

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.2



The Celebration Issue

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

So here it is; the second of the newsletters with little old me as editor. Sadly my planned theme of "my favourite jams" has been blown out of the water by the joyous news of the museum's overwhelming success in the 2009 Renaissance Heritage awards. We cover this in more detail on page 8, but what a wonderful vindication of everybody's time and effort for it to have been recognised in this prestigious ceremony. So hats off to Jackie and Phil, their teams and all the volunteers for bringing these accolades back to the museum. It was doubly fortuitous in a way as I was stuck on what my third favourite jam would have been anyway. I mean, blackcurrant and strawberry are obviously the top 2, but after that it all gets a bit confused. However I might have plumped for apricot.

My father
used to say to
me. "Smile
and the world
smiles with
you. Cry, and
I'll give you
something to
cry about, you
little blighter"

Anyway back to this newsletter. Another snapshot of time in the blur of the 21st century. Me and Storm were talking the other day, well, when I say talking, it was more of a monologue as Storm is my dog and is more interested in where his next biscuit is coming from than a reasoned conversation. But I was saying to him: "Is it just me or is time accelerating?"

Looking back I seemed to be a kid forever, then suddenly I was 22, with a house, worrying about paying a mortgage and wondering why teacups didn't clean themselves. Then I blinked and I was 38 and I'd moved house and city and job but the teacups were still there. And now I'm slap bang in middle age, my body's growing hair where it shouldn't be and losing hair where it should be and I find myself saying "in my day" quite a bit.

But you know? I'm not longing for the past, I'm not unhappy with the present, I'm just the sum of all my historic parts. As such, every now and then I like to reminisce on what I, and the world around me, have been through and what has made us what we are today. That's why I'm proud to be associated with Woodhall Spa Museum, its aim to keep all our histories alive and the little luxury of nostalgic introspection it affords me when I need it.

You know on second thoughts I think my third favourite might be raspberry.

Mat Tuck - August 2009

The Way We Were

This edition's "the way we were" is given over unashamedly to an advert for a planned historic walk around the pubs and bars of Woodhall. Although a light hearted affair, and obviously involving a small amount of alcohol, it will also feature a debate on who could most appropriately call themselves the founding father of Woodhall. The date for your diary is the 1st October and will include so many establishments, so close together, that it won't matter if it's raining or dry! How good is that?

Numbers are limited, so pre-booking is a must, participants should come in Victorian fancy dress (or approximate!), the last drink and "vote casting" will take place at 5pm. All profit will be put back into the museum.

Did you know ?

The French name for clogs is "*sabot*" and in the 18th and 19th century they became associated with the lower classes. From this period the word sabotage - derived from sabot - reportedly described how disgruntled workers damaged workplace machines in France by tossing their clogs into the mechanism.

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER



WOODHALL SPA HISTORIC FANCY DRESS CHARITY PUB WALK

Date: Thursday 1st October

Time: 11:45 Meet at the Dambusters monument

Cost: £10 In advance as numbers are limited to 25

Please ring 01526 351153 for further details.

- Drink in the History and Drink in the Pubs !
- Meet New Friends !
- Eat Well !
- Support Charity !
- £10 buys you a hearty breakfast, afternoon tea and a charity donation (although drinks aren't included)!

This is a light hearted affair, based around a desire for knowledge, alcohol and dressing up. The route will be organised, meals will be supplied, history will be enacted and a couple of people will make fools of themselves—it's guaranteed!

This year's fancy dress theme:

THE VICTORIANS



All My Yesterdays
Production

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Meet Your Directors

An Interview with David Radford

David was born in Cardiff and spent his formative years in South Wales . He read Latin and Greek at The University of Wales, Aberystwyth and after obtaining his Diploma in Education , he spent two years in Germany teaching English . On his return to the U.K. he held various posts teaching Latin before arriving at St Hugh's School in Woodhall Spa in 1969 . He married his wife , Wendy , in December 1969 and they had three children in the early 1970's , one of whom lives in Lincolnshire and the other two in London and Sheffield .

