

# The Carillon Chimes



## The Newsletter of the Carillon Tower & War Memorial Museum

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### Open Again!

We open again for the season on Friday 3 April at 1 pm. Don't all come at once but make sure that you make the effort to visit us at least once during the season and if you belong to a group, a club a society then encourage them to visit us.

Three floors of military museum, the bell chamber and out onto the balcony for views across Loughborough

We open 1 pm till 4.30 pm every day except Monday when we are closed. Entry to the ground floor is free, to visit the rest of the tower costs £1.00, normal concessions apply and children go free. Recitals take place 1 pm till 2 pm every Thursday and Sunday.

### Booklets for Mayor

We have donated a quantity of the Loughborough Carillon Tower & War Memorial booklets to the Mayor of Loughborough so that copies can be given to visiting VIPs. The Mayor, Cllr Paul Day, said he was delighted to receive such a prestigious publication which truly encapsulates the pride of Loughborough and added, "I will make certain that each of our twinned towns receive a copy and will personally take one to present to the town of Gembloux, Belgium during our official visit there in May".

Co-producers of the book Marigold Cleeve and Peter Minshall made the official presentation to the Mayor and are pictured here with the Mayor, Behind them is a framed picture, taken by Peter, that we presented to the Mayor's office some time ago, the same picture is used for the cover of the book.



We are also in the process of giving a copy of the book to all the schools in the area, we as a museum bore the bulk of the production costs but the project was supported by Leicestershire County Council through a small grant.

## Was Loughborough Bombed in WW2?

In the March Edition I asked, "Was Loughborough bombed in WW2", I understood that two bombs had dropped in Tuckers brick yard alongside Park Road but there appeared to be no evidence to support this. (There is no photo of Tuckers Pit on the internet?)

However Marigold Cleeve came to my rescue and supplied the following information, then went one better to list the aircraft losses in the area.

'On 13 August 1941 four (not two) high-explosive bombs fell between Parklands Drive and Beacon Road at 12.55 am, causing slight damage to nine houses. Casualties: 1 minor injury.'

She added, in addition another four high-explosive bombs also fell due south of Thorpe Acre between the village and what is now the New Ashby Road (date and damage not specified, so they probably fell on what was then still farmland and not, in those days regarded as part of Loughborough town).

However Ms Judy Ong directed me to two bomb craters one in Gorse Covert Wood and another in a small copse alongside Pear Tree Lane, she said there was another on the De Lisle estate but that it had been filled in and then my son pointed out that there is a fourth crater in the large field to the left of the road as you approach Kegworth. Are these the same Thorpe Acre bombs that Marigold is talking about? Wartime reporting restrictions may have confused the matter and of course all the sites are close to Thorpe Acre.



The picture is of the large crater, you can see the size of it compared with my granddaughter, in the copse alongside Pear Tree Lane, the crater in the ploughed field is far less distinct as over the years it has been levelled out but can be seen on Google Earth.

On the same theme Mr Clarke of Quorn contacted me about a number of bombs the fell close to Quorn around the Woodhouse Road area. One thing this as highlighted is that there seemed to be a lot of indiscriminate dropping of bombs in WW2.

Shepshed was the unlucky recipient of 11 high-explosive bombs and a cluster of incendiary bombs (date not specified).

The source of this information was: Cartwright, Terence C. Birds Eye wartime Leicestershire 1939-1945. Wigston: T.C.C. Publications, 2002. (Loughborough Local Studies Library 942.54).

The booklet also contains details of **aircraft crashes** in the Leicestershire area in WW2 and the list includes the following for the Loughborough area:



17/11/39 *Hawker Hart* near Loughborough; no casualties

16/10/40 *Tiger Moth* Walton-on-the-Wolds; no casualties

14/11/40 *Dornier DO17Z-3* near School, Burton-on-the-Wolds; 4 killed

23/02/41 *Defiant* near Walton-on-the-Wolds; no casualties

16/11/41 *Oxford* near Shepshed; no casualties

07/10/42 *Wellington* near Woodhouse Eaves; 5 killed

08/09/43 *Lancaster* near Wymeswold; 9 killed

03/10/43 *Spitfire* near Wymeswold; 1 killed, 1 injured

19/02/44 *Boston* Dishley Bridge, Derby Road, Loughborough; no casualties

23/04/44 *Allied Aircraft* Field opposite Prestwold wood yard; no casualties

25/09/43 *Wellington* near Walton-on-the-Wolds; 5 killed

28/10/44 *Thunderbolt* near Shepshed; 1 killed

17/01/45 *Wellington* near Walton-on-the-Wolds; 6 killed

Do you have a souvenir taken from the crashed Dornier, know of any records of the bombing or any anecdotes of the incident involving the aircraft?

