

Visitors to the Victorian Christmas event dress up in period costume

Newsletter No. 31 March 2019

A Note from the Editor

Another season is nearly upon us and the museum is being prepared with new exhibits to show and a new temporary exhibition. The opening day is Saturday April 6th. and the museum will then be open daily between the hours of 11.00 am and 3.30 pm. The first of the temporary exhibitions is a new, visiting, display about Wolds Women of Influence from Market Rasen. It will be launched with an accompanying talk, at the Golf Hotel, by the researchers on the afternoon of April 6th. from 2 pm. Tickets, at £5, can be purchased at the Golf Hotel.

Sadly since the publication of our last Newsletter four of our long standing supporters and volunteers have died. We have an appreciation of Gillian Jackson, who was John Wield's Granddaughter, Ian Ramsay, "Queenie" Watkinson and Amelia (Millie) Pickering on page 9.



On page 4 you have a chance to meet our newest Director

Martin Fearn, who has also taken on the job of Chairman of the Friends of the Museum; however, as he is currently abroad, the Friends page for this issue has been prepared by Museum Chairman Patricia Duke-Cox.

We get some fascinating requests from time to time and one about Tin Tabernacles in Switzerland makes for interesting reading on page 12.

You will see from the activities being planned by the Education Team for the youngsters and by the Friends for the rest of us, the year promises to be a busy and enjoyable one. I hope you will all be able to participate in some of the events and have fun whilst also helping to raise funds for the museum. I look forward to meeting you at some of them.

Philip Groves

Front Cover Story

The Victorian Christmas Event was very popular and a number of visitors dressed in period costume to add to the ambience of the event. Our cover photograph shows left to right Mr and Mrs Darby and Mrs Wicklen.

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The Newsletter Committee											
Chairman - Paddy O'Neill Editor - Philip Groves Marjorie Sargeant Martin Fearn 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

Newsletter 31 - March 2019

Victorian Christmas at the Museum



Once again the Museum's Victorian Christmas event, organised by the Education Team, was a great success. It was held on the last weekend of November and the first weekend of December. Colin Holland was on hand on the first Saturday to play his Accordion and together with his wife, Kathy, led the community singing of carols and Christmas music in the Wield Room.





Two period style Doll's Houses were lent for the occasion by Marianne Irvine and attracted a lot of attention, particularly from the children. Dr.

Nicholas Duke-Cox had put together a Christmas themed slide show for the "Magic Lantern" room, which was much appreciated by visitors, both young and old. For the children there was a Trail Competition together with the Victorian toys and games to play.

As always the beautifully adorned Christmas Tree using decorations from the period, together



with gifts around the base, set the Christmas scene for the occasion. The other rooms in the museum were decked out, taking as a theme "Mr Pickwick's Emporium" and we have to thank Joy and Alan Bolt and others for many hours spent putting this magical display together.

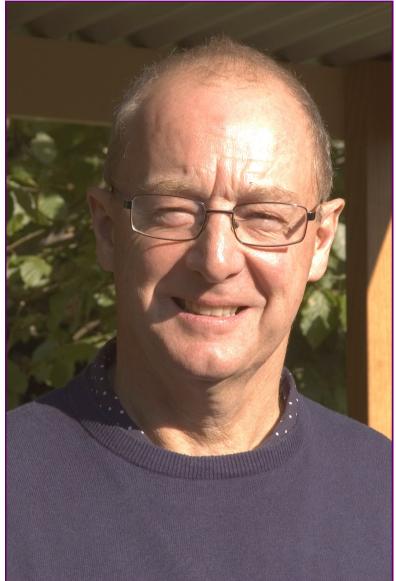
Many of the visitors dressed up in period costume, as can be seen from our cover picture. The event attracted over 150 Adults and Children and raised much needed funds for the museum.

