



WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CORONATION  
of HER MAJESTY  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

*Souvenir Programme*

CONTAINING THE FULL PROGRAMME  
OF CELEBRATIONS PLANNED FOR  
CORONATION WEEK AND INCLUDING  
ARTICLES ON THE HISTORY OF  
WIGSTON PERSONALITIES, SPORT AND  
OTHER INTERESTING FEATURES

P R I C E     O N E     S H I L L I N G

# Foreword

This Souvenir Brochure will revive old memories of the life of Wigston in bygone days.

It was but a small village without the services of Gas, Electricity, Railways or Buses, the only means of transport being by Carriers' Waggon. Wigston was surrounded by fields and pasture land, where one could enjoy the simple things of Nature. Today it has developed into a busy Town whose products and merchandise are known in many Countries of the World. We are proud of this achievement as our products are comparable with those made in any other country. This gives a true picture of the spirit of the people in our Town.

The URBAN DISTRICT now contains over 3,000 acres of land with a population of 15,470. Services are held in the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches. There are Choral and Drama Groups, Cinemas, Parks and Band Music for leisure hours.

The welfare work for the young children and babies is a feature of great importance and two Evergreen Clubs are caring for the older folk.

This Handbook comes to you at the time of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Let us remember amid all the traditional festivities of such an occasion that our Queen will dedicate herself to the Service of God and Country. May we as her loyal subjects follow her example. We pray that her reign will be long, peaceful and prosperous.

*H. J. Garratt*

Chairman of the Council, 1952-53.  
Chairman of the Coronation Committee.

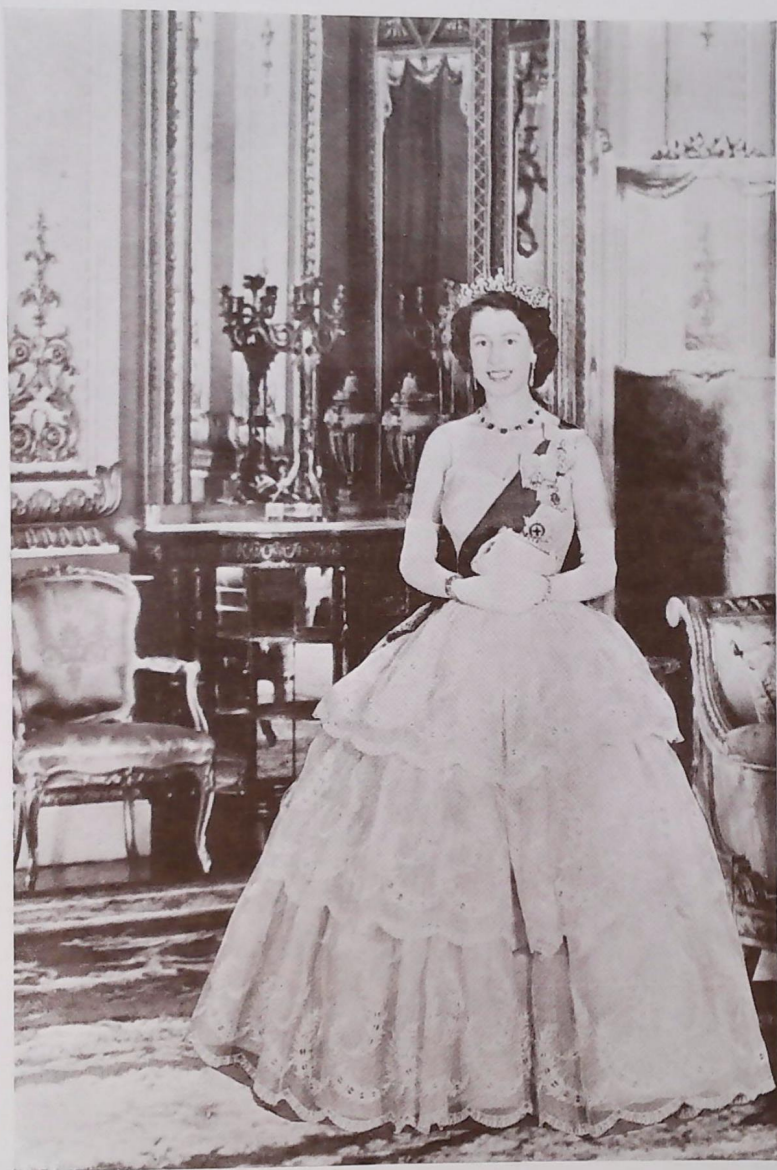
*E. I. Rowton*

Vice-Chairman of the Coronation Committee.



Euxine House  
Council Offices...





*Her Majesty  
Queen Elizabeth II*

The fairies chose the Queen  
From the prettiest flowers that grow,  
And we have followed their pattern,  
As every one will know.

Elizabeth our lovely Queen,  
So dainty and so fair,  
Will very soon be wearing  
A crown of jewels rare.

HAZEL WELLS, aged 8 years, Junior Girls' School,  
Bassett Street, South Wigston.



H.R.H.  
*Duke of Edinburgh*



# Prayers will be offered . . .

In 1937 on the occasion of the Coronation of His late Majesty King George VI, the Archbishop of Canterbury described the ceremony as "a most solemn religious act from beginning to end". Behind the glittering pomp and pageantry of the age old rites and customs which make up the Coronation, there lies a religious service of profound spiritual significance. As is well known, the framework of it all is the order of the administration of Holy Communion. In consequence the central act of the whole ceremony is not the Crowning but the Anointing when the Sovereign, is "anointed, blessed and consecrated Queen over the peoples whom the Lord God hath given her to rule and govern". For this reason too, the Queen has asked all her subjects to join with her in earnest prayer before and during her Coronation to help her make good the sacred vows which she will solemnly make.

For the people of Wigston the principal united act of dedication will be the Religious Service conducted jointly by Anglican and Free Church ministers in the grounds of Bushloe House on Sunday, May 31st at 3.30 p.m. This will be attended by the Chairman and members of the Urban District Council and other official bodies, as well as the general public. Throughout that day at the customary morning and evening services in all local churches, special reference will be made to the Coronation, prayers will be offered and the Divine blessing invoked on the arrangements and plans for the week's festivities. In addition the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches invite their own people to attend Holy Communion or Mass early on Coronation Day itself. Many will no doubt wish to mark the occasion in this way.

