

What's on!

March 2024



Dairy Dates

Monday 11 March Heritage Forum Meeting

Heritage Forum. Loughborough Heritage Open Days Weekend Meeting 11th March 11.00am GCR Offices boardroom on Wharnccliffe Road. Heritage Open Days are observed on certain dates in September every year and takes place from September 6 to 15 this year. This is a celebration of England's rich culture and history and encourages everyone to learn more about it. It's the country's largest festival that brings together over 2,500 organizations every year.

They are hoping the Carillon will be open sometime over 14th and 15th September weekend to join in. Jill Vincent is Town Co-ordinator. Want to read more? . . [Heritage](#)

The Future. The last few weeks have been as challenging a time as we have ever had, certainly in the time I have been involved with the museum. The year started so positive, Vertigo Creative with a very large budget were to transform the three museum rooms. Unfortunately, that was stopped in its tracks by CBC Planning who apparently could find no evidence that the museum ever had planning permission in the first place (I believe it took 90 years for them to find the Elgar documents) and although it was likely that retrospective permission would be granted for a museum on the ground floor it would not be granted for the first and second floors.

On Monday 26th the full council met, the question about the carillon was a written question and answer and what was clear is that councillors, however supportive, would not and could not oppose decisions made by planning and H & S officials who were working within the law and present regulations. I am grateful to Neil who attended the meeting and engaged with a number of councillors after the meet. I have attached the report he made of that meeting with one small deletion, trust me it is just one line.

On Wednesday 28th the trustees and volunteers met to discuss the situation and there was a frank exchange of views. As I write this newsletter, I get the opportunity to put a positive slant on the decision to accept the council's offer of a ground floor museum and to engage with them about some points of contention, Steve produced a very well researched and well written piece about the historical case for the museum and access to the balcony which you should all have received.

Saying no to the offer would impact on a number of activities that engage our volunteers, research, as well as Marigold we have three other volunteers working on pieces for two other Loughborough War Memorials. Social media, we have a presence on Facebook and Instagram. The websites and answering queries from the public would cease and disposing of the collection would be a nightmare that I cannot contemplate.

Now onto something lighter:

Mystery Object. Last month's mystery object was a question about the metal fixture on the bottom of the shaft of a British Army entrenching tool. It was a rather clever idea to utilise two items that the soldier already carried into a third, a mine prodder.



The British Army at the time had, not a bladed bayonet, but the spike (commonly known as the pig sticker) bayonet. It fitted to the bayonet lug on the end of the entrenching tool shaft and became a mine prodder, detecting mines by prodding the ground at a 45-degree angle and hope the bayonet strikes the side of the mine. It takes more than the weight of a man to set off an anti-tank mine. We have a British Mk 7 mine in our collection (made safe).

This month's mystery object is an armband but you have two questions to answer, first what was the organisation whose initials were LDV? The second question is what did a newspaper of the day nickname them, a play on the same abbreviation that actually played a part in them changing their name?



New Acquisitions. We keep copies of both the *Green Tiger*, the newsletters of the Royal Leicestershire Regimental Association and the newsletters of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, now the association of the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry. A gentleman gave us some copies of the *Green Tiger* to fill in some gaps in our collection. The Green Tiger newsletters are available to read online through the link on their website they go from 1904 to the present day with a couple of breaks for a war. [Green Tiger Journals - Royal Leicestershire Regiment](#)



Whilst we have been closed, I finally got around to making up my mind about how best to store Christmas cards, poems, research articles and newspaper clippings about the carillon. I have created a number of folders so that in future they are far easier to access.

Taylor's Bell Foundry. Improvement work continues to save the historic Taylor's Bell foundry based in Loughborough. The project aims to protect and enhance the Grade II* listed buildings and on-site museum. The revamp, which is being supported by £835,000 of Loughborough Town Deal funding, will cost over £5m in total. Once complete, the site will include a new Bell Museum with increased and improved access, interpretation, and educational facilities: Read more [Bell Foundry](#)



Looking Back. The newsletter is a little thin this month so the opportunity to look back 10 years. The March Edition of the *Carillon Chimes*, 2014 it had a name in those days and a circulation of over 300 but we stopped producing it when we joined Facebook.