Philip Groves

Meet the Directors - Martin Fearn

I was born in Derby in 1958, but spent most of my formative years in Lewes in Sussex, where I was educated. I joined the RAF in 1976 and trained as an electronics technician, specialising in aircraft borne radar systems. In 1980 I was commissioned and trained as an Air Traffic Controller working in various locations in the UK, plus Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. I also spent 3 years training ab initio, trainee officers at the RAF College Cranwell. My final tour in the RAF was at the Air Traffic Control school at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. After leaving the RAF, in 1996, I joined the Civil Service as an instructor and worked at the RAF College, Cranwell, teaching communication skills, military law, RAF Organisation and Essential Service Knowledge to students training to be RAF officers.

I am married, have 2 adult sons and live with my wife in Coningsby. I have various interests, including: long distance walking, hill walking, keep fit, swimming, cycling, history, gardening and aviation studies. In addition to volunteering at the Cottage Museum, I am a member of the



Woodhall Spa U3A. I have a passion for travel and spend as much time as possible 'on the road' overseas and in the UK. Recent visits include: China, Antarctica, Alaska, New Zealand, Argentina, Cambodia, Vietnam and Australia. I recently completed an Open University degree in Social Sciences reflecting my interests in economics, politics and international studies. I retired from the Civil Service in 2017.

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 will be on April 3rd. 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 April 3rd. 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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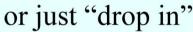
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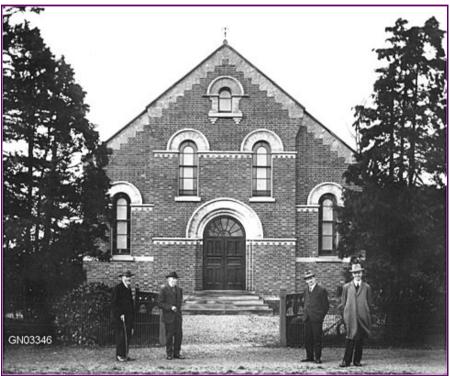
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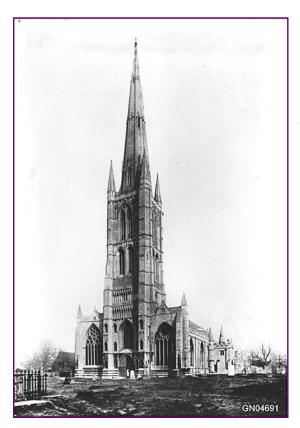
From the Collection

For this issue I have returned to the 'guess where' format with Places of Worship as Easter beckons. John Wield kept his faith all his life and it is reflected in the many photographs of Churches and Chapels that he took, not only in Lincolnshire but far and wide. So we have here three views of religious buildings, two are in Lincolnshire and one elsewhere. Can you identify them?



This chapel, left, shows not only interesting design but also an ingenious use of brickwork to obtain its decorative features with its arched windows, doors and their surrounds. Note also the arrangement of the slanting brickwork at the gable border. This is known as 'brick tumbling'.

Below left is a very imposing church with a magnificent tower and spire. So much so that it attracted the brush of JMW Turner in 1797. It is the sixth highest in the country. In 2015 there was an ice-rink in the nave!



Below, a view of a country church with a delightful lychgate. It is not in Lincolnshire, but is not too far away and is very famous. In our photograph a family have probably visited it.

Can you guess where these buildings are? Do some detective work as I did. For those who cannot wait or are baffled, the answers are on page 13.



Nicholas Duke-Cox

Gillian Jackson - an appreciation by David Radford

Sad times abound and seem to increase as fond memories take the place of reality in our lives. These memories began for me, founder of the museum, in the period 1985 to 1987, which were the formative years in the creation of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

This museum was to house the Wield collection of ephemera and photographs created by a fascinating member of the Woodhall Spa community, one John Wield, a photographer in his environment whose main purpose in life was to answer the question, "Why Woodhall Spa?" Gillian was his granddaughter and at the time of

the museum's founding, we had had no contact with surviving members of the family. This soon was to change with the frequent, pleasurable conversations with John's son, Cedric, Effie his daughter and her daughter Gillian. Gillian had a great love for heritage, country dancing and country pursuits, including spinning wool. Her memories of her visits to granddad were recounted with zest and delight. She used to cycle from her home in Carrington on the Boston road to her grandparents' home in Iddesleigh Road, Woodhall Spa on many a visit. She found her grandfather with all his hobbies and interests as fascinating as we do today!

