

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Newsletter No. 30
November 2018

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

Another season for the museum has drawn to a close. It has been a successful one with income very similar to last year.

There have been many varied and enjoyable events throughout the year, for both adults and children, some of which are covered in the following pages.

Once again the "Music in the Garden" concerts have been well received. Given the fantastic weather we have enjoyed this year it is somewhat ironic that two of the concerts had to be cancelled due to rain! We were able to reschedule the Coningsby and Tattershall Strummers (CATS), who instead of opening the series gave the final concert on September 16th.

The Courtyard Café was kept very busy throughout the season and we owe a great debt of gratitude to the willing volunteers who manned the Café and baked all the delicious cakes etc.

Double congratulations are due to Ken Mair, not only for celebrating his 80th Birthday, but also in winning the CommunityLincs "Unsung Hero" award as part of this year's John Barker Trophy Awards. The award was presented at the CommunityLincs AGM at Heydour Parish Village Hall near Grantham on 4th October. There is a full write up on page 4 - many congratulations to Ken. Congratulations are also due to Martin Fearn who takes up the reins as Friends Chairman as well as joining the main board as a Director.

While the museum is now closed for the winter, we still have the Memorial Lecture to look forward to at 2.00pm on Saturday November 10th. as well as the Christmas opening weekends on 24th/25th November and 1st/2nd December. Plenty to see and do for both adults and children over the two weekends so we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible then. In the meantime can we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



Philip Groves

Front Cover Story

Good weather prevailed for the visit by the Boston Veteran Bicycle Club to the Museum in September. Great interest in the cycles gave the club the opportunity to increase its membership. For other visitors there was welcome tea, coffee and cake throughout the day. The Club will return for their third visit next September.

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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

40's Weekend at the Museum

The 40's Weekend was, as always, a busy one for the museum. The Café did a brisk trade, offering a welcome break in the shade for visitors.



"Sid the Spiv" entertains the troops!

Victory speech.

There was also plenty to keep the children occupied in the garden. A great weekend as always and the weather was kind as well!

Music in the Garden

The annual series of free concerts in the gardens of the museum were again a great success, despite the weather being somewhat inclement at times. The series was due to start with the "CATS" - Coningsby and Tattershall Strummers, but this was cancelled due to rain and rescheduled for September 16th.

The first concert featuring Trad. Jazz with Colin and Gerry took place on August 5th. and was very well received. Equally popular was the afternoon given by Mike Warwick on August 12th. His format on songs of the 60's, 70's and 80's is very popular and this resulted in a packed audience. Folk music was next up on August 19th. "Between the Lines" are a well known folk music band from the south of the county and again we had a packed audience. Extra chairs had to be ferried out! Sadly the performance by "Sing Loud Woodhall Spa" had to be cancelled due to the weather and so the series of events concluded on September 16th with the rescheduled Ukulele band. The Strummers believe in involving the whole audience in their music making. Ukuleles and Tambourines were distributed around the audience and were used with great enthusiasm. Those without instruments joined in the singing (song sheets were available to everybody) and clapped in time with the music. It was a great way to finish the season of concerts.

The Courtyard Café was open throughout the series and together with donations a total of £825 was raised for museum funds. A big thank you is due to everybody involved in staging this series of events.



A "Mexican Wave" at the CATS concert!



Mike Warwick

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Ken Mair - Unsung Hero

Volunteer Ken Mair has good cause to celebrate. He recently reached the age of 80 and within weeks was presented with the “Unsung Hero” Award at the John Barker Trophy Awards ceremony hosted by CommunityLincs at Heydour Parish Village Hall near Grantham on October 4th.

Ken has been a volunteer at the museum for about 7 years. He is a quiet man with an unassuming manner that belies the extensive contribution he has made which enhances the experiences of visitors using the community room. He joined the Management and Maintenance Team and carries out weekly checks on all the buildings, undertaking any necessary renovation. He has continuously put his extensive range of skills, especially in carpentry, to very good use.

The Heritage Lottery Fund development provided excellent opportunities for the expansion of activities and events that could be offered to attract more visitors, increasing income. He has fitted out the catering area within the community room to provide additional cupboard space and worktops. He has ensured all projects are finished to a high



Ken Mair proudly displays his Award



Ken Mair receives his Unsung Hero Award

standard and all materials used have been chosen with care to complement the age and look of the building.

