



# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Newsletter No. 18 - November 2014



## 70th. Anniversary of Arnhem Commemorations

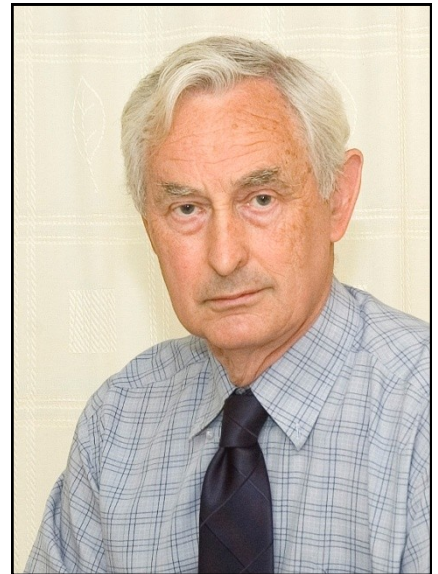


# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the Editor

Another busy season has come to an end and what a season it has been. We have a new Chairman and Vice Chairman at the helm and our previous Chairman, Jackie Goodall has won more awards for the Museum at the Lincolnshire Heritage Forum Awards presentation. We have participated in the Woodhall Show, the Thorpe Camp 40's Weekend, the Woodhall Spa Forties Weekend and last but not least the staging of the Arnhem 70th anniversary commemorations. There have also been numerous activities for both children and adults, organised by the Education Team, with more in the pipeline before Christmas.

There has also been a successful series of lectures organised mainly by the Friends. There was the hugely successful talk by Dr. Nicholas Duke-Cox on the "History of the Petwood Gardens" - so successful it had to be repeated. We had Alan Stennet talking on the "Railways at War" and Jim Shortland talked about the "Life and Times of the Tirpitz".



At the AGM of the Friends, Pam Cowlshaw stood down as Chairman; a post she has held so successfully since the Friends were formed in 2006. She was presented with several gifts, including a crystal vase, engraved with the museum's logo, as a mark of appreciation from The Friends. She was quite overwhelmed by the occasion. Paddy O'Neill, another founding member of the committee, also stood down and a presentation was made to him as well.

Well Christmas approaches with alarming speed. Major events left in the museum's year are the Annual Memorial lecture on "A Century of Sacrifice - We Will Remember", the Annual Christmas Coffee morning and the Woodhall Spa Christmas Market.

**Philip Groves**

### Cover Picture :

Centre - The Freedom Flame

Top Left - The Parade leaves Petwood

Top Right - Standards leave St. Peter's

Bottom left - Freedom Flame Crucible is lit

Bottom Right - Last Post is sounded

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### The Newsletter Committee

Chairman - Paddy O'Neill Editor- Philip Groves Roger Webb David Radford

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Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum:1929



## 70th Anniversary of Arnhem Commemoration

On a very damp and misty morning in early September, veterans of the Battle for Arnhem Bridge and veterans of the various army units stationed in and around Woodhall Spa in 1944 came together in the village to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Arnhem, Operation Market Garden.

A very special feature at the event was the Freedom Flame. This flame was originally lit by Field Marshall Montgomery at Portsmouth in 1948, before it was taken to Bayeux and Eindhoven, the first cities to be liberated in France and Holland in 1944, following the "D-Day Landings". Earlier this year the flame was transported back to England for the first time since it was lit and was brought from Hull to Woodhall Spa on the 30th August. At a special lunch for veterans and civic dignitaries in The Tea House in the Woods, the flame was presented to Jackie Goodall for safe keeping by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire.

On the following Sunday and Monday afternoons the flame was taken to the Museum gardens and into the village to allow as many people as possible to see it and learn of its significance.

At 9.00 am on the morning of the 6th. September Sally Smithson, Reader at St. Peter's Church, handed the Freedom Flame to Noah Abdel-Khalek to start a relay of school children from St Hugh's School and Army and Air Cadets, to transport the flame from the church to the Petwood Hotel, where the parade of veterans was assembling.

