



No 40

MHG NEWSLETTER

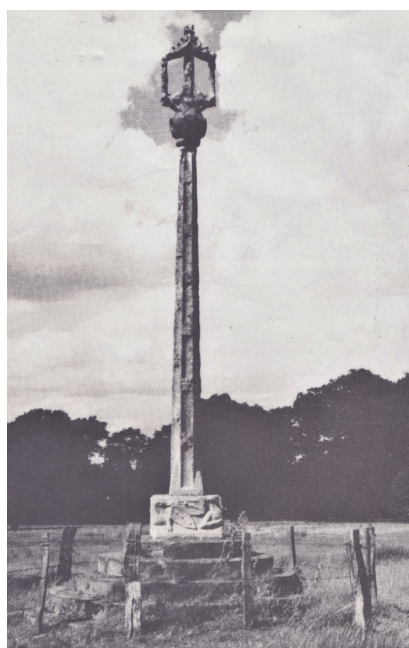
General News

The Committee will be having an on-line meeting shortly to discuss plans for the future as the country comes out of the COVID restrictions. Key items on the Agenda will be our series of Talks, participation in Mountsorrel Revival 2021, at which we plan to have the display about The Green which was in preparation for last years event and the re-opening of the Museum.

Charnwood Museum in Loughborough is still closed but they have recently had a complete revamp of their website see : [Welcome to Charnwood Museum – Charnwood Museum](#)

The village Royal British Legion Branch had discussions last year with the Parish Council about jointly held concerns over the condition of Castle Hill War Memorial. The Council made arrangements for a survey to be carried out but unfortunately this was postponed due to the COVID restrictions. With the relaxation of controls the survey is now being taken forward. Both the Parish Council and the RBL Branch have noted that August 2026 will see the Centenary of the inauguration of the Memorial.

The Parish Council are also looking into wear and tear damage to the base of the replica Preaching Cross that sits outside the entrance to the Peace Garden.



Replica Cross

Original Cross

The replica Preaching Cross has been sited outside the Peace Garden since 1995, it copies the original 15th century cross that stood in the Market Place on the site of the Buttermarket. The original was taken in 1793 by Sir John Danvers, then Lord of the Manor, for his home estate at Swithland Hall, where it stands today. Sir John paid for the erection of the Buttermarket to replace what he had taken.

Once upon a time in Mountsorrel in May

14th May 1813 – Nottingham Gazette, and Political, Literary, Agricultural & Commercial Register for the Midland Counties

As Joseph Rudd, servant to Mr Smith, of The Crown Inn, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire, was leading home a stallion of his master's, from Loughborough market last week, the horse, all on a sudden, became vehemently vicious, and literally attempted to worry poor Rudd, whose hat and other clothes were much torn, and his body bruised in several places before he could make his escape from the enraged animal. We understand that the horse had had a battle with another stallion, on the Thursday preceeding, at the very same spot, the recollection whereof Rudd supposes, to have been entirely the cause of its attacking him in the manner it did.

3rd May 1819 – The Examiner

Deaths – Thursday week at Mountsorrel, Mr Brown, he was about 70 years of age, went to bed the preceding night, and was found a corpse in the morning.

29th May 1824 – Leicester Chronicle

A labouring man met his death at Mountsorrel, last week, by a large piece of stone which had been blown up, falling on his head. His skull was much fractured, that he only survived the accident a few hours.

Note: This news story was also picked up by the **Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal** which gave a more red-blooded account "*A labouring man employed in a stone quarry at Mountsorrel, lately met an awful death, by an immense piece of rock, weighing 5 tons, falling on him, which literally crushed him to pieces.*" It is thought that the Leicester Chronicle's report is probably more accurate.

22nd May 1829 – Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties

Deserters – From 36th Foot, William Tugby, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire, labourer, aged 21, 5ft. 8in. high slender person; from Limerick, May 5th, in regimentals, with side belt and bayonet. – War Office, May 20th.

