

# The Carillon Chimes

The Newsletter of the Carillon  
Tower & War Memorial Museum

March 2015



Pte William Buckingham VC

Issue No. 53

## VC Winner to be Honoured



The picture on the heading is of Pte William Buckingham VC who won Britain's highest award for bravery in the First World War.

On March 10 and 12 in 1915 while serving with the 2nd Battalion, the Leicestershire Regiment, he displayed "conspicuous acts of bravery and devotion to duty" in rescuing and rendering aid to the wounded while exposed to heavy fire, especially at Neuve Chapelle.

On Thursday March 12 this year the decorated stone will be laid in the graveyard of St Andrew's church in Countesthorpe, next to the war memorial. The church is rather small but everyone is welcome to the unveiling of the paving slab.

The stone is one of four commissioned locally by the Government to recognise the outstanding valour of those who were awarded the VC in the First World War.

## Painting Competition

During the Christmas 1914 Home and Abroad exhibition in the Loughborough Library, December and January, we ran a colouring competition for children, the under eights and the under twelves.

The judges, just children themselves, had a very difficult choice but finally picked four winners who each received a voucher at the shop of their choice. Congratulations: Emma aged 6. Matthew aged 7, Sam aged 11 and a another.



## Was Loughborough Bombed in WW2?

We were contacted by a gentleman asking if Loughborough was bombed in WW2. In response I repeated a story told to me by my father. Loughborough was not targeted but a German bomber ditched a couple of bombs which landed in Tucker's Brick Yard behind what is now Tesco's car park at Shelthorpe.

The resulting explosions collapsed the bedroom ceiling at No 1 Howe Road and the people who lived there charged a penny per person to view the damage, the queue extended half way up Park Road.



An uncle of mine told me that the Home Guard nearly came to blows with the Air Raid Wardens as to who was responsible for picking up the empty cases fired by the chasing British fighter planes that had landed in Park Road.

Later in life I thought it must have been the German Dornier bomber that crashed out Burton on the Wolds way; on the night Coventry was bombed. (It wasn't)

However I was myself 'shot down' and told that the story was not true and that no bombs were dropped on Loughborough, searching the internet does bring up a couple of mentions that bombs were dropped but no evidence. See: [Bombs on Loughborough](#)

I then spoke to my aunt who was nine at the time and she clearly remembers the incident and she added a rather interesting snippet, she lived on Woodthorpe Avenue at the time, their back garden backed onto the Shelthorpe School playing fields, apparently the fence between the gardens and the playing field was removed so that the people living in the area could get to the air raid shelters, located on the edge of the fields, quickly in the event of an air raid.



She also remembers the Dornier, her brother setting off on his bike the next day, in search of the crashed aircraft and souvenirs. The picture on the left shows the wreckage at Prestwold Hall being guarded against souvenir hunters like my uncle and his friends.

I was also corrected on a matter concerning the Dornier, the common believe is that the crew deliberately crashed the plane in open countryside therefore sparing Loughborough but I had the theory that they knew of the existence of the airfield at Wymsewold and were headed for that. However Mr John Collier pointed out that the minimum of research would have revealed that Wymsewold airfield had not be been built in 1940. That's me told!

We have just a couple of pieces of the Dornier in the museum but there must be other bits about?

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? We are hoping to have a display to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the incident if we can find a venue.



## [Leonard Grewcock](#)



You may have seen the appeal in the Leicester Mercury after a picture (left) was handed over to the Association of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. It is of Pte Leonard Grewcock 9<sup>th</sup> Bn Leicestershire Regiment of Barwell killed on the 14 July 1916 during the attack on Bazentin Wood.

The association are appealing for surviving family members to come forward with the intention of handing over the picture to them. Our own volunteer researcher, Marigold Cleeve, was very quick off the mark and traced his sister's granddaughter to Canada and exchanged emails with her confirming the relationship.

By coincidence she is visiting the UK in May so hopefully they will be able to arrange for her and other members of the family who have contacted both the association and the Mercury to get together

The 110th Infantry Brigade of the 37th Division was composed of the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th Service Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment and they did credit to the name they bore. They won great glory by their brilliant attack on the Bazentin-Le Petit wood and village in the Battle of the Somme in mid-July 1916. No consolation to the families of Leonard Grewcock or the other nineteen hundred casualties the brigade suffered.

## [Soldier's letters to be Published](#)

A century-old archive of more than 200 war letters sent by one Leicestershire soldier will be published online. Captain John D Hills, of the 1/5 (Territorial).. Read more.. [Leicestershire soldier's war letters published online to mark...](#)

Captain Hill (right) was tasked by his commanding Officer to write the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters' WW1 history but his book is different, a far more personal account than your average dry regimental history.