### Volunteering



Do you enjoy meeting and engaging with people? Do you have time on your hands? We are always looking for help with the museum, the public cannot access the upper rooms unless a volunteer is present so the volunteer Museum Guide's role is vital.

Do not worry that you know little about military memorabilia you will be amazed how quickly you begin to sound like expert on the subject and to start you will be paired up with an experience guide. Even if you cannot commit to a regular slot you might be able to help us out covering absences, holidays, sickness etc. Email us!

### Poetry and Rawlins Community College

Last November I attended an evening at Rawlins Community College, Quorn. During the course of the evening students read out war poems they had written, I was so impressed that afterwards I approached the college about displaying the poems in our museum during the coming season to which they agreed.



Since then I have been contacted by Ms Cathy Robinson to say that as a group the poets have been given a 'Pride of Charnwood' award and that one, has been shortlisted for the Lord Lieutenant's award for poetry.

The poems will be posted around the museum for the visitors to 'come across' as they wander round.

Friends drop like snowflakes, Melting into the ground,

Unremembered, As the gun shot sounds.

### Object of Desire

German Helmet – A Pickelhaube was a spiked helmet worn in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by the German military, firefighters, and the police. Although typically associated with the Prussian army, the helmet was widely imitated by other armies during this period. Made of hardened (boiled) leather, given a glossy-black finish, and reinforced with metal trim.

During WW1 the Germans were the last of the belligerents to adopt a steel helmet, Beginning in 1916, the Pickelhaube was slowly replaced by a new German steel helmet (the *Stahlhelm*) intended to offer greater head protection from shell fragments. The German steel helmet decreased German head wound fatalities by 70%. We have 3 in the collection.



### Model Maker Wanted



In the March Edition of this newsletter I asked if anyone could make 1:144 scale models of houses, Rows of terraced houses preferred. They are for a display to commemorate the Zeppelin raid to be held at the Charnwood Museum during January 2015. We already have a 1:144 model Zeppelin and some figures, just need the buildings to give a sense of size. Absolutely no response! So I am asking again.

1:144 is (I believe) the equivalent to 'N' gauge in the model railway world, no model railwayers out there?

### Carillon Vandalised

Unfortunately someone thought it acceptable to desecrate the memorial to those men of the town who fell in the two World Wars and other conflicts by 'tagging' the tower.

The incident was posted on our Face Book page and in just 24 hours it had been shared and seen by over 20,000 people. I just hope someone who recognises the 'tag' and knows the perpetrator points out the error of their ways, desecrating war memorials provokes a deep loathing in the vast majority of the public. Is it worth the shame that they will bring on their family?



Fortunately this is a very rare incident and let us hope that it is the last. The police have been informed.

### You Could Not Make it Up?

Paul (a volunteer) asked a young lady if she was interested in cleaning the bells in the carillon. She duly turned up on Wednesday afternoon clutching a tin of Brasso and a cleaning cloth. Fortunately she saw the funny side.

## The Free Advert: **What's on at Charnwood Museum in April?**

**Easter Fun Friday 27th March - Sunday 5th April Usual opening times.**

Join us for this Easter themed gallery game and out the Easter creatures! **Cost:** 3+ years - 

**Love Loughborough Illustration. Thursday 2nd April 1pm**

Storytelling – Join us for an illustrated storytelling session with puppets!

**Cost:**  Pre-booking essential

**Love Loughborough Illustration Thursday 2nd April 10.15-11.15am. 11.45-12.45pm.**

Paint me a picture, tell me a tale – Discover how your favourite story characters are created and use the techniques to create your own!

**Cost:** 3+ years -  Pre-booking essential

**It's A Mystery! Tuesday 7th - Monday 13th April Usual opening times.**

Join us for this gallery game inspired by the current exhibition 'Who Dunit!'! **Cost:** 3+ years - 

**Love Loughborough Graphic Wednesday 8th April 10.30am and 1.30pm**

Learn about the world of graphic art including manga and anime, try out some techniques to create your own characters. **Cost:** 8+ years -  Pre-booking essential

**Mini Dino Models Friday 10th April 10.15-11.15am. 11.45-12.45pm.**

Come along and make a mini dino (or other creature) in this clay modelling workshop.

**Cost:** 3+ years - £2.50 Pre-booking essential

**Leicestershire Lead Mines Thursday 16th April 7.30pm**

A Fascinating talk exploring the history of the lead mines of Leicestershire.

**Cost:** £3.00 non members, £1.00 members Pre-booking advisable.

**Tiny Tuesdays Special: A Right Royal Day! Tuesday 21st April 10.30-11.30am**

It's the Queen's Birthday! Have a go at making your own royal crown to wear.

**Cost:** Under 5s - Free

**St George! Thursday 23rd - Sunday 26th April Usual opening times.**

Have a go at our free gallery game to celebrate St. George's Day. **Cost:** 3+ years - 