

THEN and NOW

Wigan 1937



Wigan 2017



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LOTTERY FUNDED



Wigan Marketplace 1937



Wigan Marketplace 2017



Rectory Field sold by Wigan Council in 1951



Wigan College built on Rectory Field



**Pavillion Cinema College Avenue
Library Street, Wigan 1937**



**Wigan Life Centre with Swimming Pool,
College Avenue Library Street 2017**

BETA Project Then and Now – Wigan in 1937 compared to 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to give a special thank you to all those who contributed to this book.

A very special thank you to Ron Hunt and the Wigan World Web site for the use of their photographs of Wigan.

Special thanks also to Lord Peter Smith, Leader of Wigan Council for contributing the Foreword to this book

George Walsh for photographs of present day Wigan.

A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, without them this project would not have taken place.

As well as the Research book, a number of Reminiscence boxes have been made containing memorabilia from both 1937 and 2017 including photographs, advertisements, quizzes, money, soaps, c.d.'s etc. These will all be distributed to community groups in Wigan Borough, Age Uk, Dementia cafes etc.

Memorabilia displays have also been organised with larger items from Wigan in 1937 and 2017.

The Project

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, BETA's Eileen Bithell and Eileen Walsh brought together a group of older people who have researched and written about local life in 1937 and 2017. We hope you enjoy reading this book comparing Wigan in 1937 to Wigan 2017.

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FOREWORD

Wigan Town Centre

Wigan Town Centre has always been more than just a retail centre. In the past the town centre was crowded not just with shops but with places of entertainment such as theatres, cinemas and pubs and with civic building like town halls and public offices. Most people would come into town on public transport requiring bus and rail stations.

But 3 big social trends affected the viability of town centres. Greater use of the car increased congestion and demand for parking and encouraged the growth of out-of-town shopping like the Trafford Centre. As television ownership spread we could access entertainment without leaving home closing cinemas and reducing evening activity. In recent years the internet has also allowed us to shop from our own homes and have it delivered directly.

Like other places Wigan has been affected by such changes but has been more resilient than most. It still attracts around 300,000 visitors a year and is ranked 11th in the North West and is within the UK top 100. But the pressure of changes continues relentlessly and we need to anticipate and plan for a different future.

Towns will continue to be major retail centres but success will depend on offering a good and varied range of shops. But we need to think beyond the traditional retail sector and trading times, with expanded café and restaurant times and offer more places of entertainment. We need to encourage more people to set up homes, not just to meet housing needs but to bring life and vitality back into towns. We need to limit the use of cars to improve the environment for everyone.

Wigan is well-placed to achieve these objectives with Council investment in town centre, new opportunities through the Old Courts for art and entertainment and the stimulus from HS2 improving connectivity. It will be different but exciting with the chance of new opportunities for local residents and visitors.

**Lord Peter Smith,
Leader of Wigan Council**

Wigan[♥]
Council

Confident Place, Confident People.



1937

Market Place, Wigan



2017

George Orwell (1903–1950) “The Road to Wigan Pier”

In 1936 George Orwell (Eric Blair) was asked by his publisher to visit the North of England which was blighted by poverty and unemployment and write an account of what he found there. Over three months he visited various towns including Sheffield, Leeds, Barnsley and Wigan, the latter involving his largest stay in one place, that of 3 weeks in February 1936.

Orwell lodged in Wigan over a tripe shop in one of the poorer parts of the town and experienced first-hand the conditions in which people had to live and work. He went down Brynn Hall coal mine, visited miners in their own homes and talked extensively with them about their living and working conditions.

Orwell's experiences resulted in his writing “The Road to Wigan Pier” which was published in 1937 and vividly describes the harsh lives led by workers and the unemployed in the industrial north.

Later in 1936, Orwell travelled to Spain to fight for the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War against Franco's fascist Nationalist Party. General Franco had led a military uprising against the elected government (The Republicans) and was supported by Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, thus being better equipped and more powerful.

After Orwell was shot in the neck by a sniper he was forced to leave Spain under threat from Soviet backed communists. He remained a lifelong anti-Stalinist and “Animal Farm”, probably his best known works, is said to be based on Stalin's betrayal of the Russian Revolution.

During World War Two, Orwell worked for the BBC and then became literary editor of The Tribune.

“Animal Farm” was published in 1945 and his book “1984” published in 1949 not long before his death from Tuberculosis in 1950.



Warrington Lane/Sovereign Road, Wigan, George Orwell lodged above this tripe shop

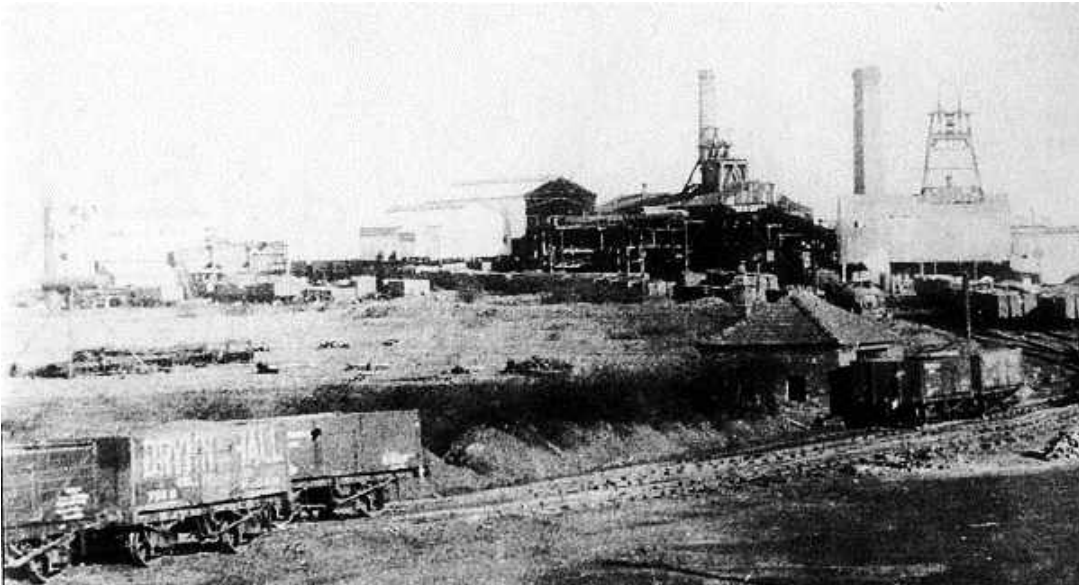
George Orwell (1903–1950)

George Orwell's legacy remains – in his own words he was a “democratic socialist” – and his works have done so much to highlight social injustice and to make society aware of that which they would prefer to ignore.

Just what would Orwell think of the Wigan of today? So many aspects of life in this town have changed for the better – housing, health, education, workers' conditions and rights – yet unemployment is still a scourge; we have food banks; homelessness and poverty which may appear very different from 1937, but share the same roots.

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear”

(George Orwell)



Bryn Hall Colliery visited by George in 1936, this closed in Nov. 1945



Reference library Museum of Wigan Life where George did his research

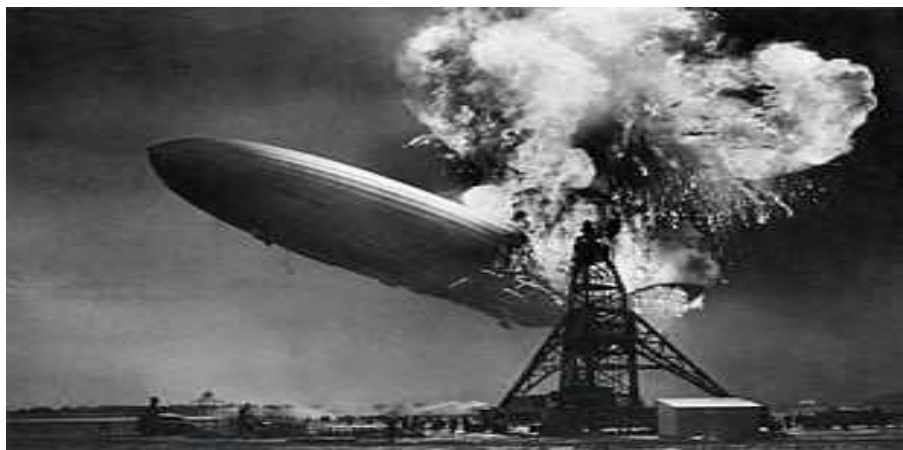
George Orwell (Eric Blair)



World and National Events in 1937



Painted by Pablo Picasso in response to the German bombing of Guernica, it is 3.5 x 8 metres. Picasso remained in Paris during WWII but his apartment was frequently searched. During one search a German officer saw a photograph of the painting *Guernica*. "Did you do that?" the German officer asked Picasso. "No," Picasso replied, "You did".



