

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.16 - March 2014

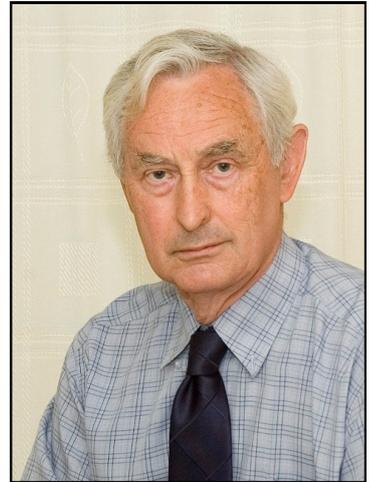


100th Anniversary of World War 1  
& 70th Anniversary of Arnhem Remembered

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the Editor

Here we are in March and the new season for the Museum will soon be upon us. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War and also the 70th anniversary of the battle for Arnhem. Both events touched Woodhall Spa, with the Petwood being used as a Rehabilitation Centre for soldiers in WW1 and several thousand Parachute troops being stationed in and around the village during the months leading up to Arnhem in 1944. The Museum will be mounting special exhibitions to commemorate both events and in addition a special day is being planned for September 6th. to mark the Arnhem anniversary - more of this on page 3



To help raise funds for the Arnhem Day our Chairman, Jackie Goodall, will be do a Parachute Jump strapped to a Red Devil. Turn to page 4 for more information on how to contribute. We will report on this brave endeavour in the next Newsletter.

We take the opportunity in this issue to introduce our new Activities Manager, Kathy Holland, to you. She started work at the Museum in January and we all welcome her and wish her well in her endeavours.

There are many activities planned for the coming year including the very popular summer family events organised by the Education Team, led by Gill Noble. As well as these activities, there are plenty of other events during the year, including the Annual Dinner on April 15th., which will feature an after dinner talk by Alec Gordon of The National Trust on the work of the Trust nationally and in Lincolnshire in particular. There will also be an illustrated talk by Nicholas Duke-Cox on the gardens of Petwood, a Powerpoint presentation on the Tirpitz by Jim Shortland and a talk by Alan Stennett on the Railways at War. These are all in addition to the Annual Memorial Lecture which will be held in November as usual and will feature a talk by Alan Barton of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

I do hope you enjoy the busy year ahead.

**Philip Groves**

### Cover Pictures :

**Top Left:** *The Bridge at Arnhem.*      **Top Right:** *The Arnhem Memorial in the Museum Gardens*  
**Bottom Left:** *The War Memorial in Woodhall Spa*      **Bottom Right:** *The Petwood during WW1 when it was used as a Rehabilitation Centre for wounded troops.*

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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:-

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or email [phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com)

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## 1st Airlanding Brigade Operation Market Garden (Arnhem)



Woodhall Spa has had a long and proud association with the armed forces. Throughout the Second World War the village was a training base for army personnel from many different regiments, including elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. These were: the Border Regiment, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the South Staffordshire Regiment and the 7<sup>th</sup> Galloway Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Men were billeted in local houses and in three camps situated in woodland on the outskirts of the village. Several buildings were requisitioned as the Regimental Headquarters, including the Golf Clubhouse, Hartington House and the Dower House

Seventy years ago during its time in Woodhall Spa the Brigade was actively engaged in airborne exercises, to prepare for the British phase of Operation Market Garden, the seizure of the Rhine Bridge at Arnhem. The operation lasted over ten days from 17<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> September 1944.

**In total 2320 men left the camps to go to Arnhem, 435 returned, the rest being killed or missing.**



Some of our older residents still recall the few survivors being flown back to R.A.F. Coningsby in Dakotas and returned at night to Woodhall Spa in trucks.

In 2010 Cottage Museum volunteers raised the monies to position a memorial in the grounds of the museum and have since held annual events for Veterans and residents. On September 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 the community will again come together to provide activities to reinforce and celebrate the village's proud association with the armed forces and in particular its Arnhem connection.

