

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



The Learning Group's Craft Club in full swing

Newsletter No. 48
November 2024

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

Well here we are nearly at the end of another season and soon it will be Christmas! This year the Museum and Tourist Information will continue to open on Thursdays and Fridays from 7th November to 13th December 2024. Admission will be free, but donations welcome. This project is part funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The year has been a very successful one for the museum with a full season of events, most of which have been outdoors. You will find reports on all these throughout the Newsletter, as well as previews for those events remaining, such as the Annual Memorial Talk in early November and the Christmas Past event on Saturday November 23rd.

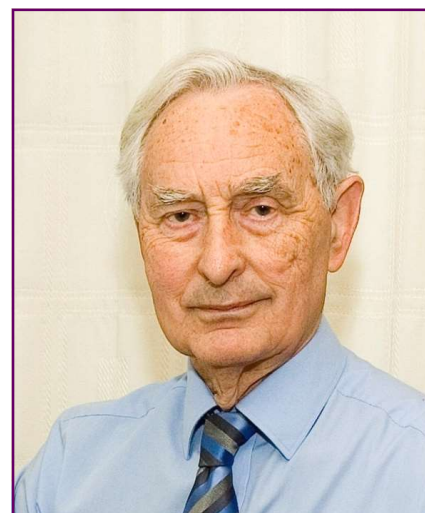
Sadly the "From the Collection" series will soon disappear from the Newsletter pages as Nicholas Duke-Cox, who has written this very popular feature for some years now, is putting down his pen after the next issue in the Spring of next year. Is there anyone out there who would like to step in to continue this very popular feature of our Newsletter? If you are interested I would very much like to hear from you.

We have recently been joined by a new Board member and our "Meet the Directors" feature on page 3 introduces Mary-Anne Price to you all.

Our cover picture for this issue features the newly formed Craft Club which has really taken off and has proved to be extremely popular. Museum Director Tina Delaney, who leads the Learning Group tells us a little bit more about this very popular and successful group on page 5.

It doesn't seem possible, but the Festive Season is nearly upon us and I would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Philip Groves



Front Cover Story

The Learning Group have been running a fortnightly Craft Club on alternate Thursday afternoons since the early summer which has proved to be extremely popular. More information can be found on Page 5.

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The Newsletter Committee

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

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or email philanddeliagroves@gmail.com

Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum:1929

Meet the Directors - Mary-Anne Price

We are delighted to welcome Mary-Anne Price as the newest trustee of our charity. With over 20 years experience in Human Resources, Mary-Anne brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the team.

Mary-Anne is an experienced Human Resources professional, passionate about aligning HR to strategic priorities to enable and support organisational success, while ensuring inclusivity is at the centre. Confident, outgoing and committed, Mary-Anne enjoys communicating with a wide range of stakeholders and sharing knowledge.

Mary-Anne works for England Golf as the HR Director, managing a team of six across HR, Office Administration, and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), providing the strategic lead for Human Resources within the organisation. This role includes overseeing and supporting office management and health and safety and working closely with the executive team to ensure people management aligns with business strategy and change is managed effectively.

Mary-Anne has served as a Governor at a secondary school allowing her to contribute to the education of the workforce of the future, ensuring that young people are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Mary-Anne has a strong commitment to community service and the development of young minds. Furthermore, she also supports schools on career education as an Enterprise Advisor, supporting the education teams in providing workplace opportunities and linking education to the real world of work requirements.

As the Co-Vice Chair of the CIPD in Lincolnshire, Mary-Anne is involved in the professional HR community, advocating for best practices and continuous improvement in the field.

Outside of professional life, Mary-Anne has been an active member of the Horncastle Theatre both on stage and backstage. Mary-Anne is a dedicated family person, navigating the joys and challenges of raising teenagers with her husband. She is passionate about giving back, enjoys reading and has a keen interest in history, which is something she looks forward to being more involved with as part of the Cottage Museum work.

Mary-Anne is excited to join the board and looks forward to supporting and continuing the great work of the team together.

