

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Newsletter No.15
November 2013

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

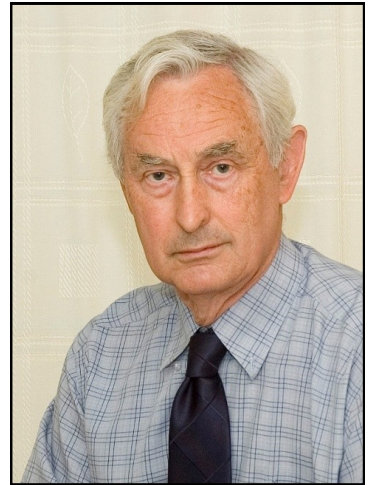
As I write this, it is the middle of October and already we are thinking about plans for Christmas. What a momentous year it has been. The refurbished Museum finally opened to the public on May 3rd. and the official opening events took place in July. Since then a record number of visitors have been through the doors—over a thousand more than usual!

However, a lot more than just looking around the new exhibits has been on offer. The first year of activities has been successfully delivered. These have ranged from a series of family events on Wednesdays through the summer holidays, rug making, Victorian costume making to name but a few. All have been well attended and have greatly extended the impact of the museum on local village life. The coordination of these events has been down to the tireless work of Rebecca Bewick, our Activities Manager and we are all very grateful to her for her efforts. Unfortunately Becky is leaving us at the end of October and while we will miss her input very much we all wish her the very best for the future. She will be a hard act to follow.

As you will see from the Friends page the Friends Committee lost a founder member when Ann Houlton stood down. Her contribution has been immense since the inception of the Friends in 2006 and the museum owes her a great debt of gratitude. Her place has been taken over by Bill King, who together with his wife Sue has been a staunch supporter of the Museum over many years.

By the time you read this the museum will be closed for the winter, but the work and activities most certainly will not stop. In November we have the Memorial Lecture on November 9th. at the Golf Union. This year the lecture is given by Dr. Mike Osborne and is entitled “Lincolnshire Defences in World War II” . Later in November a comedy is being staged at St. Peters Hall called “Hymns of Praise” and the annual coffee morning at St. Peter’s is on Saturday 22nd November. Finally there is the Woodhall Spa Christmas Fayre on Friday evening December 6th. If I do not see you at one of these events then then I do wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Philip Groves



Cover Picture: Peter Austwick as “Winston Churchill” delivers one of his wartime speeches to the assembled throng in the gardens of the Cottage Museum during the 40’s weekend.

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The Newsletter Committee

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

To contact the Newsletter Team please write to:-

The Cottage Museum, The Bungalow, Iddesleigh Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincs. LN10 6SH
or email phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com

Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum:1929

The Forties Weekend

During the weekend of August 2nd to 4th. Woodhall Spa was transported back to the 1940's for the 2nd. annual 40's weekend. The village was alive with 1940's vehicles, motorcycles, soldiers, sailors and airmen in uniform (mainly officers!) and a host of other memorabilia. There was also the occasional "unexploded bomb" to beware of! This is now one of the big events in the



Stalls set out in the museum garden

Woodhall Spa calendar and the whole village embraced the event.

The Cottage Museum was no exception and the garden was set out with stalls selling a variety of goods and services, as well as games from the 1940's era for the children (and adults) to play.



"Winston" arrives at the Cottage Museum



Winston Churchill (Peter Austwick) toured the village and visited the museum on the Saturday afternoon. After delivering one of his great wartime speeches to the assembled throng in the museum garden (see cover picture) he

then toured the stands and chatted to various volunteers.



"Winston" meets Gill Noble & Chairman Jackie Goodall



One of the highlights for many was the mock "bombing" of the Golf Hotel, with the attendance of the fire brigade, ambulance and the rescue of trapped guests from the hotel. Wonderful stuff and great fun to watch.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

What Our Visitors Are Saying

We have had a great season even though it was slightly shorter than planned, with a record number of visitors. Up to October 16th 3272 adults and 517 children had visited the refurbished museum.

