

Carillon Chimes

The Newsletter of the Loughborough Carillon & War Memorial Museum



September 2022

Introduction. Many years ago, we had a monthly newsletter the *Carillon Chimes* (read the back issues here: [Carillon Chimes](#)) which had about 300 subscribers, it was sent out to each of them by email. However, the popularity of Facebook was growing and we could reach a far greater audience and could post news as it occurred. Our record 'reach' was over 25,000 and we regularly reach 700/800 and there is the opportunity to interact with 'followers'.

Facebook has played an important part in our advertising the opening hours and any of the museum guides will tell you that we have had record numbers visiting the tower and we will still be active on [Facebook](#)

However, following a conversation I had, I have decided that you will still get the newsletter renamed, *Carillon Chimes*, but it will also be available to the wider public.

We now have a page on our website where we have a number of documents we share with the public and a copy of the *Carillon Chimes* will be posted on there each month.

Feedback. I mentioned our visitor numbers, not only have we had a large number of visitors but from my experience (I do 11am till 12 noon each Saturday) but there appears to be an increase in visitor satisfaction. I received the following feedback via our website:

I bought my 7 year old granddaughter to visit yesterday. I would like to thank the people there who gave their time to talk with us and to say we thoroughly enjoyed our visit. It has made a lasting impression on Fenella, she's talked lots about it and this morning we have been doing your activities from the website. They were very good, age appropriate and a little challenging. Once again, many thanks. Ella.



Very gratifying to receive. Although my favourite feedback comment came from a small boy who commented, "I have learnt so much today and I haven't even been to school". We are on [TripAdvisor](#) but the last comment was posted on 6 August 2021. We need ideas as to how to encourage visitors to post positive comments and to give constructive feedback.

Instagram. I went to the trouble of attending some free social media at the university and they allocated me two students to explore the options. They looked at our Facebook, our websites, visited the tower and finally proposed that Instagram would be the ideal option, it is all about photographs and we, as a museum, have an abundance of objects and stories.



Here is the link to our Instagram page with the post about the story board alongside the memorial. [Instagram](#) We need a number of volunteers to understudy certain roles and in this case, we need someone to maintain our Instagram page, post a couple of times a week, 10 mins work from the comfort of your own home. Do you know of someone who would fit the bill? Keen on social media and keen to develop their story telling skills

(and has an understanding of hashtags?). A college or university student? Always looks good on your CV to have experience of volunteering

Zeppelin Memorial. We campaigned and raised the money for the memorial in the Rushes. The negotiations with the management company for permission to put it on their wall was painful beyond belief. On the Wednesday before the Friday that it was to be affixed to the wall, they had still not given their approval. On the phone that day I explained that the memorial was going up permission or not and finally that afternoon they gave verbal permission but never did put it in writing.

Because of the delay the company employed to fix the memorial had not done any proper survey and, on the day, discovered that the wall was not strong enough to support the memorial. As a way of supporting it they built a wooden structure to take some of the weight, a structure I always thought detracted from the memorial.

A few weeks ago, I suggested that a story board, giving details of what happened on that fateful night be made to partially cover the wooden support. Peter Minshall took on the task and after talking with Ian the [Printer](#) at Dishley Grange they made a couple of suggestions and as a result of their observations the board has been attached alongside the memorial.

It has made an enormous difference and catches the eye as you pass, tells the story and the photograph of the Rushes taken on the morning of the raid brings the thing to life. A big thank you to both Peter and Ian for their efforts. I have posted this on [Instagram](#).



Cemetery Tour. I went along with another volunteer, Mr Eric Makin to the guided tour organised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Absolutely fascinating, well worth an hour of your time when they do it again, I believe the guide said he was doing another two before the end of the year. By coincidence the first two graves he spoke about, we have their medals, [Charles Foster](#) and [William Harbridge](#) and if you click on their names you can read their story on our Roll of Honour website.



Another grave we visited was that of Alice Higgs, a victim of the Zeppelin raid, aged 25 she was killed by the second bomb that landed in the Rushes. Eight of the ten dead are buried in Loughborough Cemetery and Joseph and Alice Adkin, a married couple are buried at Barrow upon Soar. Excuse my rather poor photograph of Alice Higgs headstone.

