

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



The Museum in Lock Down

Newsletter No. 35
July 2020

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

I hope you have all kept well during these strange times we find ourselves in.

In this issue we meet John Wilkinson, our new Director. David Radford our Honorary President recalls the early days of the museum and puts his weight behind the call for volunteers, promising "you will not be disappointed". Nicholas Duke-Cox takes us through another fascinating look at the photographs taken by John Wield. Richard Gravestock has kindly written an article on the little known history of the Villa Kreuznach, a really fascinating piece of work. Bertha, through the pen of Marjorie Sargeant looks back at the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918/19, with its similarities to the recent experiences of us all with Covid19 and finally Poppy's Page gives young and old alike a few challenges with some Puzzles to fill in the time! As usual we round off with the Friends page.



I am writing this as the Government have rolled out their relaxation of "Lockdown" measures which may allow museums such as ours to reopen. The Directors have started exploring the many challenges this throws up. Are there going to be enough visitors about to make it worthwhile? Can we make the museum Covid secure? Is it practical to have a one way system? - the list is endless. For the moment no decision on reopening has been taken and it will be reviewed in early July. It has however been decided that this year's "Music in the Garden" cannot go ahead. As decisions are taken about reopening, information will be posted on the website and published in the Wapentake and local newspapers. A date has been agreed for the AGM to be held on 23rd July at 7.00 pm. at the museum but also with a Zoom attendance facility.

Finally the Directors would like to thank the many volunteers who have kept the museum looking tidy and cared for, who have cut the lawns, weeded the flower beds and kept on top of regular maintenance work etc. We would like to thank you all.

Philip Groves

Front Cover Story

The gardening team have worked hard through the lock down period to keep the museum looking cared for, even though there are no visitors.

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The Newsletter Committee

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A Message from our Honorary President

You can imagine my pleasure when I received a telephone call from the Chairperson of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Board telling me that the Board had unanimously voted to support the resolution to invite me to become the first Honorary President of the museum.

The offer meant so much to me as founder of this tiny but fascinating temple of community heritage. Just in case, however, there are some newcomers to Woodhall Spa or indeed well-established families who are unaware of my connection, here is a small résumé.....

When I first came to Woodhall Spa in 1969, there was little or nothing easily available, that told me much about this more than interesting, small community in the mid-point of this lovely county.



David Radford Honorary President

How did such a beautiful settlement with a Broadway and lofty woods in its centre, together with a popular park with a heated swimming pool nearby, come into being?

Who was this Lady Weigall, once owner of the large house named Petwood, now a renowned hotel with beautiful grounds and gardens, with a connection to The Dambusters!

Who were those possibly illustrious forefathers who had their names enshrined in its avenues? Kirkstead Abbey on the outskirts. What information was there about this stark monument to years gone by?

Then there was the Kinema in the Woods which really was in the woods!

The Arnhem connection? More came tumbling into and sometimes out of my mind!

Faced with those, I suppose I was bound to dig around and ask questions. Eventually, I heard of a mass of photographic plates, items and ephemera that had belonged to a John Wield, one-time bath chair proprietor and local prize-winning photographer.

Helped by local newspaper reporter, Bill Skelton, who introduced me to those who could inform or aid me in my quest for answers and by Richard Porter, then owner of this 'hoard', my newly acquired Wield family and by the use of 'midnight oil,' I set about my task to find them!!

Little did I know about the amount of time and labour this task would take but I was fully supported by my late wife, Wendy and my children. Mr Michael Kelham, the then headmaster of St Hugh's Preparatory School, my employer, plus the Parish Council and East Lindsey District Council were very 'understanding' too!!

A little later, similarly enthused minds within the community, joined a small but increasing band and the home that was once John Wield's, became owned, lock, stock and barrel by the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Trust as the unique showpiece of the collection.

There is lots more to tell, but space is sadly unforgiving! However, I must mention the unstinting support and enthusiasm of the local community, without whom this venture could not have begun. Thirty-three years, hours of voluntary work to preserve memories and conserve artefacts on a professional basis, need the backing of new volunteers to keep the flame of knowledge alive! **Please volunteer if you have a skill of any level to make sure the heritage of our wonderful community is there for our children and for generations to come! You will not be disappointed!**

David Radford (Hon President and Founder)

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Meet the Directors - John Wilkinson

I was elected as a director earlier this year. I am from a 4th generation Woodhall Spa family. My Granddad Caudle and John Wield were both Whitesmiths working for Humphersons in Tattershall Road about 1900. I was born in Alexandra Road a few weeks before the Royal Hydro Hotel was bombed. Apparently I was asleep under the kitchen table at my Grandma's home in King Edward Road.