Airship Hindenburg disaster



Telephonists receiving 999 calls in 1937

World and National Events in 1937

- 1st January Safety glass in vehicle windscreens becomes mandatory in UK
- January – George Orwell (Eric Blair) had joined the International Brigade and fought on the Republican side of the Spanish Civil War, his wife Eileen joined him there a little later.
- 20th January - Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as U.S. president for a second time
- 5th February – First Charlie Chaplin “talkie” Modern Times, released
- April – Frank Whittle ground-tests the world's first jet engine designed to power an aircraft, at Rugby
- April – nickel-brass twelve-sided threepence coin first introduced
- 3rd April – Wigan Athletic F.C. played Macclesfield in front of a crowd of 2,000, Macclesfield won 4-3.
- 13th April - The first meeting of Wigan Photographic Club was held
- 26th April– Spanish Civil War: Bombing of Guernica in Spain by the Nazi German Luftwaffe in support of General Franco. Three-quarters of the town is destroyed and hundreds killed.
- 2nd May – coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth takes place at Westminster Abbey, London. The BBC makes its first outside broadcast covering the event
- May 6 – Hindenburg disaster: In the United States, the German airship Hindenburg bursts into flame when mooring to a mast in Lakehurst, New Jersey. Of the 36 passengers and 61 crew on board, 13 passengers and 22 crew die, as well as one member of the ground crew.
- 28th May – Neville Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister after Stanley Baldwin's retirement
- In Rugby Salford beat Wigan 5–2 to win the Lancashire County Cup
- In Germany, Volkswagen is established to build a "people's car". A new town, Wolfsburg, is set to be created to house the thousands of workers who will be involved in its production.
- 3rd June – the Duke of Windsor (the abdicated King Edward VIII) married Wallis Simpson in the Château de Candé, France.
- 1st July – the 999 emergency telephone number is introduced
- 1st July – Pastor Martin Niemöller* was arrested in Germany and sent to Dachau Concentration camp until liberation in 1945. He narrowly escaped execution.
- 7th July - Japanese forces invade China
- July - Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared after taking off from New Guinea. Amelia was attempting to become the first woman to fly around the world.
- 19th July - George Formby film “Feather Your Nest” released in Cinemas
- In 1937 Uncle Joe’s mint balls’ company became fully registered. Mr. Santus had great faith in his product, and in a letter to his advertising agency, dated 1937 wrote, “Most people would like Uncle Joe’s Mint Balls if only they could try them once – this seems to be a proven fact.”

World and National Events in 1937

- July - ex-coal miner Michael Gallagher, of Ashton Street, Scholes, had taken part in hunger marches in 1934 and 1936 to London from Wigan, he joined the International Brigade for the Spanish Republicans in the Spanish Civil War and was killed at the Battle of Brunete, Spain.
- 5th August – The Duke of Gloucester, King George VI's brother, visited Wigan and was taken along the canal in a boat named after him.
- August – Coal Miner Bernard Sweeney from Wigan joined the International Brigade for the Spanish Republicans and died at the Battle of Belchite, Brunete, Spain
- August - Paul Francis Dewhurst from Lowton, also joined the International Brigade for the Spanish Republicans and died at Brunete
- Nurse Lily Robinson, who lived in The Wiend, Wigan was smuggled out to Republican Spain and is believed to have worked as a nurse during the Spanish Civil War. On her return she became a nurse at Billinge Hospital
- 21st September – British Author J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy novel "The Hobbit" was published
- 4th December – the first issue of children's comic *The Dandy*, including the character Desperate Dan, is published
- 16th December – The original production of the musical *Me and My Girl* opens at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London's West End. A later revival will win an award.
- 21st December – Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the world's first feature-length animated film, premieres
- 29th December – The new Constitution of Ireland comes into force. The Irish Free State becomes "Ireland", and Éamon de Valera becomes the first Prime Minister).
- December - Tins of SPAM were first developed and introduced
- Joseph Kennedy was appointed US Ambassador to Britain and moved to London with his family
- Spanish Republican doctor Frederic Durán-Jordà was first to set up blood banks during the Spanish Civil War. He fled to Britain and worked with Dr Janet Vaughan at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital to create a system of national blood banks.

***Written by Pastor Martin Niemöller**

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Royal Weddings



Britain's King Edward VIII wanted to marry Mrs. Wallis Simpson an American divorcee. He was told that this was not allowed and he had to choose Wallis or the throne. He abdicated in 1936 and his brother became King George VI.

Edward became the Duke of Windsor and married Wallis in France in 1937.



Britain's Prince Harry on his engagement to Meghan Markle in 2017. Megan is an American divorcee and she will marry Harry at the Royal Chapel in Windsor Castle on 19th May 2018.

Harry's father is Prince Charles the Heir to the British throne. Charles was divorced and has now married a divorcee, Camilla Parker Bowles.

World and National Events in 1937 Photographs



Sir Frank Whittle and his jet engine 1937



Threepence coin 1937



The First Dandy Comic 1936



Uncle Joe's Mint Balls only made in Wigan



Duke of Gloucester on the boat named after him



Amelia Earhart in her plane

World and National Events in 2017

- 2nd January - Rail fares increase by an average of 2.3%, higher than inflation and continuing the trend in soaring ticket prices.
- 2nd January - The government announces proposals to build seventeen new towns and villages across the English countryside
- 7 January – The British Red Cross describes the current situation in England's NHS hospitals as a "humanitarian crisis"
- 20th January – Donald Trump was inaugurated as U.S. President
- 21 January – 2017 Women's March: thousands of people march in London, Belfast, Cardiff, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Shipley, Edinburgh and Bristol – as well as millions more in countries around the world – in protest at Donald Trump's inauguration as 45th President of the United States.
- 6th February Queen Elizabeth II's 65th anniversary of becoming sovereign (sapphire jubilee)
- 22nd February Cressida Dick is appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, becoming the first woman to hold the position in the force's 188-year history
- 10th March – The United Nations warns that the world is facing the biggest humanitarian crisis since World War II, with up to 20 million people at risk of starvation and famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria.
- 22nd March – Four people died and at least forty others were injured in what was a terrorist attack in London, when a male car driver, later identified as Khalid Masood, ploughed through pedestrians on Westminster Bridge before stabbing PC Keith Palmer to death at the Palace of Westminster. Police later shot Masood dead.
- 28th March – The new twelve-sided £1 coin is released
- 29th March – The United Kingdom invokes Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, beginning the formal European Union 2 year withdrawal process following a referendum of the British people in 2016
- 21st April – Britain went a full day without using coal power to generate electricity for the first time since the Industrial Revolution
- 12th May - Computers around the world are hit by a large-scale ransomware cyberattack, which goes on to affect at least 150 countries
- 22nd May – Manchester Arena is attacked by an Islamist suicide bomber following a music concert by American singer Ariana Grande. 22 people died and 120 were injured.

World and National Events in 2017

- 3rd June – Eight people were killed and 48 injured in an attack by three Islamist extremists at London Bridge. A hit-and-run vehicle hit pedestrians on the bridge then followed with knife attacks on people in cafes at Borough Market. All three perpetrators were shot dead by police within eight minutes.
- 8th June – A General Election called three years before it is due. The Conservatives remain the largest party, but failed to get enough seats for a commons majority, leading to a hung parliament. In a surprise result, the Conservatives are reduced from 330 to 318 seats. Prime Minister Theresa May rejects calls for her to resign.
- 11th June – The England national under-20 football team won the FIFA U-20 World Cup for the first time
- 14th June - A major fire engulfs Grenfell Tower apartment block in West London, resulting in 71 fatalities and 70 people injured
- 21st June - The heatwave continued, the UK experienced its hottest June day since 1976, with a temperature of 34.4C (94F)
- 18th July the 200th anniversary of the death of Jane Austen
- 14th September – new polymer £10 note replaced old paper £10 notes
- 6th to 10th September – The Caribbean and United States are struck by Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 hurricane that is the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin outside the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. The storm causes at least 134 deaths and at least \$63 billion (2017 USD) in damage
- 19th -20th September – Just two weeks after Hurricane Irma struck the Caribbean, Hurricane Maria strikes similar areas, making landfall on Dominica as a Category 5 hurricane, and Puerto Rico as a Category 4 hurricane. Maria caused at least 94 deaths and damages estimated in excess of \$103 billion (2017 USD)
- 14th November Australians voted to legalise same sex marriage joining the UK who passed the Same Sex Marriage Act in 2013
- 20th November - The Queen and Prince Philip celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary

World and National Events in 2017 photographs



Women's March



New £1 coin



Commemoration of Manchester arena bombing



Grenfell tower fire

World and National Events in 2017 photographs



The Caribbean island of Dominica after Hurricanes Irma and Maria



New polymer £10 note with Jane Austen on the back



1947

2017

Queen and Prince Philip's 70th Wedding Anniversary photo

The Coronation of King George VI 2nd May 1937



Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother), Princess Elizabeth the future Queen, Queen Mary (King George VI's Mother), Princess Margaret and King George VI



King George VI is crowned in Westminster Abbey on 2nd May 1937



1937 Coronation Celebration at Empress Mill Wigan



The Roy Cafe decorated for the Coronation in 1937. To the left is 'The Creche', a baby clothes shop in Marsden Street.



Eleanor Street Wigan decorated for 1937 Coronation



Coronation Day in Kingsway, Ince, May 1937



This huge bonfire was built at Abbey Lakes in 1937 to celebrate King George VI's Coronation. You can just see UpHolland Church in the background.



After the Coronation, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visit Wigan in 1937.

WIGAN SHOPS

Woolworth's store in Wigan 1937

The Woolworth's store was on the corner of Standishgate and Station Road. Station Road was where Wigan's Central Station was located until it closed down in 1964. Woolworth's store Wigan and every other Woolworths in the UK closed down by end of January 2009. The Wigan building is still black and white timber framed and presently occupied by W. H. Smiths as part of the Grand Arcade shopping centre. The front page photo of Woolworth's in Wigan 1937 advertises that nothing sold over 6d (2½ new pence). Bob Rawlinson told us his memory of Woolworth's in 1937.

"I was in the Army and had to report to the TA Drill Hall in Wigan. At the Drill Hall we didn't have any cooking facilities and we used to go to Gorner's café in Wigan. After this we used to walk around Wigan in our new uniforms and look in the shops.

In Woolworths I saw a lovely girl on the razor blade counter and started talking to her. I used to buy a lot of razor blades. When I was sent to Belgium in 1939 she gave me her photo to carry and address so I could write to her. We went to Belgium on the Isle of Man boat. We didn't have a lot to do there and this time was called "The Phoney War."

Bob was one of the people evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940 and this is his story.

"In April 1940 Belgium was attacked and bombed by Germany and we helped to dig people out of wreckage. The Germans entered Belgium and subsequently Belgium surrendered. We then had to fight a rear-guard action into France with the Germans following.

We were told to head for Dunkirk so we could get ships back home. In Northern France we stopped at a farmhouse where the British had set up hot food and we could rest in the barns. While we were sleeping "all hell broke loose" and German tanks had entered the farmyard. The officers shouted "every man for himself" and we all just ran towards Dunkirk. As I ran across the fields, I had just one thought, to get home at all costs.

