



MHG NEWSLETTER

No 42

Maggie Hunt

It is with great sadness we announce the death of the Heritage Group Chairperson, Maggie Hunt. Maggie, who was widowed only some 14 months ago, passed away on 26th June after a short illness.

A former NHS Operating Theatre Sister, she was deeply interested and active in local history and archaeology not simply here in Mountsorrel but in the county and further afield, devoting much time in recent years in support of the Charnwood Roots Project.

As Chair of our Group she built on the work of our previous Chairmen and led the Committee into "upping our game" for the benefit of the Group and the village.

A warm hearted and social lady she will be missed by us all.



A younger Maggie kitted out for riding but with her trade mark smile

Mountsorrel Revival

You will all have heard by now that Revival is, very sadly, cancelled for this year. A great disappointment for many but in particular our friends in the Mountsorrel Community Team who put so much work into the event. We had planned to present our exhibition about The Green at Revival (as we had originally intended for 2020) and the Committee will be meeting shortly to consider our options. We are considering a Heritage Open Morning one Saturday in late summer to allow us to display the Green Exhibition and more about the work of the Group. Look out for details in the next Newsletter.

Mountsorrel Fair

It's July, so it's time for the Mountsorrel Fair, or at least it was once upon a time!



Edward I (From a wall painting in Westminster Abbey)

On 14th July 1292 King Edward 1 was at Berwick upon Tweed holding court and preparing for his arbitration between warring factions inside Scotland which took place that autumn. Whilst there he granted various charters to senior barons amongst whom was Nicholas de Segrave, a major landholder here in Leicestershire. De Segrave was a key supporter and advisor to the King but had a chequered history having at first sided with Simon de Montfort's rebel forces against Edward's father King Henry III. Clearly sensing where the real power lay, he changed sides in 1267 and supported Edward, who was commanding his father's forces, in the defeat of the remaining rebels. He later accompanied Edward on the Crusades and in operations in Wales against Llewellyn-ap-Gruffyd.

The charter gave de Segrave the rights in Mountsorrel to hold a weekly market on Mondays and a yearly fair for eight days on the eve, day and morrow of the feast-day of St John the Baptist and for five days after. This was a real financial and trade boost to the nascent village (and to de Seagrave!) and underpinned its development over the coming centuries. Adding to the value of the charter was the fact that it was granted in succession to Nicholas's heirs and successors and included hunting rights around the area and across his land holdings across the Midlands.

The choice of the Feast of St John the Baptist as the key date for the fair is significant as it links to the Chapel of St John the Baptist, now St Peter's church, which was founded c1250. It also raises questions as to the actual dates for the Fairs. The Feast-day of St John the Baptist is June 24th which using the Charter means the Fair starts on 23rd (the Eve) and then runs on the Feast-day, the day after and for five further days and ends on 30th June, a total of 8 days. Yet written reports in the 19th century clearly show the fair starting on 10th July.



De Segrave's Coat of arms



Northampton Mercury - Saturday 7th July 1804
 LIST of FAIRS, from July 9 to July 21, within the Circuit of this Paper.
 July 10. Buckingham, Mountsorrel, Peterborough, Market-Bosworth, and Southam.

Leicester Journal - Friday 7th July 1843
 FAIRS TO HOLDEN. Monday, July 10th, Mountsorrel, Market Bosworth, Hull, Peterborough, Buckingham, Mansfield, Coleshill, Warwick, Upton, Worcester, Newcastle, Wolverhampton,

Post Office Directory 1849
Mountsorrel—Market day Monday and there is a fair on 10th July continuing for nine days.

Clearly there has been some pragmatic decision made to change the date and there are several possible factors in play, first the development of religious nonconformity within Mountsorrel could have led to a lessening of the ties to the old feast days of the Catholic and later Anglican Churches, secondly the change from the Julian to Gregorian calendars in 1753 which meant the loss of 11 days (2nd September 1752 was followed by 11th September). A further factor could be the change of dedication of the chapel from St John the Baptist to St Peter but that does not explain the date as St Peter's Day is 29th June! The change may simply be down to harvests and fluctuations in trade, but even in the 1950's there were still strongly held opinions as to when the date of the fair should be.....

Leicester Evening Mail - 8th February 1958
 Disagreed about date of fair – Receipt of a formal application from an amusement firm for the use of the Memorial Fields, Mountsorrel for the annual fair next summer sparked off a division of opinion between Mountsorrel Parish Council members at their monthly meeting. Coun. A. Porter said he had understood since he was a boy that “Fair Sunday” was always the nearest to July 10th and he was strongly opposed to changing tradition. This was in reply to a suggestion from the clerk, Ald. A. Smith, that two dates be offered for the fair, namely July 6 and 13.