Carillon Chimes

The Newsletter of the Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum

March 2014

Issue No. 41



Diary Dates

11 March Meeting of the Executive Committee. 7.30 pm Southfields

Till 23 March Drawn to Danger, War Art at Charnwood Museum. Free!

23 March Beaumanor Hall heritage Show. See below

8 April 7.30 pm AGM at Southfields. All are encouraged to attend.

10 April Heritage Awards at Snibston; we have been allocated five tickets for the event if anyone wants to go.

18 April Museum opens for season.

[A Memorial for Wymeswold](#) (from the Loughborough Echo)

A national charity is looking to erect a memorial at Wymeswold Airfield to remember those who served there during World War Two and beyond.

The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust has set its sights on Wymeswold in its bid to raise public awareness of aviation and airfield history.

The charity says a large number of the country's airfields "are being left to ruin or are under threat of demolition" and aims to reverse this trend by erecting memorials at every known disused airfield location in Britain and it has sent an enquiry letter to Charnwood Borough Council to see if it requires planning permission for a 4ft by 2ft memorial, weighing approximately 1.4 tonnes and made of "top quality Indian granite".



Wymeswold RAF Station officially opened on May 16, 1942, and was used in various guises until the 1970s. Units stationed there included the operational training unit (28OTU), which was part of 93 Group, RAF, the 44 Group Transport Command, the No. 1382 (Transport Support) Conversation Unit, the No. 504 (County of Nottingham) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force and the No. 56 (Phoenix) Squadron.

The site is now occupied by businesses as well as the UK's largest solar farm.

[Facebook](#)

Our Facebook page has finally taken off and one posting in February had over 900 views with visits from USA, Brazil, Portugal and Nigeria.

Here is the link to our page: [Loughborough Carillon Tower & War Memorial Museum | Facebook](#)

Please visit it and 'Like' the page.

[Beaumanor History Fair](#)

This major fair takes place at Beaumanor Hall on Sunday 23 March 2014 from 10.00am - 4.00pm, entrance fee £5, children free, all day catering and free supervised parking. And there will be the usual link-up with Quorn Steam Railway Station, itself themed as WW2 complete with NAAFI tearoom, and veteran buses will transport visitors between the two venues. For discounted train fares and timetable see www.gcrailway.co.uk

Displays, stalls and mini-talks will follow the theme of 'Wartime Leicestershire' from the Roman Invasion to the present day. Featured will be Roman interactive displays, Richard III, The Wars of the Roses, the Civil War, the Napoleonic Wars, and of course both World Wars. Visit the website: www.lahs.org.uk for more details. We will be there, our stall dealing with the Zeppelin raid on Loughborough in 1916.

[Baptist Church Parcels](#)

The discovery of two folders in a cupboard at the Baptist Church containing 427 papers and cards revealed a previously untold story from WW1.

In 1916 Members of the Baptist Church in Loughborough decided to send parcels to the 65 former members of the church's Sunday School.



Parents of the Sunday School children contributed to the parcels whilst members of the congregation paid the postage. Sending them to countries including Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Salonika, Egypt, Mesopotamia and India.

Included in the parcels were letters with news of the church and Loughborough; in turn the servicemen wrote back letters of gratitude. In turn the servicemen wrote back letters of gratitude.

There will be a display of all the material at the Baptist Church in October. I will let you know the details when we have them. We have offered to help with the loan of some WW1 objects.

[Rawlins Students](#)

A group of 6th form history students from Rawlins Community College joined us last year and were engaged on a number of projects.

It must have worked because again we have been contacted by some students of the present 6th form to see if there is any way they can become involved.

They have visited the museum and a number of possible projects discussed for them to consider. We are keen to work with young people and get them involved in the museum. We have another group of youngsters, members of a local youth club working on an exciting project, full details in next months *Carillon Chimes*.

If you are a youth leader and would like your group to get involved in some way then contact us at: carillonmuseum@gmail.com



Rawlins students, fascinated by a stereoscope. 19th century technology.

[Humour in Uniform](#)

A young officer is working late at MOD one evening. As he comes out of his office about 8 P.M. he sees the General standing by the classified document shredder in the hallway, a piece of paper in his hand.

