



No 60

MHG NEWSLETTER

Group News

A Happy New Year to everyone

Membership Fees

As announced in our November Newsletter Annual Membership fees are due at the January Meeting and in light of increasing costs these have increased for 2023 to £7 per member.

Talks List—January to June

Our scheduled talks for the first six months of 2023 are:

10th January 'Songster - Loughborough's War Horse' with Mary Baird

14th February 'Clarice Cliff Art Deco Pottery' with Derek Holloway

14th March 'The history of the biggest machine in the world' with Ross Tomlyn

11th April 'Leicestershire's Suffragettes and Suffragists' with Jess Jenkins

16th May 'Animal War heroes' with Eric Makin & Pat Neal

13th June 'Archaeological finds from Mountsorrel, Rothley, Barrow and Cossington' with Peter Liddle

The Talks will be held at Mountsorrel Memorial Centre commencing at 7:30pm. Entrance for talks remains at £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

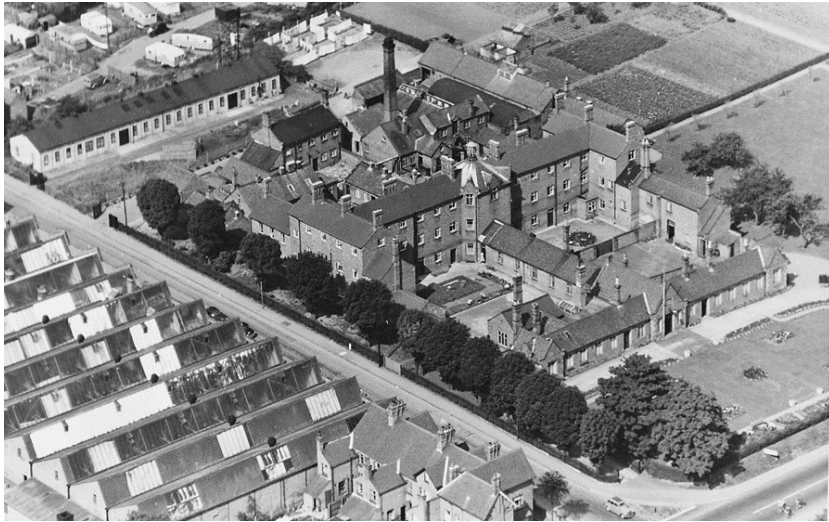
Museum re-opening

The Museum will re-open on 2nd February 2023 keeping to our usual opening pattern of Thursday, Friday and Saturday during Library opening hours.

New Museum Display

The Exhibition display on re-opening will be about The Barrow-upon-Soar Union Mountsorrel Workhouse. This exhibition was originally developed by the Rothley Heritage Trust who passed it to us on their disbandment.

Following the passing of the New Poor Lay Act in 1834 which required parishes to work together to provide facilities for the poor The Barrow upon Soar Union was formed and built the Workhouse that stood at the end of Union Lane (now Linkfield Road). Upon the ending of the workhouse system the building became the Mountsorrel Glenfrith Hospital which eventually closed in the 1990s when the site was re-developed. There is a more detailed article in Newsletter 34 on the website See <http://mountsorrelarchive.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Newsletter-No-34-Oct-2020.pdf>



***Barrow on Soar Union
Mountsorrel Workhouse***

Revival 2023

Revival 2023 will be on Sunday 13th August and we are of course planning to have a stall and the Museum open for the event. Mountsorrel Community Team, who are already cracking on with the planning, are asking for volunteers to help make it another brilliant event. If you think you can help get in touch with them at volunteers@the-mct.co.uk

Answers to Keith's Christmas Quiz 2022 (Newsletter 59)

