



MHG NEWSLETTER

No 32

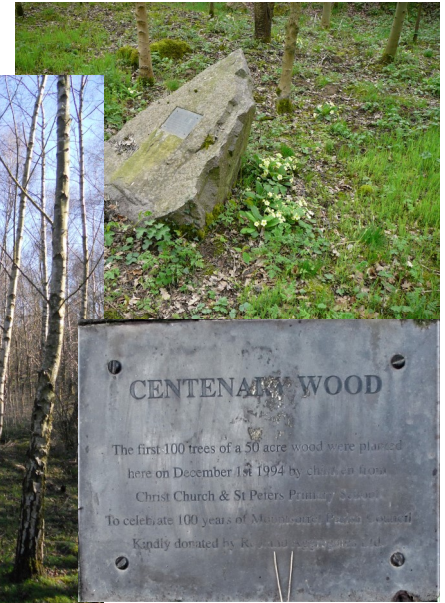
Mountsorrel Parish Council

The Centenary Wood off Bond Lane was created in 1994 to commemorate 100 years of Mountsorrel Parish Council

The Local Government Act of 1894 established elected parish councils in rural areas. In December of that year a large meeting was held in St Peter's School and nine members were elected to form the first parish council. Two of those elected were conservatives-George Baker, manager at the Granite Company and Isaac Saunders, clerk at the offices of the Granite Company. The rest were liberals. The meetings were held in the Parish Rooms, which was then then the Mechanics Institute.



Footpath to the Centenary Wood



Below are some of the issues facing the Parish Council in its early years

The Green

February 1895- A report was presented on the discussions with Lord Lanesborough and the common owners with the object of taking over the Green by the Parish Council

March 1895 -The Clerk reported that favourable replies had been received from the common owners, giving their sanction for the taking over the Green by the Parish Council.

October 1895- Dr. Skipworth called attention to the state of the Green in bad weather, and suggested that something should be done to improve its condition by laying down gravel. it was agreed to let the matter stand over until the next meeting

Footpath

February 1895 -It was agreed, to call the attention of the Leicester Footpath Association to the closing of the footpath from Mountsorrel to Swithland by the Leicester Corporation

March 1895 -A reply from the Footpath Association had been received declining to intervene in the stoppage of the footpath leading from Mountsorrel to Swithland by the Leicester Corporation.

Boundary Change

February 1895- It was agreed to approach the Barrow Parish Council with the object of including the houses down Water Lane (*now Sibley Road*) in Mountsorrel parish.

Recreation Ground

August 1896- it was agreed to negotiate with Mr. Taylor for the land occupied by the Navy Mission in place of the proposed recreation ground at the rear of the Mechanics' Institute, which would be too costly to fence and lay out.

December 1896- Mr. Taylor had consented to the use of the ground now occupied by Mr. J. H. Barrs, and which had been used by the Navy Mission. Mr. Barrs was willing to give up the land.

January 1897-. Mr. Taylor had kindly placed at the disposal of the Council part of the field now occupied by the Navy Mission as a recreation ground, but owing to the considerable expense necessary to put down a fence for the partition of the land it was thought desirable to ask Mr. Clough-Taylor for the whole field, consisting of about six acres.

May 1900-It- was resolved to let the Recreation Ground for grazing purposes at nights only, from nine to nine. Some discussion ensued on a suggestion for the provision of a swing, and a see-saw on the Recreation Ground. An application had been made by Mr. R. F. Martin for the use of the Recreation Ground for drill, in the event of a rifle volunteer company being established at Mountsorrel. The Clerk further stated that it was the intention of the Granite Company to build a drill hall in close proximity to the Recreation Ground

Charities

March 1895-The Council then proceeded to nominate charity trustees in place of the churchwardens for Castledine's Charity, consisting of four almshouses with endowments and five vacancies on the consolidated charities

Water Supply

May 1898-The Chairman, in reply, stated that they had entered into an agreement with the Leicester Corporation for the supply of water on the same terms as Barrow was supplied, viz., a guarantee of 10 per cent, on the outlay, and the parish would be liable to that amount. The water rate would be levied by scale, and according to the assessment of the property. It was a mistake on the part of many to suppose that the water would be forced on them. People would only be counselled to have it where they had no water supply, or where their water was impure. He thought in time it would be appreciated. They were being supplied upon the most favourable terms. — Mr. Baker stated that the consumption of water by the Granite Company would more than cover the 10 per cent, guarantee

Mechanics Institute

August 1896 - Some desultory discussion took place on the erection of a village hall on the site now occupied by the Mechanics' Institute, but no action was taken

January 1907-The building had been repaired and renovated through the courtesy of Mr. George Baker, manager of the Mountsorrel Granite Company and the Council now awaited his lordship's (Earl of Lanesborough) pleasure to formally make over the place to the Council for the use of the parishioners.

Naming Streets

January 1914 _The naming of streets and the numbering of houses under the provisions of the Town Improvements Clauses Act was discussed. The Clerk stated that 333 number plates and 25 street name-plates would be required. It was resolved that in future the main street be known as Mountsorrel North-end and Mountsorrel South-end. It was also decided that all owners of property in the parish be written to asking permission to affix the number plates.

Christ Church

The Chairman thought it was time to discontinue burying in Christ Church-yard. It was a disgrace to humanity ; scarcely a grave was dug out without coming across other coffins. It should be closed for burying.

