

What's On

March 2026

Diary Dates

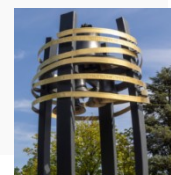
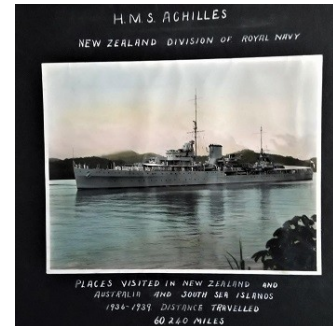
8 March Covid Reflection Day

11 March Songster talk

26 March Zeppelin talk

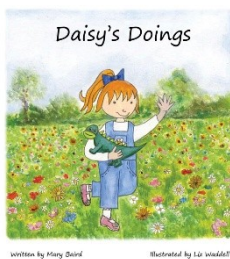
28 March Open for the season

Covid Reflection Service. A short service will be held in Queen's Park, Loughborough, on Sunday, 8 March 2026 at 1pm to mark the national Covid-19 Day of Reflection. The event takes place at the Hope Bell. Read more on the council website [Covid - 19](#)



Talks. We do a number of talks, Mary does a talk on the story of Songster and the next one is at the WI in Ruddington and I talk about the Carillon, why a tower was chosen and its building and opening. Did you know Dame Nellie Melba attended the ceremony? I also do a talk about the Zeppelin Raid, the next one being at Gorse Covert Community Centre on 26 March.

The talks are free but I encourage them to make a donation to the museum and I have had donations from £10 to £120. Mary has a more complicated system that involves the group buying Songster books.



Talking of Mary, she led the project to produce the Songster book, a very trying time; I tell people that we are the world's leading experts on how not to publish a book. However, it all came good in the end and Mary, obviously inspired by the experience, took up the challenge and produced the Alf Wykes book. We are now on our second print run of this book.

Mary, working with the illustrator, Liz Waddle, (she did the illustrations for the Songster book) has now produced a children's book, I have seen it and it is absolutely delightful, it is available through Amazon at:

<https://amzn.eu/d/05yajVOu>

Opening. We have, in the past, always opened for the season on Good Friday but someone (Dave) pointed out the schools had broken up the week before, the park was full of families and the carillon doors firmly shut. Leicestershire's schools break up on Friday 27 March and we will open on Saturday 28th. On a completely different subject but typing 'firmly shut' reminded me that the door has now been fixed and the bottom lock works.



Debbie's Blog. I would hope that you all read Debbie's blogs, published on the homepage of our website [Loughborough Carillon & War Memorial Museum](#) the latest is about the stereoscope we have out for people to handle. It is incredibly popular, particularly with youngsters.

I have passed her two photograph albums, filled with postcards and photographs collected by a man called Archie Bacon as he sailed around the world on HMS *Achilles* and HMS *Enterprise* in the 1930s. I am hoping that Debbie might do her next blog on about them.



Fortunately the donor was recorded, a Mr D A Main with a Loughborough address so I will try to contact him to find out who Archie Bacon was. The albums were donated in 2003 and in those days, I don't think they were as aware, as I hope we are, of capturing as much information about the objects and owner as possible at the handover, it is likely that will be the last chance.

Training Opportunity. The National Army Museum are offering places on a course, 'Edged and Offensive Weapons' Leeds Thursday 2nd July 10:00am-3:00pm, National Firearms Centre, Leeds. Complementing the Firearms in Museums course, this one-day course is designed to address concerns about all manner of bladed articles and offensive weapons, from batons through knives to swords.

It will look at the historical landscape and what legislation is currently in force, what material is covered by legislation and, most importantly, how this affects museums and those who visit them. The course will also look at the conservation of such pieces.

If you would like to book a place or find out more information then please visit our [website](#) or email either jfarrance@nam.ac.uk or jhunt@nam.ac.uk Please note, all bookings from volunteers must come through a volunteer supervisor.

A Mystery. During the weeks before I write up this newsletter I copy and paste any items I think might be included. I copied this picture but now cannot remember why. However, I do know the story behind the picture. Many years ago, when Rosebery Street School closed, the County Council transferred the war memorial from the school to us and it was on the wall on the ground floor of the museum.



Later the school buildings were taken over by a medical practice. The partners were interested in the history of the buildings and approached us for the memorial to be returned. I rather naively, agreed but it had to be approved by the trustees who, surprisingly, vetoed the request.

A couple of years passed and the memorial was removed from that wall, I cannot remember why, but the trustees returned to the subject and this time agreed that the memorial should be returned to its original home. The photograph shows Steve at the official handover of the memorial which now graces the wall in the waiting room at the Rosebery Street Medical Practice.

At the entrance they also have a small display of objects relating to the building former life including the headmaster's cane.

Cap Badges. We have a lot of regimental and corps cap badges, we also have space behind the reception that needs filling, at the moment there are some small shelves with odd retail items sitting on them. We have talked about what we should put in their place and it occurred to me we could display the badges there. A frame the same size as the one with the picture of the tower and a green felt background, each badge with object label identifying the regiment. Any thoughts?



British Army Regiments. If you, like me, have lost track of who has amalgamated with who here is a rather simplistic explanation in a YouTube video [Every British Army Regiment Explained \(in 26 mins\)](#)

Modes. This is the system we use to maintain the catalogue; The online catalogue is a separate system. Modes is the most commonly used museum catalogue system and we pay an annual registration fee, this ensures the system is updated. The main catalogue records details that are hidden on the online version such as donors address and the location of individual objects. Modes are making some organisational changes. Can someone read it through and explain it to me? [A New Chapter for Modes Users Association - des](#)

Facebook. We have 1,300 followers and over 5000 views on the Caroline video. [\(4\) Facebook](#)

Poems. Anyone a poetry fan? I have an inkling of a project

Finally. A plug for our friends at Charnwood Museum [Welcome to Charnwood Museum – Charnwood Museum](#) Looking at this picture prompts me to think we should be selling prints, the tower, the park, the one below. Peter was working on it before he sadly passed away.



Mel 26.2.2026