The origins of David's enthusiasm for the museum began in the early 1980's when he learned about Johnnie Wield and his photographs of early Woodhall Spa . He was soon in touch with Richard and Barbara Porter who lived in the bungalow which was to become the Cottage Museum . They showed him the many photographs they held and later offered them to him with several artifacts on the understanding that at some time he would put them on display. Fortunately David had had his loft boarded over and so was able to store everything !

Woodhall Spa
Cottage Museum

Reg. Charity:

1114268

Reg. Museum:

1929

The Bungalow,
Iddesleigh Road,
LN106SH



David and like-minded enthusiasts were now looking to display the vast collection they had at their disposal . By coincidence the bungalow came on the market and having failed to reach its reserve in a sale by auction it was offered at a price of £25,000 . An approach was made to the vendors and a reduced price of £15,000 was agreed with restrictions . Support was received from various sources but the offer of Reg Brealey to act as guarantor for a bank loan enabled the Trustees to purchase the property and open as a museum in May 1987 . After much local fundraising , the loan was paid off and the Cottage Museum belonged at last to the Trust . With the support of ELDC's Tourist Information Centre from 1991 , the opening hours expanded from weekends to seven days a week from April to October , with a consequent beneficial improvement in visitor numbers . Thanks to the enthusiastic support and hard work of volunteers from the community for over 24 years , the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum has earned a leading role in preserving the heritage of Woodhall Spa and Lincolnshire .

John Parkinson had a dream which gave birth to Woodhall Spa ; Johnnie Wield had a dream to capture life in Woodhall for generations to come and David Radford had a dream to protect and renew the rich heritage he had left us .

David Radford is the chairman of the board of directors .

Paddy O'Neill
July 2009

Woodhall Spa Cottage
Museum
Opening Times
Easter until early Novem-
ber.
Weekdays 10am—5pm,
Weekends: 10.30am—
4.30pm



The Petwood is a Delightful Edwardian Country House hotel set in 30 acres of secluded gardens and woodland. Home of the Dambusters during the second world war. Having extensive conference, wedding and special event facilities and offering short holidays and Golfing breaks with 53 bedrooms all individually designed. Member of "Tastes of Lincolnshire" the Tennysons restaurant promotes local produce. The Petwood is a friend and supporter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Our Forefathers

Woodhall Spa, has
carefully laid out
roads and avenues.
(note NO streets)

Woodhall Spa owes so much to those renowned local personalities of yesteryear. I call to mind John Parkinson, Thomas Hotchkin, the members of the Woodhall Spa Syndicate, Richard Adolphus Came, Sir Archibald and Lady Grace Weigall and our own John Wield.

There were others, of course, and you may wish to help us by recording their achievements for future generations. It can be quite fascinating to research them and you will surely enjoy it!

Who for instance comprised the Syndicate?

The Rev. John Otter Stephens, Rector of Blankney, Edward Stanhope MP, Henry Chaplin MP, Thomas Cheney Garfitt, D.L., J.P., Lord Alverstone and Lord Iddesleigh are their names!

This august body of gentlemen employed architect C.F Davies of Bath to remodel the Bath House with "modern improvements to be found in the most fashionable continental spas!" They also employed Richard Adolphus Came, as architect for the design of the new Victorian Spa, the carefully laid out roads and avenues of which (note NO streets) inspire our pride today! Some of them are so familiar as we daily travel along the roads or avenues named after them, some are not so!

These illustrious founding fathers are indeed worthy of further 21st century investigation as their fame has long since faded with the passage of time.

Let's start with this!!



Who is the young Victorian gentleman seated here?

E -mail me at ddfrad-ford@hotmail.com

with your answer.

A few more facts about him next time!!