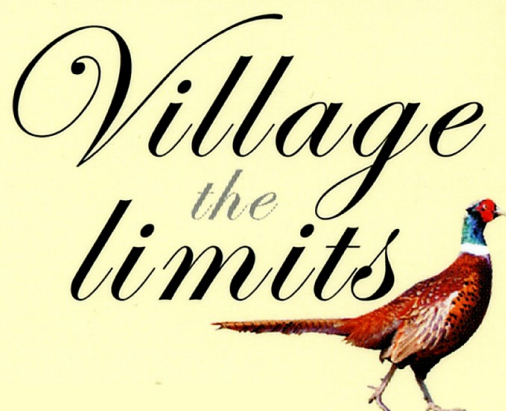
So what have their reactions been? What have they been saying? Well. it has all been very positive and a recurring comment is that they appreciate the “hands on” approach. They like the quiet, calm ambience of the building and they like the friendly welcome. We really couldn’t ask for better comments.

Here is a sample of the latest entries in the Visitors Book.

<i>DS</i>	<i>Notts</i>	<i>A lovely cottage of memories</i>
<i>B & B F</i>	<i>Queensland, Aus.</i>	<i>Both cottage and exhibits V.G.</i>
<i>W & C M</i>	<i>Branston Booth</i>	<i>A hidden treasure, lovely</i>
<i>J P</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>Lovely cottage, full of nostalgia and memories</i>
<i>K H</i>	<i>Staffs.</i>	<i>What a beautiful and interesting museum</i>
<i>C P</i>	<i>West Scotland</i>	<i>Was really interesting. I like looking at the things they used to have.</i>
<i>B D</i>	<i>Durham</i>	<i>A top quality small museum - excellent.</i>
<i>L K</i>	<i>Auckland, N.Z.</i>	<i>Beautifully presented</i>
<i>G.M</i>	<i>York</i>	<i>Brought back lots of memories and found lots of pictures of ME!</i>
<i>J D</i>	<i>Bardney</i>	<i>First visit since refurbishment. Very impressed.</i>
<i>K H</i>	<i>High Wycombe</i>	<i>Brilliant! John Wield's home has been brought back to life.</i>
<i>K L</i>	<i>Lincolnshire</i>	<i>A really lovely museum. Lovely to have “hands on” things.</i>
<i>Mr & Mrs D</i>	<i>Louth</i>	<i>A little gem. A lovely museum with a lovely atmosphere.</i>
<i>B & H L</i>	<i>Somerset</i>	<i>Very interesting. Well set out and accessible.</i>
<i>P S</i>	<i>South Africa</i>	<i>Very interesting and information is outstanding</i>
<i>M & A P</i>	<i>Derbyshire</i>	<i>Really interesting and “Hands On” - wonderful</i>
<i>F K</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Peaceful. Interesting.</i>
<i>J & D C</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>A repeat visit - such a joy, delightful staff, so helpful. Shall come yet again.</i>

Well there we are - a lot of very satisfied customers. It was difficult choosing entries to use as most were in a similar complimentary vein.

All we have to do now is keep up the momentum and get similar results next year.



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Arnhem Coffee Morning

This year the Arnhem commemoration was very low key, but next year being the 70th anniversary, it will be a high profile event. To help raise funds towards staging this occasion, the museum ran a coffee morning at St. Peter's Hall on Saturday, September 22nd. In total over £400 was raised which is very encouraging. While the coffee morning was in progress a small commemoration service led by Rev. Frank Wells was held in the museum gardens attended by veterans, who then came across to the hall for refreshments and a look around the stalls.

To help promote the sale of the museum calendars and to highlight the launch of the "Guess the Birthday" of the lovely white Teddy kindly donated by Mrs Helen Potton, Poppy from Poppy's page was in attendance.




Poppy & Teddy




Veterans remember Arnhem



The Hall set out for the coffee morning

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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

The Museum Temporary Exhibition Room

Immerse yourself in the floral depictions by local resident artist Toni O'Neill, recently on display in the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum. The central focus of the exhibition was Botanical, a theme inspired by her garden in the Spa. After a career in estate agency amongst other professions, Mrs O'Neill was reunited with the paint brush after many years since studying botanical art at Horncastle College.

Even though visitors to the Cottage Museum may be unaware of such exhibitions, the merits of a presentation room undoubtedly add to the overall Cottage Museum experience. The unexpected back room acts as a

bonus feature; not only are visitors being educated about war and local history but are able to view beautiful displays by local community members.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum is a close-knit organisation, run by local volunteers, so perhaps in keeping with the community theme, exhibitions on display should be that of local people and local schools. The Cottage Museum's temporary exhibition room is an effective way of engaging the wider community, by displaying an array of interests in art and ornaments, ideal for those interested in exhibiting their own work, or a chance for school children to depict their favourite

parts of village life. It is within the interest of the museum and of talented artists, that designating one room in the museum as an exhibition room will be an enterprising way to draw in more visitors, as well as being a cost effective way of earning contributions not only for the museum itself, but also for the artist too.

