

WYGGESTONS NEWSLETTER

#THEHEARTOFTHELOCALCOMMUNITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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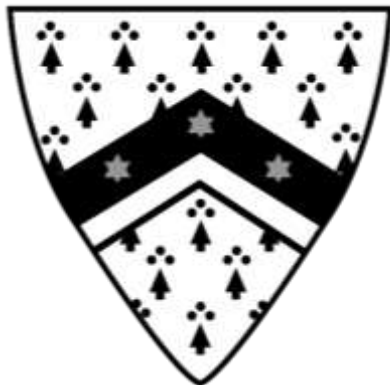
Recipe Corner – Try your hand at some traditional St Patrick's Day recipes!

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Meet the Governors! – Every month we hope to get to know a different Governor, starting with our very own Tony Leighton

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Cherryleas Development – Have a look at the latest drone photos



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A Rare History of Wyggestons – Have a read at the article written by one of our residents, about some lesser known history of Wyggestons!!



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to March 2021 Edition of the Wyggeston Newsletter.

Who would have believed the time could pass so quickly!? At least the better weather has brought out the Daffodils and crocuses across the gardens.

This month we have commenced an occasional article introducing you to each of the Governors - allowing them to tell our readers more about themselves – and so we have persuaded the Master to be the first author. So feel free to quiz him about his travels. Further life stories will follow. As ever if you have any interesting or amusing stories from your past that you are willing to have published please share with us in the office.

You may notice we have installedensored lights in the bin stores after a request in the suggestions box. Apologies that this has not be accessible and we have relocated it by the Fire panel so residents can make suggestions again.

This month we also feature an article concerning the history of the Almshouse and some of the “characters” involved in heritage. Well worth a read.

After a very successful, albeit somewhat reduced Valentine’s Day celebrations, please note we are now arranging the Easter Egg Raffle in the Lobby in aid of our nominated Charities.

Thank you to everybody who has submitted articles for inclusion in this month’s magazine, please do keep them coming thick, fast and furious, as this really does help Melissa when preparing this publication.

Keep safe and hopefully things are now moving in the right direction..

Chris

Thank You

When the Chapel Collection Box was emptied on Wednesday 17th
February it contained £78.40!

**PLEASE NOTE THE FINANCE OFFICE WILL
BE OPEN TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS ON
TUESDAY 30TH MARCH 2021**



For those residents who have birthdays March, we would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday!

William House

Joan Bates	3 rd March
Pauline Stringer	22 nd March

Agnes House

Derek Hillman	2 nd March
Diane Taylor	11 th March
Pina Mayes	13 th March

In Memory

Sadly, we have two deaths to record in this edition.

Mrs Patricia Theobald, Room 15, who passed away on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 whilst in hospital.

Mrs Violet Atkins, Room 1, who passed away peacefully on Sunday 21st January 2021.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends



Cherryleas Development

The new development is progressing well, what a difference a few weeks make!



RECIPE CORNER

As it's St. Patrick's Day on 17th March, why not give these traditional Irish recipes a try while enjoying a glass of Guinness!

Irish Stew

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 135g smoked bacon
- 750g lamb for stewing
- 3 good-sized onions
- 180g halved carrot batons
- 520ml beef or lamb stock
- 4 medium sized potatoes
- Large knob of butter
- Couple of sprigs of thyme
- 2 small bay leaves



Method

Prepare your ingredients. Cut your bacon, lamb, carrots and potatoes into bite size chunks, then thinly slice your onions.

Preheat your oven to between 150 and 160 degrees Celsius, or gas mark 3.

Heat some of your butter in a frying pan and fry up your bacon chunks until they're as crispy as you like them.

Pop the lamb into a casserole dish and put it in the oven until it's brown. At this point, take it out of the dish and leave it to rest with the bacon.

Put your carrots, onions, thyme and bay leaves into the dish and roast them in the oven until they're nice and soft.

Add the lamb and bacon to the dish with the veg, then add the stock.