What Our Visitors are Saying

Since the Museum opened for the current season in April, over 300 visitors have taken the trouble to sign the Visitor's Book and record their comments. They have come from as far as Australia, France and all parts of the United Kingdom. The following is a sample of their comments, which provide a fascinating insight into their appreciation of the museum.

"Very small but an absolute Treasure Trove"	- D.H. from Derbyshire
"Very interesting Exhibition – really gives a feel for days gone by"	- J.J. & E.S. Weston Super Mare
"Most interesting and informative – really nice visit"	- B & C from Australia
"I had a nice history day with my School"	- A.L. from Nottingham
"A totally unexpected gem"	- P.P. from Wales
"A pleasing glimpse into an interesting past"	- K.M. from Liverpool
"How good it is that the memories survive to remind us of the brave fighters"	- G. & D.R. from Nocton
"So many memories saved for the future"	- M.J. from Cardiff
"Keep it going please"	- F.W. from Middlesex
"Extremely interesting – a labour of love"	- Mr & Mrs P. from Essex
"Very interesting to learn Woodhall Spa history"	- V.D. from France
"Excellent, I always enjoy the Cottage Museum"	- Mr & Mrs L. from East Grinstead
"Very interesting – awesome!"	- M.W. & J.W. from Australia
"A tribute to the town"	- D. & J.B. from Norwich
"What a wonderful experience"	- M.R. & P.W. from London
"Excellent place to visit"	- W.G. from Branston
"Never forget. God bless you all"	- G.S. from Nottingham

"A Tribute to the town"

If you have never visited The Cottage Museum, then judging by the above comments it is time to make the effort and come along and see this "Treasure Trove", "This unexpected gem" for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you.

Philip Groves
Museum Director
July 2009



Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Lincolnshire Renaissance Heritage Awards

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum is celebrating a double award success in the Lincolnshire Renaissance Heritage Awards ceremony held at the Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa.

Museums from all over Lincolnshire were eligible to enter this annual event, which gives recognition to those judged to be outstanding in seven categories.

Firstly the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum won the award for the Best Event in 2009 with its 'Woodhall Spa is a Treasure Box' event which was open to and supported by members of the community, of all ages.

It was an exciting event with the Cottage Museum being transformed into a giant treasure box by its volunteers to illustrate the unique nature and treasures of their community.

The village's Cottage Museum, opened in 1987, scooped a prestigious second award for the Best Use Of the Lincolnshire Heritage Forum Website with its e-commerce marketing of its sought after DVD 'Why Woodhall Spa?' A value for money 87 minutes, it touches upon all aspects of the Woodhall Spa story and is available on the Net, The Cottage Museum and from local retailers at only £10.00.

"The plaques awarded will be put on display and bring credit to all of you who are involved in preserving our important heritage"

Chairman of the Cottage Museum, David Radford commented, "These two successes, won against a strong field from all over Lincolnshire, are a brilliant achievement, of which our teams of community volunteers may be justly proud."





Jackie Goodall receiving the award for the "Best Event of 2009"

"I was delighted to see so many of you supporting the event which was attended by many important representatives from the East Midlands museum world. Thank you."

David Radford



The Victorious Team!

Newsletter No.2

The Cottage Museum Crossword:

Just for fun!

Specific Woodhall and Museum questions are in black, more general questions are in purple.

