

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



A group of children enjoy the Victorian Christmas Event

Newsletter No. 34
March 2020

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

As we begin a new decade another season is upon us and having carefully scrutinised the results from last year, opening hours are being extended to reflect the feedback from last year's visitors. The museum will be open from Saturday 4th April 2020 until Saturday 31st October 2020, between the hours of 10.30 am and 4.00 pm; last entry is 3.30 pm.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our museum and various ideas are being explored to attract more volunteers, both onto the Board of Directors as well as helping with the myriad of tasks that make up the running of a successful museum. We can all play our part in attracting more people to participate in volunteering work at the museum by spreading the word amongst our friends and family. Word of mouth is by far the most powerful way to get our message across and introduce



others to the satisfaction of doing something really worthwhile. A "New Volunteers" Coffee morning was held on Saturday 22nd February. Unfortunately no new volunteers came along, but the meeting was a great opportunity for those volunteers and Directors who did attend to explain their various roles. A new leaflet to help attract new volunteers was launched. The leaflet and publicity banners were funded by a grant from MDEM to assist us in finding additional active volunteers.

This month we introduce to you a new Director, Richard Evison, who we would all like to welcome to the board. Richard will take over as Company Secretary from David Hill in due course. You will also notice that we have a new Chairman of The Friends. Nigel Eborall takes over from Martin Fearn, who due to family and other commitments, has reluctantly stepped down. We all extend our thanks to him for the work he has done for the Friends. We do wish Nigel every success and thank him for taking the job on at very short notice. The Friends do need more Committee members, so if you would like to be involved more in the running of the Friends do please contact Nigel, or any member of the Board.

Philip Groves

Front Cover Story

A group of children, under the watchful eye of Joy Bolt, enjoying the various craft activities on offer at the Victorian Christmas event last year

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The Newsletter Committee

Chairman - Paddy O'Neill Editor - Philip Groves Marjorie Sargeant Nigel Eborall

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

Grants Help to Secure Future

The Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum has been fortunate to receive four grants already this year that will help secure its future management and the events organised for community benefit.

We are very proud and grateful to know the Museum is appreciated by national, regional and local organisations.

The National Lottery is celebrating 25 years and held a lottery for charities to enter. Although they indicated that previous recipients might not be considered, it proved otherwise for our local Museum with a maximum grant that will enable additional protection for performers and spectators at our outdoor events, particularly the six Music in the Garden Sundays in the summer. Thanks are due to Judy Everitt for all her work in securing this grant.

The Yorkshire Building Society was approached through the good offices of Joy Bolt to support the educational activities and workshops and they agreed to award a grant to facilitate these events held in the school holidays. The Museum will be able to purchase consumable items for the participants in these events.

The Museum will also benefit from the Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion initiative. From 8th March until 6th June dividends on purchases from customers at the Woodhall Spa branch will be price matched. We therefore urge our supporters to do their shopping at this local branch.

The Museum has now been open to the public since 1987 and does face some organisational challenges. A grant secured from MDEM (Museum Development in East Midlands) for the Organisational review and support to find additional active volunteers will help tremendously with this work.

Patricia Duke-Cox



The National Lottery Grant will allow additional shelter for performers and audience alike

The Victorian Christmas Event

The Victorian Christmas event was a great success and tremendous thanks must go to all the volunteers who have given up their time to decorate the museum so beautifully.

The overall theme was Winter Wonderland. Jane Hodgson produced a Winter Wonderland Antarctica display based on the 1911 Scott expedition and their midwinter celebrations, and included a tree made of sticks and decorations from natural materials, e.g. feathers. There were also unusual food recipes including seal soup. In addition there were examples of scenery and wildlife in Antarctica.

Tracie Tavener made a Helping Hands Christmas tree from hand prints collected from volunteers and visitors throughout the season and she created a fantasy Nordic village.

Joy Bolt produced a display with Seasonal songs and rhymes and fun in the snow, including animals that live in snowy conditions.

There were seasonal sing-alongs on both Saturday afternoons and a Naughty Penguin Trail in the museum which the children thoroughly enjoyed



Replica of 1911 Scott Expedition Xmas Tree

Meet the Directors - Richard Evison

As a newly elected director I have been asked to write a potted history about myself so here goes!