Water Cart

June 1895.— the provision of a water cart was proposed to lay the dust in the village. Dr. Skipworth spoke in support of the motion, but on the vote being put, the proposal was lost by a large majority.

February 1899 - A petition was presented to the Council, signed by 120 ladies, praying the Council to accept the offer of the Granite Company for a water cart to water the streets. The Leicester Corporation had offered to supply the water and to erect a stand-pipe for filling the cart free of cost. The Chairman considered that it would be a boon. The houses were filled with dust in the summer, and the cost would not exceed a penny rate. — Mr. Baker strongly opposed. He thought the ladies would be better at home engaged in their domestic duties than interesting themselves in parish matters, the cost of which would fall on their husbands. The quarrymen would object to pay rates for the purpose The question was adjourned until after the Parish Council election.

Wildlife

Summer migrants are now in the midst of departing for warmer climes, the Swifts have departed and the Swallows, House and Sand Martins are fattening up ready for their flights south over the next month. Amongst the birds that leave early is the Cuckoo and the British Trust for Ornithology have been satellite tracking some of these on their journeys south – for more details see <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/cuckoo-tracking-project>

Something to keep an eye out for are Rose-coloured Starlings some of which were seen mixed in with a flock of the usual Starlings in the north of the County at the end of August.



Peace Garden

Next planned work party morning for the Peace Garden is Wednesday 16th September when we'll be concentrating on getting the shrubs ready for autumn and winter and doing some general weeding and tidying up. If you are able to help please drop an email to John Doyle johncdoyle@outlook.com.

From the Chairman

Hope everybody is keeping well and safe. There is no news when the Library will re-open, so we have decided as a committee to not open the museum until 2021. The good news is that the Green exhibition is coming on at a good pace with several display board designs agreed with the printer

Ta Ta for now till next time

Maggie Hunt

Now and Then

This month we are trialling the idea of a new regular feature comparing some historic photographs from our extensive archive with photographs of the same location today. As the Group does voluntary work in the Peace Garden we felt that would be a good start point.



The entrance from Market Place 2018

The Peace Garden is situated at the junction of Sileby Road and Market Place and prior to development as a green space it was the site of business premises and houses. It was inaugurated as a village green space following the demolition of several old buildings as part of village redevelopment starting in the late 1960s.



Peace Garden from the entrance gate June 2018

In previous years it was a very different scene with a large premises fronting onto Market Place but with other buildings along what was then York Street (leading down to the Duke of York Inn, now The Waterside).

This large building was at one time an inn called the Red Lion which was sold by John Bacon on 6th March 1815 when it was described as consisting “a roomy dwelling house with a butchers shop at the front, a malt house, tenement, two stables and a slaughter house in the yard and a large garden adjoining the river soar”.

How the building was divided up between businesses is not clear. Perhaps the pub was entered from this side door in York Street.



The Market Place frontage, 1950s



The Market Place pre World War 1 with , The Griffin Inn to the right and what is now Bennett's Angling Stores

It closed sometime after it was sold and another Red Lion opened just past the bridge on Loughborough Road. The landlord in the 1840's and 1860's was Joseph Antill and in the 1870's it was sold to the Granite Company who turned it into a coffee shop with the aim of countering heavy drinking amongst their workforce

OLD ESTABLISHED LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
MOUNTSORREL,
 LEICESTERSHIRE,
 TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
 13.
MARRIS & SON,
 ON THURSDAY, THE 30th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1869,
 At SIX o'clock in the Evening precisely, at the "RED LION INN" Mountsorrel, aforesaid,
 subject to such conditions as will be then produced,
 ALL THAT OLD ESTABLISHED LICENSED
PUBLIC HOUSE,
 Known by the sign of the "RED LION," situate in the North end of Mountsorrel aforesaid, for many years occupied by Mr. Antill, deceased, and now of Mr. William Adkins.
 The House is replete with every convenience for carrying on the business of an innkeeper, and has a spacious Yard and large Garden attached to it.
 ALSO,
2 MESSUAGES
 OR TENEMENTS,
 Recently erected, adjoining the above mentioned premises.
 The above property is very near to the Mountsorrel Granite Works.
 For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Prior Lane, or to
Messrs. J. & S. HARRIS.
 SHEFFIELD, LEICESTER.



1950s view of the rear of the buildings, garden and yard from Mountsorrel Lock

The longest operating business was the butchers shop which had its entrance on the corner of the building facing St Peter's church. By 1911 the Market Place frontage consisted of Fred Pepper's butcher's shop, Brown & Son's boot shop and dealers and Ann Hardy's sweet shop.

The premises were later used variously as antique shops and general dealers until their demolition in 1969



Fred Pepper, his wife Florence Maud and their children Fred and William Thomas, about 1900

As the Millenium approached, the Mountsorrel Branch Royal British Legion proposed that a memorial be erected to mark, retrospectively, 50 years of Peace since the end of World War 2 and the Centenary of the Parish Council. Also marking the Millenium children from Christ Church & St Peter's School buried a time capsule in the gardens.



Children from Christ Church & St Peter's School



The view from the river bridge 1976

Since then the Memorial and Garden have become the focus of Remembrance in the village in addition to providing a peaceful riverside location at the heart of the village.