



MHG NEWSLETTER

No 44

MHG News

Re-opening the Museum and The Green Exhibition

We are at last ready to re-open the Museum and are doing so with the Exhibition about The Green that we planned for last year . We'll be re-opening to Members and the public as of 11:30 on Saturday 25th September after which we aim to be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays when the Library is open.

The Green Exhibition features some 20 display panels and supporting material covering a variety of historical aspects of life and work on and around The Green. Production of the Panels has been made possible by a funding grant from the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. For the younger visitor (or the younger at heart) we will also have a small Archaeological Test Pit Dig simulation allowing you to be "hands-on" with the type of finds that come up in digs, without getting covered in mud.

Talks

As well as re-opening the Museum, September will also see the return of our monthly talks at the Memorial Centre. We start on Tuesday 14th September with Keith and John leading us on a "Virtual Tour and Pub Crawl" around the 30+ pubs that have existed in the village. That will be followed in October (Tuesday 12th) by Pat Neal telling us about "Pat's Mountsorrel" and in November (9th) Dr. Julie Attard returns, this time to talk about "Place Names".

All the talks are at the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre starting at 7:30pm. Prices are £3 for Members and £4 for non-Members.

Christmas Quiz Night

Yes, the nights are drawing in and 14th December sees our Quiz and Buffet Night at the Memorial Centre. Booking is essential so that we get the numbers for the buffet correct, so please contact our Treasurer, Pat Neal for tickets, either at a Talk Night or at

patrick.neal7@ntlworld.com (Tel: 0116 210 6917).

Newsletter Articles

Members are very welcome to submit articles for the Newsletter, please have a word with either Keith or John to discuss the subject matter and to see what support we can give if you need any.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions (£5) are now due and will cover September 2021 to September 2022.

Loughborough Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum

Like ourselves our friends at the Carillon have suffered through COVID but are having an Open Day on Saturday 11th September between 10am and 4pm allowing visitors to see both the Museum and the bell tower with views out across Charnwood from the balcony.

Now and Then

Antill's Grocery Shop and The Sorrel Fox



In late 2018 Mountsorrel gained a new pub for the first time in nearly 60 years, with the opening of the Sorrel Fox.

Successful Loughborough business Charnwood Brewery chose Mountsorrel as the venue for its first micro pub, in former shop premises at 75 Leicester Road.

Prior to becoming the Sorrel Fox, the building had quite a varied history.

One of the earliest occupants was Arthur Wood Antill who was born in Loughborough in 1866. According to the 1891 census,

Arthur was a framework knitter in the hosiery trade and the small building which housed the knitting machine can still be seen at the rear of the premises.

By 1901, Arthur is recorded as a woollen glove maker whilst his wife Harriet was a shop-keeper – marking the beginning of the building's usage as a shop. Arthur and Harriet lived at no.75 with their three children, Eva, Harry and Connie.

By the end of the 19th century the production of knitted goods had largely moved into factories rather than being carried out in workers' homes. Glove making was still carried out as home work but even this was being phased out and wages were falling compared to those earned in factories. It may well be this trend that forced Arthur's move from hosiery into the greengrocery trade – developing the business begun by his wife.

Kelly's Trade Directory dated 1908 lists Arthur as a fruiterer (greengrocer) and successive Directories from 1912, 1916, 1925 and 1928 show him following the same trade so it seems that he must have made a success of his business.

Although Arthur's two daughters worked in the hosiery and shoe trades, his son Harry was, in 1911, working as a cow man (someone who kept one or more cows and who sold milk either from his premises or by going door to door) and horse man (someone who kept horses).

In August 1918, Harry enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment. He was then transferred to the Labour Corps and finally discharged on 12th July 1919 as "...surplus to requirements and having suffered impairment during service". That same year Harry married Lizzie May Harris.



It isn't certain when Harry started working as a green-grocer and whether he worked alongside his father, but by 1939 Harry and Lizzie lived at 75 Leicester Road and sold fruit and vegetables and produced cooked meats. Arthur Wood Antill died in 1942 and the shop became known as H.W.Antill - even when Harry retired to Quorn and the business was taken over by his son, Roy. (His other son, Geoffrey, ran what is now Bradley's grocery store in Woodgate, Rothley).

H. W. ANTILL

FRUITERER AND FLORIST.

Home-Made Potted Meat a Speciality.