*Laying of wreaths at the memorial*

*Continued on page 4*



*Lord Lieutenant takes the salute*



*Regimental Mascot Watchdog V*

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### Arnhem continued

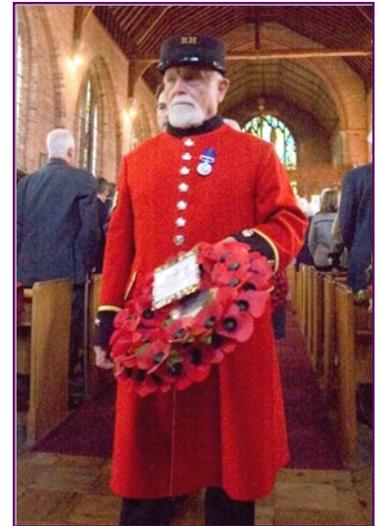
The programme of events is as follows:

- 9.30am Parade musters at the Petwood Hotel.
- 10.30am Parade through the village to St. Peter's Church  
Salute to be taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire  
BBMF fly past.



**The Torch of Freedom will, for the first time since Montgomery brought it to England, be brought to Lincolnshire to lead the parade. More details will follow.**

- 11am Church service
- 11.30am Wreath laying at the memorial stone in the grounds of the museum
- 12 noon Lunch for Veterans and invited guests
- 1.30pm Live 1940's music for all in Jubilee Park, We hope local community groups will want to be involved in recreating the 1940's feel and providing afternoon teas.
- 2.30pm The Kinema in the Woods 'Down Memory Lane' afternoon (Veterans and invited guests)



**There is a strong affinity between the Dutch people and the County of Lincolnshire.** Lancaster Bombers assisted in their liberation and dropped food as part of Operation Manna. The planes took off from Lincolnshire airfields and many were shot down over the fields of Holland. Plans are in progress to try and raise the money to stage three evening performances of the outdoor production of 'The Flight' produced by the Dutch theatre Company Prins-te-Paard.

**'The Flight' is a spectacular yet dramatic performance: a kaleidoscope of sound, light, water and fire effects, giant objects and one actor'**

The Woodhall Spa Parish Council, East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage are supportive of our efforts. Local businesses and community groups are keen to be included.

**Jackie Goodall**

### **Jackie's Parachute Jump**

I have personally paid for a parachute jump with the Red Devils which will take place on May 15th 2014. This enables all sponsor money to go directly towards covering the cost of the Arnhem event. I am aiming to raise a minimum of £1000, so far I have £525 through the web site and a further £280 off line. Should you wish to sponsor me (which would be very kind since I'm terrified!) you can do so via [www.bmycharity.com/JackieGoodall](http://www.bmycharity.com/JackieGoodall) or send a cheque made payable to Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum directly to Jackie Goodall

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## Meet Kathy Holland - Our Activities Manager

Kathy Holland has recently joined the Cottage Museum as Activity Manager.

Kathy has worked in the Museums and Cultural Heritage sector since 1990 which has offered her the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and experience.

Initially trained as a Landscape Architect, Kathy's first job was at Workington in the Lake District where she met her husband Colin. After having their first son, Kathy and Colin moved to Welshpool in mid-Wales where their second son was born.

After working free-lance for a couple of years, Kathy was employed by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust in Wales as an illustrator and educationalist. This is where she initially acquired her interest and passion for heritage interpretation and learning.

In 1989 the family moved to Lincoln and within a year Kathy was employed by Lincolnshire County Council. Working for the City and County Museum in Lincoln, Kathy focused on the development and delivery of exhibitions and accompanying events and learning programmes, eventually becoming Principal Keeper with overall responsibility for the site, staff and budgets.

Her knowledge, skills and experience enabled Kathy to play a key role in the development and delivery of the interpretation and learning for the award-winning new museum "The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire" which opened in 2005.

In 2007 Kathy was offered the opportunity to develop and deliver the interpretation and learning proposals for the St Katherine's Heritage & Cultural Centre – 900 years of history, which won the "Museum of the Year 2010" award for Lincolnshire.

Kathy is currently working for the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology alongside freelance heritage and teaching activities. She is delighted to be offered the opportunity to become the Activity Manager at the Cottage Museum and is looking forward very much to working with the team to help develop and deliver the Activity Plan. Kathy is an Associate of the Museums Association and a member of GEM.



