

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## Newsletter No.11



*25th. Anniversary Issue*  
July 2012

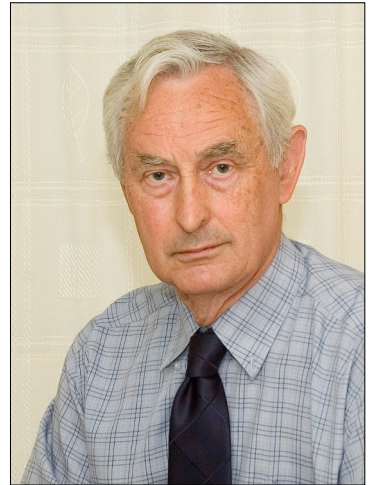
# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the New Editor

The first 10 issues of the Newsletter have been edited by Mat Tuck. He has been posted to pastures new and it has fallen to me to take up the mantle and try to fill the large gap he has left, a task I am happy to take on. I should like to wish him, from all of us, the very best of luck in his new posting.

This year of 2012 is a year of celebration. First and foremost we have had the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and how the Museum was involved in those celebrations is covered on page 8 by our Chairman, Jackie Goodall. The country is also hosting the Olympic Games and we all hope there will some cause for celebration there as well. Meanwhile, we at the Museum have great cause for celebration this year as the museum celebrates its 25th. Birthday, marked by events at St. Peter's Hall on May 19th. We have also celebrated the great achievement of winning Heritage Lottery Funding, which is enabling the development of the Museum site and the refurbishment of the bungalow to take place—indeed building work started at the beginning of June.

This month, as well as our usual features, we are introducing a page for our younger readers -"Poppy's Page". The Museum has always tried to gain the interest of children, so it seems appropriate to carry this across to the Newsletter. We hope you and the children will enjoy it.



## Philip Groves

### **125 CLUB DRAW WINNERS - FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL**

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Board of Directors observed the draws for the 125 Club at their recent meeting. Winners of £20 for February, March and April are Gordon Roy (14), Stephen Oldham (4) and Dr McFeeters (118). Winners of £10 for the three months are Lucy Thornalley (11), Cliff and Edith Harding (45) and Mr and Mrs Lilly (85) whilst winners of £5 are Peter Ellis (7), Mr and Mrs Lilly (85) and Carole Starling (26).

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### **The Newsletter Committee**

Chairman - Paddy O'Neill   Editor- Philip Groves   Pam Cowlshaw   David Radford

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## Celebrating 25 Years of the Cottage Museum

It was Sunday 17th May 1987 that two major events took place in Woodhall Spa. I refer, of course, to the inauguration of the Dambusters' Monument in Royal Square and the opening of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

Surviving members of the wartime squadron, Richard Todd who played Guy Gibson in the film of that famous mission, officers of the RAF, councillors from District and Parish Councils, pupils from both local schools, St Hugh's and St Andrew's and many members of the local community were present at the former event.



*A toast to 25 years of the Museum*

It was a moving ceremony made all the more so by the voices of St Hugh's School choir despite the heavy rain which in true British fashion accompanied it!

Consequently many now rain soaked members of that ceremony fled to the latter, the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, which had opened its doors for the first time that day!

The story of how the efforts of Stuart Treharne, Bill Skelton, Amarylis Midgley, myself and members of the community came to fruition has often been told but what is most heart-warming to me is that twenty five years later the then mission is still recognised as so important to the heritage of Woodhall Spa! So much so, that all these years later, it has lost none of its urgency! I quote, "The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Trust was established in order to represent the life and culture of a spa town unique in character, being a Victorian foundation and illustrating the social structure, arts and crafts which are almost within folk memory, before it disappears out of mind by the present generation."

The Mission Statement then went on to describe how this would be achieved, resulting in what you see today: a museum recognised for its professional approach by the award of Accreditation by the then Museums, Archives and Galleries Council, a number of heritage awards by Renaissance East Midlands and a Heritage Lottery Fund award to ensure that the Cottage Museum's development goes forward with its steadily increasing archive and artefacts being more easily preserved and shared with the inhabitants of Woodhall Spa and its visitors from around the world.

The Directors, Friends, volunteers, John Wield's descendents and not forgetting East Lindsey Council's Tourist Information Centre staff, are all to be thanked for making it possible.

