

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

30th Anniversary Year



Newsletter No. 26
July 2017

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

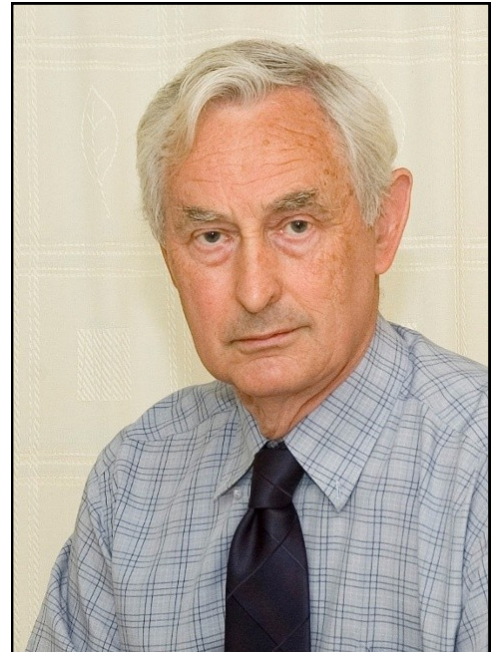
A Note from the Editor

Another season for the museum is now well underway. This season is rather special as it not only marks the 30th anniversary of the opening of the museum back in May 1987, but also our first season “going it alone” without assistance from the ELDC, in the form of their Tourist Information Centre. A great deal of work has been put in behind the scenes by Gill Noble, Patricia Duke-Cox, Nigel Webb and Judy Everitt, plus numerous other helpers, to take on the job of providing the facility and taking over the running of the Reception area. They have clearly made an outstanding success of this onerous task, having recruited two excellent members of staff to run things and to put in place all the back up systems that make it possible. We owe a big thank you to all involved in this ambitious project.

This year's AGM saw the planned resignation of Gill Noble as Chairman. It was agreed by the Directors some time ago that the Chairman should have a maximum term of office of 3 years and unbelievably it is 3 years since Gill took on the job, at very short notice. Patricia Duke-Cox was unanimously elected as the new Chairman and Lynnette Needham as the Deputy Chair. We all wish them well in their new positions. Patricia has written an article outlining the achievements that Gill has overseen during her 3 years in office.

This month we heard the sad news that Alan Jackson had died in May. Alan was the husband of Gillian Jackson, Granddaughter of John Wield. The Jacksons have always been staunch supporters of the museum and David Radford has written a short appreciation on page 11.

Due to lack of space the “What Our Visitors Are Saying” feature has been held over to next time.



Philip Groves

Front Cover

The fantastic cake made by Trish Lewis-Smith for the 30th Celebration Evening held at Coronation Hall on Saturday April 29th.

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The Newsletter Committee

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

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30th. Anniversary Celebrations

This event, "A Bit of a Do!" was held at the Coronation Hall on Saturday 29th April to mark the thirtieth year since the museum first opened on 17th May 1987. Approximately eighty people enjoyed an evening of entertainment provided by the Zero Degrees Show Chorus and Alan Bolt. A light supper was served which included a glass of wine. A magnificent cake, a replica of the Museum and garden, was created by Trish Lewis-Smith.

The evening was very well supported, especially the raffle, which raised £820 and a grand total of approximately £1300 was raised for Museum funds. Chairman Gill Noble thanked everyone who had helped and supported throughout the planning and execution of "A Bit of a Do!" particularly Joy and Alan Bolt, Trish Lewis-Smith, Gladys Ireland, Margaret and Roger Reed, Sally Noble, Ann Houlton, Patricia Duke-Cox and Judy Everitt.



Some of the 80 guests who attended



Alan Bolt entertains the guests



Gill Noble & Trish Lewis-Smith cut the cake



Zero Degrees Show Chorus take their bow



During the evening Patricia Duke-Cox presented Chairman Gill Noble with a bouquet of flowers, in appreciation of her work as Chairman over the past 3 years. Gill Noble stepped down from the role of Chairman of The Cottage Museum's Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting held on 4th May. The directors voted unanimously for Mrs. Patricia Duke-Cox to take over as Chairman and for Mrs. Lynnette Needham to take over as Deputy Chairman. Mrs. Judy Everitt will continue in her role as Treasurer/Administrator.

Gill Noble - An Appreciation of her Achievements as Chairman

Gill Noble took over as chairman after the sudden departure of Jackie Goodall due to reasons of ill health. She responded well to the challenge and has overseen successes along with the most severe challenge of losing staffing with the withdrawal of ELDC support of the Tourist Information Centre.

