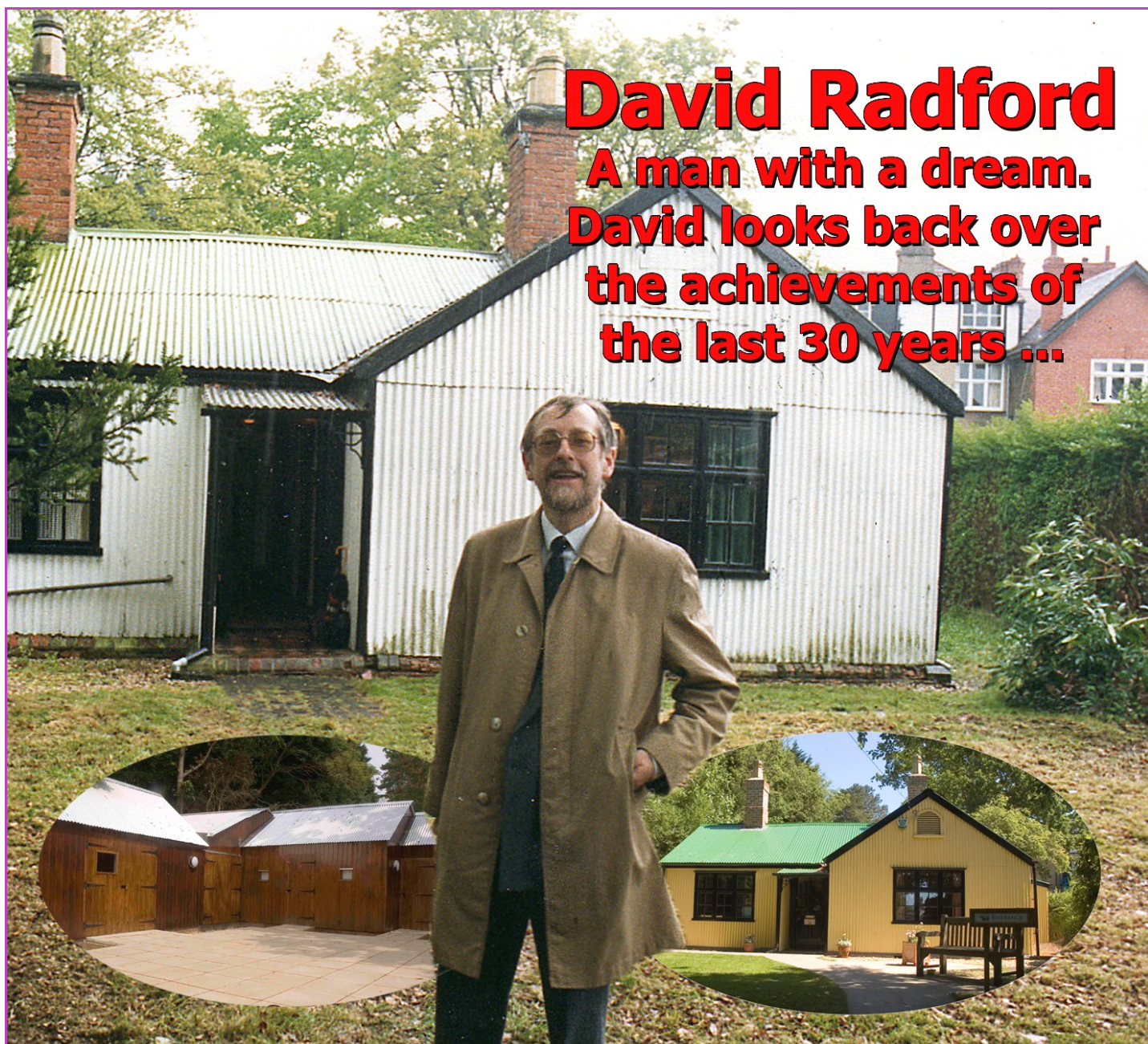


# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

30th Anniversary Year

**David Radford**

**A man with a dream.  
David looks back over  
the achievements of  
the last 30 years ...**



Newsletter No. 25  
April 2017



# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the Editor

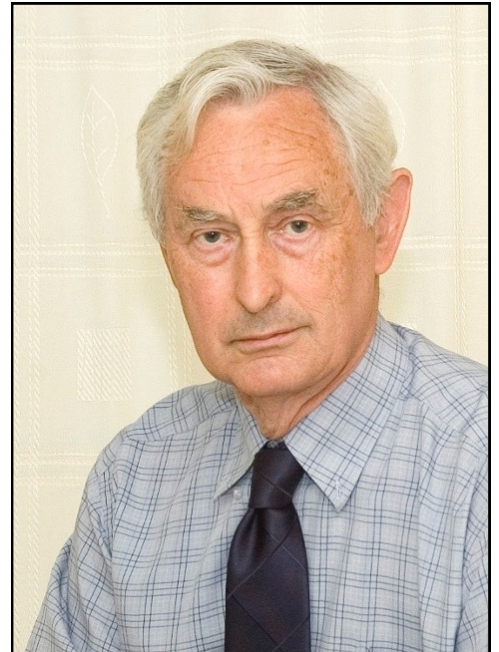
The new season is upon us and the museum has risen to the challenge of losing the support of an East Lindsey funded Tourist Information facility. A combination of paid staff and volunteers to man the day to day operation of the museum, together with the introduction of a High and Low season, with shorter opening hours in the low season, will allow the museum to open every day from April 1st. until the end of October. A big thank you is due to Gill Noble, Patricia Duke-Cox and Judy Everitt for all their efforts over the last few months to come up with a workable solution.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the opening of the museum in 1987. Our Founding Chairman, David Radford, who was the inspiration behind the whole project, has written a fascinating review of the vast range of challenges and achievements encountered over those 30 years, both by himself and the vast army of volunteers who have been involved. A special event is being held at the Coronation Hall on April 29th. to which everyone who has had a close involvement with the museum since the 1980's is warmly invited. Please check page 4 and also the museum website, [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk) for more information as we get closer to the date.

