

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.3



The Forefather Issue

**WOODHALL SPA
HISTORIC FANCY DRESS
CHARITY PUB WALK**

Date: Thursday 1st October

Time: 11.45 (start at the Dambusters monument)

Cost: £10 (in advance or cash on arrival to 9)

Please ring 01249 511133 for more details.

- Drink in the History and Drink in the Pub!
- Meet New Friends!
- Eat Well!
- Support Charity!

• (20 there's a hearty breakfast, afternoon tea and a charity donation (although drinks aren't included!)

This is a light hearted affair, based around a dress for knowledge, alcohol and drinking up. The costs will be supported, drinks will be supplied, history will be shared and a couple of people will make friends (of course we're guaranteed!)

This year's fancy dress theme:

THE VICTORIANS



Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

My third newsletter and the first self-financed one: so it's special thanks to all the businesses who have shown faith in this publication and are advertising their wares amongst its pages.

Do any of you ever wonder what you'll be remembered for, if you'll leave a lasting contribution to this crazy old world, or if everything you do will just disappear like morning dew in another day's sunshine?

I wonder if John Parkinson, when he was walking away jingling what was left of his dwindling fortune after another failed mining attempt, knew that one day he'd be there on the internet in black and white as a Woodhall Spa pioneer for a billion people to read about in their homes? Doubtful.

I wonder if Richard Came really believed that his designs would be so long lasting they'd outlive not only the Victoria Hotel but the steam engine and ultimately even the railway in Woodhall Spa? Perhaps.

I wonder if Thomas Hotchkin really thought about it, would he ever have guessed that the Spa he set up for a small circle of friends in the 1830s would be still functioning late into the 20th century? Possibly.

I wonder if any of them guessed that nearly 100 years after the last of them walked this earth, their lives, spirit and achievements would be brought to life by three badly-dressed, part time actors? I'd say not.

Maybe there's a lesson here. Just doing what we do every day, perhaps that's what we'll be remembered for. Not the one off grandiose, potentially earth-shattering life affirming act, but the perpetual, routine tasks that define our daily life. Perhaps that's our part in history, our small building block, our stitch in the rich tapestry of life and who knows, one day somebody might play you or me or even Storm the dog in a street performance!

We're all making a difference. We're all making history. And while that's true, there's hope for us all you know.

The Way We Were - The Historic Walk

October 1st: Three characters from Woodhall Spa's past wait to stake their claim to be called the forefather of the village.

Mr Shane Campbell would play pioneer John Parkinson, Andy Jones would play Lord of the Manor Thomas Hotchkin and your editor, architect Richard Adolphus Came (by the way I'm on the left on the front cover overacting wildly). We assembled at the Dambusters memorial at 11:45 and with true military precision the audience turned up at 3 minutes past 12.



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I think we caught what could be reasonably described as the last pleasant day of the year. It was most reminiscent of the summers we seemed to have in the 1960s. You know the kind of thing, 63 degrees in the shade with no sign of a let up, *quick guard the stand pipe, there's a drought on the way.*

We introduced ourselves and set out the itinerary: A four hour walk around the history (and drinking establishments) of Woodhall Spa which would include a meal at the Mall and afternoon tea at Macauleys. Each of us would take it in turn to talk about the origins of Woodhall Spa and what our individual achievements were. It was then up to the audience to consider the facts, weigh them up with the quality of our acting and at 4pm there would be a mass vote which would determine once and for all just who could be called the true forefather of Woodhall Spa (until the next time we do it).

I opened with my coup de gras and went into great detail how the Royal Hotel, that I designed and owned, was once where we stood. I described the dance floor and the debutantes balcony and my attempts at rivalling the Spa by sinking my own well. I pointed out the tree-lined boulevards and the unique architecture of the prominent houses but sadly it was all to no avail. As we snaked up through the village it became obvious it was a two horse race with "oohs" and "aahs" accompanying anything Thomas said about his discovery of the spa water and the expansion of the baths and John's overegging of his (frankly misguided) pioneering spirit. But I digress and have become somewhat bitter! The sun shone, beer was consumed and we talked of many things: of Dickinson's Belsize cars, of 1st and 2nd class haircuts, of the first telephone in Woodhall Spa, of the thriving railway station that once was and of the tragedy of the fire at the Victoria Hotel. John Parkinson was taught the rudiments of golf, Thomas explained how steam engines worked and how aeroplanes took flight (which was amazing as he pre dated them by 50 years) and I stood in awe and generally prompted them when they forgot their lines. All in all, a first class day and one which unexpectedly ended with a full 10 minute summing up by John Parkinson of why he should be named the forefather of Woodhall Spa only to be pipped in the vote by Thomas because it "wouldn't have been called a Spa" without him and also because he "had the best moustache!"