1. Drill Hall, Loughborough Rd (now a breakers yard)
2. Top Gear Garage Leicester Rd, Kingsbury House
3. Castle Gardens
4. Library and Learning Centre
5. Halstead Road
6. Cufflin's Pit Lane
7. Buttermarket /Watling St junction
8. River Soar looking west up the backs of York Road (Sibley Lane) cottages toward St Peter's and Broad Hill
9. Small playing field on Loughborough Road looking west to Broad Hill
10. Market Place
11. Mountsorrel Granite Company offices by the Railway Inn (Domino's Pizzas)
12. Buttermarket
13. Leicester Road by Baron's Way junction
14. The Poplars (Quarry Grange Care Home)
15. Vicarage, Doctor's, Mountsorrel Hotel, Homefield College
16. The Navins
17. Mountsorrel Lock
18. Castle Hill
19. The Green/Leicester Rd
20. Sibley Road
21. Construction of Castle Hill War Memorial
22. Peace Garden
23. Leicester Road – Sorrel Fox
24. New Dimensions Hairdressers 50 Market Place
25. The old Co-op building, Market Place now demolished
26. The Hair and Beauty Gallery 32 Market Place
27. Once the Grapes and before that the Black Swan Inn 11/13 Leicester Rd Private House
28. Mortgage Advisors 46 Market Place

Answers to Keith's Christmas Quiz 2022 (Newsletter 59) - cont'd

29. Mrs Markham's Hairdressers/ A. Freer grocer & confectioner, next to path up to Hillside houses and Temperance Hall Leicester Rd. Now demolished
30. Dilk's Sweet Shop 167 Leicester Rd now a private house
31. Loughborough Road Spence's shop now Rural Kitchen Deli
32. Mrs Burdett's shoe shop entrance to Waterside estate Loughborough Road now demolished
33. Market Place – Bennett's Angling Store
34. The Green – Cavner's shop now a private house
35. One of the 'company cottages', 92-166 Loughborough Road
36. Loughborough Road – Perfect Wok
37. Rothley Road – Mountsorrel Pharmacy
38. Benchmark on the library building
39. Benchmark on No 32 Market Place

Once upon a time in Mountsorrel – January

24th January 1829 Leicester Chronicle

Loughborough Police Intelligence –

Wm. Ingleston along with JJ. Wilmer and Geo. Wright, all of Mountsorrel, was charged by Wm. Smith with breaking open his door, by throwing a large stone against it. The defendants stated that the stone was thrown at a dog without intending to injure the door. Fined 6d each with costs.

Richard Spencer, of Mountsorrel, charged by Thos. Passa, a Jew, with throwing him down, and breaking his box, containing spectacles etc. Fined £1 with costs.

5th January 1832 Morning Advertiser

The town of Mountsorrel has been in a great state of excitement during the last few days, owing to the mysterious way in which a young woman, named Elizabeth Wood, has met her death. It seems that the deceased had quitted her service with Mr Baggaley, of Cossington, and gone to reside with a person named Sarah Smith, of Mountsorrel, whose husband's brother she was on the point of marrying. On Sunday week she was taken unwell, and on Thursday she died. Suspicion that she had come to her death by unfair means having been awakened, a Coroner's inquest was held on the body, when, it appearing necessary that a post-mortem examination of the stomach should take place, the inquest was adjourned to Wednesday forenoon. At eleven o'clock therefore, the inquest was resumed, when, it appearing that the deceased had met her death by taking arsenic, and that Sarah Smith had purchased some arsenic two or three days before, and was observed by a little girl to have it in her hand while preparing some broth for the deceased, etc., the Jury at twelve o'clock at night returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder" against her, and she was brought to the county goal to take her trial for the offence. On Tuesday night she endeavoured to destroy herself by making incisions in her throat and arm.

Notes: Smith was tried on Saturday 30th March during the Spring Assizes at Leicester Castle, she was found guilty and on the Monday morning publicly hung before a large crowd outside, what was then the new, County Goal on Welford Road. After being cut down her body was taken to the Infirmary for the teaching of dissection as permitted under the Murder Act of 1745. She was the only woman to be executed at Leicester. There is more about Sarah Smith's trial in Newsletter 30 (See <http://mountsorrelarchive.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Newsletter-No-30-June-2020.pdf>)

29th January 1841 Leicester Journal

On Thursday the 21st inst. at Mountsorrel Dock, aged 70, John Kirk, gent. Quarter-master in Captain Storer's Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry. His death will be long and sincerely lamented by his numerous relatives and friends and the poor have lost a kind and generous benefactor. Mr K. was the oldest member in the Regiment, having served 46 years. During his life he often expressed a wish that he might be buried with military honours; and on Monday preceeding his death, he requested his brother to send for Captain Jackson, when he gave him orders to have the Band in attendance, and refreshments provided for all who came. On the day previous to his death, he particularly requested his executors that his former desire should not be complied with.