Notes: William was the son of Thomas and Dorothy Tugby of Prior's Yard, he was baptised at St Peter's on 11th July 1807. The 36th Foot became the Herefordshire Regiment and now forms part of the Mercian Regiment. The Regiment had moved to Ireland in 1827 and news that they were shortly to go to Barbados, which at that time was not a holiday destination, may well have triggered William's desertion. There are no records of what became of him.

4th May 1833 – London Courier and Evening Gazette

Parliament – Mr W. Evans presented a petition from the inhabitants of the borough of Leicester, signed by upwards of 5000 individuals, for the entire and immediate abolition of colonial slavery; also a similar petition from the inhabitants of Mountsorrel, in the county of Leicester.

24th May 1833 – Leicester Journal

To Hosiers, Framesmiths and Others, To Be Sold By Auction by G. Gamble, On Wednesday, June 5th, 1833, at the White Swan Inn, Mountsorrel in the County of Leicester. 50 Plain and Ribbed Stocking-Frames, of various widths and gauges, the property of the late, Mr G Woollerton, of Mountsorrel. Sale to commence at Two o'clock in the afternoon. And on Tuesday June 1st, will be sold by auction, on the premises of the said Mr Woollerton, Mountsorrel, all the household furniture and effects. Sale to commence at ten o'clock

30th May 1834 – Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties

T. Marshall ordered to pay 2s and costs, for getting a horse out of the Mountsorrel Pinfold, under false pretences.

20th May 1837 – Leicester Chronicle

William Place, of Mountsorrel, was charged with having on 16th inst., unlawfully beat and ill-used a lad named Joseph Kinch. It appeared from the evidence that the lad was tending some sheep in a lane near Mountsorrel, which had so far trespassed, as Place thought authorised him to impound them; and in so doing, the lad so hindered him in the execution of his duty that he had taken justice into his own hands, and had severely beaten the lad for it. – Fined 10s, and costs (14s): in default Place was committed to prison for a month.

27th May 1837 – Leicester Chronicle

John Brookes, of Loughborough, hawker, was charged with having, on the 9th ult., assaulted and beat John Hutchinson, of Mountsorrel. The defendant (a married man) had gone to the complainant's house, to run off with his wife, and she assisted him to thrash her husband before they eloped; The Magistrates fined the defendant and his paramour £5 each; in default two months imprisonment.

28th May 1841 – Leicester Journal

Mountsorrel, Leicestershire. To be sold by Auction by Harvey Combe, on Wednesday, June 9th, 1841, at the Crown Inn, in Mountsorrel, about 150 Dozen of Prime Old Wines of various sorts, of the Vintages of 20, and 27, and 34, and a choice collection of Plate, the late property of Mr. J. W. Wood. Sale is to commence at eleven o'clock. The above wine is well worth the attention of the Connoisseur, being of the best Vintages, and the flavour not forgotten by many judges.

7th May 1842 – Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser

Nominations to the General Council from Mountsorrel

Mr Samuel Fisher, frame work knitter

Mr James Preston, weaver

Mr Joseph Baum, frame work knitter, Watling street

Mr Benjamin Derry, frame work knitter, Watling street

Mr Joseph Paget, frame work knitter, Watling street

Mr John Hawkins, frame work knitter, Watling street, sub-Treasurer

Mr John Clarke, frame work knitter, Watling street, sub -Secretary

Notes:

The Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser was a Chartist newspaper published between 1837 and 1852. Owned by Feargus O'Connor, a former Irish MP, it supported reform issues and radical politics. The General Council Meeting referred to was a country-wide grouping that called for a "People's Charter" and led the wave of strikes that autumn against wage reductions.