On display from September 16th, you could see colourful Hydrangeas, Narcissi, Hibiscus, Bearded Irises and many more detailed watercolour botanical arrangements, starting from £25-£250. Own a piece of summer all year round!



Local artist Toni O'Neill with some of her pictures displayed in the Temporary Exhibition Room during September and October



The Museum opened the season with a temporary exhibition of photographs of Lincoln taken by John Wield around 1900

Sarah Richards



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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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Meet the Directors - Carol Webb



My husband Roger and I settled in Woodhall Spa in 2010, having decided it would make a lovely place to take early retirement. We were right about the village but I am not so sure that we have achieved the early retirement part!

My early working life was spent as a nurse at Pinderfields Hospital, in Wakefield, where I trained and qualified as a Registered Nurse. I moved to the City Hospital in Nottingham, where I gained further experience in all aspects of general nursing. I later moved to Seacroft Hospital in Leeds where I had a most rewarding, but sometimes heart-breaking time, working in Paediatrics. It was whilst I was at Leeds that I met my husband who was home from Cyprus on RAF leave. Eighteen months, and a lot of letters later, we were married and heading to Cyprus to start our married life. Our son Robert was born whilst we were there and then it was home

and our first spell in Lincolnshire. Whilst we were at Cranwell, our daughter Kerry was born.

In 1975, after leaving the RAF, we returned to Yorkshire. Once the children were old enough I resumed my career in nursing. My first post was that of a nurse practitioner at a Doctor's surgery before becoming the manager of a private nursing home.

Always having had the urge to travel, a complete change took place in my life in 1996. We decided to sell the bungalow, buy a motorhome, and travel around Europe. Eighteen months and 21 countries later it was back home, armed with the knowledge that I would never fit into the 9-5 life-style again. This prompted us to join the Caravan Club, looking after caravan parks across England and Scotland, before finally retiring to Woodhall Spa.

Having always been interested in photography it was not long after moving here that I started work as a Museum volunteer with the Visual Assets team. From there I acquired responsibility for the retail and management of the Museum shop. I was then invited to become a member of the Board of Directors; I am also a member of the Publicity and Promotions group. Working for the Museum, as part of a team striving towards preserving and championing the history of our village, is something that gives me great pleasure. I hope I can play my small part in a great team of volunteers for many years to come.

Carol Webb

Wheelchair Gift

When Gary Hopkinson from Eden Mobility Ltd. of Lincoln heard that the Cottage Museum were not able to accommodate motorised buggies in the museum building, he very kindly offered to see if the Company would donate a wheelchair to the museum. A few weeks ago, the donated wheelchair was delivered.

The young lady in the picture being wheeled along by Rodger Pickavance is Ann Houlton, while Rodger's granddaughter Anna Pickavance completes the group.

The Directors of the museum would like to express their sincere thanks to Eden Mobility Ltd. for their generosity.



Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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From the Archives

First of all, thanks go to Dr Nicholas Duke-Cox for assistance with identifying the location of the pictures in Newsletter 14. They were of North Landing, Flamborough Head.



With us hopefully coming to the end of our construction work at the museum I thought that I would include a couple of pictures of the construction of Petwood House, started in 1905. PH00331 shows workers stood in front of the main entrance. If any can be identified, we would be very grateful. PH00330 shows the rear of the house, with the gardens beginning to be laid out.



Now that we are back in business again can I once again ask for local pictures to add to the museum's visual assets collection? We are at the museum every Tuesday morning or I can be contacted on 01526 353184. We can scan in pictures whilst you wait and our new accommodation is far more pleasant than the old 'back room'.

Rodger Pickavance

125 Club Winners

July	1st. Prize - Mary Walsham (87)
	2nd. Prize - Gill Stuart (85)
	3rd. Prize - Rowland Ward (59)
August	1st. Prize - Mrs. Lilley (90)
	2nd. Prize - Nicholas Duke-Cox (25)
	3rd. Prize - Gordon Roy (106)
Sept.	1st. Prize - Nicholas Duke-Cox (25)
	2nd. Prize - David Hill (112)
	3rd. Prize - Jeanne O'Brien (9)

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT WOODHALL SPA COTTAGE MUSEUM

With the opening of the renovated museum there are new volunteering opportunities. If you would like to help with general admin, community room bookings and arrangements, handyman duties and light cleaning duties or any other aspect of running the museum please contact:-

Pam Cowlshaw 01526 352112 in the first instance.