He is such a modest man that he has to be persuaded to accept remuneration for the cost of materials. Whenever volunteers are needed, in whatever capacity, Ken can be relied upon to help and support. It is hard to quantify in monetary terms the contribution Ken has made with the projects he has undertaken and it is due to his tremendous input that so much has been achieved.

Patricia Duke-Cox

Answers to Victorian toys Quiz:-
drum, peg doll, train, wooden bricks, skittles, rocking horse, Old Maid, tin soldier, toy fort,
penny whistle

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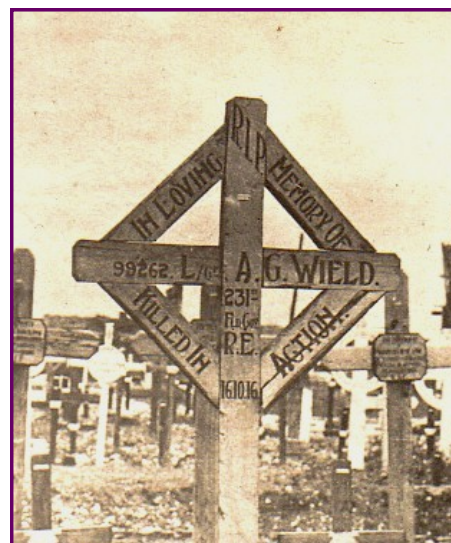
From the Collection



The centenary of the ending of the Great War falls this November. Bearing that in mind, for this newsletter, I have chosen two postcards from the Museum archives, taken during the conflict, which both relate stories about the wider Wield family. Both contain 'snippets' of information which led to further research and poignant conclusions.

First we shall look at PC02476 (left); an interesting postcard in that itself is a collage of photographs and postcards. Who constructed it is unknown. In the top left is a postcard of a young man. Written on the card, published in Louth, is his name Clarence James. He may also be present in the bottom right family group at the back left. We also have a view of a young mother and her child and below that a picture of a First World War soldier. In the middle is a view of a more recent date, of a young child in a high chair.

For our purposes the image that captures the imagination is that of the temporary



cemetery in the sixth view. The enlargement (right) reveals the detail. It is a First World War cemetery of a variety of graves. In the foreground is a most impressive grave with a substantial wooden cross on a concrete base. It is inscribed with the following

IN LOVING /RIP/ MEMORY OF
99262 L/CPL A.G.WIELD 231ST Fld Co RE
KILLED IN/ 16.10.16/ ACTION

Is this Wield related to our family of Wields? Let us find out.

Thomas Wield, John Wield's father, had a brother, William, who also came from Hambeldon in Hampshire. John Wield in his family tree tells us that William had ...many sons. Indeed he did; he had 5 sons and 2 daughters. The fourth son was Frank John Wield (b.1877, coincidentally the same year of birth as of our John Wield). Frank and his wife Sarah Elizabeth had 2 daughters and a son. The family lived in Grimsby. The son was Alfred George Wield (b.1896). By the age of 15 Alfred was living in Doncaster, at 55, Cunningham Road, as his work took him there. He was a motor builder at the Electric Works in the town. At the outbreak of the Great War he enlisted appropriately in the Royal Engineers. He was sent to France and died in action on the 16th October 1916 in northern France near Mazingarbe near Calais. He was buried in the temporary Philosophe cemetery. This is no doubt the view taken in PC02476. This was later established as a War Graves Commission cemetery and Alfred is still interred there.



Here is a modern day view of the cemetery. Alfred's grave is in the second left row obscured by the gate pillar.

So, is the soldier pictured in our original card Alfred? The man looks older than 20 years of age. Are the woman and child related to him or to 'Clarence James', whoever he may be? Further 'hunting' is required.

Our second image PC02589 is a typical wedding day photograph. This day however was during the Great War when many couples pledged their love for each other despite what was happening in the world. It shows a young bride on her wedding day with her husband, a Lance Corporal in the British Army wearing the uniform of a horse based regiment – it is probably Cavalry or Horse Artillery. Also shown is the reverse with writing in pencil, by Gillian Jackson, John Wield's granddaughter. Here is the story behind this card.