After a short delay, while the organisers awaited a decision on whether the weather conditions would allow the flypast of the two Lancasters to proceed, news came through that the flypast was cancelled; a great disappointment, but not unexpected, given the poor visibility. Finally the procession was underway, with the RAF Waddington Pipe Band at the head of the parade, followed by The Freedom Flame carried with pride by Simon Elmer. He was followed by the Standards of the many organisations represented at the parade and the many veterans who were able to march.

As the parade marched along the Broadway they passed the saluting base where the salute was taken by The Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Tony Worth and the Dutch Assistant Military Attaché, Ron van de Put. .



*Sally Smithson, Reader, hands the Freedom Flame to Noah*



*The Procession of Veterans and Standards sets off from Petwood*



*Veterans pass the saluting base*



*The Freedom Flame & Standards leave St. Peter's*



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Arnhem Commemoration, continued

A short service of commemoration was held at St. Peter's Church led by Revd. Frank Wells and Sally Smithson, Reader. The lessons were read by Sir Peter Tapsell, M.P and James Caldwell and the choir of St. Hugh's sang a short anthem..

The procession then reformed and marched the short distance to the Cottage Museum gardens. The Head Girl of St. Hugh's School, Charlotte Would and Deputy Head Girl, Amy Gardner, lit the Crucible with the Freedom Flame Torch, and after a short service of commemoration, wreaths were laid and there was a two minute silence, as the men who fought at Arnhem were remembered. Lunch was served for the veterans and dignitaries at Coronation Hall and St. Peter's Hall.



*Amy Gardner (Deputy Head Girl) and Charlotte Would (Head Girl) light the Crucible*



*The Lord Lieutenant, Tony Worth lays his wreath*

The events continued in the afternoon with a "Down Memory Lane" show at The Kinema and a free concert in Jubilee Park..

It was certainly a memorable day which was greatly appreciated by the veterans, who repeatedly thanked the people of Woodhall Spa for their warm welcome. The day would not have been possible without the grant funding provided by the Armed Forces Covenant, ELDC & Parish Council and the generosity of the Regimental Associations. In addition East Kirkby Aviation Heritage Centre donated a ticket for a taxi ride on their Lancaster, "Just Jane" to help boost funds, which was raffled by the museum. £2478 was raised and the lucky winner was Jim Avison (see report on page 12). Money was also donated by numerous individuals and organisations for which the organising committee are truly grateful. A big thank you is also due to the army of volunteers who helped on the day in so many ways and of course to the organisers - Jackie Goodall, Pam Cowlshaw and Tony Woodrow.

**Philip Groves**

### Woodhall Spa and A Bridge Too Far

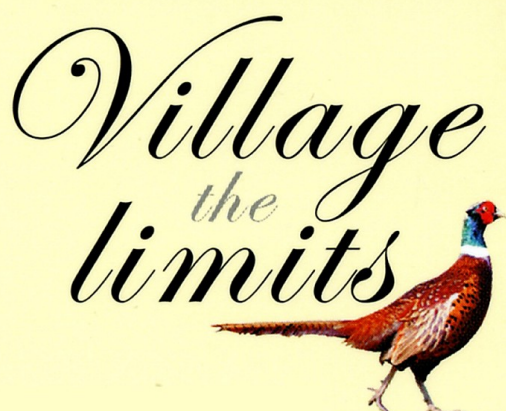
Airborne troops from near and far,  
prepared for war in Woodhall Spa  
Monty and his big idea,  
although intelligence was clear  
An airborne armada of monstrous size  
into Holland, gun for gun,  
our mission was to fight the Hun -  
and fights were fought but seldom won.  
Yet I survived, and fought no more.  
I might have died in forty-four

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to a welcome I shall e're remember,  
good folk of Woodhall, each September

**John Crosson**

Ex 7th Galloway Battalion  
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### A Thank You Message from Pam

Dear Friends

As you know, I have now handed the chairmanship of the Friends group over to the very capable hands of Roger Webb and I am sure that you will give him all of the support that you have given me since we began in 2006.

It was an honour and a pleasure to chair the Friends from its earliest days to the happy vibrant group that it now is. We had many enjoyable days out and I hope that those who helped with the fund-raising found it as much fun as I intended they should.

