



August Meeting Tuesday 13th August 2019

Margaret Manning's Mysterious Mountsorrel Meander

Meet on The Green at 7.30 pm for a Walking Quiz

Mountsorrel Museum

The Battle of Waterloo display has been replaced by one celebrating the 175th anniversary of Christchurch. This will be on until 10 August 2019.

Christ Church was built to replace the lost chapel of St Nicholas.

Until 1884 Mountsorrel was a divided village: in the South End was St Nicholas's chapel, appended to the church at Rothley and in the North End St Johns chapel (now St Peter's church) appended to the church at Barrow upon Soar.

It is not known when the chapel of St Nicholas was built but the records tell us that several new chapels were built after the time of Bishop Lexington (died 1258). These included the two chapels of Mountsorrel.

The chapel of St Nicholas was included in a survey of 1552, but must have closed shortly after that, possibly due to insufficient income to support a curate.

In May 1586 Theophilus and Robert Adams sold '*all those messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments lying in Mountsorrel heretofore given to maintain priests, obits or other superstitious uses whatsoever in the church or chapels of Mountsorrel and Rothley and all the woods, ground and soil, rents, arrears of rent, services, revements, conditions, forfeitures, commodities, emoluments, and yearly profits*' to a group of men from Mountsorrel.

The purchasers were Thomas Jarrett yeoman, George Jarrett yeoman, Thomas Toughe yeoman, Henry Yonge mercer, Richard Marshall husbandman, John Lee miller, and John Hoode, Glover

The museum is open during normal library opening hours Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

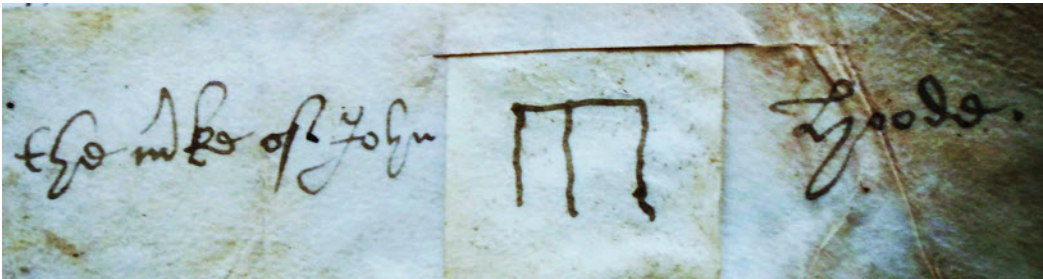
This is quite a commitment for those few who man the museum, if anyone would like to help at the museum please let us know

The Concealers

In the time of the reformation when monastery lands and the lands of the colleges and chantries were forfeited to the crown the paperwork was not always as it should be. Because of the difficulty of knowing where all land titles rested, much property which ought to have been forfeited was concealed and not surrendered. There sprang up a whole class of people, called concealers, who made a business of examining titles with the hope of discovering flaws in them. When one of them declared that he had discovered concealed lands, an inquiry was held in the absence of the person whose title was in question and the decision was almost always the same, that the lands were indeed concealed and did in fact belong to the Crown. The lands were then passed to the concealer for a fee who sold them on at a profit, often to the 'owner'.

The men of Mountsorrel who purchased the chapel from the Adams brothers sold on *'all that chappell and chauncell commonly called the Upper Chappell together with the chappell yard and all manner of woods, underwood and trees growing in or about the chappell yard and lying in the Over Ende of Mountsorrel'* to Ralph Rawlyn

One of the Mountsorrel men was John Hoode, a glover. He couldn't write and this is his mark on the sale document



The marke of John Hoode

Robert and Theophilus Adams were concealers.

As well as St Nicholas chapel Adam was granted, to name but a few:

The lands of the cathedral church in Norwich

The rectory for the chapel of Fyling (Robin Hoods Bay)

The chantry and lands or Tredington church in Gloucestershire

The manor of Walthamstow in London

The hospital of St. Mary, in West Gate, and St. Mary Magdelene, Newcastle

The chapel of West Molesey in Surrey

The Christ Church display will be replaced by one to support the Mountsorrel Revival showing images and the history of galas and parades in the village.

This tradition goes back to 1292 with a charter granted to Nicholas de Seagrave, Lord of the Manor, to hold a yearly fair for eight days on the vigil, feast and morrow of St John the Baptist and five days after (10-18 July).

The fair eventually expanded to an eight day extravaganza and became famous all over the region. In fact the locals always regarded it as a nine day fair - eight days of fair and one to recover. It became notorious for rowdiness and drunken behaviour. So it became necessary to swear in twelve special constables.

They were given thick staves, three feet long, emblazoned with the royal coat of arms and were required to fix them on their house wall.

But so great was the nuisance caused by the drunkenness and disorder that the fair was abolished by the Earl of Lanesborough in 1872



Mini constable's Staff??

The fair later resumed, taking place on Whitsun Saturday. A more recent commercial travelling fair used to visit Mountsorrel on the weekend of 9 July but due to dwindling numbers, this last took place in 1988.



And during the 1980's and 90's the Mountsorrel galas took place in August.



There was no equivalent celebrations for about 15 years until 2014 when the Mountsorrel Revival continued a tradition going back 700 years



Archaeological Test Pits

On Saturday 20 July, as part of the Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology two test pits were dug in Castle Gardens



The finds have been sorted and the usual suspects were all there:

Victorian white ware, bits of clay pipes and pancheon ware, but the rest awaits identification



The day ended with a booze-up in the Sorrel Fox



Wildlife

Navins Wildflower Meadow

The meadow is now starting to take on the late summer/early autumn look with many flowers having gone over but leaving us with lots of seed heads. There is still however a good showing of Knapweed which adds a good splash of late colour.



Wildflower Meadow – Knapweed 10th July 2019

Interestingly we have no Ragwort this year and at least at present, have no Cinnabar moth caterpillars. These were out in force last year chomping their way through the Ragwort, thought they have been seen on other plants in Christ Church Churchyard in the last week.



Cinnabar Moth Caterpillars shredding Ragwort June 2018

The storm on the night of 23/24 July 2019 brought down a large bough from a tree at the back of the meadow close to Christ Church side gate. The foliage was already dead and one suspects that there had been some form of crack where it joined the main trunk and that it came down with the added weight of rainwater



Fallen bough 24th July 2019

Peace Garden

It is looking really well after the work party's efforts at the start of July, thank you to all those who could spare the time. Our next work party morning is Wednesday 7 August 2019 – all help appreciated and this will be to ready the Peace Garden for visitors during Mountsorrel Revival on 11 August. If you can spare some time to help you will be most welcome please just come along with your gardening hand tools and a smile.

There has been a small graffiti incident with painting to the rear of some of the benches. This has been reported to both the Parish Council and Police Mountsorrel Beat Team.