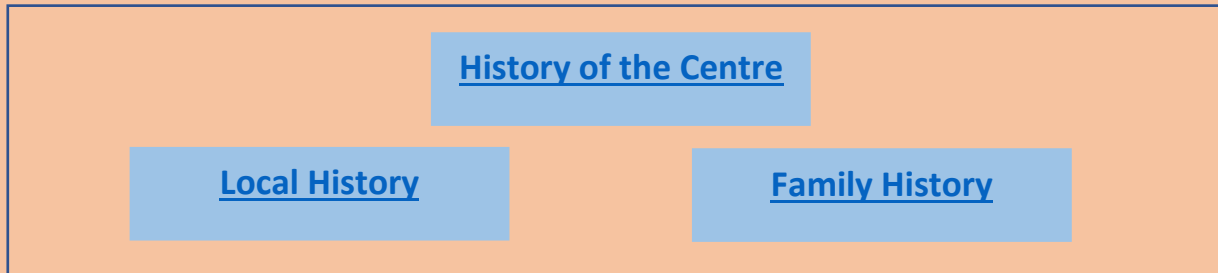


GUIDE TO THE HERITAGE CENTRE



Local History

[Home](#)

Due to space restrictions our coverage is limited to our local area which includes Wigston Magna, South Wigston, Glen Parva, Kilby Bridge and Countesthorpe.

Our volunteers will assist you with finding the required material within the Heritage Centre

Family History

[Home](#)

Our family history coverage is worldwide. We have direct access online to Ancestry.com on computer terminal 1 which is free to visitors. We have dedicated genealogists within our volunteers who will be able to assist you and guide you with your research.

We also provide a Free service to help you with your research. Please speak with one of the volunteers.

History of The Wigston Heritage Centre

[Home](#)

The Greater Wigston Historical Society needed, in 2017, a room to store books, maps, newspapers, photographs, and physical historical items and to make them available for the general public to view and use for research. These items were being stored in the garages of the Historical Society committee members. We had also been advised that the Duncan Lucas Archive of local history material would need a new home in the not-too-distant future.

Initial discussions with the local Council and local businesses were ineffectual, due to costs and accessibility for the public.

We approached Mr Mark Mitchley, of the Wigston Academy Trust, with a proposal for them to provide a small room and for our members to support the Academy's History syllabus. The Academy were most helpful and after negotiations we have rented a self-contained, disabled access, room that enables us to have our own 24 x 7 x 365 access and security, but still within the campus and supported by the Academy.

The agreement was signed on the 1st May 2019. With the facility we have rented we were able to expand our initial plan and to provide a Local Area

Heritage Centre. Our team of volunteers moved in to ready the facility for a launch in September. Our initial objective was to open one day per week, Friday 10am – 4pm, by September 2019, with further opening planned for 2020.

See Current Opening Times

Physical Materials

[Home](#)

Our physical material includes books, magazines, bulletins, transactions, photo albums, pictures, documents, maps, and newspapers. All these materials are stored in the rolling bookcases or in cabinets around the centre

Bulletins

[Home](#)

Bulletins are the official newsletter of The Greater Wigston Historical Society and have been issued 3 times per year since 1989 when the Society was started by Duncan Lucas.

These contain a wealth of articles relating to people, places, and events in our area.

These are held in black folders in the rolling bookcases. It is worth noting that these are also held in our digital archive and are searchable electronically.

Transactions

[Home](#)

Transactions are pieces of research mainly completed by Society members and relate to people, places, and events in our area.

The Transactions are held as separate booklets and can be found in the rolling bookcase.

It is worth noting that many of these are also held in our digital archive and are searchable electronically. *See Digital Search Facility*

Scrap Books

[Home](#)

Our scrap books are in two formats, A3 and A4 folders. The scrap books have been collated over many years by members and contain a wealth of information including newspaper articles, photographs, documents, maps etc.

These are stored on the rolling bookcase.

We are in the process of indexing the scrap book contents which will allow us to search the content for individuals' names, places and events. *See Digital Search Facility*

Local History Books

[Home](#)

The Rolling Bookcase holds over 250 local history books which all reference some aspect of the local area. A detailed list is available on the reception computer and our volunteers will gladly assist you to find the book you need.

