



# MHG NEWSLETTER

No 58

## Group News

### Membership Fees

We have taken the difficult decision to raise our Membership Fees for 2023 to £7. This is the first rise in fees since the Group was formed and is taken in light of increasing costs. We will be maintaining the fees for talks at £3 for members and £4 for non—members. Membership fees are due at the January Meeting 2023.

### November Talk

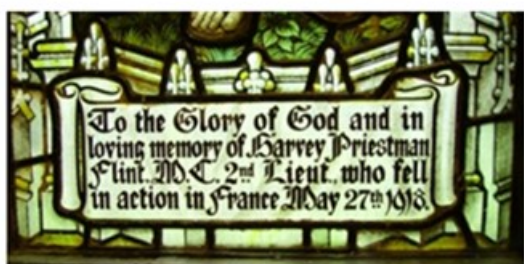
Our November talk will be about the work of the Lost War Memorials Project and is given by Robin Jenkins. Robin may well be known to many as, prior to his recent retirement, he was the Senior Archivist for the Leicestershire & Rutland Records Office. The talk is as usual at the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre on Tuesday 8th November starting at 7:30pm.

### Annual Christmas Quiz and Buffet

The annual Christmas Quiz and Buffet is back! Sadly we had to cancel last year due to Covid but all is planned for Tuesday 13th December this year. Please book your tickets as soon as possible with Pat Neal (Treasurer and Social Secretary) and certainly no later than 8th November at the talk.



### Mountsorrel Heritage Group Monthly Talks Series



*"See to it that his name is not forgotten..."*

A talk given by Robin Jenkins

on

The Work of the Leicester City, County & Rutland

At Risk War Memorials Project

Mountsorrel Memorial Centre

7:30pm, Tuesday, 8th November 2022

Members £3, Non-Members £4

MOUNTSORREL HERITAGE GROUP  
PRESENT

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ AND BUFFET

KEEP  
CALM  
ITS ONLY  
A  
QUIZ

MOUNTSORREL MEMORIAL HALL  
TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER AT  
7-30 PM

BUFFET £10-00 PP RAFFLE

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM PAT NEAL

## **Museum**

We are in the midst of preparing a new exhibition for the summer of 2023 examining the development of quarrying in and around the village and the affects it that has had on our community. This requires us to re-plan the use of the museum space and design the planned displays to fit. In order to ease this process we will close the Museum on 2nd December to deconstruct and store The Green Exhibition. When we re-open in late January (provisionally Thursday 27th but to be confirmed) we will have an interim exhibition looking at the Barrow-on-Soar Union Workhouse featuring the model of the building together with associated information panels that we currently have in store.

We are aiming to open the quarrying exhibition on 1st June 2023 and continue with it through 2024.

## **Once Upon A Time In Mountsorrel– November**

### **12th November 1825 Leicester Chronicle**

To be sold by Auction, by Messrs. Owston and Son, At the house of Mr. George Briggs, known by the sign of the Nag's Head, in Mountsorrel, in the county of Leicester, on Friday, the 18th day of November instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that the said old established and well-known Public House, now in full business, called the Nag's Head, situate in the middle of the town of Mountsorrel, aforesaid, with the Stables, Outbuildings, and other appurtenances thereto belonging, now in the occupation of the said Mr. George Briggs.

Also, a tenement adjoining and a Right of Common on Mountsorrel Hills.

**Note:** The Nags Head is now The Swan

### **7<sup>th</sup> November 1828 Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties**

To be sold by auction, by Mr. Wright, at the Crown and Thistle Inn, Mountsorrel on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November Instant at Six o'Clock in the Evening, (Subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced.)

All those two Messuages, Cottages, or tenements, with the Butcher's shop, Yard and Outbuildings thereto belonging, situate in Mountsorrel aforesaid, and in the occupation of Thomas Snow, butcher, and another.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Snow on the premises, or at the office of Mr Fosbrooke, Solicitor, Loughborough.