In short the townsfolk of Wigston will be afforded every opportunity of supporting our young and noble Queen with their prayers and of ensuring that she does not go to her Coronation alone.

## THE PRAYER OF ALL LOYAL SUBJECTS FOR THEIR QUEEN.

"O God our Father, who has united us at this time in allegiance to our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, and called us to renew our covenant with thee: Hear us as, by thy grace, we give ourselves to thy service and dedicate our lives to the welfare of this people, the peace of the world, and the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord". Amen.

"I ASK YOU ALL TO PRAY FOR ME ON THAT DAY" (extract from the Queen's Christmas Broadcast).



REV. HAROLD LOCKLEY,  
Vicar of South Wigston  
Chairman of the  
Religious Services Committee



# Prize Poems and Essay

The Spring is here and the skies are blue,  
The leaves are turning green.  
The Summer sees our hopes come true,  
For the Crowning of the Queen.

As young as the Spring, and beloved by all,  
She has known both sorrow and pain.  
Yet may happiness always be at her call,  
Throughout her forthcoming reign.

The nation rejoices. She has won all our hearts,  
And serves God, and us, with a smile;  
May she reign over all, here, and in far distant parts,  
As we give thanks and rejoice for a while.  
May her reign be long, and by the grace of our Lord  
Be peaceful and happy, a fitting reward.  
"God Save Our Queen".

1st Prize—Judith Mowl, age 10, Junior Girls' School,  
Bassett Street, South Wigston.

London is set in a fairy scene,  
To welcome Elizabeth, England's Queen,  
With flowers and flags and everything gay,  
To make her happy on this great day.

From the palace gates in splendour she rides,  
With cheering voices on either side.  
We pray that fortune will be her friend,  
And loyalty will never end.

No fairer Queen could e're be seen,  
Satin arrayed with emeralds green,  
Rubies and pearls beyond all price,  
To rule this England's paradise.

2nd Prize—Pamela Ward, 11 years, Junior Girls'  
School, Bassett Street, South Wigston.

## THE CORONATION—

This year is the coronation of our beautiful Queen, Elizabeth II. She has had many sorrows including the occasion when she was brought back to England by the tragic news that her father, King George VI, was dead. The passing of her grandmother, Queen Mary, wife of King George V, has also been a sad bereavement.

Our gracious Queen will give up her life to serve her people and we must try and help her with her problems. At the Coronation she will humbly promise to obey the laws and to rule well. Every word she speaks will have its meaning.

The ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, which was built by Edward the Confessor in the eleventh century. Before the Abbey was built the monarchs were crowned at Winchester. The Abbey is a symbol of the majesty and dignity of England.

The ceremony is nearly the same as that which the Kings and Queens of England have had for hundreds of years past. Firstly the Dean of Westminster will head his own procession into Westminster Abbey. This procession will carry the crown jewels and coronation robes. As soon as the Dean arrives the Queen arrives too. Before the crowning the Archbishop of Canterbury presents the Queen to the people, and then puts the Bible on the Altar. After that Queen Elizabeth makes a solemn oath to obey the law and rule well. Continuing the ceremony the Archbishop is handed the Eagle in which the Holy Oil is contained. Dipping a silver spoon with a pearl handle into the oil, he will make the sign of the cross on our Queen's head. Then the Archbishop lifts the State crown from a crimson cushion and places it on the Queen's head. As soon as the crown has been placed on the Queen's head the Lords and Ladies place their coronets upon their heads. After this is done the Archbishop will place the orb in the Queen's right hand and the sceptre of the dove in the left hand. When the ceremony is over the Queen retires to St. Edward's Chapel, where she takes off her robes, and after that she drives back to Buckingham Palace.

When the Queen is crowned she will hold many titles including Queen of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Queen of the British Dominions, and she will also hold many other naval, army, and air force titles.

On Coronation Day the Royal Banner and Coat of Arms will be flown in nearly every city square or village green. Usually the banner is not to be flown unless the King or Queen is present, but on Coronation Day there will be no prosecutions for the breaking of this law.

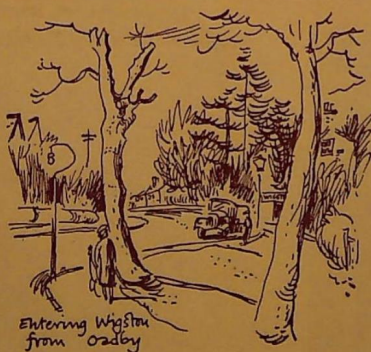
The Coronation will stimulate trade in the British Isles because so many foreign visitors will be coming over to England to see Queen Elizabeth crowned. These people will come from all parts of the world.

The Coronation of our Queen will be a very popular event. Her marriage with Prince Philip of Greece was a very happy one and she and her husband have shown that they are aware of the task which lies ahead of them.

So may all her people come to love and honour the Queen and her family and by their love give her added strength in the days that are to come.

ALAN LOVELL,  
Age 10 years.

Junior Boys' School,  
Bassett Street,  
South Wigston.



Entering Wigston  
from Oadby



# *The Civic* **CORONATION BALL**

AT GLEN PARVA BARRACKS

*By kind permission of the Officer Commanding*

FRIDAY, 5th, JUNE 1953

9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Admission by ticket only **7/6** including Buffet

TICKETS WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED AND CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY FROM

Mrs. P. WRAY,  
13 BLABY ROAD,  
SOUTH WIGSTON.

W. B. ROBERTS & SON,  
43 BELL STREET,  
WIGSTON MAGNA.

## **Ox Roasting**

We are able, thanks to the generosity of one of our local worthies, to revive the very ancient ceremony of ox-roasting at our Coronation Celebrations. This will take place on the "Great Day" at the site of the main advents and we are sure, will be one of the chief attractions and well worth the time taken to visit the scene. The idea comes down from the middle ages and perhaps is linked with very much earlier ceremonies of pagan sacrifices. In the middle ages when great feasts were held in the baronial halls, oxen, sheep and boar were roasted both inside and outside the castles to celebrate the great events of those days. The beast that we are roasting to celebrate the Coronation has been fattened on good Wigston pastures, as we believe has many a previous ox which has roasted over a spit on the greens of this ancient village.





