



# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.1

April 2009



**The Hidden Treasure Edition**

**Will you be the first to discover it?  
See Page 4 for details!**

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### A Note from the Editor



"So take a minute to peruse our pages and breath in the past and hopefully history can once again come alive"

Hello and welcome to the 1st edition of the Woodhall Spa Museum Newsletter. I have not lived in Woodhall that long and came upon the Museum almost by accident when I was out walking the animated fur ball of random energy that we call Storm the Spaniel. I popped in for a look around and was immediately impressed by the many and varied displays, the array of photographs of times past and the genuine enthusiasm of the volunteers. Within a couple of weeks I was one of them, one more month and I was editor of the newsletter; my plan for world domination was taking shape! Which brings me back to the point of this note: The 21st Century is a fast paced time to live, full of over ambition and political intrigue. We all go about our busy and stressful lives striving to make things "better". But if every now and then we don't slow down to admire the daffodils and look back to where we've been, how will we ever understand and learn from the past? So please, for me, for my dog and particularly for the sanity of my girlfriend who has lost many hours trying to teach me Microsoft publisher, take a couple of minutes to lose yourself in this Museum newsletter that I have affectionately called the "Hidden Treasure Edition". If you like what you see, come and visit us, who knows there might just be a reward at the end of it for you!

### The History of Woodhall Spa Museum

It is here today as a result of the great dedication and effort of volunteers from the community over the past twenty years. But it began with the vision of one man, John Wield, over a hundred years ago! He foresaw that one-day people would ask about the origins of the then young Victorian spa community and so set about recording what he could for the future.

### Our Debt to John Wield

Luckily John 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, the home of his family from 1887 to the 1960s. So please take a minute to peruse through our pages and breath in the past and hopefully history can once again come alive for you here in the lovely village of Woodhall Spa.

Mat Tuck - April 2009

Information source:  
[www.woodhallspa-museum.co.uk](http://www.woodhallspa-museum.co.uk)

### The Way We Were

Take a good look at the picture below, which was probably taken near the start of the 20th century, and see if you can work out where this would be in modern day Woodhall.

Give up?

Well close your eyes and imagine you are standing between the pedestrian crossing and the police station and facing Horncastle. Now imagine you are 20 feet tall (or a giraffe if you are that way inclined).

Now open your eyes!

That's right: Both the train and the station occupy what is now the car park behind the Broadway. The buildings that you see in the middle of the picture are in fact the row of shops that start with the "smallest shoe shop" in the world.

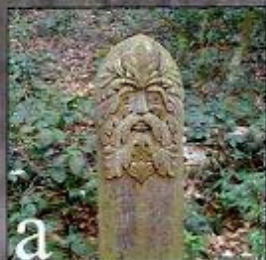


"The last regular service steam train to run in Britain. The Oliver Cromwell, made its last journey, from Liverpool to Carlisle, in August 1968".

Did you know ?

- The Woodhall Junction to Horncastle line was first opened to passengers in 1855. The railway line was just over 7 miles long. It left the GNR line at the small hamlet of Kirkstead where there was a ferry over the river Witham. From there the line ran north-east through Woodhall Spa where a station was built. It carried on for another 3 miles, through a small cutting in a low spur of the Wolds, until it encountered the canal. It then ran northwards, alongside the canal, to Horncastle.
- The last passenger train ran through Woodhall in 1954
- Freight trains continued until 1971





1

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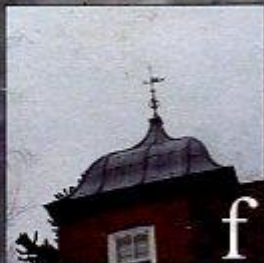


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Woodhall

## Woodhall Spa Treasure Trail

Discover these landmarks of Woodhall, match the number and letters and on your next visit to the Museum exchange the answers for some real treasure!



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### The Treasure Box Project

Woodhall Spa really is a 'Treasure!'

There was abundant evidence of this in the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum's recent, popular exhibition which kick-started the Cottage Museum's projects for 2009.

Hundreds of visitors passing through the museum's doors during the week long exhibition were captivated by the results of the largest community project for many years and their positive and complimentary comments reflected this.

The exhibition was the culmination of just one stage of a project funded by agencies closely involved with the museum sector.

Treasure boxes were produced by all the children at St. Andrew's' C.E School together with nearly thirty community groups and local businesses who have worked directly with the children.

All the boxes contained items personally valued by individuals, relevant to community activities and to the heritage of Woodhall Spa. The entire museum was converted into a giant 'treasure box' in order to exhibit these along with many of the museum's artifacts and historical records.

The second strand, the production of a treasure box web site produced by children, for children, is ongoing. Its aim, like the rest of the project, is to promote the community and heritage of Woodhall Spa as a treasure to be welcomed and explored by families moving into the area. To this end teachers and museum volunteers have worked with groups of children from St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School since September 2008 and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Those visitors who missed the original exhibition can still get a feeling of what it was like by coming to the museum, which opens for the new season on Good Friday. Many of the community groups, businesses and children have agreed to let us exhibit their treasure boxes for the forthcoming season.

Woodhall Spa continues to show the world what a vibrant community has to offer!



Jackie Goodall –March 2009

“Woodhall Spa continues to show the world what a vibrant community has to offer!”