The Fair and weekly market must have been focussed around the Market Place and archaeological finds made during redevelopment work there certainly indicate this to be a busy spot during the Middle Ages. Fairs in that period were not simply a time for recreation but also trade, attracting a wider spread of tradesfolk and pedlars than the weekly market would. Standing on a main north-south high road and with the potential for boat traffic even before the coming of the canal network the village was well placed for trade despite lying between the bigger centres of Leicester and Loughborough.

The popularity of the Fair will have taken a knock during the rule of Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth, for although the trading aspect would probably have continued, the “fun” aspects such as maypole dancing, bear baiting, cock fighting, general sports and drinking will have been banned.

Following the Restoration and the expansion of trade through the 17th and 18th centuries the Fair became a major event locally allowing not only recreation but sales of wool, leather, yarn, cattle and horses attracting numbers of visitors from across the region. By the mid-19th century the trade aspect seems to have fallen away and the fairs had become essentially a pleasure event with good and sometimes questionable behaviour, as the press reports show:

Leicestershire Mercury - 21st July 1849

Mountsorrel Fair – We have never witnessed so many sweet-meat stalls at this fair for many years as upon this occasion. It has altogether been a merry fair, and there has not been the slightest occasion to call out the constables.

Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday 20th July 1850

Mountsorrel Fair - This fair, which annually takes place on July 10th, has been kept up with great spirit. Stall-keepers came from Leicester, Quorndon, Rothley, and other places; also swing-boats and riding-horses, &c. On Thursday, the Female Druidesses' Society, meeting at the White Swan, held their anniversary. They walked in procession, accompanied-by several of the Druids, to Christ's Church, headed by the Mountsorrel band; they afterwards returned to the club-room to partake of tea. On Friday the Female Friendly Society, meeting at Host Jelley's, "The Duke of York", held their anniversary. At half-past 2 o'clock they walked in procession, headed by the Mountsorrel Band, to St. Peter's Church, where an appropriate sermon was preached to them, by their highly respected Minister, the Rev. T. Pruen. This society is in a very flourishing state, for although they have had several funerals and much sickness, they have overcome these trials, and have a good surplus in hand. We can safely say that there is no society within many miles doing so well. On Monday, the 15th, the quarry-men in the employ of Mr. Martin went to Bradgate-park, in wagons decorated with green boughs. At 8 o'clock, a.m., they proceeded up the town-street headed by the band, and when they arrived at Bradgate they were amply regaled with beef and ham, also some good brown-stout, which was given to them by their worthy employer, Mr. Martin, who expressed his wish that they might all enjoy themselves. The conduct of the men throughout the day was very praiseworthy. We trust that these hard toiling men may experience another holiday like this one, should they be spared to see another Mountsorrel Fair, as an encouragement to them for their exertions throughout the year.

Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday 31st July 1852

Loughborough Petty Sessions, Friday, July 23rd before the Revs. John Dudley and William Acworth. William Preston, Charles Matthews, and George Hunt, were charged with having stolen a bottle and a gallon of ale, the property of Richard Place. The charge originated in drunken spree at Mountsorrel Fair. Settled out of court.

Leicestershire Mercury - Saturday 21 July 1855

Mountsorrel Fair - This fair was held last week, and notwithstanding the depression in trade and the dearness of provisions was fully equal to those of former years. The proclamation took place on the Tuesday and was unusually striking in its concomitants. After the proclamation, the quarrymen in the employ of J. Martin, Esq., according to annual custom, enjoyed an excellent dinner, in Miss Castledine's orchard, and expressed their obligations to their liberal employer, and their worthy superintendent Mr. Statham. On Wednesday, the Female Friendly Society held their anniversary tea meeting at Mr. Jelley's, "The Duke of York", and on Friday the Druidesses held a similar meeting at Mr. Bampton's, "The White Swan".

By the late 1860s the extent of the jollifications was beginning to worry some of the village "worthies" who petitioned Lord Lanesborough, the Lord of the Manor, to abolish the fair which in about 1872 he did. This period did coincide with the height of the Temperance Movement which may well have been a factor in the decision.

Despite the formal abolition the fair lived on, albeit in a slightly shorter form.....

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday - 23rd July 1881

MOUNTSORREL - The Fair. This quiet little town has been a scene of animation for the last week. The Market Place has been crowded with stalls, photographers' tents, shooting galleries, etc, and the long looked-for fair has come at last. The 10th falling on Sunday this year, the fair was not proclaimed until Monday, when a number of the inhabitants as special constables, carrying staffs, headed by the Mountsorrel brass band, proceeded from the Black Swan Hotel to parade the town, and support the declaration which was proclaimed by Mr. R. Rudkin. Mr. T. Bowler, of Dobb Hall, as lord of the fair, and Mr. Eli Breed, as attendant, were driven in front by Mr. Mathews, and great excitement prevailed the whole of the time, and large numbers of people arrived from the surrounding villages to witness this old custom. The Mountsorrel cricket club arranged some very good matches and were successful. On Thursday the match between the eleven and twenty-two of club and town took place, when some capital play was shown on both sides. But the eleven were too strong for their opponents. The Mountsorrel band kindly attended and enlivened the proceedings. The score was 128 for the eleven, and 52 for the twenty-two. Everything passed off in a quiet and peaceful manner, and the town is now beginning to assume its former aspect.