Keen to impress he approaches the General, "Do you know how to work this thing?" the General asks. "My secretary's gone home and I don't know how to run it."

"Yes, sir," says the young officer, who turns on the machine, takes the paper from the General, and feeds it in.

"Now," says the General, "I just need seven copies"

[Short Stories - Writers Wanted!](#)

We need a number of pieces writing about Loughborough men who died during WW1 to feed to the Loughborough Echo on the 100th anniversary of their deaths over the next four years. It is not as difficult as it sounds, just trawl through casualty list on the website: Loughborough-RollofHonour.com - WW1 Roll of Honour and chose a subject, a few lines about the man and the circumstances of his death.

Below is an example of the sort of thing we want in the [What's New](#) section. We can help you out with any research required. Fancy a little writing or do you know of a writing group that might be interested?

[What's New](#)

Kindly donated by Mr J Roe of Market Rasen this framed photo of Lt John Wesley Lewin, the son of John & Ada Lewin of Netherfield, Nottingham and husband of Ada Gertrude Lewin of Black Hill Drive, Nottingham.



John was killed on 24 September 1918 aged 27 whilst attached to the 5th Bn Leicestershire Regiment. He is shown in the photo wearing the cap badge of the General Service Corps, a holding regiment for men with specialist skills and was serving with the labour Corps.

On 24 Sept the 5th Leicesters were involved in the successful attack on the village of PONTRUET. In the book about the 5th Leicesters' it records:

Meanwhile, the rest of the Battalion had been far less fortunate, and, with no road to guide them, had been baffled by the fog. 2nd Lieut. Lewin and Serjt. Harrison with a small party of "B" Company crossed the valley and, turning right, followed No.1 Platoon into the

Southern half of the village. They were too small a body to clear the blockhouse corner, and first Serjt. Harrison, then 2nd Lieut. Lewin were killed as they gallantly tried to get forward. Two others of their men were hit, and the rest were scattered. (Read the 5th Leicesters' book on our website)

[Display at Loughborough Library](#)

Mr Billy Wells, author of *Billy's Book of Loughborough Boozers* has a display on at the Loughborough Library. Well worth a visit, Bill is in attendance most days for a chat. Have you any memories of the old watering holes of Loughborough or the surrounding villages?

For the full story and much more go to: [Lynne About Loughborough](#)

[Terri Dewhurst](#)

I was contacted this week by Terri Dewhurst, she was a young lady who helped us through the process of cataloguing our collection putting it onto the computer.

Whilst working at the museum she spotted the Leicestershire Yeomanry, banner) pictured on the left, that was in pretty poor condition. As a labour of love she repaired, restored and framed it. She now does this sort of thing professionally. Visit her website at:



[Woodhurst Conservation - Home - Leah Warriner-Wood](#)

Click on 'Portfolio' - 'Past Projects' and not only do we get a mention but also a number of photographs. It is either a drum banner or a Sqn Standard see: [LY Regiment & Squadron Standards](#)

[The British Library and University of Oxford](#)

Two, must visit websites, if you have an interest in WW1. The sites, which include fascinating photographs, newspapers, maps, advertisements and diaries, as well as

academic articles. The British Library website, (you might need to register to access some parts), can be viewed by clicking on: [new website](#)

The photograph on the left is taken from the site and shows a British soldier washing in a shell hole.

The Oxford University site can be accessed by clicking on: [World War I Centenary - University of Oxford](#) This is an educational site with lots of interesting articles and resources

[Lord Kitchener](#)

In the last issue of the Carillon Chimes, I asked for confirmation that the family of Lord Kitchener had lived in Cossington and I have been totally underwhelmed with the response from our readers.



However my thanks go to Liz Blood; for sending in the photograph of Kitchener's father's grave in Cossington church yard, proof that the family did have a connection with the village. Where did they live and why Cossington? Surely someone out there has the answer?



The other picture is of the rather grand Kitchener Memorial on Marwick Head in Orkne.

A lonely crenulated tower built by public subscription to honour the memory of Lord Kitchener who was lost in June 1916, when the cruiser H.M.S. *Hampshire* sank nearby.

Of the 667 officers and men on board, only 12 survived.

Contact us at: carillonmuseum.com