John Wield had four siblings, one of which was his sister Harriet (b.1861). Harriet married Alfred Colbert. They had two daughters Kathleen (b.1892) and Ethel. Our wedding photograph shows Kathleen, John Wield's niece, on her wedding day in late 1915 at Peterborough. The handsome groom is Edwin (Teddy) Urwin. Unfortunately Military records have given no information on Edwin Urwin but we know he survived the conflict of WWI.

They had two children, Dennis John who died, aged 25 in 1943 and Kathleen Yvonne. I can find no record of Dennis being in the forces during WWII, so at present there is no explanation of why he died so young. Both Kathleen and Edwin however, achieved a great age and retired to Hastings in Sussex where they died, Edwin in December 1977 aged 87. Kathleen passed away in November 1986 aged 94.

A detail of PH01228 showing Alfred and Harriet Colbert

Nicholas Duke-Cox

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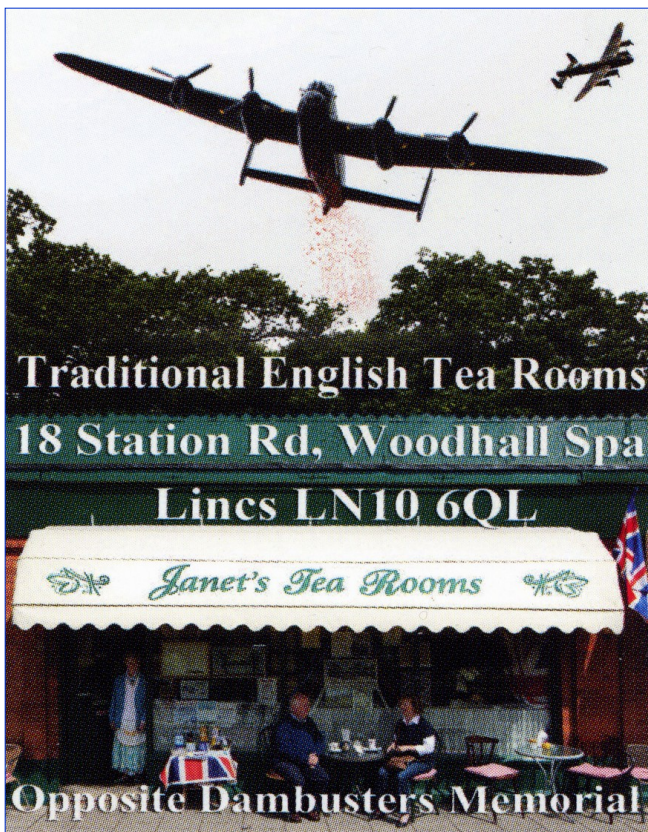
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Memorial Lecture - "Women at War - Granny Goes to War"



The annual Memorial Lecture is being given by John Chester at The Golf Hotel in The Broadway on Saturday November 10th starting at 2.30 pm. Doors are open from 2pm.

John Chester was our speaker last year, when he gave a truly fascinating talk about the "Unknown Warrior" which was well received by all who attended.

This year his subject concerns women at war and ranges from the pre-war Suffragettes to the end of the war. The talk covers the many and varied roles that women undertook to release men for service at the Front. It looks at the formations of many of the civilian organizations that appeared and their achievements, as well as the varying jobs women undertook to keep life going 'at home'. Tickets are available by phoning the museum on 01526 352456 and leaving your contact details. They are priced at £7 each.

Philip Groves

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150 Club Winners

July 2018

£20 [75] Keith Baguley
£15 [84] Jean Hill
£10 [10] Paul Everitt

August 2018

£20 [114] Jane Hodgson
£15 [33] Jeane O'Brien
£10 [46] John Lunn

September 2018

£20 [149] Ivan Lilley
£15 [69] Sam Leggate
£10 [67] Ben Fawcett

October 2018

£20 [78] Ian Ramsay
£15 [56] Anne Taylor
£10 [108] J Hillsmith

Woodhall Spa in November 1918

Dear Readers,

Praise be! Hostilities have ceased! The dreadful war on the continent is over! The glad news was received with such enthusiasm in Woodhall Spa! It was a holiday with the bells of St. Peter's ringing out and flags flying at the Conservative Club and above several businesses and private homes in the village.

Children at St. Andrew's School were set at liberty for the rest of the day and everyone ventured outside their homes, laughing and cheering; some forward gentlemen even twirled ladies around in the streets!