Once the stew is simmering, lay the chunks of potato on top of the mixture.

Put a lid on the dish and leave it to cook for about 90 minutes. Otherwise, for a delicious dinner to come home to, you can simmer your stew all day in a slow cooker.

When it's ready to serve, spread a little butter on each potato, then ladle it generously into bowls.

Soda Farls

Ingredients

- 250g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 heaped tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 225ml buttermilk

Method

Tip the flour into a large bowl and stir through the salt, sugar and bicarb. Make a well in the centre and pour in the buttermilk, then swiftly stir to combine. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly. Roll into a roughly 20cm circle and cut into quarters.

Heat a skillet or heavy-based frying pan over a low-medium heat. Add the farls and cook for 8-10 mins on each side, or until golden brown and cooked through. Remove from the heat and leave the farls to cool in the pan for 10 mins. Split open and eat warm with butter.



?? GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ ??

1. Who in 1979 scored a US number one with a cover of Eddie Floyd's "Knock on Wood"?
2. What nationality was explorer Henry the Navigator?
3. In Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Nights Dream", Tom Snout had what profession?
4. What is the capital of the German State of Baden-Wurttemberg?
5. Which songs with "Glass" in the title were UK top twenty hits for the following artists,[a] Nick Lowe (1978), [b] Thirteen Senses (2005), [c] Kim Wilde (1981), [d] Leo Sayer (1974) and [e] Pink (2010)?
6. In which 2008 movie does Will Smith play an alcoholic super hero?
7. With which vegetable is Bruxelloise sauce traditionally served with?
8. Which planet was discovered by Johann Galle & Urban Le Verrier in 1846?
9. What term is used by MPs for the House of Lords?
10. Which English King removed the Stone of Scone from Scotland?
11. Which book of the Old Testament tells the story of David and Goliath?
12. Between which two nations are the Diomed Islands located?
13. What instrument was played by band leader Count Basie?
14. Which island's inhabitants are largely descendants of the mutineers from HMS Bounty?
15. In which opera does the song "Summertime" appear?
16. What is the name of the spaceship in the movie "Alien"?
17. The mazurka is dance that originated in which country?
18. Who first achieved the female tennis Grand Slam by winning all four majors in one year?
19. Which fruit is a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry?
20. Prior to the Euro, Germany's currency the Mark was made up of one hundred what?

Answers in the next newsletter!

Answers: 1.0 C. 2. Jane Fonda.3. California, Connecticut and Colorado. 4. Oxford & Cambridge. 5. I'm Bru. 6. On a baby's head. 7. Richard the Lionheart. 8. Giacomo Puccini 9. Eight. 10. Finland. 11. Romeo and Juliet. 12. P.L. Travers. 13. Jean-Claude van Damme. 14. Japan and South Korea. 15. Cain, Abel and Seth. 16. Caledonia. 17. Edward Jenner. 18. Maple. 19. Rihanna. 20. The Derby and Grand National.

Spreading the Love!

As we couldn't have the usual Valentines meal for the residents at William House, the Wardens went round and gave all the residents a much appreciated treat!!



Agnes House residents didn't want to miss out on the fun!

They had a home made 'fakeaway' to celebrate Chinese New Year



and.....

*A party to celebrate Marian's 102nd
Birthday!*





From a Drawing by the late Mr. J. Flower.
WYGGESTON'S HOSPITAL (OLD BUILDINGS) 50 YEARS AGO.
The Confraternity, No. 5 Highcross Street. Demolished in 1875.

Two illustrations from Cowie's History of Wyggestons

The picture shown here on the left is of interest for two reasons. First, it is the work of a brilliant local artist named JOHN FLOWER (1793-1861). He is best known for his portrayal of landscapes and architecture in Leicester and Leicestershire. There are over 240 samples of his work in the County Record Office. It is well worth looking at these on their website.

