

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Another Successful Season of
“Music in the Garden”

Newsletter No. 42
November 2022

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

The museum is now closed and another season is over. Indications are we have had a very successful season with attendances comparable to pre-pandemic times when we were open 7 days a week. This is good news as it means lower overheads with reception only manned from Wednesday to Saturday - plus Sundays through August, as opposed to the full 7 days in 2019.

Events like "The 40s Weekend" and "Music in the Garden" were fully back and well attended. The Courtyard Cafe did a roaring trade as always, providing a very welcome income stream.

As ever the Newsletter is packed with our usual features, including a very interesting article on page 8 from Nicholas Duke-Cox on the return of the Weigall family from Australia where Archiboad Weigall had been Governor of South Australia for 2 years. Bertha writes on page 16 another of her fascinating letters set in the year 1922 and Marjorie Sargeant takes another look the rare booklet entitled "Axle Cooling".

We look back at the events of the summer with reports on the 40s Weekend, Music in the Garden and the laying of wreaths at the Arnhem Memorial, organised by the local Branch of the Royal British Legion. The Bell Award has also been presented to an enthusiastic young volunteer, Chloe Taylor. See page opposite for full report. Poppy's Page introduces the Christmas Event which is being hosted by the Education Team and there is a puzzle to tax the brains of both young and older readers entitled "Getting Ready for Winter".

None of these events or the running of the museum would happen without the indispensable help given so enthusiastically by all our volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to join us, but we should really take stock and send out a very, very big thank you to all our current volunteers, who gives of their time to make our museum such a fantastic success. Well done to everyone!

Philip Groves

Front Cover Story

The "Riverside Strummers" from Sleaford were just one of the groups that entertained near capacity audiences at this year's series of "Music in the Garden" events that proved more popular than ever.

The entire series of five concerts all enjoyed beautiful weather, so what better way is there to spend a summer Sunday afternoon than enjoying an outdoor concert?

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The Newsletter Committee

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

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Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum:1929

The Bell Award 2022

This year the Directors have given the prestigious Bell Award to Chloe Taylor, a young volunteer.

The Bell Award is given from time to time to a young person who has done something of merit for the Museum. The award came about as a result of a burglary at the Museum when the Bell Cup, which belonged to the Woodhall Spa Agricultural Show Society, was stolen. The Bell family, who had donated the cup, had retained the rights to it and donated the insurance payment to the Museum, but asked that the memory of Joseph Bell be maintained. The Museum Trustees at the time agreed to do this through the Bell Award.



Chloe Taylor receives the Bell Award from Lynnette Needham

This year's winner Chloe Taylor, is a worthy recipient who, over the summer months played an active part in the running of the museum, supporting museum staff and fellow volunteers. She helped with the Jubilee event, 1940s weekend and the Music in the Garden where she could be found engaging with members of the public and museum visitors. It was a pleasure to have Chloe working with us. Her sunny disposition and willingness to try her hand at anything was appreciated by all and we wish her every success for the future.

Philip Groves & Lynnette Needham

Meet Chloe Taylor - This Year's Bell Award Winner



Chloe Taylor

the 'Woodhall Spa 1940s Festival' and the annual 'Music in the Garden' concerts. Everyone at the museum was so warm and welcoming, and I look forward to volunteering at the museum again in the future."

Chloe Taylor

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

“Axle Cooling” - London to Woodhall Spa

Our “Mellow Observer,” author of “Axle Cooling” in 1890, tells us he travelled from London to Woodhall Spa by train.

The railway timetable of that year may make us envious. While the length of the journey varied, the popular 12.50 train from King’s Cross arrived in Woodhall Spa in only 3 hours 30 minutes. The station, behind the shops on the Broadway, was central in the village.

What did Mellow Observer make of his journey? “The comfort of the conveyance and the speed attained forced a lively interest in my surroundings, at first many chimney pots, then, embankments, meadows and a whirring roar, as we flew along the veins of the railway in wild fury. When the engine gave its last belch of white vapour we slid gracefully to the platform at Woodhall Spa. I confess, at a hasty glance I was not vitally shaken by sudden wonder but then I found myself felicitated by helpful hands and enveloped by delicious air under a clear sky. I had been conveyed with ease to this Bethesda among the pine trees.”