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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Memories past and present....

The recent unveiling of a monument to members of 617 Squadron (post war) was a moving experience and probably the last one where we could be in the company of wartime Dambusters. It also brought to mind the unveiling of the original monument to those same brave souls. This representation of a shattered dam stands close by in Royal Square and was dedicated on Sunday May 17th 1987, the anniversary of the famous raid and, it so happened, the day on which the Cottage Museum first opened its doors to a curious community.

Not long after this I received the following letter penned on the 17th May 1987 and which I'd like to share with you all.

It was sent by Mrs Gracie Martin of 46 Tooley Lane, Wrangle nr Boston PE22 9BN and it was written from the heart (printed here as originally penned):-

"As I sit here reading the Target and reading about the Damm BusTers very oftens I get my Damm BusTer book out of Guy Gibson as I knew him and had quite a lot of chats to him at Coningsby as we used to go to the dances during the war and To read his book when he mentions all the Lads he had seen baling out over The damms and all of them that were killed it is really Lovely To read he was a brave Guy & wonderful PeRson I'll never forget LoTs of Them I knew and had talked To and To Think They died so bravely yes oh so CruEL. Bless Them aLL."
Signed Mrs Gracie Martin

Yes full of errors we automatically correct these days but we are so lucky to have the education we receive in this day and age. Then it was not easy to get to or afford school or to find time from those necessary chores of everyday living. So education often suffered. BUT the heart was there and years after Mrs Martin poured her heart out in this brief note to me, I find it so moving and there you see the inspiration behind the Cottage Museum. Recording living folk memory while it was still possible to hear it from the participants themselves.

I also think it is so wonderful to see the original dream as intended by myself and the founding trustees being made reality by the hard working and dedicated community volunteers of today. My heartfelt thanks go to them as they continue to secure, in the brand new displays, our heritage as exemplified by Mrs Martin's letter and the Dambuster monument for future generations.

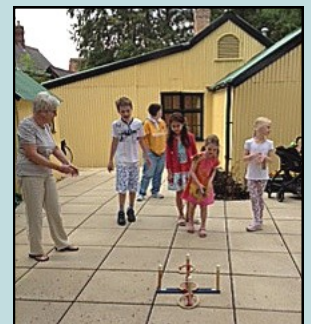
David Radford (Founding Director)

Family Learning Fun

44 children and 31 adults enjoyed the August Family Learning activities enhanced by the beautiful summer weather. The programme offered a diverse range of sessions, including Evacuees day, Crazy Clay, Wiggly Day and dressing up in Victorian costumes where the children, (and mums), decorated a picture frame to house their photographs.



Designing safety posters during a family day



Playing 1940's games on Evacuees day

The feedback from everyone who participated was very positive. Several children attended all the sessions. Building on the success of these workshops the Education team are already planning activities for 2014.

Gill Noble

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



POPPY'S PAGE

Well Summer is over! I hope you enjoyed your holidays. Marjorie has written about Edwardian Summer holidays for you - how different to the modern day experience. I had a wonderful few days on the Isle of Wight at the end of August. Now it is time to think of Christmas and all the lovely goodies! Bye for now. **Poppy**



Edwardian Summer Holidays

Hello everyone,

This summer holiday we went for a whole week to Skegness! We went by train from Woodhall Spa and stayed in a boarding house. Papa was irked because we had to be in for high tea when the landlady said.

I liked lunchtimes when we had fish and chips outside, even though the newspaper they were wrapped in became hot and greasy.

Thomas, my brother was upset when we arrived because he could not see the sea – the tide was out. He cheered up when Papa gave him a shrimping net and they went off to look in the pools.

There were lots of things to do on the sands. We had buckets and spades, of course and there were swings and roundabouts and donkeys to ride. Thomas was a bit scared when he was lowered into a little wicker saddle but then he enjoyed being taken along the sands. I went on a Figure of Eight amusement, which was built only two years ago, in 1908; I was scared when I went round the bends so fast!