In the evening a united service of thanksgiving was held in St. Peter's. It was tightly crowded and many nurses and wounded soldiers from the Red Cross Hospital were in the congregation. Lt. Col. Weigall read a lesson most graciously and there was a short but earnest address from the vicar. Oh, and the hymn singing – even my husband, Perce, joined in the lusty renderings of “O God our help in ages past” and “All people that on earth do dwell.” At the end we sang “God save the King” and many worshippers were overcome by emotion.

Next day Mrs. Weigall gave bags of sweets to children at the school and the dear little ones sang patriotic songs, before Mr. Fairbairn, the Headmaster, led them in three hearty cheers.

Now the village joyfully anticipates the return of its patriotic young soldiers. Ah, that is the only sadness – the bereaved families whose brave young men will not return. Robert Wilson was killed in France just three weeks ago; he was only 19. His father has the shoe shop on Station Road and organised hampers for our boys at the front.

But now it is all over and no-one will ever have to suffer like this again. Praise be, there will be no more war!

Bertha



The Armistice Parade in The Broadway



Mrs. Weigall with the village children

Marjorie Sargeant

Experiences of a Young Volunteer

Over the summer I joined the team at the Cottage Museum and gave my time as a volunteer. I helped out within the Museum itself, answering any queries that the visitors had and helped out at the special events within the café, such as the weekly music afternoons that were held during August.

Everyone was so welcoming and I learnt so much about Woodhall Spa, how it has changed and its significance throughout the years. The Museum is an integral part of the local community and it was wonderful to chat to dozens of people from the area, as well as visitors from all across the country and to hear stories of their ties to the area.

Grace Tomlinson, 15 years, Sleaford High School

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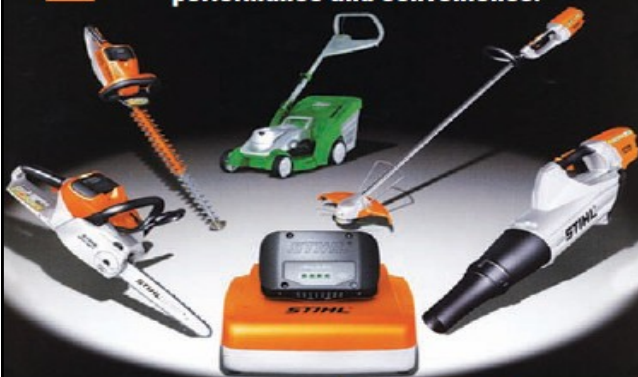


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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

What Our Visitors Are Saying

There have been pages and pages of lovely comments in the visitor's book since the last Newsletter. We have had visitors from Holland and as far afield as Sydney, Australia. Many comments are very complimentary about the volunteers who have, as one visitor put it, "brought the museum to life". The Wield Family Room continues to fascinate visitors, especially the children. Here is a selection of the comments:-

<i>C F Sydney Australia</i>	<i>It was terrific. Such interesting history. Glad we stopped by.</i>
<i>A & J Buxton, Derbyshire</i>	<i>Wonderfully informative - met an old friend - the model of the house I made several years ago. Still going strong!</i>
<i>L & S S Chester</i>	<i>A time capsule which tells the story of the area and its people. Well done.</i>
<i>J & J Sheffield</i>	<i>Fascinating smells. Lovely to see how people lived without the modern technology we have today. Really pleasant staff. Bonus is much bigger on the inside than it looks out. Thanks!!</i>
<i>M R</i>	<i>Came with my sister, Ruby, to have Johnny Wield take our photograph about 75 years ago.</i>
<i>H H North Wales</i>	<i>Very interesting social history. Knowledgeable volunteer brought it to life. Wish I had more time to look around.</i>
<i>V & N R Prescot</i>	<i>Very interesting. My father was a glider pilot and we have connections with the Spa Hotel.</i>
<i>B & M G Norwich</i>	<i>Nice to see something made in Norwich! I remember the old factory.</i>
<i>S Tattershall</i>	<i>Hidden gem, full of treasures. Family room was a hit with the kids (3 & 9).</i>
<i>B & V C Bishop Auckland</i>	<i>Very interesting and a credit to the volunteers.</i>
<i>H M Guernsey</i>	<i>Interesting trip down memory lane.</i>
<i>P D & S C Worcs.</i>	<i>Well presented museum. I haven't visited for 26 years and have been pleasantly surprised by all the improvements. Lovely visit!</i>
<i>R J & S H N. Lincs.</i>	<i>Excellent depiction of social history in Woodhall. Particularly like the family room. Thank you.</i>

Philip Groves

Volunteer Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is held bi-monthly to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors. The next one is in December. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag!

