

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



The new steel donkey cut-out welcomes visitors to the Museum, which has just been awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the second year running.

Newsletter No. 32
July 2019

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

The 2019 season has got off to a promising start and is now in full swing, following a larger than expected audience for the "Wolds Women" talk at The Golf Hotel.

The near life-sized steel plate donkey silhouette was installed just before we opened and stands proudly at the entrance to the museum gardens. You can read the full story on page 3.

Since our last issue we have seen two of our Directors retire from the board. Michael Wighton has left due to health concerns and Tracey Jones to free up time to complete her PhD. Patricia has written a short appreciation opposite.

The big Summer events will soon be upon us. Early July sees the 1940s Weekend, probably our most important fund raising opportunity of the year and this is closely followed by the "Music in the Garden" concert series. This event has steadily gained popularity and last year we nearly ran out of chairs on more than one occasion! There is a full run down of the event and the artists/groups who are participating this year on page 9. The series culminates with the hugely popular CATS Ukulele Band, who with extensive use of audience participation last year, was a roaring success. As always refreshments will be provided by the volunteers who man the Courtyard Cafe, the importance of which to raising funds cannot be stressed enough, so very many thanks to all those involved.

Martin Fearn has now taken up the reins of the Friends and his first "Friends Page" is published in this issue. We wish him every success in moving the Friends Group forward to even greater things.

"Bertha" once again takes us on a fascinating journey back to life in Woodhall Spa in 1919. I hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to meeting some of you over the summer months.



Philip Groves

Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence 2019

The museum has been awarded the coveted Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence for the second year running. This is a very prestigious award and so congratulations are due to all our volunteers and staff, well done!

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The Newsletter Committee

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

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or email phil.delia.groves@btinternet.com
Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum: 1929

The Donkey Story



The Boulton and Paul corrugated bungalow which now houses The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, was originally occupied by Thomas and Mary Wield. They moved to Woodhall Spa in the 1880s from Hampshire to work at the Spa Baths. In 1887 Thomas Wield started a Donkey-drawn Bath Chair business and transported patients and visitors between the Spa Baths, the various hotels and the Railway Station.



The donkeys were kept at the bungalow in one of the outbuildings where the new general store room has been built. This was the location for the lovely photograph above of Effie, Thomas's Granddaughter and the donkey.



This year, that long association with the donkey has been celebrated by the commissioning of a near life size donkey made from steel plate. Mick Toyne Engineering, specialists in rustic ironwork, was commissioned to produce the donkey, which was delivered and installed on March 22nd by James Wilderspoon, who now runs the business. The project was generously funded by a grant from the People's Postcode Lottery Trust, for which the Directors are very grateful.



The donkey stands by the gate as visitors enter the museum garden. A trail of donkey hoof prints then leads the visitor to the museum entrance.

Miniature versions of the Donkey are available in the Museum Shop for £30.

*Top left: The donkey arrives with James Wilderspoon
Middle: The donkey is unloaded
Bottom: In situ with James Wilderspoon
& Lynnette Needham*

Philip Groves

Retiring Directors

Our thanks go to two of the directors who have recently retired from the Board, both of whom had heritage qualifications and social media skills. They will be missed as both brought us nearer to the audiences we try hard to reach. Michael Wighton and Tracey Jones formed a good partnership when they worked together on the database that records our images and both proved very capable with Facebook and Twitter. We hope Michael's health improves and Tracey completes her PhD this year and enjoys her new volunteering at Metheringham Airfield.



Michael Wighton



Tracey Jones

Patricia Duke-Cox

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Meet our New Reception Staff

Rebecca

I live near Woodhall Spa with my husband, but I originally come from the USA. I studied a BA in Fashion History and Theory at Central Saint Martins in London and an MA in Decorative Arts, Design History and Material Culture at Bard Graduate Centre in New York City. Prior to The Cottage Museum, I worked at The Metropolitan Museum of Art where I helped manage and maintain a vast collection of historical and contemporary clothing and textiles. I'm excited to be working at The Cottage Museum this season where I enjoy serving the community and generating interest in its valuable history.



Sherry

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to work here at the Cottage Museum in Woodhall Spa. I have been living in Martin (just 5 miles from Woodhall Spa) since the early 1990s and, although I was a self-employed biologist for much of my professional working life, I have always been interested in local social history, including researching the history of our own house. In addition, I have been welcoming self-catering holiday guests to our restored 18th century stables over the past 11 years and have enjoyed sharing information about Lincolnshire with them as well as running cookery and craft courses. I have also enjoyed working at other local attractions and museums in Lincolnshire, but am now delighted to make my new home here at the Cottage Museum!



