

What's on!

December 2024



Diary dates

4 December Meeting with Vertigo

5 December Filming at the Tower

14 December Charity Fair at Maxwells



Things can only get Better. For many of you it has been a frustrating time and it seems to have gone on forever. First the major renovation of the tower, something we supported, and the last minute decision that all the museum objects had to be removed. To say the collection



went into storage would be a misnomer, piled high on the balcony at Charnwood Museum

and the store on New Street. With thousands of objects, changing the location of each on the catalogue has been challenging to say the least.



Then Covid 19 struck and another two seasons lost and when we moved back, we occupied just two floors. Partly my fault as I talked the committee into getting rid of the cabinets in anticipation of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, however, anyone who saw the state of the Airborne Room when the builders left might think we had no other choice.

The two rooms worked reasonably well and visitor numbers compared very well against visitor numbers when we opened for six days a week. We did not open this year, believing work would begin. It didn't and then came the bombshell with CBC ruling that because of building regulations the public would no longer be able to climb the stairs. That decision is being challenged by the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry Association but unfortunately Luke who was leading the challenge had a very serious accident and is still in hospital. Col Sir Charles Richards, KCVO. Honorary Colonel of the Leicestershire & Derbyshire Yeomanry has taken on Luke's role. He has visited the carillon and been briefed on the background and assured that he has our support.



**Caution
stairs**

In light of CBC's decision, the makeover of the three floors was abandoned and Vertigo Creative were asked to come up with a plan for the ground floor only with a much reduced budget. In light of all this depressing news it was difficult for many volunteers to continue to be even the slightest bit enthusiastic about the future of the museum and our organisation. But despite all the gloom we are still here and we do have a future. The people at Vertigo are absolutely confident that the ground floor will be complete by Easter 25 and their vision for the museum might not have been like anything we had seen before but their enthusiasm makes up for our lack of enthusiasm or



even understanding of what they are planning. A small group led by Debbie and ably supported by Mary, Neil and Andrew (a new volunteer) have written the stories to feature on the 17 panels that tell the stories of WW1, the casualties, the carillon, Songster and the Zeppelin raid.

The two raised mannequins facing one another across the room are standing on plinths that are two metres high to give you some idea of the scale and the third mannequin is standing in a large glass cabinet in the centre of the room. The writer's group have a meeting on **4 Dec at 10.30am** to match objects with the stories. Once done; the panels will be produced.

Alongside this Mary has worked tirelessly with [Dotwall](#), the website designers, to get the new site up and running. They are close to completing the task. You will be impressed by the end result.

So pleased was I that I suggested we take the gentleman that Mary has been working with, Boby, to lunch and was a little surprised by his answer, remembering that Dotwall are in Mountsorrel:

"I completely understand, Mel, and I'm glad you liked the synergy between Mary and me. This training will definitely be provided as it is part of our website development process.

"I may not be able to get to Loughborough as I live in Brazil (although I'm really keen to visit one day). Thank you very much for inviting me to lunch and I hope one day to visit the tower and have lunch with you, Ben and Mary".

Synergy? I had to look it up. 'The interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects'. So! there you are!

Luke's Progress. I have spoken with him and with his wife, Penny, he has now been transferred to a rehabilitation unit in Sheffield which is really good news and I know that you will join with me and wish him the best and hope for a full recovery.



The image of Luke was taken at the dedication of the memorial that marks the site of the Leicestershire Yeomanry's most celebrated battle in WW1. Read more... [The Battle of Frezenberg Ridge – Leicestershire La La La](#)

Charity Fair. I have booked us a table at 'Maxwells' public house (my local) Charity Fair - 12 till 4pm on Saturday 14 December. It is indoor so we will not be freezing like we do every year at the charity fair in the Market Place. We will keep it simple, a few Christmas related objects from the collection and some retail items. We now have Christmas cards again and I have two types of children's colouring Christmas card, one for boys and one for girls (image at the bottom of the newsletter) and a couple of other children's activities.



Maxwells, if you have never been; is on Maxwell Drive. The No.11 bus stops on Sandringham Drive, two minutes' walk away and the No. 12 bus drops you right outside. There is plenty of parking.

I will send out more details a little closer to the date.

YouTube Video. A young man has joined us as a volunteer, Andrew Hammond, not only is he interested in military history but he also produces You Tube videos. His first task is to create a video of the tower, the views from the balcony and Caroline explaining and playing the clavier. We have permission to do this on Thursday 5 December. Mary has left a space on the homepage for this video and we will also put it on the interactive touch screen see: [Touch Screen Digital Kiosks for Exhibits & Showrooms](#)

As part of the planning and understanding of Vertigo's vision we visited Ashby Museum and saw how useful and effective their interactive was and I have been in contact with the gentleman who uploaded their content and have asked Vertigo which system they intend to install so we can make a start on producing the content.

Unfortunately Peter wasn't a fan of You Tube and apart from the [Songster](#) video (please click on and 'like') he would not produce anything else for social media but I am sure Andrew will welcome the opportunity to help us reach a far wider audience.

We have just purchased a complete set of 1908 webbing for the WW1 mannequin on the plinth. Here is a simple YouTube video, the sort we should be making, that explains it. [Outbreak: Equipment 1914](#) and whilst searching the net I came across this: [WW1 war horse from Leicestershire remembered - BBC News](#)

The E13 Submarine. Looking at the crosses placed alongside the 'Stone of Remembrance' just inside



the New Street entrance to Queen's Park on Remembrance Sunday, one caught my eye almost immediately. Written on the one with the naval anchor is *E13 1915*. Who after all these years is remembering the E13?

