



MHG NEWSLETTER

No 36

For over sixty years, since they were married, Ted and Jenny Sutton lived at 36 Market Place. Ted passed away a few years ago and Jenny passed away last year. In 2014 their neighbour June Wakeling interviewed Ted for the MHG.

You can listen to the interviews here:

<http://mountsorrelarchive.org/category/oral-histories/>



The house is now being refurbished. It was probably built in 1709. Sometime before 1788 it was a pub called The Harrow.

Two coins, a 1781 Irish halfpenny and a 1861 halfpenny, have been found during the ongoing refurbishment. Perhaps the 1781 halfpenny was dropped by an Irish Navvy calling in at the Harrow for a 'swift half' after a hard day's work digging out the Leicester canal, which ran through Mountsorrel and was completed in 1794.



There were certainly navvies living in the village some 100 years later during the construction of Cropton reservoir. In 1870 there was an affray between the navvies from Cropton reservoir and the quarrymen at Mountsorrel. Frederick Thornton was charged with assaulting Robert Bennett, having inflicted serious injury upon his head with an ale glass, which had been taken from Mr. Bampton's. Mr Bampton was landlord of the White Swan in Market Place.

It is said that the Navvies got its name from an encampment of Navvies nearby, but no evidence has been found as yet. However there was a navvies mission on what is now the Loughborough Road Playing Field. A parish council meeting in 1896 *unanimously agreed to empower the Recreation Committee to conclude negotiations with Mr. Clough-Taylor for the land now occupied by the Navy Mission in place of 'the proposed recreation ground at the rear of the Mechanics' Institute, which would involve a heavy expenditure to fence and lay out.* Clough Taylor was the land agent for Lanesborough estate.

Sir Robert Martin, chairman of the Mountsorrel Granite Co, once worked for three years on the construction of the Great Central Line and described the British navy as broad shouldered, thick set, wearing a sleeved waistcoat with black velveteen back, moleskin trousers tied under his knees and heavy nailed boots wielding a pick and shovel with the skill of a real artist.

He also remembers the quarry men of Mountsorrel before the days of mechanisation. The blocker with his 28 lb hammer tackled the large stones as they came off the quarry face or were reduced to manageable size by the shot holers. The stones were nicked from side to side and struck at one end and would split as straight as if they had been sawn. Having been reduced further in size the pieces of stone were taken to the set makers' huts where they were dressed with small steel hammers into straight sided right angled paving stones. It was wonderful to see and looked like magic.



Sett making ran in families and the wages books at Mountsorrel had long lists of Baums, Bowlers, Holmes, Lovetts and others



The Quarry, Mountsorrel. - No. 41

Chairman's Chat

Happy New Year to everybody. Hope you all had a kind of good Christmas, as much as covid allowed.

Update on the museum - we have all the covid restrictions in place (on paper), for when we re-open this year, so as soon as we get the green light it is go,go, go.

The Green exhibition is coming along, & hopefully it will be ready for the middle of the year.

Not much news to tell you this month as nobody has been anywhere or done anything.

The tunnel is getting shorter, the light at the end is getting brighter but until we come out the other side – STAY WELL & STAY SAFE

Maggie



Once upon a Time in Mountsorrel in January

Leicester Chronicle 24th January 1829

Wm. Ingleston was charged by Mary Smith, of Mountsorrel, with a violent assault, he having entered her house and kicked and otherwise ill-treated her. - Fined £1.10s and all expenses including the Doctor's attendance etc

Leicester Journal 15th January 1830

Joseph Mason, 23, and John Mason, 18, charged with stealing a quantity of coal, the property of John Peet, Mountsorrel. John to be transported 7 years; Joseph to be confined 1 year to hard labour in the House of Correction and to be once privately whipped.