Bob Bowler of "Dob Hall" with his wife Jinny (and Donkey "beauty"). Photo taken at the top of Halstead Road



Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 18th July 1896

MOUNTSORREL - The Fair. This ancient fair, which commenced on Saturday, and was continued Monday and Tuesday, was originally held for the selling of all kinds of wares and merchandise, but it is now exclusively devoted to pleasure, and judging from the amount of attractions and the influx of visitors, it has lost none of its hold, the switch back railway in particular being well patronised. Dancing was held in the orchard of the Stag and Pheasant on Monday, and continued on Tuesday, when a numerous company tripped to the strains of the brass band.

By the start of the 20th Century the fair continued but was linked to fund-raising efforts in support of the Leicester Royal Infirmary and other charitable work.

With the start of the Great War the Fair ceased in its traditional form although carnival type parades did still take place but on varying dates.



c1910 Parade passing up The Green



1917 and 1918



In 1919 the village “Welcome Home” event for service men returning from the war took place on 19th July with meals, entertainments and sports perhaps echoing a world that was now gone.

Between the wars Fair Sunday was at first marked but with charity parades and joint church services. But in the early 1930s a Gala parade or fair, organised by the Mountsorrel Co-operative Society, was held around Whitsuntide. This continued efforts to raise money for wards at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Later a commercial travelling fair visited annually but as the popularity for that form of entertainment waned their last visit was in 1988.

Fair Sunday.—The usual service will be held this year on the Green and we ask our congregation to take part in it. Evensong will be held as usual at 6 p.m., but it will be shortened, enabling us to arrive at the Green in time. We are glad that Col. Martin is able to come and take charge of the proceedings.

*East Akeley Deanery Magazine – St Peter’s Notes
July 1925*



Getting ready for the Fair – mid 1930s

Commercial travelling fair on the Memorial Playing Fields early 1980s



After World War 2 there were carnivals and galas to raise money for various objectives but the main event was the Mountsorrel Gala that ran very successfully for many years organised by the village Sports and Leisure Association throughout the 1980s/90s. Sadly that ceased due to the amount of work needed to be undertaken by a small (and in some cases, ageing) Committee.

Today the Fair, first authorised by King Edward 1's Charter of 1292, lives on in the form of Mountsorrel Revival which, although sadly cancelled this year, will we all hope, be back with us in 2022.



Once upon a time in Mountsorrel in July

3rd July 1824 – Leicester Chronicle

On 24th ult., William Spencer, of the Bull's Head Inn, Mountsorrel, was convicted before Magistrates at Loughborough, in a penalty and costs, for retailing malt liquor short of measure. This afforded no small gratification to some of the townspeople, for he was lately informer against a landlord, his next-door neighbour, for a similar offence,

10th July 1824 Leicester Chronicle

A correspondent, in reference to a paragraph about the conviction of Mr. Spencer, of Mountsorrel, for selling ale by short measure says – that the measure complained of was a tankard, in common use in the neighbourhood, though unlawful – and that Mr. Spencer did not lay information against another person but was subpoenaed to attend before the Magistrates as a witness.

31st July 1829 Leicester Herald

Brutality to a dog – Late on Monday night least, or very early on Tuesday morning, the yard, belonging to Walter Barrs, Gent., of Mountsorrel, in this county, was entered by some villains, and a fine young Newfoundland Dog, by some means, unchained without the least noise, and conveyed through an orchard into a lane, called Rothley lane, where it is supposed they killed the same, and afterwards cut out its tongue, which, with one of the ears, they tied to the knocker of Mr B's door, and the body of the animal on a hook at a little distance. The distance round from the yard to the front door is nearly 300 yards, and it is something remarkable no noise whatever was heard by the inmates. A reward of £20 is offered for the discovery of the offender or offenders.

1st July 1831 Leicester Journal

Nurse Governess wanted, A young person in the above capacity, a Member of the Established Church, and of religious principles, to undertake the management and instruction of Two Children of the respective ages of three and four years, and to make herself generally useful.

Letters (post paid), addressed to W.X. Post Office, Mountsorrel, will receive immediate attention.