The E13, if you don't know, is the submarine that Herbert

Goulden was a crew member of. After running aground on a sand bank off the Danish coast the E13 was attacked by two German gunboats. 15 of the 30 crew were killed and further casualties were only prevented when a Dutch ship (they were neutral in WW1) steamed between the gunboats and the stricken submarine, Read the full story: [Loughborough Roll of Honour - Search WW1](#) search 'Goulden'



Herbert's grave stone in Loughborough Cemetery, the Danish government repatriated the bodies of the dead.

The Graf Spee. Continuing on the naval theme; you will all know the large model of the German Battleship, the *Graf Spee*, that was on display, first in the Airborne Room and then on the window sill on the first floor. As part of the model its name was embroidered on a length of material pinned to the base. It was a visitor that pointed out that the strip of material that for years had gone unnoticed was in fact a cap tally (the ribbon with the name of the ship on a seaman's cap).



This was a tremendous find, rather bleached by the sun, whether that happened in our care or the previous owner's care we will never know, it would have had a black background as has the rest of the tally that was folded underneath.

The model was built by Mr John Morris of Loughborough who, on his death in 1987, left it to the museum in his will.

Out of interest I searched the Museum Data Service ([MDS](#)) using the keywords 'Graf Spee' And although many museums have models, postcards and photographs I could not find a single object apart from a medallion cast after the event. We, on the MDS site, will have the only object of the Graf Spee recorded. Our collection was uploaded to the site before the gentleman pointed out the cap tally. The tally has now been catalogued separately and once we update our entry on MDS it will appear, the only object from that ill-fated ship. Read: [Admiral Graf Spee](#)

MDS now has 3.129.708 objects listed and another 1.951.719 entries already in the pipeline.

AMOT Entry. AMOT (Army Museums Ogilby Trust) our entry on their website names us as the [Leicestershire Yeomanry](#). The reason is that AMOT supports 'regimental' museums so we can access funding from them (they did, in fact, give us £800 for the projector). I am not sure what we do if we lose the LY room.

One of the images (you can traverse left and right for more images) on our entry shows Trevor and Chris on their hands and knees. A rather zealous gentleman, paid a fortune to carry out a fire risk assessment, decided that the drawers beneath the cabinets could not be used to store items, even though the cabinets and drawers were coated with a fire-resistant paint. We complied, removed the drawers and created glass fronted cabinets, or at least Trevor and Chris did.

The cabinets were lined with a flame proof material, the material was made at Loughborough's last hosiery factory, H O Bowley on Hudson Street, but had to be sent to the Netherlands to be fire proofed.

GETTING MILITARY RECORDS

Service Records. We are frequently asked for information about family members who served in the forces. There is a lot of information about WW1 soldiers but until now little on WW2 service personnel but that is about to change. On 1 November this year the MOD released millions of records on [ancestry](#) and they are currently being digitised. In the future they will be available through the National Archives at Kew.

Ex- service personnel may apply for their service records and close relatives may apply for their deceased relatives (a small charge is payable) - details can be found at: [Request Records from MOD](#) We also have a home produced information booklet *Researching Service Personnel*, Marigold's suggestions and links to sites dealing with military research.

I applied for my records years ago and was surprised at the detail that was recorded about me and my service. I joined aged 15 and the best was a photocopy of the memo that the Recruiting Sergeant in Leicester wrote about me, "*Rather a small boy but neat and bright*"

Banking. When HSBC introduced charges on our account and would no longer accept our paying in coins. Christine tried the other banks in the hope of opening an account that didn't incur charges. It proved impossible. It appears banks don't want charity accounts see: [Letter to Chief Executives of UK Banks - GOV.UK](#) We decided to accept the charges but we did have a meeting with the Business Manager, he, of course, had no knowledge of the letter from the Charity Commission but did say he

would pass on our concerns including that the people who donate would not be happy if they knew their donations were being used to pay bank charges. We did however arrange for changes to the way we bank, in future we will be able to accept card payments and pay invoices by bank transfer. It is the latter that has caused us some problems in the past.

At the meeting we agreed that only Christine, in her role as treasurer, would be able to make payments. We have absolute confidence in her honesty and integrity but we will need some sort of oversight. I will consult with Christine and the committee about the best way to achieve this. Here is a page on the Charity Commission on the subject. [Internal financial controls for charities - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/internal-financial-controls-for-charities)

Christmas Cards. We now have a selection of Christmas cards. Each year I send three or four to various people who have supported us through the year, Museum Development, Vertigo Creative and Charnwood Museum come to mind and I will send one to Valerie, Peter's wife, but do you have any ideas? The 'Little Angel' and 'Little Soldier' cards are for the charity fair at Maxwells. They are printed plain so that children can colour them in. (I coloured in the one shown)



A6 Size

Another view of



the

A5 Size

A5 Size

A5 and A6 Size

A6 Size

Stop press! You can now view the new website. Could I ask you to look at all the pages and let me have your feedback and if you spot anything that you believe is incorrect or could be improved on, again, let me know.

carillontower.org.uk

M. Gould 28.11.2024