We open this year with a fascinating temporary exhibition of photos taken by John Wield of local places of interest and the comparison with the present day will be fascinating and very striking. An article by Roger Webb on page 8 explores this more fully.

The season ahead will be very challenging, but with the help and enthusiasm of all the directors and volunteers, I am sure it will be a successful one.

**Philip Groves**



### Front Cover

Main picture shows David Radford standing in front of the Museum building. It was taken in the mid 1980's around the time the museum first opened. Inset pictures show the museum as it is today, museum frontage on the right and the new outbuildings on the left.

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### The Newsletter Committee

Chairman - Paddy O'Neill Editor- Philip Groves Roger Webb Marjorie Sargeant

To contact the Newsletter Team please write to:-

The Cottage Museum, The Bungalow, Iddesleigh Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincs. LN10 6SH

or email [phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com)

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## 30 Years on .... David Radford remembers

I was faced with a seemingly impossible task when the request came through to pen an account for the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum newsletter to help celebrate a special occasion, the anniversary of its opening. Thirty years is a wonderful span of time and I have such a rich store of memories to go with it. What to choose would be the problem! Go with the flow was my solution!!

A list of names of those who made my dream to save what was unique priceless material for the community, to come true, might prove boring to fresh arrivals in Woodhall Spa. Some names would inadvertently be missed as well, so if that does happen, please accept my apologies.

