

What's on!

October 2024



Diary Dates:

Visit to Ashby Museum Week Beginning 30/10

Meet with Vertigo Week Beginning 30/10 Both will be confirmed in an email

Progress with the Ground Floor (or lack of it) I am in despair at the progress made on the museum on the ground floor. However, Vertigo are still enthusiastic about the project and I have just received a mock up of their idea of a storyboard, in this case the story of William Godber.

I must admit I am having difficulty grasping their vision of the museum, these large storyboards not only limit the amount of space for objects but seem to limit the variety of objects. My thinking for WW1 was a board with a simple explanation of the causes and the enormous number of casualties, worldwide, UK and Loughborough.

Then smaller boards and object labels telling the stories of Loughborough men who died, we have written the stories of 12 men from the first Loughborough casualty to the youngest.



Vertigo worked on Ashby Museum so next week, those who have worked on the stories, will visit the museum to see the boards and displays so we have a better understanding of what they have in mind. Then on Thursday or Friday we will meet with Rhod from Vertigo.

Heritage Open Weekend. On 14 and 15th September we staged the 'Military Memorabilia Roadshow' at Charnwood Museum, the doors opened at 10am on Saturday and there was a queue clutching bags containing photographs and objects for us to view. I am particularly grateful to Marigold for her help and she went home with lots of research projects.



We had the weird and wonderful including this embroidered cushion cover of Hitler on the Siegfried Line and a couple of objects I would have preferred not to have seen. I met with three Indonesians who knew who President Sukarno was (but that is another story). It was a great experience; I enjoyed all the interaction we had and was pleasantly surprised as to just how busy Charnwood Museum can get and grateful for their help in hosting us and the cups of tea. Hopefully we can do it again but, in the carillon next time. We also sold £45 worth of items.

The Museum Data Service (MDS). I have explained this project on a number of occasions but it is such a leap forward in accessing museum's collections. Read on - *A project designed to transform how collections information is held, accessed and shared across the sector has been launched.*

The [Museum Data Service](#), a collaboration between Art UK, Collections Trust and the University of Leicester, is designed to bring together over 100 million museum records from 1,750 accredited museums and other collections across the UK. The aim is to gather together detailed object records and turn them into data that is findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable.

Those partners say the Museum Data Service will unlock an invaluable resource for researchers, educators, curators and content developers. The Museum Data Service was launched with an initial collection of 3,129,798 records from 21 museums.

The project, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council, is designed to unlock resources for researchers, educators, curators and content developers.

For museums, the service should offer lots of opportunities for their staff to work more collaboratively. MDS should lead to opportunities to share information with colleagues in the same institution as well as the wider sector. The service is also expected to help museums make decisions over acquisitions and disposal issues.

The Mystery Object. (Cat No. 2016.4) Last week's object was a partial image of a [Silent Picket](#) or screw picket. Hammering in normal pickets for [barb wire](#) defences at night would attract enemy fire, the silent picket could be screwed into the ground with the minimum of tools (a length of wood passed through one of the loops) and more importantly without making any noise.

Boring but True. We have two silent pickets in the collection, the first bent double, I am guessing that it was bent to fit into the suitcase of the person who brought it back. The second I brought back from a visit to the war graves in France. There, many can be seen, used by farmers in hedgerows.

Looking for a better example than the one we had I offered 20 euros to anyone who found one to the other people on the coach and within ten minutes of arriving at [Sanctuary Wood](#) someone came up to me with one and explained that behind the café there were hundreds of them stacked up and he had given the café owner 10 euros, apparently she had never been asked to sell one before and was delighted at the 10 euros and the man was delighted he had made 10 euros for so little effort.



This Month's object. Obviously, money, obviously British but when did we use 6d notes and purple £1 notes and why? Not shown in the picture on the right but we also have a 3d note.

We also have a number of other banknotes in the collection, German marks, Japanese Yen, Indian and Ceylonese rupees.



A shorter newsletter this month, I was away on holiday and have been particularly busy.