



MHG NEWSLETTER

No 27

Don't Tell Dad-A light hearted evening from the Wakeling brothers of reminisces, anecdotes, people and places and growing up in 60's and 70's Sorrel.

This was to be tonight's talk, obviously not now, but something to look forward to sometime soon(ish)

So, for now let's think about bridges instead.....

One of the two quarry bridges in Bond Lane collapsed some time ago and is still undergoing repairs. A few images of what used to be and what is happening now.



Before the repairs started



The remains of the original wall can be seen as the dark stone at the bottom. The original top section had to be removed and replaced because it was cracking. *(images courtesy of the Parish Council)*



Bond Lane before the bridges were built



An early image of the Bond Lane bridge built in 1919



Loading with Tarmac at Bond Lane Chutes.



Bond lane still closed

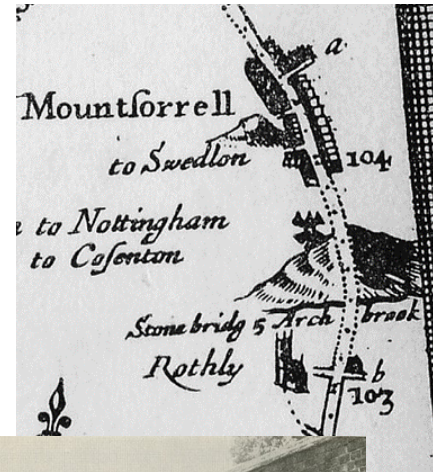
There are three bridges with names the origin of which remains a mystery.

Farnham Bridge

A five arched stone bridge over Rothley Brook marked on Ogilby's map published in 1675.

This bridge was originally a pack horse bridge with a ford on the upper western side to take wagons.

In 1789 the ford was widened and 10 years later the bridge was completely rebuilt in brick at a width of 30ft



Roman Bridge



Roman Bridge on the old Slash Lane

Not Roman so why?

Essex Bridge

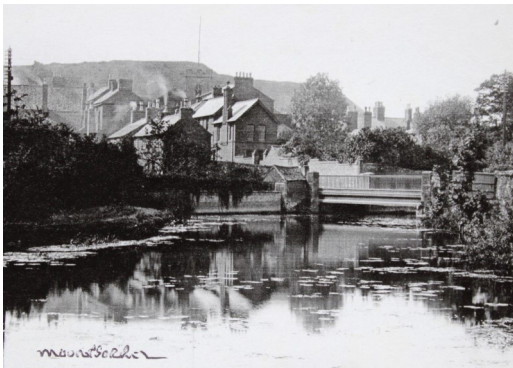


Not made in Essex, so why?

Other bridges in Mountsorrel have names that make some sense



1860 bridge, also known as the Echo Bridge, you get really good echoes when the river is high



This bridge over a loop of the R Soar was recorded in 1274 as a bridge of rubble and stone. It was replaced in 1852 by a wrought iron one with the same abutments but with a concrete span



Bridge No 26 is called a turnover but known locally as the one man bridge. A turnover bridge was one built over a canal to allow a horse towing a boat to cross the canal when the towpath changed sides.



Lock Bridge No 24, a typical brick hump backed canal bridge. Written on the back of this card

Tracted these houses Aug 2 1907. Spoke with the lady at the door and passed the time with a gentleman sitting a wheelbarrow. Crossed the bridge when walking from Barrow.

Mormons travelled from door to door presenting their message. This is called "tracting" because missionaries in the past often left printed tracts



The original turnover bridge which was replaced by the one above



River Soar Bridge No 3 being built to take the bypass

Thinking about the quarry.....

We recently received, from Malcolm Davison via the website, material about the history of Redland (who were the quarry owners before Lafarge. Malcolm worked for Redland and was instrumental in setting up the Redland Archive project. Between 1993 and 1997 research was carried out with the aim of publishing a book. For various reasons this never happened although some of the research material was published in the 75th Anniversary issue of Redland News

As part of the project Ron Mills was interviewed in December 1993. He retired in February 1994 after working for 50 years in Enderby and Mountsorrel quarries.

He started work at Enderby Quarry at the age of 14 straight from school, as the tea boy taking the tea to the knockers-up who used to break up the stone into smaller pieces. Mountsorrel stone was called a 'woolly' coarse grade material. It used to blunt the tools much more quickly than at Enderby. The tools had to be sharpened every day by the blacksmiths.

There were also the set makers and kerb dressers. The kerb dressers did a very skilled job, and were considered to be the elite. Knockers-up couldn't go into the set-makers pub and the set-makers couldn't go into the kerb-dressers pub, which was The Plough. This must have been in Enderby.

There was a pub called the Plough in Mountsorrel but it closed around 1880. It originally occupied the building next to the butchers. The earliest mention we have is of it in John Duffill's will of 1790 when he bequeathed the Plough inn to his wife Mary. It has had various names, the Plough, the Volunteer, the Grenadier and the British Grenadier. Around 1840 William Johnson became the landlord. He was also a carpenter and built a joiners shop behind the pub. Some people can remember a carpenter living there with a very old workshop at the back. Around 1855 a butchers shop was erected next door to the pub.

William Simpson, who had a butcher's shop just up the road, on the other side of Freeman's yard, where the Memorial Hall is now, took over the new butcher's shop.



Sometime between 1857 and 1861 William Simpson became landlord of The Plough as well as being a butcher, and later he moved the pub into the butcher's shop. A carpenter called John Dilks married William Simpson's daughter and in 1871 was living with them in the pub. Later he moved next door and was still there in 1911

The Plough ceased to be a pub around 1880 but remained a butchers shop in the Simpson family for about the next 10 years. In the 1901 census it was still called a butcher's shop although it was occupied by Isaac Smith a brewer's traveller.

Wildlife

Navins Wild Flower Meadow

The Meadow is gently springing into life (there's a pun there!), the Snowdrops have now gone over but we have Primroses, Cowslips, Celandines, White Violets and a single (to date there should be more to come!) Snakes-Head Fritillary in flower.

Since John wrote this some 7 or 8 fritillary flowers have appeared, although several of them mysteriously disappeared overnight.



Wildflower Meadow 22 March
Snakes-Head Fritillary



The Froggy has dried out and there's no trace of any frogs there although there are some monsters in a little garden pond on Rothley Road.



Wildflower Meadow 12 April
Cowslips

Birds

Key birding sites such as Rutland Water and Beacon Hill are all closed at present but sensible adherence to the Government advice about social distancing shouldn't prevent some local birding within the village area whilst getting our daily blast of fresh air and exercise.

Recent sightings in the Swithland Reservoir area and across Charnwood Forest include Whooper Swans, 2 Common Cranes, Red Kite, Redpoll, Siskins and the first Sand Martins of the spring. Much nearer to home there are Chiffchaffs singing along Cufflins Pit Lane and the regular Green Woodpecker is yaffling away around there as well and on several mornings a Great Spotted Woodpecker has been excavating a nest hole in a tree in a garden by the Green.



The Peregrines at the Cathedral have laid 4 eggs and the Ospreys are back at Rutland Water.

Butterflies

Real harbingers of better weather and the sun has brought the first of them out, as ever the spring flying Brimstone is about

The sparrowhawk that's been a regular visitor along Rothley Road popped in again the other day and scared off the woodpigeons.