Isn’t that splendid? Perhaps, next time someone asks me where I come from, I might cause a little confusion by replying, “Oh, Bethesda, you know.”

Marjorie Sargeant

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.					
Train Service between London and Woodhall Spa.					
DOWN.					
WEEK DAYS.		a.m.	a.m.	A p.m.	p.m.
London (King’s Cross)	dep.	5.15	8.45	12 50	3.0
Woodhall Spa	arr.	9.0	1.10	4.20	6.50

Part of the Great Northern Railway Timetable for London to Woodhall Spa

Arnhem Remembered

September 10th. was a bright sunny morning as Members of the local branch of the Royal British Legion, museum volunteers and others gathered at The Arnhem Memorial in the museum gardens to honour those members of the 1st Air Landing Brigade who were stationed in Woodhall Spa prior to the Battle of Arnhem and never returned from



David Hill lays the museum wreath

“Operation Market Garden”.



Local RBL members and others gather at the Memorial

A short service was conducted by Father Joseph Snelling. The Branch President, David Mullenger recited the homage and after a two minutes silence wreaths were laid. Gill Hodson laid the first wreath on behalf of the Woodhall Spa and District RBL. Sgt. Simon Dalglish laid the second on behalf the Lions and David Hill, Chairman of the Cottage Museum, laid the third wreath on behalf of the Cottage Museum. After the short ceremony refreshments were served by museum volunteers on the museum patio.

Philip Groves

Presentation to John Wilkinson

Earlier this year Museum Director John Wilkinson stepped down from the board. John is a lifelong resident of Woodhall Spa and spent his working life in engineering. His local knowledge of the area is extensive and will be greatly missed by the board, as will his work for the Friends. Alongside Annette Southcott he had helped to run the Friends Group. As a mark of appreciation of his contribution as a director, he was presented with a voucher for Afternoon Tea at The Tea House in the Woods for himself and his wife, who also received a bouquet of flowers.



John Wilkinson receives his voucher from Annette Southcott

Museum Receives Age Friendly Business Award

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum has received the Age Friendly Business Award, which is administered by the Lincolnshire YMCA. It is awarded to recognise businesses for providing excellent customer service and environment for its older customers. The award gives customers the confidence to know that the business meets a range of criteria, from a clutter free environment to excellent customer service. By participating in the free 'Age-friendly' Business accreditation the business can stand out in their area and let their local community know that they value older people and want to help foster a positive view of ageing.



Patricia Duke-Cox (left) receives the Age Friendly Award from Grace Tompkins

Following her visit to assess the museum for the Award, Grace Tompkins, Community Development Officer, wrote "From my visit I can say that, it is with great pleasure, that I have no hesitation in recommending The Cottage Museum for the Age-friendly Business Award. I look forward to welcoming you to the Age-friendly Business Network." The award was presented at the museum on June 16th to Museum Director Patricia Duke-Cox who received it on behalf of the museum from Grace Tompkins.

200 Club Winners

July 2022

£25 [55] Sandra Taylor
£20 [198] Tim Peacock
£15 [20] Fiona Hall
£10 [95] Tom Johnson

August 2022

£25 [136] Lynnette Needham
£20 [17] John Noble
£15 [142] Emily Needham
£10 [200] Julie Pole

September 2022

£25 [155] Robert Webb
£20 [42] John Archer
£15 [86] Bryan Scotney
£10 [92] Rowland Ward

Volunteer Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is normally held monthly to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors.

It affords a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag! The next event is planned for Wednesday November 2nd from 10.30am.

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

Puzzle Answers 1 warren, 2 sett, 3 holt, 4 lodge, 5 roost, 6 drey, 7 hive, 8 den, 9 burrow 10 chrysalis

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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

From the Collection

A number of notable events have occurred in Woodhall Spa over the years and in June of this year occurred the centenary of one such event. Namely the return of the Weigall family to England, Woodhall Spa and their country home, Petwood, journeying from across the world in Australia.