Notes: John Kirk 1770 – 1841 the son of William Kirk of Mountsorrel was a successful Miller, baker and boat builder. Born in Mountsorrel he owned and lived at Cossington Mill and ran a baker's in Mountsorrel. On the opening up of the River Soar navigation in 1794 he appears to have then developed a boat building business in the village. He is buried at Cossington.

If the newspaper is correct that on his death he had served 46 years in the Yeomanry then he must have been one of the original members as they were only formed to counter the threat of French invasion in 1796.

Leicester Chronicle 15 January 1842

Thomas Palmer has written a letter to us complaining of the dietary system now in existence at Mountsorrel Union Workhouse. He says that many of the poor inmates declare they would rather die of starvation in the open field than eat the wretched diet served up to them, and suffer the sort of prison discipline they undergo. He gives us the names of two men, "Luke Lewin" and "Billy Gibbons," who recently escaped from the house, and sought a refuge in an old field barn, near to a bean-stack, and he adds that they took some of the beans to gratify the cravings of hunger- for which act Gibbons was apprehended and committed to the sessions. We do not know if these statements are true or false. But we do not hesitate to say that, if true, they ought in common humanity, be seen to. A workhouse ought not to be made worse than a prison.

Leicester Journal 29 January 1847

Mountsorrel, Leicestershire – To Be Sold by Auction by J.F. White, on Tuesday, The 9th day of February, 1847. On the Premises, late in the occupation of T. Biddles, Gent., deceased of Mountsorrel, in the county of Leicester.

All the modern and genteel household furniture, Pony, Light Spring Cart, Gig, Harness, Brace of Greyhounds etc etc. Comprising Four Post and Test Bedsteads, clothed in Moreen and Chintz Furniture, Feather and Wool Beds, Bolsters and Pillows, Mattresses, Blankets, Counterpanes, Linen etc., Painted and Oak Dressing and Wash Tables. Chairs, Druggets etc., Handsome Mahogany Chairs with loose hair seats, ditto Couch, Mahogany and other Tables, Chairs, Brussels Carpet and Rug, Prints, Glass and a great variety of useful Kitchen Requisites and Brewing Vessels, Useful Pony, 4 years old, Gig, newly fitted up, Light Spring Cart, Brace of Superior Greyhounds etc. The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of the Public to the Furniture, a great part of which was purchased a short period previous to the decease of the late proprietor. Catalogues may be had a week previous at the place of sale, or at the Auctioneers Office, Fennel St Loughborough

Identifying Individuals and Dating Archive Photographs

Two of the challenges with the photographic Archive are putting names to faces and dating the photo. Sometimes we are in luck and there are names with the photo but, as in this instance, that luck runs out when a second copy of the photo turns up with differing names! That led to us putting this photo in the “to difficult” pile, but recently more information has come to hand which has allowed us to accurately date the picture, confirm the identity of one man and correct the name of another. That led us to confirming the identity of some of the others in this group sat outside the Drill Hall on Loughborough Road. The group seem to encompass working men and what could be called the “managerial class”, a point confirmed by some of the identifications in which we have confidence. Clearly they all have some form of link to the Territorials be that the Yeomanry or the Infantry but exactly what that is we don't know. So here's a request to all our readers for assistance, can you help us to sort out more of names to faces, please?



The Start Points

Dating

The sign over the doorway proclaims 5 (Soar Valley) Company 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment which tells us it's the Drill Hall on Loughborough Road. The Hall was built in 1910 but severely damaged in a fire early in 1912 and then quickly rebuilt. We have a photo of the original building, and the doorway is different, so this is the 1912 building. F Company ceased to exist in early 1915 when 5th Battalion was restructured into four Companies for service on the Western Front.

Identification

The two lists of names differ quite radically in places and there are clear errors in the second as there the numbers don't tie in to the number of individuals in the photo. There are two men in the picture who we thought should be relatively easy to identify, the Lieutenant in uniform in the centre of the front row and the man wearing medals fourth from the left. The name on both lists for the Lieutenant is

Eastman but there is no Lieutenant Eastman recorded with the Leicestershire Regiment (confirmed by the cap-badge). Looking at the medals worn by the older man one is clearly the Kandahar Star so the other is likely to be the 2nd Afghan War medal. Looking at the names given he should be either Mr Brown or J A Smith. Researching Army Records shows lots of Browns and Smiths a good few of whom served in the 2nd Afghan War but nothing to immediately link with Mountsorrel.

