



MHG NEWSLETTER

January 2019

February Meeting
Tuesday 12th February 7.30. Memorial Centre

Annual General Meeting

Our Chairman, Brian Stanton and Vice Chairman, Robin Davies will be standing down at the AGM. They have both served for five years. This has been a very successful period for the group during which time the membership has more than doubled and our range of activities increased

The trustees have elected Maggie Hunt as our next Chairman

The AGM will be followed by a presentation

Mountsorrel Roads, Yards and Bridges
What's in a name?

Mountsorrel Museum and Heritage Trust
Registered Charity No: 1174559

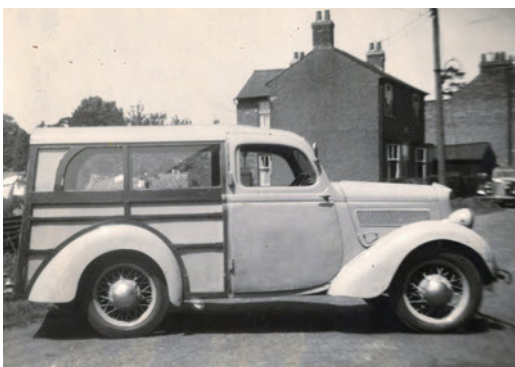
Soar Valley Boatyard

We have recently been lent a set of photographs of Eric Boon's boatyard by his eldest daughter, Liz Castledine

Eric worked at the Brush as a coach builder when their buses and coaches were built from wood with metal panels on the outside.



When coach building finished in the 1950's Eric turned his hand to making furniture and converting lifeboats into cabin cruisers



Restored Singer

The boat trade was seasonal so in the winter he restored vintage cars



Restored Riley

Wildlife and Ecology

Where have all the birds gone?

A question raised by several members over the last few weeks and one that does come up regularly at this time of year, but it really does seem a bit quiet out there. We have, until a few days ago, had a really mild autumn/winter so many birds that would come to our gardens at this time of year simply haven't had the need as there's still been food enough out in the hedgerows and fields and many birds of course do migrate to somewhere warmer. So now we have got some more seasonal weather don't forget to put some food and water out for the birds. It will pay off.

Where we have had a definite reduction in wildlife of course is over Broad Hill (the area from Broad Hill proper across to Halstead Road and the Common). The building work has taken out some key territory for both residents and winter visitors, Yellowhammers that were resident all year around in small numbers along the old enclosure hedgerows seem to have gone completely this winter, and of course the Skylark nesting areas now have houses on them. The loss of habitat also means that the small flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares that come in winter have gone elsewhere with only the odd single bird about. Which is all very depressing for a bird watcher

BUT spring is on its way and with the better weather who knows what we will see return and what will take up residence on the drainage ponds and small wildlife areas included within the new housing area.

Big Garden Birdwatch

If anyone here in Mountsorrel took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January please share your results with us so that we can do a Mountsorrel Report. To date we have only 4 sets of figures which isn't really enough to make worthwhile.

Peace Garden

Look out for a first 2019 Peace Garden Work Party request for the end of the month or very early March – this is weather dependent of course!

We need to build on the hard work that was put in last year and continue the improvements that we have set going. We hope by then to have Pyracantha bushes to plant along the Sibley Lane edge to provide some colour and attract wildlife and have some other material for down by the river.

Noel Wakeling



Although wild and rowdy at times,
he has proved his worth when called upon.
He has kept his Six orderly and as neat as
he could. He is a very tidy boy himself.

Noel was a founder member of the heritage group. If you wanted to know anything about the people or the history of the village, you asked Noel. You probably got a bit more information than you were expecting, but there was usually some humorous content that made you smile.

We miss him.

Noel was also my next door neighbour for over forty years. I didn't know him really well until I retired and joined the heritage group. But prior to that he was always there and came to our rescue on a number of occasions.

Our front room used to be a branch of the Midland Bank and we were paid £1 a week rent and £1 a week to clean it. (Noel's front room was a hairdressers). My parents were staying with us one time and my mum volunteered to clean the bank. But some how she set off the bank alarm. I was at work and nobody knew how to stop it.....Noel to the rescue!

Another time we were away somewhere and on returning discovered Noel had noticed that the sill of our front window was rotten and had cut it out and replaced it!

Noel and I were once repairing the granite wall that separates our gardens when I gave my thumb an almighty clout with a lump hammer. Feeling a bit weird I said "I need to sit down Noel" and I heard him reply "OK Keith" as he carried on chipping away at the mortar. The next thing I remember was being shaken vigorously and Noel shouting in my ear "Keith Keith". I had passed out. Noel thought I was dead.

We later had a few laughs over that event and it became one of Noel's "stories"
I'll stop there....