

Loughborough Carillon War Memorial Museum

What's On?

June 2023

Diary Dates

2 June Market Stall 9am onwards

8 June Book Launch. 10am onwards

8 June Session at Maplewell School 11.30 – 12.30pm

8 June Zeppelin Talk at Melton RAFA Club 8 – 9pm

15 June Carillon Talk at Charnwood Museum Time to be confirmed

15 June Visit by a gentleman from the Elgar Society

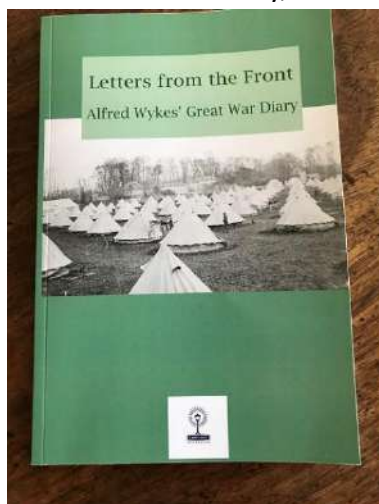
15 June Opening of the Local Studies Carillon Exhibition 11am

24 June Armed Forces Day

In Memorial. Mr Trevor Harris, husband of Christine and volunteer at the Carillon Museum who passed away at the end of April. Trevor was a very talented carpenter and an asset to the museum. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with Christine and his extended family.

Vintage Market. We have a stall on the Friday market in Loughborough on Friday 2 June where we will be selling surplus second-hand books. I will send out a separate email confirming the details.

Book Launch. Finally, we have received 150 copies of the book, *Letters from the Front*, the recollections of Alf Wykes, a WW1 soldier in the 1/4th Leicesters'.



I would like to record my thanks to Mr Wim Van-Mierlo of Loughborough University who provided the expertise in layout and the mechanics of publishing a book. Sharon Grey of the Local Studies Volunteers who typed up the original transcription thus providing us with a digital copy. Marigold Cleeve who was invaluable as always in the research on Alf Wykes and correcting my punctuation and grammar. Bill Brookman, a relation of Alf Wykes for agreeing to write a forward for the book and allowing us to use the original handwritten notes and finally, Mary Baird, involved with the

project from the very start, she persisted with it through Covid and without her efforts we would not have the book. I am extremely proud in what we have achieved.

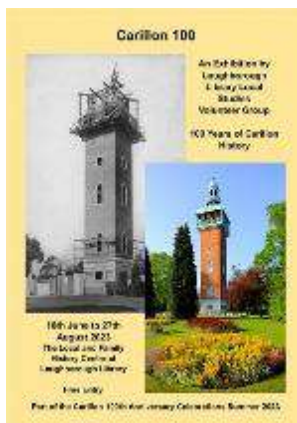
The book launch will take place on Thursday 8 June at 10am on the ground floor of the museum. The upper floors will remain closed until the staff member from Charnwood Museum arrives at 11am. Bill Brookman will dress up in a WW1 uniform and will entertain us with a song. Refreshments will be served.

Maplewell School. Each year I am invited back to talk to a group of pupils at the school. I take along some museum objects and tell them the story behind the object. They are not the easiest audience but it seems to work. The highlight is the rugby scrum, when at the end of the session I empty out a bin liner filled with berets and peaked caps.

Elgar Society. A gentleman from the [Elgar Society](#) is visiting the carillon. You will know that Elgar was invited to write a piece of music to celebrate the opening of the carillon in 1923. The gentleman is writing a piece for their newsletter in connection with the 100th anniversary.

The letters exchanged between Elgar and the committee responsible for delivering the carillon are in the possession of CBC and it is obvious that Elgar was not keen on the task and afterwards was disappointed with the result and later rearranged the piece for the organ. I know nothing about music but to me it is one of the most untuneful of tunes I've heard. You be the judge [Memorial Chimes](#)

Local Studies Exhibition. As part of the 100th Anniversary commemorations the Local Studies



Volunteers are staging an exhibition on the history of the carillon. I believe Christine is heading up the project and she has borrowed some items from us to illustrate the story.

The Town Hall will be displaying the Queen Alexandra bed spread. To raise money to build the carillon people paid to sign a bed spread and ladies of the town then embroidered each signature. The bed spread was then raffled off raising even more money. Queen Alexandra and Winston Churchill both signed the bed spread. This is the lady that provided the link between royalty and Loughborough [Emma Cunliffe-Owen](#)

Armed Forces Day. We will be taking part in Armed Forces Day with the usual stall selling our retail items and have a small display of military memorabilia. I will be calling for volunteers closer to the date.

QR Codes in Museums. Many years ago, we were offered the opportunity to place QR Codes alongside objects that would link to the relevant article on Wikipedia. At the time I wasn't convinced, if you had a phone you had to download an app to read the codes. A similar scheme was intended to support a 'Town Trail' but it never happened.



However, times have moved on and every phone now comes with the ability to read QR Codes and I recently read that a museum in Scotland has run a trial and were pleased with the results. I wouldn't suggest a link to Wikipedia, good as it is, but links to video.

Compare these two links dealing with the MG08 German Machine Gun in our collection, first Wikipedia and the second YouTube:

[MG 08 - Wikipedia](#)

[Minute of Mae: German MG08 - YouTube](#)

QR Codes are easy to generate (I think) I once asked Peter to produce a code that would take people to our website and his response was almost immediate and it costs us nothing.

Frezenberg Day. The Battle of Frezenberg, 13 May 1915, involved the Leicestershire



Yeomanry and was the deadliest battle in their history, they suffered heavy losses, there are 13 names on the carillon of LY men who died that day, but they held the line. [Frezenberg](#)

Each year members of the unit (LY are now part of the Royal Yeomanry) and the association members hold a church service at Newtown Linford then parade at the Leicestershire Yeomanry memorial at Bradgate Park. I, along with Mary and her husband Keith, attended both the service and parade. Interestingly we have the original

badge (Cat No. 2012.422) from the memorial. Once the memorial was completed it was decided that the regimental badge was too small and was replaced by a larger one.

Emmanuel Church Roll of Honour. Neil, using Marigold's original research, has produced an 84-page folder giving details of the men named on the church's War Memorial. The size of the document surprised me but having looked through it I am impressed.



It is with the printers at the moment, three copies will be made, one for the church, one for the library local studies and one for ourselves. We want to hand over the church copy with some ceremony. I will let you have details of the arrangements when we know them.

What's New. Following a talk I gave at Gorse Covert Community Centre a lady donated a collection of *Eighth Army News*, dated from 1941 to 1945. We already have a couple of editions of this newspaper in our collection but these have been bound as a hardback book. They are the actual newspapers and going a little brown, newspapers, only produced to last one day are printed on the cheapest of paper which doesn't age particularly well.



Formed in 1941 the 8th Army was the primary army unit in Egypt. In those less sensitive times, they chose a Crusader shield as their formation badge.

Mel Gould 27 May 2023