The part I enjoy most about working here is meeting visitors who come to the museum, as well as providing information about what to see and do in Woodhall Spa and the local area.

Gill

Briefly - I have lived in Lincolnshire all my life, growing up in Woodhall Spa.

Previously I worked for Lloyds TSB Bank and more recently as a Teaching Assistant, supporting children with severe learning and physical difficulties. I am a partner in our family farming business and we have three daughters. I assist when needed, mainly with the office work and running the holiday cottage, but can turn my hand to other skills when required.!

In my spare time I enjoy Badminton, swimming and reading and volunteer as a Family Mentor for the Homestart Charity. I'm pleased to be joining the Cottage Museum Team this season.



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. However the next one will be held on July 3rd. starting at 10.00 am, as the Community Room is already booked for August. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag!

Why not come along on 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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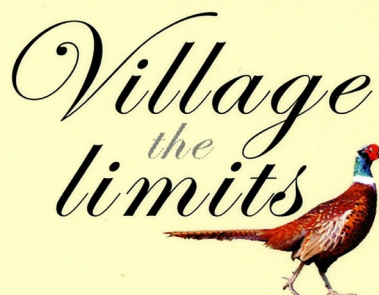
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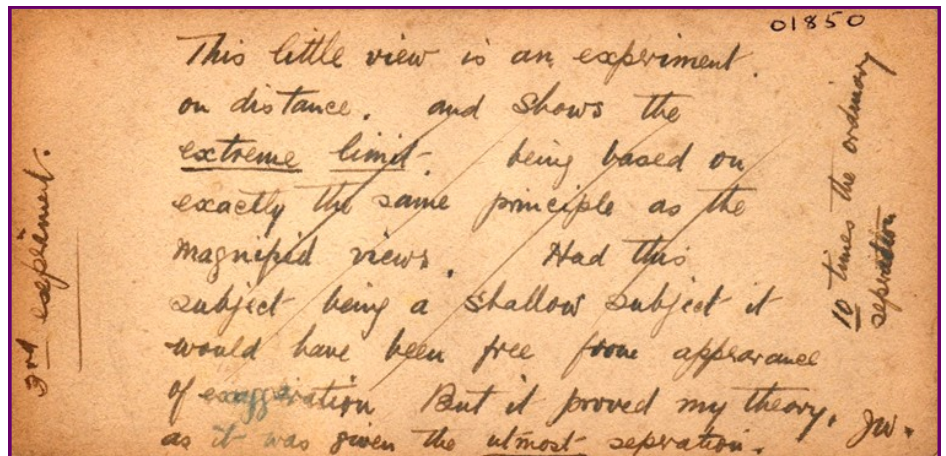
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From the Collection

THE STEREOGRAPHS

Stereographs were a very popular form of photography in the 19th century. Using a special camera, photographers would take two nearly identical images which, when printed side by side, would appear as a three-dimensional image when viewed through a set of special lenses called a stereoscope. John Wield was a keen admirer of this technique and personally carried out experiments.



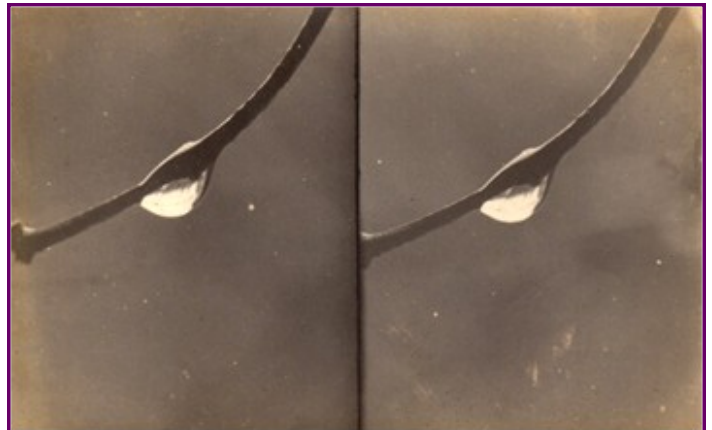
John Wield's stereoscope and his 3rd experiment

He built his own hand-held stereoscope. He also constructed a larger coin-operated version which was available for the public to view at the Bungalow's gate. In fact he made a stereograph of the stereoscope. The Museum has in its collection, 174 stereographs, of which 163 were taken by John, 11 are commercially produced.