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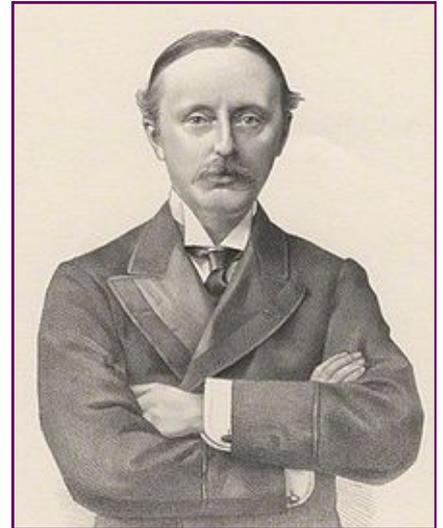
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### Our Founding Forefathers (continued)

War has figured much over the years in the lifetime of Woodhall Spa. The presence of no less than three memorials to those who sacrificed their lives for their country in or near Royal Square attests to this: the First World War Memorial, the Dambusters' Memorial and The Memorial to members of the 617 Squadron who have given their lives in post-war years.

Looking back further in the tale of our heritage, you may recall one of our founding forefathers in the Syndicate which created our Spa, namely one Edward Stanhope, MP for Horncastle. The family name is enshrined in Woodhall Spa's Stanhope Avenue and Horncastle's impressive Stanhope Memorial and the newly named Stanhope Hall.

Edward was heavily involved in the government of Queen Victoria's realm and held amongst his many responsibilities the Office of Secretary of State for War(1887-1892).



*Edward Stanhope M.P.*



*James, 7th Earl Stanhope*

Whilst researching Edward, I discovered that the family seat of Chevening, bequeathed to the nation by James, the seventh and last Earl of Stanhope, who died without issue in 1967, has become the country retreat of successive Foreign Ministers and is now shared between the present Foreign Secretary, William Hague and the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

But back to James! He himself had an illustrious career serving the nation as an officer in World War 1. Additionally he was Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office (1918-1919) and Under-Secretary of State for War and Vice-President of the Army Council (1931-1934) amongst many other posts.

His War Memoirs as a General Staff Officer in France and Flanders (1914-1918) have been published in a limited edition of 300 copies by Tom Donovan Editions Ltd in 2006. I am grateful that Tom Donovan ([www.tomdonovaneditions.com](http://www.tomdonovaneditions.com)) has kindly granted me permission to share some short extracts from the full, fascinating volume entitled *The War Memoirs of Earl Stanhope (1914-1918)*, edited by Brian Bond. I hope that you will find a

moment to reflect when you see the name Stanhope in Stanhope Avenue or in Stanhope Hall and perhaps pay respect at the local War Memorial to those of our community who sacrificed their lives for the nation. (Photographs by kind permission of the Trustees of the Chevening Estate. Earl Stanhope in Garter Robes attributed to Matthew Hollow.)

“Finally I found a German dugout...and going down the steps found a young adjutant sitting at the bottom. After a short talk with him, he offered me a cigarette which I refused and then I asked him whether he was not sitting in the dug-out where the Germans stored the whole of their explosives for mining purposes and discovered, as I expected, that he was seated on a whole pile of bags containing gelignite, smoking a cigarette.....”

*Continued on page 11*



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## Our Founding Forefathers (continued from page 8)



My orderly and I therefore walked on until I found myself amongst our many dead ..and I turned to him and said, "If we don't watch it, we shall walk into the German lines," and had hardly spoken when the enemy opened fire on us from a little over 100 yards away, we being fully exposed in the open. We dropped into a shell hole and remained there for some time until they stopped shooting and eventually made a bolt for it in the direction from which we had come.....' .

There you have but a small flavour of the dangers officers did undergo in the performance of their duties but there is much, much more in the Memoirs to explore and inform re the experiences of Lieutenant Colonel Earl Stanhope DSO, MC.

**David Radford**

(Founding Chairman)

## Meet the Directors - Lynnette Needham

I was born in Plymouth soon after the war and just before my sixth birthday my father changed his job and we moved to Harlow New Town. I remember the move well as we travelled up to London on the Cornishman Overnight Sleeper and arrived to find snow on the ground. I had never seen snow before. We stayed in Harlow for 10 years and then moved to Scarrington, a small village in Nottinghamshire. It was here that I developed an interest in farming which led to me going to Hutton Agricultural College, near Preston, to study dairying. I left college after one year and got a job as Technical Assistant for the Animal Health (Veterinary) Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The job took me to Derbyshire and later on, following a promotion to Senior Technical Assistant, to Lincolnshire. It was here that I settled down and married my husband Dick. I have spent all my married life living near to Woodhall Spa and my children went to school there.