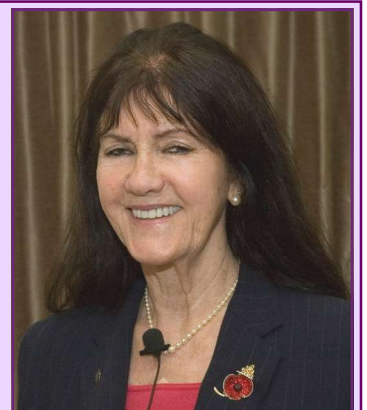


Mary-Anne Price

The Annual Memorial Lecture

The Annual Memorial Talk will be held at The Golf Hotel, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa on Saturday November 9th commencing at 2.30pm. with doors opening at 2.00pm. This is the second talk by Lorna Almonds-Windmill, on her father, "Gentleman Jim" Almonds, Military Medal & Bar; Croix de Guerre. Jim Almonds was born and brought up in Stixwold, Lincolnshire and was one of the 12 founder members of the SAS. This talk tells the story of his amazing post war exploits. Her first talk on his wartime exploits, which she delivered last year, was fascinating and gave a real insight into the man behind the legend.

Tickets are priced at £8.50 including refreshments and there is a Raffle. They are available from the Museum on Iddesleigh Road until 2nd November between 10.30am and 3.30pm or online at www.cottagemuseum.co.uk. Please note admission is by **ticket only**.



Lorna Almonds-Windmill

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Events Through The Summer Months



A large audience listens to Rachel Bea

The museum has been very busy this Summer. We started back in July on Saturday 13th July with a "Tribute to the 40s" featuring Rachel Bea on the front lawn. The weekend would have been the Annual 40s Weekend, which of course was cancelled. However a lot of visitors were expected and they came. The seats were filled for most of the time Rachel was singing and the Patio Café did a roaring trade.



Rachel Bea



Part of the audience for Sing It Loud

At the end of July the Summer series of "Music in the Garden" started. This year we were blessed with good weather for all five concerts, though it was a bit chilly for the last one with Al Brown. The series got off to a good start with the Woodhall Community Band, who gave us a great afternoon of superb music. The following Sunday drew a capacity audience when the very popular local singing

group "Sing it Loud" were centre stage. The enormous enthusiasm of choir leader Liz McIntosh really came across and inspired both choir and audience.

There followed the "Silver Lions Ukulele Band", then a Lincolnshire folk group, "The Acoustic Itch" and the last in the series was the very talented Al Brown, with his popular songs from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. A big thank you goes to all our artists and groups and to the army of volunteers who rigged the concerts, made and served all the cakes and refreshments and of course cleared up afterwards. The series was a huge success, both financially for the museum and for the wonderful entertainment it provided to a great many people, throughout the summer months.



Liz McIntosh



Silver Lions Ukulele Band

The Acoustic Itch



Al Brown



Woodhall Community Band

The Cottage Museum Craft Club

The Cottage museum craft club is thriving, going from strength to strength and continues to teach and show participants different crafts and activities.

We meet every other Thursday and gather together with other friendly locals for fun and relaxing craft sessions with tea, coffee and refreshments provided. We are shown an activity and then with all resources supplied we proceed to make something ourselves.

We have learnt new skills from experienced crafters and been encouraged to share our own creations.

The last few sessions have included wet and dry needle felting, latch hook and punch needle, using wool, soap, canvas and embroidery hoops. Future sessions planned will involve chocolate icing roses, decoupage and making Christmas tree decorations.

We have made new friends and been inspired by new ideas. All ages have attended the sessions and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. If you are interested please email learning@cottagemuseum.co.uk for more information or to book a place.

Tina Delaney

80th Anniversary of Arnhem Remembered

There have been two events at the museum to remember Arnhem. On Saturday 14th September the local Branch of the Royal British Legion held their annual commemoration and wreath laying. About 30 people gathered for this very moving occasion.



Local R.B.L. at the memorial

On Thursday 19th September, the 2nd Battalion's South Stafford Cycling Club visited on their way out to Arnhem for the 80th Anniversary

and held a short Memorial Service at our Arnhem Memorial. After a brief introduction, a poem was read, followed by the Act of Remembrance, which included playing the Last Post and the laying of a wreath.