In particular those who have headed the project under the present Chair Jackie Goodall and have given so much time, effort and expertise, all in a voluntary capacity, deserve all our gratitude for the Cottage Museum is proving not only a preserver of heritage but also a valuable contributor and resource to the commerce of our inland resort. The twenty fifth anniversary celebrations in St Peter's Hall have celebrated the living heart and soul of Woodhall Spa as exemplified by the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum and its Community.

**David Radford**

Lower Cover Picture: - Left to right - Wendy Radford, Jackie Goodall, Ann Houlton, Ian Ramsay and David Radford on left with John Wield's great grandson John Jackson, his wife and two sons. Top Left David Radford and top right Pam Cowlshaw

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## Development Update

In Newsletter 10, the main theme of the development was destruction; with the removal of the remains of the outbuildings and general site clearance. I am pleased to say that the theme for this Newsletter is the start of construction. The main contractor has been appointed and, in keeping with our desire to try to appoint local contractors wherever possible, it is Taylor Pearson Construction, who are based in Martin Dales.



*Craig Donnachie, Site foreman for Taylor Pearson with Rodger Pickavance, left and David Hill, right before work started on the footings.*

The contractors started work on the 6 June, and, as I write this on the 13 June, the footings for the new outbuildings are being dug. It is really satisfying to see at last something physical starting to happen on the project. To date, it has been very much the generation of large quantities of paper and many gigabytes of memory on Jackie Goodall's and my computer? I would like to say that our development workload and that of the other involved volunteers has reduced but I can't!

The new outbuildings should be handed over to the museum at the end of September. We will then have about a week to empty the museum and move the contents into the new outbuildings, whilst the contractors refurbish the corrugated iron dark room. It does, however, mean that the museum will have to close at the end of September this year, to allow work to start on the bungalow.

During mid October, the museum building will disappear under scaffolding and a polythene tent will be erected over it, to allow the refurbishment work to carry on with minimal disruption during the autumn/winter. Subject to weather and what is found when the outer corrugated iron sheets come off, the refurbishment will be completed by Christmas/early January. Once the building is handed back to the museum, the exhibition contractors will install and set up the new displays. The 'new' museum will open to the public on Good Friday, 30 March, 2013.

Progress has also been made on the HLF funded, 3 year Activity Plan. One key milestone has been the appointment of a freelance Activity Manager to assist with the implementation of the plan. The applicants were very well qualified and the strong field made the final appointment quite a challenge for the museum panel. The museum has also been involved with the library staff in a Reminiscence Project. The response from the community to this project has been very positive.

The response to the appeal for funds is slowly bearing fruit too and the target of £25,000 is getting closer; however, we still have a way to go and we still need your help to achieve the appeal target. Hopefully, now that practical results are starting to be seen, it will provide encouragement to help us to achieve our target.

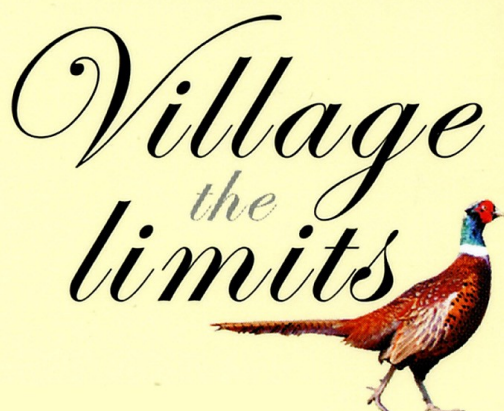
**Rodger Pickavance**

One day people  
will ask Why  
Woodhall Spa?

John Wield

## LATE NEWS

The Cottage Museum was awarded the Best Event Award at the Lincolnshire Heritage Awards ceremony for the organisation of the "People's Pageant" in July 2011.



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## What Our Visitors Are Saying

In the first 10 weeks nearly 900 adults and 110 children have visited the museum. Some of their comments are reproduced below. The first 6 are from children and are very encouraging as they show we are engaging the interest of children and the activities and puzzles described on "Poppy's Page" are appreciated by our younger visitors.