### **16th November 1832 London Courier and Evening Gazette**

On Thursday last, an inquisition was taken at the Nottingham Arms, in Belgrave-gate before Alderman Yates, coroner, on the body of John Paget, a pensioner, residing at Mountsorrel. It appeared the deceased came to Leicester on Wednesday morning to substantiate his vote as a freeman, and afterwards went to the Nottingham Arms, where he drank some ale – on being taken ill, he was put to bed, and expired the same evening about eleven o'clock. Mr. Freer, surgeon, was called in, but arrived after the man was dead. Verdict – Died by the Visitation of God. The deceased had been out drinking for the last eight days and was scarcely sober any part of the time.

### **13<sup>th</sup> November 1840 Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties**

Accident from Furious Driving – On Wednesday evening week, an accident occurred near to the town of Mountsorrel, owing to Mr. Hepworth, a dyer, residing at Loughborough, driving his wagon into a cart, whereby himself and another person who was riding with him were thrown with great violence to the ground and Mr. Hepworth narrowly escaped being killed, the wagon having broken his hat and scarred his forehead: the concussion was so great that the springs of the cart with which he came in contact were broken.

### **24th November 1843 Leicester Journal**

To Millers – Wants a situation, as an Apprentice, to either a Water or Steam Miller, for five years, a stout, active Youth, 16 years of age. He has had a liberal education and would require to be treated as one of the family. For particulars, apply to Mr. James Ratcliffe, Mountsorrel.

### **Leicester Guardian 18 November 1868**

William Potter, Blacksmith, Mountsorrel. Begg to return his sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Mountsorrel and the neighbourhood for the kind support he has received during the time he has been in business (upwards of 50 years,) and to announce that he has disposed of the same to William Garratt, whom he can safely recommend as his successor.

### **Leicester Chronicle 17 November 1877**

Sewerage of the village – For some time the sanitary condition of this village has not been considered satisfactory, and the Local Government Board have repeatedly urged upon the Sanitary Authority the necessity of undertaking a general scheme of drainage. Plans having been prepared, and an application made for sanction to borrow the sum of £2000, the Local Government Board appointed John Thornhill Harrison, Esq., C.E., one of their inspectors, to hold the usual official inquiry, and he attended at the Board-room on Wednesday for that purpose, and will in due course report the result. – Mr Jenkins and others desired to know why they were compelled to adopt a system of drainage at all. Mountsorrel was well known to be in a healthy state, and to himself and others a drainage scheme seemed unnecessary. The Inspector informed him that under the “Rivers Pollution Bill” all places were compelled to cease discharging sewage into the streams of the county, but he, however, could not enter into that question, as the matter had been preciously fully gone into two or three years ago, and the Local Government Board had decided upon its necessity at that time.

### **15<sup>th</sup> November 1918 Loughborough Echo**

The knowledge that the armistice had been signed was received in this village on Monday morning and, as may be expected in a village which has sent so many of its sons to the great war, there were immediately signs of rejoicing. On every hand bunting and flags seemed to spring from nowhere in particular. Rejoicing was general on all hands. The factories were soon closed for want of workers, and soon after the cessation for dinner time the Quarries were closed too. In some way it was hinted that there was a good opportunity for a bonfire by lighting the gorse and bracken on the high granite tip adjoining the Quarries, and as no one offered an objection this was done as soon as darkness fell, and for a short time a blaze was seen for a few miles around. The Scouts paraded the village, and a thanksgiving service was held at Christ Church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev Dr Niell.

## Bells of Mountsorrel – Part 2

### Continuing our look at the bells of Mountsorrel from Newsletter 56

#### Christ Church

Christ Church, at the top of the Green was opened for worship in 1844 coming into existence through the generosity of Miss Sarah Brinton of Speen in Berkshire. Her endowment of the building included the provision of a bell cast by Taylor's of Loughborough. That bell was recast by Taylors in 1925 and its return and rehangng was recorded in the Christ Church notes in the September 1925 East Akeley Deanery Magazine.