When we reached Dunkirk we saw all the abandoned army trucks and then the sight on the beach of thousands of soldiers. For three days I waited in a line on the beach and finally it was my turn. I swam to a small boat which then took me to the HMS Malcolm and home. When I returned to England I had to have hospital treatment for my feet. My next tour of duty was in Rotherham and Sheffield where we built decoy steel furnaces. These decoys were bombed instead of the real ones. I continued to have problems with my feet and was eventually invalided out of the forces in 1942.

In 1941 I married the girl from Woollies and we were married for 61 years until she died."

Bob Rawlinson



This is the photo Hilda gave Bob and he carried this with him



Bob and Hilda on their Wedding Day 1941

SHOPPING and SHOPS IN WIGAN 2017

Wigan was first granted a charter from King Henry III in 1246 allowing the merchants free trade throughout the land and to hold a weekly market in Wigan. Wigan still has a market, but shopping has changed drastically since 1937 with Supermarkets and online shopping.

New shops like the East European shops and Afro Caribbean/Asian shops reflect the changing ethnicity of Wigan.

Tesco opened a Tesco Extra store on the old Wigan Rugby ground at the edge of Wigan town centre. This store offers 24 hour shopping for 5 days each week, Sundays open 6 hours and Monday 18 hours. The store sells most items including food, wines, electrical goods, baby items, pharmacy, clothes, household goods, toys, books etc.

Very noticeable in Wigan Town centre are the number of charity shops, discount shops such as B & M's, Home Bargains and Wilko. Primark offers new clothing bargains for the family e.g. woman's dress for £5, man's tee shirt £2. Also in Wigan town centre, three "pound shops" where everything sold costs £1 and the Poundbakery which sells cakes, pies, bread, sandwiches etc all for £1 each.

In Wigan Town centre are International fast food outlets such as McDonalds (burgers), Subway (filled rolls and pizza) and International coffee shops such as Starbucks and Costa.

Online Shopping

According to the United Kingdom Office of National Statistics 2017:

- Over 89% of North West households now have access to the internet
- In terms of access, 73% of adults accessed the internet "on the go" using a mobile phone or smartphone, more than double the 2011 rate of 36%.
- 77% of adults have bought goods or services using online shopping.
- 93% of adults who bought online in 2017, purchased goods from UK sellers and 31% bought from Europe and 31% from the rest of the world.
- 75% of those buying online in 2017 were aged 55 to 65 years.
- UK online retail sales amounted to £133 billion, up 16% from the previous year.
- Nearly all supermarkets and shops have websites from which items can be ordered and delivered to the home.



WIGAN SHOPS IN 1937 AND NOW IN 2017



Marks & Spencer Makinson Arcade Wigan



Marks & Spencer, Standishgate, Wigan



Bon Marche, Makinson Arcade Wigan



Bonmarche in Wigan Galleries Shopping Centre 2017



Draper's Shop



Inside Grand Arcade Wigan



Latimer's Grocers



Inside Tesco Supermarket



Ken Platt, Wigan comedian, in his Grocer's shop



Poundbakery, Market Place Wigan



Looking in a Baker's Window



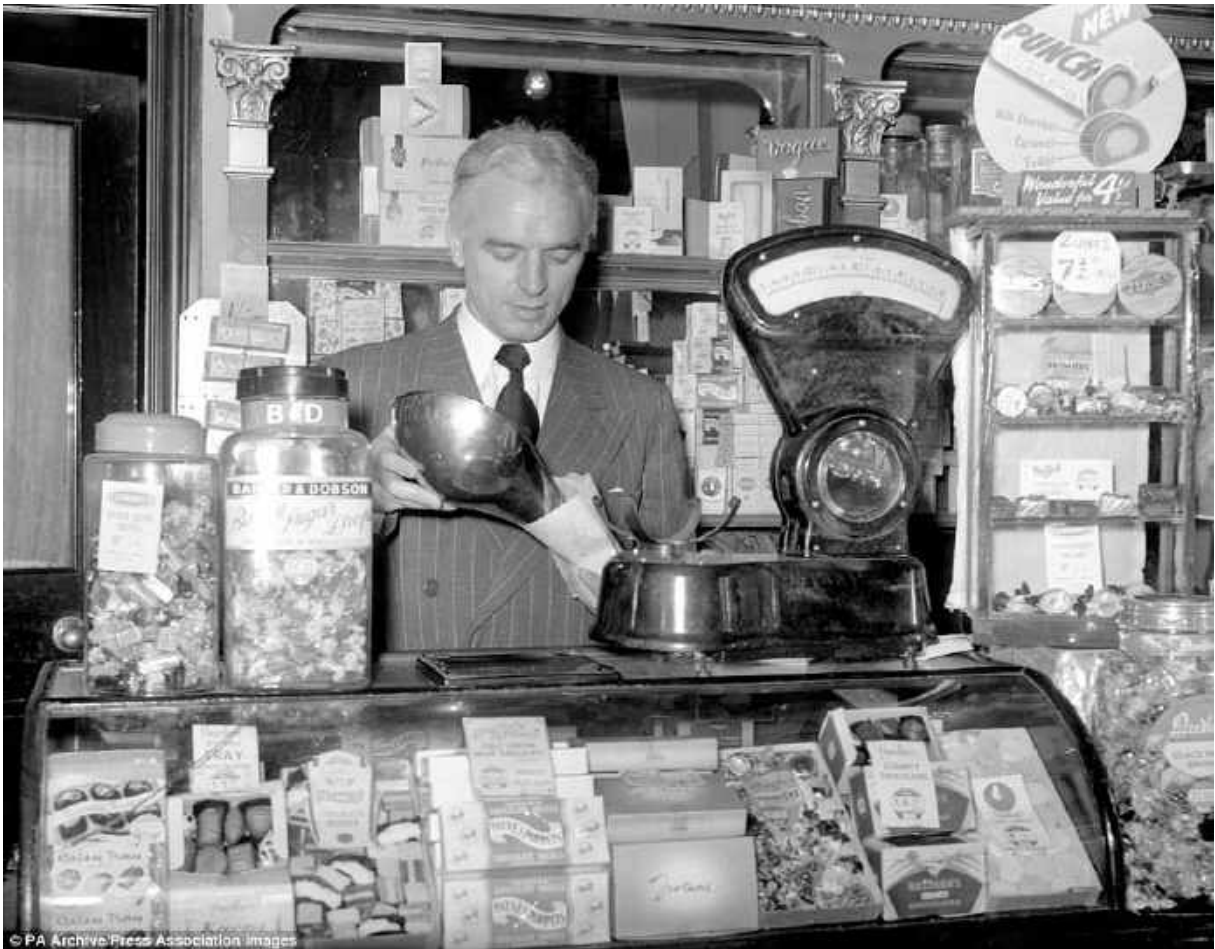
Greenhalgh's Bakery Mesnes Street, Wigan