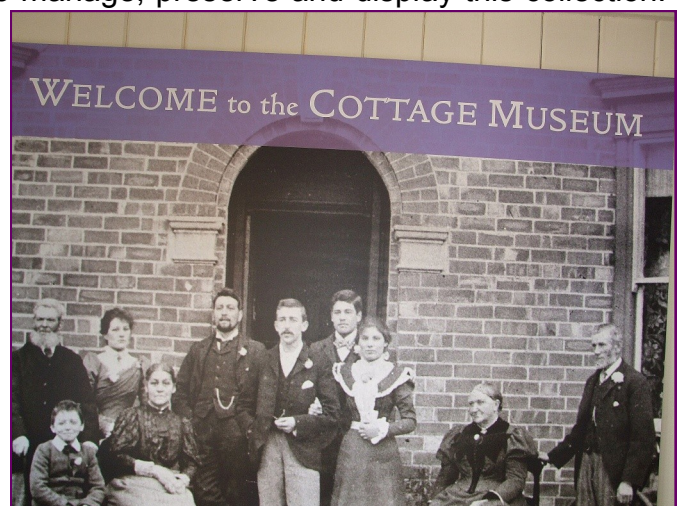
It has indeed been a great honour for me to share in the lives of so many from the community, individual personalities and families alike, but without John Wield and his family, the collection of Woodhall Spa heritage might have proved sadly lacking! For it is John's interests and hobbies, amateur photography being one of many, but all of a professional standard, that provided the store which was the catalyst to the museum's foundation and the countless dedicated volunteer hours spent in developing it. It was John who said, "One day, folk will ask, "Why Woodhall Spa?" Yes, that's why it is possible to see images of the Spa, its inhabitants and visitors from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Woodhall Spa was only about 60 years old itself, through to the present day in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was his photographs which I had begun to discover in dribs and drabs and which fired an already curious mind to find out more about the Spa's beginnings and the surrounding area. It was their intrinsic value to the little recorded early story and heritage of a fascinating Victorian health resort which made me feel they should remain in their community rather than be dispersed. The main collection's owner was about to move to Scotland. Also by chance the corrugated iron bungalow which had been John's home had come onto the market. At that time, apart from Fox Talbot's home in Lacock, there were very few early instances of displays centered around a photographer in his environment. Here was a historic bungalow soon to become a possible place to display the answer to, "Why Woodhall Spa?" in the very site which had been the home of our Lincolnshire photographer.

In retrospect, I wonder whether, in 1985, I fully appreciated the task I had taken on. Where was the funding to enable this project to have a successful outcome coming from? Where was the time available to a teacher and his young family to manage, preserve and display this collection. How could I achieve the dream?

Determination, careful organisation plus a rapidly learnt world of public funding possibilities and last but not least, the support of a large number of like-minded volunteer helpers was the answer to that conundrum!

Despite not being able to realise the sales price of the bungalow, John Wield's home for many years, the project encouraged the then owner to reduce the asking price and to encourage another gentleman to act as guarantor to the scheme. This allowed the new trustees to borrow the reduced but still daunting asking price and press ahead with the plans. The local community had, after consultation at a public meeting, also encouraged the trustees to go ahead. The Parish Council were behind us and we soon achieved charitable status, both of which proved valuable in the coming grant applications.

The founding trustees of this Cottage Museum were carefully chosen for their essential support qualities to the task in hand:-



*This photo which used to greet visitors to the museum shows John & Asenath Wield on their Wedding day*

*Continued overleaf*

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### 30 Years on .... David Radford Remembers (continued)

Stuart Treharne ... Solicitor, Amaryllis Midgley ... Publicity, E.M.Skelton ... Press, L J Hoar... Treasurer and myself as Chairman, founder of the Cottage Museum. The Hon President was N. Hotchkin, Esq.. The Vice-President was R. Porter Esq..

I had mentioned 'like-minded volunteer helpers' when I mentioned support! What a bonus they were! Organised in the form of an Action Group, under a different chairman, Mrs. P. Duke-Cox, their fund raising, enthusiasm, ideas, hard work and efficiency proved invaluable for the ultimate success that was to be. I quote from a report of the time, "The Cottage Museum's supporters have organised a 100 Club, Pyramid Meals, A Roll-a-Dice Car Competition, Treasure Hunts, Fashion Parades, a Sponsored Swim, Jumble Sales and Mrs. Enid Orvices' Christmas Cakes in the shape of the Museum which proved to be a good raffle fund raiser. In the space of a year and a half they have been marvellous!" These efforts together with the vital support of Jim Shortland and his Dambusters' Memorial Lectures which introduced the Cottage Museum to a much wider audience whilst informing us, with the help of some of the wartime squadron 617 (The Dambusters) themselves, by their giving a first-hand account of their daring exploits.

