

# What's On?

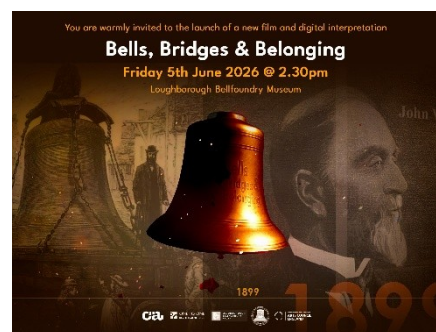
# June 2026



- 5 June Recruitment Fair.
- 5 June Bell Festival Launch
- 24 June Group Visit
- 27 June Armed Forces Day

**Recruitment Fair.** There is a volunteer recruitment fair at the Careers and Enterprise Hub in the Market Place on Friday 5 June from 10 till 12 noon. I have booked to attend and will have a small display on our table. If you are in Loughborough that morning you might want to call in and say hello.

**Charnwood Arts Bell Festival.** Charnwood Arts have been working closely with arts organisation One to One Development Trust, to create an immersive digital installation that captures the spirit of the Bells, Bridges and Belonging series of Bell Festivals delivered over the past 4 years, funded by the Arts Council UK. You are invited to the launch of a new film, Bells, Bridges and Belonging. For more details see the image.



**Group Visit.** No details yet, had a message that a group from in Lincoln wanted to visit the museum, as the word parachute was on the note it may well be members of the Parachute Regiment Association. There is a branch in Lincoln.

**Armed Forces Day.** Loughborough's Armed Forces Day event will, this year, be held in Queen's Park. We have in the past filled the table top with retail items but as the Carillon Museum will be open, we won't to be selling things.

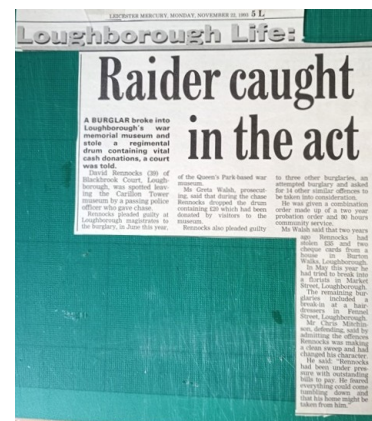


We need something different, use your imagination! If you have any ideas, favourite objects or activities then please let me know. At the moment I am thinking, as the ground floor is WW1, we concentrate on WW2 and later conflicts, bring out those objects that rarely see the light of day. This will also be an opportunity to, possibly, recruit more, 'front of house' volunteers. Talking of volunteers, we will be needing volunteers to set up and man the stall.

**Caught in the act.** Came across this newspaper telling of a thief who broke into the carillon and stole the donations in a regimental drum. I cannot imagine they ever used a regimental drum but I do remember we once had some ice buckets made to look like army side drums.



They were disposed of many years ago. They were decorative but hardly museum objects. The thief was caught by a policeman who gave chase.



Since then, the donation box, a very large naval shell case, has been stolen again. A lady came into the museum one day to say there was a large shell case in the bushes which turned out to be our donation shell case. A crowd of youths had engaged the person on the reception desk whilst, presumably, the strongest amongst them had carried off our donations. Fortunately, we had recently emptied it so there would have been just some loose change.

Anybody know the story about that row of bushes? (To the left rear of the tower as you look at the door) I will give you a clue, look carefully and you will find.

**Online Collection.** The National Army Museum (NAM) is in the process of putting their catalogue online, it is searchable and although 'Loughborough' brings up nothing (at the moment) 'Leicestershire' brings up a number of objects related to the Leicestershire Regiment including several items that belonged to [Sgt Major John Wing](#) a real hero.

Our catalogue has been online for many years and I believe we were amongst the first museums to make their catalogue available to the public. Some information such as the donor's details and the location of the object are hidden on the online version.

To access the NAM catalogue: [Online Collection | National Army Museum, London](#)

**What's New.** A gentleman, Mr Mike Pratt of Groby contacted us asking if we wanted a clay model of the Carillon Tower, mindful of the fact that we have no room left for new objects but as we are having two small display cases made to house some items of carillon memorabilia and tourist tack, I thought it might be housed in one of them.

I was slightly surprised and alarmed when I saw the size of the box the model was in but even more surprised when I saw the masterpiece unveiled, 27 inches high and the detail is incredible. The tower is made of clay and the balcony and roof are 3d printed.



It was placed on the counter so that we could all admire it and immediately it had found its new home. It fits so perfectly on the reception desk alongside our own cut out carillon.

**Children's Activities.** Last month I asked for ideas for children's activities and since then it has been All Quiet on the Western Front. A few years ago, we ran a competition, over the summer holidays, with the help of the shops in the town centre where we placed small objects from the collection in the various shop windows and people went around the shops and wrote down what they saw. In one shop there was, half hidden, a small model soldier and the children had to identify which shop.



The whole thing was called 'Where's Tommy?' the Loughborough Echo even published the question sheets. It was a great success. So successful that the idea was adopted by Love Loughborough who, each Christmas do something very similar with 'Elf on the Shelf' whereas little elves are placed in shop windows.

We could have a questionnaire, half a dozen questions, the answer to which can be found in the displays, Q. What was the name of the princess who sent the soldiers a Christmas present? In one display, a small model soldier. As well as answering the questions they identify the location of 'Tommy'.

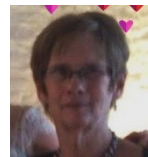
**Be The Best.** Not sure where I saw the invitation to apply for a quantity of metal ID Discs from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst with a QR code that takes you to an army recruiting website. I did apply for some and they duly arrived, whoever did the packing needs to be back squaded, a bulging A4 envelope. How it survived the journey is a miracle. Be the Best?



A week later Lisa at Charnwood Museum handed me a package, a ripped and empty A4 envelope, within a plastic bag with a stick on letter from Royal Mail apologising and explaining that the package had been damaged in transit and details of how to make a claim.

Obviously it is the sender who should be making the claim so I have sent the details to them. I imagine they should be handed out to potential army recruits or we give them to children who complete the questionnaire and find 'Tommy'.

**New Volunteer.** A big welcome to new volunteer, Janet Grant. Janet has always been active in the heritage sector so will be an asset to the team. At the moment she is pairing with Adam on Friday mornings so if you are passing, please pop in and say hello.



Mel 29 May 2026