Rushton Grocers



Lidl Supermarket



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Sweet Shop



© Evening Standard

Tesco Checkout



Clog Maker Wigan



Clog Maker, Hallgate Wigan 2017



Rigby Boots and Shoes, Wallgate, Wigan



McNulty's Shoe shop, Library Street, Wigan



Latimers Grocery shop, Market Street Wigan



Iceland Store, Standishgate/Northway



Mark Williams butchers, Standishgate, Wigan



McAvoy's Butchers, Market Hall, 2017, the only butcher in Wigan Town Centre



Ellor Hats, Makinson Arcade, Wigan



The Bonnet Box Royal Arcade, Wigan



Higham's Florist and Greencrocers



Tesco



Lowe's Department Store, Market Street, Wigan



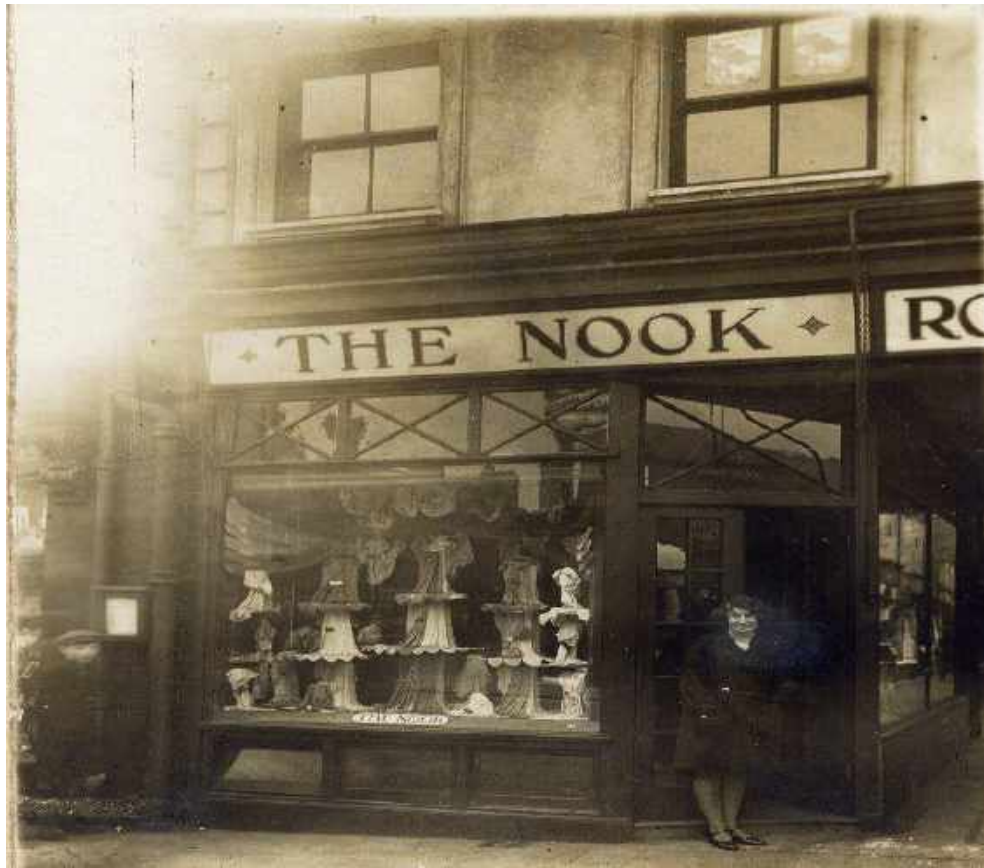
Primark, Standishgate, Wigan



Beswick Ironmongers



B & Q Do It Yourself Store, Wigan



Babywearing shop, Royal Arcade, Wigan



Babywearing shop, Makinson's Arcade, Wigan



Hunters Chemist, Standishgate, Wigan



Salters Chemists, Mesnes Street, Wigan



Pendleburys Department Store, Standishgate, Wigan



Debenhams Department Store, Grand Arcade, Wigan



Old Market Hall 1937



New Market Hall 2017



Polish Food Store, Standishgate



Afro Caribbean/Asian Food Store, Mesnes Road

COST OF LIVING – EXAMPLE OF PRICES

| | * 1937 | *2017 | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|------------------|
| 1-lb Tea | 2 shillings | £4.00 | 500g |
| 1-lb butter | 1 shilling | £3.60 | 500g |
| 1 loaf of bread (2-lb) | 5d | £1 | 900g |
| Milk 1 pint | 1 shilling 2½d | 50p | pint |
| 2-lb sugar | 4 ½d | £1.40 | 1 kilo |
| 1-lb cheese | 8d | £2.70 | 450g |
| 1-lb Lard | 8d | 8p | 500g |
| 1-lb back bacon | 1 shilling 5d | £3.00 | 450g |
| 2-lb Flour | 4½d | 40p | 1 kilo |
| 5-lb Potatoes | 7 ½d | £1.35 | 2.5kg |
| 1-lb tomatoes | 7d | 70p | 500g |
| Packet biscuits | 5d | 31p | packet |
| 12 eggs | 1 shilling 9d | 96p | 12eggs |
| Tin of corned beef | 6d | £1.75 | Tin |
| Quarter pound ham | 7d | £1.00 | 4ounces |
| Packet dried peas | 4½d | 50p | packet |
| Small can Libbys milk | 3½d | 50p | small can |
| Rice | 2d | 45p | kilo |
| 3 oranges and 1 jelly | 1 shilling 3d | £1.45 | |
| Apples | 4d | 20p | each |
| 1 Lemon | 1½d | 30p | each |
| Tin Custard powder | 5p | £1.25 | tin |
| Salmon and shrimp paste | 3d | 25p | jar |
| Bottle of sauce | 5½d | 30p | bottle |
| Small box Rinso | 3½d | £1.75 | 650g box |
| Dolly Blue | 1d | £2.45 | Amazon inc. del. |
| Candles | 2½d | £2 | large candle |
| Tin of health salts | 3d | £5 | 150grams |
| Daily Mirror newspaper | 1d | 70p | |
| Chocolate Crisp (kit kat) | 2d | 25p | |
| Black Magic chocolates 4ozs | 9d | £4.00 | 174grams |
| Man's shirt | 2s.6d | £7.00 | |
| HMV wireless (12.5 guineas) | £12. 17s | £10.00 | |
| GEC Television(tiny screen) | £35 | £129.00- | 24inch |
| Servis Washing Machine(22gns) | £23.2s | £190 | automatic |

**Food Prices based on a Daily Mail article about Annie Reid who found her mother's shopping list from 1937. Also at www.hillarys.co.uk.*

Prices for 2017 – lowest prices from Tesco Supermarket

1 kilo = 2pounds 3 ounce 500g = 1 pound 1 ounce

1 p (new penny) = 2.4d 5p = 1 shilling 20 shillings = £1. 240d = £1

In 1937 a coal miner's wages were £97 per year about £1.17s per week

WAGES and EMPLOYMENT 1937

- Coal miners' wages were £97 per year
- A kitchen maid working in service received £25 per year plus accommodation and meals
- In "The Road to Wigan Pier" George Orwell states that "In Wigan alone there are around 30,000 drawing or living on the dole. So every third person in Wigan is dependent on social help. The money that the families get varies from twenty-five to thirty shillings per week".
- 80 per cent of the new factories built and 65 per cent of the new jobs created between 1931 and 1937 were located in London and the south-east of England.
- In 1937, only about 4 million manual workers were entitled to a holiday with pay, out of a total workforce of 18.5 million. The 'Holiday With Pay Act' the following year, 1938, extended these rights.

WAGES and EMPLOYMENT 2017

- 322,000 people live in Wigan, of which 202,500 are of working age (16-64).
- In February 2016, 15,410 people claimed Employment and Support Allowance in Wigan
- The National Minimum Wage in 2017 is £7.50 p.h. for over 25's;

21-24years £7.05ph; 18-20 years £5.60ph; Under 18 years £4.05ph;
Apprentices £3.50 ph.
- All employees are entitled to 4 weeks paid holidays a year but this may include bank holidays.
- Lord Peter Smith, Leader of Wigan Council, has increased the rate of pay for more than 50 apprentices at Wigan Council to the national living wage rate of £7.50 an hour. This has meant an increase in pay of more than £1,500 a year for some apprentices and the wage has been back-paid to April.

1937 EMPLOYMENT

Coal Mining



Breakfast down the mine



Coalminer having breakfast at home



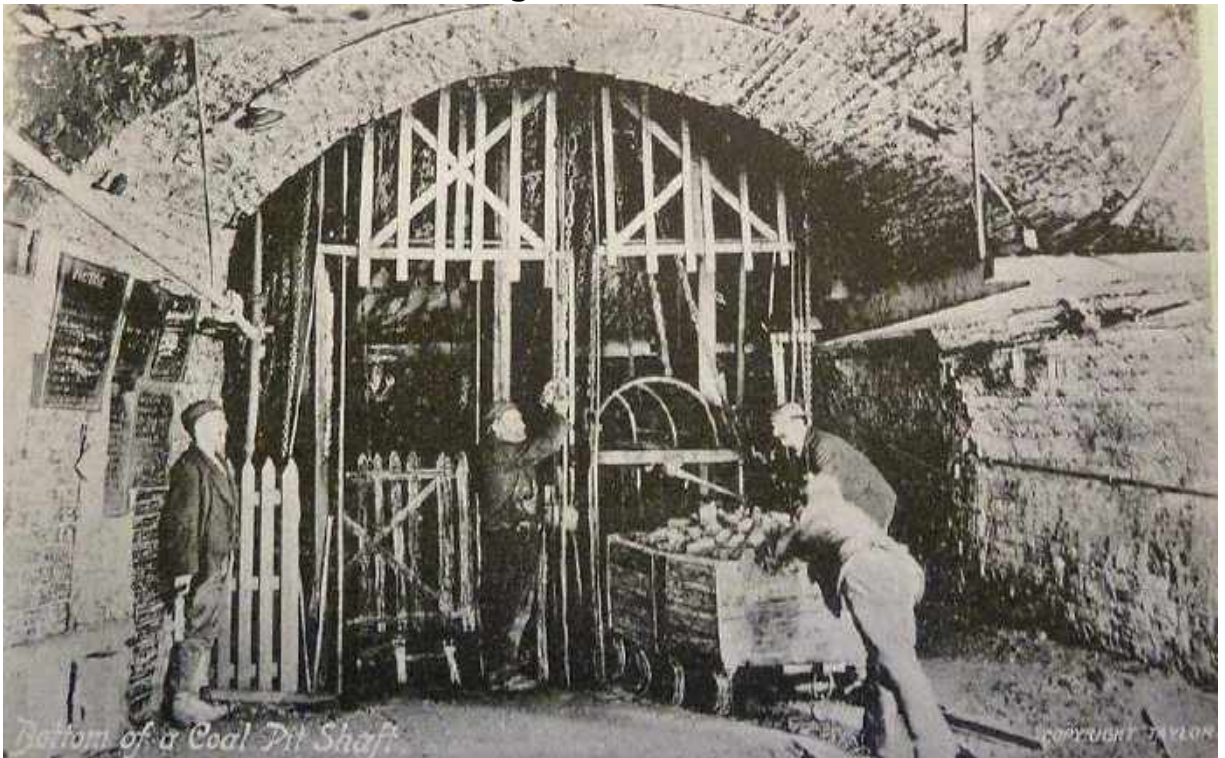
Coalminers working



Coalminer with pit pony



Wigan Coalminers



There were about 50 mines in the Wigan District employing about 30,000 miners.

Wigan's mining history ended with the closure of Bickershaw Colliery in 1992.

As the majority of Wigan's workers in 1937 didn't have access to a clock or watch, the 'Knocker-up' ensured they all got up for work on time.



Garment making at Coops, Wigan 1937



'Knocker-up' in Wigan



Rylands Mill, Pagefield, Overlooking Mesnes Park, Wigan



Working at Eckersley's Mill, Wigan 1937

May Mill was the last working cotton mill in Wigan. It closed in 1980



Memorial Mesnes Park



Proposed Mining Monument

Wigan's coalfield and the thousands of people who worked in the mines have been honoured with a new memorial. A pit tub and plaque have been unveiled at Mesnes Park in Wigan as a permanent tribute to the many people who worked in the pits. The red and black pit tub came from Astley Green Colliery and has been filled with plants. It is accompanied by a plaque commemorating miners and pit brow lasses, with information about the mines and photographs.

Wigan itself was proudly known as 'Coalopolis'. Mining machinery such as ventilation fans, winding engines, air compressors, pumps and haulage engines were manufactured around Wigan, the products of Worsley Mesnes Ironworks, Woods & Sons or Walker Brothers.

The closure of the Bickershaw, Golborne and Parsonage mining complex in 1992, however, brought to an end the Wigan Coalfield's great era.