Some of these books are also held in our digital archive and are searchable electronically. *See Digital Search Facility*

Family History Books

[Home](#)

Our library holds over 50 family history books which are a combination of how to undertake your research to local Family History Records. These can all be found in the rolling bookcase.

Photo Wallets

[Home](#)

Over many years Duncan Lucas collected photographs of Wigston and the local areas. These he segregated into small photo wallets. The whole collection can be found in the Rolling Bookcase. We are in the process of scanning all the photographs and showing the reference number on a white dot on each image. This is a long job and will take some time to complete.

Documents

[Home](#)

This section of the Heritage Centre collection is made up of Deeds, Technical Drawings, Estate Assets, Church Warden Accounts, Abstracts, Conveyances, Certificates, Mortgages and many other legal documents. These are mainly original and are kept in a secure locked part of the Centre. There is a list of all these documents in the Index which can be viewed at the reception desk.

Maps

[Home](#)

We have a number of O.S. maps on permanent display. There are other maps in cardboard tubes in a box by the fire escape door. Please see the maps index and then ask one of the volunteers to find the map for you.

Newspapers

[Home](#)

There are a large number of local newspapers held in binders which can be viewed. These are by the side of the four draw cabinets with loose papers in one of the draws.

Photographs

[Home](#)

Although the majority of our image collection is held digitally there are many prints which can be viewed. These are held in the four draw cabinet.

Duplicate Books

[Home](#)

In the coffee area we have a large number of books that have been given to the Heritage Centre which are duplicated. These are put here for visitors to look through and take any they would like.

There is a Donations Box by the entrance for those who would like to contribute to the upkeep of the facility. Thank You.

DIGITAL MATERIAL

[Home](#)

Wherever possible we digitise the material in the centre. This is done for two reasons. Firstly, to safeguard the material and secondly to make it searchable through our Digital Search Facility.

Much of this digitised material is also on our web site for general view.

We have four workstations where visitors can access this material.

Digital Search Facility

[Home](#)

This search facility is one of the most important tools we have at the Heritage Centre. With so much information it would be difficult to find specific information quickly.

The search programme indexes each word in each document. We are then able to enter a 'Name', 'Place' or 'Event' into the search programme and it will generate a list of each matching item showing where in the Heritage Centre it can be found.

Example:-

Search Request: Turpin

Total files: 15
Total hits: 19

AR0378 Kelly's Directory Leicestershire 1900.pdf (5 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Articles Size: 613,974,516 Last modified: 30/03/2020

GWHS Transaction 46.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Transactions Size: 888,832 Last modified: 26/08/2009

GWHS Transaction 46 - George Davenport - Highwayman.pdf (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Transactions Size: 2,535,874 Last modified: 27/04/2009

GWHS Transaction 3.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Transactions Size: 83,456 Last modified: 26/08/2009

Bulletin 47.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Bulletins Size: 3,098,112 Last modified: 17/06/2011

Bulletin 22.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Bulletins Size: 1,518,080 Last modified: 02/03/2011

BOOK D209 The Story of Peace Memorial Park in Wigston Magna October 2002.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Books\Local History Size: 3,402,752 Last modified: 16/05/2012

BOOK D039 Wigston & District Official Guide c 1931.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Books\Local History Size: 10,050,560 Last modified: 16/07/2012

FWK Bulletin62.pdf (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Books\FWK Bulletins Size: 9,696,435 Last modified: 09/08/2019

AR0252 Wigston Magna Town Trail 1989.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Articles Size: 333,312 Last modified: 18/05/2017

AR0065 Wigston War Time Land Girls.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Articles Size: 5,389,312 Last modified: 18/05/2017

AR0016 W J R Pochin Lecture on Wigston.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Articles Size: 73,728 Last modified: 17/05/2017

GWHS Transaction 39.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Transactions Size: 988,672 Last modified: 18/08/2009

BOOK D5009 The History of Leicester.doc (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Books\Local History Size: 1,209,344 Last modified: 19/03/2014

AR0377 Wrights Directory of Leicester 1896.pdf (1 hits)

Location: D:\Documents\Historical Society\H3 Archive\Documents\Articles Size: 68,576,726 Last modified: 30/03/2020

In this example the word '**TURPIN**' has returned 19 hits in 15 files.

