

# What's on!

## January 2026



## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Adam, Andrew, Angela, Bonnie, Carol, Carrie, Chris, Christine, Dave, Debbie, Eric, Gill, Jenny, John, Karon, Keith, Ken, Lisa, Luke, Madeline, Marigold, Mary, Neil, Oliver. Paul, Paula, Rhys, Steve and Vinod

**Diary Dates.** Charnwood Museum Opening Times:

**Christmas Eve** 10 till 3pm

**Closed** till 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan open on these two days 10 till 3pm

**Closed** 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Jan for maintenance

**Reopen** 14<sup>th</sup> Jan at 10am

A little early with the newsletter but I need to close down for Christmas.

**Presentation.** We presented Vertigo Creative with a picture of the carillon (you were invited) in appreciation of all the work they did in the museum, they were an absolute pleasure to work with and we are really pleased with the end result.

Beneath the picture is the title, Loughborough Carillon and War Memorial Museum and beneath that the words, 'Vertigo Creative, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for Enthusiasm and Imagination'.



My thanks go out to Ken who mounted the picture and the gentleman who gave us permission to use the picture, I am ashamed to say I cannot remember his name and I cannot find any of the emails we exchanged. It will come to me and I will thank him.

**AMOT Newsletter** AMOT (Army Museums Ogilby Trust) supports regimental museums in the UK. They have helped us in the past. As I was writing this, I thought I would check our entry on their directory of military museums only to discover that although the wording in the overview has been updated the images and opening times have not. We are on their website as the Leicestershire Yeomanry as they only support regimental museums.

I will send them the amended information but I thought you might appreciate a nostalgic view of what the museum once looked like. [Leicestershire Yeomanry Museum Collection - Army Museums Ogilby Trust](#) There are more photographs just click on the arrow to the right.

The main photograph shows Trevor (Christine's late husband and very talented cabinet maker) and Chris Barsby (who once secured us a very large donation from the Freemasons) working on the ground floor cabinets. Once again, we were the victim of overzealous officials who decreed that we could not put anything in the drawers as it was a 'fire risk'. Yes! Items in drawers are a fire risk??????



As there is no appeal procedure, we removed all the drawers and turned the space left into cabinets. Being careful not to ask if the objects we intended to display were an equal fire risk.

Trevor also made those long display cases you can see above the main ones to display the sets of medals that did not find a place in the main displays; each group of medals had five lines identifying the recipient. Those medals are still in those long cabinets, stored in New Street, such a shame that they may never be on display again and with our limited storage; disposal may be the only answer.



There are two articles in the December Edition of the AMOT newsletter that might interest you, the first, titled 'Succession of Titles Project Update' has a poster showing all the cap badges of the British Army. Just 19 infantry regiments including the five Guards Regiments. I can remember when we had 64. What went wrong? The image is of a framed collection of British Infantry cap badges we have in the collection. The cap badges are from the late 1950s and early 60s and are in the order of precedence.

The other, a little further down the page is a piece under, 'Museum News', an exhibition, 'SOFO, Love War Loss'. This will be of particular interest to Neil, Debbie and Mary who are responding to visitors comments about under representation of women in our museum's stories.

The large panel covering the stairs door will be given over to the women's role in the war, the work they did, how families coped with the main bread winner away (Harry Cutts mother got a weekly allowance from the Brush) and dealing with the death of a loved one. Vertigo will be asked to produce the panel so it matches the other storyboards. We will supply the stories. Read it here: [AMOT Newsletter - December 2025](#)

**12 Facts About Women in WW1.** Here is the Imperial War Museum's take on the subject, an absolute mine of information: [12 Things You Didn't Know About Women In World War 1 | IWM](#) and finally, here is another link, a video for a talk at the National Army Museum, 'Women's Military Service in the First World War' It is, however, not available until 9 January 2026. [Women's Military Service in the First World War](#). I will remind you and send you the link.



Unfortunately, we have very little in the collection about women in WW1, a VAD nurse's autograph book, Local Studies have a better example which we transferred to them many years ago, Marigolds section on the Roll of Honour about Mabel Barker see: [Loughborough Roll of Honour - Loughborough VADs](#) and a great photograph of two ladies and a child standing by a wreath at the carillon, the elder woman is wearing medals on the right suggesting she has lost her husband in the war.

It appears that they seem to have all responded to the general complaint that women's role in wartime has been largely overlooked. Hopefully our team of three will create a storyboard that does justice to the women of Britain in the war.

**In Trouble with the Americans.** 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) were stationed in Quorn in WW2. Their descendants have a Facebook page; it is obvious that Americans have a far closer relationship with the what their fathers and grandfathers did in the war than perhaps we do. They appear to know every



detail and have far more photographs of family members at war than anything we see here. American soldiers obviously had far cameras than British soldiers.

We follow them on Facebook and occasionally I post something, invariably a photograph of a 505 object we have in the collection. My last post was a plate with the image of a soldier which according to our catalogue is Sgt Larry Weifline 505 PIR. I wished them all a Merry Christmas and sat back thinking I had done my bit for Anglo/US relations.

Unfortunately the image is not Sgt Larry Weifline but [General James 'Jumping Jim' Gavin](#) and the Americans were very quick to correct me in rather uncomplimentary language, they could not believe that someone was so stupid as to mistake Gavin for Weifline (what happened to i before e?). I had to make an apology using the excuse that I'm English and thanking them for correcting me and that I would alter the description on our catalogue. Talk about FAKE NEWS! Here is a picture of the real Sgt Weifline or so it says on our catalogue.



**Union Jack.** A flag that survived the Battle of Trafalgar has had an export bar placed on it in the hope that a UK buyer can be found. Read the full story here: [Union Jack](#) I am sure you all know but the union flag is only called a Jack when it is flown on a ship.

We have a number of flags in the collection but probably the most interesting one is a RAF flag, supposedly from Changi, Singapore, rescued when the Japanese overran the island in 1942. Along with letter saying that the man who took it gave it to a judge for safe keeping, The donor has an English name, Ken Harris, but his address is recorded as 1 Rue Chambault 89113, Nevilly, France. (Look it up on Google Earth)



If the story is true then the flag is probably of national importance and our description hardly does it justice. Perhaps we should take a closer look at the flag and letter. You can see an image of the flag on the online catalogue. Search: 1988.73 PS. I have flown from RAF Changi.

**Nostalgia.** Finally, you will find attached the 2015 Christmas Edition of *Carillon Chimes*, our newsletter at the time. It was No. 62 so had been distributed for five years. It was the last one as we had decided to move to Facebook, interestingly there is a paragraph explaining Facebook. In those days the newsletter had a much wider distribution with more than 300 subscribers.

However, a monthly newsletter is not the best way of informing the public of the news, it was out of date before it was sent, moving to Facebook meant we could contact people as the news happened and the gave us a potential increase in reach, we have 1200 followers on Facebook, from Loughborough C of E Primary School to Bruno Villas Boas Avila da Silva in Rio de Janeiro with 李國財 in between.

There is an extract from the first edition in 2010 from the chairman (Peter Crooks) saying that Mel has produced the first edition of the newsletter but they were looking for someone to take over. 15 years later and I am still sorting through the mountain of applications. Enjoy the holiday!