L/Cpl James Biddles death is recorded in the book (we have his and his two sons medals in our collection)

' Among the killed was L/Cpl. Biddles of "A" Company, who had risked death many times on patrol, only to be hit when sitting quietly in a trench eating his breakfast. This N.C.O., old enough to have his son serving in the company with him, was never happier than when wandering about in No Man's Land, either by day or night, and from the first to the last day of every tour he spent his time either patrolling, or preparing for his next patrol.'

You can read Capt. Hills account of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> on our website. Just click on: [Loughborough-RollofHonour.com - Carillon War Memorial](#) and find it on the menu on the right of the page.

## [Richard III](#)

The funeral of Richard III takes place on Sunday 22 March, I have been very fortunate to have been given the honour of standing guard during the three days his body is Lying in State at Leicester Cathedral. I will be 'on guard' 1030 till 1130 hrs Monday 23 March.

## The Website



The website has already been mentioned once in this newsletter but there are changes afoot. Kevin Mitchell created the site, spending years researching the details and it is already one of the best of this type of site. He needed some help to develop it and that help has appeared in the shape of a new volunteer Goff Sargent and ably assisted by the constant stream of new information from researcher Marigold Cleeve.

Goff has a clear vision and stated aims of what he wants to achieve, the first thing he did was altered the way this newsletter is displayed on the site. Some of the changes you will see in the near future will be an improved Carillon Museum page, with Mr Peter Minshall providing the photographs and in a giant leap forward a 'Search Box' will be added, no longer will visitors to the site have to scroll down looking for an individual they will just type in the name or any other 'Keyword' for that matter.

**What he needs from you is feedback and suggestions!** As each improvement 'goes live' I will let you know. In the meantime Google 'Loughborough Carillon' and look at the new format for the newsletter, you will also notice we are top of the Google page for the first time ever.

## Object of Desire

As in last month's edition this is something from the Yeomanry Room where we are carrying out alterations; thus coming across items that previously have not attracted a lot of interest. They were on top of the tallest cabinet in the room and as a consequence I did not fully appreciate their true worth. Three tin hat boxes, about 14 inches high and 12 inches across but the interesting thing about them is that each has a brass plate with the name of the owner.



The boxes are labelled W G Marshall Esq., Lt Col G R Codrington and Lord Willoughby de Eresby all three of the Leicestershire Yeomanry.

Of Marshall I know nothing, Col Codrington was the Commanding Officer 1922 – 1929 and Lord Willoughby was, during the Second Boer War, appointed an honorary Major in the Leicester Imperial Yeomanry. He was later the Commanding Officer of the Lincolnshire Yeomanry.

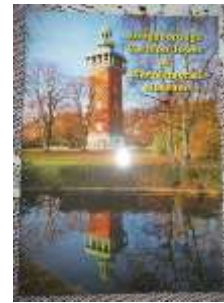
Lord Willoughby pictured in 1895.

## Mrs Pauline Cutter

Pauline, one of our longest serving volunteers, who was still acting as a museum guide up to the end of last season has been admitted to a care home, Huntingdon Court on Regent Road (behind the school) If you get the opportunity she would be very pleased to receive visitors. I can report that she looks very well.

### [Carillon Booklet for Schools](#)

Two of our volunteers, Peter Minshall and Marigold Cleeves brought the booklet about the history of the carillon up to date, a new chapter about the museum and lots of colour photographs. We received a grant towards the cost by Leicestershire County Council decided to give a copy, free of charge to all the schools in Loughborough and the surrounding villages. However if you want a copy they are on sale at Charnwood Museum or on eBay. Just £4.99



Marigold is a researcher, in today's (28 Feb) *Daily Mail* she was described as 'the sleuth of Loughborough' after helping one of their readers to track down an old friend.

### [Taylors Bell Foundry](#)

View photographs at: **Pictures: John Taylor Bellfoundry Loughborough**

### [The Free Advert](#)

## **Leicestershire & Rutland Branch of the Western Front Association**



With effect from January 2015 all of our Branch meetings will now take place at:

The Elms Social and Ex-Services Club, Bushloe End, Wigston, Leicester LE18 2B and will be held on the last Monday of every month. Directions to The Elms can be found [here](#).

[For new attendees](#) - The Elms used to be the Royal British Legion Club and sits at the junction of Bushloe End and Launceston Road, Wigston. There is a large, free car park at the side of the club which is accessed from Launceston Road. The entrance to the club is also on Launceston Road.

Although it is a members' club, anyone attending our Branch meetings will have full access to the club's bar facilities which includes both alcoholic drinks and soft drinks: teas and coffees are also available on request at the bar.

We meet in the main concert room which is on the left at the top of the main corridor as you enter the club. The room has its own toilet facilities and a majority of the club is disabled access friendly.

[Guest Speaker Programme for 2015](#) - Our Guest Speaker Programme for 2015 has now been agreed and can be found on the 2015 Speaker Programme page or by clicking [here](#).

**And finally can anyone make 1:144 scale models of houses, Rows of terraced house preferred. They are for a display to commemorate the Zeppelin raid we already have a 1:144 model Zeppelin just need something on the ground .**