And what of Adolphus? Well he came a distant third but never fear, he has a couple of tricks up his sleeve for next time. If I may quote another historic character (the Hooded Claw in *The Perils of Penelope Pitstop*) *I'll get you next time my pretties huuhuu hahahahah!!*



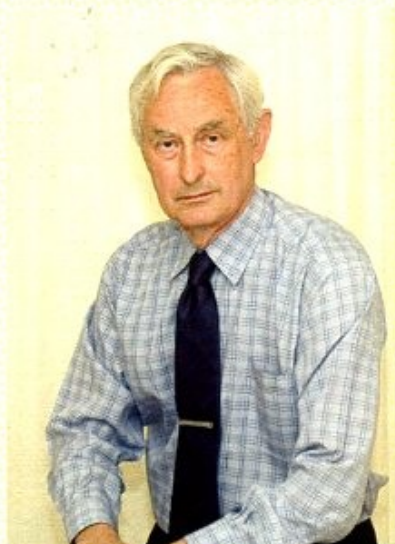
Did you know ?

If you log onto your Computermabob go to "You Tube" on the Internet and type "Woodhall Cat" you can catch some of the historic trip!!

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Meet the Directors

Philip R. Groves C.Eng. F.I.E.T. M.M.Inst.V.



Philip was born in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire on 3rd September, 1939 – the day war was declared! Educated at St. Albans School, he joined Marconi Instruments and qualified in Electronics at the Mid Essex College. From the age of eight he had a passionate interest in television and in 1970 joined Link Electronics, a young company involved in the Broadcast Television Industry, based in Andover, Hampshire. As Head of Research and Development he travelled extensively around the world and was responsible for the design of Broadcast Colour Cameras for Studio and Outside Broadcast applications. At one time the BBC operated over 200 Link Colour TV Cameras and many of the most memorable programmes of the 1970's and 80's were produced using these cameras, examples being "Top of the Pops", "Blue Peter", "Morecambe and Wise", "Are You Being Served" etc, etc. He won two Southern Area Television Society Awards and in 1985 was presented with the "Geoffrey Parr Award" for technical innovation, at a Royal Television Society Dinner at The Grosvenor Hotel in London.

In 1986 Philip and his wife Delia formed their own Electronics business, designing and manufacturing high quality CCTV equipment. Many important buildings throughout the country and in particular London, were protected by their equipment. They also produced many thousands of monitors for the railways. Throughout this time they also ran a photography and video business covering many events, weddings and shows, travelling extensively to do so. They also organised a Dancing Club in the Andover area for 30 years.

In 2004 the couple retired and moved to Woodhall Spa in October 2005. In August 2006 they joined The Friends of the Cottage Museum at its inaugural meeting and offered their services to produce a DVD for the Museum and with the cooperation of many local people, this came to fruition and culminated in the launch of "Why Woodhall Spa?" earlier this year.

They have continued their dancing interest and run "Mainly Ballroom" dances on the first and third Saturdays of the month and "Mainly Sequence" Tea Dances on the first and third Tuesdays at Coronation Hall.

Philip was invited to become a Director of the Museum in December 2008.

The couple have three daughters and nine Grandchildren, all living in the Andover area.

Woodhall Spa
Cottage Museum

Reg. Charity:
1114268
Reg. Museum:
1929

The Bungalow,
Iddesleigh Road,
LN106SH



Social Dances in Woodhall Spa

Mainly Ballroom

*1st. and 3rd. Saturdays of each month
7.30 - 10.30 p.m.*

Mainly Sequence

*1st and 3rd. Tuesdays of each month
2.30 - 4.30 p.m.*

*Coronation Hall, Spa Road, Woodhall Spa
Enquiries Delia Groves 01526 353225 or please come along*

Woodhall Spa Cottage
Museum
Opening Times
Easter until early Novem-
ber.
Weekdays 10am—5pm,
Weekends: 10.30am—
4.30pm

01526 352538

LUNCH & DINNER



MON - SAT
CLOSED
SUNDAYS

ABBEY LODGE INN - KIRKSTEAD WOODHALL SPA

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What Our Visitors are Saying

Our visitors continue to record their thoughts about their visit to the Museum in the Visitors Book. At the beginning of September 2887 adults and 483 children had visited and many hundreds have written in the Visitors Book.