Over 700 million tons of coal have been produced in the Wigan coalfield over the last 600 years, while a similar amount still lies below the ground. The recent ill-advised rush to wipe out all trace of the British coal industry has closed the mines of the Wigan area, and sadly thousands of men with the specialist skills peculiar to the industry have found themselves without a career.

Wigan Heritage and Mining Monument group (WHAMM) has been set up to fundraise and provide a monument to those men, women and children who worked in the mining industry. www.wiganminingstatue.org.uk

2017 EMPLOYMENT



Heinz Wigan



Call Centres

- 322,000 people live in Wigan, of which 202,500 are of working age (16-64).
- Wigan's proximity to an extensive motorway system, trains to London and Edinburgh make it an attractive proposition for new investment.
- There are 158,300 people working in the Wigan Borough in 8,250 businesses.
- 2,900 additional jobs are forecast to be created in Wigan by 2024
- Business, Financial and Professional Services employ 19,800 people and generates £899m of GVA (Gross Value Added) each year
- The Health and Social Care Sector employs 14,900 people and generates annual GVA of £357m each year
- Creative Digital employs 2,500 people and generates GVA of £112m each year
- The Education Sector employs 9,400 people generating £311m in GVA each year. Manufacturing employs 14,200 people in Wigan, generating £876m of GVA every year.
- Retail employs 12,800 people in Wigan, generating £312m in GVA each year
- The Construction sector employs 10,800 people and generates £392m in GVA each year
- Heinz Wigan employs 1,200 people, the factory makes 1.5 million cans of Heinz Baked Beans per day, and more than 1 billion cans a year of their product range overall. It is the largest food processing plant in Europe, and the largest of Heinz's factories around the world.

UNEMPLOYMENT



Signing on 'the Dole' at the Labour Exchange 1937



Queuing up to sign on unemployed at the Jobcentre 2017

- In February 2016, 15,410 people claimed Employment and Support Allowance in Wigan
- In the 12 months to March 2016, over a fifth (22%) of people aged 16-64 in Wigan were registered disabled, higher than the Greater Manchester and North West average of 21.8%
- Less than half (49.7%) of all disabled individuals in Wigan were in employment, higher than the Greater Manchester and North West averages of 44.6% and 45.3% respectively
- 20,330 people in Wigan claimed Disability Living Allowance in February 2016
- In the last twelve months, (October 2016 – November 2017) 1,718 people visited Wigan Council's crisis desk due to having no food, no money or no gas or electric (Wigan Council Newsletter 5)

HOUSING 1937

George Orwell in his book "The Road to Wigan Pier" writes:

"House in Wigan, near Scholes quarter:

Condemned house, four rooms (two up, two down) + coal hole, walls falling to pieces, water comes into upstairs rooms in quantities, downstairs windows will not open. Rent 6s, Rates 3s 6d total 9s 6d. "

"House in Barnsley, Peel Street:

Back to back (front house facing street, back house facing yard), two up and two down + large cellar, all rooms are about 10 square feet, living room very dark, gaslight at 4½d a day, distance to the lavatory 70 yards (lies in the yard), four beds for eight persons (parents, two girls, one 27, young man, and three children), bugs very bad, smell upstairs almost unbearable. Rent 5s 7½d including rates.

Another problem in these regions is that whole rows of houses are undermined, and the windows often are ten to twenty degrees off the horizontal. Because of the bad housing situation there are also so-called "caravan dwellers". In Wigan alone, which has a population of 85,000, there are about 200 caravans, inhabited by about 700 people. In the whole of Britain there might be around ten thousand families living in caravans. The worst thing about those caravans is that the people who live in such a place don't even save money, because the rent can make up to ten shillings!"

Wigan Residents' memories

'I remember the old black grate and oven, we had to black-lead this to clean it. The black grate was used as a fire for heating, to heat the water and for cooking on the top and in the oven. When my mum got a gas cooker in the early 1950's she said scones never tasted the same baked in a gas oven. After a couple of years we had the old black grate taken out and a tiled grate put in.'

'In the mid-fifties, I remember the gas lighting being taken out and electricity put in. We had been using candles in the bedrooms until then. It was fantastic to be able to just turn on the electric lights.'

'I can remember when we had a toilet at the bottom of the yard, in the night we used a chamber pot which was kept under the bed.'

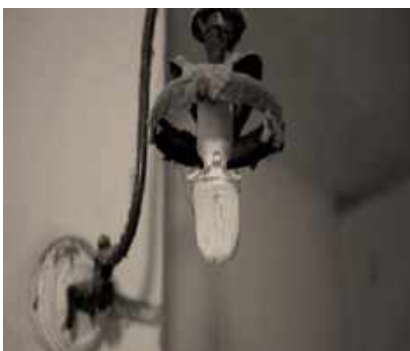


Outside toilets



Miner bathing at home in tin bath

Lead grate with oven



House gas light



Inside Miner's house

HOUSING in WIGAN 2017

- The average price of a property in Wigan was £120,998, below the UK average of £213,927 (June 2016)
- In 2015, the average house price in Wigan was 5.5 times the average annual salary.
- Home ownership rates in Wigan was 68% compared with the Greater Manchester average of 60%
- 12% of Wigan residents privately rent below the GM average of 16%. The private rented market in Wigan has increased 59% in the last 10 years below the average GM growth of 77%.
- 46% of housing stock in Wigan is semi-detached with 29% made up of terraced properties
- 29% of neighbourhoods in Wigan are in the top 20% most deprived in England. Deprived areas are concentrated within Borough's urban core
- Health deprivation and employment deprivation are heavily concentrated in Wigan
- New houses available to buy through Wigan Council have 3 bedrooms, fitted bathrooms, shower, fitted kitchen, central heating, freezer, fridge, cooker, dishwasher, washing machine with tumbler dryer starting at £71,750.
- Wigan Council has retirement housing and retirement homes for older people
- Sheltered accommodation schemes in Wigan offer older people, and occasionally younger applicants, independence with added security and support if needed. They are not nursing or residential care homes.
- Wigan also has a number of care and nursing homes.



One-bedroomed Wigan Council Bungalow

New Houses available to buy through Wigan Council





Hardybutts Scholes Wigan 1937



Hardybutts Scholes Wigan 2017



Morris Street, Scholes 1937



Morris Street Scholes 2017



Terraced houses, Greenough Street, Scholes 1937



High Rise Flats Scholes, Wigan 2017

Examples of retirement housing from Wigan Council 2017

Alexandra House Whelley



Acton House Scholes



- Retirement housing
- 26 flats, bungalows. Built in 1966. Sizes studio, 1 bedroom
- Non-resident management staff and Careline alarm service
- lounge, laundry, guest facilities, garden
- Regular social activities. New residents accepted from 60 years of age
- Tenure(s): Rent (social landlord)

EDUCATION 1937

1918 to 1944: Full-time education compulsory up to 14.

1944: Education Act raises leaving age to 15.



The New Wigan Boys Grammar School opened 11th October 1937



Wigan Girls' High School, Standishgate, opened 23rd September 1916. The new Education Act 1944 saw the end of fees at the High Schools.



Wigan Girls' High School



Notre Dame Catholic Girls' High School and Convent Standishgate



St. Mary's Primary School

EDUCATION 2017

- Free Education for children 3 years to 18 years.
- All three and four year old children are entitled to free early education and childcare for 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, this can be extended to 30 hours per week.
- Primary schools 5-11years, High Schools 11- 16years, Colleges 16-18 years
- Wigan University Technical College offers an education different to school or college in business, employer-led environments for 14 to 19year olds. Students at the UTC are offered a greater range of opportunities for career in business, engineering, food, care or logistics.
- Wigan College offers a wide range of courses including Animal Management, Computing Science, Engineering, Fashion, Graphic Design, Fashion, Beauty, Bricklaying, Art & Design and Science as well as A Level Professional Honours Programmes. Wigan and Leigh College in India offers courses in business management, graphic designing, fashion technology and media. In India Wigan college has campuses in Chennai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata and Nagpur.
- Across Wigan 56,600 people aged 16-64 are educated to level4/degree level or higher. This is 28.4% of the working age population. At a UK level the figure is 37.1%.
- 16,800 people aged 16-64 across Wigan have no qualifications. This is 8.4% of the working age population. At a UK level the figure is 8.6%.
- 102,000 people aged 16-64 have an NVQ level 3 (2+ A Levels) qualification only. This is 51.1% of the working age population, compared to the UK level of 57.4%.
- 141,000 people aged 16-64 have an NVQ Level 2 (5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C) qualification only. This is 70.8% of the working age population, compared to 73.6% in the UK.
- The percentage of pupils in Wigan achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (including English and Maths) in 2015 was 68.8%, compared to 66% in the North West and 64.9% in England
- In 2011, there were 19,700 children under the age of 5 in Wigan, 2,138 more than in 2001, representing an increase of 12 per cent.