Her term of office started well in July 2014 when the Museum achieved three awards at the Lincolnshire Heritage Forum Awards at Gainsborough. The Museum was highly commended in the Inspiration Award, Jackie Goodall was awarded a judges special award for her outstanding contribution to “a little gem in Lincolnshire’s heritage”, whilst the Museum was given the Award of Excellence.

The workshop delivered by Hilary McGowan on succession planning provided the Board of Directors with a new way of ensuring directors were responsible for specific areas of work and would meet regularly to update actions agreed. These action planning meetings offer a focus to which responses are easily monitored.

As head of Education, Gill was involved with the Young Person’s Guidebook to the Museum published in July 2014. She was also involved in the Museum

Development East Midlands (MDEM) film about engaging young people with the Museum. The Museum was just one of the two heritage sites in Lincolnshire to be involved. In December, her team decorated the Museum in the style of a Victorian Christmas. At the end of the year admissions had increased by 11% and children by 30%.

Continuing with the Education theme, Gill and her team have been involved with Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire and working with schoolchildren.

In the garden, the removal of the central pathway across the lawn now enables events to be held with gazebos and chairs more easily. After experimenting with Jazz in the Garden in 2015 the introduction of Music in the Garden on five Sunday afternoons in July and August 2016 was well received and most enterprising. Capitalising on the increased visitors, the Courtyard Café, which was introduced in preparation for the 40s weekend, has been a great asset in increasing funding. In August 2016 confirmation was received that full re-accreditation as a heritage site was recognized by Arts Council England.

Another notable achievement was the introduction of a new website, created by Craven Digital and embracing social media, so that there is a Facebook and Twitter presence for the Cottage Museum.

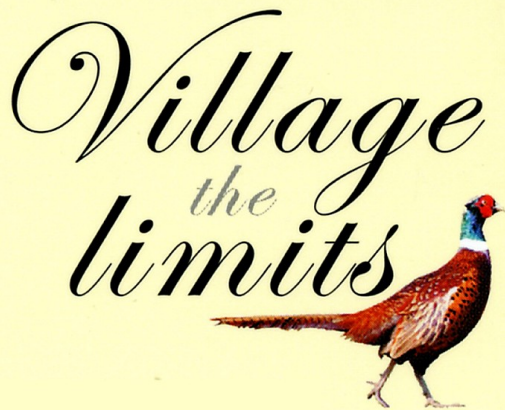
The final achievement for Gill was getting the support of Directors to employ two part-time seasonal staff to open the museum 6 days a week in 2017, with the seventh day being manned by volunteers. All the Visitor Services personnel respond to both Museum and tourist enquiries and maintain our desire to offer good quality customer care.

Happily Gill remains an enthusiastic volunteer, with a passion for the Museum and all it stands for in the community. Her personal charm has encouraged new and committed volunteers to step forward in our 30th anniversary year.



Gill Noble

Patricia Duke-Cox Chairman



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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

From the Collection



Two ladies in a mid-summer flood. This was not far from the museum, but where?



Yes! It is in the front garden of the museum itself then the home of the Wield family. Taken by John Wield, the two ladies are his wife Asenath and their daughter 'Effie'

Nicholas Duke-Cox

David Radford Remembers - Now and Then

Hello Everyone!

The season is in full swing at the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

30 years on and a TIC run by the Cottage Museum volunteers themselves. That shows the spirit which motivates this small centre of heritage excellence. But before I begin with this edition's "Bits and Pieces," this year will always be remembered for the horrible Grenfell fire and its consequences. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the survivors, and I am sure I speak for everyone in Woodhall Spa when I say this. Please if you can offer anything and especially comfortable accommodation or respite, please contact the tenants' charities on the spot as official channels are swamped. I am sure the Victoria Derbyshire programme will help. Heritage unfortunately remembers the good and the bad that makes up Life itself. Here is a little of the positive good.

As you stroll along the Broadway, newcomers to Woodhall Spa cannot help but notice the glass canopy which fronts the lovely selection of shops that is part of the Spa's attraction. The renewal of this canopy thanks to the Historic Centres Heritage Economic Regeneration Committee was celebrated at a special occasion on April 28th, 2007 with an occasion organised by Audrey Pestell and myself.