We were all delighted to have our old bell back and to hear it ringing again on August 16th with such greatly improved tone. It has had entirely new wheel, headstock and fittings and now swings on ball bearings, making it much easier and safer to ring. It bears the following inscription:—  
“J. Taylor, Loboro Fecit, 1844. Given with the Church by Sarah Brinton, 1844, recast 1925—S. H. Shakespear, M.A., Vicar, John Dilks, Charles Want, Churchwardens.  
The total cost of re-fitting, re-casting and other expenses will be about £65, of which we have £46 in hand. The cost has been considerable, but with reasonable care it should last a lifetime with very little further expense.



At the end of WW2 there was a proposal for the bell to be augmented by others, but this did not occur however a sound system to allow the playing of recordings of bells was donated to commemorate the centenary of the church in 1944 and in gratitude to those of the parish who served in the war. The system was supported by loudspeakers one of which was mounted externally on the chancel wall. Over the years the system has been replaced to a modern digital version which is used prior to Sunday services.



*Commemorative plaque mounted by the chancel steps*

*External loudspeaker (ringed) mounted on the west side of the church.*





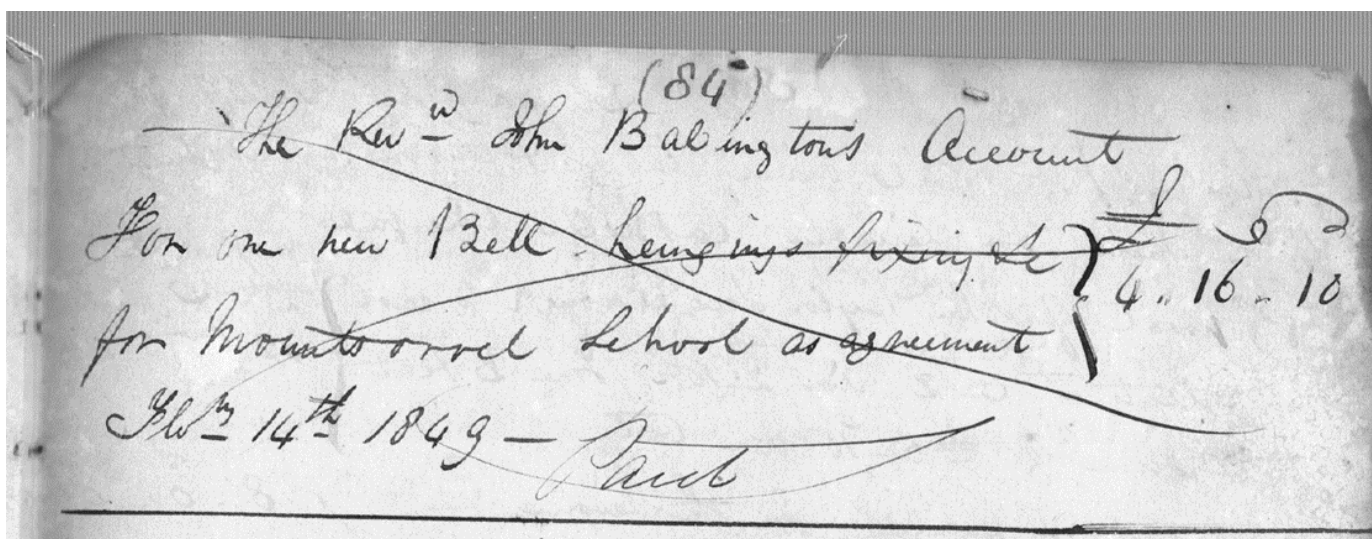
## Christ Church School

Some years back a bell was found in the rear of the Christ Church churchyard store which caused some puzzlement, it clearly wasn't that of the church, but the date inscription predated the foundation of Christ Church School which followed the 1870 Education Act. The bell is inscribed "R TAYLOR LOBORO' 1848". Working with John Taylor Bell Foundry's Archivist we now know that the bell was cast by Robert Taylor in 1848 when Robert was only 19 years old. He died some seven years later and this is one of only two known surviving examples of his work. In 2015 the Christ Church Parochial Church Council passed the bell on long loan to John Taylor & Co Bell Foundry Museum in Loughborough for display (NB: The Museum is currently closed for major refurbishment).