The donkeys, the mainstay of the family business before the war, the lovely items he used to make with his white smithing skills, her eyes glowed with pride when she told us of the lovely Spitfire brooch he had created and the intricately fashioned micrometer, the latter now part of the museum's collection. Then there were the sundials which John had constructed around his home and the contraptions he created for Asenath as life's challenges caused difficulties for her everyday life. All memories which help to make life in the bungalow meaningful to us, today's generation. Thirty two years have passed since I first met this remarkable friend and those memories, right up to her last visit a year ago, have contributed to and made the efforts of all our volunteers meaningful for future generations. Thank you Gillian.

lan Ramsay - an appreciation by Patricia Duke-Cox

lan was a volunteer from 1997 and then a Trustee of the museum from 1999. He became Vice-Chairman between 2000 – 2004 and continued on the board until 2007. He was someone who could offer sensible advice and had a love of the place he lived in and wanted to improve with added attractions for visitors. At the turn of the century he was offering practical support and bringing in professional advice with reference to developing the museum and upgrading the building. Initial designs by an architectural friend, Jim Coburn, formed the basis of a development plan that came to fruition a decade later. After his retirement from the board he would still visit the museum regularly for



events and for U3A meetings. He will be sadly missed by so many local organisations.

Queenie Watkinson - an appreciation by Patricia Duke-Cox

Queenie was a supporter of the Cottage Museum from 2004 – 2014. Queenie would be in the museum as a volunteer who could meet and greet visitors with charm and provide answers of interest when required. She was also a supporter of the many fundraising events held at the museum continuing up to last year.

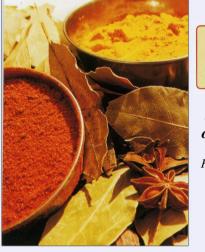
Amelia (Millie) Pickering - an appreciation by Ann Houlton

Sadly the Museum records the passing of Millie Pickering, or Mrs. P. as she was known by many. She was amongst the first volunteers when the Museum opened and from 1988 she organised a rota of volunteers to open up and take ticket money and sell shop items. She was there for the Action Group and first Friends section, involving others from the local area. She retained a lively interest for the rest of her life and was made a Life Member of the current Friends group.





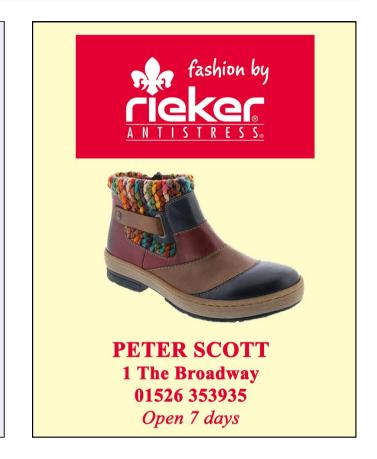
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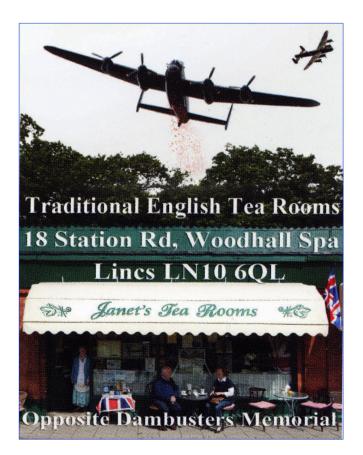


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Tin Tabernacles in Switzerland

Diane Conrad, was born and bred in Lincolnshire and now lives in Switzerland, where she has been researching 19th Century churches built in Switzerland. One of them is a 'tin tabernacle', i.e. wood with corrugated iron cladding. Having discovered that our museum building was manufactured by Boulton and Paul she strongly suspects the Tabernacle is also manufactured by B & P - it has some unusual features in common with only about 3 other iron churches of theirs that she has found and contacted Patricia Duke-Cox to see if we had documents or a catalogue of Boulton & Paul in our archive.

