

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Newsletter No. 21  
November 2015



# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the Editor

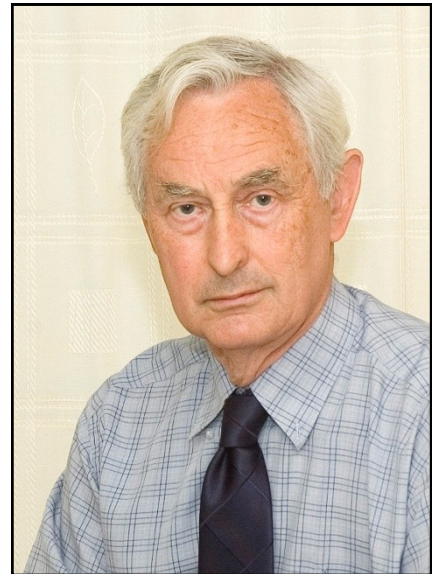
Here we are at the end of another season. Visitor numbers are up on last year and we are set to beat the target figure. The reputation of the museum is spreading and judging by the comments being left by our visitors, will continue to spread. They say there is no better form of advertising than by word of mouth!

This issue covers the fantastic 40's weekend, which was so successful for the museum. The Arnhem Commemoration was another milestone in the museum's year and, as always, was very moving. It is interesting that although it was a very low key event, compared with last year's 70th anniversary, most of the veterans said the event was just as they would like it.

This year's Memorial lecture has not been without its problems. However the lecture will be held at 2 pm on Saturday 7th. November at The Golf Hotel, The subject is "The Tank", which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The lecture is being given by Andrew Blow and Richard Pullen and promises to be fascinating. Tickets are available from Roger Webb on 01526 353029 priced at £6.00 .

A great step forward in promoting the museum, with its many varied events and activities, is the redesign of the website. This is now live at [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk). Log on and see what you think. The museum's Facebook page has also been reinstated and is linked to the website, so there will be exciting times ahead!...

Well deserved congratulations are due to Rodger Pickavance on winning the John Barker Award, in recognition of his outstanding efforts in project managing the building work to refurbish the museum and outbuildings, mainly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. There is a full report on page 4.



**Philip Groves**

### Cover Picture

The Bugler sounds the Last Post and the Standards are lowered as the assembled veterans and guests remember the men who left Woodhall for Arnhem in September 1944.

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### The Newsletter Committee

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### Arnhem Commemoration

In September 1944 men of the 1st Battalion Border Regiment, 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment and 7th (Galloway) Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, left their billets in and around Woodhall Spa to join the thousands who were flown in gliders to Arnhem, for their part in "Operation Market Garden". Often called "a bridge too far" the operation was a disaster and of the 2320 men who left Woodhall Spa, only 471 returned, after 9 days of fierce fighting: the rest having been killed, missing or captured.



*About 180 people gathered for the Service*



*The Standards lead the procession to the Cottage Museum Grounds*

In 2010 a Memorial was dedicated in the grounds of the Cottage Museum in Woodhall Spa and every year since then Veterans have visited for a Service of Remembrance. This year marked the 71st anniversary and on Saturday September 12th they gathered in St. Peter's Church for the short Service, led by Priest in Charge, Revd. Richard Major. Afterwards they processed to the Museum grounds, where following the laying of wreaths, Bugler Roy Painter sounded The Last Post and the Standards were lowered for a two minutes silence. David Mullinger then spoke the final words of the Kohima Epitaph, "When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today".



*Part of the exhibition of photographs showing aspects of Market Garden and previous events in Woodhall*

A free exhibition of photographs depicting aspects of Operation Market Garden and previous Arnhem Commemoration events in Woodhall Spa was set up in the museum's Community Room for Veterans and visitors to view.

Although the day was very low key, compared with the events of the 70th Anniversary last year, the veterans all agreed it was a day to remember and they all look forward to repeating the event next year.

