

The March talk, on Tues 13th at 7.30. in the Memorial Hall, is 'A walk along Hadrians Wall' by one of our members, Margaret Manning. She walked the length of the wall in 2004 at the age of 65, half of it on her own.

Margaret has also just donated some images of Home Farm and Buddon Wood Farm

### Home Farm

William Pepper Sr, Margaret's great great grandfather, took over the farm in 1872. It was later passed on to William Pepper Jr, Margaret's grandfather. The farmhouse was at No 9 Loughborough Road, the granite house on the corner of Crown Lane.

The windmill which once stood on Broad Hill was bought by William Pepper Sr and placed in the field (now The Homestead & Windmill Close) behind Home Farm. But it was blown down in a gale in 1875.



Gordon & Mabel Hack on the base of the windmill



The yard at Home Farm, with John Hack feeding the lamb and William Pepper Jr in the background.



Home Farm Yard in winter.

The building on the left, on the other side of Loughborough Road, is the Nag's Head, now the Swan.

### *Blast from the Past*

*Advert in the Leicester Journal 1874*

*Warner, Sheppard & Wade have received instructions to sell by auction at the Black Swan Inn, at Mountsorrel, on Friday, the 26th day of June, 1874, at Five for Six o'clock:*

*All that very valuable and well constructed windmill, with all the Gearing and Tackle of the best character, and now in perfect working order.*

*The Mill comprises two superior wheat stones and two barley stones, with very good shafting, gearing, and machinery. The whole is to be sold and must be removed by the purchaser, in*



*From the Leicester Journal 24 July 1874*

*Mountsorrel.—The Windmill.—The old windmill at Broad-hill, which has stood the breeze for 110 years, and is a very conspicuous object for many miles, is about to be taken down. Like the wise man's house, it is built upon a rock; but the granite works have nearly reached it, and soon will undermine it if not removed. A few years ago, an ample cricket ground existed between the mill and the quarries, but the place is now a deep quarry of some 90 or 100 feet. The inhabitants regret the necessity to remove this old acquaintance, as to many a weary traveller it has served as a land mark and a reminder of "Home, sweet home." This mill has recently been sold by auction for removal.*

The Mountsorrel Granite Company adopted the windmill as their logo



# Buddon Wood Farm

Buddon Wood Farm was leased from the Earl of Lanesborough. William Pepper Sr had it for 30 years. It was taken over by William Pepper Jr in 1905 until he retired in 1948

The farm is no more, it was swallowed up by the quarry. To learn more about Buddon Wood Farm go to <http://www.quormuseum.com/artefacts/pdf/1945.pdf>

## Images of Buddon Wood Farm



## Nature Notes

### Navins Wildflower Meadow

Despite the cold, rain snow and everything else this winter is throwing at us the Meadow is starting to perk up with the snowdrops now in flower. These look a little sparse at present but are still in their first year of planting and will bulk with time. As you look through the rough sward there is lots of new growth amongst the primroses, oxlips and cowslips which augurs well for the spring. We are monitoring the replacement bird boxes erected in the depths of this winter and hope that they'll prove as attractive to the birds as the old ones did.

### Big Garden Bird Survey

The RSPB's Big Garden Bird Survey took place at the end of January and if those who took part here in Mountsorrel would like to share your records with us we will put together a Mountsorrel version. At present we have only six lots of records which isn't enough to make the exercise worthwhile but with more we will produce a report as we did in 2016. ([mountsorrelarchive.org/mountsorrel-big-garden-bird-watch-2016/](http://mountsorrelarchive.org/mountsorrel-big-garden-bird-watch-2016/)).

If you want to take part send your records to [johncdoyle@talktalk.net](mailto:johncdoyle@talktalk.net) or let him have them at our next Meeting.

### Peace Garden Work Party

Once the weather improves we will be organising a work party to continue the work started over the last couple of years on improving the Peace Garden. No great gardening skill's are needed just a willingness to work. We will announce the date at the March Meeting and on the website/Facebook page. Do come along for a an hour or two (or more) to help.

### Birds

This winter has seen an irruption of Hawfinches mostly in the south of England but several have been seen around Leicestershire. If you've seen one here in the village we'd really like to know about it – you can leave a message on the website or tell us at the monthly Meeting. Hawfinches are quite shy birds but look like thugs with a really noticeably large beak. In recent years the small numbers that were resident in UK declined but this year because of a poor seed and berry crop in central Europe many have flown to our shores for food.



There have been flocks of noisy Ring Necked Parakeets for many years in the Royal Parks in London and they are now spreading out towards us. They are the only parrot that lives in the wild here in UK and the resident population come from a few escaped captive birds. For a couple of years there have been odd sightings around the county but now it seems there are at least a couple of pairs resident down the road in Birstall. Have we got any here in the village? If you see them here do let us know!



## Website

One new post added in February about the origin of the Mountsorrel Consolidated Charity

And finally, can anyone help Morag /Helen McKie. Two requests left on the website, one in 2014, the other this month

*Can anyone remember a wooden hut on the top end of The Green, opposite Christchurch. My mother used to leave me there with a lady called Lulu. while she went to work. It must have been 1953-4.*

*Does anyone remember the wooden hut at the top of the Green opposite the church. I used to stay with a lady there when I was a child,I think her name was Lulu. Any information please. Helen.*