Thomas Bodycoat, aged 20, Thomas Sumerfield, John Hunt and Thomas Noon, were indicted for breaking into an outhouse belonging to Thomas Brearly of Mountsorrel, and stealing eight rabbits therefrom. The prisoners were all found guilty and sentenced – Bodycoat to be transported for seven years; Hunt for life. – Thomas Noon and James Summerfield, six calendar months to hard labour in the House of Correction.

Compare to above for violent assault

Leicester Journal - Friday 14 January 1881

Charles Merriweather, member of Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, respectively announces to the inhabitants of Mountsorrel and the neighbouring villages, that he has opened the shop opposite to the Market Cross, with an entirely new stock of Drugs, Chemicals, and Domestic Articles.

Loughborough Echo - Friday 14 January 1916

The War Office on Tuesday night issued a list of 99 men who have been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with the Expeditionary Forces. The list includes the name of Private W. H. Hallam, First 6th Battalion Leicester Regiment (T.F.) William Hallam lived in Union Lane and later Boundary Road. The award was for "conspicuous bravery on October 13th, 1915, at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, when with one companion only he held back the enemy for many hours. Utterly exhausted he continued to keep the enemy at bay until the trench had been blocked.



W. Hallam

Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday 29 January 1853

A public meeting was held in the National School-room, on Monday, for the purpose of establishing a Mechanics' Institute. There were present many of the most respectable inhabitants, all very desirous that such an institution should be formed, At the close of the meeting, 45 members were entered on the list. At the close of the above meeting an entertainment was given by Mr. Bussey on his Musical Glasses.

Northampton Mercury - Saturday 07 January 1786

WANTED immediately, an APPRENTICE to a Surgeon and Apothecary Enquire of Mr, Whitehead, Surgeon, Mount-Sorrel.

Leicester Journal - Friday 14 January 1870

Mary Ann Snow was convicted of stealing 7lbs of bacon, the property of Bridget Baum, of Mountsorrel, and sentenced to fourteen days, with hard labour.

Loughborough Echo - Friday 02 January 1914

MOUNTSORREL, Important sale of valuable freehold property at the Temperance Hall. A well situated roomy double fronted residence, with draw-in Gateway, known as "Holmlea" The property has a frontage to the Main Street. including the gateway, of 48ft., and contains Drawing-room, Dining-room, Kitchen, Dairy, four Bedrooms, Storeroom, Bathroom with Lavatory, h. and c. water, W.C. and Drying Closet. Together with lean-to Conservatory, Scullery, large back Kitchen, copper, h. and c. water over sink. Carriage House, Stable with loft over, Cart-shed, large Workshop with room over, also a large brick-built Shed with pantile roof, and usual Outbuildings, lawn, and extensive Garden well planted with young choice fruit trees and a brick built arbour. The garden extends to the River Soar, and the area of the property is about half an acre. There is a good supply of town water, also hard and soft water.



Holmlea

Now and Then

The Lindens, Halstead Road

Halstead Road developed around 1900 from what appears to have been a farm access track to Rothley Lodge. Although the land was owned by Lord Lanesborough the road development was funded by the Mountsorrel Granite Company due to the southern expansion of Broad Hill Quarry that was starting to affect the use of the old 'accommodation road' (now Cufflins Pit Road) between the village and the common. As with any road expansion this was followed by housing development, something that continues today with the building of the Fieldfare Estate at the Swithland Lane end of the road.



