



No 26

MHG NEWSLETTER

Talk at the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre at 7.30.

Tuesday March 10

'What's in a name? Exploring the history of Charnwood through its place-names'.

By Dr Julie Attard

Julie will be talking about the way in which place-name evidence can provide us with insights into many aspects of Charnwood Forest's history and the communities that have lived in the Forest across the centuries.

What about the name Mountsorrel? Over the years it has been spelt in many different ways: Munt Sorel, Munsorel, Mons Sorel, Montesorel, Montsorel(l), Monsorel, Mountesorel(l), Mountsor(r)el(l) Mounsorel, Mo(u)nstrell, Mun(t)strell. All recorded in various documents between 1152 and 1610.

It has been suggested the name arises from two Old French words, mont (hill) and sorel (sorrel) giving 'sorrel-coloured hill' from the pink granite of the castle hill. Alternatively from Mount-Soar –Hill, ie a place with a mount or hill on the banks of the River Soar

But perhaps more likely it was named after Montsoreau, a village in the Loire valley, its name taken from a rocky promontory on top of which was built a fortress in 990. The name Montsoreau first appeared in 1086 in a map in its latin form, Castrum Monte Sorello.

Around 1150 Ranulph, Earl of Chester, and Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, signed their peace treaty in which Mountsorrel Castle was transferred from Ranulph to Robert. At that time the Earl of Chester was supporting Henry of Anjou whilst the Earl of Leicester was aligned to King Stephen.

Meanwhile around the same time in France Henry of Anjou, the future King Henry II, was besieging Montsoreau Castle, which had been seized by his brother, Geoffrey, who was supporting King Stephen.

The similarity of the names and positions of the two castles of Mountsorrel and Montsoreau and the part they played in the wars of Stephen and Henry clearly suggest a close connection between them.

In the fifteenth century the present day chateau was built on the site of the original Montsoreau Castle. The present day chateau is a museum of contemporary art owned by Phillippe Méaille. The museum's permanent collection is the largest collection of works by Art & Language, a group of mainly British conceptual artists. The group was founded in Coventry in 1968 and have exhibited around the world.



Chateau de Montsoreau



The late Mountsorrel Parish Councillor Fred Butherway on a visit to Montsoreau

Museum

The Manor

We have borrowed some more 'pull-ups' from the Record Office which cover the medieval manorial system and which are available to peruse in the museum.

For example they tell us about the local administration of justice via the court baron, view of frankpledge and court leet. Punishments included fines (amercements) and imprisonment. Alternatively those found guilty could be put into the stocks, pillory, tumbrel or cucking stool. The stocks trapped prisoners around the ankle whilst the pillory held then round their necks and wrists. The tumbrel was a manure cart which transported and ducked prisoners into a pond. The cucking stool was a chair fixed to the end of a pole used to plunge offenders into pond or river.

In 1408 the local bailiffs (agents of the lord of the manor who collected rent etc) were Robert Litton for Mountsorrel superior and Robert Chaloner for Mountsorrel inferior. As well as rents they also collected the perquisites of court which amounted to 64s 7d [superior] and £7 18s 10d [inferior].



VE/VJ Street Parties

On display in the museum are photographs of VE/VJ street parties on the Green, Loughborough Road, the 'reccey' behind the company cottages and Cross Lane. We are trying to name as many individuals as we can, so if you were around then come and see who you can recognise.



VJ Party The Green



Loughborough Road



VE Day 'Reccey, Company Cottages



Victory Tea 1945 Cross Lane



This one also crept in illegally:

1952 Coronation Party on The Green

Ralph Tebbutt

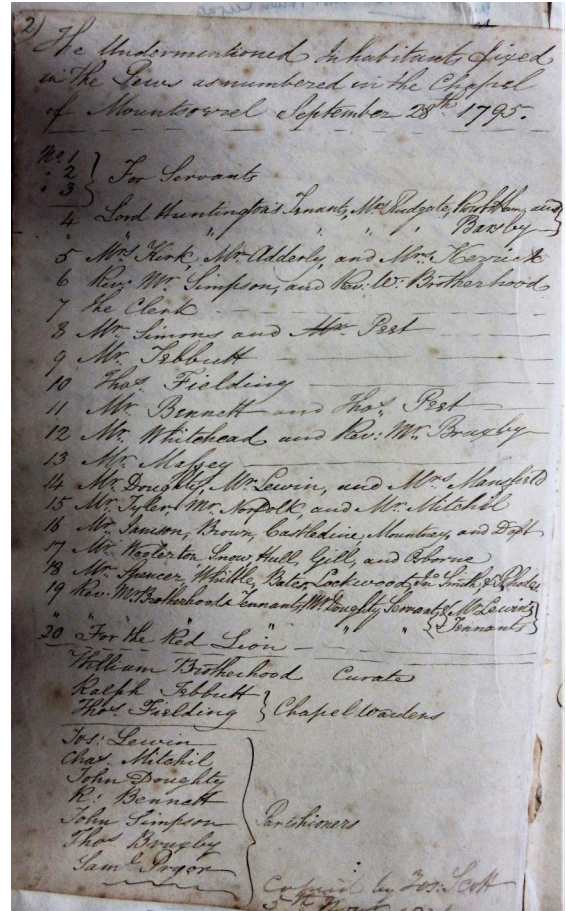
A visitor to the museum, doing some family research, discovered a newspaper article about the death of her ancestor, Ralph Tebbutt

Mountsorrel Hall was built in 1782 for Ralph Tebbutt, who in 1795 was a chapel warden at St Peter's chapel. He had one of the 20 allotted pews in the chapel

In the enclosure award of 1781 the Rev John Fisher and Ralph Tebbutt were awarded 14 acres and 6 perches from the Thorncliff open field, their costs were £55 19s

Northampton Mercury - Saturday 05 July 1806

On Tuesday last a melancholy and most distressing accident happened at Mountsorrel, Leicestershire.—A gentleman from London, on a visit to Mr. Tebbutt, took him, with another, in an open carriage to a neighbouring village, where they partook liberally of the festivity of the wake; on their return, the gentleman who sat in the dickey, fell between the horses, in consequence of the foot-board giving way; the other jumped out, and both were left upon the road seriously injured, Mr. Tebbutt remained in the carriage, and the horses, with the reins about their heels, ran with great speed into Mountsorrel (where a man attempted to stop them without effect), turning up towards the Green, when Mr. T. by a sudden jerk, was thrown out, and killed upon the spot.



Fixed Pews in Mountsorrel chapel 1795

In the years covered by the censuses Mountsorrel Hall was occupied by Henry Jackson, solicitor, Elizabeth Leake, landowner, Samuel Wright, surgeon and when it became a vicarage John Lewis, vicar. It ceased to be vicarage in 1983 when the two churches in Mountsorrel were amalgamated.



Wildlife

Wildflower Meadow

The Snowdrops are now showing really well and the primroses are starting to pick up in number. It is very squelchy to walk over (as you'd expect given the weather!) but hopefully the wet will encourage better growth in the flower stock. Water is still (26th Feb) running off the scrubland behind the meadow as it is off Cufflins Pit Lane and there is more than a mere muddy puddle in the "Froggy".



The Froggy 26th February 2020

Peace Garden

Despite the weather the Peace Garden is still looking presentable which is down to all the hard work the Group has put in over the last few years. The first Daffodils are out as is the Blackthorn. It's still to wet underfoot to do any work as yet but we will keep a watch out and suggest dates for work parties in the next Newsletter.