11th July 1834 Leicester Journal

An inquest was held at the Crown Inn, on Monday 7th inst., before Mr. C. Meredith, Esq. Coroner, on the body of a man unknown. It appeared, on investigation, that on Saturday he went to the William the Fourth, a beer shop, in Mountsorrel, and asked for some place to lie down in; they showed him the hay loft; and going to the loft in the evening, they found the man suspended by a rope. Verdict felo-de-se. As the man was unknown, his body was claimed by the Surgeons, under the recent act of Parliament.

6th July 1839 Leicestershire Mercury

William Place, of Mountsorrel, was charged by Mr Winfield, boat owner, with unlawfully putting a horse into the pinfold. The old man, as usual, contended that the lane in which he had been turned to graze was his, adding that he should impound every animal that he found there. The old fellow positively refusing to listen to reason, the Magistrates fined him 20s. and costs for the trespass, or one month's imprisonment, on which he exclaimed, "I won't pee a farthing and you may do as you like". His sons have allowed him a maintenance for some time past on condition of his remaining quiet, but as he has broken the contract they have "stopped the supplies" until he returns to his senses.

Leicestershire Mercury 15 July 1843

On Monday, July 10th, the friends of the General Baptist cause in Mountsorrel and its vicinity, partook of tea in the old Unitarian Chapel, which has lately been presented to them. The profits arising from the tea amounting to about £1. 10s. are to be laid by as the foundation of a fund whereby the friends worshipping in this place may modernise and repair this place of worship, which is in a very dilapidated state. Mr Simpkin was called to take the chair when addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. Jones of Syston, R. Stanton of Melbourne, and Messrs, Toone of Syston and Taylor of Mountsorrel. **NB:** The building is now Brewards Coffee Shop.

26th July 1844 Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties

Pedestrianism – On Friday last, a foot race came off at Mountsorrel, between Thomas Buckley, of that place, and Thomas Ball, of Heanor, Derbyshire. The race terminated in favour of Buckley, who had five yards given him at the commencement, beating his opponent by about a yard.

11th July 1845 Leicester Journal

A great disturbance was created at Mountsorrel on Monday afternoon, by a party of persons, who, it is said, had been to a dog-fight in Nottinghamshire, stopping at the White Swan and quarrelling with some travelling potters whom they met there. A fight ensued, and Mr. Clarke, Constable, went to discharge his duty, but was immediately attacked by several of the gang, and temporarily disabled, his face being very much bruised and swollen, and having a severe wound on the back of the head. We have not heard how the fighting was stopped, but the originators of it at length set off towards Leicester in a coach and several light carts, on one of which was "Joseph Dixon, Leicester". One of Mr Clarke's sons immediately rode off to Leicester, passing the party on the road; and shortly afterwards, Mr. C., (having been bled with leeches) with his eldest son and three other young men, followed in a cart, and succeeded in ascertaining the names of two or three who committed the assault on him. We hear they went through Mountsorrel about three o'clock in the morning, when they broke a window or two, and passing through Quorndon, alarmed the inhabitants by crying "fire". They tried to get up a fight in Quorndon on their return in the afternoon, but could not succeed, one or two men whom they knocked down got out of their way.

25th July 1845 Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties

On Friday last, Charles Gustridge, Samuel Johnson, and W. Richardson were committed by the Rev. W. Acworth, to take their trial at the next general assizes, for a riot committed at Mountsorrel on the 7th inst. On their arrival at Leicester, they were greeted by a number of comrades, who, notwithstanding the vigilance of the Police, gave them some ale and provisions, and incited them to behave with the utmost jocularly as they passed through the streets of that place.

Note: The report of the hearing at the Assizes will be in the August Newsletter.

23rd July 1853 Leicestershire Mercury

The Weather and Crops – We have had very heavy rains here (Mountsorrel) the last fortnight, and they have caused a great loss to the graziers in this locality, several meadows being mowed, and ready for gathering, just at the time the heavy rains fell. The river Soar overflowed its banks, and a very large flood for miles round was the consequence, swimming away a great deal of the hay and also so spoiling the standing crops as to render them unfit for cattle. A great deal has been gathered this week and cast to the dungheaps. The crops of corn of all kinds look well, and promise an abundant harvest; but we are sorry to state that the disease which has so many years attacked the potato crops, has been discovered among them this week by many growers, and it is to be feared they will be much worse this year, than they were last.

9th July 1858 Nottingham Journal

The Mountsorrel (North End) Burial Board REQUIRE a LOAN of £1000 for the execution of their works, to be repaid by annual instalments of £50, and secured by a mortgage of the Poor Rates of the Township. Proposals stating the rate of interest required, and any other conditions to be attached to the loan may be forwarded to the undersigned, on or before the 17th of July inst. By order of the Board. Carddock & Woolley, their Solicitors, Loughborough.

