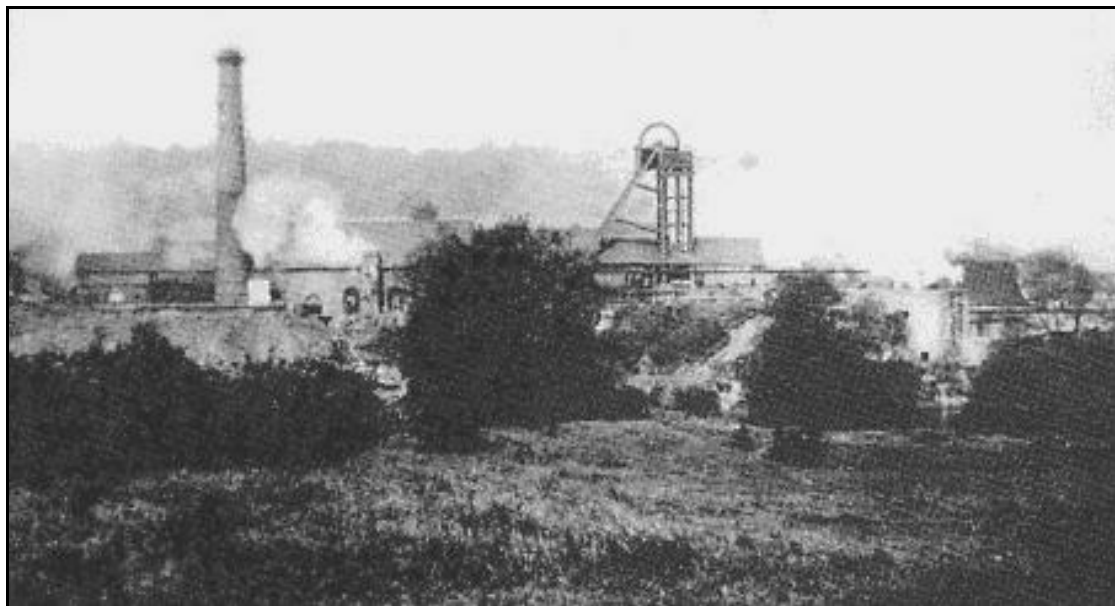
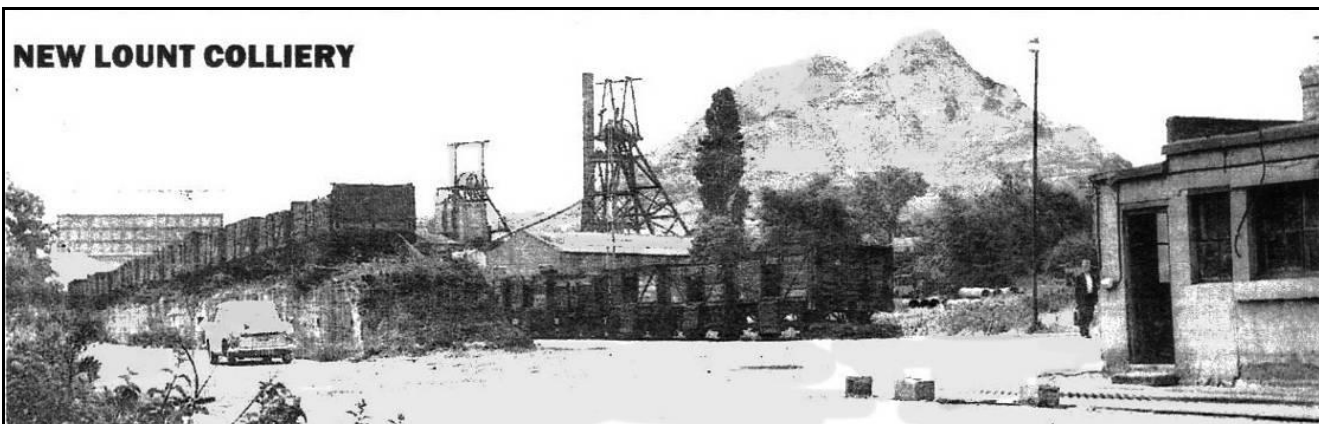


**JOHN AND SARAH WILTON
NATIVES OF PEGGS GREEN -
A COAL MINERS TALE**



John Wilton worked at the above Coleorton No.3. Pit (Bug & Wink) for ten years prior to its closure in 1933 after going to work at Newbold Pit as a 13 year old

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - SEPT 2026



John Wilton worked at New Lount Colliery for 42 years starting in 1933 and was a deputy when he retired

1933 / 34 SEASON - RUNNERS UP IN COALVILLE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION & WINNERS OF "SWANNINGTON CHARITY CUP"



1st Row seated LH side - Mick Bradford;

2nd Row L to R - 1st person Les Bradford, 3rd person Matt Rowell;

Top Row L to R - Tom Richards 3rd person, 6th person John Wilton.

AFTER JOINING NEW LOUNT COLLIERY IT DIDN'T TAKE JOHN WILTON LONG TO FIND HIS WAY INTO THE COLLIERY FOOTBALL TEAM



John Wilton was licensee of the New Inn, Peggs Green for a spell whilst working at New Lount Colliery

The following is transcribed from the Burton Observer and Chronicle - Friday 2nd September 1977.

TEN YEARS AT THE BUG & WINK

Celebrating their golden wedding this week are Mr. John Wilton and his wife, Sarah of 4 New Road, Peggs Green, near Swannington. Mr. Wilton is a retired miner, having spent 52 years in the coal industry. He recalled his first day at work at Newbold (Coleorton) pit as a lad of 13. He then went to Coleorton colliery locally known as the "Bug and Wink" where he stayed for ten years until it closed down. After that he worked underground for 42 years at nearby New Lount Colliery —which also closed down a few years ago retiring as a deputy.