Ordnance Survey Leicestershire Sheet XXV.2 Surveyed 1883

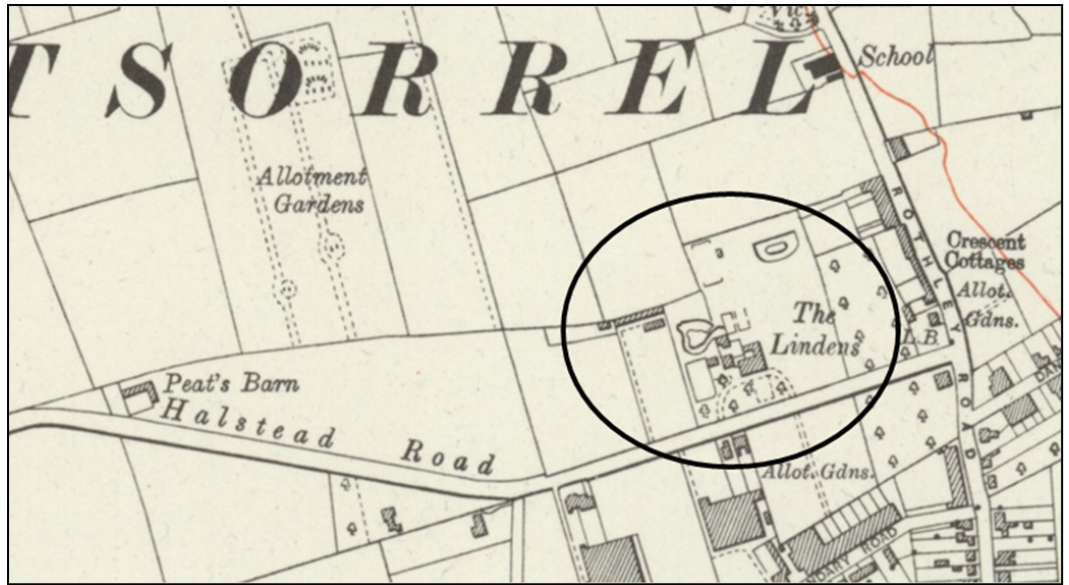
The Lindens, built near the junction with Rothley Road, was one of the first houses constructed on the new road and was built for William and Edith Cooper and their family. William was from a local farming family in Quorn, and Lucy was the daughter of John Sleath Smith JP., (1834-1912) the owner of Mountsorrel Mill and Chairman of the Mountsorrel Parish Council. The substantial house was built in Edwardian style set in an extensive plot of land that was over time developed as formal gardens including water features.



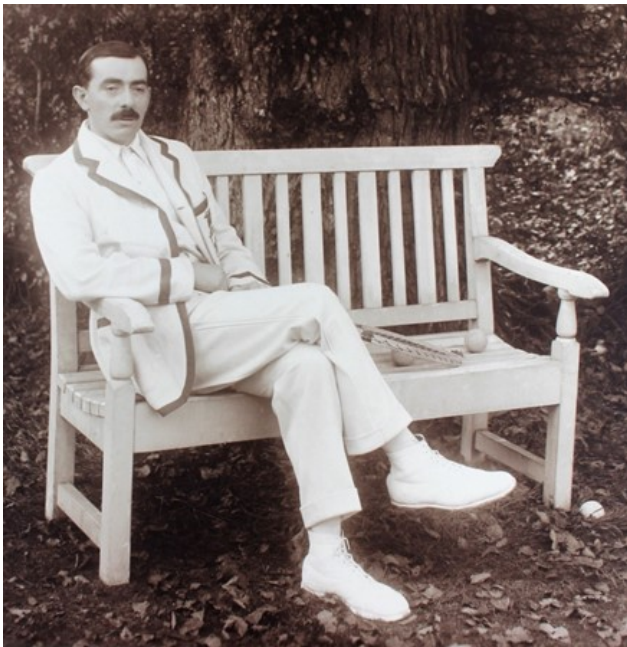
The Lindens c1911

At some point following the death of Lucy's father in 1912 the Coopers sold the house to Frank Arthur Toone, a Leicester business man with interests in both hosiery and boot making. There may have been prior connections between the families as Frank Toone, like Lucy's father, was active in Liberal Party politics and the general social life of the county. Using the house as a base for his social and political activities he and his wife, Alice Edith, extended the building on the west and north sides and fully developed the gardens.