The subject matter was, as usual with John, extremely wide as well as unusual from buildings, sea views, people, to the seed head of a dandelion. Here is an example, a dew-drop on a blade of grass.



The stereoscope at the gate



A dew-drop on a blade of grass

Nicholas Duke-Cox

Newsletter 32 - July 2019

Music in the Garden

This very popular series of events returns once more over the summer months. The line up is as shown below with all the artists making return visits.

Sunday 28th July

Trad. Jazz with Colin and Gerry - relaxed and enjoyable music

Sunday 4th August

Mike Warwick with hits from the 1950s to 1990s
Always a hit with the audience

Sunday 11th August

"Between the Lines" popular Lincolnshire Folk Band
Successful local folk Group

Sunday 25th August

"Sing it Loud" local singing group - come and join in a good Sing – Song.

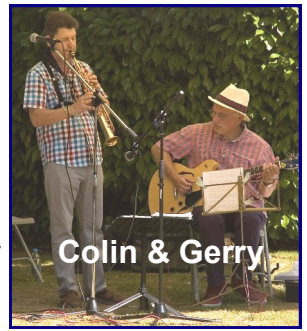
Sunday 1st September

Alan Bolt, acoustic guitar, with songs and stories.
Always immensely entertaining

Sunday 15th September

Heritage Open Day afternoon
The CATS Strummers. Local ukulele group who encourage audience participation

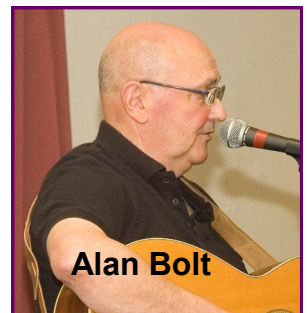
Events run from 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm in the museum garden. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. Refreshments available from the Courtyard Cafe.



Colin & Gerry



Mike Warwick



Alan Bolt

COLLECTIONS SUPPORT OFFERED OVERSEAS

Following an enquiry from overseas, Patricia was able to send the architect a copy of the Boulton and Paul catalogue, which he has since acknowledged was "actually very useful".

"I am doing a research about architecture in Patagonia during the European colonization due to the sheep farming industry between 1870 and 1930.

I have read that many houses were fabricated and imported from Europe and United State.

Reading a thesis about Patagonian heritage, it mentioned the firm Boulton and Paul as one of the providers of the houses.

By any chance, do you have any registry, like images or blueprints, of the houses sent to Patagonia? Any other information about the relation of the firm the exportations to Patagonia would be very useful. Kind regards. Thanks

Rodrigo Tagle Arquitecto "

GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION DONATION

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum was the beneficiary of a recent donation from the Woodhall Spa & District Gardeners' Association produce table between January and March. The result will be seen with colourful displays of flowers and shrubs in the summer.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANT

Woodhall Spa Parish Council have very generously donated £500 to the Cottage Museum towards the cost of reprinting the Woodhall Spa Walks booklet so, after bringing the text up to date, this very popular booklet is once again available to visitors and local people alike.



Patricia Duke-Cox receives a cheque from Doreen Homes of the Gardeners' Association

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

India Village

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Midday - 2.00pm
5.30pm - 11.30pm
7 Days a Week

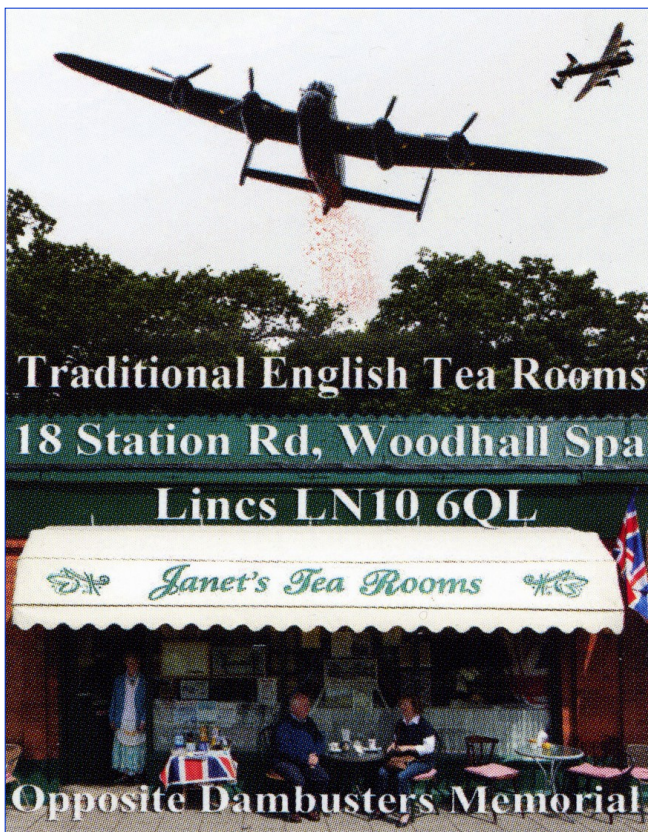
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