26th July 1862 Leicestershire Mercury

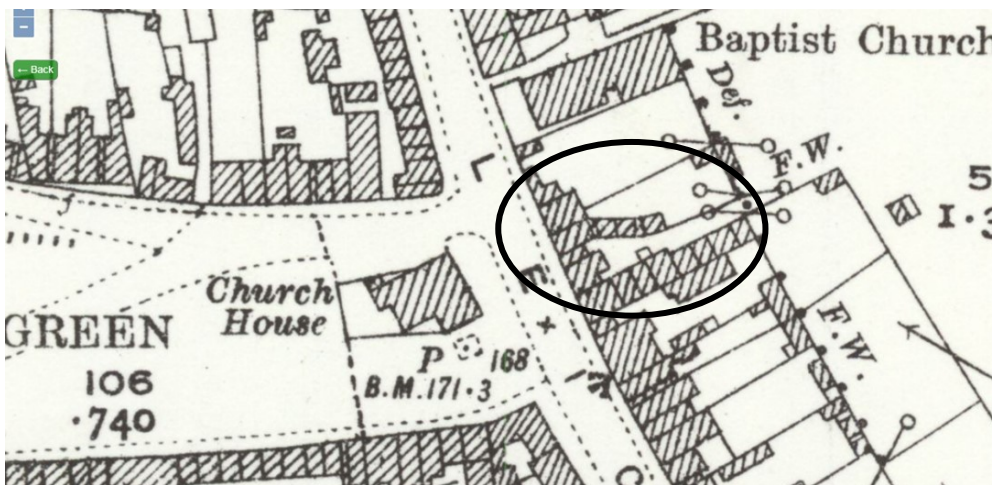
Assault at Mountsorrel—This was an affray between two young married females (Marshall v Bishop) in a dancing room. Their husbands being in the room retired at the suggestion of the Bench, and amicably arranged the matter.

Now and Then — The Memorial Hall and Memorial Centre

In between the First and Second World Wars there had been talk in the village of replacing the Mechanics Institute that had been housed in the building originally built in 1847, at the instigation of Countess Lanesborough, as an Infants School. This building had, by 1906, become the Parish Rooms which it remains as today, although much extended, and the home of our Parish Council.

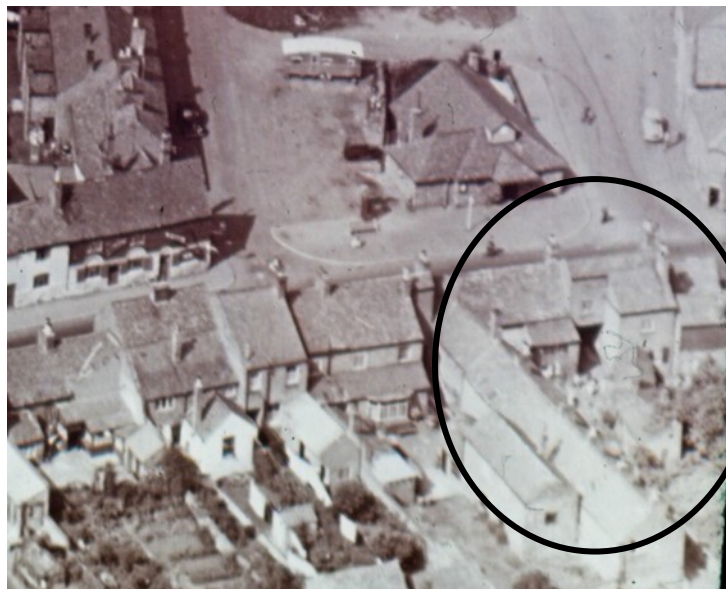
The Second World War put the idea on hold, but by 1948 and driven by the desire for a tangible commemoration of those who died in that war, the Parish Council commissioned a study for the building of a hall for the use as a social amenity for the village. The delivery of the Report in late 1950 was the spur for a group of trustees to be appointed and fundraising to begin in earnest led by a Social Organising Committee consisting of Trustees and other interested villagers. Support from local firms and businesses helped considerably but the main effort was from the community itself.

Throughout the 1950s fundraising continued as did the search for a suitable site for the hall. Various options and offers were considered including the possibility of purchasing the Rock Cinema on Leicester Road. Eventually however the search for a site narrowed to three clear contenders, one at the back of the Parish Rooms, one on the Green and one at the bottom of the Green. The latter was considered the best option and in 1960 serious negotiations began to secure sufficient land for the Hall.



Ordnance Survey Leicestershire XXV.2 Revised 1927—showing houses marked for demolition

Aerial photo c 1955 — showing houses marked for demolition



The dotted line in the picture indicates the length of the Village Hall site frontage. These cottages are to be demolished and the hall itself will stand well back from the road.

A newspaper cutting from August 1960 showing Leicester Rd

The buildings shown are The Old Shoe Shop, Tony Woods Barber Shop, a squared entranceway leading to cottages, cottage and the Prince of Wales (later the Stag and Pheasant and now a private hosue) public house.