7th May 1852 – Leicester Journal

Electrobiology at Mountsorrel – Last Friday evening a Mr. H. Hodgkinson visited this village to "exhibit his astonishing experiments" illustrative of the above so called science of the soul. The Rev. T. Pruen and a number of the principal inhabitants assembled in the National School-room, where the performance was to take place. The would-be professor was accompanied by a Mr G Fletcher, upon whom, after some remarks on electro-biology, he proceeded to operate; but alas! Owing either to the strong nerve of the subject, or the latter's ignorance of the science, not one experiment was successfully performed. After repeated fruitless attempts to deprive his subject of the power of speech and sight, the audience began to vent their dissatisfaction, and a Policeman, who was present, suggested to the lecturer that he should "give it up" and return the money given for admission. This the terrified Professor agreed to do, "If" (whispering to the Policeman) "you will let me go." The money was accordingly returned to the audience, and the pair of scientific gentlemen, who, we understand, are inhabitants of Leicester, immediately

left the village, doubtless thinking themselves lucky they had been allowed to escape without being subject to a little lynch law.

Notes: Electro-biology was reputedly a mode of inducing hypnotism by having the subject look steadily at metallic disks. The process originated about the middle of the nineteenth century, and its fame was spread by numerous lecturers in England and the United States.

22nd May 1852 – Leicester Chronicle

Fatal accident at Mountsorrel – A melancholy and fatal accident occurred to a quarryman named Joseph Baum, at Mountsorrel on yesterday week. While he sat “drilling” at one of the stone quarries a huge stone fell upon his bowels, and he died almost instantaneously. An inquest was held on his body at the Red Lion Inn, Mountsorrel, before J. Gregory Esq., Coroner, and a verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned. The deceased was 19 years of age and had an excellent character.

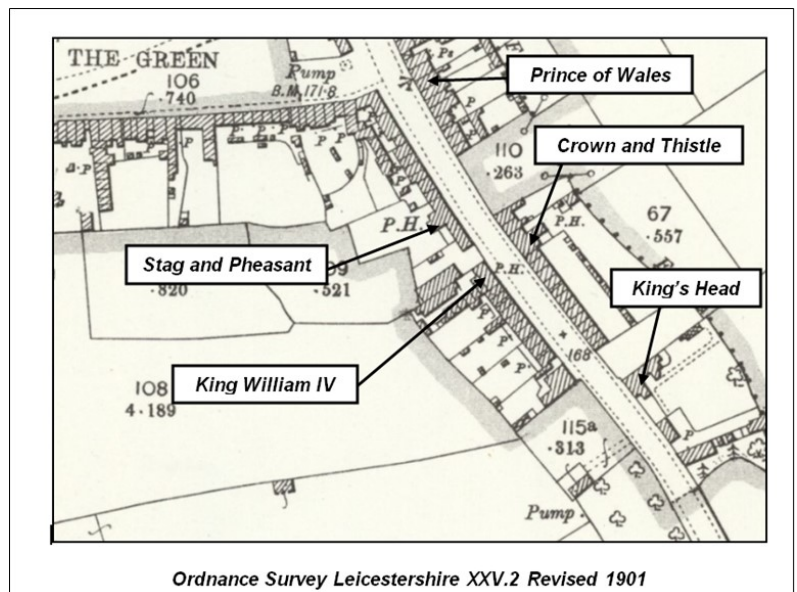
26th May 1900—Leicester Chronicle

Mountsorrel—The news of the relief of Mafeking was received with great jubilation. Houses were plentifully decorated with Union Jacks and favours, and the Mountsorrel Brass Band played patriotic airs in the evening.

Now and Then—The King William IV and cottages in the yard

What is now the Gurkha New Delhi Restaurant on the west side of Leicester Road was formerly the King William IV Inn, one of several ale-houses and inns to have served the residents of the South End of the village over the years.

The building dates from at least 1816 as it, and the cottages in the yard behind it, can be seen on The George Watkinson Estate map of that year. Our first evidence of it as an inn is in 1835 where it is listed in Pigot’s Trade Directory as, the King William IV, with John Brown as the Landlord.