I will watch your progress over the next few years with interest and no doubt will join you on the odd trip or two.

Many thanks for the gifts and good wishes expressed at the AGM.

Thank You


Pam



*Retiring Friends' Chairman  
Pam Cowlshaw with one of the gifts  
presented at the AGM in August*




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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Meet the Directors - Roger Webb

My wife Carol and I came to live in Woodhall Spa in 2010. As a county, Lincolnshire was one of those places where I thought I would never want to live. It just goes to show how wrong preconceptions can be.

I was born and raised in Leeds where I lived until I fled the nest to join the Royal Air Force as a ground electronics apprentice in 1965. It was whilst I was in the RAF in Cyprus that I received a letter from a young lady who had been given my address by one of my aunts. We corresponded and the rest, as they say, is history. I married Carol, we had two wonderful children, and after a spell at Cranwell we headed north for 'civvy street' in Yorkshire.

Initially I stayed in electronics in jobs with the Home Office, the NHS, the CEGB, and LinPac with their new Polymer plant at Sherburn in Elmet. I would not say the plant was potentially dangerous but it is the only job I ever had where I parked the car facing the exit and left the keys in the ignition! From there I moved into the Personal Products production field until Carol and I hit the road with a motorhome in 1996. That story was in Newsletter 15 as my wife is also a Director.

After we had settled here I read in the Parish newsletter that they were short on the Parish Council so I volunteered. We were both involved with the Friends of Jubilee Park at the time but I decided I could fit some more things into life. There really are times I wonder why I am a Councillor, but most of the time it is both meaningful and mentally rewarding.

I am also a volunteer on the Visual Assets team at the Museum, a member of the Publicity and Promotions group, and the new Chairman of the Friends of the Cottage Museum.

At the Museum I am a member of a great team of friends, all trying to carry our great heritage forward for the benefit of future generations.



**Roger Webb**

### Cottage Museum wins 3 Lincolnshire Heritage Awards



**Jackie Goodall with the Judges Special Award**

85 guests attended the bi-annual Lincolnshire Heritage Awards at a ceremony in the magnificent setting of Gainsborough Old Hall. It was a beautiful summer evening and the Great Hall looked stunning set out with gilt chairs and fine table linen.

Master of Ceremonies for the night was Rod Whiting, Senior Broadcast Journalist at BBC Radio Lincolnshire.

Three Awards were presented to The Cottage Museum. A Highly Commended in the Inspiration category to Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum for 'The Future of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum'. The Judges' Special Award to Jackie Goodall for 'an outstanding contribution to Lincolnshire Heritage' and the Excellence Award for The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.



**Jackie Goodall, Patricia Duke-Cox and Pam Cowlishaw receive the Excellence Award**



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### What Our Visitors Are Saying

Up to the end of September we have had a total of 3643 visitors - 1444 adults, 1811 Seniors and 388 children. Interestingly for the same period last year we had 3647 visitors - 1683 adults, 1451 seniors and 513 children. This actually means we have had more paying visitors than last year. The numbers are quite encouraging as we had the newly refurbished "wow" factor last year.

So what have all these visitors thought of their experience? As well as the main Visitors Book there has been a book for comments in the Temporary Exhibition, which had the World War 1 displays.

Our first selection of comments comes from this book:-

- JW Skegness*      *Arthur E Eyre was my grandfather's brother - feel so proud to find out about him. Thanking all for this lovely tribute to these brave men.*
- IF Woodhall Spa*      *My father and grandfather worked at The Spa Baths. My father also worked at the garage in Witham Road. My mother and sister were in The Royal Hotel the night it was bombed - both survived.*
- BH Hibaldstow*      *What a lovely way to remember the brave men & women from the two wars.*
- T & M C Bardney*      *A good exhibition and a great experience. It's also nice to see my great uncle remembered in the exhibition.*
- PT & RL Liverpool*      *Very informative, interactive & emotive in view of my late father's involvement at Arnhem. Excellent, thank you.*
- JW Trow*      *It's a lot different to other museums, but its good because you learn a lot and the staff are really nice.*