What Our Visitors Are Saying

Once again a brief look at what our visitors are writing in the Visitors Book:-

V H-H Stoke Goldingham	<i>Fascinating and love it is dog friendly</i>
L & P J Rainham Essex	<i>Wonderful museum, lots to see & interact with. Perfect for families. Little goldmine! Thank you.</i>
H & P J Louth	<i>A revelation as I discovered I am related to the Wield family! Angela is my half cousin. We shared the same Great Grandmother Betsy Maria White.</i>
D & M + Oscar	<i>Lovely to learn more about one of our favourite places! Many thanks.</i>
Oscar Age 9	<i>The cottage is very interesting and I really enjoyed the puzzle. 5 Stars</i>
S & J R Ancaster	<i>Beautiful, interesting, well laid out. Really makes Woodhall Spa come to life. Thank you.</i>
D & M P Swindon	<i>Well worth the visit. Love the dolls house.</i>
I & J P Chesterfield	<i>Excellent, wonderful to preserve our heritage.</i>
J & K F Doncaster	<i>Very interesting information. Very well preserved. I like the "Open Me" drawers.</i>

Nice to see the visitors appreciate the dog friendly approach and also the "hands on" policy, which is an unusual feature to find in museums.

Philip Groves

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150 Club Winners

February 2019

£20 [5] Jeffrey Ridley
£15 [99] Jackie Mills
£10 [30] Clare Preston

March 2019

£20 [23] Sylvia Cook
£15 [85] David Hill
£10 [1] David Radford

April 2019

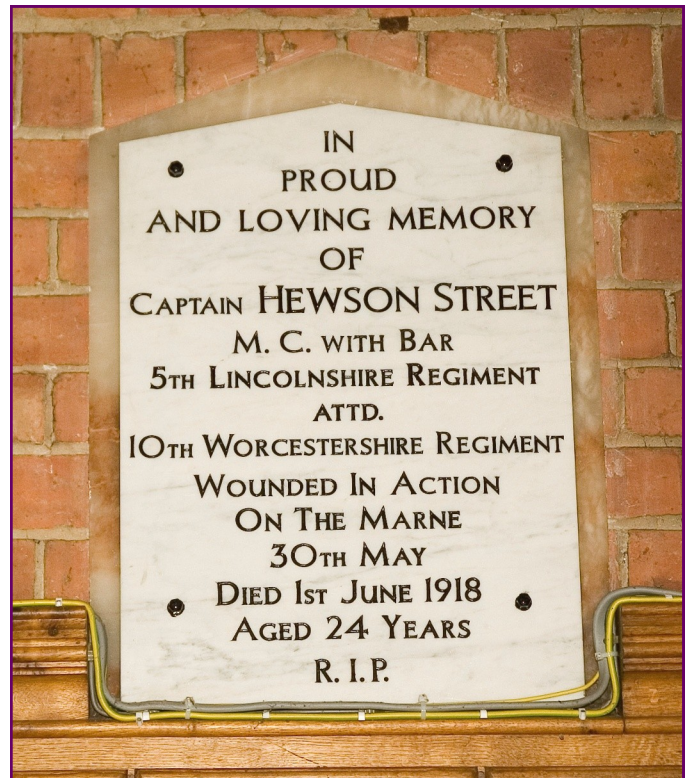
£20 [63] Bryan Scotney
£15 [2] Jeanne O'Brien
£10 [61] John Ranshaw

Woodhall Spa in July 1919

Dear Readers,

Woodhall Spa is not the flourishing village it was before the war. So far this season we have not had swarms of visitors. My daughter, Ellen, says they have had fewer patients at the Baths. She says people are saying that ladies and gentlemen no longer feel justified in indulging in frivolous Spa holidays after so much suffering and death. Perce says it is because they have not got the cash. Certainly, everyday commodities are all dearer than before hostilities began.