Woodhall Spa  
Cottage Museum

Reg. Charity:  
1114268  
Reg. Museum:  
1929

The Bungalow,  
Iddesleigh Road,  
LN106SH

### Recollections of an Early Childhood

An interview with Desiree Carlton, great-niece of John Wield

Desiree was born in 1941 at Toronto House, now the Alliance Chemist, on The Broadway, Woodhall Spa. Her mother Zena Parker, nee Lee was the daughter of Grace Mary Lee, nee Dickinson, the sister of John Wield's wife, Asenath. She remembers that Asenath had two elder sisters, Lucy and Elizabeth Dickinson and two brothers, George and Joseph Dickinson. Lucy's married name was Rose and her grandson, John Rose, is a councillor in Metheringham.

John Wield's Victorian corrugated iron bungalow was one of only two erected in Woodhall Spa, the other one being in Horncastle Road close to Kirkby Lane. She remembers it being very cosy and homely and she loved going there for tea and cakes and watching the trains go by. John and Asenath regularly took her to the Teahouse in the Woods where she would enjoy watching red squirrels running around in the many trees which grew there at the time. There was always a great welcome at the house and she described them as a wonderful couple and John Wield as a fantastic man. She recalled that Asenath called John "Jacka" and sometimes "Bumpy" which she assumes were terms of endearment. He was employed full time as a bath chair proprietor, taking clients from the railway station to the various hotels and guest houses and from there to the Spa Baths. She described John as an inventor and when he was not servicing and repairing his bath chairs he made cameras, spectacles and monocles, worked in the garden and pursued his first love as a photographer. Desiree remembered his dark room in the cottage and the many hundreds of glass plates in the shed.

Desiree contracted tuberculosis in her lymph gland when she was six years old after drinking a glass of milk and spent twelve months in an isolation hospital. She remembers John and Asenath's two children Effie (short for Euphena) and Cedric and last saw them in 1953. Cedric was a teacher and went to teach in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She last saw John Wield in the early 1960's, she thinks 1962, when she was living in Thornton and John Wield was in a home in Woodhall Spa. Desiree now lives with her husband in Metheringham, where she enjoys painting in watercolour.



"She remembers it being very cosy and homely and she loved going there for tea and cakes and watching the trains go by"



## Newsletter No.1

### The Friends of the Museum

#### Committee Members

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

Since the last museum season we have held a successful Christmas Coffee Morning on 21<sup>st</sup> November when £380 was raised for museum funds, and of course at the Museum's Annual Lecture on 10<sup>th</sup> November the Flying Teddy raffle was drawn. At this point I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped sell tickets, especially Mrs J Wiseman who worked wonders in the amount that she sold. A very creditable £320 was raised and without the hard work of Mrs Wiseman, and others like her, this would not have been possible.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January a very enjoyable day was spent learning the various techniques of printing decorative pictures and abstracts. Under the tutelage of John Ward we got our hands dirty but left the hall proudly clutching our best efforts to take home to show our families and friends, like so many primary school children.

Next in line will be the Woodhall Spa Show on 17<sup>th</sup> May when the Friends will run a tombola stall. Anyone wishing to help with the tombola should contact me on the number at the top.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May the Friends are organising their Annual Dinner at the Abbey Lodge. The speaker will be Mike Hodgson and he will be talking about the development of flight in Lincolnshire. Tickets for the buffet supper are available from any member of the Friends committee for £16.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> we have been invited to take an "excursion" to the Old Railway House, Kirkstead Bridge when Alan and Sue Stennet will be our hosts in their interesting home which still retains many artefacts and characteristics of its railway station past. Wine and nibbles will be available and tickets are available from any member of the Friends Committee for £4 for members and £5 for guests.

A few days later on June 15<sup>th</sup> a trip to Holkham Hall has been arranged. Holkham is a grand palladian mansion that is well worth a visit. To book a seat (at £25 for coach and entrance to the Hall) contact any member of the Friends Committee.

There are many more events in the pipeline and I will tell you more about them later.

We look forward to seeing you at some or all of the events we have arranged

Pam Cowlishaw - March 2009

The Board would like to thank all the friends of the museum for their sterling efforts and for making this newsletter possible. The Editor would also like to thank all board members

Chair: David Radford

Vice: Jackie Goodall

Company Secretary: David Hill

Paddy O'Neill, Pam Cowlishaw, Rodger Pickavance and all the volunteers without whom the museum would not be here today.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum  
Opening Times  
Easter until Late October.  
Weekdays 10am—5pm,  
Weekends: 10.30am—4.30pm



Woodhall Spa  
Forthcoming Attractions  
of an Historic  
Nature

information source:  
[www.woodhallspsa.org](http://www.woodhallspsa.org)

13th April: Emergency Services Day (Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre)  
15th April: Museum's AGM (Petwood Hotel)  
25th April: Woodhall Spa DVD launch (McCauley's 11am-Noon)  
3rd May: Metheringham Airfield Open Day  
4th May: American Air Day (Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre)  
17th May: Woodhall Spa County Show 9am (Show field)  
22nd May: Friends Annual Dinner (Abbey Lodge)  
23rd May: East Kirkby 1943 Re-enactment Day  
24th May: Carrington Steam Rally  
5th June: Battle of Britain Flight: Hurricane flypast (Petwood)  
6th June: 1940's Dance (Metheringham Airfield)  
7th June: Woodhall Spa 10k  
11th June: Friends excursion to Old Railway House, Kirkstead Bridge  
11th June: We'll Meet Again 1940's nostalgia Weekend (Thorpe Camp)  
17th June: Friends trip to Holkham Hall  
26th June: Battle of Britain Flight: Spitfire flypast (Petwood)  
26th June: Lincolnshire Ball (Petwood)