*Chelsea Pensioners Bill Cantwell and John Cuthbert sign the Visitors Book*

Here are some of the entries from the main Visitors Book:-

- D & S N Durham*      *An excellent museum giving a good insight into life in Woodhall Spa. Really enjoyable.*
- L & G S Brigg*      *Lovely - interesting - wish I had time to do the jigsaw.*
- JS Manchester*      *Amazing to find such a jewel. It is really wonderful. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.*
- MP Halesowen*      *This is my second visit. I came here with my grandfather in 2010 for the Arnhem Commemoration. He is no longer with us, but his pride in those he served alongside during Market Garden lives on.*

Once again a lovely selection of positive comments. I only found one slightly critical entry which referred to "the unceasing music which becomes unbearable". Well you cannot please all the people all the time!

**Philip Groves**

### Donkey Trail Winners

The museum held a children's quiz in the museum during the summer holidays. Young visitors followed the Donkey Trail, finding numbered clues attached to tiny toy donkeys that were hidden in the display cabinets.

130 entries were submitted and two winners were picked who each received a prize. They were India Watson and Megan Harborow.

Congratulations to both of them

**Gill Noble**



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## Winner of the Lancaster Taxi Ride Raffle

Jim Avison, who lives in Tattershall Thorpe, was the lucky winner of the raffle for a Taxi Ride on the East Kirkby Aviation Heritage Centre's "Just Jane" Lancaster.

The prize was very generously donated by the Heritage Centre and the raffle was organised by the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum. The raffle was run to help raise funds towards the staging of the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle for Arnhem Bridge and £2478 was raised



*Jim Avison (centre) receives his prize from Pam Cowlshaw (right) Tony Woodrow, co-organiser of the Arnhem event is on the left with Jim's wife next to him*

from the sale of tickets. The commemoration was to remember the 2320 parachute troops who were stationed in and around Woodhall Spa in the summer of 1944 and that after nine days of intense fighting at Arnhem only 435 returned, the rest being either killed or missing.

Jim Avison has links to both Arnhem and the Lancaster as his sister married Eric Glanville, who was one of the survivors of Arnhem and his mother worked in the Laundry at Thorpe Camp which provided facilities for the members of 617 Squadron. Jim, as a small boy used to watch the Lancasters take off from Woodhall Spa airfield.

Jim said "I am delighted to have won and I am very much looking forward to the ride in the Lancaster."

### 1986 and All That.....

Dear Readers,

I hope my first article arising out of my daring to open the various boxes of notes, records and press-cuttings, inter alia, which have accumulated in the process of founding the Cottage Museum, was of interest to those who know little of those early days of the groundwork involved from 1985 with all the consequent ups and downs.

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Trust was legally constituted in April 1986. When I compare the two sheets of the original newsletter, printed in black on white, with today's full colour copy of 20 pages, I have clear evidence of how far the Cottage Museum has progressed, but the former was no less inspired in content for all that.

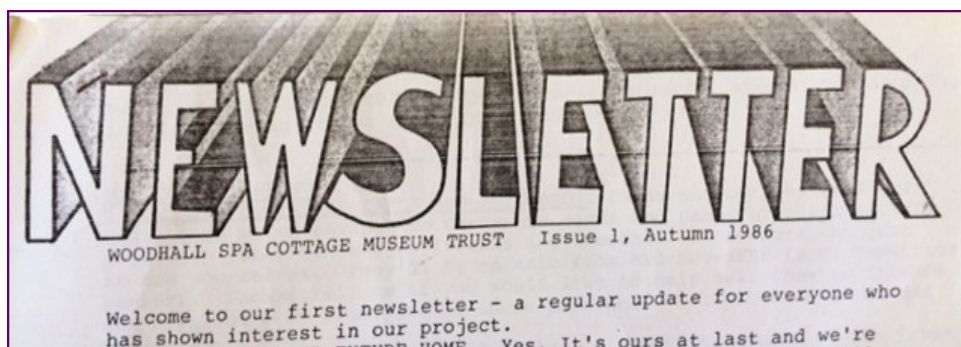
We chose 'Trust' to be included in the name as we felt it so important that members of our community felt secure in the knowledge that that they were entrusting their precious memories and treasures to an organisation that would safeguard them for the future. You must remember that our project had only recently been announced and it could take time for the Trust to prove its bona fide worthiness. On a more practical level, the Trust also had to persuade the Charity Trustees that our organisation was a worthy recipient of charitable status which would make applications for grant support a trifle easier. That, as many who have trodden a similar path would know, would prove easier said than done!