**See the map in Newsletter 35 now on our website*

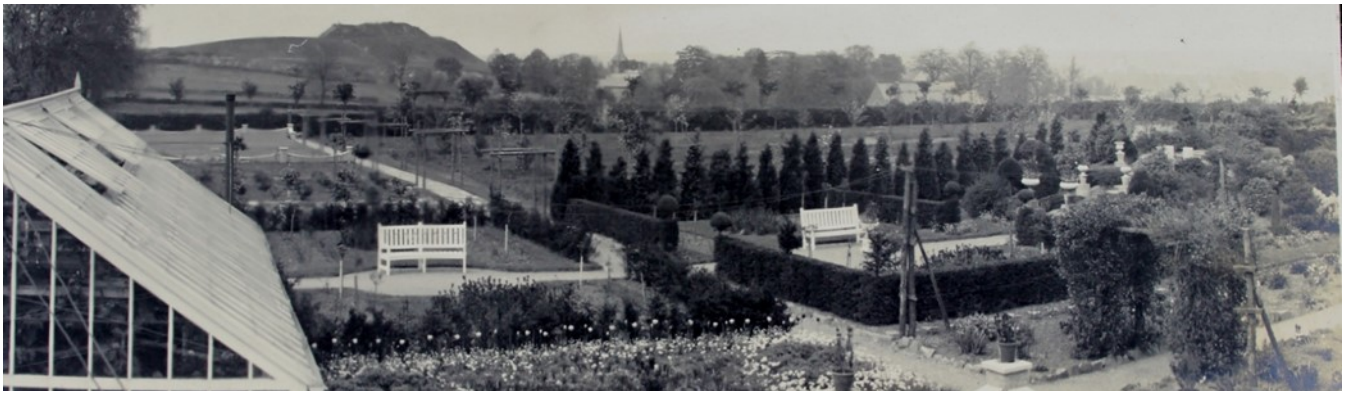


Ordnance Survey XXV.NW Revised 1927 Published 1930



Frank Arthur and Alice Edith Toone in the gardens





North-East corner of the Gardens with Broad Hill, Christ Church and Christ Church & St Peter's School in the background

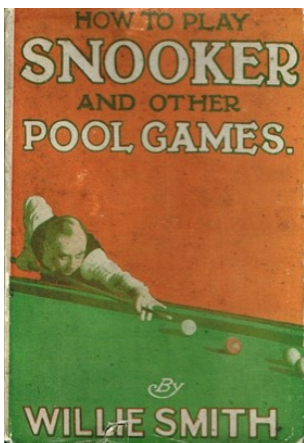


Croquet and Tennis lawns to the east with Crescent Cottages and Alpine House in the background



Ornamental Lake

Amongst Frank Toone's interests was billiards, of which he was a noted amateur player and in November 1928 he hosted an exhibition match at the Lindens played by Willie Smith the World Professional Billiards Champion (1920 & 1923) against both himself and also a local professional. Both he and the local player lost.



Willie Smith



The Billiards Room

In 1929 in a move, possibly linked to the downturn in trade and the looming Great Depression, the Toones put the house up for auction, with the Prospectus listing:

The House

Dining Room, Morning Room and Study, Billiard Room, Music Room, Eight Bedrooms and Dressing Rooms, Two Bathrooms, Electricity is Generated on Site. Also included is a Bungalow Cottage.

The Garden, comprising 4 acres, 3 roods and 2 perches

Double Tennis Lawn, Croquet Lawn, Shrubbery knoll and Skittle Alley, Two Rose Gardens, Pleasure Lawn, Lily Pond, Sunken Lawn for clock golf, Garden Pavilion, Bowling Green, Ornamental Lake stocked with Roach and Perch plus Rustic Bridge to Island, Vegetable Garden

Kitchen Garden, comprising 1 acre, 2 roods and 25 perches

Greenhouse, Outbuildings and farm Premises. Ripe for development

Orchard comprising 1 acre 2 roods and 25 perches

Apple, Plum, Pear and Damson.