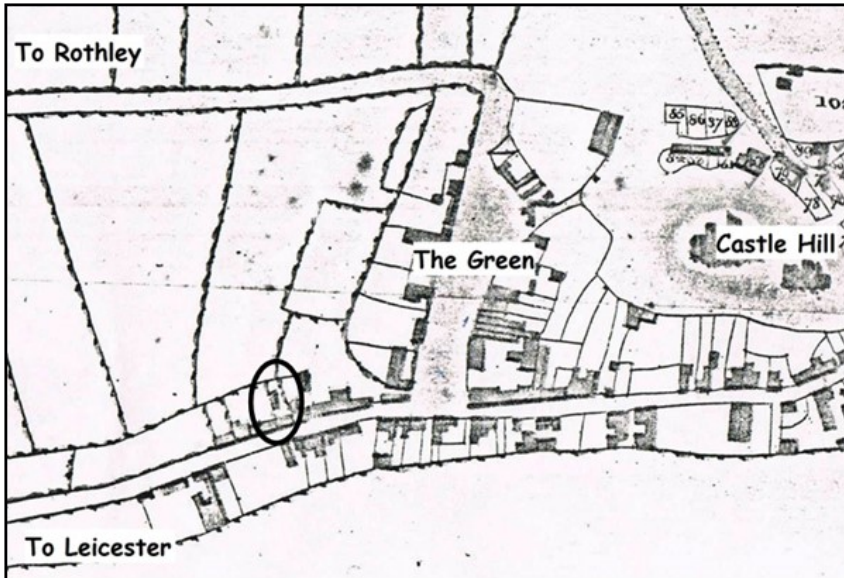


c1890



King William IV

April 2021



Mountsorrel c1816 with the site of the King William IV and yard ringed

John Brown had previously been landlord of the White Swan in Market Place and may have taken advantage of the 1830 Beer Act to set up his own pub. As a widower he clearly needed a wife to help run the pub and on 7th November 1840 he married Mary Thacker, a widow some 15 years his junior, who lived in the South End. They married at Rothley Parish church in which parish the South End of the village then was, with Christ Church not yet planned let alone built.

Why King William IV?

William IV (1765 – 1837), reigned as King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover, from 26 June 1830 until his death in 1837. He served in the Royal Navy in his youth, and gained the nickname the "Sailor King" or "Sailor Bill". He was 64 when he came to the throne and his reign saw several important reforms; the poor law was updated, child labour restricted, slavery abolished in nearly all of the British Empire, the electoral system reshaped by the Reform Act 1832 and the 1830 Beer Act was passed.



King William IV

The Beer Act

The 1830 Beer Act created a new category of drinking place, the Beerhouse or Beershop. It was intended to reduce public drunkenness as at the time beer was viewed as harmless, nutritious and healthy and the idea was to wean drinkers off the evils of gin. It enabled anyone to sell or brew beer in their own home or a public house without the need for a Justice's license only a certificate from the Excise was required, but were permitted to sell beer or cider only, for which the Certificate cost £2 for beer and £1 for cider.

The passage of the act during the reign of King William IV led to many pubs being named (or re-named) in his honour.

Within 8 years 46,000 Beerhouses were opened across the country far outnumbering the combined total of established taverns, public houses inns and hotels. So in 1869, to control their growth, Beerhouses were also brought under the authority of the Justices

John Brown died, reportedly aged 69, on the 9th March 1846 and was buried three days later at St Peter's. In addition to running the inn he had also been the Postmaster for the village which was the cause of some complaint from villagers in the North End. In the press announcing his death there was also news that, "*The respectable inhabitants of Mountsorrel are petitioning the Lords of the Treasury to remove the post office to the centre of the town. The town is nearly a mile long, and the present post office is in the south part, which causes great inconvenience to the northern part of inhabitants, in as much as when the letter messenger returns in the evening from Mountsorrel to Loughborough, by the sound of his horn rather than take them to the office. The messenger has had thirty to thirty-five letters a night.*" The petition was successful and the next Post Master lived by St Peter's.