But back to the Newsletter! I should like to quote from the first, published in the autumn of 1986.

"The Bungalow - our Future Home!" were the proud words that met the reader.

"Yes. It's ours at last and we are opening in the Spring, thanks to your support, the Hotchkin family and our generous backer who

guaranteed the bank loan. A building has been preserved which will make Woodhall Spa meaningful to present and future generations. Now the real work starts!"



*The Title Banner from the first newsletter of Autumn 1986*

You can imagine what that meant after so many heart-stopping moments and all the effort that preceded it. We had started with a belief and now we had support of the community, the Wield family, some financial credence plus of course a meaningful historical site; also those dusty boxes of glass negative plates in various states of deterioration, John Wield's notes and a priceless heritage of a fascinating Victorian Spa to be recorded. At the end of the 19th century John Wield had said, "One day folk will ask 'Why Woodhall Spa?'" This question was about to be answered in the latter months of the 20th century and thank goodness there were many volunteers who came forward after the first public meeting and continue to do so, who have made this possible.

Key words or headings like Action Update, Emblem Competitions, Displays, How Can You Help? Limited Edition Print, Join our Hundred Club, Join One of our Committees, Donations and Mailing List abound in that exciting newsletter. They reflect the determination and enthusiasm that has made today's Cottage Museum known throughout the land. Just remember the needs don't change despite the achievements but there is pleasure, excitement and a sense of worthwhile progress in abundance for all who share in and understand the meaning of **Our Heritage**.

**David Radford, Founding Chairman.**



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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### From the Collection

PH01159 – With the harvest almost in I thought that I would put in a 'local' harvest scene. The picture shows Effie and Cedric, John and Asenath Wield's children, gathering in the hay at the rear of Rose Cottage. The donkey pulling the cart is Nancy. Both children are looking happy in their work!



PH02406 – Continuing the theme of trying to identify local individuals, I have included this picture from around WW1. The soldier with the pipe looks a bit of a 'cheeky chappy', any idea of who the policeman is, who the other individuals are or where the picture was taken?

If you have any local pictures that we can add to the museum's visual assets collection then please get in touch. We are at the museum every Tuesday morning or I can be contacted on 01526 353184. We can

scan in pictures whilst you wait and our new accommodation is far more pleasant than the old 'back room'.

**Rodger Pickavance**

#### 150 Club Winners

<b>June:</b>	£20 [27] Beryl Leyland
	£15 [58] Cassandra Hewson
	£10 [131] Mark Preston
<b>July:</b>	£20 [150] Zonda Crick
	£15 [122] Judy Everitt
	£10 [85] David Hill
<b>Aug:</b>	£20 [142] Robert Thompson
	£15 [7] Bethan Ross
	£10 [51] Denis McConnon
<b>Sept:</b>	£20 [98] Jackie Mills
	£15 [113] Philip Groves
	£10 [28] Jackie Merrison

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has a gazebo and children's play area.

**All Year Round -  
A great place to eat  
and drink!**  
(Always advisable to  
book - Telephone 01526 354560)



## Petwood

WOODHALL SPA



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 Tennyson's Restaurant promotes local produce.

The Petwood is a friend and supporter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.





## POPPY'S PAGE

Hello, I hope you all had lovely Summer Holidays. At school the new term is when you move up to the next class, so we thought you might be interested in what it was like to be at school 100 years ago in the Edwardian era. We also have a Christmas Word Search for you . See you again soon.

Poppy 

## School in Edwardian Times

Hello everybody....do you like school?

We walk there from Reed's Beck, 2 miles from Woodhall Spa; we pass a grand house, called Petwood, which has just been built. If it rains we are soaked when we arrive and in winter we are frozen. Then the teachers are very kind and give us hot cocoa - different from when someone has been naughty and is given the stick – a whoosh across the hand; Stan Smith is always in trouble for talking. Of course, everybody walks to school but some live nearby.