**Philip Groves**



*Wreaths laid at the Arnhem Memorial during the annual commemoration*



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### John Barker Trophy Awarded to Rodger Pickavance

An award ceremony was held at Washingborough Community Hall on 23rd. September to present Rodger Pickavance with The John Barker Trophy.

The John Barker Trophy, Community Building Volunteer Award is presented by Community Lincs annually. The award recognizes the work of those volunteers who, willingly and freely, give their time and effort to manage and maintain Lincolnshire community buildings.

Rodger Pickavance was nominated by the Executive Committee of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum's Board of Directors because he was the development project leader for the work. This was mainly funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to the Woodhall Spa's award winning, volunteer run, Cottage Museum. His input was especially important during the second stage when the outbuildings suffered an arson attack. He was instrumental in securing the additional funding necessary and liaised with architects, surveyors, conservation and planning officers, the builders and their sub-contractors, storage firms, councillors and HLF personnel.

Thanks to National Lottery funding, the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum preserved and refurbished the main museum building, The Bungalow. The project also refurbished the museum's outbuildings – one of which is now partly utilised as a Community Room for local use. This achievement is the result of countless hours of teamwork by Cottage Museum volunteers and in particular the Development Committee chaired by Rodger.

Many unforeseen and challenging problems arose during the careful dismantling and re-construction. Rodger dealt with these in a steady and meticulous fashion with excellent records being kept throughout the re-building programme. He has been a rock in dealing with all the issues and the result is a credit to the museum.

**Patricia Duke-Cox**



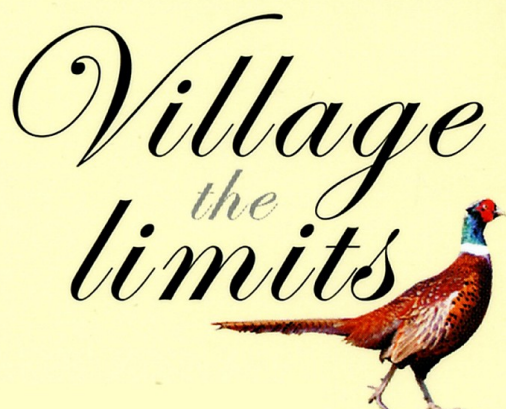
*Rodger Pickavance (left) receives his Award from John Barker*

### New Museum Website

The Museum website has recently been redesigned by a professional company and should now be up and running. At the same time the Museum's Facebook account has been re-activated by our new Media Director, Michael Wighton and is closely linked to the website. Why not take a look at the website and keep up to date on all our activities.

**[www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk)**





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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### The 1940's Festival Weekend

It is not every day that the museum can claim to have welcomed "Sir Winston and Lady Churchill" into the garden, but this happened not once but twice during the weekend of the 1940's Festival. They arrived, accompanied by outriders, in a chauffeur driven limousine. Sir Winston delivered one of his famous speeches in deep sonorous tones to an enthusiastic crowd.



There were tables laid for a V.E. Day street party including fish paste sandwiches, tinned peaches, evaporated milk and jelly. Kitchenalia from the 1940's and authentic cookery books were displayed to the delight of many visitors.



We hosted entertainers on both days, Heather Marie and "Lancashire Jane" filled the air with renditions of wartime songs. A very appreciative audience sat in the sunshine, often joining in the choruses! St. Andrew's C. of E. School Choir was also very well received.

Refreshments were served in the courtyard and proved to be so

popular that the cakes sold out on Saturday afternoon! Fresh supplies were hurriedly sought for Sunday's onslaught.

Museum merchandise was sold in the garden together with a tombola.

Three hundred and fifty people toured the museum and nearly three and a half thousand visited the garden.

My grateful thanks go to everyone who worked so hard before and during the event, which was one of the most successful we have had to date.

