

Discover Soar Valley Towns and Villages:

MOUNTSORREL

This sign pictured above, refurbished by Martin Wilkinson at The GCR, was once affixed to the Mountsorrel junction signal box which stood at the Barrow rail-head end of the line to the Mountsorrel quarry. The last revenue earning train on the line was in 1953 and the track taken up in the 1960s. In the 1970s a conveyor belt was installed and is still in daily use today.

There has been a quarry in the Mountsorrel area at least since Roman times, which has influenced the life, soul and infrastructure of the village in all that time. In fact, if you travel north along Loughborough Road, after Wheat Close, on the right hand side, there exists 20 old quarry workers houses built in early Victorian times, in a perfectly straight line. They are, of course, all modernised now.

Whilst the origin of the name 'Mountsorrel' is still not understood fully, it is thought that the English nobility of the time named Mountsorrel after Montsoreau, a castle in France close to Fontevault, where Henry II was buried. The name Mountsorrel is of Norman-French origin and is thought to have developed due to the close likeness of Montsoreau and Mountsorrel – both settlements sit on rivers, the Loire and the Soar respectively, and are overshadowed by surrounding hills.

A castle was built in 1080 by Hugh Lupus, but there is evidence of an earlier settlement in the area in the form of pottery fragments. A Roman villa is supposed to have existed on Broad Hill during the 4th century AD, the site of today's quarry, as quarrying during the late 1800s revealed many artefacts including a preserved wooden bucket. However, the first recording of the village was in 1377, when it had a population of 156.

In 1151, Robert le Bossu, the Earl of Leicester and deputy to Henry II of England, who was the Justicar, or Chief Justice of the Peace for the area, acquired the tenancy of Mountsorrel castle. According to the historian Jim Bradbury, the acquisition of the castle

by the Earl of Leicester was as a result of a 'final concord of peace' with Ranulf, Earl of Chester.

Mountsorrel castle was used as a bastion against King Stephen, and was subsequently destroyed in 1217 by the King's men from Nottingham, branded "a nest of the Devil and den of thieves and robbers". The future King Louis VIII of France had sent support in the form of 20,000 men to the besieged barons in the castle, but this force had failed to arrive in time to prevent the razing to the ground of the castle. All that remains of the castle today is a granite crag on Castle Hill. The hill is also the site of a memorial (by Shirley Harrison in 1926) to those who lost their lives in World War I.

As noted at the beginning of this article, the Mountsorrel Railway served the quarry to transport rock to Barrow upon Soar for distribution. By 1870 there were 500 employees. In 1872, the Mountsorrel Granite Company acquired the rights to quarry the area from the Broad Hill quarry, and a hospital had become established in the village to deal with those made ill by the dust created by the quarrying.

The quarry produces approximately 3 million tons per annum with reserves of 160 million tons of granite, making it in 1997 one of the top ten largest producing quarries in Europe. The quarry is blasted at 12.30 pm most weekdays, with a force that is felt throughout most of the village, as well as in some parts of Loughborough, Quorn, Swithland, and Rothley.

The quarry was run by Redland Quarries until its acquisition by Lafarge in the 1990s, and is now owned and managed by Tarmac.



Opened in 1860 the bridge over the River Soar carrying the conveyor belt to the Barrow Rail head stands just north of the Waterside Inn. This was the main image on our home page until the launch of our new website on August 20th this year.

Rolls-Royce acquired a factory previously used by an aircraft propeller manufacturer after World War Two in 1945. The factory, officially known as 'Rolls-Royce Mountsorrel', became a specialist production factory for 'structural and high temperature fabrications', advising on new designs of both aircraft and cars for Rolls-Royce.

In a fire during a heatwave on 13 May 1959, the manufacturing area of the factory was heavily damaged although the design department was left undamaged.

In 1969, the Mountsorrel Rolls-Royce factory designed and produced components for the RB211 engine for the Lockheed Tristar, and during the 1970s the factory employed 1,200 people. The site closed in 1994 as production methods changed and has since been replaced by a housing estate.



