

# INFORMATION PACK & GUIDELINES TO MEMBERSHIP



Headquarters: Braunston Civic Centre  
Kingsway Leicester LE3 2PP

Secretary: Glenn Fielding

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FOUNDED 1924



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## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

Thank you for your enquiry about becoming a member of The Leicester Magic Circle.

Membership shall be confined to persons 16 years of age and over, who are practising magic in an amateur, semi-professional, professional capacity or who have made a study of magical methods and principles.

Our Annual Subscription is **£70** for standard membership (can be paid by standing order at **£6** per month if required) Members living over 50 miles and international members pay **£20** per year

Once your application has been received you will be invited to attend an audition before the Executive Committee.

Following acceptance by the committee and the successful performance of an audition, which may include a magical performance should the committee so wish, the applicant shall be designated an **'ASSOCIATE MEMBER'** for a period of 12 months from the date of the committee approval. At the end of that period the ASSOCIATE shall be called into FULL MEMBERSHIP of the circle, provided that the committee is of the opinion that this member is a fit and proper person to be so accepted.

The Committee shall have the power to refuse FULL MEMBERSHIP to an ASSOCIATE MEMBER and the committee shall not be obliged to give any reason for such refusal.

After being an ASSOCIATE MEMBER for 12 months and finally approved by the committee the applicant shall be initiated into FULL MEMBERSHIP at the next convenient closed meeting. (Members ONLY)

We appreciate your interest in The Leicester Magic Circle and I hope to be able to welcome you as a member. Please complete the Membership Application Form and return to me at your convenience.

Meanwhile if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Glenn Fielding.

Secretary

## **Guidelines to candidates applying for membership**

You will be interviewed by the Executive Committee and required to give a short demonstration of your chosen field of magical interest. If you are a non-performer but can show you have a serious and real interest in magic then you may still be accepted into membership.

Upon completion of the audition, the Applicant will leave the meeting. A vote by the committee members will be taken to determine whether the Applicant has been successful or not the result of which will be notified to the Applicant on the evening

The Audition should last for no longer than 10 minutes. (Smart Dress Please)

- be over 16 years of age
- Your application should be proposed and seconded by two current members of The Leicester Magic Circle and who are willing to testify that you are a fit and proper person to be admitted as a Member of the Society.
- Our Annual Subscription is £70 for standard membership (can be paid by standing order at £6 per month if required) Members living over 50 miles and international members pay £20 per year.
- The completed and signed Application Form, together with the correct fees, should be submitted to the Secretary.
- Associate Membership will be offered to all candidates who successfully pass the audition. After 12 months as an Associate Member a brief assessment will be made with a view to awarding Full Membership, providing you still show a keen interest in magic or the allied arts and are able to demonstrate the required skill level including your interest in the Leicester Magic Circle.
- Associate Members can attend monthly meetings but cannot vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- On your induction into FULL MEMBERSHIP you will be required to make a solemn promise that you will uphold with dignity the rules and objectives of the circle. You will also receive a copy of the Leicester Magic Circle Handbook, a certificate of membership & a pin badge.

## **Brief History of the Society**

The Leicester Magic Circle has a long history – one of the longest in the world, in fact. Eddy Ward, one of the founder members recalls how half a dozen enthusiasts met regularly on Saturday afternoons, eventually booking a room the Turkey Café in Leicester. Will Sutton was chairman, Albert Ballard designed the badge.

There is some debate about whether the first meeting was held in 1922 or 1924 but we seemed to settle on a year of 1924. Meetings were held monthly with a whip-round to pay for the room.

Soon the Circle was moved to Secular Hall and then to the Y.M.C.A. Interest slackened after a couple of years but revived in 1935, centred around Wilf Hubbards Magic Shop in Waterloo Street Leicester. Meetings started up again at King Richard Public House, among those present being Chris van Bern, Cecil Tebbett and Wilf Hubbard. Cyril Gibbons (Cyraldo of tubes, silks and liquid fame) insisted the Circle be run on businesslike lines, he was the first chairman of the reconstituted society. Wilf Hubbard was Secretary and Eddy Ward Treasurer/Librarian.

Soon Headquarters moved to the White Hart Hotel and Sir Julien Cahn became President. To this day the Leicester Magic Circle holds a competition amongst members for the Sir Julien Cup, held until 1999 at Stanford Hall Theatre, near Loughborough. Stanford Hall was the home of Sir Julien where he built a 352 seater theatre with cinema organ (Wurlitzer) in 1938 so he could perform himself, whenever he wanted to do so.