The other reason is that the picture shows what a substantial house was provided for the

Wyggeston Hospital Confraters. (see main article). The picture is a cropped version of a larger drawing of Highcross Street, then a main thoroughfare running north from where Jubilee Square is now.

This drawing of St Mary de Castro showing the slender spire, now sadly demolished, is not bound into Cowie's book, but inserted with it. The artist is unknown. An inscription in tiny print reads: "Published by J & L Spencer, 20 Market Place, Leicester."

St Mary's does have a Wyggeston connection as in 1511 William with his brothers Thomas and Roger...obtained letters patent from Henry VIII to "found an altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Katherine and St Ursula within the church of St Mary of the Newark and to endow it with lands to ensure the maintenance of two priests".

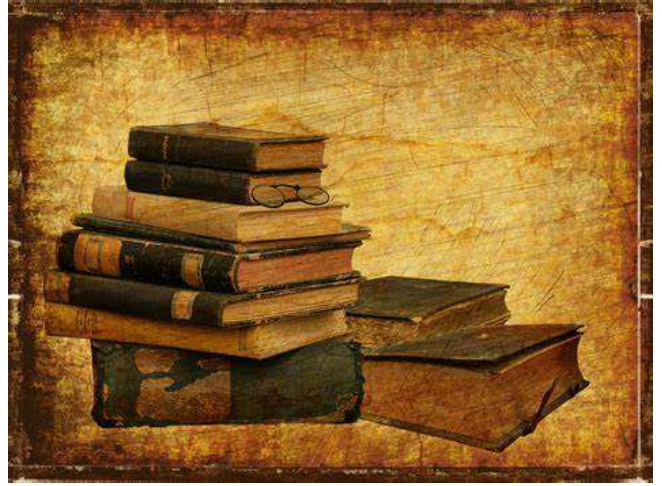
Note the tantalizing pencilled inscription "*please accept this book with my thanks and compliments*". If only Mr Cowie had stated who the recipient was!

JCS



A RARE HISTORY OF WYGGESTONS

John Seymour



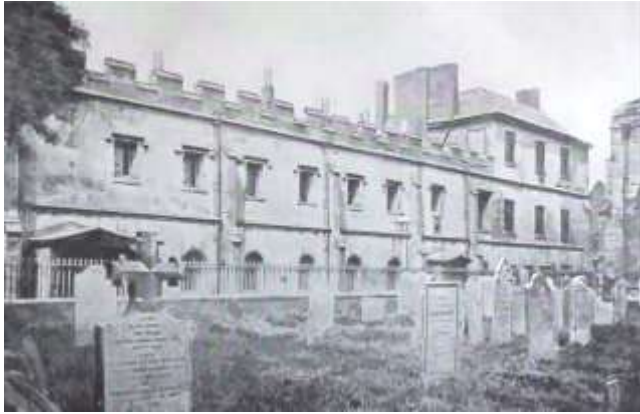
We first met Charles and Maggie Parker when Margaret and I were living in Kirby Muxloe between 1970 and 1983. Residents of William House who have been here for some time will recall that Charles was the Wyggeston's gardener for a number of years until 2013. In recent times Charles and Maggie have been very kind to us, bringing gifts at Christmas and on other occasions. Recently (for Valentine's Day) they brought some marmalade for Margaret and a book for me.

"Another job I've been doing", writes Maggie, "is clearing out some old books and I came across this one. I thought you would be very interested in it, John.... I have no idea how or why my parents had it, but I'd like now to gift it to you..."

The book is a history of Wyggeston's Hospital and Schools by George Cowie, Solicitor, dated 1893. A note opposite the title page says: *"Only a few copies of this hand-made paper edition were printed for private circulation only, and not for sale"*. I don't think I've ever owned a book as rare or possibly as valuable, as this one may well be!

How Maggie came to have the book in her possession is something of a mystery. She writes that she has no knowledge of whether it was from her father's or mother's side of the family. She relates that her paternal grandfather was the butcher in Kibworth, and that both his sons travelled each day by train to the Wyggeston Boy's School. But I think this isn't a very strong lead towards solving this particular riddle!