Today the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum has made enormous strides under its far-sighted Chairmen, Treasurers and Directors. Its awards have made it a flagship and example for museums in the East Midlands. Accreditation by the Arts Council, recognition of the national standards it has achieved, the same as met by larger museums like The British Museum, are to be treasured and lauded for the professionalism of all concerned.

The grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund has made possible a development of the rear of the Cottage Museum grounds plus a refurbishment of the museum building and displays. The Community Room is widely used by local groups. The artifacts are stored in acid free boxes on safe, air-conditioned shelving. Research can be done on site, by application, using the computer facilities and the digitised collection of over 5,000 images, many on original glass plates.

Thanks to the books researched and written by local authority Marjorie Sargeant that continue to tell the tale of Woodhall Spa's heritage and now also grace the shelves of The British Library as well as local libraries, the story of our fascinating and unique community is accessible to millions.

The contribution raised by its activities towards local business, especially in the centennial anniversary of the Pageant, the celebration of the restoration of the glass canopy in the Broadway and the Arnhem Monument with attendant ceremonies in its grounds, the presence of a Tourist Information facility with the support of E.L.D.C since 1991 but now fully under the aegis of the museum alone, all have made a great local impact.

I am so delighted that after thirty years, the Cottage Museum, Woodhall Spa still continues its work with pride and an eye to the future.

Well done you small museum with big surprises!

**David Radford Founding Chairman**

#### MUSEUM 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On 17<sup>th</sup> May, the Museum will have been open to visitors for 30 years. To mark this achievement the Directors are organising a ticketed celebration anniversary event on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Coronation Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm.

There will be an evening of entertainment, which will include supper and a complimentary glass of wine. There will also be a grand raffle with some excellent prizes.

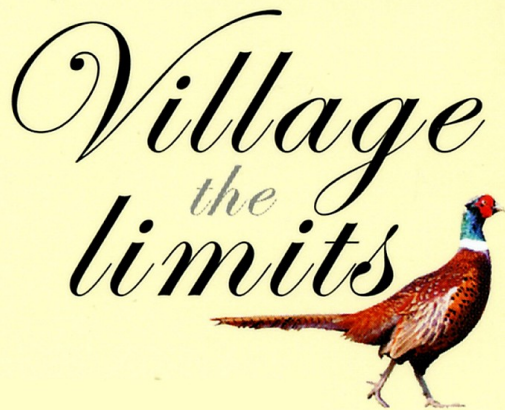
It is hoped that many volunteers who are currently involved, or who have supported the Museum in the past, will come together to enjoy a fun-filled evening and a piece of delicious cake.

The directors are extremely grateful to the group of volunteers who have been involved with the organisation of this event for the past few months.

The toast will be "Here's to the next 30 years!"

**Gill Noble**





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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### A New Season

With a little luck, and a following wind, your latest newsletter should be with you just before the start of the 2017 season for the Cottage Museum. This season is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cottage Museum being opened and it promises many new challenges and learning curves. We have also changed staffing arrangements for our tourist facility, as well as introducing high and low season opening times. The seasonal times are all on the website which is [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk) On Fridays the main office functions will be carried out by volunteers and our thanks go out to all our volunteers and supporters – please keep it up. The loss of support from East Lindsey District Council has hit us hard financially, but we are committed to the delivery of a high quality experience to all our visitors, one that will make them want to return time and time again.

Another reason to return is the fact that our displays change at least three times a year, either displaying different themes within the museum's artefacts, or sometimes an exhibition by an outside group. We have seen displays from local artists and a local photography group, to name but two. This year we are pleased to be welcoming the Spa Quilters to display some of their varied and lovely pieces. We will be seeing them later in the year. Perhaps you are in a group and would like to display your work/interests to a wider audience. If so then please have a word with one of the staff who will be pleased to take your details.

To start the season off, our collection care team have assembled a display of some of the photographic work of John Wield. This is so appropriate in our anniversary year, as the museum

trustees hold in trust the photographic collection of John Wield who lived in the cottage with his family. Enlarged photographs show John Wield's foray within Lincolnshire, recording places and buildings in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A digital display will run alongside this, enabling a large number of his images to be seen. These record not only Lincoln and Boston but other towns and villages too. This is one display not to miss.