VAN CALLS AT YOUR DOOR WEEKLY.



Roy employed two local people, Hortense Lew-in and "Shandy" Evans, to work in the business. He had a blue van which he drove around the village as a mobile shop – a great help to busy housewives or older people who found it difficult to walk to the shops on Leicester Road. Roy sold the business in 1980 to Graham and Judith Bedder who ran it for about a year before rising overheads made it unviable and they moved to Cavern's Stores on the Green.

The next occupant of 75 Leicester Road was a car-parts supplier, A6 Motorists Shop which traded for several years. By 1992 it was an insurance services business owned by John Maltby who eventually moved to the old chapel on the Green in 1993.

It then became Park Dental Surgery until they too moved to the Green in August 1997. Since then no.75 has been occupied by several businesses, from pet shop to offices for a building company.

Its present use, as a small, cosy pub, has brought new life to an old building and provided an inviting new meeting place for Mountsorrel villagers.



Sorrel Folk

This month, as a result of the requests we get from individuals researching their families' Mountsorrel roots, stories unfold that need recording and thus we are starting a new occasional series of the stories of Mountsorrel individuals. Our first is about a man who many may still remember..... Bill Haynes.

“I’m frit at nowt on two legs”

Bill Haynes

**Boxer, WW2 Conscientious Objector, Village Carrier and
Mountsorrel Parish Councillor**

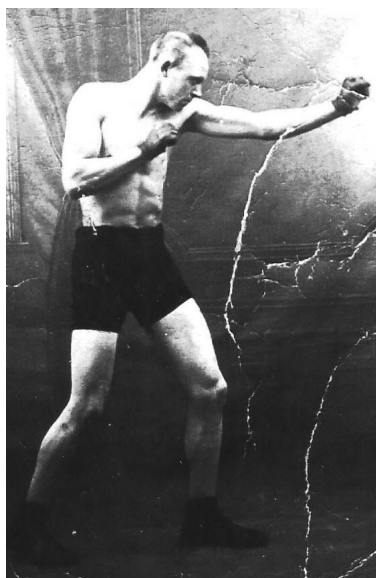
William Thomas “Bill” Haynes was born 28th November 1900 at Harboro Magna, Warwickshire, the son of William Harry Haynes, a local timber carter. In 1908 his father died leaving his mother, Elizabeth, Bill and his siblings in dire straits and heading for the Daventry Union Workhouse. Bill and the other children were sent to the Braunston Cottage Homes, established by the Daventry Union in 1901 to ensure that children did not have to enter the main workhouse. Whilst this was laudable it did mean that the children were separated from their mother which would have been nothing if not traumatic.



Braunston Cottage Homes 2006

In the autumn of 1912 Elizabeth married John Smith who was then living at Desford and they later moved to 8 Hillside, Mountsorrel (now demolished). It is believed that upon the marriage Bill and the other children left the Cottage Home and moved to Mountsorrel. But this newly found stability was soon shattered as John Smith was a Regular Army Reservist and on the declaration of War in 1914 was recalled for service with his former unit, 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. On the night of 22/23rd October 1914 his unit were fighting a defensive engagement at the Pilckem crossroads near Ypres during which John was killed.

Bill reached his 18th birthday as the Great War ended and despite volunteering was not required for military service so he tried his hand at professional boxing.



In 1921 Bill boxed as a Heavyweight with three fights at the National Sporting Club in Covent Garden. The National Sporting Club, although a private members club at the time, was effectively the home of British Boxing from the Edwardian era through to the 2nd World War and was where the first Lonsdale Belts were awarded. Bill’s first two fights were both on 3rd October and were the preliminary rounds of a Novice Heavyweight competition. Bill won both these fights but on 10th October he faced Jack Rollings of Doncaster in the semi-final. Rollings had been a professional since 1919 and beat Bill in a first round knockout. This seems to have been the key to the sensible decision of seeking other employment.

Having tried his hand at boxing Bill decided to follow his father's trade and set himself up as a village carrier. In 1929 he married Muriel Bursnall whose father worked as a blacksmith in Barrow on Soar. They set up home at 41 Leicester Road where they started their family.