A School Computer class 2017



New Deanery High School, Frog Lane, opened 2017



New Wigan & Leigh College, Parsons Walk, Wigan



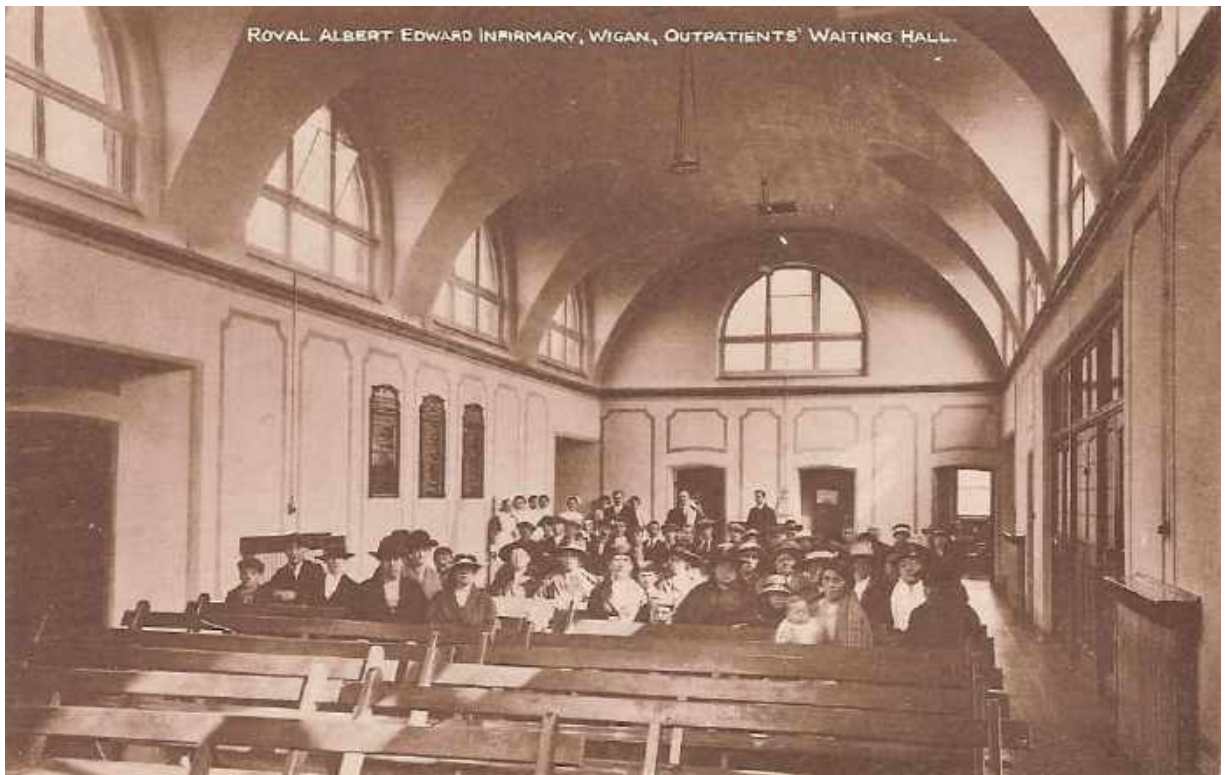
Wigan University Technical College, Parsons Walk, Wigan

HEALTH 1937

- It cost 2s and 6d to see a doctor. The lack of 2/6d meant that you didn't see a doctor.
- Most families relied on their local chemist for their advice and medicines
- Free care in voluntary hospitals – but only for acute conditions. There was little interest in the old and disabled
- Most babies were born at home with the help of a neighbour.
- Families were large with 10, 11 or more children
- 1 in 20 children died in infancy
- From 1930, the Wigan Workhouse became the Frog Lane Public Assistance Institution providing care for the elderly and chronic sick
- In his influential book, *Food Health and Income*, Sir John Boyd Orr (1936, p. 27) estimated that at least 20 percent of children were living in households with per capita incomes of less than 10 shillings per week.
- Sir John Boyd also found that children living in households below this poverty line had a food intake that was deficient in almost every constituent while those in the next income bracket suffered deficiencies mainly in certain minerals and vitamins.
- Dr A. J. Cronin's novel *The Citadel*, published in 1937, had fomented extensive criticism about the severe inadequacies of health care. The author's innovative ideas were essential to the conception of the NHS



Royal Albert Edward Infirmary Wigan, Upper Johnson Ward (Children's) 1937



RAEI Outpatients

HEALTH 2017

- The National Health Service started in 1948 which gave universal treatment free in hospitals and from General Practitioners. At first items on prescription were free. In 2017 the prescription charges are £8.60 per item.
- The life expectancy of residents in Wigan at birth stands at 77.7 years for males and 81.3 years for females. This is slightly lower than the North West (Male :78 years; Female 81.8 years) and the England average (Male :79.4years ; Female :83.1years)
- In February 2016, 15,410 people claimed Employment and Support Allowance in Wigan.
- In the 12 months to March 2016, over a fifth (22%) of people aged 16-64 in Wigan were registered disabled, higher than the Greater Manchester and North West average of 21.8%
- Less than half (49.7%) of all disabled individuals in Wigan were in employment, higher than the Greater Manchester and North West averages of 44.6% and 45.3% respectively
- 20,330 people in Wigan claimed Disability Living Allowance in February 2016
- The percentage of the population aged 65 and over was the highest seen in any census at 16.2 per cent. 1 in 6 Wigan residents are now over the age of 65. (2011 census)
- The number of 85+ year olds increased from 4,326 to 5,400 in 2011, an increase of over 24 per cent.

The Wigan Boys Grammar School Building is now the Linacre Centre. This is an Outpatient Clinic for Wigan RAEI, blood tests, x rays, scans, Consultant appointments etc. This building is very close to the bus station meaning people from all over Wigan Borough can easily access the building. It is very appropriately named as Thomas Linacre was a Rector of Wigan and responsible for setting up The Royal College of Surgeons in Henry VIII's reign.



Thomas Linacre Centre, Parsons Walk, Wigan



Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary – a Ward



Children's Rainbow Ward, Wigan RAEI



Wigan Cancer Care Centre at Wigan RAEI opened April 2016



Wigan RAEI 1937



Wigan RAEI 2017



Hospital Waiting Room



Wigan Workhouse, Frog Lane, Wigan 1937

2017



**Boston House, Frog Lane, Wigan for
Wigan's Ophthalmology Services**

SOCIAL LIFE, LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT 1937



Wigan Rugby Football Club 1937



Wigan Athletic Football Club 1937

The Court Cinema and Theatre in King Street Wigan



The Pavilion Cinema, Library Street, Wigan



The Palace Cinema, King Street, Wigan



The Hippodrome theatre in King Street. George Formby, Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and Gracie Fields all appeared here.

In 1937 Wigan town centre had a number of cinemas such as the Court, the County Playhouse, the Palace, the Pavilion, the Empire and the Princes.



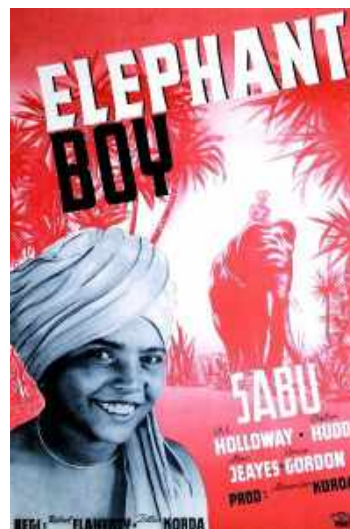
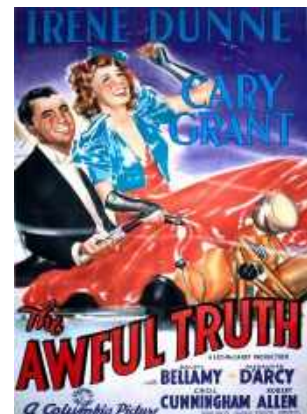
The County Playhouse in King Street Wigan



The Court Cinema and Theatre in King Street Wigan

1937 Film Releases

A ticket to the pictures in 1937 was 10c





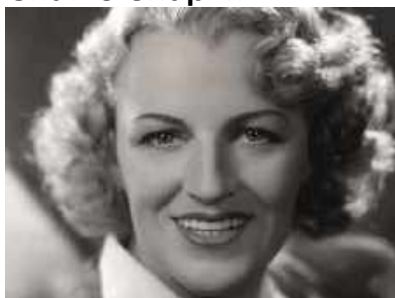
People who appeared at Wigan Theatres in the 30's