As usual, within our 'arrivals room' in the museum, we have a wide range of both modern and also 'old-time' gifts, as well as treasure trails to follow and books. Within our range of books we are very pleased to be offering you the opportunity to purchase the latest book from Marjorie Sargeant, a local author and long-time supporter of the cottage museum. 'Portrait of a village. 1914 letters from Woodhall Spa' is her latest and it is well worth reading. You could also buy a signed copy of the book, dedicated to a person of your choice, during the next museum coffee morning on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Roger Webb**

### Where is This?



#### **Can you identify where this is in Woodhall Spa?**

It is a corner in the village which is very well-known to all of us and the features on the buildings are still easily recognisable today.

Not sure - then turn to page 12 to see this view as it is now. The pictures have been kindly selected by Patricia Duke-Cox.





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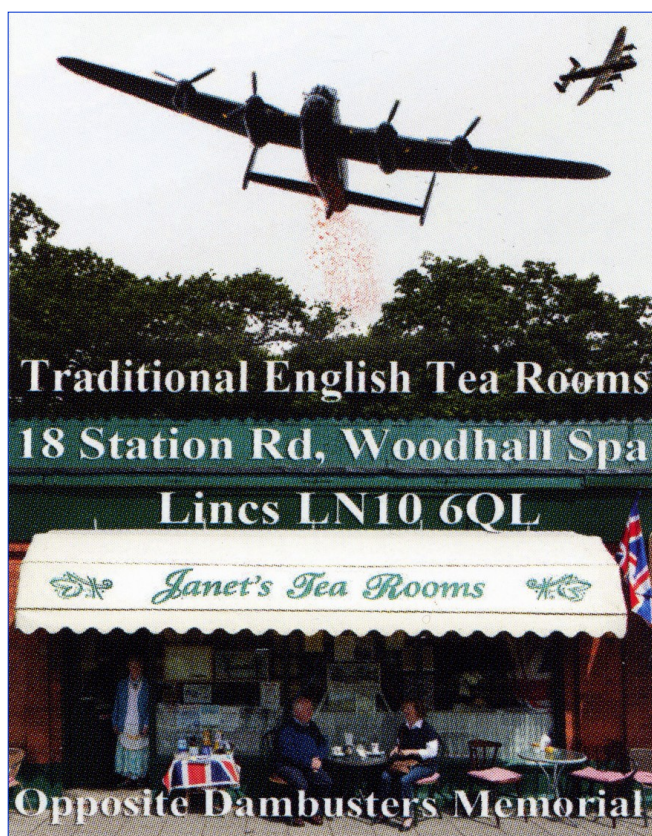
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## From the Collection



For this edition of the Newsletter it was considered more appropriate to head for events in 1987 as this is the 30th anniversary year for the Cottage Museum. A number of like-minded individuals came together and gave freely of their time and energy to convert an idea into a reality. Pictured in PH01652 are some of the founding trustees, namely David Radford, Bill Skelton, Amarylis Kocbuch and Stuart Treharne. Shown in PH01661 are just some of those who were here and working from the start. They are, L – R, Pat Bennett, Bunny Game, David Radford, Olive Roberts, Joan Monk, and Patricia Duke-Cox.



One of the activities that was as essential in 1987 as it is today was Fund-raising. PH01670 shows some of the team, including John Fletcher, David Radford and Wendy Radford, raising the profile of the Museum and hopefully some contributions, at the 1987 RAF Coningsby Open Day.

Another well remembered event from 1987 was the dedication of the Dam Busters' Memorial in Royal Square. This last picture, PH01270, shows the choir in front of the memorial and centre stage we have a black Labrador, exactly the same breed and colour as the pet dog of Wing Commander Guy Gibson V.C., D.S.O. and Bar, D.F.C. and Bar, the first commanding officer of 617 Squadron. At the time nobody knew where the dog had come from, although this was discovered later. Keeping on the subject of the dog, when the Dambusters film was made in 1955 the black Labrador in the film did everything required until they wanted it to go into the Wing Commanders' old office at RAF Scampton. It would not do it!