200 Club Winners

June 2024

£25 [65]	Ann Houlton
£20 [155]	Malcolm Baxter
£15 [13]	Andy Hibberd
£10 [170]	Karen Parsons

July 2024

£25 [135]	Heather Bradshaw
£20 [59]	Marjorie Sargeant
£15 [60]	Anna Peacock
£10 [96]	Toby Paul

August 2024

£25 [77]	Nigel Webb
£20 [118]	Simon Jephson
£15 [150]	Reg Wood
£10 [48]	Sharon MacFarlane

September 2024

£25 [122]	Chrissie Lake
£20 [96]	Toby Paul
£15 [133]	Julie Westerman
£10 [91]	Ruth Paul



Patricia Duke-Cox, centre with the South Staffs. Cycle Club at the Memorial

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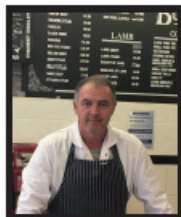
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From the Collection - BERNARD SAMUEL GILBERT

Most readers will know or heard of the great and good of the 19th /early 20th century Woodhall Spa. For this newsletter, I turn to someone who is not that well-known but did a great deal for Lincolnshire and lived in the village.

Bernard Gilbert was an author and poet, born 1882, 6 miles away as the crow flies, in Billingham. He was the youngest son of a seed merchant, Abraham Gilbert, founder of A.C. Gilbert & Sons. In the 1890s he was educated at a private school in Cambridge and attended that illustrious university in the first years of the new century.

After university, c.1905 he joined and then became the principal of the family business but did not relish the cut and thrust of the business world. In October 1910 he married Berwyn Cuthbert, the



daughter of a London architect. By 1911 the association with Woodhall Spa commenced. The couple resided at 'Calf Hey' which was one half of Tarleton House. They had a daughter Felicity b. August 1911 and a son Michael b. July 1912.

Bernard relinquished his interest in the family business in 1913 and became a full-time writer under the patronage of Christopher Hatton Turnor of Stoke Rochford Hall. He collaborated with Turnor resulting in his first book, 'Where are we Going?', a book on the state of rural Britain. By 1915, the family had moved to No. 2 Sylvan Avenue. Two more daughters appeared in 1914 and 1915. He was engaged in War work at the Ministry of Munitions in London and therefore had to live in the capital, coming to Woodhall at weekends.

In 1918 he entered into a liaison with Kathleen Annie 'Georgia' Warne, a typist, resulting in a pregnancy and the birth of a daughter named Kathleen Gilbert. By 1921 the couple were living together in Kent. In 1927, Bernard contracted influenza developing into pneumonia and consequent heart failure. He died in the Temperance Hospital on May 5th 1927 at the age of 45. He was buried in St Michael's Church, Billingham. Unfortunately, with development in the village, his grave site has been lost.

The writings of Bernard Samuel Gilbert form a rich body of primary source material. However, they lie little known and neglected. Gilbert's life and output have yet to attract a literary biography. Gilbert's writing includes poetry, famously, in a Lincolnshire dialect verse, historical novels, stage plays, political pamphlets and newspaper correspondence. His most popular book was 'John of the Fens', 1924, a story of the Stuart times.

Bernard Samuel Gilbert

Nicholas Duke-Cox

Museum helps a University Professor

Professor Andrew Jackson from the Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln has just published a seminal work on the Lincolnshire writer and poet, Bernard Samuel Gilbert. Gilbert lived with his family in Woodhall Spa, at two addresses, during the early years of World War I, before moving to London.

The Museum gave a considerable deal of help in researching not only Gilbert's time in Woodhall Spa but also his life story in general. Prof. Jackson kindly purchased some of the Museum's images to illustrate his book and has given acknowledgement of its contribution.

Nicola Marshall, originally from Billingham as was Gilbert, found an original letter in Gilbert's hand, used as a bookmark in a second-hand book she purchased. This proved to be the kernel resulting in the current publication.

The Museum was represented, by the Head of Collections, at the inaugural lecture and book launch in July 2024 and Prof. Jackson gifted a copy of the book as a thank you.



With a backdrop of Labour-in-Vain Drove, Billingham, in the heart of 'Gilbert Country', L to R Patricia and Nicholas Duke-Cox (holding the gifted copy), Prof. Andrew Jackson and Nicola Marshall.

