

What's On

September 2026

Diary Dates:

5 Sept. Community Heros Event

19/20th Sept. Heritage Weekend

26 Sept. Close for the Season



Community Hero. I have been nominated for a 'Community Hero' award. This annual event is run by Charnwood Borough Council, a chance to thank local people and recognise the contribution individuals make.

I want to thank those who were involved in my nomination and at the same time thank all of you who have stuck with us through all the ups and downs over the many years: from winning the Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage Forum 's 'Museum of the Year' to the despair of the decision to prevent the public and ourselves from accessing the stairs and upper floors.



At the risk of being accused of self-glorification and emulating Donald Trump; below is the statement supporting my nomination:

Mel Gould has been Chairman of the Trustees of Loughborough Carillon & War Memorial Museum since 2009. His indefatigable spirit and tireless energy have been inspiring throughout the years. He liaises with Charnwood Borough Council, various museum organisations, trustees and volunteers at the Carillon with the same charm and humour that is so engaging to visitors.

He has overseen the emptying of exhibits from the tower twice in the last ten years – once so work could be carried out on the structure and the second time for the new museum interior to be installed. It was his idea that 'The Human Cost' should be the overriding theme for the new museum, and it has been extremely well received by our visitors.

Mel always takes a 'we shall just have to get on and get it done' attitude which inspires and encourages those persuaded to help in the various projects. He is always there at the helm, liaising with organisations who can further the future of his beloved military and local history museum.

His military and local knowledge is legendary and he always has a story to tell. When not involved in museum activities he can be found on his allotment.

Without Mel the Carillon Tower with its military museum would not take pride of place in Queens Park. Trustees and volunteers acknowledge his devotion, dedication, energy and time spent in his role as Chairman.

I am extremely flattered!

Heritage weekend. This annual event takes place over the weekend 19/20 September. We are open on Saturday 11 till 4pm as normal and Sunday 11 till 3pm. I will not be there for either day but having committed us to open on Sunday, we will need cover for both days.



This is the last but one weekend we are open so an opportunity for everyone to get involved. The link to the Heritage Open Day site: [Homepage](#) our entry: [Military museum within Loughborough's War Memorial](#) Details to follow.

Season Ends. Saturday 26 September, we bring the season to an end. However, on Wednesday 30 September we need a few volunteers to put away the retail items (we don't want to leave them out all winter) and empty the shell case donations, count and bag the money.



I will ask if we can use the training room for counting the money so we can sit in comfort and I will pay for the tea.

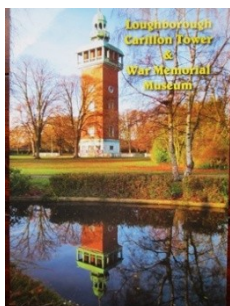
Books. On our catalogue if you search the word 'book' you will see we have hundreds of books, booklets and pamphlets. It has always been my ambition to create a library that was accessible to the public. Over the years we have loaned out many books and documents; indeed our help is acknowledged in a number of books, the latest being *A Woman of Spirit* by [Margaret Dickinson](#) a romantic novel set in WW1.



We do get a mention in the 'Acknowledgements' as do Local Studies and the Bell Foundry so I assume the story is set in Loughborough, but at 447 pages I will not be reading it to confirm my assumption but Christine will take on the task.

Back to the subject of a library, I will be asking Mary, who looks after the website, to either create a separate page to list the books and pamphlets or make it clear that we are happy to loan out any book in our online catalogue to responsible individuals.

More Books. We are intending to reprint the *Carillon Booklet*. Unfortunately, we have no digital copy or knowledge of who the printers were so Debbie has volunteered to type it out and make the necessary amendments to bring it up to date over the close season.

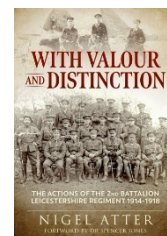


We made a serious mistake with the original in that we ordered far too many copies, tempted by the reduction of the unit price the more copies we ordered. We need a smaller print run and update and amend it every couple of years.

I have mentioned in previous newsletters about publishing the poems we have in the collection, written mostly by soldiers but some by pupils of Rawlins Academy. I believe that by now they have all been typed up and Marigold was writing an introduction to each. Shannon, who has recently joined us, has volunteered to collate them.

Since my unpleasant experience with Alamy I am a little wary about copyright but take the Rawlins poems as an example: I emailed Rawlins about the poems written by their pupils. I assume that if they were written as part of a school assignment the school retains the copyright. Rawlins did not reply. I asked on Facebook, naming the pupils but again no response. What more can I do?

Even More Books. We were visited by the author, [Nigel Atter](#). He is doing research for his next book and we are loaning him a number of objects and documents from the collection we hold.



They may not be on display but our online catalogue is available worldwide, something we should be proud of and extremely grateful to Goff who made something I thought not possible happen almost overnight and it was a similar story with the carillon model. I had spent many evenings cutting up paper in an attempt to create a cutout model. I eventually gave up and appealed on Facebook for a model maker to come up with a design.

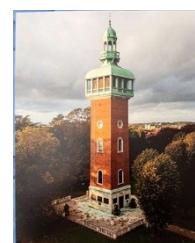


Two days later Goff emailed the two sheets of the model. It is a free download from our website and we sell the printed version at the tower. The photograph shows Goff with the plaque he won for the 'Best Project Under £750' at the Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Awards. I met Goff recently and can report he looked really well. We now have a new website managed by Mary; Neil looks after the online catalogue and Vinod the Roll of Honour site.

New Retail Item. We have had printed some 8 x 10" photographic prints of the Carillon - one



a winter scene and the other a photograph taken by a drone. We have started with a limited number to test the market and if they sell, we have the choice of other images. One of the prints has been framed with a £1.99 frame from The Range which sets off the print really well. It will be on the wall alongside the reception desk.