Charlie Chaplin



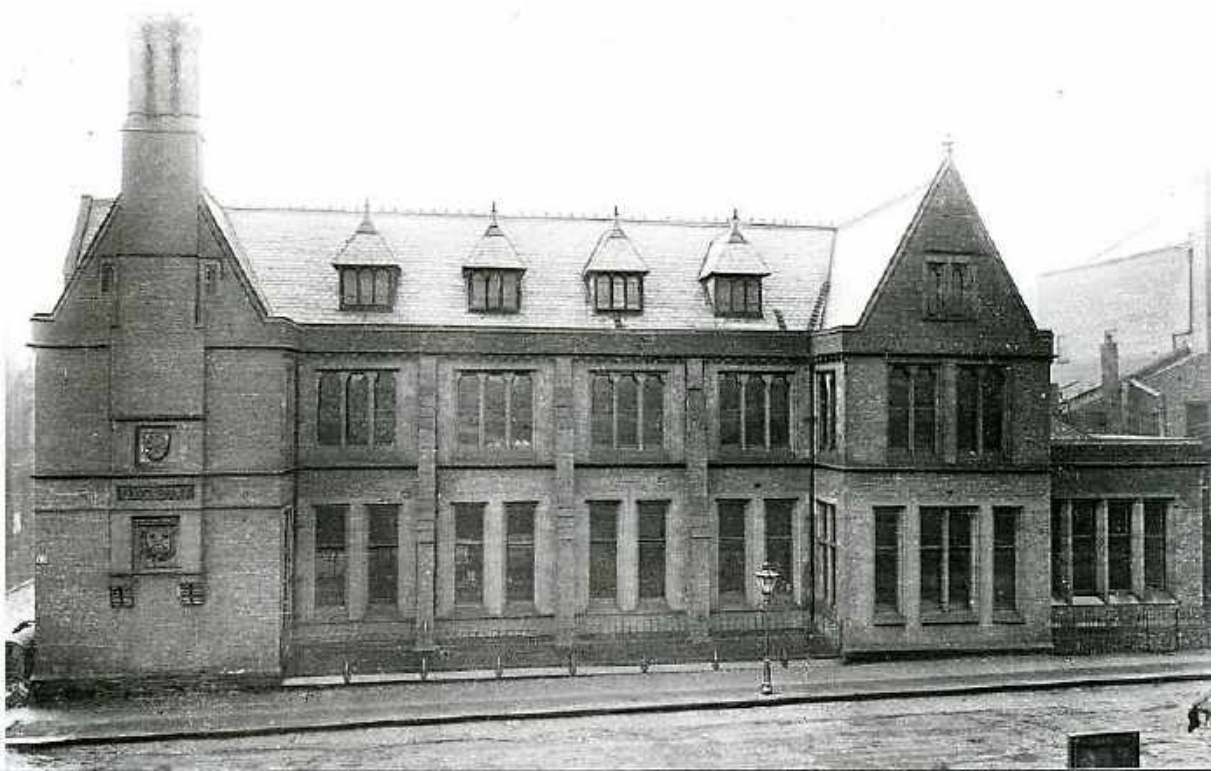
Harry Lauder



Gracie Fields



George Formby



Wigan Library 1937



Wigan Life Centre which includes the Library 2017



Wigan North Western Station, 1937



Wigan North Western Station, 2017



Wigan Wallgate Station 1937



Wigan Wallgate Station 2017



Steam Train 1937



**Pendolino Train at Wigan North Western Station 2017
Wigan to London - 2 hours 4 minutes**



Wigan Corporation Bus 1937



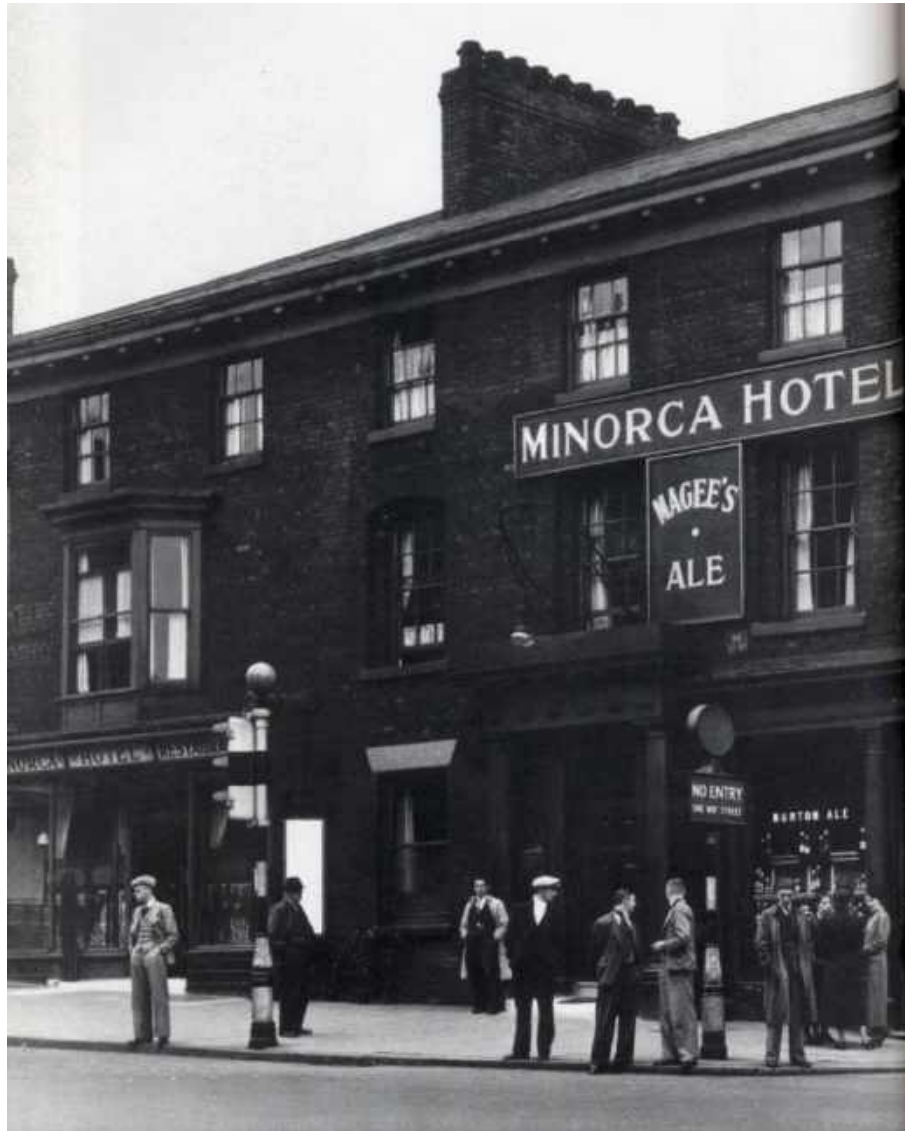
Arriva bus at Wigan Bus Station 2017



Bricklayers Arms, Hallgate, Wigan 1937



Bricklayers Arms, Hallgate, Wigan 2017



Minorca Hotel, Wallgate, Wigan 1937



In 2017 Minorca is now called The Berkeley

SOCIAL LIFE, LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT 2017

Despite being part of Greater Manchester most Wiganers still regard themselves as Lancastrians.

The Wigan Youth Zone is open to all young people across Wigan aged from 8 to 21, they pay £2 subscription each year and 50p per session. WYZ offers something for everyone, regardless of their interests or abilities. With almost 15 dedicated areas to choose from including four 40-metre floodlit football pitches, art room, music room and climbing wall.



This is now Wigan's only cinema based at Robin Park, it is multi-screen and near the new Wigan Rugby/Football ground



The DW stadium shared by Wigan Athletic and Wigan RLFC 2017



Wigan Warriors RLFC 2017



Wigan Athletic F.C. 2017



Springfield Park home to Wigan Athletic 1937



Central Park home to Wigan Rugby 1937 and how it is in 2017 (Tesco)





Children playing in a Wigan street 1937



Children on mobile phones in a Wigan street 2017



Mesnes Park Wigan 1937



Mesnes Park Wigan 2017



Mesnes Park bandstand and Mesnes Park lodge both licensed for weddings



The Roy Cafe decorated for the Coronation in 1937. To the left is 'The Creche', a baby clothes shop in Marsden Street.



McDonalds Drive in, Greenough Street, Wigan 2017

2017 CINEMA FILMS – A ticket costs £7.50



WIGAN 10K RACE 2017



Some runners wore fancy dress

GENERAL ELECTION for MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Wigan has sent representatives to Parliament since 1295

1935 Wigan General Election Results

Those eligible to vote were 21 years plus

[General Election 1935:](#)

Wigan

| Party | Candidate | Votes | % | ± |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------|---|
| Labour | John Parkinson | 27,950 | 61.30 | |
| Conservative | Robert Grant-Ferris | 17,646 | 38.70 | |
| Majority | | 10,304 | 22.60 | |
| Turnout | | | 81.74% | |
| Labour hold | | | | |

John Parkinson, Labour Party, was voted Member of Parliament for Wigan. He was born 15th October 1870 in Hindley Green, Lancashire, and worked as a coal miner in the Lancashire Coalfield.

In the 1931 New Year's Honours he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

2017 Wigan General Election Results

Those eligible to vote 18 years plus

| Party | Candidate | Votes | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|--|--|
| Labour | Lisa Nandy | 29,575 | | |
| Conservative | Alexander Williams | 13,548 | | |
| UKIP | Nathan Ryding | 2,750 | | |
| Liberal Democrat | Mark Clayton | 916 | | |
| Green Party | William Patterson | 753 | | |
| Labour Majority | 16,027 | | | |
| Turnout | 63.1% | | | |



Wigan Town Hall 1937



Wigan Town Hall 2017



House of Commons, Houses of Parliament, London

KEY FACTS FROM WIGAN CENSUS 2011

- The population of Wigan Borough is estimated at 317,800 people. This is the largest the population had ever been.
- The population of Wigan grew by 16,378 in the 10 years since the last census, rising from 301,422 in 2001, an increase of 5.4 per cent.
- In 2011, there were 19,700 children under the age of 5 in Wigan, 2,138 more than in 2001, representing an increase of 12 per cent.
- The number of individuals aged 0-19 reduced by 936 in Wigan to 75,600, a 1 per cent reduction on 2001 figures.
- The percentage of the population aged 65 and over was the highest seen in any census at 16.2 per cent. 1 in 6 Wigan residents are now over the age of 65.
- The number of 85+ year olds increased from 4,326 to 5,400 in 2011, an increase of over 24 per cent.
- The number of households in Wigan increased by just over 9 per cent, from 125,096 to 136,400.
- 50.3 per cent of the population in Wigan were female, with males making up the remaining 49.7 per cent.
- 94% of Wigan's usual residents provided a response to the Census, reflecting the average for England and Wales.
- The average ward population in Wigan on 27 March 2011 was 12,714.
- The average number of households per ward in Wigan on 27 March 2011 was 5,455.
- The electoral ward of Douglas experienced the highest population increase, with a 16.6 per cent rise in 10 years, from 11,056 to 12,892 in 2012.
- Shevington with Lower Ground was one of four electoral wards that experienced a decrease in population, reducing by 586 people to 11,482. A decline of 4.9 per cent.
- Population density in Wigan on 27 March 2011 was 16.9 persons per hectare.
- Wigan West is the most densely populated ward in the borough with 34.5 persons per hectare. Aspull/New Springs/Whelley is the least densely populated with 6.1 persons per hectare.
- Atherton has the highest number of households with 6,579, Winstanley has the lowest with 4,334 households.
- Winstanley has the highest average household size with 2.6 persons per household. Wigan Central had the least with 2.1 persons per household.