In recent follow up work with the Archivist we are now confident that the bell was purchased as part of the endowment of Christ Church by Miss Brinton. Having endowed the building of the church, which opened in 1844, she then continued to work with the Rev'd J Babbington, the then Vicar of Rothley who, in modern terms, acted as her local Project Manager. Some five years after the opening of the church they erected a Sunday School building for which the Rev'd Babbington ordered and paid for a bell. The bill for the bell, hanging and fitments came to £4 16s 10d.

**The 1848 Bell**



**Extract from the Taylor Company Archive**

That building eventually became the initial accommodation for Christ Church School following the Education Act of 1870 and is now part of Christ Church & St Peters CofE Primary School.

The puzzle remains as to when and why the bell was removed from the school.



The most likely date is 1992 prior to the major renovations that were to take place during the school holidays but that were then set back by the major roof fire that occurred. Following the fire and the completion of the renovation it seems the bell was forgotten!

### St Peter's School

Following the 1870 Education Act a new school was built on Watling St under the auspices of St Peter's to provide education in the North End of the village. This received a bell in 1898 produced by Taylor's on an order from Dr Skipworth who was a member of the school board.

# School hit by blaze

by Anthony Abbott

**FIRE** destroyed part of the roof at a Mountsorrel infants' school — just three weeks after long-awaited renovation began.

Governors at Christchurch and St. Peter's C.E. Primary School, in Rothley Road, say they won a ten-year battle with Leicestershire County Council recently to get improvements made to the 140-year-old building.

But that work was set back months yesterday after fire ripped through the roof, destroying 50 per cent of timberwork.

The blaze was started accidentally by a spark from a workman's blowtorch, said a fire service spokesman.

**Control**

Builders managed to escape unhurt and immediately raised the alarm.

It took 30 firemen using five jets half an hour to bring the flames under control.

One crew broke into the school at the rear to tackle the flames from the inside, while colleagues on a hydraulic platform fought it from above.

Apart from the damage to the roof, continuous fire-fighting left the classrooms below waterlogged and workmen were faced with lengthy mopping-up.

**Thankful**

Divisional Officer David Long said: "When we arrived the roof was completely smokellogged. That was the main problem because it meant we didn't really know what we were tackling."

There is a lot of water damage to the classrooms but luckily, most of the fixtures and fittings had been removed because of the renovation work.





"We didn't really know if it was confined to the roof to begin with. In the early stages it was a bit in the balance but we were able to put it out quite quickly."

Staff at the school were thankful that the 300 pupils had already broken up for summer holidays and were not in the building at the time.

"It has come as a terrible shock," said headmaster Mr. Brian Roberts.

Chairman of the governors Mr. Harold Newman was counting the additional cost of the damage on top of the renovation work for which the school had fought so long.

**ABOVE:** High up on the platform, firemen tackle the blaze.

**INSET:** The platform towers over the roof.

**RIGHT:** Firemen dislodge tiles from the damaged roof.

Although the notes in the bell foundry archive are not totally clear they appear indicate that this bell was produced from the recasting of an older bell and was to fit the "old headstock" (the timber on which the bell is mounted). Although the school building opened in the summer of 1875 there had been prior to that a "school room" although its location is uncertain, it is likely that the original bell was mounted there.

ST PETERS SCHOOLS MOUNTSORREL

Bell ordered by Mr Herbert Skipworth -  
St Peter's Schools - Mountsorrel - on Longborough

acc: to quot: 9th March 98. 489/130

7/64

Dia: 12		ratt	1 17 1/2
No 103 iron hook		clapper	4 1/2
Get lead to suit old headstock			
Rope extra			
Fixing do			
As came out	When tuned		
H. 7.	H. 7.		
688 - 1393.5 - 686 - 1370	By old bell	ratt	1 4
Completed 19 March 98			

Extract from Taylor  
Company Archive



When St Peter's School closed on amalgamation with Christ Church School the bell together with the mounting and bell-rope were presented to the new Christ Church and St Peter's Primary School who hold it in store today.