It was pleasing to see that the tour also included the grave of an incredible Loughborough Soldier, Sgt 'Tommy' Marston. Tommy was awarded the Military Medal three times during WW1. He had been gassed in the war and died in 1922 just after the cut-off date for a military headstone and was buried in an unmarked grave. In 1917 his Regimental Association, the Royal Leicestershire Regiment paid for a gravestone and Mr Kevin Mitchell a Loughborough stonemason made it (free of charge I think) The Loughborough Echo covered the service and unveiling [Brave Tommy won three Military Medals - Loughborough Echo](#) I was fortunate to know his son, also 'Tommy', A career soldier who was the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 'Leicesters' read about him here: [RSM Marston](#)

The 100th Anniversary. 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Carillon War Memorial and planning has already begun. There have been a couple of meetings where we were required to respond to suggestions. There will be displays commemorating the event at Charnwood Museum, the library, the town hall and the carillon.



We submitted a list of all the carillon and bell objects we held and anything related to the opening in 1923 as did the bell foundry. We will have an exhibition of those carillon and bell related items. We will, closer to the date, ask the public if they have any carillon or bell related items with the intention of taking them on loan for the duration of the display. In the meantime, if you see anything that might fit the bill on eBay, market stall or charity shop then please alert me.

Excellent News. Charnwood Borough Council have secured £4 million to support a number of projects. Following a selection process, 10 projects have been identified in the Investment Plan which has been submitted to government. One of those lucky 10 projects is the carillon. The following is taken from the council's website:



Re-imagining Loughborough's iconic Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum

The floors of the tower will be transformed with purpose-built units and flexible display cases for the museum's displays. The project will also seek to inspire the next generation of Carillonneurs with the purchase of a practice clavier, the device used to play the bells in the tower. There will also a learning programme developed for school and group visits, a campaign to increase volunteers at the museum and a project to better understand the museum's audience. The project is being led by Charnwood Borough Council. If you want to read about all 10 projects, the link is: [All Projects](#)

Alf Wykes Book. Alf used to get a mention in every newsletter but there was a bit of a lull in the project to turn his 'recollections' of his service in WW1 into a book with the help of the 'Lamplighters' publishing club at Loughborough University.



Finally, we got to see the first draft. I think that those on our side unanimously agreed on a number of changes, mostly regarding footnotes and the inclusion of passages from the regimental history of his battalion, 1/4th Bn. The Leicestershire Regiment. We have also got nearly all the copyright problems sorted and an estimate of the cost. One day I will be inviting you to the book launch.

Talking of a Book Launch. Alison Mott who wrote the story of Songster for our children's book on the famous Loughborough war horse has written up the memoirs of another old soldier, Tom Moore. The book will be launched at the carillon on Thursday 29 September and Tom will be in attendance for book signing. The image is of a painting by Tom.



We will be open so there should be a good footfall. I will publish more details closer to the day. Tom's story was covered by the Leicester Mercury read more at: [Tom's Story](#)

And Another Book Launch.

Beaumanor WWII: Secret Listening Station for Bletchley by Caroline Wessel. The top secret “Y” Group was part of M18 Wireless Intelligence and Beaumanor was a highly-strategic “Intercept Station”, concerned with monitoring the enemy’s main channels of wireless traffic and communications during WW2.

The book is to be launched at the Beaumanor History Fair on September 18th. Caroline says of the book “I have certainly had a marvellous time researching and writing it”.



What’s New. Finally, the latest addition to our collection. We were offered a pair of WW1 binoculars



by Mrs Howard of Loughborough. We have a number of sets of binoculars so I went to see her with the intention of politely turning down her offer but having listened to the story of the gentleman who originally owned them I was convinced we should have them. I asked her if she would agree that they be used as a ‘handling’ item and she was delighted that they would be put to good use.

They had belonged the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Abraham Naden. He had served 25 years with the Sherwood Foresters and when WW1 broke out, he re-enlisted into the North Staffordshire Regiment for the duration of the war.

The binoculars now sit on the window sill on the first floor with an invite to people to look through the binoculars that RSM Naden had looked through. They have proved popular with visitors

M Gould

1 September 2022