It was a joyous occasion held on a beautiful summer's day that included the renewal of a Woodhall Spa tradition, namely the crowning of the May Queen. The audience of public representatives and local bystanders were entertained with singing and maypole dancing performed by pupils of St



Continued on Page 11



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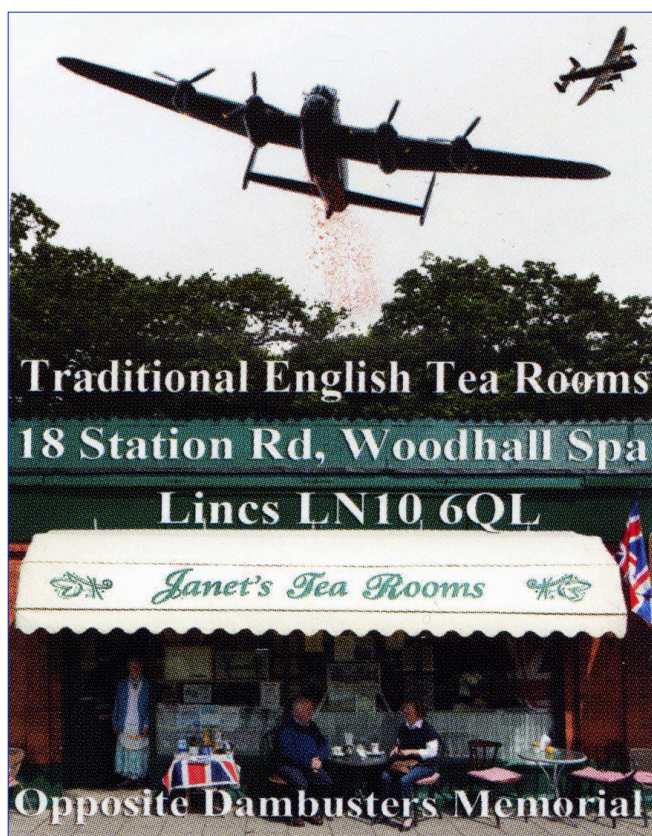
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Now and Thencontinued

Andrew's School on the lawn of the Inn opposite the canopy..

After the crowning ceremony and further dancing around the maypole, the canopy was blessed by the Rev. Ann Gurner whereupon a procession led by the May Queen and Robin Hood was led across the Broadway to present posies to the shopkeepers as a gift of celebration. Medals were presented to the children as a memento of the occasion.

The ceremony concluded with light refreshments for guests, parents and children at the rear of the hotel. If you can imagine the occasion perhaps this will help to bear the tidings of these dreadful times and the daily reports of the suffering that afflicts this generation.



Crowning the May Queen in April 2007

David Radford - Founding Chairman

Alan Jackson - An appreciation by David Radford

I should just like to add, on behalf of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, a few words to the many given in response to the sad news of Alan's passing.

Alan was the proud husband of Gillian, the granddaughter of John Wield, whose photography and musings were my inspiration behind the creation of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum. It was my privilege to get to know the Wield family and to become accepted by them in my efforts to save this



Gillian & Alan Jackson at the re-opening of the museum in 2013

150 Club Winners

March

£20 [92] Josie Selby
£15 [98] Tom Johnson
£10 [60] Nigel Bush

April

£20 [47] Heather Colebrook
£15 [135] Roger Webb
£10 [10] Geraint Radford

May

£20 [109] Richard Needham
£15 [115] Robert Webb
£10 [59] Nigel Bush

important record of the community's early years to the present day.

It was such a thrill to know that Cedric and Effie, John's children and their children were fully behind the project.

Gillan, John's granddaughter and Alan's wife has been my main contact with the family and through her I met her husband Alan.

He was always at her side with quiet humour, full support and wisdom.

His knowledge of engineering and social communication, never imposed but quietly shared were a great asset to me in those early days especially.

We shall never forget his presence at Gillian's side and offer our most sincere condolences to her and the family at this sad time.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Woodhall Spa - Summer 1917

Dear Readers,

Are not these summer days delightful? Our visitors walk through the woods extolling the scent of the pines and in the evenings, dressed in the latest London finery, they stroll elegantly down the Broadway.

Every year we have the lily season when visitors purchase posies of lilies of the valley to send all over the country; they arrive next day.

Petwood gardens have been a picture of rhododendrons and roses but there has been a tragedy there. Mrs. Weigall's daughter, Kathleen, died during an operation in a London hospital; she was only 19 and so popular. The likes of us boarding house keepers have not met Capt. and Mrs. Weigall but all the village was in mourning.

The war affects everything. We contribute to hampers sent to our lads at the Front and everyone gives to the hospital, which has efforts towards the costs of the poor wounded men. One was a Sale of Work done by the soldiers – there were beautiful carvings, needlework and paintings. It was opened by Mrs. Rawnsley of Well Vale who is one of the society set and a great friend of Mrs. Hotchkin, who entertains the soldiers to tea and croquet at the Manor. Now the Ministry want the village to accommodate 200 more men somewhere - I hope we will not be affected. The U.D.C. is enquiring if a licence is necessary for oats for the Council horse.