When I showed the book to Chris our CEO he responded instantly "Youv'e got a Cowie!" He clearly knew of the book's existence but admitted Wyggestons didn't possess a copy.



The author George Cowie must have been quite a remarkable man in that he had been a resident in Leicester for only one year – although he does confess to having spare time owing to illness – when he wrote the book. Sorry about that, Mr Cowie. We can only hope it wasn't your move to the Leicester climate that made you poorly!

He begins his book by considering the origins of the name Wyggeston, and gives an account of William's ancestors. He notes that William was mayor of Calais four times (Calais was a British 'possession' at that time) which enabled him to have a ready route to export his wool to Europe. Much that follows will have been well recorded by other authors, but I was particularly interested to note that of the first twelve inmates or Bedesmen, five were called Thomas, three John, two Richard and a William and a Hugh. The names of the first Bedes Women, alas, are not recorded!

However, two of the women *'of more ability and strength than the others had to attend in all things to the needs of the men'*. They made their beds, made ready meat and drink, made ready and washed and *'rid their clothes of vermin'*. But they did get an extra cash allowance for this not very congenial work.

Many pages are devoted to the history of various Masters and 'Confraters' or Brothers, assistants to the Master. They were the ones who actually did the work - mostly conducting services and preaching - while often the Master was absent elsewhere. It does seem as if these Confraters were well provided for, as the house in Highcross Street (illustrated) looks to be quite a substantial one.

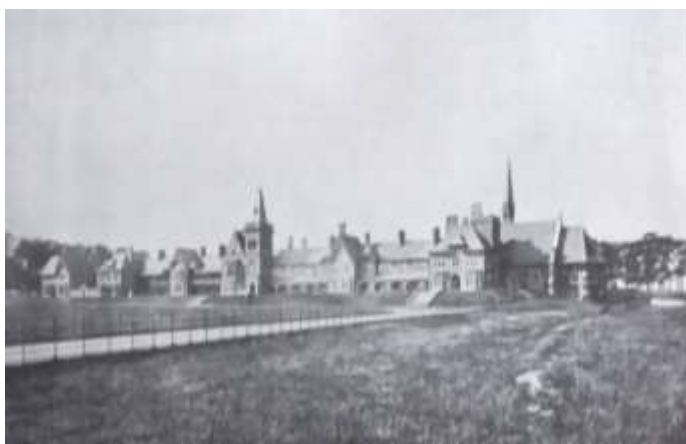
I thought it would be interesting to relate three stories from this section of the book. The first two show how events we learnt about in school history lessons connect with the Wyggeston story.

Thomas Sampson (Master 1567-1589), for example, was a victim of the Reformation working through its various stages at that time. He was famous as a preacher of 'reformed' teaching. No problem during the reign of Edward VI (1547-1553). But when the staunchly catholic Mary became Queen, Sampson fled and took refuge in Strasbourg. When five years later the more moderate, middle-of-the-road Elizabeth succeeded, he returned and in due course became Master of Wyggestons for 22 years.

The Civil War, when the Parliamentarians fought the Royalists, began in 1642. The then Master, William Chillingworth (1638-1643) saw active service as a royalist, acting at the siege of Gloucester as an 'engineer'. I'm not quite sure what that entailed, but he was taken prisoner at the taking of Arundel Castle in Sussex. He was ejected from being Master here because of his Royalist views, and alas, died a month later

A rather different story is about the notorious John Selwyn, Master from 1793-1823. George Cowie relates that...*"during his mastership the fines received on the renewals of leases amounted to no less a sum than £24,440, the whole of which he applied to his own use"*. I have checked this out on Google: £24,440 in the 1820's would equal £2.7m today; *nearly three million pounds*. No wonder he hung on to the job for 30 years! It seems this was not in any way criminal, but must be hugely unethical. When he died, not surprisingly, the opportunity was taken to revise the rules!