The land-owner, Mr Robert Dudley Parr, agreed to donate the land on the simple condition that a plaque be erected in the hall to commemorate his relatives. Additionally, he sold the remaining land and properties needed, comprising 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103 and 105 Leicester Road for a nominal sum plus expenses.

Plans for the new Hall were now drawn by a Mr Tickle, a local architect and F Sleath & Sons, builders of Rothley, gave a quotation of £10,935 for construction. A 50% grant from the Ministry of Education and Science was obtained to supplement funds already raised within the village and work commenced on 15th July 1964.

The first meeting held in the hall took place on 8 June 1965 and the official opening ceremony was on 26 June 1965.

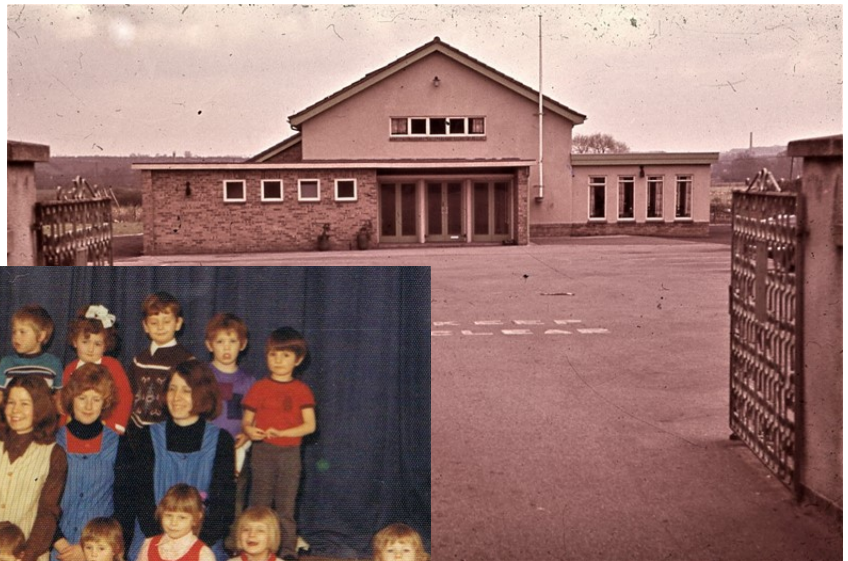


Buglers of the Leicestershire & Derbyshire Yeomanry at the opening ceremony

The following year saw new Trustee and management arrangements for the Hall being agreed and registered with the Charity Commissioners. Those initial arrangements, slightly amended through experience and time continued until the closure of the Hall, with a trustee body, Mountsorrel War Memorials Trust Ltd, registered with the Charity Commissioners and day to day management devolved to a Memorial Hall Management Committee with membership drawn from various village groups.

The popularity of the Hall as a venue was immediately apparent and within two years of opening an extension was built. The Hall was heavily used for the benefit of villagers and others and over the years has been the venue for amateur dramatics, dances, parties, indoor sports events, regular Keep Fit, dancing classes, playgroups and senior citizens meetings. It was the venue for the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council, was the venue for the public enquiry into the then proposed By-Pass and hosted the Annual Winter Charity Fairs and village Carol Concerts.

Memorial Hall c1980 with the south side extension



Memorial Hall Playgroup 1973

Charity fair entry record

MOUNTSORREL'S annual indoor Charity Fair, last Saturday in the Memorial Hall, attracted a record number of charities.

They included Mountsorrel and Rothley Swimming Pool, Heart Foundation, Cancer Foundation, Rothley St.

John Ambulance, Donkey Sanctuary, Scouts, Ambulance Aid, RNLI, Brownies, Happy Circle, Castle Hill, Memorial Hall and Methodist playgroups, RBL Men's and Women's Sections, Rothley Badminton Club (for Methodist Roof Fund), Housebound, Happy Circle, National Animal Trust, Visually Handicapped and Memorial Hall committee.

The event was opened by local top selling authoress and television personality Rosemary Conley, who was introduced by Mr. Richard Steane, chairman of the Memorial Hall committee, who had organised the fair. Gifts were presented to Mrs. Conley by Amy Hurst and Emma Ingram. Refreshments were served by the hall committee.



● Pictured at a stall selling goods in aid of South Charnwood Visually Handicapped Group are (left to right) May Swift, Kath Hatton, author Rosemary Conley, Memorial Hall committee chairman Richard Steane, Bert Hatton and Sally Leek.

Loughborough Echo

15th November 1990

MOUNTSORREL'S 30th

CHARITY FAYRE

MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 1992

TO BE OPENED BY

DEIRDRE QUEMBY

at 10.00 a.m.

