950's	All Saints churchyard gravestones were moved to line the pathways	Wigston
1954	Frears bought the Dunmore's biscuit factory for production of Te Time Assorted	SW
1954	Rest of land in Lansdown Grove purchased by Council and construction of new estate began	SW
1955	Wigston UDC received a grant of £300 to create a recreation ground behind Blaby Road park	SW
1955	Wigston Gas Works Closes down	Gas Lane WM
1955	Midland Railway Roundhouse Closed	Wigston
1955	Abington High School was built	Wigston
1957	Midland Red Bus garage in Station Street opened 5th October	SW
1957	South Wigston Modern School became a High School under the "Mason Plan".	SW
1957	South Wigston High School became Co-educational.	SW
1959	Building of the Fairfield Estate began	SW
1960	An Electric organ was installed at the Church of Christ, Canal Street	SW
1961	The Farm at Newgate End converted from a farmhouse to private dwelling.	Newgate End WM
1962	Orson Wright's former residence in Blaby Road demolished	SW
1962	Ashbourne House was demolished	Blaby Road, SW
1962	South Wigston Station closed 1st January along with the Leicester to Rugby railway line	SW
1962	The Barracks ceased to be a Regular Army depot	SW
1962	Death of Mr Charles Moore	SW
1963	Nabisco-Frears took over Frears Biscuit Company	SW
1963	2nd Wigston Company of the Girl's Brigade formed at South Wigston Methodist Church	SW
1964	Midland Railway Roundhouse demolished	Wigston
1964	Shipp shop site sold to London developers	Bell Street WM
1965	The rails over Blaby Road at the former level crossing were finally removed	SW
1966	Unsafe tower above entrance to Wigston station was taken down	Station Road, WM
1966	Wigston Civic Orchestra formed; first conductor was Mr Keith Smith of South Wigston	SW
1966	Bushloe End widened	Bushloe End WM
1966	Premier Drum made 51 of its workforce redundant	SW
1967	The Primitive Methodist Chapel merged with Blaby Road Methodist	Blaby Road
1967	Wigston Swimming Baths on Station Road Opened by Lord Luke	Station Road, WM

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1967	New Primary School opened on the Fairfield Estate	SW
1967	First intake of pupils at the new Junior School behind the High School.	SW
1968	Last Electric vehicle produced by Morrison Electric Factory before their move to Tredgar South Wales	SW
1969	Michael Aspel opens new Co-op store in Bell Street	Bell Street WM
1969	St Wolstans Farmland sold to building developers Drury	WM
1970	Wigston Gollege opened (later called South Leicestershire College)	Station Road, WM
1971	G Elwell and Sons garage demolished in Frederick Street	Frederick Street WM
1971	The Bulls Head Inn was demolished	Bull Head Street WM
1971	South Wigston Methodist Church on Blaby Road was dedicated on 24th April 1971	SW
1972	J H Hallam & Sons built the houses on Shearsby Close	Shearsby Close WM
1972	Leicester City Transport started a decidcated bus service to Wigston through Little Hill Estate	WM
1972	Wigston Public Library was built	Bull Head Street WM
1974	Wigston UDC joined with Oadby to form Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	SW
1976	The Grand Union Canal Dries Up in Summer Drought	SW
1978	Wigston Civic Society Formed	WM
1979	Bell Street School demolished	Bell Street WM
1980	Greater Wigston Historical Society Formed	Wigston
1980	Greenals bought the Station Hotel and renamed it The 1852 Brewery Company.	Station Road, WM
1980	Last film shown at the Ritz cinema. Now called Ritz Bingo	Blaby Road SW
1983	Methodist Church in Wigston Magna was born joining together Primitive & Wesleyan Methodist	Wigston
1983	Opening of the Wigston Folk Museum at White Gate Farm	Newton Lane WM
1983	The Pippins houses at the end of Park Street were developed	SW
1985	Fire at the old Wigston Gas Works destroyed all of the buildings. 5th June 1985	Gas Lane WM
1986	Board School in Long Street Vacated	Long Street WM
1986	Council bought 42/44 Bushloe End and leased the property to a Trust to renovate and maintain	Bushloe End WM
1986	The new Glen Parva Station was built on the Leicester to Birmingham line	SW
1987	Primitive Methodist moved into Moat Street Chapel	Wigston
1987	Black's Factory in Saffron Road was demolished and accommodation for elderly people was built	SW
1989	Framework Knitting Museum Opens	Bushloe End WM

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1990	Bassett Ward (South) designated a conservation area	SW
1990	The Poplars was demolished	Wigston
1991	The Community Centre and Library in Bassett Street opened in May	SW
1992	Department of Social Services offices opened on the corner of Dunton Street and Bassett Street	SW
1992	Leicestershire & Rutland Records Office in Long Street Opened to the Public	Long Street WM
1993	The old sewerage pumping house in Countesthorpe Road near the canal was demolished	SW
1994	Freemans Furniture Shop ceased trading in January after 86 years on the same site	SW
1994	Prim Wray's shop at 13 Blaby Road now believed to be the longest lived family business in South Wigston	SW
1997	Meadows Community Church purchase the redundant Ladies Pride Factory on Bull Head Street	Bull Head Street WM
2001	Meadows Community Church open The King's Centre in the former Ladies Pride Factory	Bull Head Street WM
2003	South Wigston War memorial was cleaned and restored.	SW
2005	Tesco Store opened in South Wigston	SW
2009	John Gowdridge retires from Joseph Morris Butchers after 53 years in meat trade	Newton Lane WM
2009	Forryan's Pork Pie manufacturing moves from Whissendine to Wigston and was closed by 2013	Wigston
2010	South Leicestershire College moved to Canal Street South Wigston	SW
2011	Demolition of the old South Leicestershire College buildings	Station Road, WM
2012	Re-development of the Police Station on Bull Head Street Wigston Magna	Wigston
2012	Peter Clwes awarded the MBE	Wigston
2012	Queens Jubilee Exhibition at the Framework Knitters Museum	Wigston
2013	New Railway bridge erected on the footpath between Cooks Lane and the Canal	Wigston
2013	Co-operative Store in Bell Street Closed	Wigston
2013	Costa Coffee Shop Opened in Bell Street	Wigston
2013	Co-operative Food Store Opened in Bell Street	Wigston
2013	The Royal Oak Pub turned into a Supermarket	Wigston
2014	Street lights changing to LED and turned off during the night	Wigston
2014	Swimming Bathes Closed at End of March	Wigston
2014	Moat Street housing and Sainsbury Extra site being cleared of waste chemicals	Wigston