I think that when Anthony Trollope wrote his books about Septimus Harding, the rather meek cello-playing Warden of Hiram's Hospital in 'Barchester', he must have read about the goings-on at Wyggeston's!



There is a very detailed description of the 'recent' 1869 Hospital (illustrated here) – even with detailed dimensions of the various rooms. It must have been quite an impressive building. Total cost: £25,000! (£3.2million in today's money.)

The second half of the book is devoted to the early history of the Wyggeston Schools and there is some very useful information in the appendices at the back of the book.

It would be an interesting exercise, best undertaken by someone who is already well acquainted with other Histories of Wyggestons, to see what *new* material there is in this book, not included in the others.

Thank you, Maggie, for a very interesting gift. I think in due course I may hand it over to Wyggestons for safe keeping. But I've a bit more reading to do before that.

Meet your Governors

Over the upcoming months we will be asking the Governors to introduce and tell us a bit about themselves.....

Introducing: Tony Leighton a.k.a 'The Master'

"I was born in Ealing, West London. At the age of 11 I was invited to go along to Crusaders Class (a Bible class). Partly through my involvement with Crusaders I made a firm commitment to Jesus Christ to follow Jesus Christ at the age of 15. I also started to attend a lovely Anglican Church in West Ealing. Through Crusaders and Church I made many life-long friends. I continued my involvement in Crusaders (now Urban Saints) as an assistant leader and then some years later as Padre (Chaplain) at the annual summer 'Houseparty'.

In 1974 I left school and went to the London College of Printing (studying for a Diploma in Printing Management). This was with a view to going into the family firm of bookbinders. However it was felt that I should try to get another qualification in case 'anything should happen' to the family firm. So I worked as an accountant for six years in London. In the event the family firm was sold and eventually wound up: so my career in bookbinding never happened. However this enabled me to pursue what I believed to be a calling into the full time ordained ministry of the Church of England.



Having gone through a process of discernment I was accepted for ordination training. At the same time I applied to go to Nepal in 1982 (with a medical missionary organisation called the International Nepal Fellowship - INF) for what I expected to be nine months prior to going to Theological College. In the end I spent nearly 3 years in Nepal working as an Accountant/Administrator in a Leprosy Control Programme. I continued my involvement in Nepal as member of the INF/UK Board of Trustees for more than 20 years.

When I returned from Nepal in 1985 I started my ordination training at Trinity College, Bristol. While at Trinity I met Susan who was also training for ordination. I was ordained in 1988 and Susan and I were married in 1989. We were both stipendiary (paid) Curates in neighbouring parishes in the Borough of Harrow in Northwest London. In 1992 we moved to Leicestershire when I became the Team Vicar of Groby and subsequently Team Rector of the team ministry of the Ratby cum Groby Team Ministry (later, with the addition of Newtown Linford, the Bradgate Team). While in Groby we became parents to Aiden and Chantelle. During this time Susan assisted in the parishes and had some Diocesan involvement with Reader ministry.



In 2000 we moved again when I became Vicar of Thorpe Acre in Loughborough. Then in 2008, Susan and I 'swapped roles'. I stepped away from stipendiary ministry and Susan went back into stipendiary ministry as a Rector and we moved to South Croxton in north east Leicestershire.

During this time I assisted in ministry in various rural parishes near where we lived, while spending more time working as a volunteer with the INF and I particularly enjoyed travelling regularly to Nepal for a number of years.

In 2014 I applied to become Master of Wyggestons and started here in that role that November. The family was joined by our Tibetan Terrier, Anchor, in 2015.

I enjoy reading, going to the theatre and the cinema (when we could!) and visiting National Trust properties and summer holidays by the coast!

I have been a member of the Leicester Philharmonic Choir since 2005.



Happy Easter

EASTER EGG RAFFLE



If you would like to be in with a chance of winning one of these delicious looking prizes, then please speak to the Wardens at William House

£1 per strip