Patricia did some research and replied - "I was interested to read of your research into tin tabernacles. You will be pleased to learn that I do have a catalogue which I hope you can access. You will like pages 146/7 I hope. Boulton and Paul ceased trading in 2010. They had been taken over by another company 10 years earlier. They were better known for their aircraft but I am sure you



can do you own research on that background if interested." Dianne was delighted with the prompt reply, writing - "Your prompt reply was a very pleasant surprise - I can't thank you enough for sending the catalogue . Attached a couple of pictures of 'our' tin tabernacle; you can see that there is a big job to be done, but I live in hope - it's probably the only example of an English

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wood/corrugated iron church in Switzerland. It was first erected in 1913, on a mountainside above Lake Lucerne, then dismantled and rebuilt as a youth centre in our Canton Graubünden - it originally had a spirelet but a local resident took this to use as a rabbit hutch! "I wish you a good day and thank you again for your much-appreciated help."

Diane

150 Club Winners

November 2018

£20 [24] Richard Sivill £15 [10] Paul Everitt £10 [70] Cliff Harding

Annual Draw 2018

£150 [130] Jacky Merrison £70 [41] Margaret Horton £40 [75] Keith Baguley

Woodhall Spa in March 1919

Dear Readers,

It is wonderful to have our brave men home. In January, Frank Rose of Mill Lane, was awarded the Military Medal for carrying ammunition under heavy shell fire in the Great Offensive.

There have been two pretty weddings of lads who fought for their country. Tom Brooks of Alexandra Road, who lost a leg in the war, was one and the other was Pt. John Jones who had been "missing, supposed dead" for some time. His father was killed in action 2 years ago.

Food is worryingly costly - they say 130% dearer than when hostilities began! Ladies in the big houses shop at Chapman's London and Manchester Stores but Hickson's, on Station Road, are offering Spa Cake flour at 7d. a packet and treacle at 9d. a pound - we take our own jars. They also have a pound of washing soap for 9d. We grow vegetables and have a pig but we have to cater for visitors in the Season - if any want to come.

The Tradesmen's Association held a dinner at the Eagle Lodge Hotel and after a splendid repast provided by Miss Lamb, it was said that we must advertise our up-to-date boarding houses (that pleased Perce and me) and hotels and the wonderful state of repair of our roads and splendid drainage system, as well as the golf course and unrivalled curative power of the mineral water.



The Eagle Lodge Hotel - now known as The Inn

Talking of Eagle Lodge, it was not the place to be this winter! In January Mr. Gladwin was repairing Dr. Gwyn's motor car at the garage there, when his hand caught in the machine. He was conveyed to Lincoln County Hospital where his thumb was amputated. In February, Mr. Holmes. School Attendance Officer, was cycling past Eagle Lodge corner when an errand boy collided with him. He fell off his machine and sustained a cut to his head. Two days later he was still confined to bed, suffering from shock. Perce does not like "the kid catcher," as he calls him and said it was more likely he was suffering from laziness than shock.

Marjorie Sargeant

Bertha

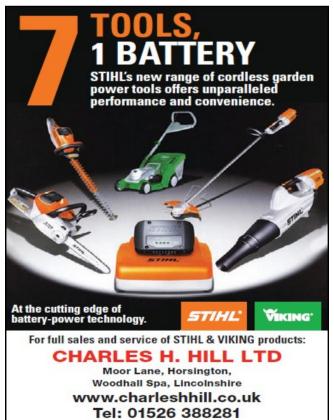
Answers to "From the Collection" quiz on Page 9

This is St Mary Magdalene, the parish church of Sandringham, Norfolk. We all have seen the most famous worshippers, the Royal Family, coming down those steps on Christmas Day.

This is St. Wulfrum's Church, the parish church of Grantham which in December 2015, had an ice-rink and 100 Christmas trees. This view is now also obscured by trees.

The Methodist Chapel was on Witham Road. It suffered ignominious demolition and is now replaced with two bungalows.