**Gill Noble**





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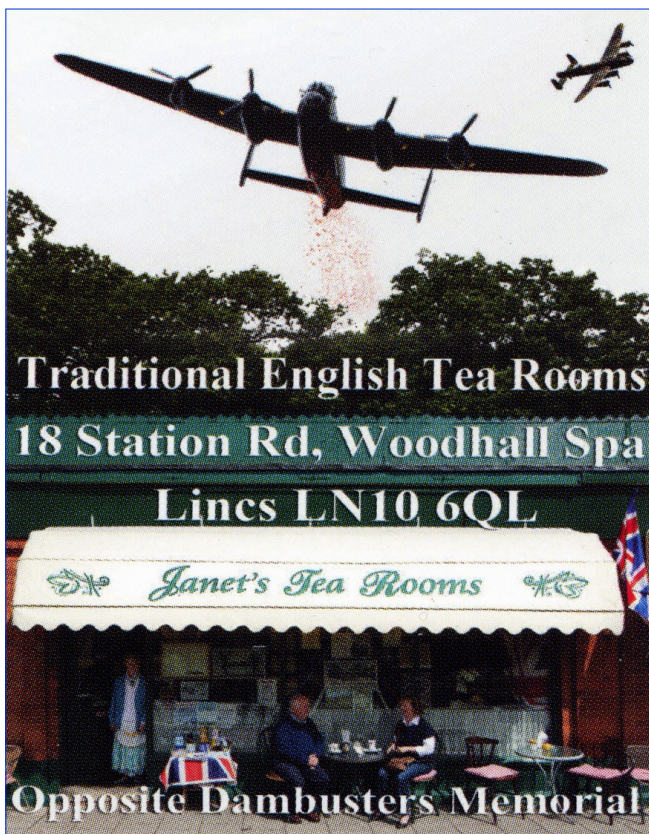
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### What Our Visitors Are Saying

A short selection of comments from the Visitors Book:-

<i>D &amp; J L Nottingham</i>	<i>Lots to see and remember. Very peaceful place. Second time we have visited</i>
<i>J.R Vancouver, Canada</i>	<i>Very interesting – brought back memories of my 21st birthday party at the Petwood!</i>
<i>BT East Keal</i>	<i>What a change since I last came. It has surpassed itself. Excellent visit</i>
<i>P R Sheffield</i>	<i>If I could turn back time it would be to live here, just love it,</i>
<i>V W Eastville Lincs</i>	<i>A wonderful museum, I have thoroughly enjoyed it, much more interesting than I imagined it would be.</i>
<i>C P Welton Lincoln</i>	<i>A lovely museum. Reminds me of my grandma's old house! Lots of nostalgia. I've learned a few things I didn't know about Woodhall Spa!!</i>
<i>P R Hartlepool</i>	<i>Unexpected visit. A little gem (hidden). Not very often told to touch things, very impressed.</i>
<i>V van H Amsterdam</i>	<i>Very interesting and informative over Operation Market Garden</i>
<i>S &amp; H W Perth Australia</i>	<i>A wonderful history of Old England &amp; interesting information about the war years in Woodhall Spa</i>

Philip Groves



#### WOODHALL SPA COTTAGE MUSEUM QUIZ EVENING

At the Abbey Lodge Inn

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015 starting at 7.00 p.m.

Teams of 4 to 6 will compete in an evening  
of letters, numbers, raffle and fun.

Tickets £10 per head which includes a bar meal.

If you can form a team apply to

Patricia Duke-Cox at the Cottage Museum to register

or email either of the following addresses

[info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk)

[duke-cox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:duke-cox@hotmail.co.uk)

or phone 07944 487 880 (leave a message)

### Museum Guidebook

An attractive and abundantly illustrated new guide exploring the story of the Cottage Museum in Woodhall Spa as a family home is now on sale.

The building in which the Museum is housed is a rare example of a prefabricated corrugated iron bungalow from the late nineteenth century which was home to the Wield family for many years.