**Right at Home
Loughborough
are proud to sponsor
this month's
Discovering
Soar Valley Towns and
Villages supplement**

See newsletter on page 61



Greet, meet, eat and drink in Mountsorrel

The Sorrel Fox - PUB

75 Leicester Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AJ
0116 230 3777 nick@charnwoodbrewery.co.uk
<https://www.charnwoodbrewery.co.uk/micropub>

The Waterside Inn - PUB

Sibley Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7BB
0116 230 2758
manager@watersidemountsorrel.co.uk
<https://www.watersidemountsorrel.co.uk/>

The Mountsorrel Community Centre - EVENTS ROOM HIRE, CONFERENCING, FUNCTION

105 Leicester Road, Mountsorrel Loughborough,
Leics, LE12 7DB 0116 230 4877
Reception@mountsorrelmc.co.uk

The Swan Inn - PUB

10 Loughborough Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AT 0116 230 2340
<https://www.facebook.com/theswanmountsorrel/>

Gurkha New Delhi - RESTAURANT & TAKEAWAY

154 Leicester Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7DE
0116 230 3033 <https://shanayarestaurant.com/>

Sorrel Youth Café - CAFÉ

2 The Green, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7AF
0116 237 5289 <https://mountsorrel.cylex-uk.co.uk/company/sorrel-youth-cafe-20013292.html>

Norjahan - TAKEAWAY

83 Leicester Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AJ
0116 230 1223
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Indian-Restaurant/Noorjahan-Restaurant-and-Take-Away-457431487683952/>

Oriental Chef - TAKEAWAY

70 Leicester Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12
7AN 0116 230 1122
https://www.ordertakeaways.co.uk/new-oriental-chef-thorpe-acre_a143151-takeaway.htm

The Butter Market - CAFÉ

34 Market Pl, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7BA
0116 210 6112
<https://www.facebook.com/thebuttermarketcafe/>

The Pine Shop - FURNITURE

7 Loughborough Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AP
0116 230 2772
<https://www.facebook.com/pineshopmountsorrel/>

Spice Cube - TAKEAWAY

17 Loughborough Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AP 0116 230 2395

Perfect Wok - TAKEAWAY

52 Loughborough Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AT 0116 230 3507 <https://perfectwok.co.uk/>

Stonehurst Family Farm - MUSEUM & FARM SHOP

Bond Ln, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7AA
01509 413216 oink@stonehurstfarm.co.uk
<http://www.stonehurstfarm.co.uk/>

The Rising Sun - TAKEAWAY

214 Loughborough Rd, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE12 7AX 01509 412480
<https://www.loughboroughrisingsun.co.uk/>

Mountsorrel and Rothley Heritage Centre and Granite's Café - DAY OUT, WALKS, MUSEUM & CAFÉ

240 Swithland Lane, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,
LE7 7UE 0116 237 4591 <http://heritage-centre.co.uk/visit-us/granites/>



The Care Quality Commission rated the fastest growing domiciliary care company in the Soar Valley as good in their first inspection.

OVERALL RATING FOR THIS SERVICE - **GOOD**

IS THE SERVICE EFFECTIVE - GOOD

IS THE SERVICE CARING - GOOD

IS THE SERVICE RESPONSIVE - GOOD

IS THE SERVICE WELL LED - GOOD

IS THE SERVICE SAFE - GOOD

Here's an extract from the official report:

"Every person who used the service said the service was safe and their care was delivered by kind, compassionate and dedicated care workers.

Where people received support with their prescribed medicines, staff had guidance and checks were completed to ensure support was completed safely. Infection prevention and control best practice guidance was followed. People's needs, and risks were assessed, monitored and managed well. People



Jenny Skates - Right at Home Loughborough's registered manager, with more than 40 years experience in the domiciliary care profession, awaits your call...

were prevented from being exposed to any unnecessary risk that may cause them harm. People received support to access health services when required. People were supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible and in their best interests; the policies and systems in the service supported this practice."

The Care Quality Commission are the independent regulator of health and social care in England.

They make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and they encourage care services to improve.

If you'd like to know more, please call 01509 279360 to talk to one of the team.



Would you like to MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY?

**Are you kind, compassionate,
caring and dedicated?**

Call us on
01509 279360