The 1841 Census shows that only 3 of the four cottages in the Yard, then recorded as "Brown's Yard", to the rear were occupied. The families all had distinctly Mountsorrel names, Whittle, Noon and Baum and the main wage earners were employed in stocking making.

Following John Brown's death the inn was taken in tenancy, by George Duncan, who also continued his trade as a blacksmith. George originated in Scotland but had arrived in Mountsorrel some time prior to 1825 when he married Mary Baum at Rothley Parish church. Prior to taking the inn they had lived on Leicester Road between the inn and the Green. The inn and the houses in the yard were owned by Samuel Priestley, possibly jointly with his father, Joseph. The Priestleys, who also lived on Leicester Rd, were maltsters, brickmakers and farmers, owning land and property in the village and in Barrow on Soar where they owned the "Royal Oak".

The Yard is recorded in the 1851 Census as Priestley's Yard and there are now 5 cottages, presumably one of the inn's outbuildings had been converted for the purpose. Although the cottages must have been small there were some 21 individuals living there, 11 of whom were working in the hosiery trade including a 10 year old boy who was a Stocking Frame Winder. There was also a quarry labourer and a bricklayer.

In 1856 the Duncan's were nearly caught out by a customer passing counterfeit money and Mary Duncan gave evidence at a subsequent trial.

Leicester Chronicle 5th January 1856

William Preston (39) framework knitter, and James Doubleday (40) baker, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit half-crowns, at Mountsorrel, with intent to cheat Mary Ball, on the 3rd November last. A second count charged the prisoners with putting off another bad half-crown to Mary Duncan. Mr O'Brien prosecuted; Mr Merewether defended Preston. Elizabeth Ball, wife of Thomas Ball, baker, Mountsorrel, said on the 3rd of November she saw Doubleday in her husband's shop; he came in for a loaf, and gave her half a crown in payment. Witness gave him 1s 10d in change. Witness thought it did not sound well, and it looked very dark. She marked it and laid it aside in another portion of the house. Soon after a young woman named Sarah Baum, daughter in law of Preston, came into the shop for a loaf; for which she tendered half a crown to pay for it. The half-crown produced was the one witness received from Doubleday; another produced was the one she received from Sarah Baum. Mary Duncan, wife of George Duncan, Mountsorrel, deposed that she saw the two prisoners in her house, on the day in question, about four o'clock in the afternoon. Preston called for half-a-pint of ale, and gave witness 1½d for it; he afterwards called for another half-pint for which he gave 1½d. Soon after, Preston asked witness to change half-a-crown for him; but she discovered it was a bad one, and told Preston so, and wished him to put it on the fire; but he said he should not do that, as he knew where he had it from. Doubleday was sitting in the tap room. They both left the house between four and five o'clock. Preston came in again in the evening and told witness to say nothing if she was asked if he had offered her anything. – By Mr Merrywether: Witness sometimes receives goods and lets parties drink for them. Had often done so; but was not aware that it was illegal. Had been cautioned by the Constable. Frances Kenny, a widow residing in Rothley, said a lad

came to her shop on 3rd of December, and purchased articles to the amount of 5d. and tendered half-a-crown. Soon after the Lad was gone she discovered that it was a bad one. She took it back to the boy's mother, and saw Preston there, who said "give me the half-crown and I will give you 2s 6d for it," which she did. Rossana Marriott, of Mountsorrel, and Elizabeth Mitchell, also swore to prisoners passing bad half-crowns to them. Several other witnesses swore to receiving bad half-crowns from prisoners. Mr W. Gray, silversmith, had examined the coins, and found them all counterfeit. Mr. Merewether made an able defence on behalf of Preston. His Lordship having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners. A previous conviction having been proved against Preston, for stealing money in 1844, his lordship sentenced him to two years' hard labour, and Doubleday to one year's hard labour.

