

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Newsletter No. 28  
March 2018

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the Editor

A new season is nearly upon us. Easter is early this year so the museum will open its doors on March 30th., Good Friday. Tom Johnson has written a short article on page 3 to introduce the theme of the displays for the coming season and we all look forward to seeing these ideas come to fruition when the museum opens its doors. Since the publication of the last Newsletter we have sadly lost Roger Reed, who along with his wife Margaret had just joined the Friends' Committee. Roger will be sadly missed and we all send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Margaret. Gill Noble has written a short appreciation on page 12.

Trish Lewis-Smith, who joined the Board and became Chairman of the Friends has unfortunately had to stand down due to family commitments and for the moment Richard Sivill and Patricia Duke-Cox are standing in.

On a more upbeat note we are all delighted to welcome a new Director to the Board. Tracey Jones has just been appointed a Director and she features in our "Meet the Directors" article on page 11. We extend a very warm welcome to Tracey.

On a personal note, it does seem to me to be ironic that as the village of Woodhall Spa was featured as a serious contender on Channel 4's "Village of the Year" competition, the beautiful tree lined approach in Witham Road now resembles a scene from a World War 1 battlefield! Whilst it is right that Woodhall Spa should make its contribution to the provision of new housing, it is important that it should not be over-developed. The District Council is on record as describing Woodhall Spa as the "Jewel in the Crown" of East Lindsey. We must not allow that crown to become tarnished beyond recognition. What an extraordinary coincidence that the trees in Witham Road were cut back exactly 100 years ago as described by "Bertha" on page 13.



**Philip Groves**

### Front Cover

Colin leads the carol singing before venturing outside for Wassailing around the Apple Tree.

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### The Newsletter Committee

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

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or email [phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com)  
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## Displays for the New Season

Once a season finishes the Collections Team return the artefacts to the archives and plan for the next year's displays. When the theme is decided upon the team retrieve the items from the archives, update the records and ensure the artefacts are in a clean condition. This year's theme is pertinent to John Wield. The large display cabinet in the middle room will house the museum's collection of cameras, projectors and related photographic memorabilia.



*One of the museum's collection of slide projectors*



The other glass cabinet will contain some of the many items made by John Wield whilst living in the bungalow and some of his personal belongings. He was an extremely capable and clever person who could turn his talents to make nearly any item he needed to assist in his day to day living and work.

The first exhibition in the Temporary Exhibition room will be of Lincolnshire maps and will include the recently restored Armstrong map from 1887. This exhibition will run until June 1st when it will be replaced by "Notable Names in Woodhall Spa".

*Left:- John Wield  
with his camera. A  
self portrait taken by  
John using a mirror*

**Tom Johnson**

## Volunteer Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is held bi-monthly to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors. The next one is in April, when we will also hear about the issue of scams from a police representative. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag!

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



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Victorian Christmas at the Museum



*Stalls laid out in the courtyard*



*2 children try out the pantomime costumes*



*There was plenty for the children to do*



*Wassailing around the Apple Tree*

The theme for this year's Victorian Christmas was pantomime. The museum display cabinets were decked out with memorabilia from long past performances and there were even costumes to see and handle.

The Wield Room was fully decorated in the Victorian style, complete with Christmas tree and presents around its base.

On 2nd December there was the added attraction of the Friends' Christmas Fayre, which was set up under the canopy in the courtyard. Throughout the events the Courtyard Cafe was open and doing a roaring trade in hot drinks and delicious cakes.



*The Christmas Tree in the Wield Room*

Later that day, following the singing of carols led by Colin in the Wield Room (see front cover photograph), everybody adjourned to the museum garden and Colin led adults and children alike through the traditional Wassailing around the Apple Tree. This age old tradition is supposed to promote a good harvest in the coming year. We'll wait and see how well the yield of Apples is this year!