I have always been interested in local history and when my children were old enough I got a job with the County Council at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life where I helped to deliver the Education Programme, dealt with the Lincolnshire Regimental enquiries and helped with exhibitions. I eventually worked my way up to becoming a Senior Heritage Assistant. During this time I also helped out at other heritage sites within the county. I then moved to the Business Process team as Office Administrator and during the first stage of re-organisation, opted to take voluntary redundancy

I joined the museum, as a Volunteer, in January 2012 as part of the Collections Team helping with the accessioning and recording of the collection and was invited to become a Director the following September. I work part time for Lincolnshire Young Farmers and in my spare time enjoy helping at the museum.

**Lynnette Needham**

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## From the Collection



GN03348

GN03348 is a fairly topical picture (Mid February), showing the flooding of the front garden at the Bungalow. It is taken from Iddesleigh Road, looking down the garden to the bungalow, which is visible in the background. The glass negative is blistering so there are dark patches on the photo.

GN03959 is a portrait of a local character who we hope someone may recognise. He appears to be finishing off branches for the construction of 'rustic furniture'. We have a number of photos showing benches, planters and fencing made with these branches. We hope over time to be able to identify some of the tens of portraits that we have in the collection

If you have any local pictures that we can add to the museum's visual assets collection then please get in touch. 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'.



GN03959

**Rodger Pickavance**

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### MEETINGS ORGANISER

Is there a friendly person who will organise our monthly volunteer meetings. This isn't difficult, it just needs someone to ensure that the refreshments are available and to spread the word that anyone is welcome to drop in.

#### EXHIBITION TEAM

Is there a creative person who would like to join the exhibition team. We are looking for enthusiasts who wish to learn about the collection and play an active part in the creation of temporary exhibitions

For further details contact Jackie Goodall - 01526 352454

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### Woodhall Spa - During and after World War 1

2014 is the centenary of the beginning of The Great War. World War One was a great upheaval throughout the United Kingdom and Europe, People were displaced, families were separated and the structure of society was significantly changed.

The war affected everybody, from the largest city to the smallest hamlet. Prior to 1914, Woodhall Spa had established itself as a 'Spa' village when discovery of mineral water led to the establishment of the Spa Baths and subsequently trade as a tourist resort. As a result, Woodhall Spa grew from a quiet village to a bustling place to be. People would come from afar to enjoy the facilities residing at the Victoria Hotel, which was later used to accommodate soldiers during the war, when Woodhall Spa's status as a leading health resort diminished. However, it did not lose all its tourism, as the 18 hole Golf Course (established in 1905) continued to attract visitors during the War and has continued to grow ever since to its world renowned status today. In 1855 a railway branch line was created to enable ease of transportation from Kirkstead to Horncastle, a productive agricultural centre. which would supply industrial cities with its produce as well as supply surrounding villages with coal and heavy goods. After the First World War, Kirkstead station was renamed Woodhall Spa Junction, so that passengers knew they were approaching the Spa In the hope of attracting more visitors, to regain the popularity the village had previously experienced. After the disruption of the war, Woodhall Spa saw great change with the Spa Baths becoming less used. The changing economic situation meant passenger traffic on the railway line was diminishing, affecting the tourism to the Spa. Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall later converted their home in 1933 into Petwood Hotel, which contributed to the rebuilding of Woodhall Spa's reputation as a holiday destination. As a result of these difficult times the local population remained steady before and after the war at around 1,500 residents.

One hundred years on, Woodhall Spa still remains a popular visitor attraction retaining a lot of its Edwardian and Victorian charm and although the Spa has long-since 'closed,' the current attractions of local walks, quaint Cottage Museum, authentic cinema, numerous amenities and war memorials to remember those deceased during the Wars, continue to entice many.

Sarah Richards

#### 125 Club Winners

October	1st. Prize - Stan Meade (62)
	2nd. Prize - Roy Goodall (63)
	3rd. Prize - Janet Thorpe (89)
November	1st. Prize - Jean Hill (11)
	2nd. Prize - Cass Hewson (99)
	3rd. Prize - Jo Evison (70)
December	1st. Prize £125 - Mrs B Morris (71)
	2nd. Prize £60 - Keith Baguley (12)
	3rd. Prize £30 - Anne Taylor (56)

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# Petwood

WOODHALL SPA



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



## POPPY'S PAGE

Hello, it will soon be summer and I can look forward to lots of nice walks in the woods. This month Marjorie Sargeant is writing for you about the lovely donkeys that used to live in the stables behind the museum. We also have another Spot the Difference puzzle for you, so happy puzzling. Bye for now.