A New Clue

We reached that point about 4 years ago but recently we obtained copies of the St Peter's Newsletters in the East Akeley Deanery Magazine for the years before and just after WW1. In the notes for July 1914 there is the item on the right>

This was real break-through as from other records we now know that Mr Brown is Joseph Brown, who lived with his family in a cottage (now demolished) two doors down from the Nags Head (today the Swan Inn).

Territorials.—A Church Parade of the Yeomanry and Territorials, under the command of Major W. F. Martin, of the Yeomanry, and Lieut. Feilden, 5th Batt. Leic., was held on Sunday, June 28th. About 60 attended the service at S. Peter's Church. We were glad to see amongst the number three pensioners, one of whom, Mr. Brown, our sidesman, wore his Afghan and Candahar medals, reminding us that he took part in the celebrated March to Candahar, under the command of General Roberts. The Offertory (£1 1s. 8d.) was given to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society.

The name Fielden makes much better sense for the Lieutenant as we know that Oswald Henry Fielden worked as a clerk at Mountsorrel Granite Co., was commissioned into the Territorials and served with F Company being promoted Captain in early August 1914. He later served in Belgium with 2/5th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. Sadly in September 1917 he was wounded in action and died of his wounds on 29th Sept 1917, he is buried at Mendinghem Military Cemetery near Ypres in Belgium.

The lists of names together with identifications that we have confidence in are below and we would welcome further identifications and comments from our readers.

The Drill Hall Photo - Identifications			
Back Row	Version 1	Version 2	Comments
1	T. Porter	T. Porter	
2	W. Whittle	W. Whittle	Probably William Whittle, Market Gardener, served in the Leicestershire Yeomanry, comparison with a later photo is difficult
3	H. Foulds	A. Toone	
4	Allen	Mr Allen	
5	Watson	Mr Watson	
6	Brammage	W. Brammage	
7	Baum	?	From comparison with another earlier photo this is William Henry Baum, a quarryman and long serving Territorial Soldier who at the outbreak of WW1 was judged too old to serve overseas but served as an instructor with 4 th Reserve Battalion. In 1916 when the demand for manpower was at a peak he transferred to the Royal Engineers and served in France with 327 Quarry Company RE.
8	E. Barker	E. Barker	
9	?	?	
10	Sturgess	Mr Sturgess	
11	C. Morris	C. Morris	Charles Morris, a builder lived at 69 The Green prior to building and moving to Alpine House on Rothley Road

Middle Row			
1	J. Spence	J. Spencer	From comparison with another earlier photo this is probably William Job Spence, shopkeeper – the shop is now RKD Kitchen on Loughborough Road
2	F. Willett	?	
3	?	F. Willett	
4	A. Peberdy	?	
5	Willett	A. Peberdy	From comparison with another earlier photo this is Amos Peberdy, 1874-1960. A quarryman he served in the Leicestershire Regiment and later in 198 Quarry Company Royal Engineers during WW1
6	G. Deane	Mr Willett	
7	R. Wykes	G. Deane	
8	Carr	R. Wykes	Arthur Robert Wykes, Overseer and Newsagent
9	F. Pepper	Mr Carr	From comparison with another earlier photo this is probably Fred Pepper, who ran a butcher's shop in Market Place
10	?	F. Pepper	
11	?	?	
Front Row			
1	?	J. Lovett	
2	J. Lovett	Mr Wright	
3	Rev Wright	Mr Brown	
4	Brown	J.A.Smith	Joseph Brown – see separate article
5	J. A. Smith	A.O.Foulds	From comparison with another earlier photo this is James Arthur Smith, owner of the Granite Boot Co. residing at Ingle Nook, Mountsorrel
6	A. Foulds	Captain Eastman	From comparison with another earlier photo this is Albert Otto Foulds (1964 – 1917) a former draper who had returned to the village on his retirement. He was active in various voluntary movements including the Boys Brigade and on the outset of WW1, the Volunteer Training Corps.
7	Captain Eastman	Mr Clarke	Captain Oswald Henry Fielden – see notes above
8	Clarke	?	
9	?	?	
10	?	?	
11	?	?	
12	Chaplin	?	Is this a spelling error – did the writer mean Chaplain?

