



MHG NEWSLETTER

No 47

Museum.

Linked to re-opening of the museum and The Green exhibition is the start we've made on liaising with the school, hosting visits from their "History Detectives" after-school club, looking at WW1 service and memorials, and then at life on the Green. Following up on the Club's visits one of our members has visited them at school and worked with them on some follow-up craft work based on the shoe industry that once had a strong base in the village. This resulted in some simple small felt shoes displaying better sewing skills than several of your committee possess.



Work continues at improving our museum facilities and we have just been awarded some funds from the Borough Council for some extra equipment to improve access to our photographic archive and a speaker system to improve audibility at our monthly talks. With the

Green Exhibition now on display we have now started to plan our next major exhibition which will be based on the village's main industry – Quarrying. We have learnt from the experience of our previous big projects that this will take quite some time to come to fruition and are targeting 2023 for completion.

If you are interested in helping with research, not simply quarrying but anything pertaining to the village or want to write an article for the Newsletter please talk to either our Secretary, Keith or John, our Chairman.

Christmas Quiz Tuesday 14 December

IN VIEW OF THE COVID SITUATION , HAVING TAKING SOUNDINGS OF MEMBERS AND THE FACT THAT THE MMC WOULD REQUIRE FACE MASKS TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT FOR WHEN EATING AND DRINKING WE HAVE DECIDED, WITH REGRET, TO CANCEL THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ EVENING

But there are three quizzes in this newsletter-a picture quiz, a numbers quiz and a children's quiz prepared by the "History Detectives"

Talks 2022

Below are the talks booked so far for next year

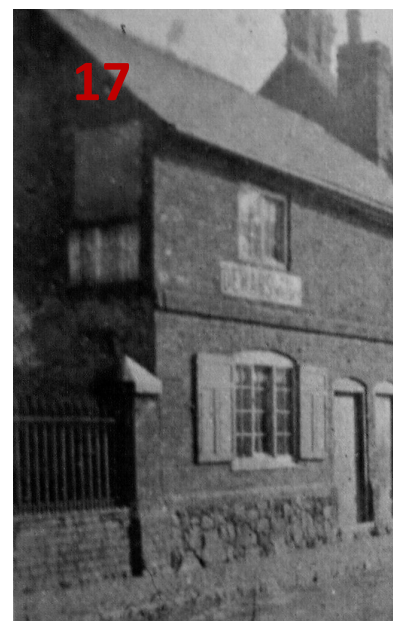
January	Loughborough Carillon	Mel Goule
February	A virtual walk around Quorn Churchyard	Sue Templeman
March	Breedon Church	Peter Liddle
April	Growing up in Sorrel	Wakeling Brothers
May	Wildlife in a Mountsorrel Garden	Jeremy Robson
November	Lost War Memorials	Denis Kenyon

Picture Quiz

Name the Road (s)



Name the Building/Address



Name the Pub [that was]



These two buildings were once pubs called what? What are they now?



Children's Quiz



Christ Church & St Peter's CE Primary School
'Aiming High & Caring for Everyone'

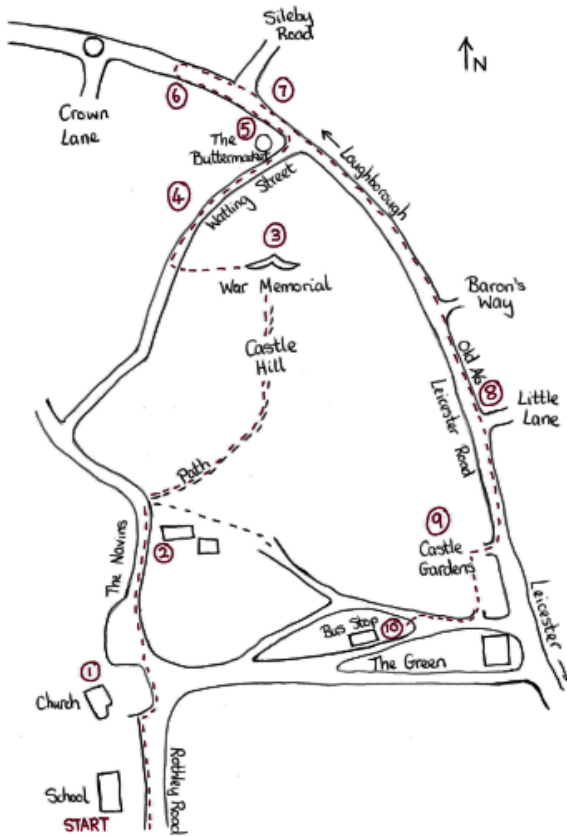
The Mountsorrel History Detectives Club present...