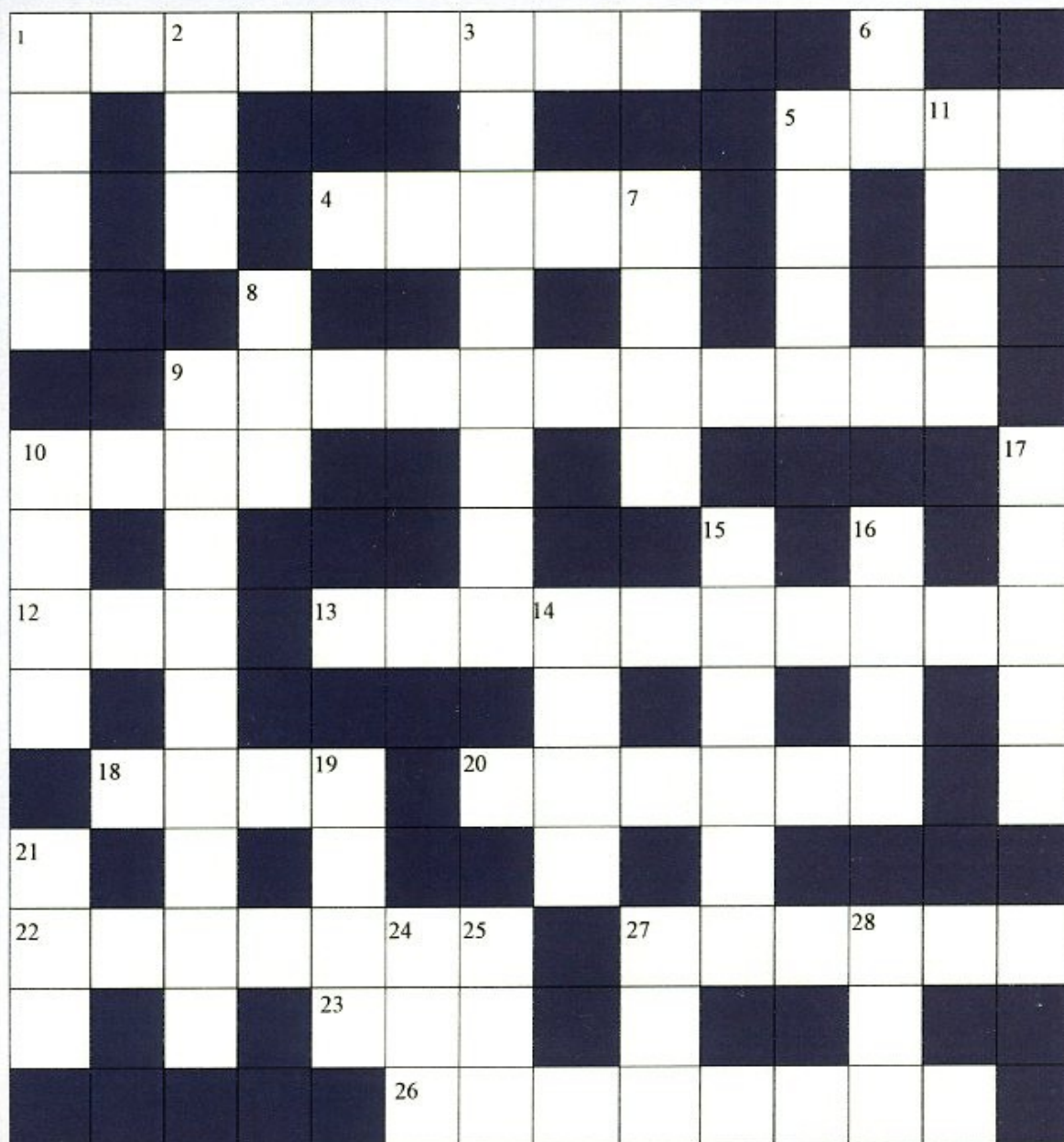
Across

1. Led the first wave of Operation Chastise 15/16th May 1943 (3,6)
4. I can be continental, made of ice but also have a life. (5)
5. WC Interviewer—an historic figure (and 9 down) (4,9)
9. OLD DAILY PEN—Confused Irishman? (5,6)
10. Taken DOWN the mine? (4)
12. Should traditionally be used on a pit-style stove (3)
13. Named after an event in 1953 (and 11 down) (10,4)
18. Until 2007 carried passengers to places like Peterborough and Grantham (4)
20. On Bain (6)
22. 70's Girls comic with no evil in it (and 15 down) (6,7)
23. 2 conveniences? Sounds like a Scottish songstress!! (and 25 down) (3,3)
26. 15th Century hunting lodge (8)
27. Looking back to the mid 70's I was murder (6)