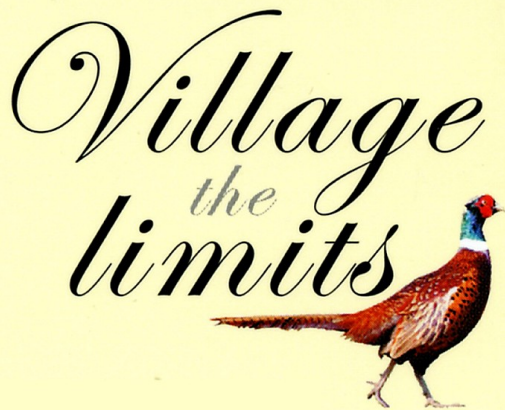
Over 100 people visited the museum for the Victorian Christmas events, including 21 children. All those who came said they had a very enjoyable time.

**Philip Groves**



*The courtyard cafe was on hand with warm drinks!*





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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### From the Collection

This year Easter Day falls on the first Sunday in April, actually April 1st. In 1920 Easter Day also fell on the first Sunday in April, that happened to be the 4th. Woodhall Spa, however, remembers Easter Sunday 1920 for an altogether different reason.



PH00891

That is the day that one of the iconic buildings of the village, and one that played a dominant part in its fame as a fashionable Spa, suffered a disastrous fire which eventually led to its demolition. That building was the Victoria Hotel. PH00891 shows a John Wield view which he has colour tinted to give an impression of the inferno. The Cottage Museum is fortunate to have some artifacts in its Collection, apart from photographs, which reflect the intensity of the heat generated. 1993.50 is the door number for room

70. 1993.52 is the reception desk bell and 1993.43 is a charred milk jug showing the hotel crest.



PC02070

With the fire causing irreparable damage, the decision was taken to demolish the building. PC02070 shows the demolition team pulling down the west elevation of the original hotel. The centre of the card shows the remains of the 1888 extension. Note no hi-vis jackets, hard hats or industrial mechanization. Amazingly, the man at the far left is in a suit!

Nicholas Duke-Cox





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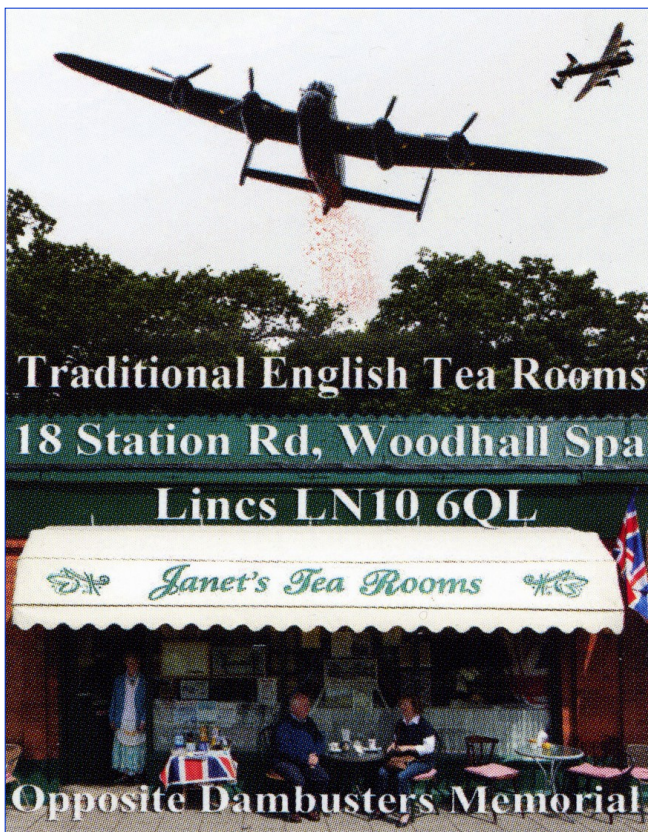
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### Meet the Directors - Tracey Jones BA (hons), MA

I was born in New Zealand and spent my childhood growing up in Cockle Bay, Auckland with the beach just a ten minute walk from my house; it sounds idyllic - it was! We emigrated from New Zealand in the late 80s, to Syston in Leicestershire - where my parents still live. I then moved to Lincolnshire where I met my husband and have lived for over 25 years. My husband and I have five wonderful children who make us very proud. They have all done amazing things with their lives and achieved so much with their academic and professional careers. Each of them is so very different which has made for a very interesting and colourful life.

Throughout my adult life I have worked in accounting and administration predominantly focusing on revenue control and auditing. In 2006 I started my own online retail business as working from home offered me more flexibility with my young family. It was a steep learning curve and I learned many essential skills such as marketing strategies, budgeting, stock taking, and customer service. However, as my children grew up I decided to go back to university to retrain.