I was born and raised in a village on the lower slopes of the Quantock Hills near Taunton in Somerset. After school I had a year in Durban South Africa working in the YMCA which gave me a thirst for travel. I then read Modern History at Lampeter University and have always retained a keen interest in the subject. After graduating I worked for the civil service in London for a year. I then changed career direction when I was appointed as an Assistant NFU Group Secretary/NFU Mutual Agent based in South Buckinghamshire.

After 4 years of learning the ropes in 1985 I successfully applied for a senior role in Horncastle and bought a bungalow in Woodhall. On moving to Lincolnshire it wasn't long before I met and soon married Jo. We have two children, Hannah and Sam, now aged 30 and 28. I certainly feel really lucky to have ended up in Lincolnshire in terms of both family and work.

Demands on time whilst working did restrict my involvement in outside activities, however I was a member of Horncastle Rotary Club for many years and was involved with Woodhall Cricket Club as a player, junior coach and committee member. In addition I was a founding member of the Woodhall 1940's Festival Committee.

Having retired a year ago I was keen to become more involved in the local community, particularly if connected with history. So I became a volunteer house guide at the National Trust property Gunby Hall. The house is a real gem full of interesting collection pieces amassed over the generations by the Massingberd family. This combined with the parkland and gardens, make it a place well worth a visit.

My hobbies include table tennis, snooker, walking football, tennis and bridge so I am quite a bit trimmer than I was before retirement! My love of cricket is now restricted to being a spectator only, watching Sam playing league cricket in London and England, being lucky enough to have been at Lords to see them win the World Cup final last year.

I am very impressed with the amount of effort by everyone involved in making the Cottage Museum such a success and look forward to helping in any way possible for it to continue to develop and thrive.



Richard Evison

Richard Evison

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 held on April 1st. starting at 10.00 am in the Community Room. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag!

Why not come along 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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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

From the Collection

With spring shortly upon us, our thoughts turn to family and new life. Thus, for this newsletter I thought I would turn to the 'new' life for John Wield and his wife Asenath, through the images of their children.

John and Asenath were married on December 6th 1898 and had two children, first a daughter Ethel, forever called 'Effie', in May 1904, followed in March 1908 by Cedric. John, being the prolific photographer, captured his children, like all of us, many, many times. John also used his professional skill in composing his sitters and frequently annotated his shutter speeds etc on the glass plates.

I have chosen but a very small selection from the archive to share with you.



First, a view of the family from 1908 (left) with Effie on her father's shoulders and Cedric in his very stylish pram. A view repeated up and down the land with newborns.

About 1912 we have this delightful view of the children with their mother (right). She instilled in them the need to learn which served them both well in their chosen careers.



Answers to Bird Names on Page 18
OWL, WREN and PIGEON

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As the children moved towards adulthood this love of books continued and here (right) we have 'Effie' no doubt 'teaching' her brother as she did for many in later life

Finally to adulthood and prior to their marriages.

The family photographed (below) in the mid 1920s, very cleverly, with John adding a selfie to the left of his view of the family outside the bungalow.



Nicholas Duke-Cox



Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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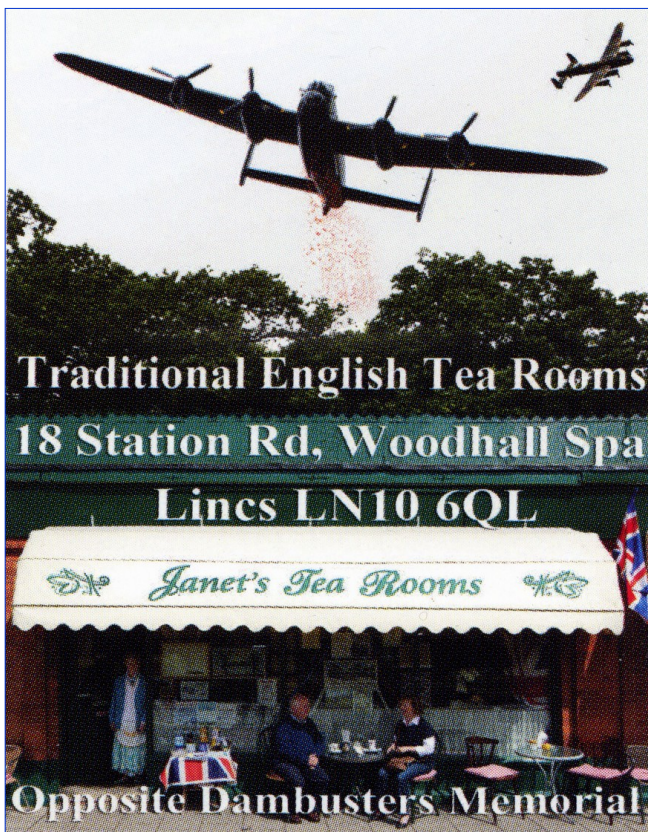
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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Volunteering at the Museum

Anyone wishing to offer voluntary help to the Museum is most welcome. The board of directors and trustees number just ten at present. Experience in marketing, social media, heritage and administration would add benefit to the board. The responsibilities are for one year with the option to stay on.