The Duncan's remained at the inn until George's death in August 1874 their daughters marrying locally and their son William at first following his father as a blacksmith but later going into the boot and shoe and trade.

By 1861 there were only 4 cottages occupied in the Yard which was now recorded as Duncan's Yard as it was in 1871. Despite the reduction in the number of cottages there were now 24 living in the Yard, 10 of whom were in the Hosiery trade. There were only 2 quarrymen but 4 labourers in the brickyard which was then operating just beyond what is now Linkfield Road. Of those in employment, two were 12 year old girls working as winders on framework machines and three boys, one 10 and two 9 years olds, working as labourers in the brickyard.

By 1871 the population of the Yard had dropped considerably with only three cottages being in use with a total of 12 occupants, of these only 4 were in the hosiery trade.

By 1875 Thomas Priestly Odams and his wife, Julia, were running the inn. They had married at St Peter's in 1873, he was a son of a local small farmer and she the daughter of one of the village's butchers. More to the point he was the nephew of Samuel Priestley the owner of the property and land. Both Samuel and his father Joseph had died in the winter of 1862/3 and at this point their estates were still being sorted out by the executors, a process that went on until 1884. The Odams family ran the inn until Thomas's death in October 1881.

The 1881 Census taken in April, showed the Yard as Odam's Yard, with 5 cottages but only 4 being occupied. Amongst the 16 residents, 8 of whom were children of pre-school age, there was now no one in the hosiery trade. There is a puzzle in the 1881 entries for the Yard, one cottage is occupied by the Robinson family, Edmund, his wife and three young children. He is recorded as an Inn keeper however his background is in the boot and shoe trade in Leicester to where, by 1891, he has returned to live and again is shown as being in the boot and shoe trade. We can only surmise that the "Inn Keeper" entry is an error. Certainly the name recorded as being the landlord on the death of Thomas Odams is Charles Gilbert.

In 1884 the sale at last took place of the properties forming the estate of Samuel Priestly. The sale took place at the "Royal Oak" in Barrow on Soar, an inn that also formed part of the auction catalogue. The King William IV formed Lot 4 and is described as "All that old licensed public house or inn known by the name or sign of "KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH" situate fronting to the main street, containing, bar, tap room, parlour, and kitchen, large club-room, five bed-rooms, entry, stabling etc, in the occupation of Mr Charles Gilbert. Also all those four cottages, situate in the yard at the back of the same." On the day the inn and cottages went for £470. In the same sale Lot 5 consisted "All that dwelling house and Bakehouse with good oven, outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate fronting to the Green, and now in the occupation of Mr William Cox". This sold for £110 and is thought to be what later became "Dodsons Bakery".

The name of the purchaser of the inn is not known but may have been a brewery as Charles Gilbert left shortly afterwards and the next three landlords seem to have only stayed for a short period:

- Arthur J Smith 1887 – 1890

- Edward Stevenson – 1891 – a former blacksmith and later landlord of the Crown Inn, a Shipstone's house at Sneinton.
- John P Blackie 1891 – 1893

Along with the uncertainty caused by short term management of the inn, the cottages in the yard were, by 1901 all empty and seem never again to have been occupied

The arrival in 1893 of George Mason, a former gamekeeper from Enderby, brought some stability until sadly, 1904, when he died. He was followed by John Bodycote, formerly the landlord of the Bell inn in Arnesby, who stayed until his retirement in 1931. Bodycote, who originated in Wigston, was a noted sportsman in his youth, playing cricket locally and, at times, turning out for Leicester Tigers.



The King William IV prior to WW1 – could that be John Bodycote in the doorway in waistcoat and shirt-sleeves?

Like all Landlords John Bodycote came at least once to the notice of the Magistrates

Nottingham Journal 22nd May 1913

John Brown, roadman, Mountsorrel, was charged at Loughborough with being drunk on licensed premises, and John Bodycote, licensee of the King William IV, Mountsorrel, with permitting the same on May 11th.