*Tracey Jones*

My academic journey has exceeded my expectations. I graduated with a First in English and History from Bishop Grosseteste University, the Chancellor's Prize for Academic Achievement and the Dulcie Duke Local History Prize. I was awarded a funded scholarship to read for a Masters at the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester under Professor Keith Snell, where I graduated with a Distinction and the Harold Fox Prize. I was then awarded an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded scholarship with the Heritage Consortium to research my PhD at Teesside University and a Post Graduate Certificate (PgCert) in Heritage at the University of Hull. I am now into the second year of my PhD researching representations of female identity in Victorian mining women in England and Wales.

As part of my Heritage degree I had to complete a work placement in the heritage industry. I chose to work at the Cottage Museum in Woodhall Spa; the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, USA; and the University of Illinois, Springfield. I have loved my time at the Cottage Museum – so much so that I have continued to volunteer, helping in all departments as and when needed. The friendliness and encouragement I have received from the volunteers and Directors has been inspiring and I consider myself very lucky to be part of the team! I would definitely encourage anyone interested to consider volunteering for this wonderful museum - it is so rewarding.

*Tracey Jones*

### Roger Reed - An Appreciation

We were all shocked and saddened to hear that Roger Reed had died on 26th October 2017. We learned that Roger had an incurable lung disease which he bore with his usual optimism and love of life.

During the time that he had been a volunteer Roger participated in a range of events and activities. We have many happy memories of him dressed in his Victorian Gentleman's costume, doffing his top hat to visitors both at the museum and in Woodhall Spa when he and his wife, Margaret, strolled down the Broadway handing out leaflets.

Whenever there was a need for help, Roger would be one of the first to offer, from meeting and greeting to gardening.

Roger had an unerring sense of fun. I never remember him being down at heart or complaining about his health. He is greatly missed by those of us who were privileged to have known him. Our thoughts are with Margaret and we are delighted that she has agreed to continue to volunteer at the museum.



*Roger Reed*

**By Gill Noble**

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£20 [61] Brian Olive  
£15 [43] Joe Stanhope  
£10 [145] Edith Palmer

#### November 2017

£20 [80] Brian Cowlshaw  
£15 [98] Tom Johnson  
£10 [102] Emily Needham

#### Annual Draw 2017

£150 [56] Anne Taylor  
£70 [140] Belle Everitt  
£40 [123] Pauline Martin



## Woodhall Spa in March 1918

Dear Readers,

When will this war end? "Khaki Items" in the newspaper tells us about our lads at the front; it is awful, four have been killed already this year. There was Stanley Brigham whose mother keeps a guest house – "Glenesk" – on the Broadway. He worked for Mr. Lee, the plumber. George Holmes also died in February; his poor wife and two children live in Mill Lane. Both men had full military funerals and twice we stood, cold and sad in the St. Andrew's



*St. Andrews Church*

graveyard while four volleys were fired over the graves and all the jackdaws flew out of the trees in alarm. This month there has been Hugh Croft, the only son of the Crofts on Green Lane who was in the Machine Gun Corps. and Frank Sharp of King Edward Road was killed at the Somme.

It was good to see Private Wilson and Captain Hewson Street home on leave. Meanwhile, we continue to give to the Red Cross Hospital but it is getting hard to find anything to give.

The food situation is serious; the Food Ministry says tame rabbits should be bred for a future food supply. Lt. Col. Weigall has been made Chairman of the Food Survey Board. He had representatives of large catering stores at Petwood and said potato recipes, like potato toast and scones, would replace flour. My husband, Perce, likes potatoes but says he is beginning to look like one!

There are cheerful things too, like a very sporting hockey match which we won 5-3 against Horncastle. Of course, several of the players were women.

They say the pruning of trees along Witham Road improves visibility. That is good but they look awfully small – it is as if they did not want to repeat the exercise for 100 years.

