

July 2018

Mountsorrel Heritage Group

August Meeting

Tuesday 14th August – A River Walk

- Meet:** Mountsorrel Library Bus Stop (Leicester Direction).
- Transport:** Catch the 19:13 127 Service alighting at Rothley Cross Roads (the former Red Lion) at 19:19.
- Walk:** Down Syston Rd to the River Soar, take the western footpath (ie before the Osier Cottage Bridge) and follow the western bank to Sibley Lock and footbridge. Cross to the eastern bank and continue to Mountsorrel Lock. Route takes us past a now nationally important nature Reserve (Cossington Meadows) and two local reserves (Mountsorrel Meadows and Mountsorrel Marshes)
- Footpath state:** Level and firm (unless there's heavy rain), clear footpath well used (no dog muck visible as at 21 June). Obstacles: 4 x Stiles between Sibley foot bridge and Mountsorrel Lock. These can be avoided by taking the direct path to Mountsorrel at Sibley lock.
- Distance:** 2.75 miles (max)
- Time:** Approx an hour and a half at a slow pace
- Light:** Sunset 20:32 then civil twilight until 21:11
- Refreshments:** Available at The Waterside or The Swan at the end of the walk.
- Toilets:** None en route but available at The Swan or The Waterside at the end of the walk

Other local events

Quorn Local History Group

WW2 Treasure Hunters - the making of the 82nd Airborne and German POWs History Channel episode.

Sunday 30th September 7pm in Quorn Village Hall

Tickets are £5.

Tickets from Dennis Marchant on: dennis.marchant@btinternet.com.

The Little Great War

Record Office Open Day
Saturday 4th August from
10-3.30

Experience the food and drink of the war, listen to live WWI music and see the war through local eyes

Record Office, Long Street, Wigston Magna

recordoffice@leics.gov.uk
for more details



**The First World War:
100 Years On**

The Far and Near Lecture
by Professor Sir Hew Strachan PhD FRSE

Leicester Cathedral
Wednesday 12 September at 6.30pm
Doors open at 6.00pm for refreshments



Sir Hew Strachan is currently Professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews having been appointed in 2005 and is also Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. Formerly, he was Chichele Professor of the History of War at the University of Oxford. He is a Trustee of the Imperial War Museum, a member of the Commonwealth, Graves, Commission. He is a prodigious author of books on military history. Since 2014 he has been Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale.

The Leicester Cathedral Far and Near Lecture happens annually - a legacy of the Leicestershire Far and Near Club.

Tickets for £5 are available via www.eventim.co.uk
Free for former members of the Far and Near Club
0116 261 5573 • leicestercathedralgilescroft.org • www.leicestercathedral.org

Blast from the Past



As we will be walking along the Soar we should know how it got its name. Soar is derived from the Latin serum (fluid) but the river was once known as Legra and before that Leir. Writing in 1136 Geoffrey of Monmouth records that King Leir built Leicester and is buried beneath the river. Perhaps the legend of King Leir is based on pagan myths of celtic water gods called Leir or the ancient Irish god of the sea, Lir.

Take your pick

King Lear and Cordelia in Watermead Park

The River Soar and Mountsorrel Quarry

Plans to make the River Soar navigable were mooted as early as 1634 but the navigation from Loughborough, through Mountsorrel, to Leicester was only opened in 1794. Prior to this Mountsorrel granite could only be used locally, transported by horse and cart, but the use of barges became possible with the arrival of the canal.



By 1798 "*Mountsorrel Stone, for Paving, Soughing, or Walls*" was being sold at the public wharf in Leicester.

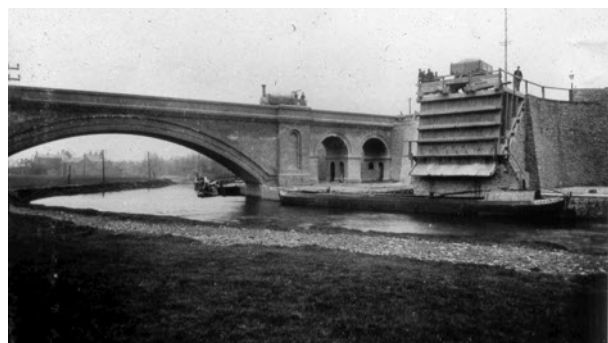
In 1814 the Grand Union Canal was opened allowing Mountsorrel granite to be shipped to London. "*The Granite Stone of Mountsorrel, an excellent Paving Stone particularly suited to the London Market, and being equal to the Scotch Granite, can be delivered at twenty Shillings per Ton in London, and may be expected to be carried in large Quantities.*"

Loading was originally done by using trucks and tipping the granite into the barges. With boats waiting to load this was a slow process.

To obviate this a vast V-shaped hopper was constructed, with iron shutters at the bottom. The hopper was filled with truck loads of stone and a barge moored under the shoot. It was then filled in just a few minutes by opening the iron doors.

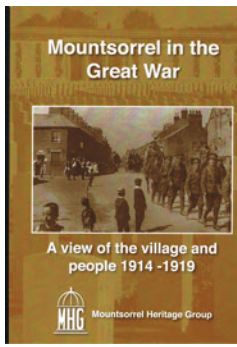


Loading by tipping trucks



Loading shoot by 1860 bridge

Mountsorrel in the Great War



For those who pre-ordered copies of Mountsorrel Heritage Group's book "Mountsorrel in the Great War" their copies will be available for collection at Mountsorrel Memorial Centre on Saturday 4th August between 10:30 and 12:30.

Whilst collecting their books visitors will be able to view the latest of the Group's WW1 displays along with a display of military cap badges belonging to a local collector. The Group will be continuing their changing series of displays in the foyer of the Memorial Centre until the Centenary of the Armistice in November.

If you didn't pre-order a copy of the book you will be able to purchase a copy when it goes on general sale at Mountsorrel Revival on Sunday 12th August when the Heritage Group will have displays at the Parish Rooms.

Wildflower Meadow

Thanks to the heat wave the Meadow now looks as it should at the very end of summer not the midst of it with



the majority of flowers and grasses dried and looking ready for scything.

The plus side has been the sight of Goldfinches feeding on the seed heads and a good showing of butterflies,

Leicestershire & Rutland Festival of Archaeology

The Group took part in this year's Leicestershire & Rutland Festival of Archaeology, laying on a guided walk around the War Memorials of the village and visiting amongst other places, Castle Hill, St Peter's and Christ Church. Around a dozen visitors joined the walk despite the heat of the afternoon.

Peace Garden

Next date for a work party at the Peace Garden is Wednesday 8th August 10:00 – 12:30

Amazon Smile

If anyone shops online with Amazon you could help boost our funds by using Amazon Smile instead of Amazon

1) GO TO AMAZON SMILE

2) IT WILL ASK YOU TO CHOOSE A CHARITY FROM A DROP DOWN MENU

CHOOSE MOUNTSORREL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE TRUST

3) ORDER AS NORMAL THROUGH AMAZON SMILE (IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS AMAZON)

4) AMAZON WILL THEN GIVE US A SMALL DONATION (EVERY LITTLE HELPS!)