During the early 1930s the house was unoccupied and it was in these times that it saw a local tragedy when, on 14th August 1933, the caretaker, Mr W. Hutchinson discovered the body of a woman in the ornamental lake. The body was recovered by Sgt Mason, the village Policeman supported by PC Ashwell from Rothley. It was later discovered that the body was that of Mrs. Helen Gadd of Rothley Road.

At the time of the Second World War the house was occupied by the Craven family before being sold in 1953/4 to Everards the brewers. Everards had been trying to acquire the site for some time but a series of objections to the licensing prevented the sale for some three years and it was only allowed on their surrender of the licence to the White Swan in Market Place. The first landlord was Lionel Booker who had been the landlord of the White Swan and previous to that The Railway. Prior to entering the pub trade he and his wife were on the stage as comedians.

By the time of the sale the building had again been subject to alterations with the Toone's western extension being removed.


The Lindens opened as a hotel but also targeted the restaurant trade and also hosted a variety of community events taking best advantage of the space available both inside and out-

THE LINDENS, Halstead Rd., Mountsorrel
an inn that is different

Different in that it is a large country house which has been tastefully converted into a "Friendly" Inn. The Lindens with its setting and extensive lawns provides the atmosphere where you can relax and enjoy jovial company and Everards Burton Beer at its best.

Different in that there is a Sun Lounge Supper Room where inexpensive, delightful meals, cooked to order, are served between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays inclusive.

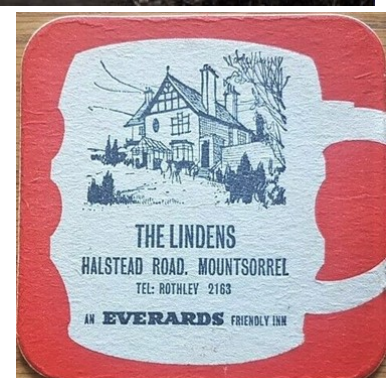
Under the personal supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Walden, The Lindens has become the Supper Rendezvous in Leicestershire. Why not try The Lindens tonight? We are sure this will become your regular rendezvous.



Snacks are served daily. Private Parties and Weddings catered for.
Telephone Rothley 2163.

If you are going by car there is a large car park. The map opposite shows you where the Lindens is situated in Mountsorrel. From the A.6 through Rothley Village, out on to the Mountsorrel Road. Turn left into Halstead Road and The Lindens is 50 yards on the right.

Make your call tonight, The Lindens and
EVERARDS
Ladies and Gentlemen—the best!



By the late 1960s the demands for housing led to the sale of land surrounding the Lindens with Linden Grove being built in 1966 and expanded in 1972 and then later Buddon Court being built. Whilst the surrounding land was being lost to housing the Lindens itself was changing both in style and trade offering to meet the changes in the pub trade that affected the whole coun-



Despite efforts to build up trade by the mid 1990s Everards submitted plans to demolish the Lindens and use the site for housing. The idea was resisted in the then planning processes but by the early 2000s the plans were resubmitted and accepted with the Lindens being demolished and the site developed for the housing that is now Toon Close and Henry Robson Drive.



The End



The site of The Lindens December 2020

Answers to John's Quiz



Q1. The Pinfold, where stray animals were kept until claimed, was last known to be used in 1919. The keeper of the Pinfold was known as a Pinder. The last postholder was John Twigg who lived in a cottage on the site of the what is now the Library.



Q2. The dates of the start of World War 1 and end of World War 2 are on opposite faces of Castle Hill War Memorial. This still commands the view across the valley of the river to the east as when it was first built in 1926. The design represents an open doorway facing the rising sun. The Memorial was built by men from Mountsorrel Quarry many of whom had fought in the war alongside those whose names are on the Memorial.



Q3. The quarry bridges over Bond Lane have recently been repaired but were originally built in 1919 by workers who included German Prisoners of War.



Q4. The Castledine family were instrumental in the building of the Almshouses



Q5. The "Green Bridge" carried the quarry railway over to the mainline between Barrow on Soar and Sibleby. The bridge now carries a conveyer belt.



