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Cottage Museum Information Sheet

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum first opened its doors in 1987 and currently welcomes approximately 5000 visitors to the museum each year.

It is a volunteer managed small independent museum (registration number 1929) and it is a registered charity (charity number 1114268) with a Board of Trustees. The Museum initially received recognised Museum Registration in 2001. It became a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company No 5657914) in 2005, achieved accreditation status in 2007, VAQAS in 2008 and 2010 and retained its Accredited Museum status in 2016. It won the award for Customer Care at the East Midlands Heritage Awards, which recognises excellence and innovation at museums across the region, in June 2015.

In the early 1980s the Cottage Museum's Founder Chairman David Radford became interested in the history of the village. Together with a group of like-minded enthusiasts he began to gather together artefacts and ephemera relating to Woodhall Spa and its surroundings.

Over a hundred years ago, John Wield had a fascination with the art of photography, one of his many interests, and it is his photographic collection which forms the basis for today's Cottage Museum.

A need for space to display this collection and interpret it in order to tell the history and heritage of the village and its residents coincided with The Bungalow, the Wield family home, coming onto the housing market. This seemed to be the ideal place to display the collection of the work of that far-sighted photographer, in his own environment. After an initial meeting, the community audience voted to support the idea of a museum and, in 1986, the Trust was formed.

The Cottage Museum successfully applied for Heritage Lottery funding in 2010 and after extensive refurbishment, during 2012 and 2013, re-opened its doors in May 2013 with new professionally designed displays and activity plans. As part of the Capital Works Project, the outbuildings were rebuilt and have completely transformed the way volunteers are able to work.

Like many other independent museums, Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum receives no public funding and therefore has to generate enough income to enable the work of the Cottage Museum to continue. Approximately fifty volunteers commit variable amounts of time to necessary tasks and projects.

Withdrawal of funding in October 2016 from East Lindsey District Council for the Woodhall Spa Tourist Information Centre, located in the Cottage Museum, led to the directors and volunteers funding a Tourist Information Facility from Museum funds.

More information about the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum can be found on our website.