In 1919, Archibald Weigall accepted the appointment of Governor of South Australia. He was made a KCMG (Knight of the Order of St Michael and St George) becoming Sir Archibald. He and his wife Lady Grace Weigall and their six-year-old daughter, Priscilla, left in May 1920 arriving in Australia in June of that year.

He became disenchanted with the financial machinations of the State Parliament and this resulted in him paying out of his own pocket for staff and the public duties he performed, leaving him with only £300 per annum as salary. He resigned in December 1921 after only 19 months in post. His departure prompted the premier to raise the Governors salary to cover costs.



In May 1922 the Weigalls commenced their journey to England and on the evening of Friday June 9th arrived in Woodhall to much delight and ceremony. They were driven in an open-top car from Kirkstead (Woodhall Junction) station so that the residents could see them *en route* to Petwood. At Chapman's corner the people of Woodhall presented Lady Weigall with a bouquet of flowers and the couple with an illuminated address welcoming their return and thanking them for the using of Petwood as a temporary hotel. At Petwood they were greeted by their head gardener, Thomas Williams, who gave Priscilla a riding crop, (illustrated left). The house itself, was decked with flags and bunting.

The scene at the front door at Petwood. All the persons are identifiable. Left to right: Thomas Williams, Micheline Hawley, Priscilla Weigall holding her riding crop, Lady Weigall and Sir Archibald Weigall.

Nicholas Duke-Cox

Music in the Garden

This year there were 5 open air concerts held in the museum gardens under the banner of "Music in the Garden". The first four were held on Sunday afternoons through August and one, "The Spa Singers", took place on the first Saturday in September. We were blessed with good weather for all the concerts and consequently the attendances were very encouraging, with over 90 for "Sing it Loud" and "The Riverside Ukulele" Band. Overall over £900 was raised for museum funds and a very big thank you must go out to everyone who helped both in the rigging and de-rigging of the concerts and the provision and serving of refreshments at the interval, which accounted for over £600 of the total raised.



The Courtyard Cafe during the interval of "Sing It Loud"

The 40s Weekend

The 1940s weekend was a busy period for Friends and volunteers of the Museum. We set up and ran a cafe from the community room selling drinks and homemade cakes on both Saturday and Sunday. The event was hugely successful with a constant stream of visitors. We estimate that we served around 650-700 people.



The Museum Garden was buzzing



4 of the Courtyard Cafe Volunteers

The weather certainly helped and our shaded courtyard was much in demand as was the awning in the garden where the performers entertained throughout the day. Once again we have to thank all of those Friends and volunteers behind and in front of the scenes, for making this such a great occasion. A special thank you goes to all of our Star Bakers for the wonderful array of delicious cakes. You are all worthy to be in a Bake-Off final!

Annette Southcott

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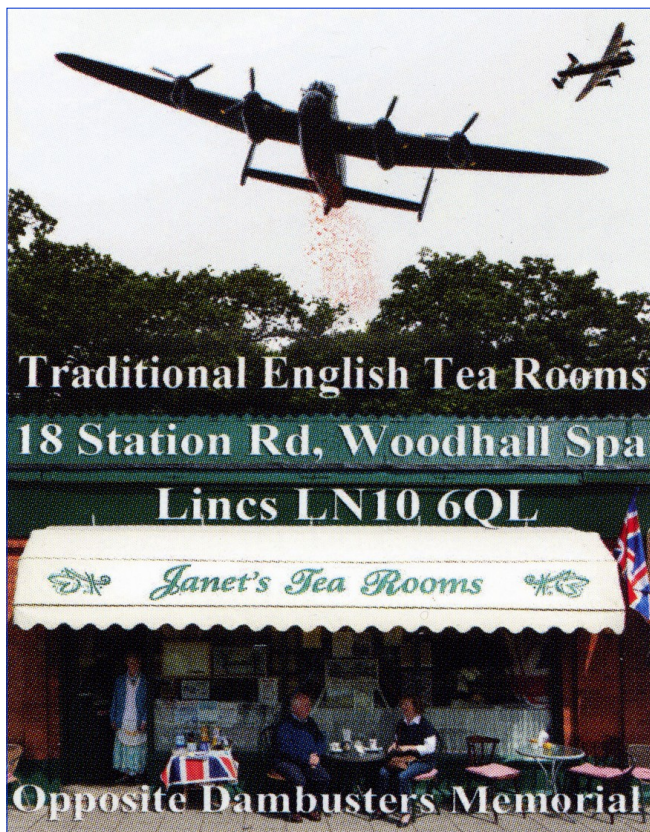
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

The Annual Memorial Lecture

This year the museum is presenting a very special lecture entitled "Re-presenting the Holocaust".