AROUND AND ABOUT WIGAN TOWN 1937 and 2017



Makinson Arcade





Market Place, Wigan

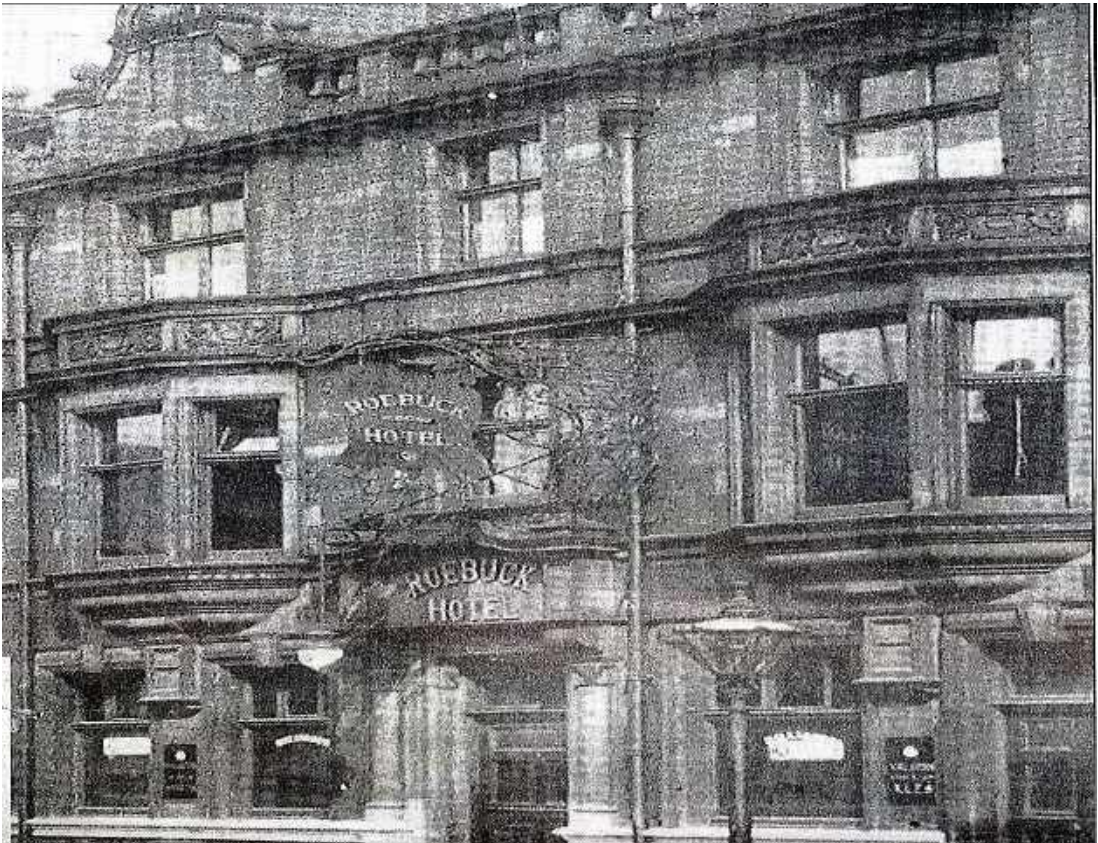


Barclays Bank where Lowe's Department Store used to be



Market Place, Wigan





Standishgate





Standishgate





Wallgate, Wigan 1937



Wallgate, Wigan 2017



Hallgate 1937



Hallgate 2017



The Roy Cafe decorated for the Coronation in 1937. To the left is 'The Creche', a baby clothes shop in Marsden Street.



Mesnes Street/ Marsden Street/Royal Arcade



Library Street Wigan



1937



Standishgate, Wigan



2017



Standishgate 2017





1937 Court House, now an Arts Venue Centre



2017 Wigan Court House



1937 Police Station and town hall, Rodney Street, Wigan



2017 Wigan Police Station, Robin Park,



1937 Fire Station, Rodney Street, Wigan



New 2017 Wigan Fire Station, Robin Park



1937 Martins Bank, Market Place, Wigan



2017 now Moon Under Water Pub in Market Place, Wigan



Queen's Theatre, Market Street, Wigan in 1937



Queens Hall, Methodist Mission, Market Street, Wigan 2017



Corner Standishgate, opposite St. John's RC church 1937

↑ When the Pram Shop was demolished for Northway, a 16th century 'priest's hole' was discovered and sent off to Manchester. The Tudor beams from inside can now be seen in the Bluecoat school, next to Wigan Parish church



Tudor timbers in Bluecoat school



Corner Standishgate/Northway 2017



Notre Dame Convent, Standishgate 1937



2017 now Gateway House, Standishgate



20 *Where Wigan Lads and Lasses go for an Evening's Entertainment*
Popular centre for dancing is the Empress Hall. Dancing, as a rule, goes on every evening from 7.30 to 10.30. Hall holds 500. Price is 6d. a head; 1s. on Saturdays.



1937

**Tommy Moss in his
Wigan Dancing
school**



Strictly Come Dancing 2017 – a very popular BBC television show watched by over 10 million people

1937 QUIZ – Can You Name the following?



1



2



3



4



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13

14



15



16



17

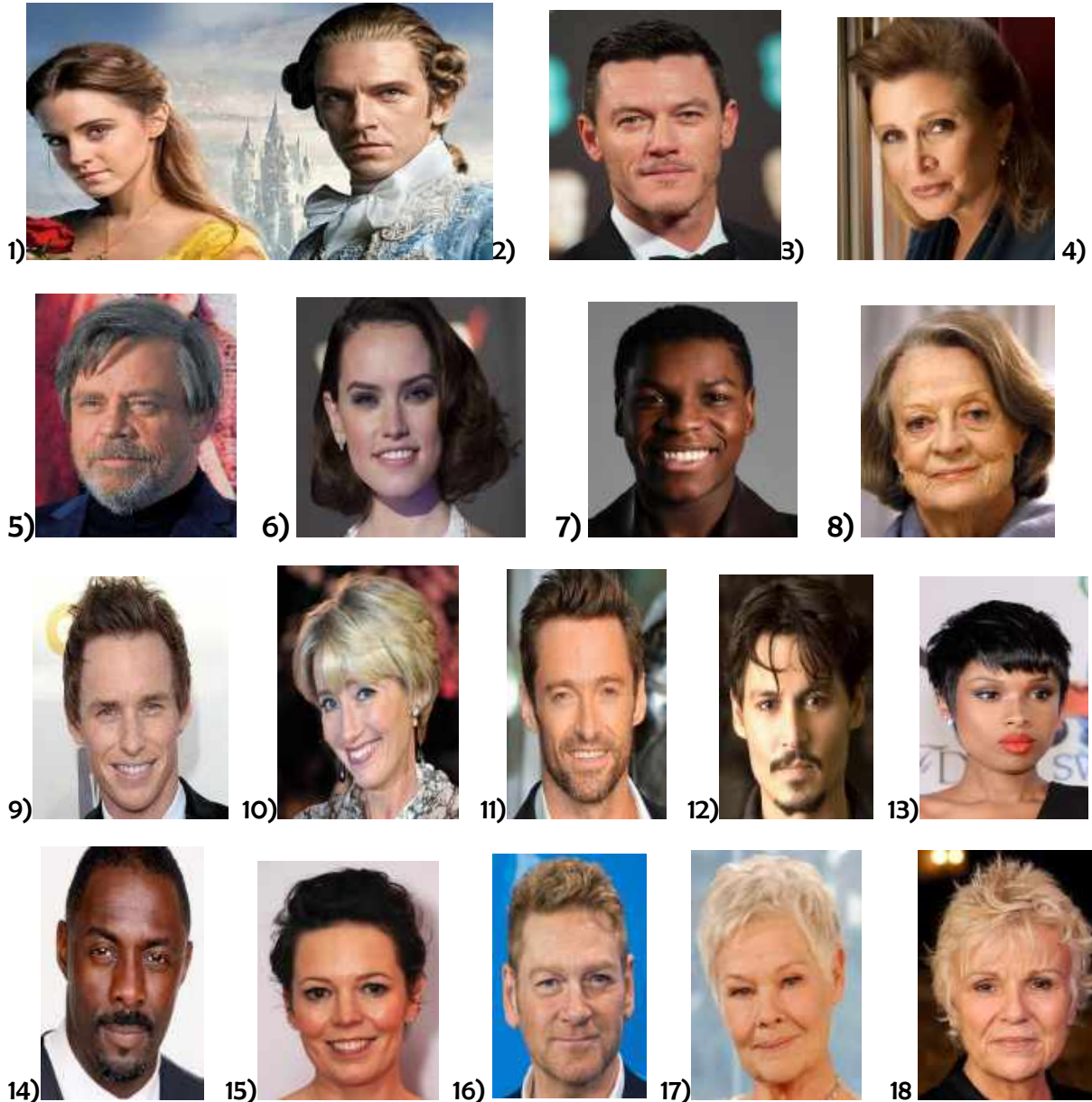


18

19) What was George Orwell's real name? 20) Who invented the jet engine?

Answers: 1) Laurence Olivier 2) Vivien Leigh 3) Gracie Fields 4) George Formby
 5) Ronald Coleman 6) Anna Neagle 7) Robert Donat 8) Margaret Lockwood
 9) Will Hay 10) Jessie Matthews 11) Bud Flanagan 12) Chesney Allan 13) Dinah Sheridan
 14) Merle Oberon 15) Douglas Fairbanks Jr. 16) Basil Rathbone 17) Flora Robson
 18) David Niven 19) Eric Blair 20) Frank Whittle

2017 QUIZ – Can You Name the following?



19) Who was appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police?

20) What wedding anniversary did the Queen and Prince Philip celebrate?

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Emma Watson; | 2) Dan Stevens; | 3) Luke Evans; | 4) Carrie Fisher |
| 5) Mark Hamill; | 6) Daisy Ridley | 7) John Boyega | 8) Maggie Smith |
| 9) Eddie Redmayne | 10) Emma Thompson | 11) Hugh Jackman | 12) Johnny Depp |
| 13) Jennifer Hudson | 14) Idris Elba | 15) Olivia Coleman | 16) Kenneth Branagh |
| 17) Judi Dench | 18) Julie Walters | 19) Cressida Dick | 20) 70th |

FUTURE WIGAN PLANS



Plan of new Wigan Bus Station due to be completed late 2018



Gateway House Standishgate(site of the convent) to be demolished for a sheltered housing project as above.



**Eileen Walsh and Eileen Bithell taking part in the
English Civil War Days which they organised
in Wigan Town Centre**

**Eileen Bithell and Eileen Walsh are BETA Charity
Trustees and, on a voluntary basis, research, write
and publish local history.**

BETA Contact telephone Number 01942 244201

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