## A quick glance backward . . .

The Who-invaded-where-when-and-why—1066-and-all-that, sort of History, official stuff as per the school curriculum, can be a very interesting subject.

Interesting, that is, for some—but not for others.

During the History session then, these others were given to a bit of by-play with elastic bands and ink pellets and such like diverting pastimes—not of educational value but interesting . . .

All right then, that's a start, now, the history that follows here is mostly in living memory, indeed it's composed of reminiscences by the older folk, the Evergreen Club's section of the community. Firstly though, a word or two on one gentleman named George Davenport. A little book published in 1797 announces on the title page that it is the "Life, Anecdotes, etc., of Geo. Davenport, *"whose father . . . originally a farmer . . . fold ale in Great Wigftone . . ."*

Now George was a likely lad at school, he is described as a *"ready lad"*, little follies and errors like the rest of us of course, but nothing to point to the general mayhem he was to create in later life. He was placed as an apprentice to a framework knitter but that didn't last long, from there on it was to be the merry-hell-for-leather-life with all the stops out for Geo. *"he affociated with young men of immoral and libertine habits, with whom he soon became if not the chief of drunkards, almost the chief of wrefilers, bowlers, jumpers and the like"* as the book puts it. He was pretty hot stuff though, he could leap a five-barred gate with ease, run and dodge his pursuers in almost any circumstances. Just for fun he walked round the battlements on the Church (the book doesn't mention which church—as if it mattered anyway!), on another occasion he performed a dance on top of the chimney of the Crown public house, he called the dance *"Aftley's hornpipe"*. The Leicestershire Militia had the pleasure of his company during the American war, this after he had been suspected of cock stealing, robbing fisheries and—I like this bit—*"fnareing hares"*! Small stuff this to what was to follow, just about every crime in the calendar was attempted—and accomplished—by George. Highway robbery and general incivility in various novel ways was the line he took—stopping short at murder.

Once, sentenced to 600 lashes for deserting the 40th Foot Regiment, he had received 300 of them when the Adjutant threw in the towel, shouted—*"Stop, it is in vain to punifh him any more—he has no feeling!"*—a hard case! At that time, a bounty or advance money was paid to recruits, George was on to that, in 7 years he volunteered for 12 recruiting parties and promptly deserted, bilking some of the advance money and the rest of the full bounty!

From there George lives on for another 40 pages of close type, listing his sins and at the latter end his sorrows in a life terminated by being hung from a tree and buried in Wigston churchyard. The letter he wrote to his wife and the speech to the onlookers at his hanging are beautiful in



Most Street, Wigston.  
A picture of Most St without the old  
Cedar tree, destroyed recently by a gale  
could be like a portrait with the front teeth missing.



the choice of words and sentiment, difficult it is to link them with the picture of George, built up by this book. One last thing he did do, he made it very clear that he didn't like the chap who was officiating at his hanging!

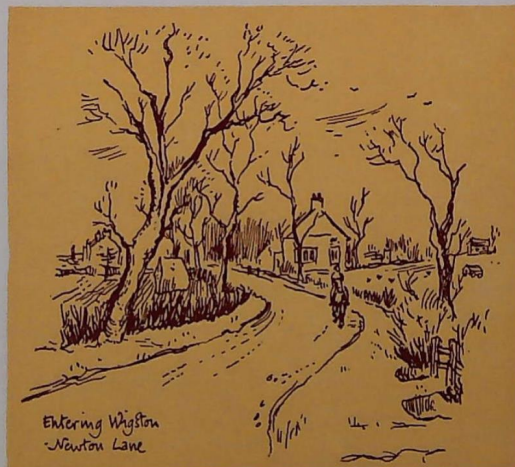
Truly in living memory are the characters and stories mentioned below, and one of the happenings which seemed to create memories was the coming of transport to Wigston. There was old Urham (is that the correct spelling?) Wright, the carrier, and Tommy Hodgkin the underblowing a hunting horn to announce the departure of his wagon for Leicester. Those were the days when the four corners of Wigston Cross-roads were used by the children to play 'Rounders'. Someone would yell "Here comes the carrier" to be answered "Come on, time full out for a few hundred yards, with the kids dropping behind and crowding the back of the wagon—a back flip with the whip was sufficient to disperse the crush back there!

Mechanisation came when Mr. Poyner started an up to the minute motor service from Wigston to "David's Hollow" (the bottom of the hill near Knighton Kinema). A Ford open tourer was the pioneer bus, it carried 5 persons except when Leicester Fosse were at home, then 4 more stood on the running boards! It was mostly fields those days between the top houses on Leicester Road and Leicester, the old house on Knighton Cross Roads corner was the next house from the top of Grange Hill. Many an old Wigston toff has carried their money in their mouths when they passed the Washbrook—it wasn't a nice place to be and most took to their heels and raced over that stretch.

Hand loom 'shops' were all over Wigston of course, and many's the story about them, but one of the tastiest of recollections seems not so much the factory as "the smell from 'Tallow' Billy White's when we were by the Bank at 6 on a Saturday morning. Going to work, the early morning air would be scented by 'Tallow Billy' manufacturing his tallow candles in the sheds behind his grocery shop".

Talking of tasty recollections, how many remember the days when the Sunday dinners' Yorkshire pudding was put in a big tray—in its batter state, of course—the meat stood on a trivet in the middle, then the lot would be carted to one of the bakehouses, Mr. Ross's in Moat Street or Mr. Garrett's on the Victoria Street-Leicester Road corner. Here a ticket would be torn in half one half attached to the pudding tin, the other half stowed in the pocket of "the eldest", and the Sunday dinner was popped into the big oven to cook in company with others. Mr. Garratt was once given a pudding with 4 cods' heads on the top . . . I wonder why . . . ? At Wakes Week it was not uncommon for families to cart a side of beef—a whole one side of a beast!—along to the bakehouse. If a trip to the bakers wasn't desired, then go along to Messrs. Shipp's for 3d. of coal ( $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt.) and a barrow would be loaned to bring it away! Many is the Shipp's barrow that was returned later—much later—after it had done its duty "up the allotment!" Just before we snatch a little look at South Wigston's past, one member of the community must be mentioned, a character well known for his harmonica playing, and the tales of Mr. 'Pickler' Bush would fill a book, but to the writer and many other people, a memory of the inter-war years is 'Pickler' walking in an Infirmary Carnival Parade dressed as Gandhi! He wore a loin cloth, cocoa all over his skin, bare footed and without his teeth, leading a goat he made a perfect picture. I believe he also carried a baby's bottle—but bare foot all around Wigston . . . !

