

# What's On

## May 2026



### Diary Dates

30 April Talk, Quorn History Group

1 May From Bows to Brens

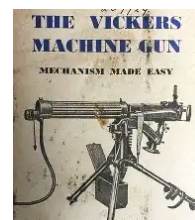
13 May Annual General Meeting

24 May CWGC Guided Tour

**Beaumanor Hall in WW2.** Quorn Local History Group's next talk is "The Y Station at Beaumanor & Garats Hay" by Mark Temple. Beaumanor Hall was the listening station for Bletchley Park and played a vital role in WW2. The talk is on Thursday April 30th at 7pm in the Quorn Church Rooms. That is next to Rawlins College. There is car parking and it is close to the 127 bus stop. There is no need to book but there is a fee of £2 for members or £4 for non members payable in cash at the door. which includes tea or coffee.



**Bows to Bren Guns.** This is a one hour talk at the National Army Museum, (NAM). On the assumption that most people won't drive to London the presentation can be watched online but you do have to book. Julian Farrance embarks on a fast-paced journey through the evolution of British Army weaponry, from the 1600s to the modern day. You can book to watch online here: [From bows to Bren guns | National Army Museum](#)



**Annual General Meeting (AGM).** This will take place in the Education Room in Charnwood Museum at 11am on Wednesday 13 May. It normally takes about 40 minutes. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Amongst the items to be actioned is the approval of the *Annual Report* (more about that below) and the election or re-election of the chair, Treasurer, secretary and members of the trust. (at the bottom of this newsletter is a list of present members). There is an opportunity for any other business. If you have something to raise it would be useful if you could let us know beforehand so that it can be added to the agenda.

The AGM deals with matters that affect the organisation but not the day to day running. These should be dealt with by the individual officers of the committee.

**Annual Report.** We have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Charnwood Council. The agreement sets out our and their responsibilities. I can provide anyone who is interested with a copy. Each year I (we) submit an annual report that requires the AGM's approval. I will send out the draft before the end of the month for your **INPUT**. Our policies are on our website and available to the public although the SLA is password protected, as it is a CBC document. [Policy Documents - Loughborough Carillon & War Memorial Museum](#)

As you know from previous emails our policies are being reviewed to reflect any changes due to our confinement to the ground floor and to make them ready when accreditation day finally arrives. (Mary we will replace the online versions when they have all been reviewed)

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission.** The CWGC do a series of guided tours of war graves in local cemeteries. I have been on the one around Loughborough Cemetery and it is incredibly interesting and informative. The tours are free but you must book. I do know that at least one of our volunteers has already booked so there will be at least one person you know. The next is on Sunday morning 24 May. For details visit: [CWGC Tours](#) to book a place on the tour visit: [Book a tour](#)



**Insurance.** Charnwood Borough Council insures the tower and its contents, including our objects and volunteers whilst they are on duty. However, for the last few months they have been insisting that we take out Personal Liability Insurance (PLI) to cover the visitors and our responsibility to keep them safe.

Initially I refused and took advice from Museum Development; their version was that it was the owner of the building who was responsible for insurance. This is the line I took with CBC however I recently completed an application form to take part in the Armed Forces Day event which this year will be held in Queen's Park. One of the questions asked was the details of our PLI and I answered that CBC cover us.

This once again raised the question as to who was responsible. We do have PLI for the store on New Street so I spoke with the company who provide that and they sided with the council. If a visitor comes to harm as a result of our negligence or actions, we are to blame so need insurance. CBC win again!

**World Military Museums.** I was unaware of this organisation or website until they contacted me to confirm that our details on the site were correct. See: [Loughborough Carillon](#) They also asked for us to add a link to their website to further promote military museums around the world: [www.worldmilitarymuseums.com](http://www.worldmilitarymuseums.com)



As it happens, we do not have a 'link to other sites' on the Carillon site but we do have one on the Roll of Honour site: [Loughborough Roll of Honour - Links to other Sites](#) Could someone test each of the links to see they all work and let me know and could Vinod add the World Museums link? Thank you!

**Bullet Necklace.** We sell a bullet necklace - call me woke but I do have reservations about using a bullet as a piece of jewellery particularly if they are sold to children. Turning up at school with a decorative bullet necklace might send out the wrong message.