The Coffee Morning is held bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, in the Community Room and starts at 10.00 am. Why not come along on December 5th. and give it a try? If you can attend please let us know, preferably by email to info@cottagemuseum.co.uk.

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POPPY'S PAGE

Nearly time for Christmas, already. Are you getting excited? I am, with lots of special treats to come. There are great treats for you too here at the museum. We open for Christmas on the 24th/25th November and 1st/2nd December. Lots for you children to do, so drag Mum & Dad down and have a lovely time. Have a really happy Christmas.

Bye for now. Poppy



Christmas Events

The museum will be decorated in Victorian style and the theme for this year's displays is "Mr Pickwick's Emporium." Volunteers will be in costume. There will be a "Sugar Mouse" trail for the young and young at heart to follow and there will also be themed activities for children to enjoy.



The museum will be open on Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th November and Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd December from 1.00 pm until 5.00 pm. Normal museum admission charges will apply.

On Saturday 24th November there will be festive songs and carols in the museum from 2.00 pm until 3.00 pm. Everyone will be welcome to come and join us.

The Christmas Tree being decorated for last year's event

Gill Noble

Find the Victorian Christmas Toys

Here is a list of ten toys that Victorian children would have been given at Christmas but the words have been jumbled up. Can you rearrange the letters to find out what these are.

Clue: The capital letters start the word.

mDru	gPe lodl	niTra
dnOWoe sbkrics	Stelkits	cRikogn osehr
dIO diMa	iTn disorle	yTo trof
	neyPn helswti	

Answers on Page 4



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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Friends Committee

Chairman: Martin Fearn **Membership Secretary:** Judy Everitt

Committee Members: Margaret Reed, Ann Houlton, Tracey Jones

Dear Friends

The AGM in October was attended by the usual proportion of members and was an opportunity to review the year, including the turbulence in its governance.

Directors who had offered their support, ideas, enthusiasm and commitment were thanked along with those ordinary members and volunteers who had also contributed in a practical way at the events arranged by the committee.

Membership of the Friends has increased and currently stands at 100. This year has seen more Wield descendants joining and visiting the museum plus the group visits gave a great opportunity to extend the membership. The membership income for 2017 raised £531, events raised £941, activities raised £1359 and donations a further £510. Expenditure of £876 reduces the figure to a net surplus of £2465, a handsome sum and much appreciated. Thanks were extended to Trish Lewis-Smith for her leadership following the last AGM.

It was also noted that volunteers who worked in the café raised £3766 at the 1940s weekend, Music in the Garden events and other days. Less the expenses for provisions and the donation to the 1940s committee, the net surplus was £3251, another handsome sum.

The aim of the Friends group includes providing social events locally and visits to places or heritage sites of interest along with raising funds for the museum. Membership fees this year have already raised £188 with donations contributing a further £208. Events to date have all raised a positive amount that bodes well.

There was no recommendation to increase the subscription and renewal reminders will go out with the Newsletter. Renewals will be valid until 28 February 2020.

The new committee were elected with Martin Fearn assuming the role of Chairman on the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Museum, Judy Everitt retaining the role of Membership Secretary, Margaret Reed staying on as Minute Secretary, Tracey Jones joined as a new member. Ann Houlton will be asked if she would like to stay on.

As retiring Acting Chairman I wish this committee well and am confident it is good hands.

Patricia Duke-Cox

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 with a person to look after the Community Room bookings very much needed.

If you would like to find out more without committing yourself then please call us on

01526 352456



What's On Guide

Memorial Lecture **"Women at War - Granny goes to War"**

Lecture by John Chester
10th November
2 pm to 4.30 pm
Golf Hotel
The Broadway
£7 admission
Phone museum on
01526 352456 and leave
message with your
contact details.

Christmas Coffee Morning

16th November
10 am to 12 noon
St. Peter's Hall
The Broadway
Admission Free

"When the Boys Come Home"

Sing-along concert with
Sing it Loud
16th November
7 pm to 10 pm
Methodist Church
£5 admission
Tickets from Peter Scott
Shoe Shop.

Christmas at the Museum

**24th/25th November
and
1st/2nd December**

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