We moved to King Edward Road before I was old enough for school. I went to school in the village and then to Gartree (now Barnes Wallace) in Tattershall. Growing up in Woodhall Spa was great. Swimming at the Pool, fishing in the Witham, playing in the woods. After Gartree I went to Lincoln Technical College for a year's Engineering Course. In the autumn of 1959 I started a 5 year Electrical Engineering Apprenticeship with the British Thompson Houston Company in Rugby. The company had an Apprentice Hostel at Churchover, near Rugby and about 300 apprentices lived there. I joined the Royal Signals T.A. in 1961 to earn some extra money.



John Wilkinson

In the autumn of 1964 I met my wife Barbara. I changed my job and worked for Dunlop Aviation, then Hawker Siddeley Dynamics in Coventry. In 1966 Barbara and I married and we managed to buy a house in Bedworth. Several times each year we came back to Woodhall Spa on holiday with my family and by 1972 Barbara and I had three children. In 1968 Hawker Siddeley closed their Coventry plant and I was redundant. I found a job at Brico Engineering as an Electronics Technician working on their Petrol Injection System. They had projects with Aston Martin, Rover, Jaguar Cars and others. Redundant again in 1971 I was offered a job at Luca Electrical and I was there until 1974 when I went to work at Jaguar Cars on the V1221 Engine and Emissions Calibration.

I went self employed in 1990 and for the next 13 years worked on car and motorcycle projects before retiring in 2003.

Barbara and I came to live in Woodhall Spa in 2011, I can't think of a better place to live.

John Wilkinson

Volunteer Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is normally held bi-monthly to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors. It is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag! Unfortunately while the current restrictions for Coronavirus are in place the event is POSTPONED.

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From the Collection

For this newsletter I have chosen three views which show features of interest not immediately apparent. The first is the well-known landmark – Tattershall Castle. John Wield took this view around 1900 showing the familiar brick tower with the Collegiate Church and Gatehouse to the left. The interest is that this is a pre-Curzon view revealing losses to the brickwork and vegetation growing from the battlements. The dilapidated castle was up for sale in 1910 and purchased by an American who had already stripped out the fireplaces. Lord Curzon of Kedleston stepped in at the eleventh hour and re-

purchased the building. He rescued the fireplaces on the docks in London and subsequently restored the building and donated it to the National Trust in 1925.



The second view is close to Lincoln; the monument known as the Dunston Pillar. Situated by the A15 south of Lincoln it was originally a land-lighthouse erected in 1751 to guide travellers across the fen in the age of highwaymen. In 1808 the lantern was destroyed by a storm and was replaced by a Coade stone statue of King George III. This is the uncommon photograph we see left. In 1940 it was considered a danger to aircraft and was reduced by 40 feet. The statue was then considered oversized and broken up. The upper part however was set up in Lincoln Castle grounds where it remains. Both the Pillar and statue are now listed 'buildings'



The final postcard view is in part a throwback to Lincolnshire's industrial past. The charming image was taken from the west bank of the River Witham at Dogdyke, again around the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. Apart from the buildings we see a number of river craft as this place was a ferry crossing. As for the buildings those on the far left are the Mills and warehouses of William Sinclair Ltd. William Sinclair started his business in Boston selling seeds to local farmers. They expanded considerably and are now prominent in the horticultural industry. By the 1950s with the closure of the railway situated behind the buildings, the usefulness of the mill was at an end and it closed. The buildings still exist, minus the chimney, as apartments.

The house to the right has been an Inn since the early days of the 20th century though here it looks like a domestic residence. It still exists in an altered state, still as an Inn – the well-known 'Packet Inn'.