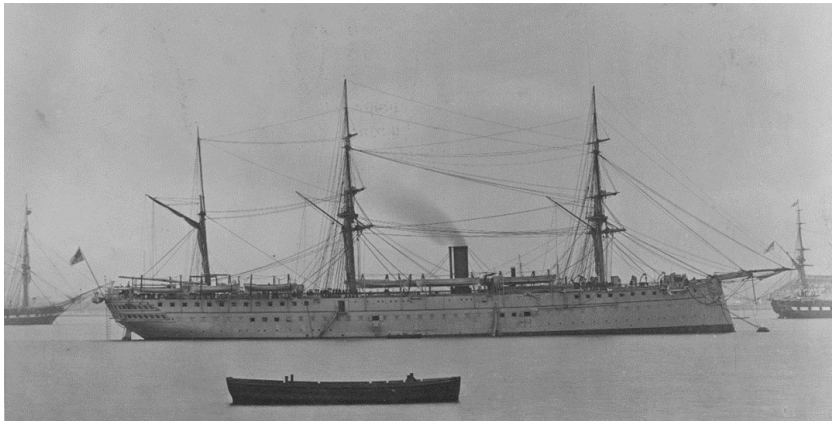
There are two further puzzles with the photo:

- The St Peter's Newsletter says there are "three pensioners", Joseph Brown is one, but who were the other two? Number 8 in the front row has a very distinctive fob on his watch chain that is very similar to the cap badge of the Sherwood Foresters Regiment but it is not clear enough to be certain.
- Several of those in the picture are wearing dark armbands there is lettering on these but even enlarged it is too indistinct to identify

Any suggestions please?

A Soldier of the 2nd Afghan War - Joseph Brown (1859 – 1932)

Joseph Brown was born in 1859 at a cottage in Wymeswold Lane, Burton on the Wolds, his father working as a farm carter. He followed his father in working on local farms until, at 18, in 1877 he joined the Army. Quite where he enlisted and how he ended up in the 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) Regiment of Foot is unknown. At this stage Army Enlistment would be for 12 years, 7 served with the colours for active service followed by 5 years on the Reserve. On 7th December 1878 he embarked on the Troopship 'Jumna' at Portsmouth for the three-week voyage to India via the Suez Canal as part of a reinforcement draft of 100 Highlanders to join the Regiment which was then on operations in Afghanistan, where British and Indian Forces were engaged securing the border and attempting to negate the influence of Russia with rebel Afghan forces.



The 'Jumna', launched in 1866, was an iron-hulled troopship designed to transport a full battalion of infantry with its married families, or about 1,200 people. 360 ft long and 49 ft broad, she had a "ram bow" which projected forward below the waterline. Powered by both barque-rig sail and a steam boiler with a single screw, she could achieve a speed of 14 knots.

Even after a year in the Army, life aboard a troopship heading for India must have been a culture shock for a farm boy from the Leicestershire Wolds.

Arriving in Bombay (now Mumbai) on 15th January 1879 the Draft hurriedly joined the Regiment on the border with Afghanistan as the local situation worsened. On 3rd September 1879 the British Resident in Kabul, Sir Louis Cavagnari and his 75 man escort at the Residency, were massacred after an 8-hour siege by rebel troops. The 92nd now formed part of the Kabul Field Force, led by General Roberts (later Field Marshall, Lord Roberts), which moved against the rebels.



92nd (Gordon Highlanders) Regiment of Foot – North-West Frontier 1879

Drumhead Church Parade – somewhere amongst this group is Joseph Brown

There followed a long period of mountain fighting at 8000ft through the Afghan winter. Reports note it being so cold that on several occasions the rum ration had frozen in the barrels and haversack ration hard-boiled eggs had to be thawed out before they could be eaten. Despite the weather and fierce fighting against tenacious Afghani forces the Field Force reached the hills around Kabul with the Highlanders being key to victory at Charasia in October and then the securing of Kabul through a final bayonet charge in December 1879.

Now although Kabul was captured Afghanistan was not at peace and in July 1880 some 300 miles to the south-east a 2,500 man strong British and Indian formation had been defeated at Maiwand by a force of 25,000 regular and irregular Afghan forces. The survivors retreated to Kandahar, including 960 casualties of whom only 161 survived the retreat. The Kandahar Garrison, now numbering 4360, were then besieged by a mixed regular and irregular Afghani force of 13,000 with reliable artillery.