*"Very nice - love Amy aged 7"* - AB of Stickford

*"Fascinating (Age 7)"* - PB of Perth, Scotland

*"I loved the dressing up. I also loved the planes in the military room"* - G & E D of Tattshell

*"Fantastic & brilliant. It was interesting and fun."* - FW of Tattshell

*"The pretend donkeys are cool."* - F of Martin

*"I've loved every second"* - KJ "on holiday"

*"Very enjoyable—keep up the good work"* - JL & DS of Peterborough

*"Lucky enough to bump into a gentleman who was very knowledgeable and made our short visit very interesting"* - GC of Rickmansworth

*"Very well worth a visit"* - M & M H of Market Harborough

*"Very interesting photos"* - AH of Epping

*"Super... It really is!"* - F & S B of Minnesota USA

*"Very impressive"* - T & H W of Salisbury 619 Squadron

*"Wonderful moments of history, very interesting"* - S & K T of Leicestershire

*"Keep up the good work - good luck"*

- RL Perth Australia

*"Poignant memories- thank you - remembering 1939 - 45"* - GS & BP of Essex & Notts

*"Fascinating insight into local area"* - MB Grimsby

*"Excellent - Thank you"* - C & G H Sydney Australia

*"How lucky we are that so many souvenirs have been saved by thoughtful people."*

- JB of South Wales

*"Very good collection. Long may you be open."*

- HS of Brixham

*"Very interesting - Well worth the visit."*

- H of Leicester

*"Fascinating - full of interesting material"*

- A & M S of Glasgow

## Philip Groves

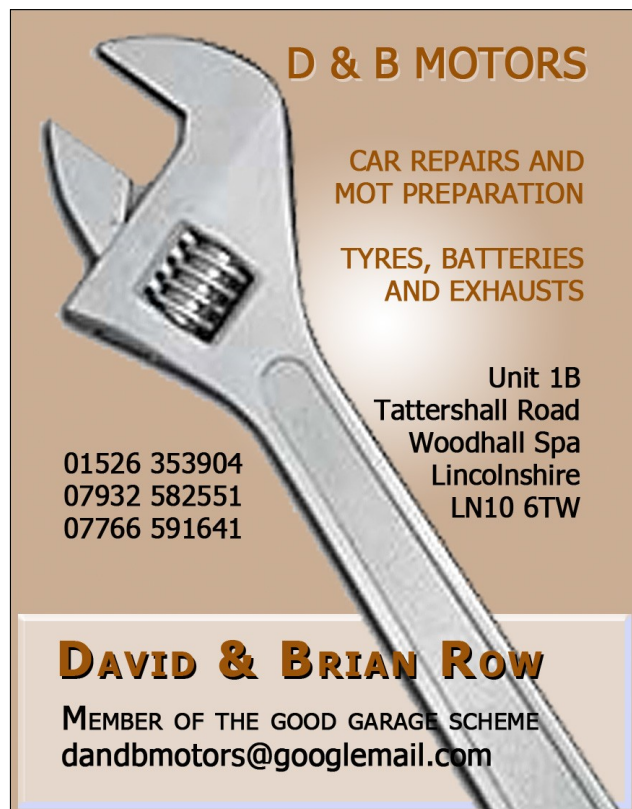
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1st. Prize - A Gunson

2nd. Prize - Joan Horton

3rd. Prize - Peter Ellis

All 3 winners live in Woodhall Spa



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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

There are occasions when I wish I had been sufficiently organised to have my digital camera to hand. The bedecking of Woodhall Spa with hundreds of metres of bunting was just such an occasion! I'll leave to your imagination the hilarity caused by a group of over-enthusiastic amateurs who possessed ladders that were too short, one ball of string and a pair of scissors between the seven of them and no previous knowledge of the physical properties of slippery plastic bunting! Having said that, the result was spectacular. One young man tweeted "Woodhall Spa must be the most patriotic village in England, I'm a local lad and I'm proud." That says it all, really.



The Jubilee celebrations were yet another example of the inclusive way in which the Cottage Museum relates to the wider community of Woodhall Spa. Our Jubilee Market formed part of the three day celebrations organised under the umbrella of the Woodhall Spa Chamber of Trade and Tourism. We have to thank Woodhall Spa Parish Council together with the contributions of both our District Councillors for helping to cover the costs of the long weekend. We also have to thank Tony Woodrow and Pam Cowlshaw for taking on the responsibility for the organisation of this event and to the local businesses who allowed us to use their grounds or supported the printing of our programme.