*Bertha*

*Marjorie Sargeant*

### **MANAGING COMMUNITY ROOM BOOKINGS**

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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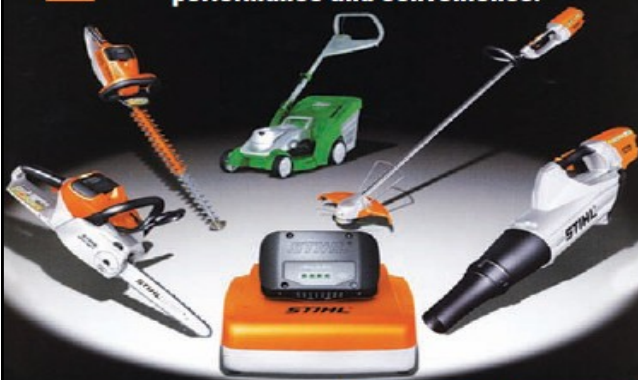


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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Museum Grants and Activities

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum has been fortunate to receive a couple of grants to help towards maintaining the collections and attracting in new visitors.

The Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion scheme selected three organisations looking for grants towards environmental concerns last year. The Museum was one of the three and has received £539.44 which will go towards equipment for environmental monitoring and protective film required on the windows that needs renewing. The cheque was presented by Tracy Butcher in the Woodhall Spa store, to the chairman, Mrs Patricia Duke-Cox.



*Patricia Duke-Cox receives a cheque from Tracy Butcher of Lincolnshire Co-Op*

The second grant has been awarded by the Museums Development East Midlands (MDEM) which has funded a heritage consultant to guide directors on how to increase the footfall at the museum and building a relationship with visitors. The grant of £1064 will allow new digital improvements and support the marketing leaflets of calendar of events in 2018.

The Museum opens its doors to the public on Good Friday, 30 March, and welcomes visitors from far and wide. Some groups will be able to take advantage of BOGOF offers if they are members of the Forces, NHS or Lincolnshire Co-op!

The New Tricks Singing Group now re-named “Sing Loud Woodhall Spa” has moved from the museum to the Methodist Hall. However there are many events planned for the new season starting on March 3rd at The Abbey Lodge where there is a Countdown Quiz. Teams of 6 will compete and the evening will include a hot supper and a raffle. Tickets cost £12.50 inclusive of the supper and are available from Patricia Duke-Cox, call 01526 352456 or email [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk). All proceeds will go to museum funds. At the museum there will be a “Pest Patrol Quiz Trail” for the children to follow over the Easter Holiday period from 30th March to the 15th April.

**Patricia Duke-Cox**

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## POPPY'S PAGE

Hello everybody! Welcome to the new season which starts on Good Friday. We have lots of news for you on a host of activities for children & their families. There is also a great puzzle for you to do at the bottom of the page. Perhaps I will see you at some of the events.

Bye for now. Poppy



## Events and Activities this Season

We have lots of activities planned for this year. Below are those taking place before the next newsletter is published. This time our puzzle is relevant to the Pest Control Quiz Trail which takes place during the Easter Holiday period.

**30<sup>th</sup> March until 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**"The Pest Patrol"**

A quiz trail to follow in the museum.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 am –12.00 noon**

**"What a Hoot!"** Come and create some crafty owls

£3.00 per person, Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am –12.00 noon**

**"Play with Clay in May"** Lots of ideas for you to explore

£3.00 per person, Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Woodhall Spa 1940s Festival Weekend

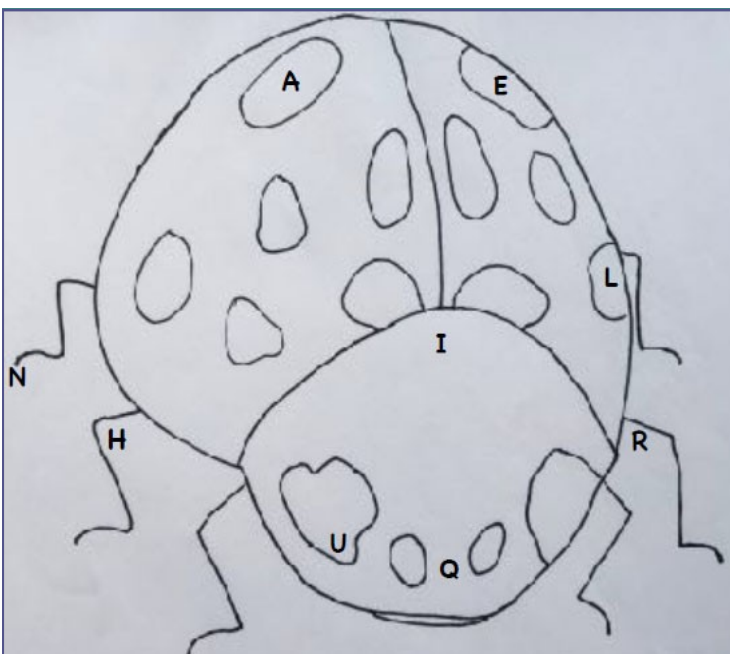
Outdoor toys and games to enjoy in the museum garden.

