

# Loughborough Carillon and War Memorial Museum

## What's On?

## November 2023



### Diary Dates.

- 4 November: Garden of Remembrance
- 6 November: Carillon talk to Quorn Guides
- 11 November: Armistice Day Service
- 12 November: Remembrance Sunday
- 14 November: Carillon talk at Sileby Church
- 21 November: Visit to Carillon by Rotary Club
- 26 November: Christmas Market

**Garden of Remembrance.** Each year there is a short service at the Garden of Remembrance (just inside the New Street entrance) where the Union Flag is raised and individuals, led by the mayor, place crosses in remembrance of the victims of war. It is a very small crowd, perhaps you could boost the numbers this year? The service starts at 10am Saturday 4 November.



**Armistice Day.** A rather better attended event is the service at the Carillon to mark the anniversary of the end of WW. The service begins at 10.50am with the two minutes silence at 11am. Did you know that the original idea of a period of silence originated in South Africa and it was for three minutes, however the King had a battalion of guardsmen formed up and ordered three minutes silence. At the end he decided that three minutes was too long and he reduced it to two minutes. A period of silence is now the accepted way to pay respect for the dead around the world

**Remembrance Sunday.** Easiest the largest crowd Loughborough gets is at the service in Queens Park on Remembrance Sunday. The parade forms up in the Market Place at 10am (The barrier around the burnt-out bank will be removed) and the service starts at 10.50. At some stage the gates on New Street will be closed so you will need to use the other entrances to the park.



Did you know (again) that up until WW2 only Armistice Day on 11 November was commemorated but because the 11<sup>th</sup> can fall on a weekday it would have affected war time production in the factories so it was moved to the second Sunday in November. At the end of the war the subject was revisited and by coincidence that year, 1945, the 11<sup>th</sup> fell on a Sunday so it was decided that the armistice commemorations would, in future, be held on the second Sunday in November.

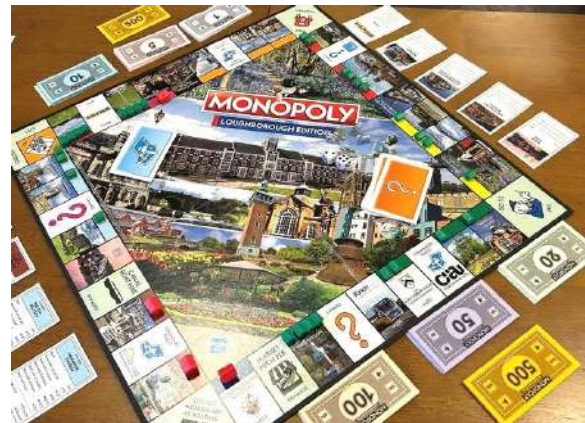
**Carillon Talks.** I still give talks, telling the story of why we have such a grand war memorial. Although the talks are free, groups are invariably generous with a donation to the museum and just occasionally, I sell some carillon related items from our shop.

**Christmas Market.** This year's Loughborough Christmas lights switch-on will take place on Sunday 26 November. The day will be filled with activities including an arts and craft fair, children's fairground rides and musical performances with the lights being switched on at 5pm. There will be a charity market in the town centre as well as a food court, craft and retail market and fairground rides. The main stage will come alive at 1pm with performances by local groups, ensembles, choirs, theatre groups and performance groups.



We have booked a stall on the Charity Market and I will be calling for volunteers to man the stall, I am happy to set up and remain with the stall until 12.45pm but I have another appointment after that.

**Loughborough Monopoly Board.** A special Loughborough-themed edition of Monopoly has been launched. Formally launched on Friday 6 October at Loughborough Town Hall, with the Mayor of Charnwood, Councillor Margaret Smidowicz and Coun Jennifer Tillotson invited to play the game and meet Mr Monopoly himself.



The special game features a number of local locations ranging from the Carillon Tower to the town's railway station. Charnwood Borough Council hailed the release of the game as great for the town. It said: "Fantastic to see so many historic landmarks on the board as well as local clubs, businesses and charities showcasing everything that the town has to offer."

**Canadian Highlanders.** Browsing through some uncatalogued photographs and postcards that we do not want I came across five postcards showing the Canadian Highlanders in the UK prior to them being deployed to France in WW1.

I had a look on the internet to see if they had a museum. The Canadian Army, like our own, has gone through a downsizing programme with amalgamations but they do have a museum: [48th Highlanders Museum – Artifact and Highlander databases](#)



I emailed the museum asking if they wanted the postcards and got a very nice reply saying that they would be delighted to accept the cards and thanked us for thinking of them.

Canada, and in particular, Nova Scotia received large numbers of Scots during the 'Highland Clearances' (1750 – 1860). When the land owners (Clan Chiefs) discovered there was more money to be made from sheep than the rents from their subsistence farmer tenants. Although they were banished from their homeland, they still held a perverse loyalty to the Clan Chief and the badge incorporates the falcon's head, the crest of the Clan Davidson.

