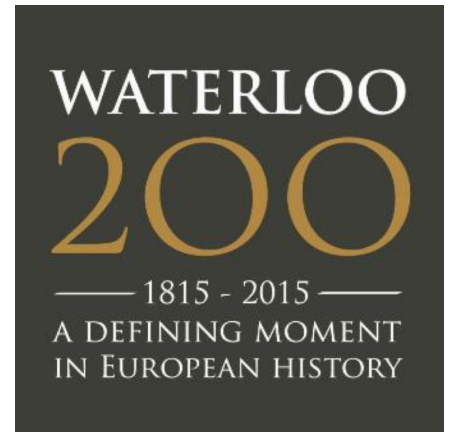


Shropshire and Waterloo

Lord Hill, a monumental figure

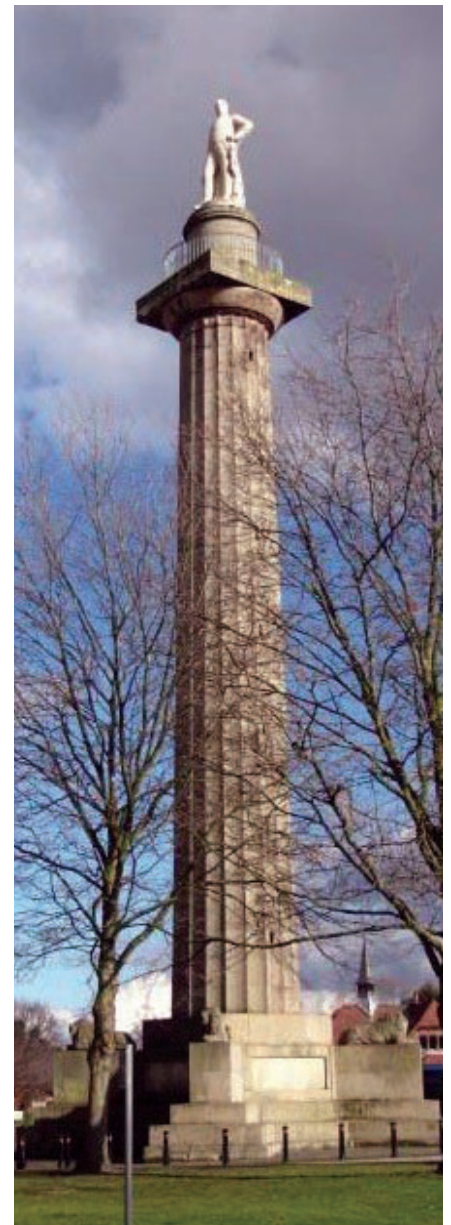


The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo will be marked on 18th June 2015.

The battle in 1815 in what is now Belgium, brought an end to 23 years of war, with success for Britain and her allies led by the Duke of Wellington against Napoleon's French army – a milestone in European history. The county of Shropshire has a unique and important connection with Waterloo through the towering character of Rowland, Lord Hill, a Shropshire landowner and soldier. It is a story that you can explore today by visiting the sites associated with him.

Lord Hill was Wellington's friend and a leading general at Waterloo. The troops were formed in two large army corps, the command of one being given to the Prince of Orange and that of the second to Hill. At a critical point in the battle Hill's horse was killed. For half an hour, while Napoleon's Imperial Guard was halted and put to flight, Hill lay apparently dead, but in fact severely concussed and badly bruised. Wellington wrote, in his Waterloo dispatch, 'I am particularly indebted to General Lord Hill for his assistance and conduct on this as on all other occasions'. Hill subsequently entered Paris with the victorious allies.

Four of Lord Hill's brothers also fought at Waterloo, two of them being wounded in the battle.



Hill the hero – The Column in Shrewsbury

Born at Prees in north Shropshire, a junior member of the titled and landowning family the Hills of Hawkstone, Rowland Hill joined the army aged 18 in 1790. He had a successful career, distinguishing himself in the Peninsular War (1808-14). He had met Wellington in 1805. They became firm friends and Wellington gave Hill a semi-independent command in Spain and Portugal. Wellington wrote of him in dispatches 'His services have always been meritorious and very distinguished in this country, and he is beloved by the whole army..' It was this love that caused his men to give him the title 'Daddy Hill'.

Hill's activities in Spain led to his being elected MP for Shrewsbury in 1812 in his absence, and in 1813 the people of Shropshire started to raise money to build a Column in his honour while he was still engaged in the war. Lord Hill's Column was built during the period of the Battle of Waterloo and completed in 1816. It is the tallest Doric Column in England, standing at 133.5 feet (41m). The viewing platform can be reached by climbing 172 spiral stairs.

The statue of Lord Hill has needed much restoration in recent years and Shropshire Council, with the support of the Friends of Lord Hill's Column, is working towards the creation of a new statue of Hill, which it is hoped will be in place in 2016 to mark the 200th anniversary of the original installation. www.friendsoflordhillscolumn.co.uk

Public Opening Days to climb the 172 stairs inside the Column during 2015

Admission £5 (conferring free Life Membership of the Friends of Lord Hill's Column) Friends – Free. Book via the website <http://friendsoflordhillscolumn.co.uk/>

Climbs are made every half hour. For reasons of public health and safety it

is essential that times are booked and adhered to. The times shown below indicate the start time of the first and last climb on each of the open days.