A beautiful marble and alabaster memorial to Captain Hewson Street, has been placed in St. Peter's Church. He died after being wounded in action on the Marne last year and was awarded an M.C with Bar for his bravery. His parents, Henry and Eliza live in "The Hawthorns," Witham Road. Mercifully, his brother, Sydney, survived the fighting.



"Chapman's London and Manchester Stores" still has long advertisements for its provisions, including Canadian Hams and Colonial Cheese, while McKellar's on the Broadway still stock foreign wines, Mackeson's stout (anti-ageing and energising) ales and gins, Jansel's Rum, Raynal's Brandy and Old Scotch Whisky.

Our son, Alfred, says that he is kept busily employed at Dickinson's garage. During the war Mr. Dickinson took orders for motor cars for after it ended! He stocks several makes, such as

Daimler, Belsize, Ford and Sunbeam and he has clever advertisements, like "If you are a motorist and are not dealing with me, we are both losing money."

Perce has come back from the Mall (not before time) with the rumour that Lt. Col. Weigall is giving some land on Stixwould Road, opposite Petwood, to the village for "recreation." It is very generous of him; he also gave us the cricket ground before the war. I wonder what form of recreation this will be?

Bertha

Marjorie Sargeant

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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Wednesday	Closed	6-11pm
Thursday	Closed	6-11pm
Friday	12-3pm	*6-11pm
Saturday	12-3pm	*6-11pm
Sunday	*12-3pm	7-10:30pm

*Food served at these times or others by arrangement



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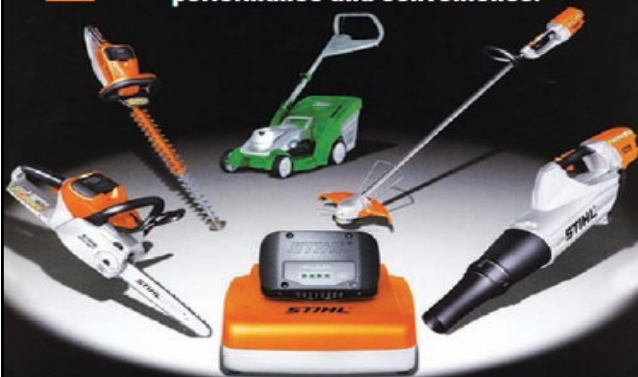
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

The 1940s Weekend

The 1940s Weekend this year is taking place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July. As usual the Museum is taking part and the theme for this year is "Make Do and Mend".

The museum garden will be packed out with stalls selling all types of goods and produce. There will be activities aimed at keeping the children busy, as well as things for the adults to do. Louise Bullen, who holds Craft Weekends in the Community Room, will be a guest exhibitor and already her group have been making 1940s dresses.

The Cottage Museum is included in the official programme of entertainment arranged by the 1940s committee. These events will take place on both days between 11 am and 4 pm and are expected to include Rachael Bee, Jane Darling (a premier singer who replaces Heather Marie), a visit by "Lord Montague", possibly "George Formby" and there will also be a Piper.

The Courtyard Cafe will be providing refreshments in the form of tea, coffee, soft drinks and, of course, delicious cakes. Visitors will be able to relax at the tables which will be set out in the Courtyard.

On the Friday evening 12th July, the Museum and the Methodist Church are staging a concert, "Moonlight Serenade", featuring the Coningsby Military Wives Choir and Friends, to start the weekend. This Choir charity has joined forces with the local Methodist Church in Woodhall Spa who will host the evening. In addition, the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum will act as a partner and host the interval with an opportunity to buy drinks in the Community Room. Tickets are £7.50 and are now available from reception at the Cottage Museum.

Philip Groves



A stall in the garden at last year's event



The busy Courtyard Cafe

Lincolnshire Day Supper

A Lincolnshire Supper Day will be held on the evening of Saturday 5th October at St. Peter's Hall in Woodhall Spa with delicious Lincolnshire fare followed by entertainment with the popular Billingham Ruffs. Tickets priced at £15 will be available from the Cottage Museum from 1st. July. In conjunction with this event a public grand raffle with excellent value prizes offered by local business and friends is already being promoted. These prizes include swim tickets, vouchers for local restaurants, plus many other items. Tickets are just £1 and are already available at the Museum.

Painting for Pleasure

The Woodhall Spa Art Group, who meet every Thursday at The Methodist Hall, are staging an exhibition in the Museum Community Room and the Methodist Hall on August 9th and 10th between 11 am and 3 pm.