Police Constable Darling said that at 10.5 p.m. on the day named he saw the defendant helplessly drunk. He called the attention of Mrs. Bodycote, and she said, "Why it is Billy; he's in a fit." Mrs. Bodycote said he had been in the taproom all night, and had had only two half pints. The defendant, on being questioned the next day, said the customers in the public-house treated him because of the reminiscences he recounted of his visit to America.

Mr. Lancaster, for the defendant Brown, said his condition was brought on by his heart, and Dr. Phelps, who examined Brown, said he found him suffering from heart disease, Bright's disease, and nervousness. The condition of the man was such that he might have a fit at any time.

Evidence having been given in support of the plea that it was a fit Brown had, the magistrates said they had decided to convict Brown and fined him 5s., or three days; respecting the charge against the landlord, in view of the good way he had managed the house they took a lenient view of the case and would allow it to be withdrawn on payment of costs. But they hoped it would be a warning to him in the future.

Both prior to WW1 and into the 1930s the King William IV had an active skittles team competing in the Loughborough and District Skittles League.

Following Bodycote's retirement the house was run by Charles H Bower who was there through WW2.



Leicester Road late 1950s



2009 – at its closure as an Inn

Of later landlords only Hilary and Don Dodge, who had the inn during the 1970s, have been identified by name, although anecdotally, one landlord during the 1960s *“had a wonderful waxed moustache which he used to do with his two fingers”*.

King William IV closed in 2009 and opened again briefly as a Portuguese bistro bar in 2013, Porto Gomes, only to close again. It re-opened as a multi-cuisine but essentially chinese restaurant called the Bayleaf. That has now morphed into the Gurkha New Delhi, Indian and multi-cuisine restaurant with a take-away service.



Porto Gomes



Bay Leaf



Gurkha New Delhi

April 2021

100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion



The 15th of May will mark the Centenary of the formation of the British Legion (Royal British Legion as of 23rd May 1971). The Legion was created by the merger of the four national exService-men's organisations that had been formed in the immediate aftermath of the Great War.



By 1921 the post-war economy had plummeted leaving 2 million people unemployed with exService-men bearing the brunt. Over 6 million men had served in the war and of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. Each of the four organisations:

The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers

The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers

The Comrades of The Great War

The Officers' Association

tried to assist servicemen but it was clear that a co-ordinated effort was needed and through the combined efforts of Field Marshal Earl Haig and Tom Lister of The Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers the British legion was formed. Lord Haig then served as the President of the Legion until his death in 1928. Shortly after the formation of the Legion the Women's Section was formed. In the autumn of 1921 through the efforts of a French lady, Anna Guérin, the Legion adopted the Poppy as the symbol of remembrance and sold the first poppies, made by ladies in France, to raise money at Armistice Day to support the wounded and needy. Soon afterwards some 2,500 British Legion branches were formed across the country.

The Royal British Legion in Mountsorrel

In July 1919 following the return of the majority of the Mountsorrel men to the village after the war a "Welcome Home" event was held involving the whole village. Shortly after this the "Soldiers and Sailors Association" was formed which was the precursor of the Legion here in the village. With Maj. Charles Martin as President, Roland Goodman MM as Chairman and C. W. Holland as Secretary. With war still raw in the memory there was a large and active membership.

In 1926 the Association had formally become a British Legion Branch and took part in the unveiling of Castle Hill War Memorial and then, in November, held the first village parade and church service to mark the commemoration of the 1919 Armistice

The former factory at the top of the Green (now the Scout Hut) was acquired and developed as a licensed club, the Mountsorrel British Legion Club. The club was very successful having regular shows and dances but with changes in Branch leadership it began to move away from the core aims of the Legion and into a purely social organisation for which there was a clear need. Eventually in 1932 there was a clean organisational break with the club becoming the Mountsorrel Working Men's Club but with many members supporting both organisations.