**New Acquisitions.** A gentleman in Leicester has donated a Royal Leicestershire Regiment flag, black, red and pearl grey with XVII in the centre. They were the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot to be formed after King Charles II issued a warrant on 26 January 1661 authorising a 'British' army. The English Civil War (1642 – 1651) had shown the value of a well organised standing army rather than relying on men of influence to bring their tenants and labourers to the field.

Unfortunately, it is still to be photographed and I could not find an image on the internet so you will have to make do with a rather poor image of the flag flying outside Newarke Houses in Leicester and home of the regimental museum.



Regiments were, at first, known by their Colonel's name in their case Col Solomon Richards. This caused considerable confusion as when Colonels changed so did the regiments name



and by 1694 a numbering system started to be used, regiments numbered in the order they were formed. The Leicesters' were formed in 1688 and their first task was the following year when they were sent to reinforce the town of Londonderry against the siege by a catholic army. They didn't get off the ship. The people (the Protestants) of Londonderry have long memories and every year burn an effigy of [Col Lundy](#) and celebrate the actions of the [Apprentice Boys](#) who were credited with closing the city's gates against their enemies.



Another acquisition came from a Loughborough gentleman, Howard Needham, who handed over a map, on linen, of the ammunition storage points in and around Loughborough in WW2.

No. 32 Ammunition Depot was based on Garendon Park, however storing vast quantities of ammunition in one place comes with obvious problems so it was distributed across the area

along roadsides, quite often in huts with just a sheet of canvas as a door. The image at the bottom of the newsletter is of a photo copy of the map with street names added so you can see the wide distribution of these ammo dumps.

**CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation).** At the last committee meeting we approved the final stage of changing our charitable status. You won't see any difference in the day to day running, the two main advantages are that individual trustees will not be held liable for any debts the museum incurs unless those debts were incurred by criminal activity. The second positive for us is that a CIO is allowed to own property. We, unknowingly, were



breaking the rules as we own the storeroom on New Street. As soon as we found out we spoke to the Charity Commission and they now hold the store on our behalf.

There was a lot of work to get to this stage including rewriting our constitution. We were fortunate that Steve had the diligence and the patience to take us all through the process step by painful step. If anyone wants to explore the subject further the link to the website is: [Charity types: how to choose a structure \(CC22a\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/282222/Charity-types-how-to-choose-a-structure-CC22a.pdf)

**Polices.** Further to the above, in the spirit of transparency all our policies are online and available to the public and once we change to a CIO the new constitution will be available. Nobody expects you to read them all but you should be aware of what we have and where to find them. [Loughborough Carillon Museum - Documents \(carillontower.org.uk\)](http://carillontower.org.uk)

**From our Collection.** The medals at the heading are of William Sutton and his son, also William. William Sutton Snr served in the Second Boer War (1898-1902) with the Leicestershire Regiment and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal (QSA). Queen Victoria died in 1901 and a second medal, the King's South Africa Medal (KSA), was issued to those serving in South Africa including those who had already qualified for the QSA.



We know that William Snr was serving after Queen Victoria's death because we also have his Vesta case which is engraved on the back, commemorating his 'Patriotic Service South Africa 1900-1901' somewhere someone has his KSA. Alongside are his son's medals from the Great War whilst serving with the Leicestershire Yeomanry including the Military Medal (MM) awarded for bravery and a Territorial Efficiency Medal awarded after 12 years' service although (I think) war service may have counted double.

**In Passing.** I was walking through the Friday Vintage Market when I spotted a photograph of two people I recognised, Heinrich Himmler and Horace Greasley. The stall holder had no idea who the two people were or the story behind the photograph.



Horace Greasley served in 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters'. Taken prisoner at Dunkirk he was a POW in Germany. Supposedly, after meeting a local girl, he escaped from the camp more than 200 times to meet up with her; returning to the

camp, each time, after escaping her clutches. He wrote a book about his experiences, *Do Birds Still Sing in Hell?* There are however, people who do not accept his story claiming it is work of fiction and that the man in the photograph is not Horace but an unnamed Soviet soldier. Horace Greasley's story: [Royal Leicestershire Regiment](http://www.royalleicestershireregiment.co.uk)

**D-Day Film.** The Army University Press has recently released a film on D-Day that is now available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM9LSEtEPso>.

**Machine Gun Fan?** A short video from the National Army Museum [MGC2022 at the National Army Museum #VickersMG - YouTube](#) I want a belt loading tool for Christmas! As for the Vickers I had the opportunity to fire a Vickers Machine Gun. With no thought about the environment, I toppled a tree in just three bursts.

**Finally.** Here is the newsletter from November 2015 [nov15.pdf \(loughborough-rollofhonour.com\)](#) In those days it was distributed to a far larger audience and more than 300 people were on the distribution list. Eventually we moved to Facebook and the newsletter is now purely in-house. As the next issue is December would anyone like to submit an article with a Christmas flavour?