Nicholas Duke-Cox

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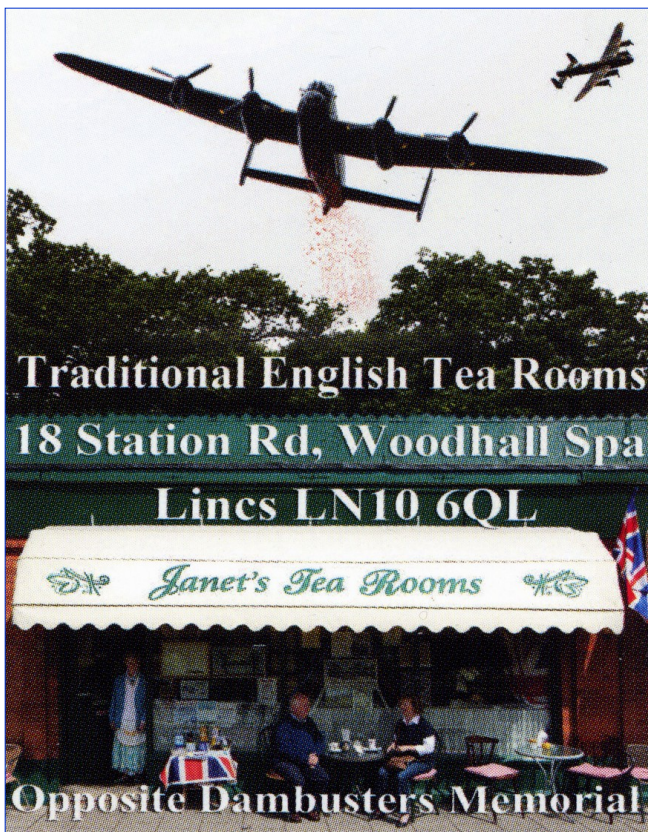
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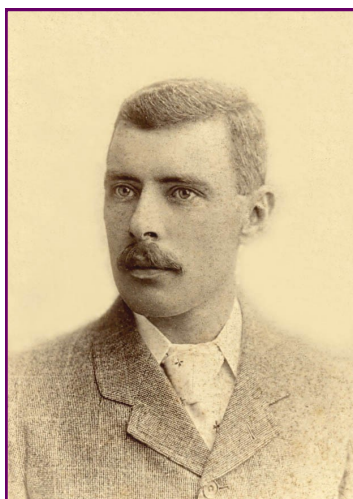
Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Villa Kreuznach unveiled, and Clevedon House School

Kreuznach is a name long associated with the Spa at Woodhall, the spa town of Kreuznach in Germany being the location for very similar spa waters to Woodhall Spa. In the 1880s the consortium of investors keen to develop and promote Woodhall Spa, engaged in a building programme that included a series of boarding houses to cater for a hoped for surge in visitor numbers. Oranienhof was one of the first (now named Longwood House on the corner of Idlesleigh Road and the Broadway), and this was soon followed by the Villa Kreuznach. Built c1887/88, it just failed to be included on the O.S. Map that was published in 1889, and its location has for some time been the subject of discussion as its name does not appear on any known map or plan of Woodhall Spa. It is listed in the 1891 census next to Oranienhof which should place it in the vicinity of the Victoria Hotel, but no definitive evidence has ever been found to confirm where it was sited. Ellen Cartwright, the Boarding and Lodging Keeper in 1891, was the widow of Fowler Cartwright who farmed 620 acres at Abbey Farm, Kirkstead. Ellen was assisted by her daughter Alice Mary Cartwright. On census night there were only three visitors, well short of capacity booking!

By March 1894 however, change was in the air, and Ellen Cartwright gave instructions for the sale by auction of the “valuable and superior furniture”, on the premises at Villa Kreuznach. The auction notice also tells us that the “Mrs Cartwright” had recently purchased Oakhurst Villa in Woodhall Spa. The sale of the furniture is interesting, in that it shows us that her position as Boarding and Lodging House Keeper was more than just as an employee. She had furnished it herself at considerable expense, but tantalisingly the notice does not confirm who the owner of Villa Kreuznach was. Ellen was obviously a widow of some means, as she and her husband had no son to inherit the farm, only one daughter who stayed a spinster. When she purchased Oakhurst was she just adding to her property portfolio? The following month, in the Stamford Mercury of the 27th April 1894, Villa Kreuznach is advertised to let, and it is the details of this advertisement that give us the clues to its exact location. It is clearly a large property with six sitting rooms and ten principal bed and dressing rooms. Heated by hot water it must have had some form of very early central heating. Set in grounds of one acre and with a “Full south aspect, facing the new church” its location is now clearly identifiable, St Peter’s church having not long since been completed. The only building that meets these criteria is the building that is now the Golf Hotel, and that was to become by 1896 the Clevedon House School. The date 1888 is carved into the frontal woodwork of the Golf Hotel, which is precisely when Villa Kreuznach was

KREUZNACH, WOODHALL SPA.
MESSRS. PARISH and SON have received instructions from Mrs. CARTWRIGHT, of Woodhall Spa, who has lately purchased the Villa, Oakhurst, to **SELL by AUCTION**, on the premises, **Kreuznach, Woodhall Spa**, on Thursday, March 15th, 1894, the valuable and superior Household **FURNITURE**,
For particulars see future advertisements and bills.