In 1935 the first Annual Dinner was held and in 1936 came the first visit by another society – the Midland Magical Society. The circle itself ‘went foreign’ for the first time with a visit to the Northampton Magicians Club in March 1936. Seven magicians performed, Robert Harbin was guest artist. That year (1936) saw a move to the Victory Hotel and in July the members went en masse to the Great

Levante Show at the Opera House, having arranged for the performance to be halted briefly whilst they presented a Leicester Magic Circle badge to Levante. In October 1936 the circle presented its first big public show at the so-called Little Theatre. Such shows were continued over the years – performers always included well known names – Rex Reader, Billy Wilson and Cliff Townsend to name but a few. About this time the circle started doing charity shows at hospitals and other venues, an activity which continues to this very day.

When in 1939 the war started the Headquarters moved to the Foresters Institute and then to the Royal Hotel and the Bell Hotel, enjoying a long, happy spell here until the hotel was demolished as part of a rebuilding programme in Leicester.

The Leicester Magic Circle within its hay days had well over 80 members and met fortnightly at the Grand Hotel (formally the Ramada Jarvis and now Mercure Leicester The Grand Hotel) until January 2009 when it moved to Braunstone Civic Centre with exciting facilities and excellent free parking.

## **Our First President**



1936 to 1944

**Sir Julien Cahn (bart)** Lord of the manor of Stanford on Soar. Born in 1882 he was an eminently successful businessman, knighted in 1929 and receiving his baronetcy in 1934. His interests were varied; he supported the arts and sport. He was master of several hunts and the exploits of his own cricket XI are legendary and without parallel. His great love however was **magic** and this led to the building of the private theatre adjoining Stanford Hall. The theatre was designed by a cinema architect both as a cinema and theatre and based on the Grenada Theatre. Seating 352 it was built in 1938 at a considerable cost.

Sir Julian was a magician in his own right, he and his staff developed many magical effects and illusions. He frequently performed them to an invited audience on the stage of his theatre. He was a member of the British Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) and was the President of the Leicester Magic Circle from 1936 until his death in 1944.



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### **About our President – Wayne Dobson**

Wayne Dobson became a household name during the 1990s with his own Saturday night prime-time magic & illusion show - A Kind of Magic. The show lasted for three series, attracting record-breaking audiences of over 11 Million and guest-starring Linda Lusardi as his glamorous assistant.

Throughout his career Wayne has appeared with many of the world's top entertainers including Shirley Bassey, Dean Martin and Engelbert Humperdinck in Las Vegas and Detroit where he entertained an audience of 16,000 fans. His trademark is his ventriloquism routine which has been performed to audiences around the world - including an appearance before HM The Queen on The Royal Variety Show where he used Frank Bruno and Harry Carpenter as his assistants.

In 1996, amid rumours of cocaine addiction, AIDS or alcoholism, Wayne announced via tabloid front pages that he suffers from Multiple Sclerosis. There are over 100,000 suffers of the illness in the UK, yet, despite being confined to a wheelchair at 50 years old Wayne still very much involved in magic and attending a number of conventions throughout the UK and abroad.

Aside from a strict diet, remarkably Wayne takes no drugs or stimulants to help him cope with the MS. He says that the only effective drug is the buzz and adrenaline rush he gets from entertaining audiences in theatres around the world.

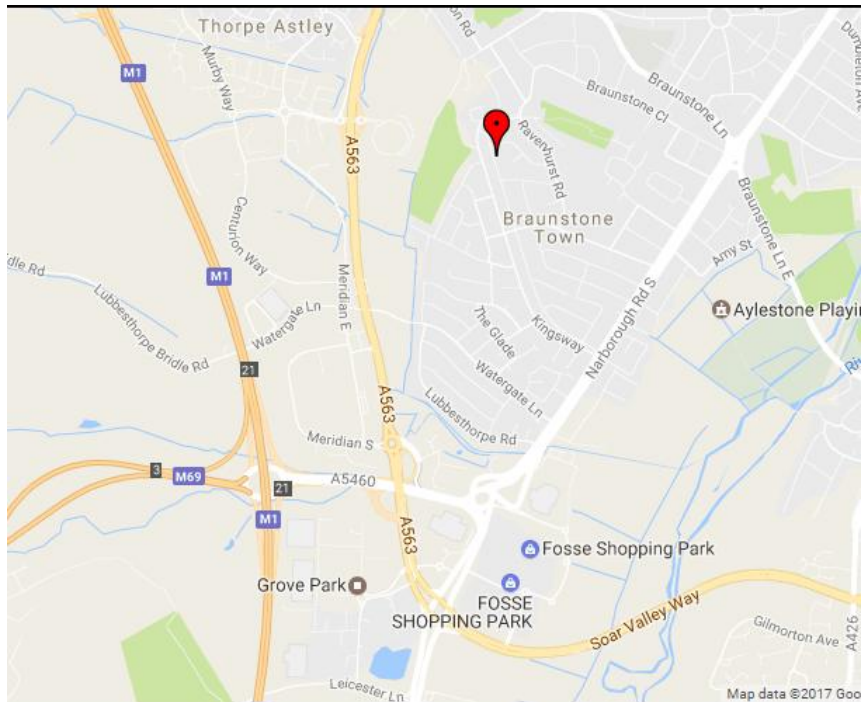
Wayne's 'triumph over adversity' after-dinner talk is a truly remarkable and inspirational yet humorous insight into his high-flying life in the 1990s. From the Ferraris & Porsches, regular Caribbean holidays, secluded country cottage and all the benefits of a showbiz lifestyle to coming to terms with his illness.