The following are excerpts from entries made during August.

- "Interesting to see real history as it was" - NG of Martin, Lincs.
- "Back to childhood" - CC of Cheshire
- "Beautiful photographs and memorabilia" - CC of Edinburgh
- "A walk down memory lane – most interesting – ex WAAF" - VB of Cardiff
- "A fantastic Museum – thank you" - DG of Nottingham
- "A most interesting and well set out Museum" - KC & RC of Blackpool
- "Fascinating – especially the Spa Treatments" - AA of Lancs.
- "Wonderful memory to these brave men" - G & CB of Northern Ireland
- "Nice to see that someone has bothered to try and keep heritage" - JW of Wisbech
- "Excellent Museum – now we know "Why Woodhall Spa?" - FA of Kings Langley
- "Without the past there could be no present" - IS & LJ P of Stafford
- "Excellent" - RF of Tenerife
- "Excellent, a fascinating record of more genteel times" - KT of Leicester
- "Very thought provoking" - JW of High Wycombe
- "Very impressive" - EJ of Annandale USA
- "Very interesting – have been meaning to come for ages" - O family of Boston
- "Really wicked plane *cupboard*" - RJ of North Lincs.
- "Very unusual and interesting Museum" - N & P of Ruskington
- "Lovely exhibition and thanks to the volunteers" - A & LM of Durham

We continue to draw visitors from around the world – Tenerife and USA this time. If you "have been meaning to visit the museum for ages" perhaps now is the time to put this right. The museum closed for the winter on Sunday 8th November but we open again on April 2nd 2010!!

Philip Groves
Museum Director
November 2009

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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Did You know?

The Cottage Museum has received the Rosie Award for Dog - Friendliness. The award was introduced in 2008 by Edward Mayor and Jonathan Perks of Woodhall Spa to encourage places open to the public to allow and welcome pets INSIDE. The Cottage Museum is the first museum in Britain to receive this award which it did in October 2009

An Interview for Look North

It all started with the impending sale of the Spa Baths!

As many of our readers will know, the saga of the Spa baths building and its possible purchase has been part of the local scene for over 20 years.

This summer saw the appearance of a "For Sale" board on its walls. Closed bids had to be in to chartered surveyors Banks Long & Co by midday on October 14th 2009!

You can imagine the flurry of excitement which went through our local community ! At last, the heart of the Spa's existence, its historic Bath House, might now receive some tender, loving care to help restore it and put new life into the raison d'être of Woodhall Spa!

A day before the sale, I received a phone call from the BBC asking if I could be available for an interview with Simon Spark, a reporter on Look North. It could take place at the Cottage Museum too!

Well, anything to help publicise the Cottage Museum so I dutifully turned up the next day at 10.30 am, as did Simon Spark. There he was complete with a BBC van and a large video camera, a stand and microphones. Much to my surprise he had no other support or pair of hands to help.

These BBC reporters are a one man show and do all the work from research through to the practicalities of producing a final, much cut report. This can be a piece sometimes 20 minutes long reduced to 3 or less which is quite a challenge!

I have nothing but praise for Simon. He listened quietly and attentively to my answers to his questions on the importance of the Spa Baths to today's Woodhall Spa community using some of the museum's displays as a background. We then carried all the equipment down to the Kinema area and used the Spa building as a background for the final questions.

During that time he was able to involve passersby in the interviews, finally enabling him to transmit from his van the final cut! It went out on the lunch time bulletin before I was able to get home!!

So I never did see the results of what turned out to be an exciting experience, and I am still waiting to find out the name of the lucky bidder. **David Radford**



The Petwood is a Delightful Edwardian Country House hotel set in 30 acres of secluded gardens and woodland. Home of the Dambusters during the second world war. Having extensive conference, wedding and special event facilities and offering short holidays and Golfing breaks with 53 bedrooms all individually designed. Member of "Tastes of Lincolnshire" the Tennysons Restaurant promotes local produce. The Petwood is a friend and supporter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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Did You Know?

Woodhall Spa Railway staff in the 1800's were instructed to salute the trains as they passed

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“Who is the Young Victorian gentleman...?”



Yes, that was the question posed in Newsletter 2.

Many thanks and congratulations to Nick Duke-Cox for correctly answering Henry Chaplin!