Ernest Stokoe

thought to have been built. Ellen Cartwright was approaching sixty years of age, and perhaps her boarding house duties were getting too much for her. Her daughter was running Oakhurst, and I would suggest Ellen went to join her. Possibly her health was already failing, as she dies on the 26th Feb 1896. Sadly however, her Will gives no clues to the details of her property ownership.

The new tenants of the Villa Kreuznach building, Ernest Stokoe and Clevedon House School, must have moved in c1895, from a premises elsewhere in Woodhall. The timeline is difficult to follow, but the headmaster for the majority of the following years until the school moved to Yorkshire, appears to have been a gentleman by the name of Ernest William Stokoe. Ernest Stokoe was the second son of Thomas Henry Stokoe (author, ordained minister and schoolmaster), and Sarah Emily Spofforth. He had five brothers and a sister Emily Priscilla. Of the

six Stokoe brothers, four became schoolmasters like their father, one was an engineer in Malaysia for thirty years, and the sixth joined the church like his father and served in India as a chaplain, for many years, before returning to England.

Ernest Stokoe graduated B.A. from Keble College, Oxford in 1886, and in the census for 1891, he is in Woodhall Spa running a very small (unnamed) school from Ellen Lodge, with four pupils, a Matron and two Kitchen/Housemaids. We cannot pinpoint the precise date that the name Clevedon House was added to the school title, but the newspaper advertisement of 1896 advertising for new pupils, is headed Clevedon House School. There is a hint that the name has been in use for a few years as the advertisement refers to the availability of references from "parents of past and present pupils". We can assume that the school was successful, and in the 1901 census (where the school is probably named in error as Clevedon College), there are twenty four pupils, and Ernest's brother Thomas Percy Stokoe is also a teacher at the school.

In the following years there appear to have been changes to the management structure at the school. A biographical entry for a gentleman by the name of Arthur Henry James, a graduate of Christ's College, Oxford in 1888, states that he was headmaster of Clevedon House School, Woodhall Spa from 1903-5. Why Ernest decided to stand down from his role as headmaster is not clear. He had integrated himself into Woodhall Spa society and was a member of several committees running aspects of the Spa, so perhaps he decided to step down from a day to day teaching role in the school. During his time in Woodhall Spa Arthur James must have met Ernest's sister Emily as she and Arthur James were married in 1905.

We do not know for certain whether Ernest Stokoe ever purchased the Villa Kreuznach building or that he just rented it, but I think that the latter option is probably the most likely. In 1905 however, Ernest went into partnership with another schoolmaster and purchased property in Yorkshire where they continued to run Clevedon House School for many more years. Arthur James and his wife Emily moved to another school near Guildford in Surrey.

So chapter two in the life of the Villa Kreuznach came to an end.

Richard Gravestock



Ernest with his brother Thomas and a group of boys at Clevedon House

A Museum Engagement

We were all delighted to hear the news that on 4th May Margaret Reed and Nigel Eborall announced their engagement.

In a message they wrote to all at the museum they wrote:-

"We are pleased to announce our engagement. Our thanks go to all at the Museum who helped to bring this about. Best wishes to all. Margaret and Nigel."



Margaret Reed and Nigel Eborall celebrate

Margaret and Nigel met while volunteering at the museum and are currently working together on the Friends Committee.

They can always be relied upon to lend help and support across a range of events and activities, particularly during the summer months when the Courtyard Cafe is open to visitors.

We send many congratulations to them and wish them both a long and happy life together in their new home.


Gill Noble

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 text 'Kirkstead Old Mill Cottage B & B' is overlaid in large yellow letters at the top.

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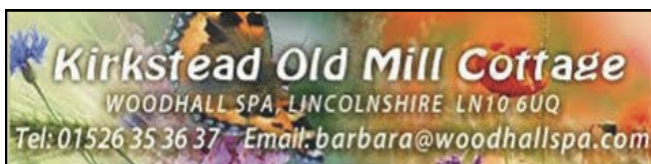
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Bertha Remembers Spanish Flu

July 1920

Dear Readers,

I have been worried because my friend, Annie, has been poorly with `flu and Perce recalled the terrible time two years ago, when Spanish `flu spread everywhere. They called it that because Spain was badly hit - even their king had it - and uncensored newspapers there spread the news.

Then there were headlines like, "People Dying All Over the World," "Streets Sprayed in Cities." "Mufflers and Face Masks in Short Supply." We got a shock when our Prime Minister, Mr. David Lloyd George, contracted it - what hope was there for us ordinary folk?

It was particularly sad because the war was ending (maybe sooner because of `flu in the German army) and many families had already lost loved ones. Hospitals were full of the wounded. Afterwards, people said returning soldiers and Armistice celebrations spread the disease.