There is one room, with a partition, and a big stove. There are 50 children in my Infants class, all different ages; older children, with Mr. Fairburn, the headmaster, are at the other end of the room. Several people visit - like the vicar, for whom we have to recite the Catechism and the doctor. Sometimes, when there is an epidemic, like scarlet fever, he has to close the school. Some children play truant but often they are helping at home, or caddying on the new golf course and at harvest and potato picking time many children are absent.

We chant tables like 2 farthings = 1 halfpenny, 2 halfpennies = one penny, 12 pennies = one shilling and we take turns round the class reading aloud; I like that but writing with my dipper pen I make blots and spill ink on my pinafore!

At lunchtime, I have bread Mama has baked and ham from poor Peggy, our pig and a rosy apple from our orchard.

In the afternoon, boys do gardening or woodwork while girls have sewing, or there is singing, or a globe of the world to examine.... and then we escape for the long walk home.

**Marjorie Sargeant**



*The Village School in Woodhall Spa*

U	G	O	O	S	E	B	M	A	Z
S	Y	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y
E	D	F	G	A	N	D	S	E	L
L	W	O	T	R	P	F	T	M	L
D	N	A	L	R	A	G	L	R	O
N	S	K	X	S	Q	U	E	C	H
A	T	M	C	K	U	J	T	I	L
C	A	R	O	L	W	V	O	S	T
R	I	B	E	A	N	G	E	L	H
B	Y	U	L	E	L	O	G	F	Y

### Edwardian Christmas Word Search

Can you find these words in the grid?

crib	garland	nativity
angel	holly	mistletoe
tree	candles	yule log
star	carol	goose

The words may be hidden backwards or forwards in any direction.



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### The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

#### Committee Members:

Chairman: Roger Webb	01526 353029
Carol Webb	01526 353029
Elizabeth Leech	01526 352595
Vacancy	

Hello Friends,

Thank you to all who attended the AGM on the 29th of August. This was the last AGM for both Pam Cowlshaw and Paddy O'Neill as Friends committee members, both of them resigning at the end of the meeting. Whilst they will both be sorely missed as committee members, I think it is best to pause and remember all that they brought to the Friends since its formation in 2006. Thanks to all of you who signed their cards and/or contributed to their gifts.

I was recently invited to become a member of the Museum Board and was elected by the Board to the role of the new Chairman of the Friends. (In some circles this is known as grooming.) With the other Board member on the committee resigning from the committee, the Museum board has voted Carol Webb on to the Friends committee. For those of you who do not know, Carol is my wife.

As you can see from above there is still a vacancy for a member of the Friends to join the committee. We meet 3 or 4 times a year, organise events, and trips out, and we have lots of help from other Friends of the Museum. Call me and let's chat. I might just convince you it is the role for you. My thanks go to Elizabeth Leech for joining the committee this year.

The Annual Lecture is on the 8th of November, 2.30 p.m. at the Golf Hotel. It is a talk by David Barton, a volunteer with the Commonwealth War Graves Photographic Project. It is entitled 'A Century of Sacrifice - We Will Remember'. I hope to see you there. You can obtain tickets, priced at £7.50, from me.

The other date for your diary is the 5th of December. Coffee morning in St. Peter's Hall, 9.30 until 12. In the evening it is the village Christmas Fayre and the Museum will be having a stall there. Please call and see us if you can.

**Roger Webb**



**Woodhall Spa  
Forthcoming  
Attractions of a  
museum-orientated  
nature:**

#### Memorial Lecture

**"A Century of  
Sacrifice - We Will  
Remember"**

By David Barton  
Commonwealth War  
Graves Photographic  
Project Volunteer  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
2.30 pm Golf Hotel

#### Coffee Morning

5th. December  
9.30 am – 12.00 pm  
St. Peter's Hall

#### Woodhall Spa Christmas Fayre

5th. December  
6.00 - 9.00 pm  
Station Road &  
The Broadway  
The Museum will have  
a stall

See also  
[www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk)  
& [www.woodhallspa.org](http://www.woodhallspa.org)