ARxxxx = Article

(Digital Archive)

GWHS Transaction = Transaction

(Physical or Digital Archive)

Book Dxxxx = Digitised Book

(Digital Archive)

FWK Bulletin = Frame Work Knitters Bulletin

(Physical Archive)

Bulletin xx = GWHS Bulletin

(Physical or Digital Archive)

This report can be generated by one of the Volunteers and then e-mailed to you. On your next visit you can then go directly to the relevant place and do your research.

Digital Bulletins

[Home](#)

All of the GWHS Bulletins have been digitised and can be found in the Bulletins directory or online at our web site.

Digital Transactions

[Home](#)

All the GWHS Transactions have been digitised and can be found in the Transactions directory or online at our web site.

Digital Scrap Books

Our scrap books cannot be fully digitised. However, each Scrap Book is being indexed to allow a search to be undertaken for specific words.

[Home](#)

Digital Local History Books

Each Book has a unique reference **DBOOKxxx**

Some of our Local History Books have been digitised to allow us to use the Digital Search programme on them. However, these files can only be held within the Heritage Centre computers to comply with Copyright.

[Home](#)

Digital Family History Books

Some of our Family History Books have been digitised to allow us to use the Digital Search programme on them. However, these files can only be held within the Heritage Centre computers to comply with Copyright.

[Home](#)

Digital Photo Wallets

The scanning of these photographs is ongoing. When complete all images will be in the digital photograph libraries and available for viewing both at the Heritage Centre and online at our web site.

[Home](#)

Digital Documents

Each Document has a unique reference **DOCSxxx**

Some of our Documents have been digitised and can be searched. However due to the state of some of the documents it is impossible to digitise them all. We would recommend looking at the originals.

[Home](#)

Digital Maps

[Home](#)

Where maps have been digitised, they are held as a .jpg image file in our photograph library. Many of the maps we have can also be found at National Library of Scotland www.maps.nls.uk

Digital Newspapers

[Home](#)

We have decided not to digitise these local newspapers as they are all available online through the British Newspaper Archive at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Digital Photographs

[Home](#)

Each Photograph in the Archive has a unique reference for example **22-xxx**

The digital photographs library has some 14,500 images of Wigston and the surrounding areas.

This can be somewhat daunting to search through because of the volume of .jpg images. However, the library structure is relatively simple.

The main directories are:-

- Countesthorpe
- Glen Parva
- Kilby Bridge
- School Photographs
- South Wigston
- Wigston Magna
- Wigston Railway

South Wigston and Wigston Magna have sub directories which are based on Street / Road, Maps, Drawings, Misc, and People – Places – Events.

School Photographs have sub directories by School.

Wigston Railway has only one directory dealing with all aspects of local railways.

If you need assistance searching for specific places, people or events then please ask a volunteer for assistance.

Articles

[Home](#)

Articles are Referenced **ARxxxxx**

They can be found in the Documents directory under subdirectory Articles.

There are over 450 Articles which cover a very wide range of subjects but all related to the Wigston Area. There is an index showing the subjects and the specific article number.

These articles are also on the Web Site.

The digital Archive is kept and maintained by Mike Forryan. If you have any questions, then please contact him at mikeforryan@icloud.com

Items For Sale

[Home](#)

The Heritage Centre is funded by The Greater Wigston Historical Society through book and DVD sales and donations. The following are items for sale at the Heritage Centre and make exceedingly good Birthday and Christmas presents.

DVD's

- **Wigston With Two Steeples (A walk through Wigston Magna)**
- **Bridge to Bridge (A Journey through Kilby Bridge and Wigston Magna)**
- **Wigston – A Mix of Memories. (Misc. memories of Wigston)**
- **From Fields to a Town (The Development of South Wigston)**
- **Wigston Cemetery (Stories of People Buried There)**

Books

- **Wigston 'Window on the Past' Volumes 1 to 5**
- **Made in Wigston**
- **Blue Plaques in Wigston Magna**
- **South Wigston Between the Wars**
- **South Wigston The Early Years**

And many more. [GWHS ONLINE STORE \(wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk\)](http://www.gwhs.co.uk)