Back in the 1870s the only houses in South Wigston were clustered around the two stations—that was when Wigston Magna Station was a level crossing, the Spion Kop was built from stuff



Entering Wigston  
Newton Lane



dug out of the fields between the railway and canal, the hole left filled with water is now Navy Pit. South boasted 3 roads—one to Blaby, Countesthorpe and Leicester. Mr. Orson Wright ended all that, imported granite setts from Croft and made roads and commenced to build where Bray's shop is now in Countesthorpe Road. Blaby Road was built in growing wheat which had to be scythed down to make way. Orson, an enterprising character, had a stone masons' yard next to the railway, where Huddleston's Garage is now, a blacksmiths and wheelwright, his joinery works was in Canal Street, right next to the Church of Christ. There should be a moral or something there, the carpentry shop which supplied all the joinery for the Wigston houses, next to the Church dedicated to the worship of the carpenter of Nazareth.

The Grand Hotel was the first licenced premises and following on with the factories—first one was Ben Toones, boot and shoe—came the Clarence, Gambles, Dunmores, and the Foundry (now Premier Drum Works). Many of these early factories were periodic sufferers from outbreaks of fire and after Dunmores was gutted, a voluntary brigade was formed. Now the engine was kept in Station Street and the horse 'on call' in the field next to the coal wharf. Mr. John Whitehead (Harry's father) does say it was quite a time they had trying to catch the horse in the middle of a dark night, the fire got a pretty fair start!

So we could go on, and on, remembering days past and the people who make those days memorable. People such as one finds each week at the Evergreen Clubs of South Wigston and Wigston Magna. At their weekly meetings, there are entertainments, items of interest, a nice cosy chat and—oh, of course, the cup that cheers. May the clubs go from strength to strength then, and our sincere best wishes to the members.

Should Auld acquaintance . . .

## Wigston's Room of Remembrance

The room is situated in the grounds of "The Elms", Bushloe End, headquarters of the British Legion. This building was purchased in the year 1945.

A committee was formed to discuss what could be done to remember those who had given their lives in the 1914 to 1918 and 1939 to 1945 Wars. The first suggestion was to have a Quiet Room in the building, but eventually it was decided to convert an old coach house into what is today our Room of Remembrance. This is unique, as far as is known it is the only one of its kind in the country. The Room was dedicated on Sunday, June 13th, 1948, by the Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Leicester, Dr. G. V. Smith, M.C., D.D. The Altar furniture was made, in oak, by one of our own members, and on the table is a book which contains the names of 323 men who sacrificed their lives in the two wars. The book is of Vellum Parchment, and was made and written at the Leicester College of Arts, under the supervision of H. Collinson, Esq., A.R.C.A. Above the book and suspended from the ceiling, hangs a perpetual light. The room is opened every morning at 10 o'clock, and nightly at 9 o'clock, when a Legionaire turns a page of the book and recites the Exhortation, whoever wishes to go and pay homage, whether they belong to the Legion or not, are most welcome to do so.

There is also a visitors' book which contains the names of people from Rhodesia, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, America, and other distant countries, and yet many people in the Wigstons have not paid a visit to this sacred and dignified place. We believe that relations and friends of the fallen greatly appreciate our Room of Remembrance, as beautiful flowers are placed regularly all the year round on the Altar. We of the Legion consider it our sacred duty to remember, and remember them we will.

*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,  
We will remember them".*





## Sport Scene

Within the area of the Urban District Council there are excellent facilities for playing most of our major sports, and these are well patronised during their appropriate seasons.

Education in sport starts in junior schools, where cricket, football and netball are played, and some very fine results have been obtained by the scholars during these post-war years. The Church of England school at Wigston Magna, under the excellent instruction of the staff, have in 1949/50 been joint winners of the Rice Bowl and champions of the Mid-Leicestershire League, Division 'A'. and again League Champions, 1949/50, winners of the Rice Bowl and league Champions in 1951/52, and the 2nd XI Reserve League Champions. In Athletics the boys won the Mid-Leicestershire Sports in 1947, 1950 and 1951, but the girls have decided that this must stop and last year they won the Championship for 1952 (Girls Shield). During these years the records show that the following County Championships were won by the same school in 1950: Boys 80 yards, Howard Riley; Girls' Long Jump, Jean Bryan; in 1951: Boys' 80 yards, Clifford Buckby; and in 1952: Girls' 120 yards was won by Jillian Wilson, who was awarded the cup for the most outstanding performance at the County Sports in the primary schools section.

At the South Wigston Junior Boys' School football is keenly contested, and in three seasons running, boys have been chosen to play for the Mid-Leicestershire Team: in 1950/51, M. Hanney; 1951/52, J. Kenny; and in 1952/53, K. Rowe. In the summer season an excellent turnout is obtained for cricket.

At our South Wigston Secondary Modern School a splendid standard is maintained and boys have been capped for the England XV. Since 1947 the school has never fielded fewer than four representatives in each season for the county. In 1953 the school's 'A' team won the Leicestershire Schools Seven Aside Tournament. In athletics some fine achievements are noted, particularly of P. Hollis, who in 1951, won the All-England 440 yards in the record time of 54 secs. The girls of this school also have a very good record, in 1949 and 1952 they won the Leicestershire and Rutland Netball Tournament, and in 1950, 1952 and 1953, the netball team was selected to represent the Leicester Modern Schools in the Midland Territorial Tournaments at Leicester, Nottingham and Skegness respectively. Rounders and Tennis are also enthusiastically played and the school is fortunate in having its own hard tennis courts. In Athletics, the Girls in 1950, 1951 and 1952 won the area Shield at the Mid-Leicestershire sports, and the first National Medal in the school's history was awarded to Irene Granger in the Long Jump at Bradford in 1952.

At the Wigston Magna Modern School the same high standards are maintained. In 1950, K. Brett captained both the Leicester and County schools' cricket teams. In 1952 the 1st XI Cricket Team won the Dr. Brigg's Cricket Cup, and in Soccer last season the second year team were unbeaten throughout.