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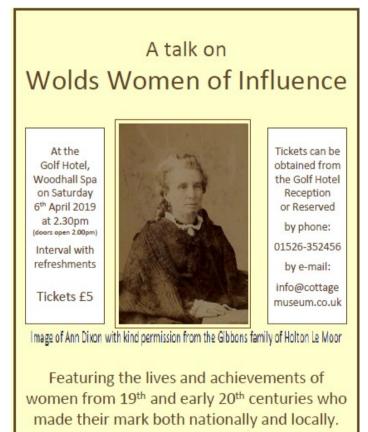
The 2019 Season at the Museum

The Cottage Museum has been working on new displays during the winter months and the teams responsible for the research and arrangements have nearly completed their tasks. We hope the local population will come along and learn more about the history of this unique village with its Spa heritage.

With reference to heritage and volunteers, the Museum would welcome new volunteers with a heritage or cultural background. We also need those who have IT skills with particular reference to databases and input skills along with observational skills when looking at images. It would be excellent if we can attract residents of long standing who can identify people, places and events.

Many locals are already Friends of the Museum. The cost is not high, being £8 for single people or £12 for couples. Membership confers free admission to the Museum throughout the season as well as receiving a delightful Newsletter giving news of forthcoming events and reviewing achievements.

In February we began our regular coffee morning for volunteers who gather over a friendly cuppa and hear about proposals to bring the Museum alive for our visitors. An additional afternoon tea session was held for TED (Talk, Eat and Drink) which attracted local people encouraged by our volunteers to attend. A new series of learning to cope with digital devices will be offered if those coming want it. Other ideas are also welcome.





We value our volunteers and are pleased to meet up with them regularly. Sometimes we have people approach us which is delightful. The Museum has grown over its 32-year history and involvement can involve many areas. Practical people might enjoy maintenance or gardening projects, office types might enjoy keeping the databases of artefacts, images, education items or the library up to date, whilst others might enjoy book-keeping or offer financial support. Those that like interaction with others might like to join the Friends team that organise events such as talks. music showing groups around the entertainment. village as well as the Museum or presenting talks on the history of the museum.

Look out for the museum opening for the new season on 6th April. With a new, visiting, display about Wolds Women of Influence from Market Rasen, being the first temporary display, it will be launched with an accompanying talk, at the Golf Hotel, by the researchers in the afternoon from 2 p.m. Tickets, £5, can be purchased at the Golf Hotel.

EBRINGTON ARMS



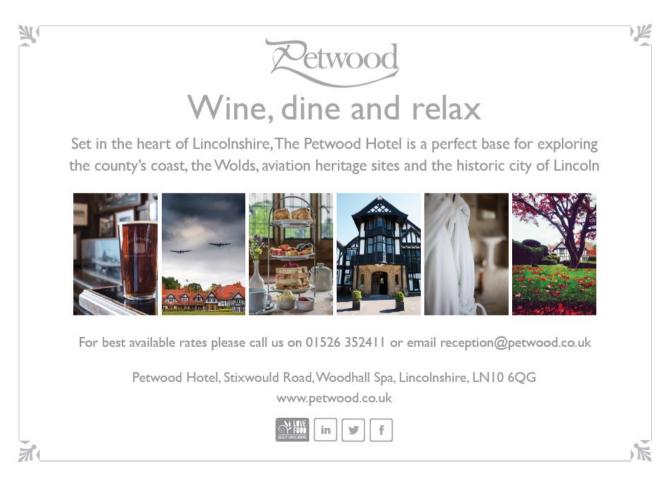
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POPPY'S PAGE Hello everyone and a bia welcome to the new season. Once again we have lots of activities for all you youngsters and they are all listed below by Gill. Christmas seems a long time ago now but I hope you had lots of lovely presents, just like me! Have fun with the Spring bird Trail Search Puzzle.

Bye for now. Poppy

Activities for Children

Museum Quiz Trails

"The Spring Bird Trail" 13th – 27th April

"The Great Object Hunt" 20th July – 9th September

Come and find the clues hidden in the museum and receive a prize on completion.

50p per quiz sheet.

Learning activities

"Underwater World" Wednesday 29th May Enjoy craft activities with a watery theme.

"Creative Clay" Wednesday 7th August Imaginative ideas using clay.

"Wriggly Day" Wednesday 21st August Come and explore the fascinating mini-beasts that live in the museum garden with your own "pooter".