### The Wield Donkeys

Hello everyone,

Do you like this photograph? That is me sitting on Polly, the donkey! My friend, Effie Wield, is stroking the donkey's nose and her brother, Cedric, is by the donkey's head. The boy on the right is my brother, Thomas, of whom I have spoken before. He is smiling nicely in the picture but he was actually a little cross when I was lifted up first, because he thinks he is an expert after his ride on a donkey at the beach at Skegness, during our summer holiday.



Effie's Papa makes special chairs to take invalids to the Baths for treatments, here in Woodhall Spa; some of them are drawn by donkeys, which he looks after.

We were playing in the back garden of the bungalow next to the railway line, where Effie lives, when Mr. Wield came out of a little shed near us. He called it a "dark room." He lifted me onto Polly's back, went back into his hut and came out with a box on long legs with a black cloth hanging down. One minute he was facing us and the next he was under the cloth taking this photograph. Then there was a flash and it was taken! I saw it a few days later, after he had developed it on a glass plate in his dark room.

After the photograph Effie and I sat in two bath chairs and were pretending we were grand ladies wearing long silk gowns and big hats, when Mr. Wield appeared again and went into the forge where he shoes the donkeys. He prepared a shoe to be nailed into the hoof of a donkey, called Jack. He explained that it does not hurt the donkey at all as the nail goes into the hard part of the hoof; he said we would not like walking on pavements in bare feet!

All too soon, it was time to leave. Luckily I remembered my message from Grandma. She thanked Mr. Wield for the spectacles he had made for her but said she feels more comfortable with her hand-held lorgnette – she is so old fashioned!

**Marjorie Sargeant**

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the ten differences between the two pictures?





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### 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,

I thought that I would start this new and exciting year of the revamped museum by setting out what I think is the role of members of the Friends of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

Firstly, I think we act as advocates for the museum. We spread the word amongst our friends and strangers alike about its quality, its displays and opportunities for volunteering and making a difference. This enhances the contribution it makes to the life of the community.

Secondly, we raise much needed funds to cover the running costs of the museum. Together with admissions charged of our visitors, the Friends income is the main source of revenue that the museum enjoys. With the use of the new buildings and increased use of electricity in the displays in the bungalow these costs will rise from this year onwards. More work for us to do.

Thirdly, we act as a workforce for the museum, turning up at events to run tombola stalls, raffles and games. Some of us volunteer in other areas of museum life such as meeting and greeting, collection care and education. These are valid contributions and the museum would not be the place it is without our efforts.

As part of the fundraising activity, your committee has spent the winter working on a comprehensive series of events. There are lectures on the history of the Petwood Garden, the use of Railways in the two world wars and the sinking of the Tirpitz. In this centenary of the start of World War 1, we wanted to show respect for the sacrifice made by the many who gave their lives in that terrible conflict so the Memorial lecture on 8<sup>th</sup> November will focus on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves commission. This body is responsible for making sure that the graves of our fallen are cared for with dignity and respect.

We have also arranged the annual dinner on 11<sup>th</sup> April where the speaker will be Alec Gordon of the National Trust.

Another performance by Cutwater Productions is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> May. Also watch out for details of a wine tasting event at the museum.

Tickets and more information about these events can be obtained from any member of the committee.

If you wish to be involved in any of these events or any other aspect of museum life please contact me on the number at the top of the page.

**Pam Cowlshaw**



#### **Woodhall Spa Forthcoming Attractions of a museum-orientated nature:**

##### **"A Pictorial History of The Petwood Gardens"**

By Nicholas Duke-Cox  
Petwood Garden Room  
April 15th. 2.30 pm

##### **Annual Museum Dinner**

Abbey Lodge  
Friday April 11th.  
7.00 for 7.30 pm  
3 Course Buffet meal  
Talk by Alec Gordon  
Of the National Trust  
On the Work of the Trust  
Nationally & in Lincolnshire

##### **"The Tirpitz"**

A Powerpoint Presentation  
By Jim Shortland  
At Petwood Hotel  
Sat. 26th. April, 2.30 pm

##### **"The Railways at War"**

By Alan Stennett  
12 July at 2.30 pm  
At Coronation Hall

##### **"Commonwealth War Graves Commission"**

By David Barton  
2.30 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
Golf Hotel

##### **Arnhem Commemoration**

activities all day  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September

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