The Right Hon. Henry Chaplin MP (1841-1923), the first Viscount Chaplin, member of the syndicate which planned the expansion of the then tiny Woodhall Spa, had his family seat at Blankney Hall, Lincolnshire.

His social circle was of the highest in the land with one of his closest friends being the future Edward VII.

Chaplin would have made the headlines in today's 'Hello' and 'OK' magazines! Head over heels in love with Lady Florence Paget, whose great beauty and tiny figure had earned her the nickname 'The Pocket Venus,' Chaplin had proposed and been accepted by lady Florence as her future husband.

However, the arrival on the scene of Henry Hastings, the fourth Marquis of Hastings, seems to have put paid to Chaplin's dreams and created a social furore!

Lady Florence became enamoured with the Marquis and on the pretext of needing to complete her wedding trousseau at Marshall and Snellgroves, a fashionable London store, entered the store, sailed straight through, out of the rear entrance, into the arms of her lover, away to be married!

However, Henry Chaplin, jilted and abandoned as he was, soon had his revenge. He was the owner of Hermit, an important stallion of the day and had entered him in the 1867 Derby. Despite being run against the odds in a snow-storm, Hermit won and in doing so brought about the financial ruin of the Henry Hastings, his owner's rival in love!

This series on members of the syndicate and other renowned local personalities connected to the early days of Woodhall Spa can be further expanded with help from your researches!

David Radford(ddfradford@hotmail.com)

The Museum Newsletter No.2 Crossword Answers:

Across 1. GUY GIBSON, 4. SHELF, 5. JOHN PARKINSON, 9. PADDY ONEILL, 10. COAL, 12. WOK, 13. CORONATION HALL
18. GNER, 20. KIRKBY, 22. JACKIE GOODALL, 23. LOO LOO, 26. TOROMOOR, 27. REDRUM
Down 1. GILL, 2. YOU, 3. SUE RYDER, 5. JEDI, 6. DO, 7. FENS, 8. GAL, 9. JOHN PARKINSON, 10. COWS, 11. CORONATION HALL
14. OHIO, 15. JACKIE GOODALL, 16. CITY, 17. SUNNY, 19. REAL, 21. AGO, 24. LOT, 25. LOO LOO, 27. RIO, 28. ROO.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

At the heart of Woodhall's History: Les Chapman

Les arrived only 3 years after Woodhall's first telephone!

Les was a young lad of 11 when the Victoria Hotel burnt down

Les was just 17 when the Woodhall Spa golf course achieved fame by hosting the English Ladies Championship in 1926



Sunday, 4th October, was a wonderful day in Woodhall Spa because Les Chapman became 100 years old! He has lived in this village all his life and his story is told in the first chapter of the bestselling book, "Voices of Woodhall Spa." . Marjorie Sergeant, the book's author, led the congratulations with this tribute.

Well everyone, isn't this a splendid occasion? 100 years ago today, on 4th October 1909, Les Chapman was born. 1909... how different the world was then! Only a few weeks earlier there was amazement in the land when an aeroplane flew across the English Channel for the very first time!

But we are here to celebrate this special birthday of Les, Woodhall Spa's home grown centenarian.

I say "home grown" because, except for a few years of army service in the war, Les has lived in this village all his life, as a boy on Mill Lane where at first there was neither electricity nor running water; after marriage in a flat of the Royal Hotel - where Royal Square is now; then for many decades in his house on Witham Road and now here at Heatherlea.

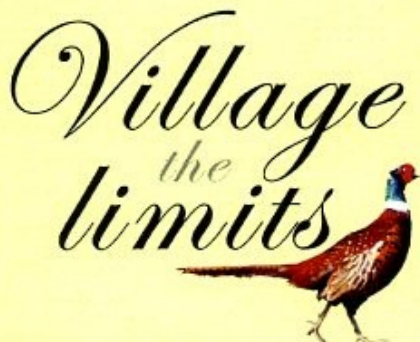
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And does he know Woodhall Spa?! He has an amazing memory for events and people of the past and for all the changes that have taken place here during his long life. His wonderful memories supplied the first chapter of my book "Voices of Woodhall Spa" and looking through the book I am struck by how recognisable he is from childhood to the present day! Many people still remember Les as the proprietor of Hundleby's, the quality grocery shop on Station Road, where he knew all his customers and was unfailingly helpful to them all. His ability was recognised throughout the area when he was elected President of the Lincoln and District Grocer's Association, in 1961.

Many people remember him also as the perfect gentleman, always well dressed and smiling, whether in his immaculately kept home, or shopping on the Broadway.