In adult sports we have two Cricket Teams with some very keen welders of bat and ball, who are looking forward in this Coronation Year to a very successful season, and we wish them the best of luck. The Ancient game of Bowls has a big following, at Blaby Road Park, South Wigston, and at the Memorial Park at Wigston Magna, by both ladies and gentlemen, and a most pleasant evening's enjoyment may be had watching these enthusiasts, and we are told new players are always welcome. If one wants thrills and spills an excellent hour or two may be spent watching and cheering on our speedway boys. They are full of enthusiasm, and all are welcome at the South Wigston Track. In 1952 the South League Championship was won by these "Wigston Wasps".





*You must see the only performance of*

**The  
PAGEANT OF WIGSTON**

Circa 500-1899 A.D.

*1400 years of the History of Wigston*

**AT "ABINGTON" ON CORONATION DAY**

Commencing at 7-30 p.m.

A limited number of seats will be available at 2/6 each, and may be booked at Mrs. Wray's, 13 Blaby Road, South Wigston.

Programmes giving the Story of the Pageant with full details of scenes, characters, etc. will be on sale.

**THE LEICESTER LIGHT OPERATIC PLAYERS**

in conjunction with

**THE WIGSTON CORONATION COMMITTEE**

present

**MERRIE ENGLAND**

*by Edward German*

**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd. 4th. & 6th.**

Commencing at 7-30 p.m.

**AT ST. THOMAS' CHURCHROOM, SOUTH WIGSTON**

Seats can be booked at Smith's,  
3 Countesthorpe Road, South Wigston  
Wed. and Thurs.—Res. 2/6, Unres. 2/-  
Saturday — Res. 3/-, Unres. 2/6

In view of the limited seating  
you are advised to book early.  
Programmes giving full cast  
and details will be on sale.



# Coronation Week Events

## Sunday

- 3.30 p.m. Religious Service in the grounds of Bushloe House.  
(If wet, at Magna Cinema).
- 7.45 p.m. Band Concert in the grounds of Bushloe House by Wigston Temperance Silver Prize Band.

## Monday

- 7 p.m. Tennis Tournament (preliminary rounds).  
Cricket Knock-out Competition—semi-final (Aylestone Lane Park).

## Tuesday

See programme overleaf.

## Wednesday

- 3.30 p.m. Entertainment of school children to tea at various schools, followed by sports at South Wigston Modern School Playing Fields.  
Tennis Tournament (preliminary rounds).
- 7 p.m. Massed Start Cycle Race, organised by Magna Wheelers Cycling Club. Start at Bushloe House. (Route: Station Road, Canal Street, Countesthorpe Road, Foston Lane to Kilby Bridge, Welford Road to Wigston) 5 laps to finish at Bushloe House.
- 7.30 p.m. "Merrie England" at St. Thomas' Church Hall.

## Thursday

- Entertainment of elderly people of South Wigston:
- 2 p.m. Film Show—Ritz Cinema.
- 5 p.m. Tea Party at South Wigston Modern School.  
Tennis Tournament (preliminary rounds).  
Road Walk (organised by South Wigston W.M.C.).
- 7 p.m. Cricket Knock-out Competition—final (Aylestone Lane Park).
- 7.30 p.m. "Merrie England" at St. Thomas' Church Hall.

## Friday

- 5 p.m. Entertainment of elderly people of Wigston Magna to tea at Long Street Modern School, followed by a concert.
- 7 p.m. Tennis Tournament—semi-final.
- 9 p.m. Coronation Ball at the Gymnasium, Glen Parva Barracks.

## Saturday

- 2 p.m. Sports Meeting at South Wigston Modern School Playing Fields, organised by South Wigston Athletic Club.
- 2.30 p.m. Tennis Tournament—final.
- 3 p.m. Cycle Speedway Race Meeting at Spion Kop, Wigston, organised by Wigston Wasps Cycle Speedway Club.
- 6.30 p.m. Grand Amateur Boxing Tournament under A.B.A. Rules.
- 7.30 p.m. "Merrie England": St. Thomas' Church Hall

Further particulars of all events may be obtained from:—  
W. H. Gunning, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Wigston  
Coronation Committee, Bushloe House, Wigston.





# Programme of Cor

Chairman of Coronation Committee

The day opens with Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches Holy Communion and Mass. PEALS OF BELLS rung at the churches of All Saints' and St. Thomas'.

9 a.m.  
Glen Parva  
Barracks  
9-30 a.m.  
Processional  
Route

CORONATION PROCESSION AND CARNIVAL will assemble at Glen Parva Barracks, by kind permission of the Officer Commanding. The VEHICLE PROCESSION comprises 3 groups—Historical, Humorous, Commercial. Entrance forms obtainable at the Council Offices and must be returned not later than Friday, May 29th. Leaving the barracks the procession will take the following route—Saffron Road, Blaby Road, Pullman Road, West Avenue, Holmden Avenue, Aylestone Lane, Bell Street, Bull Head Street, Moat Street, Bushloe End.

9-45 a.m.  
Bushloe House

WALKERS' PROCESSION, comprising 3 groups—Historical, Humorous, Original—for adults and children (single, pairs or groups). Entries taken on day. Assemble at Bushloe House and headed by the Wigston Temperance Silver Prize Band, the Carnival Parade will lead the procession to "Abington", Station Road, arriving in time for the commencement of the

"Abington"

OX ROASTING. The Chairman of the Council will light the fire and from here on its

11 a.m.  
Sideshows

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR, with plenty of fun at the Nursery Playground with Roundabouts, etc., for the young, Long Alley Skittles for a Pig and a Barrel of Beer. Table Skittles with Ladies' and Gents' prizes. Spinning Jenny. Treasure Hunt with £1 reward. Darts with Nylons for the Ladies, a case of Beer for the Men and various other prizes. Devil-among-the-Tailors and a prize for the highest scores. Revolving Darts gives a prize every time. Roll-a-Penny Table. Coconut Shies. Hoop-La, Racing, etc. Be sure and visit this Wonderland of Fun.

WIGSTON TEMPERANCE SILVER PRIZE BAND will play selections during the day.

11-15 a.m.  
Presentation  
Comic Football

Presentation of Prizes to winners of Fancy Dress and Decorated Vehicles and COMIC FOOTBALL MATCH will be played by the South Wigston Old Boys' R.F.C.

12 noon  
to  
12-45 p.m.