Weren't we lucky with the weather! Over fifty stalls, a mixture of traders and fund-raisers, were hosted by the Golf Hotel, and situated in St Peter's Hall, along the Broadway and outside Broadway Carpets. As always, community groups and those with an active interest, came along free of charge in order to promote their good causes and raise funds. The museum's volunteers and supporters turned out in force to support and help. There were games, challenges, music, Pimms and laughter - where would we be without 'Ed and Eddie'? Woodhall Spa was full, hotels and accommodation providers reported that they were fully booked as did many of the camp sites. We couldn't have wished for larger crowds and there was definitely a festive air! Local shop keepers once again reported being extra busy, so a good time was had by almost all. Compliments continue to be received;



Patchwork Pooch: "We had a great time at the Jubilee Market. Please keep us informed of any other events you have going on."

Sweetpea Fabric Art: "If you have any further craft events would you let me know."

Saints & Sinners: "Wonderful event. Thank you & we would be back in Woodhall at the drop of a hat!"

The market has to be seen as part of the longer weekend celebrations. Stef from the Mall organised the Sunday Big Lunch, held at the last minute in Coronation Hall with the help of Daphne Robinson. They didn't allow the rain to dampen their spirits and a good time was had by all. Jubilee Park hosted the Picnic in the Park with music and dancing, as well as the Triathlon on Sunday.

All in all we hope that the community of Woodhall Spa had an enjoyable and memorable Diamond Jubilee weekend. In the meantime, I now have almost a mile of bunting to unravel, fold up and put away. Any volunteers?



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### Meet the Directors - Patricia Duke-Cox

Having been associated with the Cottage Museum since its earliest days, I can confirm that it has given me good local knowledge of the place I have chosen to live for the last 30 years. It has also been the source of many friendships over the years.

In my early married life we lived in Yorkshire and it was in Leeds that my daughter was born. Before coming to Lincolnshire we lived in Barnstaple, north Devon, for a year whilst my husband completed his GP vocational training. Moving to Timberland I found I was expecting twin boys.

Although I had graduated with a Biology degree from University of Sussex, I followed this up with a course on Librarianship at Leeds, specialising in medicine. My first job was as an information officer for a pharmaceutical firm, but marrying a year later I became a Civil Servant at the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, now part of the British Library, more because I was a scientist than a librarian! After a career break I worked in Bishop Grosseteste College, followed by St Hugh's School, Banovallum School and Lincoln Hospital medical library.



Getting involved locally was not easy as my GP husband was in a 2-man practice at Billingham, and in those days they did all their own care 24/7. On moving to Woodhall Spa in 1982 I joined Martin Dales WI and became involved in a national Domesday project. I needed some computer input expertise and sought help from the local prep school, St. Hugh's. This was where I met David Radford, who became the founding chairman of the Cottage Museum in 1986. He remembered me and thought I owed him a favour – he invited me to become involved with the newly formed Trust members and I attended my first committee meeting in April 1986.

My involvement with the museum began with fundraising. Although we had achieved the ability to purchase the Bungalow with the support of a local backer, we had a mortgage to pay off. We literally counted every penny in our early days, but within seven years had achieved our aim. I became minutes secretary and head of a small action group in the early days. Many established and influential ladies supported our cause and their help was immense.

The museum has not been my only local interest. With a young family I helped the newly formed Woodhall Sharks swimming club. I also joined Woodhall Spa WI, was a founder member of the Spa Afternoon WI and the Ladies' Probus club.

In 1992 I helped found the local croquet club. Over succeeding years I became involved both regionally and nationally doing administration and playing in competitions. In 2000 I was elected to the Council of the Croquet Association and by 2008 I was elected as its chairman. It was time to take a step back from the museum with these new responsibilities which I thoroughly enjoyed and which took me all over the country. It also allowed a newer team to bring in fresh ideas for the museum. In October 2012 I relinquish my role on the CA Council. However, at this year's AGM I rejoined the board of directors of the Cottage Museum in preparation for the exciting new development. The recently gained Heritage Lottery Funding will, I am sure, enable us to bring Woodhall Spa's history to life and bring pleasure to many visitors and income to local businesses.