**Church House (now Mountsorrel Library and Learning Centre)**

The final bell in the village (that we know of!) is that behind the clock on what is now Mountsorrel Library and Learning Centre at the foot of the Green. The building was originally built as the Sunday School and Community Hall for Christ Church and opened in 1912. In 1936 the building was extended to incorporate a clock and bell the cost being borne by the daughters of the late Dr Skipworth and his wife. Dr Herbert Skipworth had been one of the village doctors for many years and was very active in many aspects of community life including as a long-serving Church Warden at Christ Church. For many years the clock was known by the nickname "Skippy".

When the building was sold in 1998 and redeveloped as the village Library, the bell, cast by Taylor's and clock were refurbished and still sound the hours today.



*Church House Bell and triking mechanism linked to the clock*



## A Local Football Centenary

On 11 the November 1922 Mountsorrel Town FC played a friendly match as a fundraiser against a team from Aston Villa Reserves. The previous season the club had been successful in local cup competitions but less so in the league and at the Annual General Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June at the Parish Rooms the Treasurer reported they had made a loss on the years activities. This news led to offers of help from supporters and a clear approach to put the club on a sound financial footing.

With new signings from other local teams plus some from further afield the new season started well and continued so with the game against a Villa side attracting a good deal of attention around the nearby villages.

The club put out a strong team on the day made of the same players who had defeated Nuneaton Town 3 – 1 away the previous week. Despite that pedigree they came up short against the Villa team. Frustratingly although we know they lost we have been unable to find a match report nor the final score!

The Match Programme, a team sheet really, shows the team positioned in the 2 - 3 - 5 deployment that developed in the late 1800s and remained in use to around the 1970s. It also had a poem about the previous match. This was a something of a feature for Mountsorrel football before and after the Great War with several poem's recording the team's successes. The author of the poem, Stafford Headley Cart, was also a player and club committee member.

# MOUNTSORREL TOWN F.C.

*Official Programme.* *One Penny*

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 1922

VERSUS

## Aston Villa

		Loake		
Lellow			Brennington	
Hazelrigg		Williams	Harris	
Hunt	Curtis	Windmill	Sutcliffe	Hillibrand
		○		
Lovett	Neal	Rushin	Godwin	North
	Skelly	Wright	Allen	
	Clarke	Williamson		
		Rennocks.		

### Last Week's Match.

Saturday last, at Nuneaton,  
 Found the Town Boys in jolly fine trim,  
 And a penalty in the first minute,  
 Made the face of Bishton look grim.

Clarke failed with the kick however,  
 But we didn't have long to wait  
 For a goal—By North,  
 Which put "Bish" in an awful state.

'Twas not many moments after,  
 When Nuneaton levelled the scores;  
 What a glorious goal it was too,  
 You should just have heard the applause.

In the second half, Young Rushin,  
 When Bishton wasn't twigging,  
 Passed the ball to Godwin,  
 Who fairly shook the rigging.

This made the "Town" spectators shout,  
 As the bottle they were lifting,  
 And when they'd had a tot each out,  
 Their voices wanted sitting.

Then up the field "Old Bang" got going,  
 And when to "Bish" he came;  
 He saw that he was standing blowing,  
 And found the net again.

Now this, Nuneaton's great defeat,  
 Completes my little story,  
 'Twas sustained a Sorrel's nimble feet,  
 And left them crowned with glory.

A word to some of 'Sorrel's folk,  
 We must have more support,  
 The management will bear the yoke,  
 If you help them as you ought.

A team like ours beyond doubt,  
 Is worthy of your backing;  
 So dip your hands down and shell out  
 The cash that we are lacking.

We do not wish another season  
 To disband. 'T would be a pity;  
 So please do use a little reason,  
 And watch us 'till Leicester City!

S.H.C.

