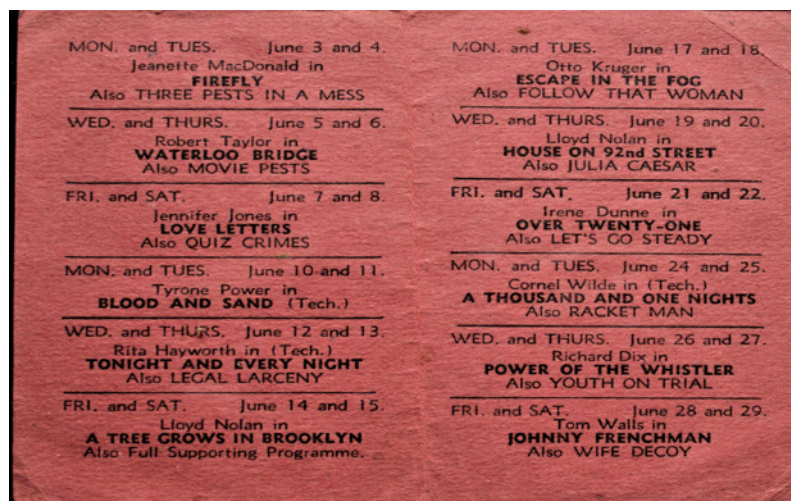


**April Meeting
Tuesday 9th April 7.30. Memorial Centre**

Leicestershire Village Cinemas By Brian Johnson

Mountsorrel's cinema was called The Rock but always known as Bertie's



The owners Bertie Baum and Mr Fisher lived on either side of the Rock Cinema. Their wives were sisters. Bertie ran the Rock cinema and Mr Fisher ran the cinema in Sibley. Inside were stalls, a balcony and the 'chicken run'-a couple of rows of double seats reached by a ladder. There were two films each night which, it seems, the Sibley and the Mountsorrel cinemas shared. This meant that at the intermission Bertie and Mr Fisher jumped on their bikes and met half way down Sibley Lane. They swapped over the film reels and cycled back and started the second film. If the floods were up there was a long intermission!

The films were changed three time a week and Saturday afternoon was 'tuppenny rush'

On one occasion the audience could hear the band playing in the village so they all rushed out to watch the band go by much to the annoyance of Mr Baum and Mr Shepherd.

On another occasion screams from the 'chicken run' resulted when Malcolm Goward grabbed an uncovered electric wire. '*Be quiet or I'll turn the film off*'-from the owner.

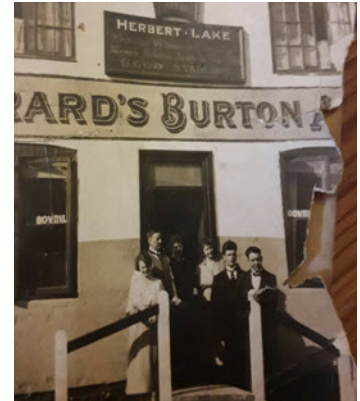
During the 1950's when the trustees were raising money to build the old Memorial Hall, at one point they considered purchasing the Rock cinema

Dances and Boxing matches were held in the Rock cinema. The boxer Pat Butler won there three times in 1931/1932/1933. Pat was born in Rothley, trained at the Bull and Mouth and was signed to promoter George Biddles

The Rock closed in the 1950's and became an engineering factory called Blakesley Reid

A Pub and a Shop

Jo Tanner contacted us via the website to say that her great grandfather Herbert Edward John Lake owned the Duke of York (now the Waterside) in the 1920's. His son, Herbert John Lake, married Hilda Brooks.