"Change was needed. in the mines, but I think things have gone too far, nowadays", Mr. Wilton said. "Work underground was much harder in my day and there were times when I never saw daylight for months."

Mr. Wilton has always been a great sportsman. For many years he played for Shepshed and Lount football teams, winning gold medals. He was also a playing member of Lount cricket club. In 1975, at the age of 72, he was one the four-member team from the Leicestershire Bowling Association who won the National Bowls Championship at Worthing.

In the late 1940's for about ten years Mr. Wilton and his wife were the landlord and landlady of the New Inn, just around the corner from the cottage where they now live while Mr. Wilton, still carried on working at Lount Pit. "But", he said, "at that time television became very popular and our takings dropped. People just rushed into the pub, bought drinks and went home to watch television. So, we decided to give up the public house before our Losses became too great."

Mrs. Wilton said they were both natives of Peggs Green and had never wanted to leave the village where they have many friends. "Our marriage has been good because we have always pulled together", she said. The couple are both members of Peggs Green Darby and Joan Club. They have one son, Mr. John Wilton, who works in a bank at Ipswich, and three granddaughters.



FRONT ROW L TO R

Christine Allcoat's Grandma, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Wilton, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Flo Morley, Mr. Wilton

MIDDLE ROW L TO R

Mrs. O' Reilly, Mrs. Dimmock, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Morley, Sarah Barkby, Mrs. Barkby, Mrs. Fern, Mrs. Fairbrother, Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Morley, Mrs. Howkins, Mr. Barker ?, Mr. Morley.

TOP ROW L TO R

Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Rowell, Mrs. Morley, Mrs. Morley, Mrs. Bradley, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Harrison (the first five ladies were thought to be the helpers)

John and Sarah Wilton are thought to be the Mr & Mrs. Wilton shown on the front row.

As we can see, John, a working man, with a 52 year history in the coal mines where he became a deputy, also achieved local recognition in the sporting arena. He also made an important contribution to his village of Pegg's Green where one of the roles he held was Honorary Secretary of 'The Workmen's Fruit and Vegetable Show and Gala', which provided substantial funds for the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

**All the following events were held in the old California Brick Yard
opposite the New Inn**

PEGG'S GREEN THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, LEICESTER

Annual effort for the Infirmary - The people of Pegg's Green and surrounding district made their annual effort for the Leicester Royal Infirmary on Saturday last, when the show and sale of Fruit, vegetables etc., took place in the old 'Brickyard building' opposite the New Inn. A splendid lot of produce was contributed, making a fine display, and there was a good attendance at the opening ceremony, which was performed by Mrs. Booth (Gracedieu Manor). Mrs. Booth congratulated the promoters on the success of past efforts, and expressed the hope that the event that day would be up to all expectations. She also spoke highly of the work of the Leicester Infirmary. The fruit and vegetables were sold on Saturday evening, some left overs being disposed of on Monday. An interesting side-line in connection with the show was the draw for a wheel barrow, valued at £2. 25 shillings given by Mr G. H. Brooks. A prize valued at £1 was given by the committee, and a couple of fowls were given by friends. There was also various competitions, and another success has been recorded, a fact upon which **Mr. John Wilton (Hon sec)** and the committee are to be heartily congratulated. The whole of the proceeds were for the infirmary.

Coalville Times - 13th Oct 1922.

PEGG'S GREEN THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, LEICESTER

It is always a source of local satisfaction to the committee of the Workmen's Fruit and Vegetable Show and Gala, to announce the results of their annual effort on behalf of 'Leicester Royal infirmary'. The effort first originated in the year 1909, and has been continued every year since that date with results which have varied a little year by year according to local weather conditions, but has never been anything other than satisfactory. During these years, the committee has been able to send to the infirmary the gratifying total contribution of £729.11s.11d, and it is no secret to say that the Chairman of the board of the infirmary and other members associated with the institution have frequently held up the effort as an example to other areas, and have expressed amazement of the sum which the somewhat distant hamlet are able to send to the institution.

This happy result has been accomplished by really hard work on the part of the officers and committee., backed up and supported by a willing band of lady workers and by the generous gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables from all the residents alike.

Mrs. Booth (of Gracedieu Manor) has invariably shown her interest in the effort, and on almost every occasion since the show has been organised, has taken the chair at the annual effort.

The result for this past year has seen a sum of £50 donated to the infirmary, who have already recognised the enthusiastic work of the show committee by appointing **Mr. John Wilson, their honorary secretary**, to a life governorship of the infirmary.

Coalville Times - 21st December 1923.

PEGG'S GREEN THE ROYAL INFIRMARY

This hamlet in the parish of Thringstone organises annually a fruit, flower and vegetable show for the infirmary and as a result of this year's effort £78 has been handed in by **Mr. John. Wilton, the hon secretary**. Over £12 of this sum were the proceeds of a concert organised by Mr. Sketchley. Johnson, and £24 resulted from the sale of a wheel barrow offered by Mr. Wilkes.

Coalville Times - 2nd Jan 1925.

PEGG'S GREEN ANNUAL INFIRMARY EFFORT

Leicester Royal Infirmary has been the recipient of £53.10.0. from the 1929 organisation of 'Pegg's Green and District Workmen's Show and Sale' The annual effort is popular with residents of the district and has, for many years now, proved a valuable source of income to Leicester Royal Infirmary, the governors of which express their gratitude to the organisers and supporters for their continued interest.

Coalville Times – Feb 14th 1930.