Throughout his life Bill held very firmly socialist views and was certainly not afraid of expressing them both verbally and by displaying the Red Flag out of his window at election times. Whilst clearly not a man to shy away from a fight he did not agree with WW2 and registered as a conscientious objector which led to his appearances before the Local Objector's Tribunals as is reported on 11th February 1943 in the Leicester Evening Mail:

Breezy Mountsorrel C.O.'S Way with Tribunal

"I'm frit at nowt on two legs!" William Thomas Haynes who said he was a village carrier at Leicester Road, Mountsorrel told Leicester Conscientious Objectors' Tribunal. William, belligerent, full of assurance, wearing a cloth cap breezed his way across the room to face the Tribunal, which asked what he had done towards carrying out a condition of his remaining on the register imposed by an Appellants' Court sitting in London.

"You know me he remarked". "We remember you", replied Judge Langman, the chairman. "That's right", said William, "Once seen never forgotten. You struck me off, but I appealed against your decision and licked ye. On January 13 I was granted six months deferment. A week ago I was told to come here. I don't know where I am Don't get nasty cos I licked ye".

Judge Langman recalled that when William was before the tribunal in July last he wanted a passport so that he could go and fight for Joe Stalin. "You threatened to put me against a wall and shoot me" Judge Langman added. "Now don't get nasty again." William advised. "The press needn't giggle at what I'm saying", he added. Coun. Pursell, a member of the Tribunal: "Surely you'll allow the press to have a sense of humour?" William said the Appellants Court "have conditioned me."

Pulling a deferment document from his pocket William said he had been granted six months deferment from January 5, and told the Tribunal that immediately following their decision to remove his name from the register he had gone to Leicester Employment Exchange, secured an application form, and when he filled it up "put all in that I knew."

Asked by Mr. Victor Pochin, a member of the tribunal if members could see the document William retorted "No you can't it's my property."

Granted permission to be seated, after stating "When you're a one-man band you get tired" William was back on his feet again a few minutes later, debating another point.

The Appellants Tribunal restored Haynes name to the register conditional on his becoming a land or hospital worker, stoker, or stretcher bearer. This decision William was informed by Judge Langman will be suspended until the end of his six months' deferment.

Bill continued to stand up for his rights after the end of the war as reported in the Nottingham Evening Mail on 4th February 1949 under the headline ***Bill Comes to Court – and gets what he wants***. Bill had objected strongly to British Railways in Nottingham wanting to limit his ability to carry goods anywhere in the country. On being called forward by the clerk of the court "Bill strode forward, leaned his elbow on the table and said to the chairman, Mr. J.W. Fletcher, "*Well Comrade, when do we start?*".

The hearing centred on Bill wanting to maintain his ability to offer a carrier's service wherever his customers wanted him to go. *"You are trying to pin me down to a small town like Mountsorrel. If I'm the only man with an "A" licence, and I'm removed there is no alternative for people but to come to British Railways. I helped put this Labour Government in and I believe in nationalisation, but don't clear us out altogether"*. Bill won his argument and was granted a licence "mainly for the carriage of goods in Leicestershire". *"And Bill, satisfied that he had struck a blow for the "liberty" which was emblazoned across the centre of his Labour Party lapel badge, marched out with a "Good Day, Comrades and Fellow-workers"*.

Bill continued to trade as a carrier and maintained his political activities being one of those involved in getting Clement Attlee to come and speak on the Green during the 1951 election. He also served the village as a Parish Councillor.



Clement Attlee, Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party, addressing electors on the Green 1951

In the 1950's when there were elections looming, candidates would come and speak on the Green. A regular speaker was Anthony Nutting, Conservative MP for Melton (Mountsorrel came under Melton then) and Bill would go along and "challenge" him. At one such event late in Bill's life Nutting came to speak and was not there and when Nutting asked where he was he was told he was ill after which Nutting went to visit him privately. Clearly although Bill was on the opposite side of politics he had gained Nutting's respect for his strongly held views, forthrightly expressed.

In later life Bill gave up the carrier's work and went to work for Morris's Shoes as a caretaker.



William Thomas "Bill" Haynes

1900 - 1975

Once upon a time in Mountsorrel in September

21st September 1810 Leicester Journal

To be let or sold, and entered upon at Michaelmas next, A house and Bakehouse situate at Mountsorrel. – Apply to John Hardy, of Mountsorrel, aforesaid.

1st September 1821 Leicester Chronicle

Committed to the County Bridewell – By C.G. Mundy, Esq., and the Rev'd J. Dudley, August 23rd, Stephen Neal of Mountsorrel, for neglecting his wife and family, for one month to hard labour.