Mountsorrel's History Family Treasure Hunt

This treasure hunt was created by members of the Mountsorrel History Detectives Club – a group of Year 6 children who attend Christ Church and St Peter's C of E Primary School in Mountsorrel:

Calla-May Oscar Estelle Emily Rio Owen Luca Josh

Route Map



Detective Dog is on a mission. A mission to save Mountsorrel's history from disappearing! His task is to search for clues around Mountsorrel to find out what happened here in the past. However, he cannot do it alone! Can you and your family help

We hope you enjoy finding out more about Mountsorrel's past!



1 Start at the school. Walk North along Rothley Road until you come to Christ Church. What animal can you see on the church spire?

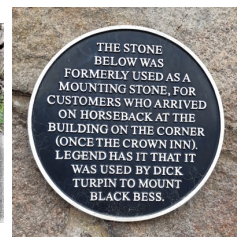
2 Continue up the Navins using the footpath on the right hand side of the road. On your right is a white building that is now a private house. Detective Dog says the building used to be used for something else. Can you see what it was used for?

3 Keep going along the path and turn right up the steps to reach the War Memorial. Can you help Detective Dog re-arrange these letters to spell the surname of a Mountsorrel soldier who lost his life in World War One? BRETLIG

4 Head down the steps and continue walking down Watling Street until you find St Peter's School on your left. What year was it built?

5 At the bottom of Watling Street, you will find the Butter Market. It replaced the old Market Cross. But where is the Cross now? S..... H.....

6 Turn left onto Loughborough Road and keep walking until you find this plaque on your left above a famous mounting stone. Can you tell Detective Dog what the names of the man and the horse were who used this mounting stone?



7 Safely cross to the other side of the road and head South until you find the Market Cross and peace garden. Pupils from which school helped local MPs plant trees for the 1918 Armistice Centenary in the peace garden?

8 Heading South along Leicester Road, can you help Detective Dog find the name of the building this stone plaque is attached to? P..... R.....



What else has the building above been used for in the past?

9 Carefully cross over the road and enter Castle Gardens. Here you will find a statue of a man who led a besieging force on Mountsorrel Castle in 1217. Who was the man?

10 Exit Castle Gardens and head West up The Green towards the bus stop. Here you will find a village water pump. How long has the pump been here?

Thank you children! Your brilliant detective skills have saved the day! You have helped Detective Dog to complete his mission and the history of Mountsorrel is safe!

Dates Quiz

Last year's Dates Quiz Walk proved far too easy, and the distance covered wasn't sufficient to walk off the turkey and Christmas pudding. So this year's is a little bit further to walk and a little more challenging in locating where the dates are to be found. There are some clues in that we've included some of the house names, but not all the dates are on houses!

All the photos (taken in mid-November this year) are taken from public footpaths around the core of the village.

We've grouped the photo clues together along a route around the village starting at the Buttermarket then along Loughborough Road, up Bond lane and through to Crown Lane. Then over the Navins, up Rothley Road to Danvers Road then down to Leicester Road and then along back to the Buttermarket.