April	4th & 6th 11am – 4pm
May	25th 11am – 4pm
June	13th 11am – 4pm
July	8th 6pm – 8.30pm
August	16th 12pm – 4pm; 31st 11am – 4pm
September	13th Heritage Open Day 12pm – 4pm
October	3rd 11am – 4pm



Shropshire & the Napoleonic Wars

Shropshire Regimental Museum in Shrewsbury Castle

The Museum holds a number of key pieces relating to Hill including his seal and campaign cutlery and a portrait painted by his sister in 1820, in which Hill is seen wearing all 23 of his regimental medals. The collections even include a lock of Napoleon's hair! It is here at Shropshire Regimental Museum that the story expands to include those Shropshire soldiers from other walks of life who fought in the Napoleonic Wars in the years before Waterloo.

Open: February 16th to May 24th 10.30 to 16.00 but closed on Thursdays and Sundays. Except Easter Sunday 3rd April, open 10.30 to 16.00. May 25th to September 13th 10.30 to 17.00 but closed on Thursdays. Sunday opening hours are 10.30 to 16.00.

September 14th to December 19th open 10.30 to 16.00 but closed on Thursdays and Sundays.

Adults: £3, Concessions: £2, Children and students: £1. Under 5's and former members of the Shropshire Regiments: free.

Shropshire Regimental Museum inside the Great Hall of Shrewsbury Castle

Special Events for Waterloo 200

22nd May – Lecture by Napoleonic historian Gareth Glover 'Waterloo – How The History Became Corrupted'. Tickets £10, Friends £7. Details from Shropshire Regimental Museum, Shrewsbury Castle – Tel: **01743 358516**.



13th June – Concert in Shrewsbury Castle grounds, featuring music by military bands (including the Waterloo band) playing popular music from the time of Waterloo and poetry readings. Details from Shropshire Regimental Museum – Tel: **01743 358516**.

www.shropshireregimentalmuseum.co.uk

Bishop's Castle and Ludlow

During the 21 years of the Napoleonic Wars up to 122,000 French soldiers were held prisoner, in prison hulks on rivers around the English coast or in land based gaols. French officers however were treated differently and housed comfortably in Parole Towns including Bishop's Castle in south west Shropshire. They had to sign an agreement and keep a curfew and town limit. One such officer, Louis Paces, Lt Col of Light Horse, is buried in Bishops Castle, his gravestone standing near the one-handed clock. Ludlow was not a Parole Town but on Boxing Day 1810 received a very distinguished prisoner, Lucien Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, captured at sea, not in battle but on his way to America in an attempt to start life anew away from his brother. Dinham House by Ludlow Castle was put at Lucien's disposal for six months.

Weston Park, Weston under Lizard

Captain Orlando Henry Bridgeman of Weston Park, (third son of the Earl of Bradford) was Aide de Camp to



Lord Hill in Spain and at Waterloo. An exhibition including an 1835 watercolour portrait of Lord Hill (his favourite likeness) by George Richmond will be open in the Granary Art Gallery. The portrait, which has not been exhibited in public for many years, is the focus of a small exhibition. This also includes an irreverent and satirical cartoon work of Hill and Wellington by "Paul Pry", the pseudonym of artist William Heath (1794-1840).

Children's cartoon activities will be available, adding to the existing family friendly activities in the Gallery and giving children an opportunity to engage with this important anniversary.

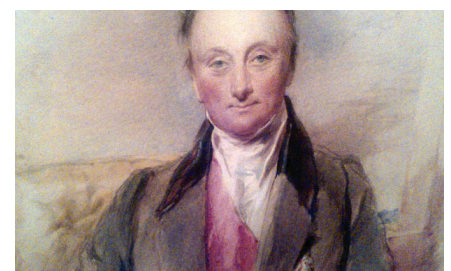
1st May to 1st August, Open daily 11am – 4pm. Entry is free.

During the summer open season, visitors to the House will be able to follow a self-led trail "Waterloo and Weston" throughout the House and see how the Battle, its heroes and social and economic impact can still be found 200 years on. Trail leaflet 50p in addition to standard admission.

6th May – Lecture 'A Young Gentleman at War' by Gareth Glover followed by optional dinner in the Granary Grill at Weston Park. Tickets: £15 for drinks reception and lecture or £39 for lecture and three-course dinner.

To book contact Juliet Brown on **01952 852130** or e-mail: enquiries@weston-park.com Sponsored by Horobin Ltd. (horobin.co.uk)

www.weston-park.com



Lord Hill at Home in Shropshire

Portraits of Lord Hill

Several portraits of Lord Hill were made after Waterloo, and during Waterloo 200 some of those portraits will be on display.

