



MHG NEWSLETTER

May 2019

June Meeting
Tuesday 11th June 7.00 pm
Blacksmith's Arms
Quorn

Petanque and Quiz

Buffet Meal included

Cost £8

Mountsorrel Museum Exhibition

The Workhouse Comes Back to Mountsorrel

In the Mountsorrel Library (Upstairs)
Open during normal library opening hours
From 10 am Tuesday 28th May
To 11th June

This exhibition is hosted by the Mountsorrel Heritage Group to mark the opening of the Mountsorrel Museum.

It is on loan from the Rothley Heritage Trust

Thanks to Terry Shepherd and Nev Baum

The Workhouse

The Barrow on Soar Union Workhouse was built on the corner of Leicester Road and what is now Linkfield Road. It was *within the parish of Rothley, and near the town of Mountsorrel* and opened on 11th September 1837.



It was generally known as the Mountsorrel Workhouse and the boundary changes of 1935 transferred it, together with 150 acres, from Rothley to Mountsorrel.

It was a large building on the skyline and built to accommodate 300 inmates



The first record of a workhouse in Mountsorrel comes from a parliamentary report of 1776 which identified 1800 parish workhouses. There was one in the North End of Mountsorrel for 16 inmates. It is not known where this was but in 1832 the churchwardens agreed to sell five tenements known as the 'Old Workhouse'. There was no record of a workhouse in the South End. They relied on the workhouse in Barrow.

In 1740 the churchwardens of the South End paid the master of the workhouse in Barrow, William Squire, eighteen pounds to take in all persons *as through want and poverty shall become chargeable to the inhabitants of the South End of Mountsorrel for a period of three years. They were to be provided with sufficient meat, drink, washing, lodging and clothing.*

In 1783 a law was passed allowing parishes to form corporations with neighbouring parishes to build Houses of Industry. Not many were built but there was one in Barrow -on Beveridge Street. By 1812 it had incorporated 21 parishes including Mountsorrel North and South Ends.

The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act resulted in all the parishes in England and Wales being formed into Poor Law Unions, each with its own workhouse. The Barrow Union incorporated over 30 parishes.

The workhouse was designed by the architect William Flint and followed a model plan, the 'square' design. It was designed to segregate men from women and adults from children.

Conditions were harsh and discipline severe.

Paupers' offence Book

Timothy Baum Being impertinent to the master & using threats

Kept in dark hole for 1 hour

James Baker Throwing a piece of pudding across the women

Stopped 5 ounces of cooked meat

Thomas Hill Leaving the school yard & going into able bodied yard

Kept on low diet for 15 hours & put in dark hole

Thomas Hubbard Using very disgusting language in the work house

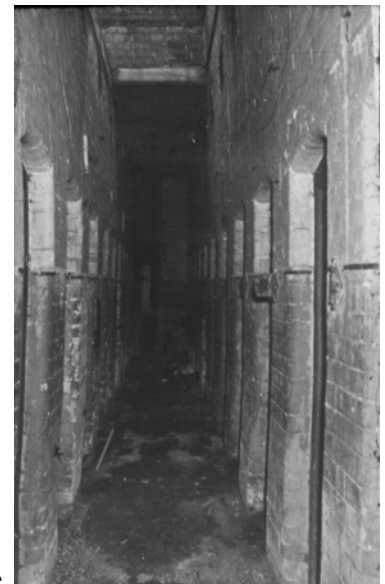
Taken before the magistrate & committed to prison for 21 days hard labour

Fanny Cheshire Refusing to work as requested by master afterwards refused to go to bed and was removed by force

Kept in dark hole 5 hours & 12 hours low diet

William Smith & Susan Wootton Having improper connexion in the bath house

Taken before the justice and sent to hard labour 21 days each



Conditions gradually improved in the face of public protest.

In 1900 Christmas Day at the Mountsorrel workhouse consisted of a morning of divine services followed by a dinner consisting of plum pudding, roast beef and beer. After dinner sacred music was rendered by the choir of Christ Church. After tea various games and amusements were provided, and dessert served. There was a large Christmas table well laden with toys and ornamental articles, which were distributed during the evening.



Workhouses finally disappeared in 1930.

The Mountsorrel workhouse later became the Glenfrith / Mountsorrel hospital for the mentally ill and closed in the late 1990's.

Wildlife

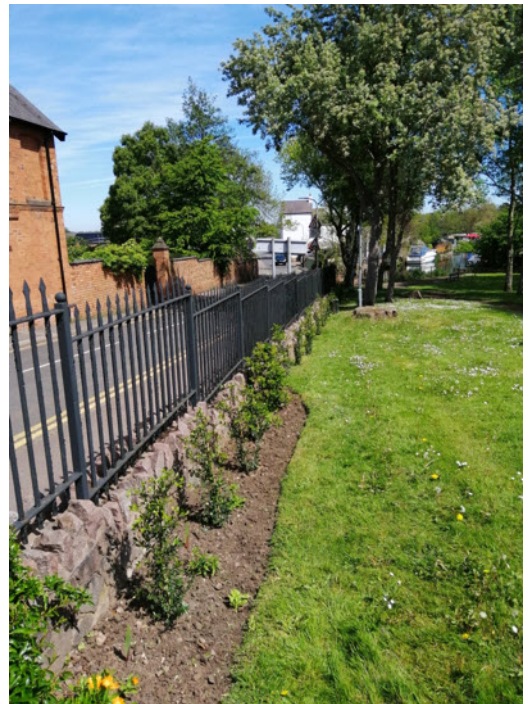
Navins Wildflower Meadow

The Primroses and Cowslips/Oxlips are now going over but have been replaced by the Cow Parsley which seems to have formed a distinct border around the site which is useful as it could be quite invasive. The Yellow Rattle is also now flowering and has extended across towards “The Froggy”. This is a useful plant in that it is parasitic and keeps the more powerful grasses in check, preventing them from swamping the wildflowers.

Peace Garden

The Pyracantha shrubs planted last month are now growing well as are the Armistice Memorial Trees. The Mountain Ash in particular has flowers which hopefully will give us the first berries this autumn.

The next work party day at the Peace Garden is planned for the morning of **Wednesday 12th June**. If you can help do come along you’ll be very welcome. We plan to continue the weeding, edging and generally tidying up, so simply bring your gardening tools and a smile!



Pyracantha planted along the Sileby Lane wall

Birds

Well the main birds of summer have at last arrived with the Swifts and Swallows at least 10 days later than usual but more worryingly in fewer numbers than in recent years. Of note passing over the village have been the odd sighting of Ospreys. These are possibly from those that are resident for the summer at Rutland Water widening their hunting range. They seem to have visited Watermead and then come along the river before drifting across to Swithland Reservoir.