General Roberts in Kabul now put together a large relief column of 10,000 and force-marched the 300 miles in 20 days, significantly word that the relief column was on its way reached neither the besiegers nor the besieged at Kandahar. Unlike the advance to Kabul that took place in the bitter cold of winter this advance was at the height of summer with early afternoon temperatures exceeding 100 Fahrenheit, with little shade and water severely rationed. At the end of the long march the final assault was carried out by the Gordons and Gurkhas who stormed the Afghani guns at bayonet point. A Highlander named Brown was wounded and this may have been Joseph. Subsequently he was promoted to Corporal.

The following year the regiment sailed for home but were diverted to South Africa where the dispute with the Boers had led to the 1st Boer War. Positioned in Natal they fought in the disastrous Battle of Majuba Hill on 27 February 1881. Here a mixed force of 350 men from the 92nd Gordons and the 58th Regiments supported by some Royal Navy Gunners captured a hilltop to dominate the Boer line, but early the next day came under heavy and accurate fire which was the prelude to an assault by 2,000 Boers; despite a desperate last stand, the survivors were swept from the summit.

They remained in South Africa where, on 1st July 1881, they amalgamated with the 75th (Stirlingshire) Regiment of Foot to form the Gordon Highlanders. They sailed for home arriving at Portsmouth on 1st February 1882 and later moved to Edinburgh. By 1884 Joseph will have been transferred to the Reserve having completed his regular service and made his way back to Leicestershire.

In 1888 he married Minnie Berrington a worsted Framework Knitter from Long Whatton and set up home in Wymeswold working as a farm labourer. By 1891 he was working as miller's waggoner and living some two doors down from the Nag's Head (now The Swan) and just by Mountsorrel Mill. The Family later moved to Rocliffe Cottages and Joseph took up work with the Mountsorrel Granite Co.

Joseph was active member of St Peter's congregation acting a sidesman for many years and being a member of the Church Council. His eldest daughter, Mabel, taught at St Peter's Sunday School and during WW1 served as a nurse with Voluntary Aid Detachment at 2nd General Military Hospital in Stockport. His son William, worked in the quarry and served in F Company, 5 Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment prior to and during WW1. William was wounded in early 1915 and evacuated to UK for recovery, after which he joined the Royal Flying Corps as a mechanic.

Minnie Died in 1922 and Joseph in 1932, they are buried together in Mountsorrel Cemetery.



Joseph Brown—July 1914



The Afghan War Medal with clasps for Kandahar, Kabul and Charasia

The Kandahar Star

KANDAHAR WARRIOR Funeral Of Mountsorrel Veteran

The funeral took place at Mountsorrel yesterday of Mr. Joseph Brown, of Mountsorrel, who in his younger days was a corporal in the 92nd Gordon Highlanders, and marched with Lord Roberts from Kabul to Kandahar. Latterly he was an employee of Mountsorrel Granite Co.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. G. E. Alvia, vicar of St. Peter's Church, Mountsorrel.

The mourners were: Mr. William Brown (son), Mrs. Garner (daughter), Miss M. Brown (daughter), Miss C. Brown (daughter), Miss A. Brown (sister), Mr. G. Spibey (brother-in-law), Mrs. Brown (sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. Cartledge and Mr. Hutchinson.

The bearers were: Messrs. G. Palmer, S. King, B. Sturgess and A. Baum.

Among the wreaths was one from colleagues of Mountsorrel Granite Co.

Leicester Evening Mail 16 February 1932

Wildlife

Big Garden Birdwatch 2023

The RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch will be back in January running over the weekend 27-29th. One of the simplest bits of "Citizen Science" there is to take part in. Simply record the highest number of each bird species that land in your garden at any one time over an hour's period that weekend (not the total of each that land during the hour!). From 13th there will be a guide available from the RSPB at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or Text BIRD to 70030.



Mountsorrel Heritage Group

Monthly Talks Series

2023

"Songster – Loughborough's War Horse"

Mary Baird will tell the story of Songster, the Loughborough horse, thought to be to old and small but still went off to war with the Yeomanry in 1914.



Mountsorrel Memorial Centre

7:30pm Tuesday 10th January 2023

Members £3, Non-Members £4