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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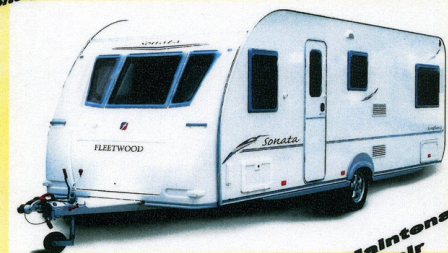
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## Bell Award Presented to Young Volunteer



*Vicky Herrick receives The Bell Award from Gwenda Bell*

Miss Gwenda Bell visited the Cottage Museum recently to present the Bell Award to Vicky Herrick, this year's winner. Miss Bell congratulated Vicky on her achievement and thanked her for all her hard work.

Vicky has been a volunteer at the museum since May 2011 and during that time she has shown both commitment and a willingness to undertake a wide variety of tasks and activities. She is a valued member of the museum volunteer workforce.

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, having retained the rights to it, 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.

### **ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE**

#### **"GENESIS OF THE JET"**

**Speaker Ian Whittle**

**At The EGU Conference Centre**

**2.30 pm Saturday Nov. 10th.**

**TICKETS £8.50**

**Information from Pam Cowlshaw**

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*Left to right: Gill Noble, Gwenda Bell  
Vicky Herrick, Mandy Elmer, Ann Houlton*

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### The Annual Dinner at Abbey Lodge or “How I Won the Cold War with a Little Help from my Friends!”



*Mike Shaw delivering his talk*

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum held its annual dinner at The Abbey Lodge, Woodhall Spa, on April 20th. 2012. The event was very well attended and after a very good meal, an extremely entertaining talk was given by Mike Shaw entitled “How I won the cold war, with a little help from my friends”. This was a very light hearted insight into the workings of, in particular, the Ministry of Defence and the RAF during the very difficult period from the end of the war up to 1991. We learned of his experiences flying from Coningsby to “escort” Russian planes away from UK air space, an exercise that was so successful that no Russian plane ever flew over the UK, together with his experiences working at the MOD.

Mike was a Group Captain in the RAF and at one time was Station Commander at RAF Coningsby.



The Museum Dinner evening raised over £500 for the Museum funds.

At the end of the evening Pam Cowlshaw announced that the speaker for this year's Annual Memorial Lecture would be Ian Whittle, son of Sir Frank Whittle, speaking on “The Genesis of the Jet”. The lecture will be held on Saturday November 10th. at the English Golf Union. For more information on this please ring Pam on 01526 352112.



#### **ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE**

#### **“GENESIS OF THE JET”**

**Speaker Ian Whittle**

**At The EGU Conference Centre**

**2.30 pm Saturday Nov. 10th.**

**TICKETS 8.50**

**Information from Pam Cowlshaw**

**Tel: 01526 352112**



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The Petwood is a friend and supporter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



## POPPY'S PAGE

Hello there,  
I'm Poppy and I am 2 years old. I live in Woodhall Spa with the new Editor. This page is especially for our younger Newsletter readers. In this issue we will tell you about all the activities there are for children to do in the Cottage Museum. There is also a dot to dot puzzle for you to do.

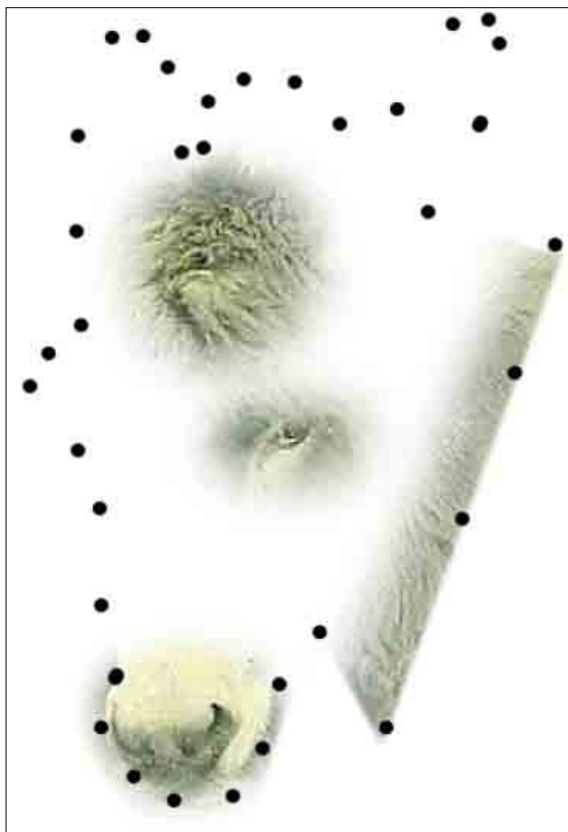
## Children's activities in the Museum

Polly and Jack were two little donkeys who lived at the museum when it was a family home belonging to the Wield family.