Roger Webb



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Woodhall Spa in Spring 1917

Dear Readers,

We are looking forward to longer days. It is very dark on Iddesleigh Road, especially with having the open common opposite us; Percy is prevailing upon the Council to erect a gas lamp here.

The Spa Baths have just opened for the Season, so Ellen is happy she can meet society folk again. Our boarding house is ready for the first visitors next week.

I saw Mrs. Street outside Poucher's Bakery and she said that her son, Sydney, has recovered from the kick by a horse and has volunteered to serve in Egypt – she is afraid he will catch something in such a strange place. Privately, I hoped it would not be a bullet.

While we were talking, Nurse Brumpton rode past. Her new bicycle, to which we all contributed, looked sturdy and smart although I was told that despite costing more than before the war, it has needed a new back lamp. She is a wonderful District Nurse and last year made nearly 3,000 visits. There was a Whist Drive for the District Nurse's Fund last week, with useful wartime prizes like a cwt. of coal, a flashlight, a couple of rabbits and a beast's head.

We all give to the Red Cross Hospital as well. Everything – greens, home-made bread, brawn, pyjamas, chocolate, cigarettes, stationery, wool - is gratefully received. The poor wounded soldiers have knitted mufflers to send to France.

The Council has sent off 48 hampers to our lads at the Front and a case has been put outside Mr. Wilson's shoe shop on Station Road containing the names of the men who are serving the colours. It gives them credit, of course, but I think it is also to shame those who are not.



*The Alexandra Hospital in Woodhall Spa*

By Marjorie Sargeant

*Bertha*

### Where is This? The Answer!



The junction of Stanhope Avenue and the Broadway. The building on the corner is now The Book Fayre and the building is known as Matthew Temple House.

*The answer to the "Where is this" puzzle on page 8 is -*





### Unsung Heroes

The bi-annual Lincolnshire Heritage Awards ceremony was held on Wednesday 16th November 2016, at The Collection. Of the four categories, the museum directors entered nominations in two, namely, "The Unsung Hero" and "A project that benefitted the Community."

Although there was strong competition from heritage sites across the county, both our nominees were shortlisted and invited to attend the event.

Ken Mair was awarded the "Highly Commended" trophy and certificate in the "Unsung Hero" category. The judges were very impressed by all the improvements that Ken had made to the museum and the grounds. His carpentry skills

have been used to build the units for the cafeteria equipment in the community room, he has designed and built wardrobes to house costumes, constructed new fencing and a notice board at the front gate. He has also erected a grab rail in the museum and posts on the courtyard paving which prevent anyone from toppling down a steep drop. The judges' comment was, "Every establishment needs a KEN!"

Colin Skinner was awarded a certificate in the "community project" category for the wonderful job he has done refurbishing the fire-damaged Bath Chair, which is now back on display and helping to raise funds for the museum.

We are delighted that Ken's and Colin's skills have been recognised and thank them for their continued help and support.



*Colin Skinner with the re-furbished Bath Chair*



*Ken Mair receiving his certificate at the Heritage Forum Awards from Catherine Wilson*

### Volunteer Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is held once a month to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag!

The Coffee Morning is held on the first Wednesday of each month, in the Community Room and starts at 10.00 am. Why not give it a try?

### COMMUNITY ROOM BOOKINGS

We are looking for a volunteer to manage bookings for The Community Room. If you think you might be interested, please contact Gill Noble for more details.

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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| Thursday  | Closed         | 6-11pm    |
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| Saturday  | 12-3pm         | *6-11pm   |
| Sunday    | *12-3pm        | 7-10:30pm |

\*Food served at these times or others by arrangement



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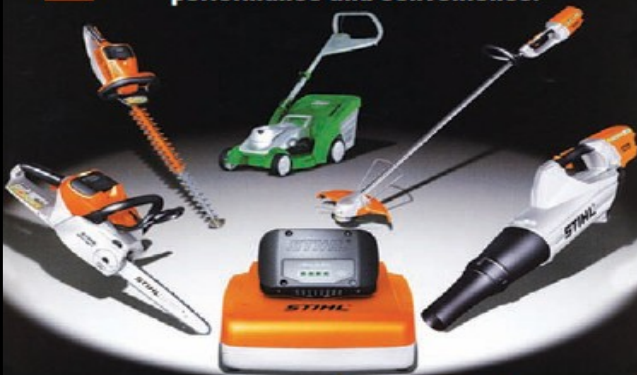
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£15 Jamie Roberts (104)  
of Horsington