There was a group of entertainers and grown ups sat on deck chairs to listen. Afterwards, Papa tried to be a ventriloquist, like the one in the show but we could all see his mouth moving.

Grandma bought Thomas and me sticks of rock. It was pink outside and white inside with Skegness all the way down, no matter how much you sucked.

Papa hired deck chairs from a hut and Grandma sat and talked about the old bathing machines. She said one was wheeled to the water where she got in, changed into her bathing clothes and went out the other end into the sea; she said men and women were not allowed to bathe together until about 10 years ago!

The pier goes a long way out to sea and at the end men were diving into the water and boatloads of people were going on trips.

A ship which was stranded has been turned into a museum, which cost us 2 pence each to go in but we saw a skeleton of a whale- it was bigger than I could have imagined.

Grandma sent postcards home. One was new, with a picture of a fat man in red trousers, running along the beach in the wind. Well...perhaps it will amuse her friends!



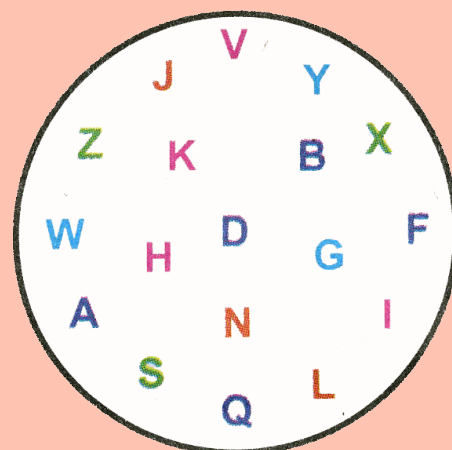
Marjorie Sargeant

WORD WHEEL PUZZLE

Within the Word Wheel are most of the letters of the Alphabet.

However a few letters are missing and it is your job to find out which ones. The missing letters when rearranged will spell out the name of something you might find in an office.

The Answer is on Page 4





WILLOW HOLT

Caravan & Camping Park

- **TENTS & CARAVANS**
- **STATIC HIRE & SALES**
- **ACCESSORY SHOP**

LODGE ROAD, TATTERSHALL. LN4 4JS

TEL: 01526 343111

The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Committee Members:

Chairman:	Pam Cowlshaw	01526 352112
	Paddy O'Neill	01526 354982
	Bill King	01526 353823
	Roger Webb	01526 353029

Hello Friends,

Thank you to all who attended the AGM on 17th September. It was a lively meeting and many thanks were offered to Ann Houlton for whom this was the last AGM as a member of the Friends Committee. A lovely bouquet of flowers was presented to her at the end of the meeting.

A request was made for a volunteer to replace Ann and Bill King has now been voted on to the Friends Committee. We wish him well.

A financial report for the year Jan 2012 to Dec 2012 was presented. It showed that £3 more had been raised over that raised the previous year. It was explained that now that the refurbished museum had been completed the anticipated additional overheads would have to be met by increased fund raising activity.

Paddy O'Neill gave an update on the Museum Newsletter, explaining that it was self-financing with money from advertisers.

The special edition following the reopening of the refurbished museum had been met with critical acclaim and many thanks went to Phil Groves the editor.

The future of coach trips was discussed. The trip to Cambridge had been a great success but the trip to Flag Fen and the Shuttleworth Vintage Aircraft Collection had had to be cancelled through lack of interest. Various suggestions were put forward with possible places of interest to be visited, including an overnight trip to Oxford, a day trip to York and possible trips to theatres and other cultural sites.

The possibility of joining together with other groups organising trips was also discussed and it was agreed that the Friends Committee would take this forward. They would report back when the outcome of these approaches became known.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped with the organisation of any of the Friends events over the last year and wish you good health and good luck for 2014. There will be a full year's worth of activities for you to help with or just attend. We look forward to seeing you at some of them.

Pam Cowlshaw



Woodhall Spa Forthcoming Attractions of a museum-orientated nature:

Annual Lecture
9th November 2013
Lincolnshire Defences in
World War II
Dr. Mike Osborne

Christmas Play
**"Hymns of
Praise"**
16th November 2013
St Peter's Hall 7.30.

Coffee Morning
Friday
22nd November 2013 St
Peter's Hall 10.00 to 12.00
noon

Christmas Market
Friday 6th December
6.00 pm—9.00 pm

See also
www.cottagemuseum.co.uk
and
www.woodhallspa.org