> "Fabric Fun" Wednesday 23rd October Enjoy lots of exciting activities using exciting materials.

Cost per person is £3.00 including all materials and refreshments. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking advisable, please contact Gill Noble 01526 353 455 or email info@cottagemuseum.co.uk

Gill Noble

_													
	<u>Spring Bird Word Search Puzzle</u>												
	F	С	I	А	D	М	Y	0	Ν	F	Can you find these		
	L	I	Р	S	W	I	Ν	G	S	Е	words hidden in the grid?		
	I	F	L	E	D	G	E	Р	А	А	They are horizontal, vertical, diagonal and sometimes backwards.		
	G	Ν	U	S	D	R	I	В	Μ	Т			
	Н	G	L	С	V	А	F	Р	0	Н			
	Т	W	В	Х	М	Т	Ν	Н	U	Е	SONG EGGS		
	G	L	С	Е	Ν	E	S	Т	В	R	BIRDS BEAK FLIGHT MIGRATE WINGS NEST FLEDGE GLIDE		
	S	Р	G	Y	А	G	L	I	D	Е			
	R	G	L	М	0	К	С	В	Ν	0			
	S	0	Ν	G	Н	Р	F	S	L	А	FEATHER		
	Puzzle set by Jane Hodgson												



The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Friends Committee

<u>Chairman</u>: Martin Fearn <u>Membership Secretary</u>: Judy Everitt <u>Committee Members</u>: Margaret Reed, Ann Houlton, Tracey Jones

Dear Friends

The last newsletter in November included a new form for Friends to renew their membership and we were delighted to receive so many returns soon after the newsletter was distributed. Our grateful thanks to all who have renewed their subscriptions and for encouraging new applications. It would be wonderful if we can break through the 100 figure. It must be possible as we have a lottery with 150 tickets that we sell annually.

Those who have contributed substantially to the Museum as volunteers are given Life membership. It is with sadness we learn that both Gillian Jackson and Millie Pickering have died as they did much from those early days onwards. It is with delight that I report that Marjorie Sargeant, a past Trustee and an author who has written books recording the history of the Spa, has been give Life membership.

When the museum opens on Saturday 6th April with a new temporary exhibition on Wolds Women of Influence there will be a talk at the Golf Hotel that afternoon from the researchers who worked on this last year. Tickets from the Golf Hotel are just £5.

A new venture arranged between the Museum and TED was enthusiastically received at the inaugural meeting. A new group, the Cottage Companions Club has been formed. This group is for those in the community wanting to meet people, learn new skills and enjoy tea, cakes and conversation. Two themed meetings have been arranged for March 4th and 18th about Digital awareness and how to use the technology plus one in April 9th for Sugarcraft.

The Friends will also be present at the Woodhall Spa Country Show on Sunday 19th May with a display from the collection in the Heritage and Bygones marquee. Do come and see us. Another local event supported by the Friends is the Fun Run and 10K race on Sunday 2nd June.

Preparations are also being made for the 1940s weekend. The Friends are putting on a musical event on the Friday, 12th July. This will be a Moonlight Serenade featuring the Coningsby Military Wives Choir and Friends. Please support this event which supports three local groups.

Patricia Duke-Cox

<u>Come and Join Us</u>

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

"<u>Wolds Women of</u> <u>Influence</u>" Talk by the Researchers of the Temporary Exhibition **6th April 2 pm** Golf Hotel. Tickets £5 from Golf Hotel

Cottage Companions Club Sugarcraft Luesday afternoon April 9th

Tuesday afternoon **April 9th** Community Room

Woodhall Spa Country Show Sunday 19th May Show Field, Green Lane

"Underwater World" Enjoy craft activities with a watery theme. Wednesday 29th May Family Activity cost £3 contact Gill Noble 01526 353 455 or email info@cottagemuseum.co.uk

Fun Run & 10K Run Sunday 2nd June From 10 am Jubilee Park

"<u>Moonlight Serenade</u>" Friday 12th July Featuring Coningsby Military Wives & the Friends Cost etc. TBA

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