**16<sup>th</sup> July until 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**"Find the odd one out!"** A museum quiz for keen eyed visitors of all ages to enjoy.

**Booking advisable for all activity mornings. Email [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk) or phone Gill Noble 01526 353 455.**

**Gill Noble**



### **Harlequin Ladybird Puzzle**

**Set by Jane Hodgson**

Can you find the 9 capital letters printed on this Ladybird?

They will give you its name.

It is one of the pests you will see on the Pest Patrol Trail in the Museum in the Easter Holidays.

Then you can colour the Ladybird





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# The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Friends Committee

Acting Chairman: Richard Sivill & Patricia Duke-Cox  
Membership Secretary: Judy Everitt  
Committee Members: Margaret Reed & Ann Houlton

Hello Friends,

Whilst the Museum doors have been closed over the winter months, the Friends have been organising events to interest you throughout the year.

An evening supper with a Countdown Quiz at the Abbey Lodge returns on 3rd March and hopefully will attract the usual teams and more.

A new event proposed for Saturday April 14th is an Old Time Musical Afternoon in St Peter's Hall. Doors open at 2 p.m. and the performance begins at 2.30 pm. Cost is £7.50 and includes simple refreshments for tickets bought in advance and £8.00 on the door.

The Museum Friends will be present at Woodhall Spa Country Show on Sunday 20th May. If you are going to the Show please visit us in both the Heritage Tent and on the showground where we will have items of local interest.

Towards the end of May, on Wednesday 30th, a talk on the Restoration of the Petwood Gardens will be given at the Petwood Hotel. Doors open at 2.00 p.m. and tea will be included. It is hoped to use the Petwood Suite again. Ticket price is £10.

All events that have a ticket price can be purchased at Reception in the Museum after it opens on Good Friday. Before then tickets can be reserved by telephone (01526 352456) or by emailing [friends@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:friends@cottagemuseum.co.uk) and collected by mutual arrangement. We look forward to meeting up again.

On a sad note we have said goodbye to Trish Lewis-Smith who took on the role of Chairman of the Friends at the AGM. Happily we still have her support and she intends to be working on the Alice in Wonderland Tea Party to be held Sunday 10th June. This will be held in the front garden of the Museum and we hope for a warm and sunny day. In the meantime Richard Sivill, a long-standing Director, has agreed to chair the Friends committee.

It is hoped to repeat the Friday evening performance by the Lincoln Ukulele Band as a pre-1940s warm up to the weekend. This will be 6th July.

**Patricia Duke-Cox**

### 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

#### Countdown Quiz at the Abbey Lodge Inn

3rd March at 7.00 pm.

An entertaining evening

Teams of 6

Includes hot supper and a raffle.

Tickets £12.50

Enquiries to Patricia Duke-Cox

or call 01526 352456

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

#### Lincolnshire Maps including

##### Armstrong Map

Temporary Display in the Temp. Exhibition Room at the Museum

From 30th March

#### Old Time Musical Afternoon

##### At St. Peter's Hall

14th April 2.030 pm

£7.50 or £8.00 on the door

#### Woodhall Spa Country Show

Sunday 20th May

##### Restoration of the Petwood Gardens

Wednesday 30th May

2.00 pm Petwood Hotel

Tickets £10.00

##### Alice in Wonderland Madhatter's Themed Tea Party

Sunday 10th June 1.00 pm

In the Museum Garden

##### 1940's Weekend

7th & 8th July

Stalls & events in the museum garden.

Courtyard Café open

See also

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