Come and discover the activities in Jack and Polly's Corner in Room 3. Look for the donkey quiz books, the answers are on the boards where you see the donkey symbols.

Have fun dressing up, enjoy making up stories, either on the

### JOIN THE DOTS



*Start anywhere and join the dots to find something that was important to the Museum.*

story board or with the donkey puppets, while wearing either Jack or Polly round your waist.

If you are eight or older there is a separate quiz to challenge you - just ask in Reception. The answers are on the Cottage Museum website.

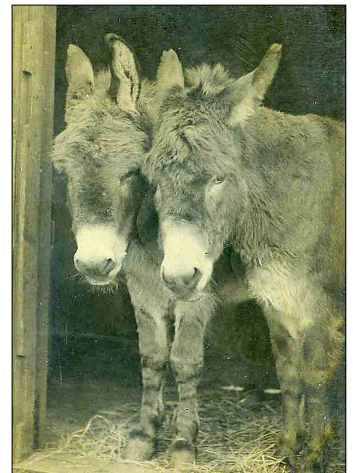
We look forward to seeing you during the summer.

Remember if you are under fourteen years old and are accompanied by an adult you come in for FREE!

I hope you have enjoyed your page - did you find out what the dots became when they were joined up?

See you next time.

**Poppy**



*Polly and Jack*

The Museum is open every day through the summer and autumn from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm  
Last admissions 4.00 pm  
Children under 14 with an adult admitted free



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## 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

Hello Friends,

What a busy year we are having, with the museum's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 19<sup>th</sup> May followed closely by the Queen's Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June. These additional events supplement the normal Friend's activity for this time of year with our annual dinner and appearance at the Woodhall Show in May. I send many thanks to all who assisted at these events.

The Pate and Pimms evening on 30<sup>th</sup> June gave us all an opportunity to relax and take a breather in readiness for the rest of the year.

To look forward now we have the Tattershall Thorpe Camp 40's weekend on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, and the Woodhall Spa 40's Festival on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Volunteers to man the stalls at either of these events would be very much appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting will take place this year at 2.30 on 19<sup>th</sup> September at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Cromwell Avenue. All are most welcome.

One item on the agenda will be the election of members of the Committee. As you may be aware the Committee must consist of 2 Directors and 2 members of the Friends. Since the formation of the Group the Committee members have remained unchanged. Sadly however, this year Isabel Swift has decided that it is time for her to step down. She believes that it is time for fresh blood to be brought on to the committee and she has other interests to pursue. We will miss her ideas and hard work tremendously. Those of you who go on the outings will know that she does all of the organization of the coaches and venues. I am sure that you all join with me to thank her for her past hard work on our behalf and wish her well for the future.

So we are now looking for volunteers either to nominate themselves or to nominate someone else to stand for election as a non-director member of the Friend's Committee. Nominations should reach me by 10<sup>th</sup> September in order that ballot papers can be set up for voting at the AGM. The only criteria are that the volunteer must be willing to stand as a committee member and must be a member of the Friends of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

**Pam Cowlshaw**



Woodhall Spa  
Forthcoming Attractions of  
a Museum orientated  
nature:  
Summer/Autumn 2012

Woodhall Spa 40's Festival  
21st. & 22nd. July

Friends AGM  
19th. September  
2.30 at Roman Catholic  
Hall, Cromwell Avenue

Friends visit to  
John Clare Cottage  
Stamford  
October 16th.

Museum Memorial Lecture  
"Genesis of the Jet"  
Speaker - Ian Whittle  
November 10th.

See also  
[www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk)  
and  
[www.woodhallspa.org](http://www.woodhallspa.org)



*Friends Trip to see the Vulcan*