£10 Mrs C Hibberd (16)  
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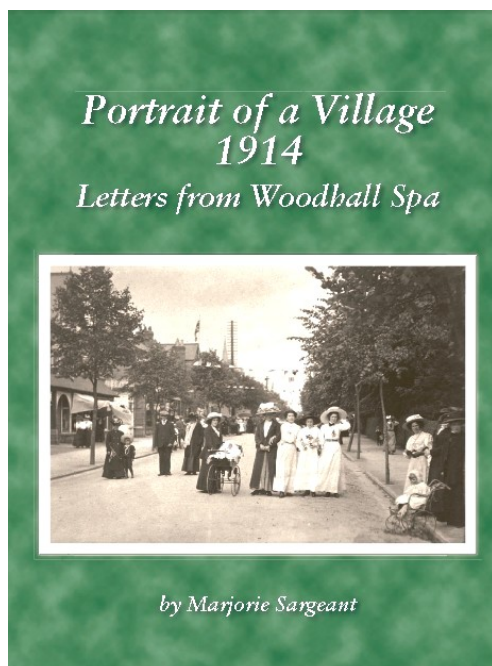
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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Book Launch - Portrait of a Village 1914



A new book about Woodhall Spa was launched by the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum at their Christmas Coffee morning held at the end of November. The launch was very successful and a great many copies were sold, with most of them signed by the author, Marjorie Sargeant.

The book, entitled "Portrait of a Village 1914: letters from Woodhall Spa" is written by local author, Marjorie Sargeant, who has researched the period from a local perspective. The letters are written by fictional characters but refer to actual people and events of the time. The stories the letters tell relate to life in Woodhall Spa in 1914, the build-up to the declaration of war and the impact that the Great War had on the local community.

The book, which would make an ideal gift, is well-illustrated with images from the Museum's extensive collection and includes many not seen before. It is a fascinating book to read and will appeal to a wide audience, but particularly to local residents whose families were living in the village at that

time. It costs £9 and can be purchased from The Book Fayre in The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Perkins Newsagents, Market Square, Horncastle and the Richard Sivill Gallery, 4 High Street, Tattershall or by emailing [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk). It is also available at slightly higher cost online from Amazon and eBay.

### Tourist Information Update

The directors have been delighted with the large number of applications that were received from people wishing to cover the two part-time paid posts that will cover six days of each week. The short-listing process took place on Thursday 16th February and the successful candidates were invited to attend an interview on either Monday 27th or Tuesday 28th February.

A successful bid for grant funding from the Association of Independent Museums has enabled the directors to pay for a consultant to give two training sessions on the subject of Audience Development, delivered by Rebecca Bewick. All museum volunteers were invited to attend these sessions, held on 8th and 9th March, in The Methodist Church Hall.

There has been a positive response from museum volunteers who are willing to man the Reception Desk and Tourist Information Facility on a rota basis on Fridays during the season.

The directors are grateful for all the support that has been received from so many people to help with the transition process that we have put in place for 2017.

Gill Noble

### Community Room for Hire

At the Cottage Museum  
Very reasonable rates:

Morning, afternoon, evening  
or all day rates.

Maximum number of people 25-30

For further details and bookings  
please contact:

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



## EBRINGTON ARMS

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Food is served Tuesday to Sunday  
between noon and 2pm and 6pm - 9pm  
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A family run traditional pub restaurant  
serving good home cooked food  
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ales.(CAMRA Good Beer Guide)  
3.5 miles from Coningsby  
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The bar has a warm coal fire in winter.  
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weather and the pleasant beer garden  
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

### Wine, dine and relax

Set in the heart of Lincolnshire, The Petwood Hotel is a perfect base for exploring the county's coast, the Wolds, aviation heritage sites and the historic city of Lincoln



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Petwood Hotel, Stixwold Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6QG