Q6. The house stands at the junction of Sibleby Lane and Market Place and was for many years the Vicarage for St Peter's church



Q7. The 1860 bridge was, when built, the longest single span brick bridge in England. It carried a single track railway from the quarry to the Midland Railway at Barrow.



Q8. The Parish Rooms were originally a junior school for girls endowed by Lady Lanesborough. It has also served as a Mechanics Institute



Q9. The archway leads to the rear of the Post Office. Previous Post Offices were at Post Office Yard (by St Peter's Church) and on Leicester Rd – both have now been demolished.



Q10. Originally the building was "Church House", the Sunday School and community rooms for Christ Church. It is now the Village Library and Learning Centre and also houses the village Museum.

Answers to Keith's Quiz

Q1 The Green

Q2 Construction of 'Betty Henser's roundabout' on the bypass

Q3 Hawcliffe House at the corner of Hawcliffe Road

Q4 The skytip

Q5 Almshouses, Loughborough Road

Q6 Mountsorrel Cross now in Swithland

Q7 The Drill Hall, Loughborough Road

Q8 The Poplars with Mr Henderson's car

Q9 The Green

Q10 Baptist chapel, now Brewards Coffee House, and 2 Loughborough Road

Q11 Opening of the Memorial Hall 22nd June 1965 in car park

Q12 Market Place

Q13 Castledine

Q14 Moving the headstones from the Baptist burial ground to the Mountsorrel Cemetery

Q15 Bennetts Bait and Tackle Market Place

Q16 Unable to give complete answer, who is An Other?

Joy Broughton (clerk), Ray Woodward, Sheila Grace, Sandra Utteridge, Fred Butherway, Janet Foster, Brian Allard, Harold Newman, A. N. Other, John Ramsell, Vince Hand, Will Antill, Doug Hynd.

Q17 Loughborough Road Playing Field

Q18 The Green

Q19 Putting the spire on the new Methodist church

Q20 Home Farm and the Nags Head (The Swan)

Q21 Crown Lane

Q22 34 Loughborough Road

Q23 Hawcliffe Road

Q24 Buddon Wood Farm

Q25 Watling Street

Q26 Market Place , now New Dimensions

Q27 Duke of York (The Waterside)

Q28 The Wharf Sileby Road

Wildlife Notes

We are now deep in the quiet period for birdlife, for the most part the winter migrants are here and unless winter elsewhere gets really rough there'll probably be not much more to arrive. Redwings and a few Fieldfares are to be seen on Broad Hill and over Centenary Pastures and for those who venture as far as Swithland Reservoir, there's been Red-Headed Smew resident for the last few weeks on the south side (visible from the road from Rothley to Swithland that crosses the reservoir).



Also around are some White Fronted Geese, so it's always worth a more careful look at the geese flocks to see if there's any that are not the ubiquitous Canada variety.



Peace Garden

It's been far too wet of late to think seriously about work at the Peace Garden but as the New Year gets going it will need some attention, mostly dead-heading, trimming back and weeding but it looks as if we've lost one of the Pyracantha bushes – or at least it's not looking at all happy! We have the facility though to replace it if it doesn't respond to a bit of TLC. Thank you to all of you who helped with the work parties in 2020 and I hope we can call on you in 2021.

Three highlights from 2020

The butterflies on the Navins wildflower meadow this summer and indeed generally about us

The spread of fungi across Buddon Wood Farm track (the permissive path around the west side of the Common)

The Sparrowhawk that nested and fledged at least two young in the copse behind the Wildflower Meadow

A couple of events that you might like to take part in are:

National Nest Box Week (starts 14th Feb 21) see <https://www.nestboxweek.com/>

Big Garden Bird Watch 29-31 Jan 21) see <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Finally, spring is on its way, the first Snowdrops are out in my garden (29th Dec20)