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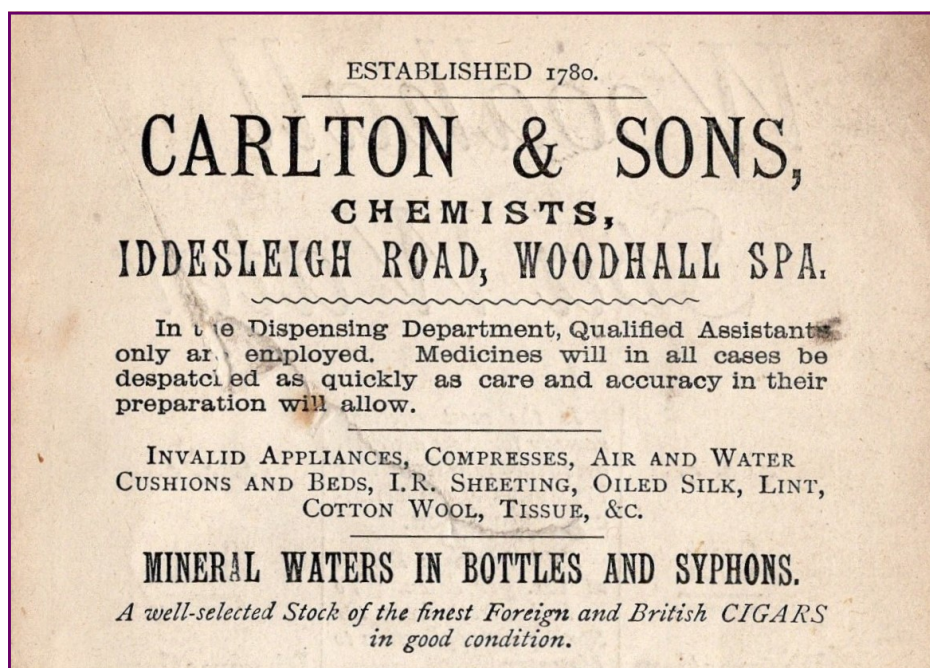
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Axle Cooling – Carlton's the Chemist



Towards the end of the nineteenth century, shopkeepers from elsewhere saw opportunities in this flourishing village of Woodhall Spa.

One was the century old Carlton's, the chemist's shop in Horncastle. They saw there was money to be made in this upstart village down the road and they found an ideal site on Iddesleigh Road, on the way to the Baths. They set up temporary premises while their shop was being built and in 1888 were advertising in the Horncastle News.

This was one of the shops seen by Mellow Observer when he visited Woodhall Spa just two years later, in 1890. How times change. Here we have a chemist advertising cigars! I wonder if he bought one, or an Air and Water cushion, perhaps?

Now a private residence, Carlton's is easily recognisable next to the Cottage Museum.



Carlton's the Chemist

Marjorie Sargeant

Come and Join Us

The backbone of the Cottage Museum is 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 to suit most interests. If you would like to find out more without committing yourself then please call us on **01526 352456**.



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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Bertha, November 1924

Dear Readers,

I am sorry to say that Woodhall Spa is not the happy place with everyone working together, which we used to know. There has been such a to-do about the Baths.

I have often reported that since the Great War the Baths have not been doing well. Now, matters have reached a head. After the dreadful fire at the Victoria, when the old company was wound up, Sir Archibald Weigall gave £2,000 to ensure the security of the Baths. There is a lot of work involved and it is costing the Weigalls over £500 a year of their own money to keep the Baths going – I was going to write “afloat”!



The Spa Baths



The Pavilion Cinema

Now Sir Archibald feels others should be involved and the village has been asked to raise £750 for the Baths every year, to keep them open. Instead of being grateful for what the Weigalls have done, some people are alleging that Sir Archibald has not run the Baths properly. There have been groups of villagers everywhere, muttering and complaining and Perce says that in the Mall, there has been talk of nothing else.

So, on 25th October a public meeting was held in the Pavilion Cinema and just about every family was represented. Donations were promised but many people were arguing and shouting; it was most unseemly. Perce says there are always problems where money is involved and it was better to have it out in the open but it was exceedingly unpleasant - and some angry folk were our friends!

The matter is not resolved yet but surely, somehow we have to keep the Baths. We need them. Boarding houses like ours and hotels and businesses rely on them. Woodhall Spa would not exist if it were not for the Baths.

