

May Talk

Tues 8th at 7.30. in the Memorial Hall

‘Mercian Leicestershire’ by Peter Liddle

Leicestershire was at the heart of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, but this has largely been forgotten. Now new archaeology and a new look at the history is beginning

Beaumanor Hall

History Fair Sunday 15 April

War's End

The History Fair was organised by the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society LAHS

There were over 30 stalls, including ours, and 2500 to 3000 visitors.

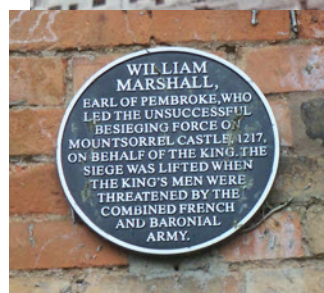


From the Web site

We received two comments this month:

Dot Hollingworth, asking about ‘Mountsorrel in the Great War,’ said she lived as a baby in one of the caravans on The Green

Carol commented ‘How fascinating, I live a few miles from Mountsorrel and had no idea of it's history or connection with William Marshall, I thought there was also a statue of Wm Marshall at Westminster, but certainly will be seeking him out at Mountsorrel, thank you for a very interesting article.



Mountsorrel in the Great War



As part of the WW1 Armistice Commemorations and in preparation for the publication of our book 'Mountsorrel in the Great War' we will, from the start of May, be mounting a series of displays in the foyer of the Memorial Centre. Whilst some displays will be from the Group's resources others will be of material kindly loaned to us by The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

Book Sales

Seventy one books sold so far-to take advantage of our pre-publication discounted price you need to have ordered and paid by 18th June.

Donations

£130 so far donated via the JustGiving site and a £50 direct donation

Sponsorship Campaign

On the 17th April I set out with my personal photographer and navigator, Mr Christopher Berry, with the aim of visiting, by bike, eight villages and their war memorials. We managed six. We couldn't find the memorial in Rearsby. As it was getting windy and starting to rain we gave up.

In East Goscote my photographer asked a friendly butcher where the memorial was. He didn't know but directed us to the

church. As we stood looking at the modern church the penny finally dropped-the village wasn't built until the sixties. It was built on a former army site where high explosives were mixed and put into bombs. In 1959 it was decommissioned and the housing development was started by Jelsons in 1962. According to their Parish Council web site "it was the first new village created in Leicestershire since Domesday"

Mountsorrel was newly created some time between 1086 and 1148! But at that time it was a town with borough status, not a village.

So far the details of only one visit have been received. Still plenty of time, the campaign does not finish until the 31st July. But let's get going!



Blast from the Past

So where did the name East Goscote come from?

Hundreds were units of administration in England from the 11th to mid-19th century. Originally, the term probably referred to a group of 100 hides (units of land required to support one peasant family).

In the Danelaw they were called wapentakes, and in the Domesday Book Leicestershire was divided into four wapentakes:

Guthlaxton, Framland, Gartree, and Goscote [“A shelter for geese” or “Gosa’s cottage”]

These later became known as hundreds, with the division of Goscote into West Goscote and East Goscote, and the addition of Sparkenhoe

Each hundred had a meeting place or moot site, and in a farmer’s field off the Ridgemere, the road from Syston to South Croxton, stands the ‘Moody Stone’

John Throsby, in 1789, wrote in his book, *Supplementary volume to the Leicestershire views*’

“...there is a place called Mowdebush-hill, on which stands a stone with *Mowdebush-hill* inserted thereon.

Sir John Danvers holds a Court, generally at Mountsorrel, called Mowdebush Court. The same day he holds the Court, his lawyer and his steward go to this hill, and, after some little ceremony, they dig up a piece of turf from it, and take it to the house where Sir John holds his Court; which, like other old customs of this nature, ends in a good dinner and good drinking.”



Peace Garden

On Wednesday 4th April we had a successful morning tidying up the Peace Garden

**Our next work session will be
Wednesday 2nd May
9:00 am – 12:30 pm.**



Wildflower Meadow

The wildflower meadow at the foot of the Navins has blossomed with masses of primroses, cowslips and oxlips together with the snakes-head fritillaries now in their second year. We hope that they will slowly spread as well. During the warm days this month there have been Brimstone, Peacock, Common Blue and Green-Veined White Butterflies along with some early bees. The new bird boxes also seem to have attracted their first residents with Blue Tits noted going in and out.



Nature Notes

After a very cold and damp few weeks nature now seems to have caught up with itself and those few hot days in mid April really brought out the flowers and butterflies. The winter migrant birds have now all but gone but have been replaced by our usual spring and summer visitors.

The first Sand Martins of the year have now been seen locally. Around the county the usual visitors are now much in evidence with Ring Ouzels and Wheatears passing through to their summer breeding grounds further north. The first Whitethroats and Warblers of the year have been seen.

Big Garden Bird Watch

The RSPB have now published the results of this year's Big Garden Bird Watch and in the chart is a comparison of the results for England, Leicestershire and our own mini Watch here in Mountsorrel.

Rank	England	Leics	M'sorrel
1	Sparrow	Sparrow	Blackbird
2	Starling	Blackbird	Sparrow
3	Blue Tit	Starling	Blue Tit
4	Blackbird	Pigeon	Pigeon/Great Tit
5	Pigeon	Blue Tit	Robin
6	Goldfinch	Goldfinch	Dunnock Great Tit
7	Great Tit	Great Tit	Goldfinch, Magpie Mallard
8	Long tailed Tit	Robin	Wren
9	Robin	Long tailed Tit	Collared Dove Carrion Crow
10	Collared Dove	Magpie	Jackdaw Sparrowhawk Long tailed Tit Song Thrush