Services.—November 11th brings us the 8th anniversary of Armistice Day. We hope a number will come to the church to keep this day in a few minutes of prayer and silence. There will be the usual service in S. Peter's Schools at 11 a.m.. On Nov. 1st, All Saints' Day, the Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Nov. 7th, the British Legion are holding their first Church Parade, when Col. R. E. Martin, C.M.G., will give an address to the men. We hope the British Legion will be a power for good. It will be a means of binding together old comrades. The men who fought in war have now a great opportunity of fighting in the cause of peace and of raising the standard of life and of putting before us by their examples the ideals for which the Legion stands.

St Peter's Notes, East Akeley Deanery Magazine November 1926



Branch Members arriving at Watling St for the unveiling of Castle Hill War Memorial 1926



***William Arthur Attenborough
Branch Standard Bearer 1942***



Sid Neal Branch Standard Bearer c1950, with Tommy Coulton (Committee member), left and Ron Sanderson Chairman), right.

Members of the original Committee returned and led the Legion branch for next 20 or more years, concentrating on fundraising and benevolent work amongst local exServicemen and their families.

Throughout the 1930s and into WW2 the branch had a membership approaching 200 but in the 1950s these numbers waned dramatically and the branch had a spasmodic existence. In the 1970's it underwent a revival balancing social events with fundraising, both locally and in support of the Poppy Appeal.

Today with very small numbers the branch concentrates its efforts in support of the Poppy Appeal, which has always received heartfelt support from the whole village, the Armistice Day service at the Peace Garden and the village Remembrance Day Parade and Service. Additionally it works closely with the Heritage Group's volunteers in the maintenance of the Peace Garden and ensuring the military service and sacrifice of villagers over the years is not forgotten.

Third Poppy Day record

MOUNTSORREL Royal British Legion's poppy appeal is heading towards a magical four figures in their third successive record-breaking year.

This year's total is already £800.53 – and, with funds still coming in, branch chairman Mr. Fred Butherway is casting his sights on a possible £1,000 haul.

"We've had a very good fund-raising year, building on the

record totals both last year and the year before," he added. "We hope to buy something like a bed for one of the Legion hospitals early next year."

Officers elected at the Legion's annual meeting were: chairman, Fred Butherway; vice-chairman, Bob Cross; secretary, Roy Haywood; treasurer, Noel Wakeling; committee, J. Stosik, P. Sheehan, A. Smith, J. Grant, E. Preston, K. Breen, M. Gaunt, R. Speed, standard bearer, John McDermott.



© Chairman of Mountsorrel Royal British Legion Fred Butherway (left) congratulates leading poppy appeal collectors (from left) Colin North, Eric Preston, Chris Pervin, Kathleen Grant, Sandra Barby and Florrie Stokes.

Loughborough Echo 1987

Despite the limitations imposed by COVID restrictions this last year the branch still marked VE and VJ days by the mounting of wreaths on the gates of the Peace Garden. Similarly, the annual Remembrance and Armistice day services went ahead albeit in a much reduced and socially distanced manner.



Mountsorrel Post – Remembrance Day and Armistice Day 2020

Wildlife

The 14th of April saw our first work party of the year in the Peace Garden with a few, very welcome, new faces. Some general post-winter sorting out took place along with the first pruning of the pyracantha hedge we planted two years ago. One of the bushes has lost its main stem but there was good regrowth at ground level so it will not be replaced. The main objective was to shorten the plants to encourage thicker growth. We now plan a monthly work party and the planned date will be emailed out.

The Wildflower Meadow by Christ Church is looking stunning with a mass of Cow-slips and Oxlips taking centre stage backed up with primroses. The Snakes-head Fritillaries have survived and will be added to as home grown bulbs come to hand.



Wildflower Meadow

23rd April 2021