Bertha
November 1924

Marjorie Sargeant

Answers: -We hibernate - dormouse, hedgehog, adder We migrate - swallow, chiffchaff, nightjar
Winter weather - badger, squirrel, roe deer Colder climates - whooper swan, waxwing, fieldfare

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LOKI'S PAGE Hello everyone. I hope you have enjoyed all the events of the summer. I met quite a few of you at the Music in the Garden concerts. It'll soon be Christmas, but not before we have all enjoyed the annual Christmas Past event. Perhaps I will see you there. Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year - LOKI



CHRISTMAS PAST AT THE MUSEUM

A Christmas Past Event is being held at the museum on Saturday 23rd November between 10.30am and 4pm. There will be lots to do for children and adults alike, Cakes and preserves will be on sale. There will be a Craft Stand and a Children's Trail together with free Craft Activities for the children, who can also meet Mrs Christmas and her favourite elf! Also on offer will be a Children's Christmas Luck Dip for £2.

Carol singing will be held in the garden before and after lunch to the accompaniment of The Woodhall Spa Community Band.

Refreshments will be on sale which will include a hot drink and Mince Pie or Gingerbread Man for £2. So do come along and kick start the Festive Season.



A young family enjoy the carols at last year's event

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someordu
geghohde
dread

We migrate

sowlawl
fifcahfchf
tarjighn

We face the winter weather

redbag
ruleqiser
ore ered

We come from colder climates

rowhope awsn
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Answers on Page 16

Jane Hodgson



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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Committee: Annette Southcott

Membership Secretary: Kelly Jestin
(Hours of work Tuesday - Thursday 9.00-4.00pm
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Dear Friends,

It's been a very busy summer at the Museum during which we have once again provided the Cafe for our 'Tribute to the 1940s' day and the five Music in the Garden events throughout July and August.

Luckily, we had good weather for the majority of these functions, which were very well attended and raised almost £2000 for the Museum's funds. Our thanks as always go to the Friends and Volunteers who provide their help in so many ways to ensure the success of all our activities. From setting out tables, to baking cakes, to washing up; your contribution is invaluable and we literally couldn't do it without you, so on behalf of the directors, once again, thank you for giving your time and donations so generously.

There are a couple of activities coming up that you won't want to miss. The annual talk will be held at the Golf Hotel on 9th November and this year sees the return of Lorna Almonds-Windmill, daughter of Major 'Gentleman Jim' Almonds one of the twelve original members of the SAS in 1942. Those of you who attended last year, or came to look at the exhibition of his early life, will remember the incredible story of the boy from Stixwould who became a decorated war hero. Lorna's talk will look at his life in the post-war period back in the SAS and in many ways it's an even more amazing story. Tickets priced £8.50 are available from Reception during opening hours or online from the Museum website. Last year sold out very quickly so book early to ensure your place.

The Christmas Past event on 23rd November will be led by the Learning Team supported by the Friends Group. The Museum will be decorated, and as in previous years, we will be providing non-alcoholic mulled punch and mince pies. Crafts and home made cakes will be on sale along with Museum merchandise, so the ideal opportunity to start your Christmas shopping, while helping the Museum at the same time.

Thank you for your continued support and donations which help us keep this little museum telling the stories of Woodhall Spa's history and heritage. Although it seems far too early to say this, we wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Friends and Volunteers Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is normally held on the second Wednesday of the month, to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors.

The next event is planned for Wednesday 13th November from 10.30am. until 12 noon.

Please check our website, or social media for the latest information.



What's On Guide

Annual Memorial Talk
"Escaping the Ordinary"
Gentleman Jim Almonds
Post War Exploits

Given by his daughter
Lorna Almonds-Windmill
At the Golf Hotel
The Broadway, W/Spa on
Sat. 9th November 2024
At 2.30pm

(doors open at 2pm)
Tickets £8.50 including
refreshments from Museum
Reception or the website
www.cottagemuseum.co.uk

TICKET ONLY EVENT

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CHRISTMAS PAST
At The Cottage Museum
23rd November 2024
10.30am to 4pm

Cakes, Preserves, Craft Stall
Childrens Trail, free Childrens
Craft Activities & Lucky Dip
Meet Mrs Christmas & her Elf
Carol Singing

ADMISSION FREE

For the latest information visit
www.cottagemuseum.co.uk

Annette Southcott