It is 35 years since he retired from Hundleby's but not from Woodhall Spa. He still takes a lively interest in this place and its people and likes to know what is going on in his village!

100 years young today...Les, we have been privileged to know you. I give you a toast... to the past, present and future of..."Les Chapman."



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Les was nearly 30 when the second world war was declared

Les would have watched the last passenger train travel through Woodhall as a sprightly 45 year old

And he would have been just into his 60's when the last freight train thundered past!

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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Cottage Museum Launches new Appeal

Woodhall Spa is well known because of its wartime connections with the R.A.F. 617 Squadron who were responsible for the 'Dam Buster' raids and the sinking of the Tirpitz. However, there is an equally compelling story regarding the village's involvement with the troops of the 1st Air Landing Brigade prior to them being sent to Arnhem to take part in 'Operation Market Garden'

We are aware that troops involved in 'Operation Market Garden' were stationed in and around Woodhall Spa until and after the battle for Arnhem. There were several camps and many houses used to billet soldiers including the 7th Kings Own Scottish Borderers, the 2nd South Staffordshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion Border Regiment. The museum has little archival material relating to this and has recently undertaken the task of researching and developing its collection. We have now managed to produce a small display within the Museum and continue to request local residents to provide us with any information they have.

The museum's 'team', comprising museum director Jackie Goodall, volunteers Anna & Rico Philips and local police officer Simon Elmer, realised that Woodhall Spa was the only village in the area, where troops were billeted, not to have a memorial dedicated to the memory of those who fell at Arnhem. We have decided to remedy this and have begun making arrangements to erect a memorial stone in the museum's garden.

A Service of Dedication is planned for the morning of Saturday 18th September 2010 in conjunction with other activities/events associated with Arnhem and wartime Britain, including a screening of the 1946 film 'Theirs Is The Glory', filmed at Arnhem, at the Kinema In The Woods. We hope that several veterans who were stationed here will attend, and we are keen to contact any others and their families to join us. We are also keen to receive information about Polish army units who were based in Woodhall Spa until their disbandment. These included the Polish Parachute Brigade, returning from occupation duties in Germany, and the 'Pomorski' Infantry Brigade who had served in Italy with the Polish 2nd Corps.

We have now begun to raise funds for the memorial and will be out in force at the Woodhall Spa Christmas Market. Other events are planned, including a 1940s Dance at the Coronation Hall on 11th September 2010. Any reader who would like to contact us with information or support our efforts should contact Jackie Goodall on 01526 352454.

The Dutch City's name literally means "*home of the eagle*" (arend means eagle in Dutch) and stems from the many eagles that used to inhabit the hills and the woods of Arnhem.

Newsletter No.3

The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Museum

Committee Members

Chairman	Pam Cowlshaw	01526 352112
	Ann Houlton	01526 352323
	Paddy O'Neill	01526 354982
	Isabel Swift	01526 352546

The Annual General meeting held on 21st August 2009 was well attended and was rounded off by a thoroughly entertaining illustrated talk on Lincoln Cathedral given by Valerie Marshall. This led to the Wren library in the cathedral being added to the list of possible trips for 2010.

If you have any ideas as to where you would like to go please let one of the committee members know and we will do what we can to arrange it.

Since the last newsletter members have been on a trip to the British Horological Institute and the Work House in Southwell. Both venues were interesting and with sufficient spare time in the town to visit the Minster, or any other establishment that caught the imagination, an enjoyable day was had by all.

We now look forward to the Down Memory Lane Christmas Show at the Kinema in the Woods, followed by afternoon tea at the Tea House in the Woods on 20th December. If you would like to attend and have not yet booked your seat please contact a member of the committee.

We hope that you have enjoyed this new format newsletter over the past year. Your comments on content are always welcome. If you are interested in helping with the distribution of the newsletter to homes and businesses in your area we would be pleased to hear from you. The task will not be onerous as it is only published 3 times a year and if we get sufficient volunteers we can fit the distribution area to their locality.

In closing, on behalf of the committee of the Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Pam Cowlshaw

November 2009



Woodhall Spa
Forthcoming At-
tractions of an His-
toric Nature

6th December: Robert
Wolfe Christmas Concert
(13:30) Kinema.

11th December: Rotary
Club Christmas Fair on the
Broadway (18:00)

13th December: Carols by
Candlelight St Leonards
Church (15:00).

20th December: Down
Memory Lane Christmas
Show at the Kinema.