The story of the Cottage Museum is written through the eyes of John Wield who guides the visitor around the bungalow telling the story of the family and exploring the rooms. He sets the bungalow in context within the setting of Woodhall Spa at the time when he and his family lived in the village, including references to the activities and buildings of the time. He is somewhat intrigued by some of the more modern changes within the bungalow itself!

The Story of the Cottage Museum is on sale in the Museum Shop at the introductory price of only £2.50.

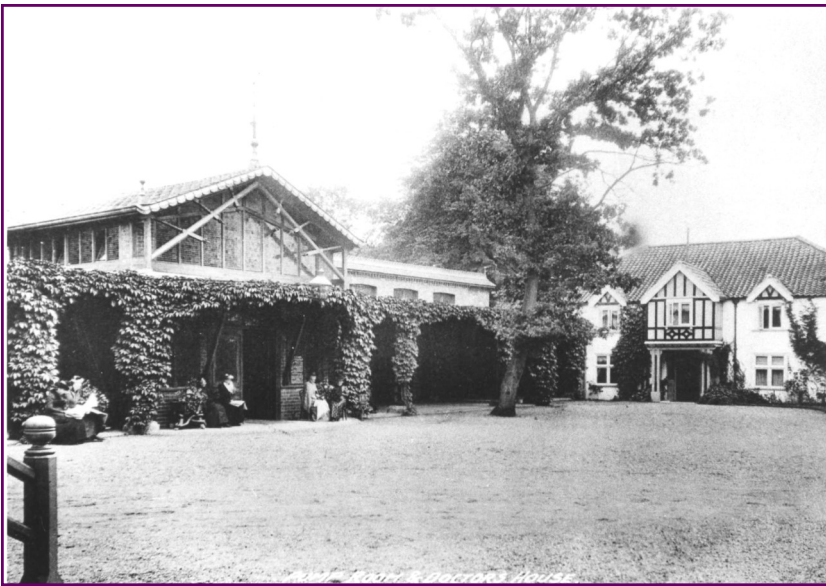
## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### The Heart of the Spa...

During a recent sort out of some of my material, a seemingly on-going aspect of my life, I chanced upon a printout of a report dated 15 Sept 2014. The headline ran, "Victorian Woodhall Spa Baths to reopen after 30 years."

You can well imagine the emotions that I and countless other members of our community experienced on reading those words! I note that this does not come without cost, some £5 million at least, is the suggested figure. It will, of course, take time for the various permissions to be granted too but I trust they will be sympathetic to the area and the special atmosphere of Woodhall Spa, which helps to make it so appreciated in East Lindsey.



*The Spa in its heyday in the early 1900's*



*The Spa Building as it is now*

Now here's a little test for our new readers!! (once a teacher always a teacher!!) What is 'motherlye'? Good luck!

Of course, the Spa baths looked very different from today's poor shell of a building when I chanced upon it in 1969 for the first time. That exploration through the tall pine woods, past the old style corrugated iron Tea House in the Woods to the gentle mauve-coloured wisteria-decorated façade of the Spa building, will always stay in my memory.

There is another source of the water with its curative qualities being used to advantage and that is the Aqua Sante Spa at the Golf Hotel in Woodhall Spa.

This Spa is currently undergoing refurbishment and should be ready some time in 2016 and is all part and parcel of the magic, which is thankfully this lovely village we call home.

On a more personal note, both my wife and my elder daughter have received treatment at the old Spa under the aegis of the National Health Service. My daughter's appointment being one of the last on the day before the well collapsed in 1983!

So thirty years on, the old Spa is stirring into life!! Long may it last!

If you have any interesting memories as a patient at the old Spa, do contact me at [artsfan@mac.com](mailto:artsfan@mac.com) for me to share in future newsletters.