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery

There is a portrait of Lord Hill at the bottom of the main stairs near to a portrait of his great great uncle Richard Hill. Visitors may use these stairs as an alternative exit to ones used to ascend to the first floor in order to see the portrait. Hill's likeness also appears on a Coalport porcelain mug commemorating his election as Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury in 1812 (while he was away fighting the French in Spain).

The Museum is also home to the town's Visitor Information Centre.

Tel: **01743 258885** (Museum)
01743 258888 (Visitor Information)

For opening times and admission
www.shrewsburymuseum.org.uk

St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury

As the main civic church in town it is likely that Hill would have attended various services and ceremonies at St. Chad's. A large portrait of Hill that used to hang in Copthorne Barracks will be on display in the Military Chapel at St. Chad's Church. Please check the website for date.

Open: Monday to Saturday 8am – 5.30pm (Bank Holidays open from 11am), Sunday services take place at 8am, 10am and 6pm, visits can be made between services.

Hawkstone Park Hotel & Follies, Weston under Redcastle

Hawkstone Park Follies is an extraordinary creation by Hill's uncle forming part of the family estate, which Hill would have known. It is an eighteenth century fantasy park with grottos, ravines, bridges and follies. It includes the monument to another Rowland Hill, which featured as a central part of the victory celebrations held at Hawkstone for Waterloo, when it was illuminated and the scene of fireworks. Hawkstone Park Follies is open to visitors March – October and was used as the location for filming BBC TV's 'Chronicles of Narnia'.

Special event – 18th – 21st June costumed actors tell the Waterloo and Lord Hill story around the park. Displays on Waterloo and Lord Hill in the Visitor centre throughout the summer. Open weekends March – October and many other days see www.hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk for full opening times, admission charges and special events.



Hawkstone Park Hotel was purpose built as a hotel in the late eighteenth century to accommodate the many visitors to the park and follies. During the period of the Napoleonic wars it was used by Hill as a place to entertain his family and friends. In the hotel lounge are reproductions of portraits of Hill and of Wellington. The hotel is open daily to guests and visitors with restaurant and bar serving drinks, meals and snacks

www.hawkstoneparkweston.co.uk

Hawkstone Hall

Rebuilt between 1700 and 1725, Hawkstone Hall was the Hill family seat and a place regularly attended by Hill especially for glittering reunions, which were also attended by the Duke of Wellington. The Hall is now a spiritual retreat and renewal centre for priests, religious and lay people. The house and grounds are open for public visits for a limited period in 2015.

Open: Friday 14th –Thursday 27th August inclusive, from 1pm – 5pm daily. Admission to the House and Gardens is £6.00 for Adults and £2.25 for Children, concessions available on request.

www.hawkstone-hall.com

Hadnall Church

Lord Hill became Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in 1828 when Wellington became Prime Minister. He was created 1st Viscount Hill in 1842, shortly before his death on 12 December 1842. General Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount Hill, GCB GCH died unmarried and was buried at Hadnall Church, near his home at Hardwicke Grange, this being his choice above Westminster. He lies under the church tower. His monument shows a Lifeguardsman leaning on his carbine, a shepherd with his crook and the British lion. The church of St. Mary Magdalene at Hadnall is open daily from 9am to 3pm, but on Sundays there will be services at various times.

Note on locations: Weston under Redcastle is the location for Hawkstone Park & Follies and Hawkstone Hall. Weston under Lizard is the location for Weston Park. Despite bearing the same name, the two Westons are approximately 27 miles apart.



Other useful websites and sources of information

Lord Hill biography – <http://friendsoflordhillscolumn.co.uk>

National Waterloo200 site – www.waterloo200.org

Re-enactment of The Battle of Waterloo – <https://www.waterloo2015.org/en>

The Waterloo Association – <http://waterlooassociation.org.uk/Bi-centenary.html>

On Twitter – <https://twitter.com/Waterloo200org>

On Facebook – www.facebook.com/Waterloo200org

www.facebook.com/LordHillColumn

Tourism sites

Shropshire – www.visitshropshire.com

www.virtual-shropshire.co.uk

www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/shrewsbury/lord-hill/

Shrewsbury – www.originalshrewsbury.co.uk

www.visitshrewsbury.co.uk

North Shropshire – www.northshropshire.co.uk

Hotels associated with Lord Hill

Hawkstone Park Hotel, Weston-under-Redcastle – www.hawkstoneparkweston.co.uk/

The Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury – www.thelordhill.co.uk/

Information published April 2015 by Visitor Economy Team, Shropshire Council

Email: shrewsburymuseum@shropshire.org.uk

Tel: 01743 258885

This information may be subject to change so please check details before travelling.



WATERLOO: How the History Became Corrupted

Lecture by Gareth Glover

History is often said to have been written by the victors. In this lecture, Gareth Glover will steer us through the many different accounts of the battle of Waterloo to uncover the honest facts from a jumble of truths/half-truths/myths and lies that emerged following the allied victory.

22 May 2015, 19:00 at Shrewsbury Castle

Tickets £10 / Friends £7

Tickets available from Shrewsbury Castle
and www.shropshireregimentalmuseum.co.uk/shop