It arrived in Lincolnshire, at the busy port of Grimsby, in Spring 1918 but in Woodhall Spa we were protected by being in quiet countryside. Even so, there were several cases and the National School was closed for weeks that winter.

Somebody said that taking a small white tablet of aspirin could help but others said it could make you worse. A

rumour spread that you should eat porridge and shops started running out of oats.

Jack Overton, he's seven now, son of the greengrocer on Tattershall Road, caught the `flu, not badly but he was confined to bed. He got up when he heard drums of a Victory Parade and watched it from his bedroom.

A new rhyme went round and I saw children skipping to it on Albany Road:-

*I had a little bird,
Its name was Enza,
I opened the window
And in - flu - enza.*

Surely there will never be anything like that dreadful pandemic again?



The Overton's Greengrocers shop in Tattershall Road

Bertha
July 1920

Marjorie Sargeant

WORM, MOTH, BEETLE, HONEY BEE, LADYBIRD, CENTIPEDE, WASP, CRANEFLY, BUTTERFLY, GNAT,
Answers to Puzzle 3

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POPPY'S PAGE Hello again everyone. I celebrated my 10th Birthday in May and my owner took this photo of me with my new red collar - a birthday present. I hope you and your family are all well at this difficult time. I still get my regular walks, but everybody we meet keeps their distance from us. It is really strange! Let's hope things are back to normal soon.

Bye, Poppy



A Page of Puzzles to Keep You Busy!

We have prepared 3 Puzzles to keep you busy during these unusual times.

PUZZLE 1 A GARDEN BIRD WORD SEARCH

H	B	S	R	O	B	I	N	X	K
C	L	M	Q	D	R	E	Y	M	L
N	A	P	I	W	A	L	P	A	I
I	C	U	C	K	O	O	Z	G	A
F	K	W	I	H	F	B	W	P	T
D	B	G	M	J	S	O	H	I	G
L	I	Z	E	V	R	U	E	E	A
O	R	H	Q	C	U	L	R	V	W
G	D	U	N	N	O	C	K	H	A
Y	A	J	B	L	U	E	T	I	T

Can you find these garden birds hidden in the grid?

BLUE TIT, ROBIN, THRUSH, WAGTAIL, DUNNOCK, GOLDFINCH, MAGPIE, JAY, CUCKOO, CROW

PUZZLE 2

HOW MANY DIFFERENT WORDS CAN YOU MAKE USING THE LETTERS IN "CATERPILLAR"

PUZZLE 3

CAN YOU REARRANGE THE LETTERS IN THESE WORDS TO FIND THE "MINI BEASTS THAT LIVE IN THE MUSEUM GARDEN?"

OMWR HMT0 EBETEL NEYOH EBE IDBYLDAR
PIDECEENT PAWS NAFLRECY TERFUBTLY TNAG

Answers on Page 16



WILLOW HOLT

Caravan & Camping Park

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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Committee

Chairman: Nigel Eborall

Secretary: Judy Everitt

Membership Secretary: Margaret Reed

Committee Members: Gill Noble
Philip Groves

Dear Friends

For the last few months we "Friends" have had our programme disrupted in the same way as everyone else.

We had to cancel our much-anticipated Hotchkiss Lecture, but hopefully we will be able to re-schedule it for next year. Other activities we had in the pipeline have progressed no further than the ideas stage, and most importantly we were no longer able to host our monthly Coffee Mornings. Nevertheless, we are pleased to say that Membership renewals are strong, and we have received a number of very welcome donations – some quite substantial. Our grateful thanks to all concerned. The income from these subscriptions and donations is especially important this year, as we have no other source of revenue.

Finally, the Annual Memorial Lecture scheduled for November is in the balance. We have not, at this stage, cancelled it, but it is entirely dependant on developments whether or not it can go ahead. We will keep you informed if the Lecture, or any other activities, are able to take place.

Until the situation normalises, we wish all 'Friends' the very best, and we look forward to meeting up again as soon as that may be possible.

Nigel Eborall



What's On Guide

At present all events are either cancelled or held over to 2021

For the latest information visit

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

150 Club Winners

March 2020

£20 [24] John Hammonds
£15 [35] Julie Czajkowski
£10 [126] Jayne Thornalley

April 2020

£20 [17] Judith Haddock
£15 [64] Eric Sargeant
£10 [47] Christine Sharp

May 2020

£20 [112] Sam Evison
£15 [79] Brian Smith
£10 [144] Keith Logan

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