Last month two aeroplanes alighted on Stixwould Road and were examined by hundreds of people.



The Round Pond looking back to the house

There is good news too. Last week Mr. and Mrs. Street of Witham Road heard that their elder son has been awarded the Military Cross for bravery in a big push. Last autumn he was hospitalised in France, suffering from enteric fever.

We have had some garden parties and tennis matches and there is music daily in the Bandstand but it is an all ladies band now.

By Marjorie Sargeant

Bertha



The kitchen gardens at Petwood looking back to the house

But it has been dreadful for some families. More of our gallant young men have been killed. Arthur Smith, of "Fern Royd" was wounded in a trench and died. Everybody knew him because he worked for Chapman's London and Manchester Stores, at the crossroads.

A friend, Mrs. Brigham, who keeps the boarding house, "Glenesk," on the Broadway, was shocked when she was told her son was wounded in France; mercifully he was not killed.

Petwood Gardens

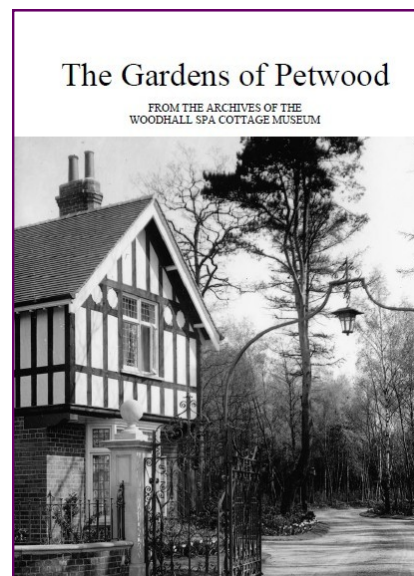
Dr. Nicholas Duke-Cox delivered the third talk entitled "Decline and Deterioration" in his series on the history of the gardens at Petwood. Due to the great interest in these talks the event had to be moved to a larger room at the Petwood to accommodate the size of audience.

He began by giving a brief resumé of the previous talks, before describing how the original gardens have changed over the years with the change of use of the building and grounds. He pointed out that in its heyday the gardens had been tended by an army of 44 gardeners, which obviously is quite impossible in these days of austerity. The talk was



Dr. Nicholas Duke-Cox delivers his talk at Petwood

copiously illustrated by photographs from the archives of the museum. A book based on the series of lectures entitled "The Gardens of Petwood" is to be published by the end of summer. It is the result of 4 years intensive research, covering the history of the Gardens from their genesis to the current restoration, together with further chapters on the possible origins of the garden ornament and that which has left Lincolnshire. It is prodigiously illustrated with views never seen before, the vast majority of which have come from the archive of the Cottage Museum. Steffie Shields, Chairman of the Association of Garden Trusts, has commented "My view is that the Petwood gardens are nationally significant. The photographs that have come to light add much valuable information to the unique story of the garden and the key Edwardian designers William Goldring and Harold Peto. What is more, these gardens were, and are still, much enjoyed by the local Woodhall Spa community, and, in particular gave great solace and respite to serving airmen during WWII".



Front cover of the new book

Pre-publication orders have already been accepted. Copies can be reserved at the Cottage Museum. Pre-publication prices are £20 for softback and £25 for hardback.

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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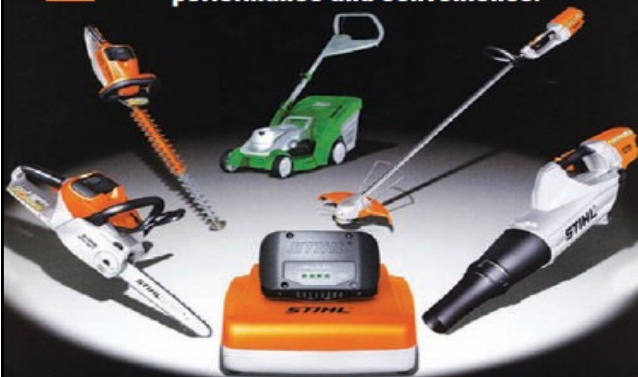
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Music in the Garden

Last year Gill Noble introduced a series of events on the museum lawn, which proved to be very popular. "Music in the Garden" drew lots of people to the museum grounds, to listen to various types of musical entertainment on Sunday afternoons through August.

This year the event is to return and starts on **Sunday 30th July at 2.00 pm** with a local organist, Alan Taylor. Alan has been playing the electronic Organ for more than 40 years and can often be heard playing at local events. Recently he hired the Wurlitzer at Blackpool Tower for an hour, fulfilling a lifelong ambition.