As a prelude to the relaying of the ceremony of the Crowning of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the side-shows will close and a short service of dedication will be held. RELAY FROM THE ABBEY CHURCH, WESTMINSTER, OF THE CROWNING OF OUR MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN LADY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II, by the Grace of God Queen of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

1 p.m.  
Funfair  
and  
Sports

FUNFAIR RE-OPENS. Impromptu sports for adults, and a tried and trusted favourite PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW by "Robbo".

2-30 p.m.  
Baby Show

MAMMOTH BABY SHOW. Entries taken on day. Group (1)—up to 6 months; (2) 6-12 months; (3) 12-18 months. Special section for twins and numerous prizes will be awarded.

3 p.m.  
Community  
Singing

COMMUNITY SINGING for young and old led by the Wigston Temperance Silver Prize Band, directed by Mr. E. C. Moore, with Youth Organisations, and it is hoped that children of all ages will gather round the bandstand and join in song.





# ion Day Activities

ATT, Vice-Chairman W. MATTS

ANKLE COMPETITION for all Ladies over 15 years of age, will be followed by a KNOBBLY KNEE COMPETITION for men over 15 years of age. Suitable prizes will be presented and there is a special competition for the MOST ATTRACTIVE LADIES' HAIR and the SMARTEST GENTLEMAN'S HAIR.

Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Joyce, presents a display of FOLK DANCING, followed by SQUARE DANCING for everyone, and a Concert by The Wigston Temperance Silver Prize Band, specially selected to suit your taste.

DISPLAY OF "JUDO" by members of the Leicestershire and Rutland County Constabulary.

SERVING OF ROASTED OX. Mr. Frank Freer, who donated the Ox, will carve the first slice, after which slices will be available to the public.

THE PAGEANT OF WIGSTON, devised and written by William Hall and Audrey Walpole, will give incidents in the 1400 years' history of Wigston. Wigston has a very interesting and ancient history and up to about 1540 comprised only of timbered dwellings clustered about the two churches and a moated house built of rubble masonry, situated at the bottom of Newgate End. The Pageant has been devised and written after much research through old records, and brings to life scenes that were enacted in the village from 500 A.D. to 1899. There are six episodes, chosen as interesting features in Wigston's history, and being the most populous village on the boundaries of Leicester, in those early days contributed much to its prosperity. Full details of these interesting episodes will be given in a separate programme. A limited number of seats at 2/6 may be booked at Mrs. Wray's, 13 Blaby Road, South Wigston.

Relay of the Broadcast Speech of HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

All invited, young and old, to take part in OPEN AIR DANCING with Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Joyce. If the weather should be wet dancing will take place at the South Wigston Modern Schools, Blaby Lane, South Wigston, from 8 p.m. to midnight, admission free.

GRAND FIREWORK DISPLAY.

MIDNIGHT—NATIONAL ANTHEM.

In addition to this programme of events arranged at "Abington" for Coronation Day, the Magna Cinema (by the generosity of Messrs. Cockroft Brothers) will be open to the general public throughout the televising of the Coronation Procession through London and the Service from Westminster Abbey on a special screen.

3-30 p.m.  
Competitions

4 p.m.  
Folk Dancing  
Square  
Dancing

6 p.m. Judo

7 p.m.  
The Roasted  
Ox

7-30 p.m.  
Pageant  
of Wigston

10 p.m.  
to  
Midnight  
Dancing

10-30 p.m.  
Fireworks

In addition  
Television

In addition to the programme of events listed above there is also a full week of entertainment starting on May 31st and ending with a Grand Sports Day on June 6th. Full details of these events are listed on the previous page.





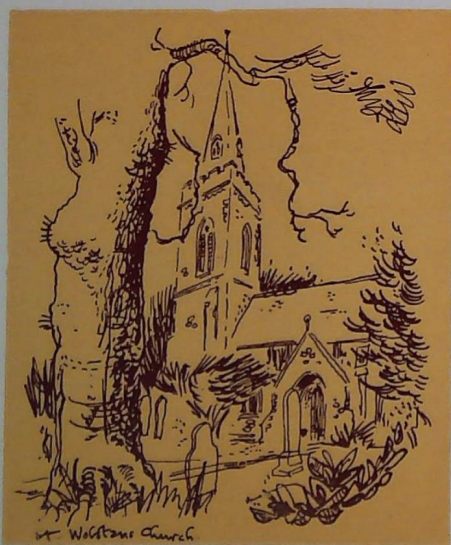
# Wigston—with—Two Steeples

WIGGESTON - WICHINGESTON - WYKINGESTON - WYGINSTON - WYGSTON MAGNA

**W**IGSTON MAGNA has stood for 1400 years. Historians believe that there were formerly two towns held by two brothers Wigge and Wiking, who built the churches on the two hills of the district. Wigston lay in the great estate of Glenne, residence of the Kings of Mercia and mentioned in an Anglo Saxon Charta dated "act Glenne" 849. Wistan, son of Beorhtwulf, slain at Wistan (now called Wistow) was made a saint and the church now known as St. Wolstan's was thought to have been originally dedicated to St. Wistan, known later as St. Wustan's and St. Wulstan's. Wigston is unique in having two medieval churches with needle-like spires rising from the inside of the tower. All Saints' Church is an excellent example of a decorated church of the early 14th century. An early report states that only prompt action saved St. Wolstan's from complete demolition for in 1632 "proceedings were taken against Waldron and Fox, churchwardens, for allowing the demolition of part of St. Wulstan's and selling the lead and other materials. It was a church of fair size, having a fair tall steeple and two iles, one ile was completely demolished and various furnishings taken and destroyed. Services had not been held for a considerable time but one witness of 84 stated she remembered going to the church as a small girl and taking part in services held by torch-light and burials had taken place there at the time of the plague". The east end of St. Wolstan's was used as the first free school house in Wigston, an account stating that Thomas Siddons, schoolmaster, be paid for instructing 16 children to read and write free of charge, the rest of the buildings being used as a mortar-house, barn and stable. Both churches were noted in Domesday Book and in 1140 King Stephen confirmed grants to the churches at Wiggeston and Wichingston.

The oldest stone built house in Wigston seems to have been a moated house to the South of All Saints' church by the stream (Newgate End) built of rubble-masonry, and in 1630 was the residence of the Davenport's who gave much to All Saints' church and some of whom are buried there. Some of the finest Anglo-Saxon relics have been found at Great Wigston and Glen Parva and in 1795 burial urns and rare ornaments were found at Kirkdale Close (now Kirkdale Road, South Wigston).