26th September 1823 Morning Post (London)

On Monday, the 8th inst., while a thrashing machine was at work at the premises of Mr. R. Adderley, of Mountsorrel, one of the pins flew out with great force, and struck a boy of the name of Lynam on the head, and brought him instantly to the ground; for some time his life was despaired of, but though he is now likely to survive the blow, distressing fears are entertained for the restoration of his faculties. And on the following day, a man who had just entered the employ of Mr Adderley was attending the same machine, when one of the wheels accidentally caught his smock frock, and instantly forced him among the works, by which one of his legs was broken to pieces.

12th September 1832 Leicester Herald

Small Pox – This disease being very prevalent among the poor at Mountsorrel, where from four to six children are to be found suffering from it in one house, two active individuals of the place have been making a collection among their friends to help the little sufferers. About five pounds have been raised, the amount was expended on sheets, shirts etc., which proved very acceptable on the occasion, for in many instances the poor creatures had not a change of linen, such was the destitute situation of their parents, who expressed themselves in very grateful terms for the timely assistance this offered their offspring.

19th September 1834 Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties

On Monday and Tuesday, a cricket match was played at Kegworth, between eleven of Mountsorrel and Quorn, and eleven of Kegworth and Hathern, for eleven sovereigns aside, which was won by the former; but several fights took place through the umpire giving out a man of Kegworth, which was the proper decision. Such disgraceful scenes were never before seen at Kegworth.

5th September 1834 Leicester Journal

GAME

All persons are requested to abstain from sporting on the Manors of Swithland, Thurstaston, Bowcliffe, Mountsorrell and Budden-Wood; and any Person found Trespassing after this Notice, will be prosecuted.

G.J.D. Butler Danvers, Swithland Hall Sept 2nd

23rd September 1837 Leicestershire Mercury

Thomas, Smith, of Mountsorrel, labourer, charged by Joseph Creswell, game-keeper for G.J.D.B. Danvers, Esq., with entering lands in the occupation of R. Adderley, in Mountsorrel, in pursuit of game. Fined 20s. and costs.

7th September 1838 Leicester Journal

Thomas Hunt and John Summerfield, pot-sellers, were convicted in the penalty of £10 each, for hawking pots for sale in Mountsorrel without a licence, and in default of payment, were respectively committed for three months.

21st September 1839 Leicestershire Mercury

John Antill, of Mountsorrel, was brought up in custody of the constable of that place, for the ungentlemanly offence of turning his wife out of doors, and ordering her to go home to her father, as he had no further occasion for her. She stated that he did not allow her sufficient to eat, and had offered to allow her 2s/ 6d. per week, which she would willingly accept and take care of the child, but she was anxious the arrangement should be made before the Magistrates, that it might be binding. Mr Erskine said that he was sorry that a couple so young (for nether of them appeared to be out of their teens) should so soon have begun to quarrel, and the Magistrates ultimately ordered the husband to take home his wife and provide for her properly, reminding him that if she came there again to complain, they should take the means to make him.

19th September 1840 Leicestershire Mercury

Robert Chapman was charged by Superintendent Hague with indecently exposing his person, on Sunday, in Mountsorrel, when a number of females were in the street. It appeared that the man was drunk, and had not accosted any person. The Magistrates fined him 5s., and costs, for being drunk and disorderly.

8th September 1848 Nottingham Journal

Garendon – On Friday, C.M. Phillips, Esq., entertained a party of his tenantry who serve in the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, as a sort of reward for their good behaviour and soldier-like conduct, on being called out to put down the Chartist meetings at Mountsorrel and the neighbourhood. The usual loyal toasts were drunk with enthusiasm after the cloth was drawn.

8th September 1850 Reynolds's Newspaper (London)

Great Chartist Demonstration in Leicestershire

The ancient little town of Mountsorrel, which is situate on the old London and Manchester-road, seven miles north of Leicester, four miles from Loughborough, and nineteen from Nottingham, was on Sunday last the scene of greater activity than at any other previous time in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The number of inhabitants it contains is under 2,000. But it is estimated that that number was multiplied by ten on Sunday afternoon. It had been announced during the previous week that Feargus O'Connor, Esq., M.P. and Ernest Jones, Esq., would attend and address a camp meeting, to be held on Mountsorrel-hill, commencing at two o'clock, and the result was such an influx of visitors from Leicester, Loughborough, and the surrounding villages as literally filled the place. At the appointed time, the vast concourse of persons assembled round a windmill, situate on a lofty eminence, about half a mile from the town, from which spot the landscape is more than ordinarily beautiful. Mr O'Connor, Mr Jones, and some local leaders having mounted the mill steps, which served as a platform, Mr. George Harrison, of Nottingham, was appointed chairman.