The Carillon War Memorial was built as a place to honour the dead of WW1 not as a celebration of our victory or to glorify war. The theme of our museum is 'The Human Cost' and although we cannot hide the fact that guns and

bombs played their part, they are far from decorative. Addressing the crowd, on the day he unveiled the Carillon War Memorial, Field Marshall Sir William Robertson said,



*I want to remind those who lost their relatives in the war, that no matter what cynics say, history shows that great acts do not perish with the deaths of those responsible for them. This memorial is more than a tower of bells; it is forever sacred to the memory of those men.*

The image is of William Robertson taken from the cover of his biography. I really should know better. See the next item.

**Use of Images.** I have received an email from [Alamy](#), a stock photography agency, claiming that we have infringed copyright by using one of their photographs on our website and demanding more than £400 for using it. It was a photograph of the carillon, I say was because we have now removed it.

If you have ever come across an Alamy photograph online you will know that they have an 'Alamy' watermark on them to prevent people from copying the image. The one on our website had no such markings and Mary assures me it was a photograph from our own collection. It maybe that we owned the image before Alamy claimed it as one of theirs. I have replied to Alamy so will have to await to see how this plays out.



When we wished to use a photograph from the Imperial War Museum for the Alf Wykes book, they charged us £33 which I thought was scandalous. They didn't take the photograph how can they claim it as their own and charge us for the privilege of using it? The image of the carillon in winter is ours but how does anyone know?

**A Carillon Print.** Talking of photographs, I have always thought we should sell prints of the carillon. We did, at one time, sell small prints of watercolour paintings of local landmarks, they came within a mountboard surround, unfortunately they measured 5 x 5 inches and there is no, 'off the shelf' frame of that size.

We should aim for one of the most popular sized frames that are available at the Range. Printed on a good quality card and sold in a cellophane sleeve I am sure they would sell. Perhaps start with the image we used in the presentation to Vertigo? **Would anyone like to explore the possibility?**

**Armed Forces Day.** Loughborough's Armed Forces Day event will be, this year, in Queen's Park on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June showing support for our service personnel - past and present.

This, for us, is an opportunity to display some of the objects that, whilst we are confined to the ground floor, may never see the light of day. We need something different, use your imagination! If you have any ideas, favourite objects or activities then please let me know.



**Find an Object.** This is a service for museums to possibly find something they want for their collection that another museum is disposing of. Is there anything you think we might need to enhance the collection in our care. I searched, 'print' looking for pictures and got a number of printing presses. See: [Find an Object - Collections Trust Find an Object](#)

**The Webley Revolver.** Having said above that it is not our job to glorify war or celebrate the weapons used we should have a good understanding of the objects. Of all the weapons in the collection, the Webley Revolver is probably the most iconic. I have noted that amongst our visitors who show any interest in the weapons on display it is the German anti-tank rifle (T-Gewehr) and the Webley Revolver. It appears to fascinate some people. The story of its development: [The Webley Revolver](#)



Ours, or more correctly, the one in our care, belonged to [Lt Col Eric Pearce-Serocold](#) of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. It was transferred to us from the Royal Green Jackets (Now called 'The Rifles') Museum in Winchester. It hadn't been decommissioned and you would not believe the trouble we had transporting a weapon across the country. Two police forces involved and a telephone call from the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, the night before we collected it, expressing his reservations about the move.

It was secured in the armscote\* at the TA Centre until we could get it decommissioned.

\* Cote is an old English word for small building.

**Online Questionnaire.** As you know, or should know, Alba, a PhD student at the university who is, at the present, volunteering with us has produced, as part of her PhD, an online questionnaire. I would urge you all to complete it. Think about your last visit to a museum, apart from ours and click on: [Online Survey to Museum Visitors](#)

**Poetry.** Still looking for someone interested in poetry, We have a number of unpublished poems which I would like to put in a single publication. Just need a volunteer.

To finish here is a poem that was published:

The General

By Siegfried Sassoon

“Good-morning, good-morning!” the General said  
When we met him last week on our way to the line.  
Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of 'em dead,  
And we're cursing his staff for incompetent swine.

“He's a cheery old card,” grunted Harry to Jack  
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.  
But he did for them both by his plan of attack.

Members of your committee

Mel Gould Chair

Steve Coltman Secretary

Christine Harris Treasurer

Dave Grenz

Keith Hassall

John Gibbard

Madeline Gibbard

Neil Hardie

Luke Smith Co-opted member For LY Assc.

Cllr Cory Lowsley Council nominated

Cllr Jenny Bokor Council nominated