An act of 1764 was passed for enclosing the open and common fields in Great Wigston of 3,000 acres and called under the general name of Great Wigston Fields. George Duke of St. Albans was described as the impropietor. This indirectly caused an outbreak of ague, for at an enquiry in 1771 two causes were held responsible (1) the open channels taking water to the houses were not kept sufficiently free from rubbish, thereby causing pollution; (2) the stiles between Wigston and Leicester were too numerous and difficult to negotiate, forcing people who carried their burdens to Leicester to use the turnpike, which was deep in mud and water, giving them wet feet and contributing to the ague. In 1280 a grant was made from Wigston's Hospital to build a wide stone bridge, now known as Kilby Bridge, which opened up the coach road to London and used by Edward I when he visited Leicester. The Blue Bell, an old coaching Inn stood on the site of Shipp's shop in Bell Street in 1846. "Manor Courts" were held to dispense justice and punishment before law courts, and the last held in Wigston in 1838 at the Bull Inn (probably





the one now called the Bull's Head). On the 14th June, 1645, Oliver Cromwell slept at Great Wigston on his way from the Battle of Naseby to free Leicester from the Royalist troops, and about this time, in 1630, a Gaol-close was erected at Wigston and used to accommodate prisoners used to re-vittled soldiers camped nearby. George Fox, founder of the Quakers, visited Wigston in 1678, and probably stayed at the Old House in Bull Head Street, which at that time was the only house not owned by the Squire, it being owned by a local Quaker and was the cause of much controversy.

A tombstone in All Saints' churchyard states that "here lies buried Goodith Brewin, who died 21st January, 1718, aged 152 years", which if true, is a remarkable achievement indeed. Also buried there is the local highwayman, George Davenport, who was hanged in 1797. Wigston was always a populous area and in 1416 to enable Henry V to carry on his war with France a levy of £8. 8s. was paid out of a total of £757 for the whole of Leicestershire. The population figures are interesting—1327, 60 families; 1524, 70 families; 1564, 80 families; by 1801 Wigston was established as an industrial town, with 336 inhabited houses and a population of 1,658, of which 113 were employed in agriculture and 1,020 in trade and manufacture. Today's population is 15,470 and many descendants of original families still live here. Oldest recorded names are Henry Eyrig (Herrick's) 1247; Henry Coc (Cooke's) 1247 (of Cooke's Lane); William-de-Kylby 1339; Richard Swan, William Balle (Ballesdyke—derivated to Bulldyke, top of Bell Street), Agnes Swan, John-de-Evynton, Robert de Thorpe, Isabel Eyrick Thomas Kooce (Cox) and in 1567 came the Boulters, Moulds, Coltmans, Dannels, Crosans, and many others whose names still live on.

Brigandage seems to have been commonplace for in 1350 John de Grey of Codnor complained that Robert and William Faukus, John Richard and Henry Swan and William Dickson, did carry away his goods at Evington, assaulted his men and servants at Wigston and imprisoned them at Leicester. A complaint also from Thomas Fox of Evington that Robert Faukus and the others did assault him at Wigston and imprisoned him at Leicester till he paid them £40 for his release.

Wigston was a ring fence village bounded on the four sides by paths now known as Moat Street, Long Street, Bell Street and Bull Head Street. It comprised only of three great fields, Muckloe Field, 938 acres extending out to Oadby; Thythornhill Field, 946 acres extending out to Newton Harcourt; Goldhill Field 1,279 acres extending to Crow Mills at South Wigston.

Some interesting place names are the Wattrie, which lays behind Two Steeples factory, Swettynges Croft—house of Swetynges, old 13th century family; Spoustewell Stret—first recorded street of Wigston ran round by the Bank and meant the spouting spring; Kylebygate path to Kilby, now Welford Road; Glen Gate, now Bull Head Street; Balldike, the Bank; The Butts; Anchor Close; The Green was situated at the top of Bell Street and where the Post Office now stands; Port Gate.

Many charities, too numerous to enumerate, were bestowed on Wigston. amongst them Samuel Ringrose in 1880 assigned for 1000 years a close of land called Muckloe Field; Poor's Land, an enclose known as Tythorn Hill Field, Newtown Lane; Sarah Norton bequeathed £230 for two old dames of the village to instruct 12 poor girls to read the Bible; Mrs. Clarke founded the hospital for poor men and women at Wigston (now the Alms houses in Long Street) with a grant for coal and a small weekly sum of money, provided they were indoors by 9 p.m. each night.





One of the most interesting accounts ever written is on Medieval Murder and Death at Wigston. "between 1299-1390 Wigston was involved in 8 cases of violent death. Simon of Wyggeston slain by Adam Erick (1299) they being tenants of the manor, influence was used at court and a pardon granted.

1302 John Swan murdered John Symond, he fled the town and joined the Scottish campaign and for his valour on the field was pardoned.

1339 Richard Astell charged with slaying William de Kylby of Wigston in the neighbouring village of Newton Harcourt, pardoned.

1343 Alice daughter of Roger de Walton, charged with the death of Adam Godemyn of Wykyngeston, pardoned, being tenants of the manor and for her loyalty in following the King to foreign parts campaigning. What curious intrigue lay behind this social life of Wigston we shall never know.

1352 John Swan of Wigston for the death of Richard de Horselegh, he fled the town and joined the Black Prince and for valour, the Black Prince obtained for him a pardon.

1352 John Amy killed Roger Noreys and was pardoned.

1390 Adam de Sutton of Wigston murdered by Richard Baker, clerk of Wigston Harcourt (Wigston Harcourt being the area of All Saints and Bushloe End, called Bysserowstreete). This is presumed to have happened outside the old cottages in Bushloe End, the dispute having started at the Inn standing at the corner of Hawthorne Lane.

1394 John Haldenby died after being hit on the shin by Thomas Draper whilst partaking in a game of "throwing-the-stave" at a block of wood (no doubt the forerunner of pitch and toss).

John atte Hall whilst riding a mare at Bulslove (Bushloe End) on the road to Blaby was thrown striking his head on a boulder and was killed.