**David Radford, Founding Chairman**



### Meet the Directors - Nigel Webb

Born in Royal Tunbridge Wells I spent my formative years in north Kent during the 1950's and always had an interest in engineering and aircraft in particular. Following a number of years in the Air Training Corps as a cadet I took the plunge and applied for an apprenticeship in the Royal Air Force and in January 1971 started a two year Craft Apprenticeship at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire, culminating in graduation as an Airframe Technician.

Many postings followed, along with eventual promotions and I have been lucky enough to both live and work in many varied locations around the UK, plus 3 years in Germany. My work has included maintenance and repair of numerous aircraft types up to and including Typhoon fast jets; a full career that I thoroughly enjoyed and after 37 years, finally left the military as an Engineering Warrant Officer in 2007. A further seven years was spent working with BAE Systems at Coningsby in support of the RAF Typhoon fleet. Time slips by, as it does and I finally decided to take early retirement at the end of 2014.



I met my wife Mandy when I was a young Junior Technician and we have been married for over forty years now, with two grown-up children and two grandsons. Without Mandy's support many of my achievements would not have been possible and certainly would not have meant as much. We have lived in Coningsby for over thirty years and are now accepted, but not yet regarded, as locals!

I decided to volunteer at the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, initially offering to help out with building maintenance and the IT equipment, however Gill Noble, aided and abetted by Patricia and Rodger, coerced me into becoming a Director. I now have the dubious honour of being responsible for IT, Electrical maintenance and the Alarm and CCTV systems. In addition to these tasks I have enjoyed helping out with shift coverage of the Tourist Information Centre and acting as barista and waiter during recent Coffee Shop weekends. The friendliness and encouragement received from all volunteers and Directors is refreshing and I have great respect at the demanding hours put in by some of the Directors. I am relishing the diverse challenges that volunteering brings and would encourage anyone interested in giving up a few hours to consider volunteering, as there are so many different ways in which to make a difference to this fabulous charity.

By the time you get this Newsletter the new website should be live on the web. My thanks go to Carol, Roger and Michael and of course Craven Digital for developing it. Why not go and look at it now at [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk)

**Nigel Webb**



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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### From the Collection

EPH06249 – On a harvest theme this time, stacking dried peas ready for threshing for Batchelors' dried pea factory. The picture was taken in the late 1940s. Basil Allen is top right and his father top left and, I believe, they farmed near Chapel Hill. I don't know whether dried peas are still produced.



GN05958 – A harvesting picture from a much earlier time, this John Wield glass plate negative shows hay stacks being built. The date and location are unknown, as are the people involved.

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 you can leave a message on 01526 352456 or [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk) and we will get back to you. We can scan in pictures whilst you wait and our new accommodation is far more pleasant than the old 'back room'. We do need images of the 1940s – 1960s as well as earlier pictures.

Rodger Pickavance

### 50 Club Winners

<b>May:</b>	£20 [73] Lucy Thornalley £15 [104] Nigel Webb £10 [82] Robert Crowder
<b>June :</b>	£20 [66] John Ranshaw £15 [56] Anne Taylor £10 [98] Robinia Astley-Cooper
<b>July:</b>	£20 [8] Richard Ross £15 [106] Robert Webb £10 [35] Zonda Crick
<b>August:</b>	£20 [149] J Hillsmith £15 [116] Barrie Horton £10 [27] VOC Antiques
<b>September:</b>	£20 [87] Peter Needham £15 [72] Reg Wood £10 [133] Stephen Berry

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## POPPY'S PAGE

We thought you would like to know how children celebrated Bonfire Night 100 or so years ago, so Marjorie Sargeant has written us a story about Bonfire Night. It will soon be Christmas and the Museum will be open for 4 days in December, so why not go down and join in the games we are arranging. Bye for now. Poppy



### Bonfire Night

Hello everyone,

We had such fun on bonfire night! Oh, I suppose I should call it, "Guy Fawkes Night" – Grandma is always telling us that.