1 On Watling Street
(near The Buttermarket)



2 On Loughborough Rd-
near Crown Lane



3 On Loughborough Road
near Bond Lane



4



5



6

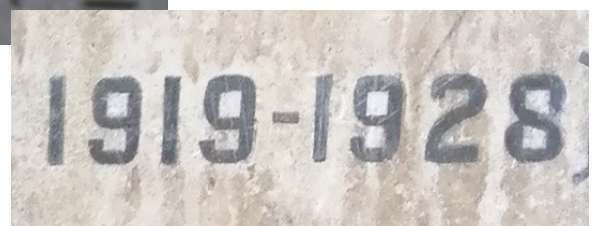


7



8 On the Navins

9 Near The



10 Near the School



11 Near Hawthorn Road



12 Near the Surgery



13 On Danvers Road



14



15 On Leicester Road near The Green



16

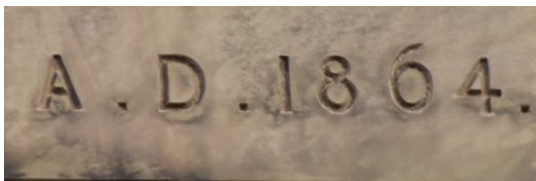


17 On Leicester Road near

Little Lane



18 On Leicester Road near Barons Way



19



20



Wildlife

Navins Wildflower Meadow

Last jobs on the Wildflower Meadow were completed on 1st December with the planting of two more oak saplings to join the original one planted early on in the project and which is doing really well. All three have got supporting canes to hopefully act as markers once work starts next year. The other task was clearing out the bird boxes. The two small boxes we could reach (the third is now out of safe reach due scrub growth) were used probably by Blue Tits. The large box (planned as an Owl Box) was this time not occupied when we got to it, which helped, you may remember last year a rather disgruntled Kestrel flew out of it as we set up to clean it out. This box had been used but the clutch of 5 eggs still in the box had failed to hatch. We recovered four of them (which smell to high heaven!) to try and identify the bird, the fifth egg was lost in clearing the nesting material out. From the number, size and colour we think they were probably Green Woodpecker. Certainly throughout the nesting season Green Woodpeckers were heard and seen almost daily in the immediate area of the box but not since then and we wonder if either of the pair or both, were predated. Whilst it is sad to note the failure it is positive to see that the boxes have again been used. Note that the photo seems to give a tinge of blue to the eggs whereas in fact they are off white.

Birdlife

Although it has been a quiet autumn for birds the New Year will once more see the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch on 28th – 30th January, full details are on the RSPB's website at

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> and will be in newspapers and magazines in the New Year.



Probable Green Woodpecker Eggs

Once Upon a Time in Mountsorrel in December

Leicester Daily Post - Wednesday 30 December 1891

BARROW BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting of the Guardians for the Barrow-on-Soar Union was held on Tuesday. The master reported that the number of inmates on the last day of this week was 145. There were 89 tramps relieved during the week, the number of boys and girls attending school was 17, and three boys were receiving industrial training.

Christmas Treats to the Inmates—the Master reported that the inmates wished him to convey their thanks to the Guardians for the very good treats kindly provided for them, which was thoroughly enjoyed by them all.

A communication had been received from the secretary to the Royal Commission on Vaccination asking the Board to reply to a number of questions.

There were nine separate questions about various aspects concerning the prosecutions of defaulters under the Vaccination Acts. Smallpox was a common killer in nineteenth century Britain. It spread rapidly and killed around 30% of those who contracted it and left many survivors blinded or scarred. In the 1850s, a series of laws were passed that made vaccination against smallpox compulsory and in 1853 the National Anti-Vaccination League was formed. In 1885, a massive anti-vaccination protest in Leicester attracted a crowd of nearly 100,000 people! In response, a Royal Commission was formed to understand attitudes on all sides regarding vaccination. This was followed by a change in the law giving conditional exemption for conscientious objectors.



1802 Cartoon

Compulsory vaccination for smallpox in the UK ended in 1948, and in 1978 the World Health Organisation announced that the virus had finally been eradicated.

27th December 1839 Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties

Magistrates Courts – Mrs Ward of Mountsorrel, was charged by Mrs. Wain, of the same place, with assault. It appeared from the statement of these ladies that a series of quarrels had taken place between them, on account of defendant's husband living with complainant, and that, on the day in question, a regular fight took place between them as to the possession of Mr. Ward. Defendant was not of the most peaceable disposition, and she was ordered to find sureties for her good behaviour, - in default to be imprisoned for one month.

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 24 December 1881

MOUNTSORREL. Sudden Death.— While Mrs. Bishop, of Mountsorrel, was ironing this week, she suddenly fell down and expired, from, it is supposed, a fit. She leaves a family.

2nd December 1848 Leicestershire Mercury

Maria Ward of Mountsorrel, was charged with assaulting Mary Place, of the same Parish, by tearing her cap and pulling her hair. Defendant admitted the offence, but pleaded that she did it in consequence of complainant having been at a house of ill-fame with her husband. Case dismissed, Complainant to pay costs.

7th December 1857 Morning Herald (London)

Foxhounds – Quorn (Earl of Stamford and Warrington's) Tomorrow, Mountsorrel; Thursday, Lockington; Friday Ashfordby, Saturday, Gotham Village – at 11.

16th December 1858 Nottinghamshire Guardian

A begging letter imposter – John Squires was brought up by Sergeant Bosworth, charged with going about Mountsorrel with a begging letter in his possession, wherein he states that he has recently lost a pony which has been his chief means of support to himself and his family. These statements are false, the prisoner not having had a pony, and having no family. He had received some small sums, but had introduced the names of some of the gentry in the neighbourhood as having given him sums varying from 1s to 2s 6d. The prisoner who has not been long out of the Union, pleaded guilty, and was committed for a fortnight to the house of correction to hard labour.