We are delighted to have Wayne Dobson as our president.



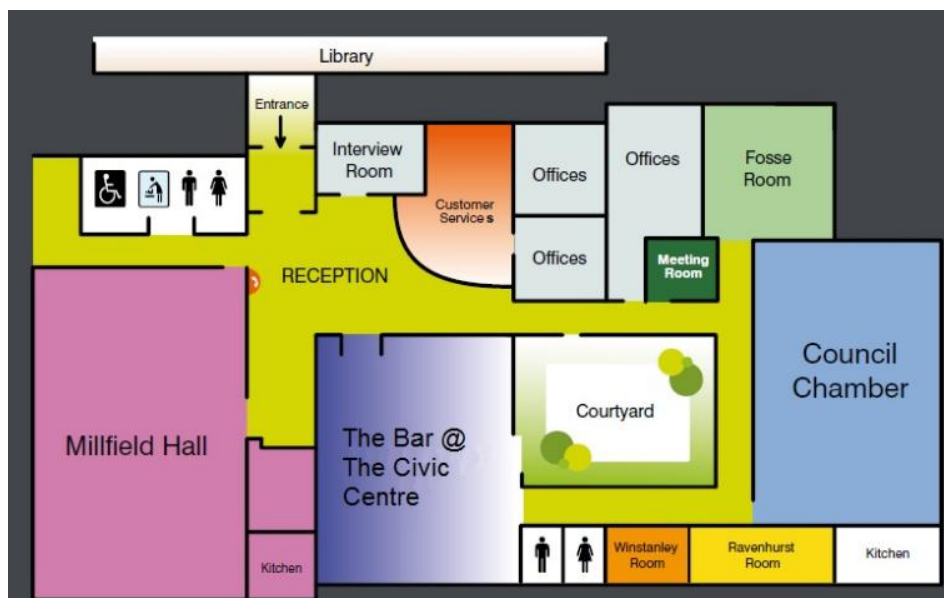
## How to find us: To reach the Braunstone Civic Centre:–

1. From Leicester (Haymarket) by bus Arriva 104 to Ravenhurst Road.
2. From Leicester by car, leave the City by the A46 (Leicester/Coventry Road). At the commencement of the dual carriageway, take the right hand lane and descend to the traffic lights (Post House on Left). Cross over into the right hand service road. Kingsway is the 8th turning on the right.
3. To Leicester via A46 or M1. At the M1 access roundabout, take the west service road. Kingsway is the 3rd turning on the left.



POST CODE FOR SAT NAV LE3 2PP

### Winstanley, Ravenhurst Room & Council Chambers





**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.**

**THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE.**

**Secretary: Glenn Fielding**

**Headquarters: Braunstone Civic Centre 209 Kingsway Leicester LE3 2PP**

**Tel : Mobile: (07369) 278774**

**Email: [glenn@leicestermagiccircle.org](mailto:glenn@leicestermagiccircle.org)**

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**Please state whether Amateur - Semi-Professional - Professional - Student:**

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Are you a member of any other magical society? \_\_\_\_\_

If so which? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to join THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE?

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How long have you been interested in magic? \_\_\_\_\_

Mention a few affects you can perform competently:

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## DECLARATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)  
of (address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hereby promise (if admitted to THE LEICESTER MAGIC CIRCLE)

- (a) To abide by and act in accordance with the rules of the Circle
- (b) That I will not intentionally disclose any magical secret other than to:-
  - A brother magician
  - A pupil under magical instruction
  - The Editor of any publication devoted entirely to magic.
- (c) That I will not copy any original magical idea or an original line of presentation of any magical effect, without first obtaining the originator's written consent.
- (d) That I will at all times use my best endeavours to elevate the Art of Magic and promote the interest and welfare of the Circle.

On receipt of an application for membership it shall be read out at a meeting of members and if after seven days there has been no objection put to the secretary in writing the application shall be put to the committee. Following acceptance by the committee and successful performance of an audition, the applicant shall be initiated at the next convenient closed meeting of the circle. On being accepted into membership the applicant shall pay the entrance fee together with one year's subscription.

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT proposer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT seconder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please note we can provide a Proposer & Secunder if required – Leave the space blank and you will be contacted by the Secretary)**

Committee decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_