*Alan plays the
Mighty Wurlitzer at
Blackpool Tower*



Colin & Gerry

The concerts continue on **Sunday 6th August** with Trad Jazz featuring Colin and Gerry.

This duo have been to the garden sessions before and are back by popular demand, plenty of toe tapping melodies to enjoy.

Sunday 13th August

Mike Warwick returns to take us all back to the hits of the 50's through to the 80's. Come and sing along, a real nostalgia trip!



Mike Warwick

Sunday 20th August

The CAT's Strummers

Musicians made up from various groups from Coningsby and Tattershall. Sing, clap and tap your feet.

Sunday 27th August

The Lincoln Ukulele Band

Lots of opportunity to join in, sing along, and have a really great afternoon.

The Courtyard Cafe will be open for all these events. Just come into the museum garden, find a chair, relax and enjoy a fun afternoon's entertainment. Admission is free but donations are welcomed.

Lincolnshire Coop Days Out Offer

From 17 July the Cottage Museum will be promoted on the Lincolnshire Coop Days Out Offer.

They reach out to 270,000 members within and close to the county borders (so we can hope for increased footfall). The offer is to buy one entry ticket and get 2nd one free i.e. BOGOF. Vouchers can be downloaded from their website. Since they are about to contact all members with new card and fob, there should be increased activity on their website.

The idea was aired at a recent volunteers coffee morning and well received. An executive meeting of directors also approved the initiative which needed a quick response.

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POPPY'S PAGE

Hello everybody! Hope you are all enjoying the lovely summer weather. This time we have a Word Search for you, with summer as the theme and also details of various fun activities for the School holidays. I was 7 in May (49 in your years!) and below is a birthday picture of me.

Bye for now. Poppy



SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

4 activity mornings are being held at the museum during August.

Thursday 3rd Creative Clay

Wednesday 9th Play and Paint, toys and games and a chance to be creative with paints

Wednesday 16th Wriggly Day, come and make and use a pooter

Wednesday 23rd Creative Clay

Children must be accompanied by an adult,
Sessions run from 10.00 am till 12.00.

£3.00 per child, booking is recommended.

Please phone 01526 353 455 to book a place.



Poppy with her Birthday present!

Gill Noble

SUMMER WORD SEARCH set by Gill Noble

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

Hidden in the grid are 12 words. They are all based on a seaside theme and the ones to be found are:-

sand castle
ice cream
bucket
spade
shells
beach
rock pool
crab line
waves
limpet
flag
gull



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 Carol Webb 01526 353029

Hello Friends,

Since the last edition of the Newsletter I have to report the loss of both Gladys Ireland and Elizabeth Leech from the Friends Committee. Both of them will be sorely missed and I would like to thank them for all their hard work. They are both still helping at the Museum in a variety of other ways, for which we are most grateful. If you would like to help on the Friends committee or would like to find out a little more about what it entails then please get in touch.

I would also like to thank those of you who were able to help in making the Woodhall Spa 10K race day such a success. This brings in much needed funding to the Museum.

The Cutwater Productions presentation was another success that was enjoyed by a lot of people on the night. The raffle was boosted by some very generous and unusual prizes, ranging from a signed print to a volunteer to do some gardening!

Doing away with the fixed period membership of the Friends, from September to August, has encouraged more people to join in the summer months but we are currently finding that we are having to remind members of the Friends that their membership has expired. Not only does this mean extra work but also extra costs for everything from postage to stationery. Please check your membership card and if it is due for renewal then get in touch with The Chairman of the Friends, care of the Cottage Museum. The current rates for membership are £8 for an individual and £12 for a family group and all cheques should be made payable to Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

Don't forget to join us in the Museum café for a drink and some cake after you have enjoyed the summer music in the garden on Sunday afternoons. Both the dates and the artists are advertised on the notice board and the website.

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

40's Weekend

14th—16th July

"We'll Meet Again"

Lincoln Ukulele Band

Fri. 14th at 7.30 pm

Methodist Hall

Tickets £5 from Museum

"Music in the Garden"

30th July 2.00 pm

Alan Taylor

Electronic Organ

6th August 2.00 pm

Trad Jazz

With Colin & Gerry

13th August 2.00 pm

Mike Warwick

Hits of 50's to 80's

20th August 2.00 pm

The CATS Strummers

27th August 2.00 pm

Lincoln Ukulele Band

join in and sing along

John Wield & The Great War

Talk by Dr. N Duke-Cox

Sept 15th 2.30 pm

Petwood Hotel

£7.50 from museum

See also

www.cottagemuseum.co.uk
& www.woodhallspa.org