In 1872 a site was chosen at Glen Parva, "being a most salubrious and prolific rural parish, open to the four winds and providing a health resort for soldiers just returned from service in foreign parts, and with 3 convenient railway stations, as the ideal site for the Barracks." In May, 1880, the Barracks was occupied by Brigade under the command of Major H. B. Haywood and comprised 1/17th Regt., 2/17th Regt. and 45th Regt. (Sherwood Foresters). The Regiment was raised in 1688 by order of King James, who added 12 new regiments to the army in that year and of these only the 16th and 17th of foot remain in existence. First Colonel was Solomon Richards and in 1689 Colonel Sir George St. George was in command.

Very little history is attached to South Wigston, it being a modern part of the village and built within the past 100 years, mostly by Orson Wright. It is curious to note that the initial letter of the streets to the South of Blaby Road spell his name. The site for the church of St. Thomas was given by him and another great benefactor to the church was Thomas Ingram who had the vicarage built and gave the organ, the tower and peal of 8 bells. It is worthy of note that the world record peal was made on these bells, for in December, 1904, in the space of 10 hours 35 minutes, a great peal of 17,104 Double Norwich Court Bob Majors was made without a rest. It was brought round true to the satisfaction of all who witnessed it.

#### AN APOLOGY

*It is regretted that the Vice-Chairman of the Coronation Committee was mistakenly inserted under Councillor Mrs. Thornton's signature. It should read Vice-Chairman of the Council, 1952-53.*





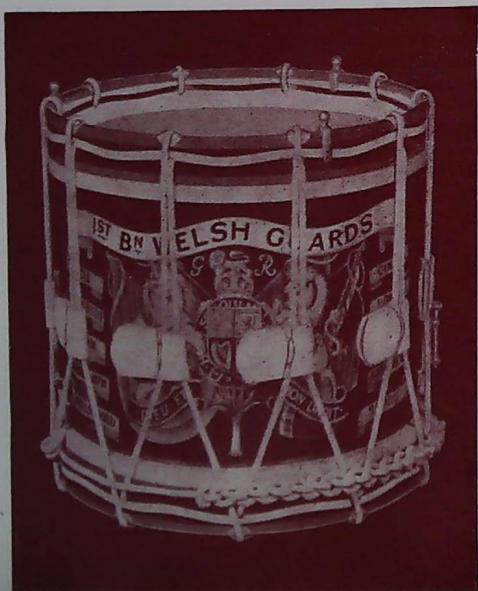
A great deal will be written and said of the pomp and pageantry of the Coronation Procession in London. No small amount of praise and description will be lavished upon the superb instruments used by the bands.

The shining bugles, drums and cymbals, and especially the solid silver trumpets used at the Coronation ceremony will be heard on wireless and T.V. sets throughout the world. Millions of people will thrill to each stirring note of the fanfares and military music echoes its proud and glorious music over the ether.

We of Wigston can feel that extra pride in the knowledge that the fanfare trumpets and many of the drums and bugles used are designed and manufactured by:

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indeed most of the instruments were made by a group of work-people—Wigston men and women with a sprinkling of Londoners—of



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We are sorry this firm lost their London factory during the war, but we are happy to welcome the additional prosperity and tradition they bring to our town.

**THE PREMIER DRUM CO. LTD., SOUTH WIGSTON AND LONDON**



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**VICTORIA**  
*to*  
**ELIZABETH**

W. DUNMORE & SON LTD.

*have*  
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MAKERS OF FINE BISCUITS  
*at South Wigston*

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OFFICIALLY Registered in the year 1867, the Wigston Co-operative Society commenced business. Long before this date, born out of adversity, a small group of Wigston men conceived the idea of Co-operation. They first met in Brick Kiln Close, off the Welford Road, the meeting numbered twenty. Ways and means were discussed on how to raise capital for this great ideal, which was to improve their standard of living and encourage thrift.

Coppers were collected weekly, until each one had a pound share, with £20 capital, faith and determination their ideals were put into practice. A small shop on Leicester Road, was rented, stocked chiefly with main food commodities such as Sugar, Flour, Lard, etc., and staffed by Committee men in their spare time during evenings. So successful was this Co-operative venture, stocks were sold out in the first three evenings, but were speedily replaced, this was the beginning of what is now the biggest retail trading organisation in the Wigston area.

As the business expanded full-time staff were engaged, also the time had come to look around for larger premises to cope with the ever-increasing needs of the people. The next development came in 1873 by the building of a Shop and Bakery in Bell Street, at this stage the business on Leicester Road was transferred to Bell Street, twenty years later the Long Street Butchery Shop was built with offices and Committee Room on the second floor, a few years later the Moat Street Branch was opened.

One of the largest ventures came in 1896 by the purchase of "Fulwell Farm" and afterwards developed into Central Avenue, the road was made and ten houses were built on each side for the Society as an investment, the remaining land being sold to members for their own housing needs.

1910 further extensions were made with the building of Long Street Central Avenue Central premises, this project was the greatest of all capital commitments to date, and was only allowed to go forward after a Special Members' Meeting, and a hard fight won by the progressive Committeeman of that day.

Rectory Farm was purchased in 1919 and the retail milk business extended. In 1939 the first model dairy was built and pasteurised milk supplied to members.

At different periods and to meet the needs of members new departments were added, such as Coal, Boot Repairs, Hairdressing, etc.

To-day, 1953, most phases in the retail trade have been covered by the Society, and the trade of £20 weekly in 1867 has reached the figure of approximately £500,000 yearly, which reflects great credit to the old pioneers.

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**WIGSTON MAGNA**

Founded 1880



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men and women : sold and  
famous on both sides of  
the Atlantic



**ORSON WRIGHT**

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CANAL STREET

SOUTH WIGSTON

L E I C E S T E R





GATEWAY TO RUTLAND HALL, LOUGH-  
BOROUGH COLLEGE, IN RECONSTRUCTED  
CLIPSHAM STONE

Architect - CAPT. E. G. FOWLER, F.R.I.B.A.  
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MOAT STREET  
WIGSTON MAGNA**



# Acknowledgements

Congratulations to the Publicity Committee for the production of this Coronation Brochure and to Donald E. Green, Esq., for the many and varied illustrations of scenes within the Urban District and the design of the Brochure as a whole. Our thanks also to Mr. Kilby for his invaluable assistance in technical details and layout.

H. J. GARRATT,  
*Chairman of the Council.*

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