(Note: There followed a lengthy report of the various speeches in support of the Chartist Movement.)

17th September 1852 Leicester Journal

Notice to the Public

Temporary Stoppage of the Highway between the Towns of Mountsorrel and Sileby

The reconstruction of the BRIDGE over the RIVER SOAR, at MOUNTSORREL, is about to be commenced Next Week, and in consequence thereof the direct communication between the above-named places will be STOPPED for about 14 days from Tuesday next, the 14th instant.

William Parsons, County Surveyor.

Leicester, September 10th, 1852

4th September 1862 Loughborough Monitor

Mountsorrel

New Millinery and Drapery Establishment, next door to the Black Swan Inn.

Miss S. J. Brooks begs to inform the inhabitants of Mountsorrel and neighbourhood that she will open on Saturday, the 6th inst., the above establishment with a new and well selected stock of:

Millinery, Bonnets, Hats, Ribbons, Flowers, Lace, Dresses and General Drapery

And trusts by prompt attention and moderate charges, to secure the support of her friends and the public.

Bonnets, Hats and all kinds of millinery made on the premises at the shortest notice.

1st September 1877 Leicester Chronicle

Shocking Fatality At Mountsorrel Quarries – Mr Deane, Coroner, held an inquest at the White Swan Inn, Mountsorrel, on Friday last, as to the death of Thomas Harriman, aged twelve years, who was employed at the granite quarries. A tip waggon, and a waggon belonging to the Midland Railway Company, were being loaded with granite, when the tip waggon was moved, and the deceased stood with his foot on the brake to stop it, which was no part of his duty. The deceased put his head at the back of the tip to look to the other side, when the other waggon came up and crushed his head between the buffer and the front of the tip, causing instantaneous death. – Verdict, “Accidental Death.”

5th September 1914 Leicester Chronicle

RECRUITS LEAVE MOUNTSORREL - Enthusiastic scenes were witnessed at the Mountsorrel Drill Hall on Monday, when several hundred people assembled to give the latest recruits, numbering about 40, a hearty send-off enroute for their destination. Major R E Martin, managing director of the Mountsorrel Granite Company had worked assiduously during the weekend to get fellows to enrol. A rather serious accident befell one of the recruits named Thornton, who sustained a fractured leg, necessitating his detention at the Cottage Hospital.

23rd September 1925 Leicester Evening Mail

Owing to the remarkable increase of motor and other traffic passing through Mountsorrel, especially at the week-ends, it was unanimously decided, on the proposition of Dr. J.S. Strachan, at a meeting of the Mountsorrel Parish Council, to adopt the white line system of traffic regulation on certain parts of the main street.

Wildlife

Where did the summer go? Already leaves are starting to fall and the migrant birds are starting to leave for warmer climes.

Navins Wildflower Meadow

It has been a good year on the meadow with a fine show of early spring colour from the primroses, Cowslips and Oxlips followed the full showing of grasses and meadow flowers. Pleasingly the Snakes-head Fritillaries have survived a second year and we seem to have got the Bindweed down to an acceptable level through grubbing out and cutting back. With the dry weather at the end of August we hope to start scything and hay clearance in the next week or so.



3rd September 2021 — Navins Wildflower Meadow awaiting scything

Birds

The Swifts have already gone south and other summer visitors will be off in the next few weeks but we will then have the winter migrants arriving so there's always something to look out for.

Over at Rutland Water the Ospreys have also headed off to West Africa for the winter. This year saw the 25th Anniversary of the reintroduction programme and the fledging of the 200th Osprey chick.

Peace Garden

We decided to cancel the work party morning planned for 1st September due to the road works and are currently looking at possible new dates.

Mushrooms (and Toadstools)

September is normally the time of year for Mushrooms and Toadstools and has started well with one in Christ Church churchyard on 5th September..

NB: Remember only eat what your are absolutely certain is edible.