Come, Buy and Support those who could support you

— In aid of Local and National Charities —

REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCHES SERVED

DOORS CLOSE 2 p.m.

ADMISSION

Adults 20p, Children 10p — Children must be accompanied

Printed by Charnwood Print, Loughborough.

Although much loved and heavily used, the Hall was, by 2015 and after 50 years continuous service, seriously showing its age. Despite the best efforts of the Management Committee the Hall and it's by now dated facilities, were in need of a complete overhaul or, as proved the more sensible decision, replacement.



25th August 2016
Demolition underway

Considerations for the replacement of the Hall had been taking place for several years and various funding avenues were explored, some successfully, others less so. The Hall was owned by the Mountsorrel War Memorials Trust and they successfully secured funding from various quarters to add to the Trust's own funds to finance a vastly improved facility for the benefit of the village.



11th November 2016
Construction of the new Centre underway

MOUNTSORREL POST
YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
DECEMBER 2017 www.birstallpost.co.uk No. 61



New centre gets warm welcome

VISITORS TO Mountsorrel's new Memorial Centre gave it the thumbs up after touring the new building when it was opened up to the public for the first time on Remembrance Sunday.

The £4million facility features a hall with heated seating that is fully retractable when not in use. There are rooms for community use, two retail units, a cafe and a bar/refreshment area with floor to ceiling glass windows. Visitor Scott Green said: "It looks very

impressive and it's good to see something like this in the centre of the village. It's a massive improvement on what we've had and is something to be proud of." Russ and Mandy Green said: "We

Continued on page 2

Mountsorrel Memorial Centre
invites you to come and join us at our

Tuesday 12th December
5.30 - 9.30pm
(Christmas Lights switched on at 6.15pm)

Festive Food Drink and Gift Market

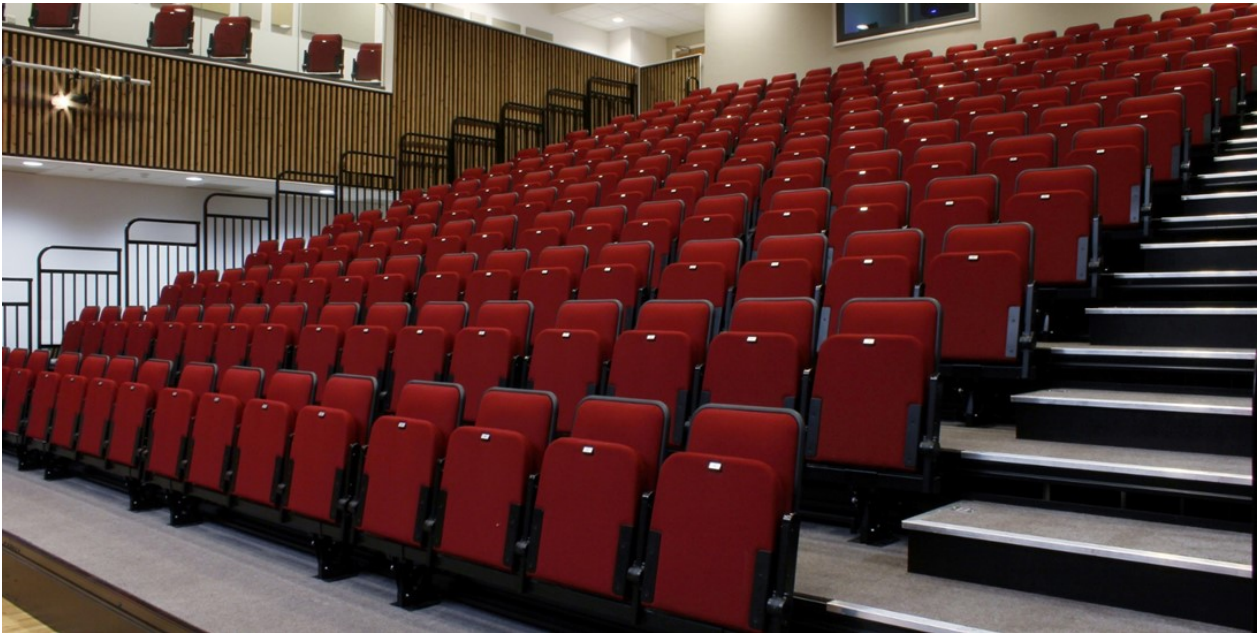
All local vendors
FREE ENTRY
with over 30 food, drink & gift stalls to visit including:

- The Leicester Tigers Mobile Shop
- Local Brass Band and School Choir
- Come and support your local community while finishing off your Christmas shopping!
- Tea, Coffee and light refreshments will be served and the bar will be open
- Outdoor Food • Local Indian Street Food
- Hog Roast • Heidi the Mobile Van
- Wood-Fired Pizzas
- Traditional fair rides for the children including a visit from Santa!