Leicester Guardian - Saturday 15 December 1860

POLICE OFFICE, Dec. 10.—Before J. Martin, Esq.— A man named John Wyboon was committed to prison during Her Majesty's pleasure for deserting from the 13th Light Dragoons. It seems the man applied to Police Sergeant Bosworth (as relieving officer for vagrants at Mountsorrel), for assistance. Bosworth, whose sagacity is not often baffled, soon ascertained from personal examination that he was a deserter for the third time. Upon the first occasion he was simply imprisoned; but upon the second he had fifty lashes with imprisonment, the effects of which his back bears unmistakable testimony. For this third offence he expects to receive 100 lashes more and imprisonment, but he declares as soon as his punishment shall be completed, he will desert again, let the consequence be what it may. He seems quite determined not to remain in a service which inflicts such disgusting and demoralizing punishments.

Leicester Guardian - Saturday 13 December 1862

WHITECHAPEL BIRDS—Two females, strangers, who there is no doubt are adventurers from the Metropolis, were brought up by P. S. Bosworth from Mountsorrel, charged with breaking the windows of his home because he refused to give them tickets for the work-house. It appeared they were in a beastly state of drunkenness at the time they made the application, having had no less than twelve pints of ale between them in the place that day, so that Sergeant Bosworth very properly refused granting their request. They immediately began to smash the windows, and were then taken into custody. Their demeanour throughout was the most disgusting character, and their language filthy in the extreme, to whoever they might have occasion to address themselves. In the first instance they gave their names Rosina Stone and Mary Ann Stone (sisters), but when in custody on being asked the question, they returned answers of the coarsest ribaldry, refusing to give any names. They had been in twelve gaols in different parts of the country since their exodus from Whitechapel, the 13th being Leicester, where they were consigned for another month to hard labour.

Leicester Guardian - Saturday 24 December 1864

Drunk and Riotous, a tramp, giving the name of Mary Ashton, one of the most grotesque specimens of Irish wretchedness ever seen in this Court, and whose habiliments would form a gem for Plough-Monday, was charged with being drunk and riotous at Mountsorrel, on the 15th instant. It appeared she had applied to P.S. Bosworth for a ticket for the work house, and upon receiving it she went to some public-houses and got drunk, and became very riotous. --Committed for 7 days.

Plough Monday is the traditional start of the English agricultural year. It marked the end of the Christmas holidays for agricultural workers and a return to the land. A plough was hauled from house to house in a procession, collecting money. They were often accompanied by musicians and an old woman or a boy dressed as "Bessy," in the grotesque habit of an old woman.

16th December 1870 Leicester Chronicle

"Earthquake" – A little after four o'clock on Saturday afternoon a violent jarring was perceived by the inhabitants of Loughborough and neighbourhood, which by the credulous was believed to be an earthquake, many not hearing the report by which it was accompanied. It proved, however, to be the result of a blast on a large scale at Mountsorrel Hill, which we hear shattered many of the windows in the town, causing a good deal of consternation. It is to be hoped that blasts on such a scale will not, in the future, be repeated.

Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 06 December 1879

QUORNDON. Having travelled in various parts of England and Scotland, and several times been employed in London, I notice the differences that exist. I find that Quorndon is behind the times and in the dark. We have no coffee house, no village hall, no working-men's club, and, last but not least, no workmen's library and reading-room. In Mountsorrel the working-men have a mechanics' institute, and there is a good reading-room and library in connection with the Red Lion Coffee House, and some first class books. I notice, among the rest, Smiles' " Self Help," " Thrift and Character," valuable books to working-men. Even Woodhouse Eaves comes before Quorn. Sibley, Syston, Ansty, Barrow, and Sheepshed all have their coffee houses, but Quorn, instead of having a coffee house, has its public houses open an hour later than other villages. What is wanted in Quorn is a good library and a village hall.

Stamford Mercury - Friday 01 December 1899

An application is about to be made to the Light Railway Commissioners for an order under the Act of 1896, authorising the construction of nine lines of light railway, with gauge of 3½ feet, in Loughborough and district, the motive power be electricity or steam. Two of the proposed lines will run from Hathern to Loughborough, and two from Mountsorrel to Loughborough.