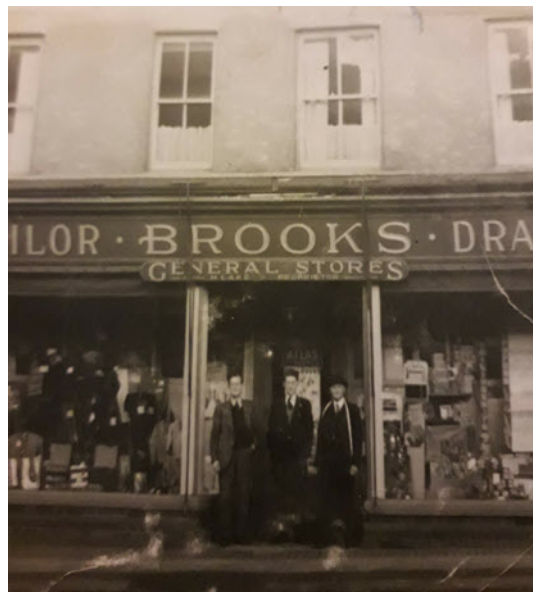


"Good Stabling" at the Duke of York

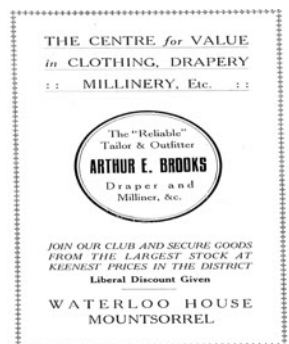


Herbert Lake with Mountsorrel Badminton Club

Hilda was the daughter of Arthur Brooks who had a shop in Market Place, now Bennetts. When Arthur retired Herbert took over the shop



Arthur Brooks with Herbert Lake and his son, Robert outside the shop



Robert inside the shop

Thanks to Jo Tanner who shared with us all the above photographs



This photograph from our archive [part of the Noel Wakeling collection] turns out to be the mother of Arthur Brooks



The photograph was taken by Charles Antill who was a photographic artist and lived in a caravan on The Green. In his will he left his rifle gallery van, his rifles and his grey horse to his son Charles and his living van, his photographic equipment and his black horse to his other son Ernest



Could this be Charles Antill's van (on the LHS)

Peace Garden

Two trees, a Silver Birch and a Rowan were planted in the Peace Garden to mark the 1918 armistice. Some time later the Silver Birch was dug up and disappeared along with the stake.. After a new tree was ordered the missing tree mysteriously reappeared planted and healthy in its originally position. We did solve the mystery, but it is too complicated to report here.

Twenty pyracantha are on order to be planted in the next few weeks.



Tree planting by Nicky Morgan MP, Edward Argar, MP and children from Christchurch & St Peter's School.



As part of the 'Great British Spring Clean' members undertook a litter pick in the Meadow and on Castle Hill, especially around the War Memorial. Several bags of litter and broken glass were collected. Unfortunately there is plenty of litter still there in places too dangerous to access.

Litter picking work party

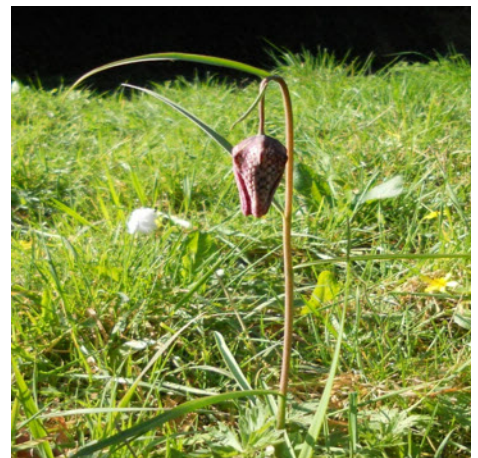
Wildlife

The excellent weather that we've enjoyed over the last few weeks has really brought the Wildflower Meadow on. The Snowdrops have now gone over but they were followed by a good display of white violas that were planted a few years ago but up until now have been very sparse.

They are now being followed by Primroses and Cowslips that as we write are just breaking bud.



What is disappointing so far is that we have (to date) only one Snake's Head Fritillary. [*newsflash-now three*] We had a good show of these last spring but the very dry summer that followed was clearly too much for these flowers that prefer a damp meadow to thrive.



The Song Thrush that sang so well throughout Late February and early March from the trees on the Navins overlooking the Green has now gone quiet, which hopefully means that he's found a mate.

From roughly the same spot though can be heard the drumming of a Great Spotted Woodpecker who has been working away at digging out a nest hole for the last couple of weeks or more. A possible second bird can be heard amongst the trees on the old Quarry waste site above Crown Lane. They don't limit themselves to just those spots but are quite happy to visit gardens for a feed.



The usual summer visitors are now starting to arrive with Swallows and Sand Martin now in the County and Wheatears and Ring Ouzels are passing through. It will be interesting to see the effect of the Halstead Road development has on the summer birds as with it we have effectively lost us the winter Redwings and Fieldfares.