[www.petwood.co.uk](http://www.petwood.co.uk)





## POPPY'S PAGE

Did you all have a lovely Christmas? I did, with lots of treats and lovely presents! It will soon be time for the Easter holidays and there is news of great activities for you at the Museum over Easter. Also with Spring around the corner a little quiz to unscramble some of the garden visitors. Bye for now. Poppy



## EASTER FUN AT THE MUSEUM

Come and be amateur detectives at the museum during the Easter holidays. See if you can find the hidden clues to discover the butterflies that have hibernated there over the winter. You will receive a packet of wild flower seeds to plant in your own garden, which will attract bees and butterflies in the summer.

**COME AND ENJOY A BUTTERFLY CRAFT MORNING  
ON WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL FROM 10.00 -12.00  
LOTS OF EXCITING ACTIVITIES  
£3.00 PER PERSON, ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED.**

Email [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk) or phone 01526 353 455  
to book a place.

There will be lots of exciting activities for you to enjoy throughout the year, you can find out what they are on the website, [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk) or on the museum's Facebook page.

Gill Noble

## Unscramble the Garden Visitors!

There are lots of "visitors" to the museum garden. Their names have been jumbled up. Unscramble them to find out what they are.

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| PRISDE | MORW     |
| SPWA   | BDDYARIL |
| ETLEBE | NSLAI    |
| NTA    | ULGS     |

Answers on Page 8





# 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,

Here we are at the start of another season in the life of the Cottage Museum. Here are three dates for your diaries. Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April – Coffee Morning in St. Peters Hall, 9.30 to 12 noon. Only £1.50 for a drink and cake. There will be all the usual stalls and the very popular 'How many eggs in the basket' will be making a return. All that standing about in the cold selling guesses is worth it just to see the smile on the winners' face.

Second date, Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.30 p.m. We are very pleased to welcome back Cutwater Productions with their latest masterpiece – 'The Legacy of Grimblethorpe Manor'. This is an original comedy by Broadhurst and Read whose work we so enjoyed last year. Where there's a will there's a way, but what if there isn't one? Who inherits the manor? How will the loyal retainers cope? What is Lord Mancaster's true legacy? What will happen to the domestic staff – will they rise to the challenges left by the late lord, or slip back into their previous dodgy ways? Expect comedy and mayhem when interested parties appear, ranging from an American claimant to the vacant earldom to a Russian oligarch, potentially jeopardising the staff's chance of having a say in their future – and that of the manor! Cutwater's cast of 7 play 15 parts in this madcap comedy. It's Ealing Comedies meets Upstairs Downstairs, as you join with Cutwater Productions while they reveal the hidden legacy of Grimblethorpe Manor. We are hosting this event in St. Peters hall. The admission price is £8.00 and that includes an interval hot drink/cake. Early booking is advised as their last tour was a complete sell-out. Bookings can be made by email to [friends@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:friends@cottagemuseum.co.uk) or by telephone to 01526 353029.

Finally, June 4<sup>th</sup> is the Woodhall Spa 10K race. We help them, they help us. Volunteers needed for marshalling in the morning. Offers to the same contact details please.

**Roger Webb**

#### Come and Join Us

The backbone of the Cottage Museum are our volunteers and some of them are putting a lot of hours in and could really do with a hand. Can you help? Do you have a few hours to spare in the month? It does not have to be a massive commitment. There are numerous opportunities with a person to look after the Community Room bookings very much needed.

If you would like to find out more without committing yourself then please call us on

**01526 352456**



#### What's On Guide

##### **Friends Coffee Morning**

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April  
St. Peters Hall  
9.30 - 12 noon

##### **The Petwood Gardens Talk**

Part 3 Decline & Deterioration  
Dr N. Duke-Cox  
2.30 pm 10<sup>th</sup> May  
At Petwood Hotel  
£7.50

Includes refreshments

Cutwater Productions  
present

##### **'The Legacy of Grimblethorpe Manor'**

7.00 pm Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May  
St Peters Hall

##### **Children's Event Craft Collage and Badge Making**

31<sup>st</sup> May  
10.00 to 12 noon  
£3.00 inc. materials

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