Down

1. There are four of these in a pint (4)
2. Not me (3)
3. Married Leonard Cheshire (3,5)
5. But only if you use the force (4)
6. Much of a something about nothing (2)
7. It reaches into two Government regions (East of England the East Midlands), four ceremonial counties, (Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and a small area of Suffolk), 11 District Councils and six postcode areas (LN, PE, CB, IP, NR, and NG). (4)
8. She loves a good time (3)
9. WC Interviewer—an historic figure (and 5 across) (4,9)
10. Led people to believe in the healing powers of the Woodhall water (4)
11. Named after an event in 1953 (and 13 across) (10,4)
14. US state named after the word for large creek (4)
15. 70's Girls comic with no evil in it (and 22 across) (6,7)
16. Unlike the village of Woodhall, according to Starship this was built on rock and roll. (4)
17. Ray Davies sung of this kind of afternoon (5)
19. Its not a fake Spanish Capital! (4)
21. Was mixed up in Goa (3)
24. I'll bid for that (3)
25. 2 conveniences? Sounds like a Scottish songstress!! (and 23 across) (3,3)
27. A Manchester United defender or Duran Duran album (3)
28. Kangars baby (3)

Newsletter No.2



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The Friends of the Museum

Committee Members

Chairman	Pam Cowlshaw	01526 352112
	Ann Houlton	01526 352323
	Paddy O'Neill	01526 354982
	Isabel Swift	01526 352546

The 2009 Friends of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 21st August at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Cromwell Avenue, Woodhall Spa at 2.30 pm. All members are invited to come along and hear the chairman's report on last year's activities and plans for the year to come. Tea and coffee will be provided.

In the last newsletter I told you about the activities that the Friends were arranging in the early part of the year. The Woodhall Show was a huge success, raising £220 for the museum funds. The Annual Dinner raised a further £340 and the trip to Holkham Hall was delightful. We were fortunate that the thunder-storms held off until we were boarding the coach for the trip home!

Next in line is the trip to the British Horological Institute and Workhouse at Southwell on 17th September. Followed by a talk on the history of some of our favourite carols and winter songs on the evening of 23rd October at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Cromwell Avenue. The entrance fee of £3.50 for members and £4 for guests will include a glass of wine.

In November there are two events, firstly on 7th there is the annual lecture on the life and work of Sir Barnes Wallis, the inventor of the bouncing bomb, at the English Golf Union. Secondly, there is the Coffee morning to be held in St Peters Hall on 20th.

Finally for 2009 there is the concert of seasonal songs to be held at the Kinema in the Woods on the afternoon of 20th December. The songs will be played on the organ by Alan Underwood and will be followed by afternoon tea at the Tea House in the Woods. Timings and costs will be announced as soon as details are available.

If you are interested in any of the events listed please get in touch with any member of the Friends committee to book your place.

Pam Cowlshaw
July 2009



Woodhall Spa
Forthcoming Attractions
of an Historic
Nature:
August—November

www.woodhallspa.org

15th August: Big Night
Out—Lincolnshire Aviation
Centre

21st August: Museum Annual
General Meeting

13th September: Darren
Darby Memorial Fund
Classic and Vintage Vehicle
Rally

17th September: British
Horological Institute and
Workhouse visit

2nd October: An Autumn
Soiree—Dinner and Cabaret
Fundraising Event, Petwood
Hotel

1st October: Charity Fancy
Dress Walk (see page2!)

5th October: Dogdyke
Steam Pumping Station
Open Day

23rd October: History of
carols and winter songs

7th November: Barnes
Wallis lecture

20th November: Coffee
morning St Peters Hall