The Festive Season starts here!

Drinks subject to charge without service

MEMORIAL CENTRE MOUNTSORREL
Leicester Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, Leics LE12 7AJ



Memorial Centre auditorium with retractable seating for 204

The new centre was designed around the use of flexible space with a hall with retractable seating that can function both in a traditional theatre style layout for 204 or as a dance venue for 160. There are also a variety of different capacity function rooms.

Both the original Memorial Hall and the present Memorial Centre, are memorials to the village war casualties of both the World Wars of the 20th century. The Hall had a memorial plaque, now in the care of the War Memorials Trust, in the entrance hall bearing the names of the casualties of World War 2. In the planning of the new Memorial Centre the design included a memorial to bear the names of the village casualties of both wars. Research carried out by the Heritage Group enabled the new memorial to include those names that were, in the aftermath of the wars, missed on both the Castle Hill Memorial and the old Hall plaque.



War Memorial Plaque formerly in the Memorial Hall foyer



Memorial in the reception area of the Memorial Centre

The design reflects that of the village main war memorial on Castle Hill

Wildlife

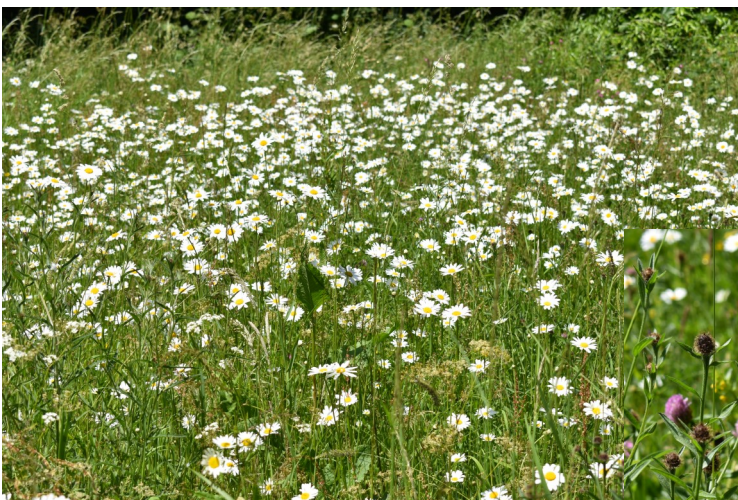
After the odd spring we've had with dry periods followed by wet followed cold and then some real heat we are as I write this in mid June, again in the wet and cool which must be a challenge for the nesting birds. The Swifts, Swallows, Sand and House Martins are with us (although in much reduced numbers) and certainly the Swallows have fledged some young. The Martins are more difficult to assess but there are nests on some of the houses around Mountsorrel Staithe which may show some fledglings.



*Fledgling Swallows at One Man Bridge
Evening 11th June 2021*



The Wildflower Meadow, at the foot of the Navins, seems now to be a mass of Dog-Daisies and grasses but look carefully and there is a real mix of other wildflowers in there to be seen.



For those who venture out to the Buddon Wood Farm Path (the Permissive Path on the western side of the Common—across Wood Lane) the trees are now maturing and as we have at the Wildflower Meadow, there is a host of Dog-daisies and other flowers including, if you look carefully, some Bee Orchids. There only a few this year, their numbers seem to fluctuate depending on the weather over winter and into spring.



Buddon Wood Farm Path



Bee Orchids



.....and finally



The Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology runs from from 3rd July to 1st August 2021 as part of the national Festival of Archaeology. Sadly this year we have not been able to organise anything in the village but the Leicestershire Fieldworkers have co-ordinated a host of events with full details on their website [Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology – Leicestershire Fieldworkers \(leicsfieldworkers.org\)](http://leicsfieldworkers.org) or on the Facebook page at [\(2\) Leicestershire Fieldworkers | Facebook](#)

There are numerous talks both on-line and in person along with guided and self guided tours and walks.

July 3rd sees the start of the three week long Big Butterfly Count organised by Butterfly Conservation. This three week event is similar to the RSPB'S Big Garden Bird Count (but takes place in better weather!) and aims to assess the health of our butterflies and moths. Full details are at their website [Big Butterfly Count \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](http://butterfly-conservation.org)



The Charnwood Museum in Loughborough has now reopened and on 2nd June June Leicester Museums will also re-open although access to Leicester Museum and Art Gallery (the former New Walk Museum) will be on a timed ticket basis only. NB: Jewry Wall Museum remains close for major refurbishment.

Peace Garden Work Party

The next Peace Garden Work Party morning will be Wednesday 21st July, if you are able to help, you'll be very welcome. Planned work is simple garden maintenance, weeding, edging and generally keeping up with the improvements we've made over the last few years.

Please bring your hand tools and a smile any time after 0900hrs and we plan to finish at mid-day.