Other areas where support will be welcomed is in the garden, caretaking the community room and its bookings, general maintenance, supporting group visits either in the Museum or with the catering, plus help with the 1940s weekend that is so important to so many organisations within the

village. The rewards from volunteering

were perfectly expressed recently by the Mayor of Lincoln writing in the Order of Service leaflet for the Christmas Eve Carol Service at Lincoln Cathedral. "Recently someone was heard to say of her voluntary contributions, "I just make cakes". This volunteer doesn't "just make cakes" she opens up for herself the opportunity to talk, to make friends, and to feel valued - whilst the cakes are a fun way of raising funds. Perhaps it is important sometimes to be reminded that our contributions and individual talents are welcomed, highly valued and can really make a difference.'

We look forward to meeting new supporters. Please make contact in the usual way by emailing info@cottagemuseum.co.uk, phone 01526 352456 or write to Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, Iddesleigh Road, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6SH. We look forward to hearing from you.



Volunteers sorting publicity leaflets



Fence maintenance with Paul Everitt

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Bell Award Winners



Emily Needham (Right) receives her award from Gill Noble



Ellie Gilbert receiving her Award from Patricia Duke-Cox

150 Club Winners

November 2019

£20 [114] Amy Needham

£15 [25] Pauline Morley

£10 [100] Jackie Mills

December 2019 - Annual Draw

£150 [74] Nigel Bush

£70 [42] Barrie Horton

£40 [105] Sydney Mawer

February 2020

£20 [71] Ben Fawcett

£15 [2] Jeanne O'Brien

£10 [56] Ann Taylor

The Friends Coffee morning held on November 16th was very successful. During the Coffee Morning Emily Needham was presented with the Bell Award. The award was also presented to Ellie Gilbert during the Victorian Christmas opening.

The Bell Award is given from time to time to a young person or persons, who have done something of merit for the Museum. The award came about as a result of a burglary at the Museum when the Bell Cup, which belonged to the Woodhall Spa Agricultural Show Society, was stolen. The Bell family, who had donated the cup and had retained the rights to it, donated the insurance payment to the Museum, but asked that the memory of Joseph Bell be maintained. The Museum Trustees at the time agreed to do this through the Bell Award. The award consists of a cheque for £50 and a certificate.

Philip Groves

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A photograph of a two-story brick cottage with a red tiled roof. The house is surrounded by lush greenery, including a large weeping willow tree on the right and a conservatory on the left. The sky is blue with a few birds flying.


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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Woodhall Spa in March 1920

Dear Readers,

Another decade has arrived and I venture to say the people of this village are feeling more cheery. Perce and I attended the Annual Tradesmen's Association Dinner at the Eagle Lodge Hotel a few weeks ago, where a delicious repast was provided by Hostess Lamb. It was said that Woodhall Spa is flourishing, with several new businesses and not a single house to let!

However, our roads are a problem. The carts of hawkers, coalmen and rag and bone men make deep ruts and motor carriages are increasing in number, with drivers continually complaining about potholes. Property owners on some roads have been asked to put them in order, then the Council will adopt them.

An entertainment at Christmastide raised an admirable £48-14s-11d for heating apparatus for St. Peter's Church. We hear that villagers have so far raised the prodigious amount of over £500 for a war memorial in the church! It is to be a rood screen of carved oak, with the names of our fallen commemorated upon it.



The celebrated and fashionable Victoria Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

Victoria Hotel The celebrated and fashionable Victoria Hotel, Woodhall Spa. Many wealthy and titled persons coming from the metropolis and the Continent of Europe. Its advertisement states, "Come and converse convivially with other well-born personages, at the prestigious Victoria Hotel."

Our son, Alfred has returned from a Whist Drive in aid of his Woodhall Spa Rovers Football Club. Recently, they have antagonised successfully with teams from Horncastle and Bardney and they may win a cup!