I am convinced that the prints at £4.50, each in a cellophane sleeve will be popular. Talking retail, we put all the rulers, rubbers, crayons and pencil sharpeners in a 'bargain bin' and everything except the crayons have now gone. I have put some colouring sheets, left over from the children's activities table on the first floor, in the bargain box, they are free with the crayons.

I believe the items mentioned above were purchased in 2006 so it has taken 20 years to finally sell the last of them. We have such a small area on which to display retail items that we need to be very careful what we sell.

Amongst the objects we sell are the range of pencil sharpeners; Spitfires, cannons and tanks at £4.50 each. See the Amazon price: [Tank Sharpener](#) plus P + P. (PS don't tell Carol at Charnwood Museum as she is always bending my ear claiming that we sell items too cheap). I know the buying price so I believe £4.50 is a fair price.

Feedback. We did produce a simple feedback sheet but not one was completed. Not that the public don't want to comment but more about the opportunity, there is no place for people to use paper and pen. Having read a rather complimentary comment on Tripadvisor, well done John! I believe that Tripadvisor is the answer to our obligation to collect Feedback. I printed some small cards with our Tripadvisor, gave just two out and one of the two posted a comment on the same day.



Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) From 1 September 2026, child-facing volunteers may need an Enhanced DBS check with a Children's Barred List check. The change mainly applies to volunteers who directly teach, train, coach, care for or supervise children often enough to meet the regulated activity rules. This could include youth groups, sports coaching, playgroups and children's activities. Charities should review affected roles, update safeguarding and recruitment processes.



I don't believe this affects us as DBS is more about regular contact and the opportunity for grooming. We don't accept volunteers under 18 and our contact with children and vulnerable adults is in the company of parents and carers. Read the report: [Here](#)

Wi-Fi in the Carillon. The absence of working Wi-Fi has been an ongoing problem since we opened in August 2025. Unable to take card payments has cost us dear. However, I can now report that the problem has been solved and we can now take card payments. Finally! The next problem is that our Chinese visitors all seem to use 'Apple Pay'



Council reorganisation. Everyone is unsure, at the moment, how the proposed reorganisation of Leicestershire and Rutland councils will affect them but there will be changes. Our agreement is, at present, with Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) which may be affected.

A couple of paragraphs from the CBC website give an outline of what is to happen:

Government has confirmed that from April 2028 there will be two unitary councils to deliver all services to residents in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Those councils will be:

- A unitary council covering Leicester, Oadby and Wigston and parts of Blaby, Charnwood, and Harborough
- A unitary council for the remaining area of Leicestershire and Rutland

It means most of Charnwood will be served by the new council for Leicestershire and Rutland. Some areas of Charnwood, including Syston, Birstall, Thurmaston and Anstey will be served by the new council covering Leicester, Oadby and Wigston and parts of Blaby and Harborough. If you want to read the whole article: [Local Government Reorganisation - Charnwood Borough Council](#)

Charnwood Community Lottery. This lottery is slightly different from the normal lottery in that you can nominate a 'good cause' you want to support as each £1.00 you spend on tickets 50p goes to your chosen cause and 10p goes into a community fund.



The top prize is £25,000 but I have to be honest and admit I have never heard of anyone winning that amount. It is however, another way small organisations can raise money with very little effort on their part. As of August, we have raised £1250.00. If you want to participate the details are here: [Support Charnwood Community Fund when you play Charnwood Community Lottery - Charnwood Community Lottery](#)

Retail Sales. Not so much sales but the reception area, it is tiny and cluttered, we need to, in the language of the experts, 're-imagine' the area. The large framed photograph of the scaffolding around the tower takes up half of the board that Vertigo meant for items for sale.

Two things: we could move the scaffolding photograph to the left onto the wall at present covered with a banner but using the space for our present retail offer would be a mistake, people like to handle the item not ask the volunteer to pass an item so they can look it over before buying it. We would never sell a coin keyring if visitors could not sort through them.

Skills Exchange. An organisation 'UK Heritage Pulse'. They describe themselves: "UK Heritage Pulse is the nationwide panel of professionals and volunteers working in the heritage sector" have created a link to enable members to access people with special skills. In the past we have had a number of occasions when we needed help, twice we needed help to translate Korean (see 2015.102 and 2015. 26) and again we needed someone who could translate Norwegian to English and I could write a book about our efforts to figure out the mechanism of the French P3 Grenade (2002.30) See: [Skills Exchange - UK Heritage Pulse](#)

Rota Update

Day	11 till 1pm	1 till 4pm	Comments
Wednesday	Debbie + Mary	Mel + Joseph	Alba will be back 25 August I will not be available 12, 16, 23 & 26 Sept.
Thursday	Neil + Gill	Gill + Keith	Neil on Holiday Sept, Shannon will cover
Friday	Adam + Janet	Paula + John	Paula is back for the next three weeks.
Saturday	Gill + Neil	Gill + Mel	Neil on holiday 5 Sept need someone to cover

Shannon has recently joined us and we are in the unusual position of having more volunteers than shifts.

Schools are now back so although two volunteers on duty at a time is the preferred option, four volunteers have stated that they are prepared to man the museum on their own and could manage without the second volunteer. They are Mel, Adam, John and Neil.

Disappointed. We acquired a CD player so we could play a CD of Caroline playing the bells, placed behind the cupboard door by the storyboards about the building and workings of the

Carillon. Standing by the storyboards it gave the impression that the bells were being played live.

It was a little disappointing, that on a visit to the tower to find that the CD player was on the floor behind the reception desk. Why?

Finally. The other attachment with this email is the numbers and country of visitors to our website over 30 days as at 15 August.

MG 27.8.2026