It will be delivered by James Bulgin, who is Head of Content for the New Holocaust Galleries at the Imperial War Museum. Before joining IWM, James worked as a commercial theatre producer and director, with work at the West End and on national tour, and co-wrote the play *When Darkness Falls*. He is currently completing a PHD under the Crosslands Scholarship at Royal Holloway College, University of London, on ideas of apocalypse in Holocaust and Cold War history. His academic research focuses on issues of representation in Holocaust literature and film.

In October 2021 the new Holocaust Galleries were opened at the Imperial War Museum. In this talk their curator, James Bulgin, will take us through the development of the new galleries from their inception, all the way through the design process and up to their opening.




*James Bulgin
Head of Content, New
Holocaust Galleries, IWM*


James will discuss the central ideas behind the galleries and how the team sought to achieve them, sharing some of the challenges faced and how his team navigated the final phases of the project through the international pandemic. The Galleries use over two thousand new objects, together with stories of their owners that help to shed a new light on the Holocaust and the course of WW2 by those who witnessed or were affected by it. Many of the stories are deeply personal and have never been published before.

The lecture will take place at The Golf Hotel, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa on Saturday 12th November at 2.30pm (doors open at 2pm) Tickets are £8.50 including refreshments and there will be a Raffle. Tickets are available from the Volunteers Office at the museum in Iddesleigh Road on Tuesdays to Thursdays between 10.30am and 3.30pm or online at www.cottagemuseum.co.uk. Please be aware that the event is a **PRE-BOOKED TICKET ONLY EVENT**

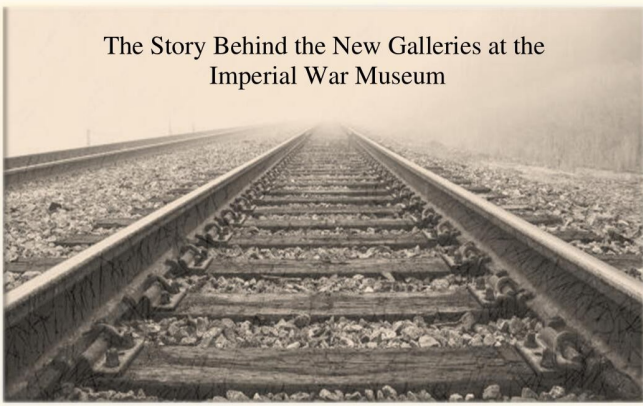
Philip Groves



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ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE
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Speaker – JAMES BULGIN
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Woodhall Spa - November 1922

Dear Readers

Our summer Season has ended. Perce and I had our usual visitors but our village is still not thriving as it did before the Great Hostilities.

At both Woodhall and Kirkstead Sports there were less competitors and less spectators. It was a dismal, rainy day at Kirkstead and a balance of only £3-18-1d was raised.

There was sadness in June at the death of Dr. Gwyn. He treated just about the whole village and was always on call when there was an accident. They buried him in St. Andrew's cemetery.

But why am I telling you about miserable matters? The most astonishing thing has happened! You remember me telling you about Lord and Lady Weigall returning from Australia? Well, when they got back they saw how depressed we all were and Lady Weigall had the idea of providing a moving picture place to cheer us up! Imagine, in Woodhall Spa! A licence was granted for a year, including Sundays! Sundays! What would Grandmamma say?



The Pavilion Cinema in the 1920's

In September, an advertisement in the newspaper stated, "Pavilion Picture House, Woodhall Spa. Opening night Monday 11th September 1922. Prices 2/4, 1/6, 8d, including tax. Show commences at 7.45." The Pavilion is in the woods, where concerts are performed.

Everyone was so excited! Then, at the opening night, "The Lion Eaters" did not come, so they had to show something by Charlie Chaplin instead. However, everybody was full of praise for the new venture and for Lady Weigall, of course. Some folk are saying they will go every time the picture changes!