The village is much occupied preparing for the coming Season, which will commence at the beginning of April. Last Season the Spa Band was unsatisfactory, so a new ensemble has been hired this year. Perce hopes it will merit the extra expenditure.

Our first guests arrive at the end of April and most hostelryes report several bookings. The

Bertha
March 1920

Marjorie Sargeant

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POPPY'S PAGE Hello again everyone, another decade and lots of new activities for you to do. By the time you read this it will nearly be Easter and Jane Hodgson is organising an exciting Spring Flower Trail Quiz for you to do at the museum. We have extended this to the Newsletter with the Spring Flower Puzzle which should interest all the family. Happy puzzling!

Bye, Poppy



Activities for Children

Spring Flower Quiz

The quiz will be available in the museum from Friday 3rd April until Sunday 19th April (to cover the school holidays). There will be clues to discover, hidden in the museum

Toy Town

Our special exhibition for the Easter school holidays is for the enjoyment of children, young and old, and themed 'Toy Town'. As well as displaying toys from Victorian through to later years there will be toys and games available which can be played with - if it's not in a cabinet or roped off it is for you, our visitors, to enjoy. Come along and get involved with some fun and games!

Children 16 and under FREE!

"Busy Bees"

An Activity Morning

Come and "bee" creative with a range of craft activities centred on bees.

Wednesday 27th May

10.00 am -12.00 pm in the community room.

Everyone welcome, children from 3 years.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

£4.00 per person which includes craft materials.

Booking advisable, email info@cottagemuseum.co.uk

or phone 01526 353 455.

A PUZZLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

How many words containing three or more letters can you find in -



SPRING FLOWERS



Also how many Birds can you find?

5 Words is Good, 10 is Very Good and 15 is Excellent

There are 3 Birds names to find - Answers on page 8



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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Friends Committee

Chairman: Nigel Eborall

Secretary: Judy Everitt

Membership Secretary: Margaret Reed

Committee Members: Gill Noble Philip Groves

Dear Friends

In this first Newsletter of 2020 we bid a fond farewell to Martin Fearn who has relinquished his position as Chairman of Friends due to pressure of other commitments. Martin has done a magnificent job for the Museum as a whole and the Friends in particular. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Martin remains a supporter of the Museum and we look forward to seeing him again as often as time allows.

Numbers of Friends continue to grow, but this can only be maintained by active encouragement of all those we know, or meet, to join us and to spread the word as widely as possible. To this end, we are including in our circulation of events, which would previously have just gone to Friends, all Volunteers and others who are supporters or have, in any way, shown an interest in our Museum.

Friends will continue to be heavily involved in Museum activities, and those already confirmed include:

May 8	A presence at the Jubilee Park Community Fun Day
May 16	The Hotchkin Story, Golf Hotel, 2.30 pm
May 17	Involvement at the Woodhall Country Show
June 7	Involvement at the Woodhall 10K Fun Run
July 17/19	The 1940s Weekend

In addition to the above, it is hoped to arrange social activities for Friends, varying from the traditional Coffee Mornings to such possibilities as a Block Booking at the Kinema, Car Sharing outings to venues of particular interest, or similar.

Later in the year we look forward to the hugely successful "Music in the Garden" afternoons and this, together with the 1940s weekend, is where we really do need to maximise Volunteers to help. Last year, these activities raised significant funds for the Museum, but our Volunteers were stretched to the limit. If you have a few hours to spare on any of these occasions PLEASE let one of us know so your help can be planned into the rotas.

Nigel Eborall

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

01526 352456



What's On Guide

Spring Flower Quiz

in the museum from
Friday 3rd April
to Sunday 19th April
also

Toy Town

Special temporary display
of Victorian and later toys
and games, many available
for children to play with

Jubilee Park Fun Day

The Friends will be involved
Friday May 8th

The Hotchkin Dynasty From Spanish Town (Jamaica) to Spa Town

A talk by Brian Palmer
At the Golf Hotel
2.30pm Saturday May 16th

Woodhall Spa Country Show

Showground off Green
Lane
Admission
£8 Child £4
Child Under 5 free
9.30am to 5pm
Sunday May 17th

"Busy Bees"

An activity morning
Wednesday 27th May
10.00 am -12.00 pm
in the community room
See Page 18 for more
information

Woodhall Spa 10k Community Road Race

Jubilee Park
Sunday July 7th

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