Children's Corner Demonstrations Refreshments

For more information ring Toni O'Neill on 01526 354982.

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POPPY'S PAGE

Hello again. Summer holidays are nearly with us so there are lots of activities lined up for you to do. I had my 9th Birthday back in May, but I am still very lively and love a run in the woods at this time of year. I am hoping my Mum and Dad will bring me along to the Music in the Garden, so I might see you there. Bye, Poppy



Activities for Children

FAMILY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 7th August 10.00 am – 12.00

“Creative Clay”

Back again by popular demand.

Wednesday 21st August 10.00 am – 12.00

“Wriggly Day”

Come and make a pooter and use it to discover the amazing world of mini-beasts in the museum garden.

Wednesday 23rd October 10 am to 12 noon

“Fabric Fun”

Family activity

Sessions cost £3.00 per person which includes all materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To book a place please contact Gill Noble 01526 353 455 or email info@cottagemuseum.co.uk

Story Time with “Mother Hubbard”

from the Cottage Museum

Friday 19th July at the Public Library in Station Road. Woodhall Spa

Gill Noble

l	b	y	d	o	o	n	s	s	r
i	l	d	f	j	u	x	i	a	a
n	a	e	p	r	c	r	g	i	t
d	c	k	v	n	e	o	q	r	i
y	k	l	n	a	m	s	d	r	o
h	o	z	g	b	c	w	v	a	n
o	u	j	o	l	b	u	r	i	b
p	t	a	m	i	v	c	e	d	o
a	s	p	i	t	f	i	r	e	o
r	a	n	h	z	m	a	p	s	k

1940s Wordsearch

Can you find these words hidden in the grid?

ration book

siren

blitz

blackout

spitfire

lindyhop

air raid

snood

evacuee

spam

Puzzle set by Jane Hodgson



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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Friends Committee

Chairman: Martin Fearn

Membership Secretary: Margaret Reed

Committee Members: Judy Everitt Ann Houlton

Dear Friends

The Museum's doors have been open now for approximately six weeks, at time of writing and the season has begun promisingly. This has been helped by the late Easter Holidays and a spell of good weather. The number of 'Friends' of the Museum' has increased with more Family and Individual members this year. A big thank you here for the work carried out by Judy and Margaret administering these extra members.

Our largest event of the year and indeed one of our biggest fundraisers, is the 1940s Weekend, which this year will take place on 13th and 14th July. This will be preceded on the evening of the 12th July by a Moonlight Serenade featuring the Coningsby Military Wives Choir and Friends. Tickets for this event will cost £7.50 and it will be held in the Methodist Church. Please contact the Museum if you would like to purchase tickets for this event.

This year's Music in the Garden will take place on 28th July, 4th August, 11th August, 25th August, 1st September and 15th September. There will not be a Music in the Garden on 18th August because this will be the commemoration Sunday for the 75th year since Arnhem and numerous other events are taking place on this day. Finally, for this newsletter, we have confirmed the Annual Lecture details for 2019 and in keeping with the Arnhem theme, the lecture will be delivered by Brian Stevenson, who has a background working with Airborne Forces and is a specialist on the subject. The lecture will address the principle behind the whole operation, considering what it achieved and how it was planned. It will take place on Saturday 9th November in the Golf Hotel and ticket details will be released later in the year.

As always, volunteers to help with the Museum are very welcome, as we rely totally on your goodwill to make it successful. As we move into Summer, I would like to wish you all the very best for the coming season and look forward to seeing you at the Museum and at some of the events.

Martin Fearn

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

"Moonlight Serenade"

Friday 12th July

Featuring Coningsby Military
Wives & the Friends
Admission £7.50

"1940's Weekend"

Sat/Sun 13/14th July

Lots of events in the
Museum Garden

Story Time

With Mother Hubbard
From the Cottage Museum

Friday July 19th

Joy Bolt at The Library

Music in the Garden

Sundays 2 - 4 pm

28th July

Trad Jazz - Colin & Gerry

4th August

Mike Warwick

11th August

"Between the Lines"

25th August

"Sing it Loud"

1st September

Alan Bolt - Guitar

15th September

Heritage Open Day Afternoon
CATS Strummers

Arnhem 75

Commemorative Event

Sunday 18th August

Museum will be open from
9am to 10 am and
refreshments available in
Community Room/Patio
12 to 12.30 pm
Wreath laying in the
Museum garden

See also

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