Perce says he won't go until it is more reliable and he certainly won't be frittering money on it every week. However, I am sure his curiosity will win! I will tell you about our visit next time I write.

Bertha

November 1922

Marjorie Sargeant

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POPPY'S PAGE

presented by LOKI

It will soon be Christmas and I am looking forward to spending it in my new home. Hope you can all come along to the Christmas Event. There is lots to do, so I am sure you will enjoy yourselves. Winter is nearly here and we have a puzzle for you to reflect this. Hope you have a lovely Christmas.

Bye for now, Loki



Christmas Event



Come and join us to celebrate 'Christmas Past' at The Cottage Museum on Saturday 26th November 2022 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The Museum will be decorated for Christmas and there will be family craft activities, carol singing, craft stalls, music, refreshments and a sugar mouse trail. The event is free but donations are welcome.



Pictures of previous Christmas events at the museum

Jane Hodgson

GETTING READY FOR WINTER PUZZLE

Can you find the animal homes for the 8 mammals and 2 insects?
Rearrange the letters to find the names of their homes.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1 rabbit | renraw |
| 2 badger | etst |
| 3 otter | loht |
| 4 beaver | gelod |
| 5 bat | sotor |
| 6 squirrel | ryed |
| 7 bee | vihe |
| 8 fox | end |
| 9 field vole | ruwrob |
| 10 butterfly | syalrichs |

Answers on page 5

DID YOU KNOW?

A single bat can eat up to 3,000 insects a night. They can live up to 30 years.
The earliest traces of badgers in Britain date back to over half a million years ago.

Gill Noble & Jane Hodgson

Loki at "Music in the Garden"

Did any of you spot Loki who "presents" this page? He came to several of the "Music in the Garden" events and was very quiet and well behaved and had a great deal of fuss made of him - which he absolutely loves!





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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Committee: Annette Southcott

Membership Secretary: Judy Everitt

Dear Friends

It's been a very busy summer at the Museum during which we have provided the Cafe for the 1940s weekend and the Music in the Garden events throughout August.

Luckily we had great weather so all of these functions were very well attended. 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. The year is drawing to a close and the Museum closed for the season at the end of October to re-open in April 2023.

There are a couple of activities taking place that you won't want to miss. The annual talk will be held at the Golf Hotel on 12 November and this year we are lucky to have James Bulgin from the Imperial War Museum in London.

In October 2021 the new Holocaust Galleries were opened to great acclaim and James is their Head of Content. He will take us through the ideas behind the new galleries, all the way through the design process, up to their opening. He started work on Holocaust Galleries project at IWM in 2016 and is now an acknowledged expert on the subject. This will be a ticket only event so book early. See the poster for booking details

The Christmas Past event on 26 November will be led by the Education Team supported by the Friends Group. The Museum will be decorated for Christmas and refreshments, crafts and home made cakes will be on sale. It will also be open for merchandise sales, so the ideal opportunity to start your Christmas shopping, while supporting the Museum at the same time.

We are planning a trip behind the scenes at the Kinema, probably in November. As soon as the date is confirmed we will contact you with details.

Finally, you will see that there is a membership renewal form contained in this issue. Thank you in advance for your continued support and donations which help us keep this little museum telling the stories of Woodhall Spa's history. We are truly grateful.

Kind regards,

Annette Southcott

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**



What's On Guide

Annual Memorial Lecture

"Re-presenting the Holocaust"

A talk by James Bulgin

Head of Content for the New Holocaust Galleries at the Imperial War Museum

Saturday 12th November
Golf Hotel Woodhall Spa
2.30pm (doors open 2pm)

Tickets £8.50

inc. Refreshments
RAFFLE

Available from website or
Volunteers Office Wed to
Thurs. 10.30am to 3.30pm

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"CHRISTMAS PAST"

at The Cottage Museum
Saturday 26th November
10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Carol singing, craft activities &
stall, trail, music &
Refreshments
FREE ADMISSION
but donations welcomed

For the latest information visit
www.cottagemuseum.co.uk
& www.woodhallspa.org