Every year she repeats the story of this gentleman, called Guy Fawkes, hiding barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords, to blow up Parliament and how he was stopped at the last minute. So now we celebrate this by having fires and burning the "guy" on top.

During that dreadful storm last month our old potting shed collapsed, so we had plenty of wood to make a really high bonfire and Mama gave us Papa's old jacket and pair of trousers for the guy. Papa was not too pleased about this because he said it looked as if we were burning him! Also, he liked that old jacket! A farmer friend gave us straw to stuff in the clothes and then Thomas and I had fun making a horrible mask, to fix above the jacket.

Thomas wanted to take the guy round the village asking for, "A penny for the guy." Papa said he must on no account do this because everyone would think we were poor.

We also had fireworks, oh, I love the rockets, like shooting stars so high in the sky - and the bangs!

We roasted chestnuts and baked potatoes at the edge of the fire and Grandma got into a fright in case we were burned. Then she worried in case we drowned, bobbing for apples! Last year Thomas nearly fell in because he had such difficulty getting hold of an apple with his teeth!

I loved the crackle of the fire and the flickering flames against the dark sky - and we were allowed to stay up late that night!

**Marjorie Sargeant**



### **Museum Christmas opening.**

The museum will be open on 4th and 5th and 12th and 13th. December from 12.00 until 5.00 pm.

There will be lots for children to see and do when the museum opens at Christmas, including having fun following the "Sugar Mice Trail" in the museum, enjoying playing some traditional games, or colouring in some pictures in the Victorian parlour.

### **The Great Object Hunt Quiz**

Over one hundred children took part in The Great Object Hunt Quiz during the summer.

The Great Object Hunt prize winners are:-

Winner up to 7 age group  
Winner 8-11 age group  
Winner over 12 age group.

Evie Kerry aged 6  
Piper Barratt aged 8  
Imogen Robinson aged 13,

**Gill Noble**





# **WILLOW HOLT**

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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
Gladys Ireland	

Hello Friends,

I am very pleased to tell you that the Friends committee is now up to full strength, giving us a very welcome extra pair of hands. Gladys has proved to be a very willing worker whilst we have been running the museum café during the holiday season. After our success with the café over the 40's weekend Carol decided to repeat it during August.

December the 5th is the date of the next coffee morning. It will be held in St. Peter's church hall and starts at 9.30 am. There will be a selection of stalls, so please come along and give us your support.

Over the last two months a lot of work has gone into bringing the Museum website into the 21st century and the results of that work are now visible to all. The Museum directors recognised that if we are to reach wider audiences then we needed to embrace modern technology. To that end we are also working on our Facebook site. Visit us on the web, "like" us on Facebook. We will be trying hard to keep things up to date and give you all the news about forthcoming events and what to watch out for.

This year we cancelled the Annual dinner through lack of support. We have decided to have a more informal get-together to mark the end of the season. On Friday the 13th of November we are joining together for dinner at the Tea House in the Woods. It will not be for profit, so the cost for the two courses will be £16.50 per head. Join us, ring me to book a place. It would be great to see you.

**Roger Webb**

### Annual Memorial Lecture

## TANKS AND TRENCHES

A lecture to mark the centenary  
of the Tank, first built in Lincoln

2pm on Saturday November 7th.  
at The Golf Hotel, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa

Tickets available from Roger Webb 01526 353029  
at £6.00 each



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

### **Memorial Lecture "Tanks & Trenches"**

7th. November  
2 pm at the Golf Hotel  
Tickets £6.00  
From Roger Webb  
01526 353029

### **End of Season Meal Tea House in the Woods**

Friday 13th November  
£16.50 per head

### **Museum Quiz Night Abbey Lodge**

21st Nov. at 7.00 pm  
Teams of 4 to 6  
£10 inc. bar meal

### **Antique Valuation Day - £1/item**

Saturday 23 January  
Community Room  
at the Museum

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