## Mountsorrel Town

*Kick-off 3 o'clock.*

**Match Programme—Mountsorrel Town v Aston Villa 11th November 1922**



## **Mountsorrel Town Team 11<sup>th</sup> November 1922**

### **H Rennocks - Goalkeeper**

Possibly Herbert Wilfred Rennocks, an elastic web worker resident on Leicester Rd Quorn. He has been the goalkeeper for Loughborough Corinthians the previous season.

### **H Williamson – Right Full Back**

Possibly Harold Williamson of Barrow on Soar

### **A Clarke – Left Full Back**

Possibly Albert Clarke resident at the Prince of Wales Inn on Leicester Rd

### **A Allen – Right Half**

### **F H Wright – Centre Half**

### **A Skelly – Left Half and Captain**

Arnold Skelly, lived on The Green and worked for the Mountsorrel Granite Co., before and after the Great War.

### **W North – Outside Right**

### **J Goodwin – Inside Right**

### **C Rushin- Centre Forward**

Charlie Rushin

### **J NEAL – Inside Left**

Jim “Bang” Neal, a well known local all-round sportsman who had played at one point for Leicester Fosse before the war. He lived at The Rookery (behind Loughborough Rd) and worked for the Mountsorrel Granite Co.

### **C Lovett – Outside Left**

Cecil Lovett (NB: Some records note him as Cyril) living at Marsh Villa on Main St., he had served as Sgt in the Coldstream Guards during the war.

Three members of the team, Allen, Neale and Skelly had played in the 1st/5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment football team that beat their local rivals from 1st/4th Battalion in a match at Christmas 1915 whilst both battalions were resting out of the line behind the Western Front. A further member of the battalion team, Pte Toone, also played for Mountsorrel Town after the war although not in the match against Villa.



*1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment  
Football Team – Tannay, Northern France,  
Christmas 1915*

*Pte Toone, Pte Taylor, Pte Allen, Sgt. Nadin,  
Lieut. Sharpe, Sgt Smith, Pte Sullivan, Pte*

## Wildlife

The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation runs an annual butterfly survey (The Big Butterfly Count) during late July – early August each year and have recently issued the results for 2022. The Top 20 list for England is below and all those seen on the Navins Wildflower Meadow are marked with an asterisk.

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gatekeeper *          | 11. Ringlet            |
| 2. Large White *         | 12. Green-veined White |
| 3. Small White *         | 13. Holly Blue         |
| 4. Meadow Brown *        | 14. Small Copper       |
| 5. Red Admiral *         | 15. Painted Lady *     |
| 6. Peacock *             | 16. Brimstone *        |
| 7. Comma *               | 17. Six Spot Burnett   |
| 8. Small Tortoiseshell * | 18. Marbled White      |
| 9. Common Blue *         | 19. Jersey Tiger       |
| 10. Speckled Wood*       | 20. Silver Y           |

## Birds

We are now at the real start of the winter migration period with birds starting to appear from the arctic regions, there are already reports of Whooper Swans heading south across Scotland and the first sightings at Rutland Water. With the water levels being so low after our hot, dry summer it will be interesting to see if we get more waders at Swithland Reservoir where large spits of muddy land are visible. The downside of this influx of visitors is that we may have more outbreaks of avian flu that has devastated flocks elsewhere and has made itself felt locally. Birds most likely to be affected are wildfowl, terns, gulls and seabirds, but also anything that feeds on the corpses, such as raptors and Corvids.

If you find any birds that you suspect may have died of A.I., do not touch them, but report them by calling Defra on 03459 33 55 77.

## Navins Wildflower Meadow

The Meadow has now been “put to bed” for the winter with the annual scything, raking, seed-drop and hay clearance. Vole nests were again found although fewer than last year although that may be a reflection of scything a little later in the season.

## Scythers wanted!

You will see that the Navins Wildflower Meadow has now been “put to bed” for the winter. That work involved scything the meadow, allowing seed drop and then raking and clearing. Those of us involved in that are now starting to creak a little with age and would welcome some younger hands to join us in the task in autumn 2023. Tools and training provided, if you are interested (or know someone who might be) please talk to Jeff Scott.

