

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.5



Talking about our Re-Generation!

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

Ok, so we're obviously having fun on the front page having raided our dressing up box, but there is a serious message there. The Museum is preparing itself for change, a whole new episode, an expansion, a bigger future, **a re-generation**.

Rodger, who has put a great deal of work into this venture, goes into more detail on the page opposite but what I can say is basically we're going to have to speculate to accumulate. In layman's terms we need £25,000 of our own money in order to have a chance of the heritage jackpot. So putting aside my own gravitation toward frittering my time away on daydreaming and generally messing about I am organizing a musical afternoon in Coronation Hall on the 22nd August the profit from which will be split between Help for Heroes and the Cottage Museum regeneration fund. Full details are on page 9: If it's your thing please come along and have a look. If it isn't then perhaps you could organize something that is more to your liking, the challenge is on!

In the meantime summer is finally here. After months of icy winds and dreadful rain, the skies are clear but for the tell tale signs of jet plane trails and wispy cotton wool clouds and at night the moon shines out like a diamond in soot. Ah! the bee-like drone of a thousand lawnmowers snaking up and down their strips of this green and pleasant land, the smell of freshly cut grass drifting through my nostrils, the welcome glare of the sunset dancing off the neighbourhood windows...

I'll give it a week before people are complaining about how hot it is!!

Mat Tuck





LOTTERY FUNDED

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Development Proposals

On the 10 December 2009, I received a surprise phone call that left me feeling both elated and very anxious at the same time. The reason, our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) case officer had rung to say that our £400,000+ grant application had been awarded a Round 1 pass. HLF had also agreed to give the museum an immediate £64,600 grant to complete all the work needed to support the Round 2 application for the full £400,000+ grant. The elation was pleasure that all the work carried out by the development committee to prepare the Round 1 Application had been successful. The anxiety was at all the further work needed to prepare the Round 2 Application and its supporting documentation, ideally by December 2010!

So why do we need this phenomenal amount of money from HLF? The money will be used to conserve the main museum building, redesign the displays and significantly improve the storage and work areas. It will also allow the museum to be able to offer additional research facilities to those interested in the history and heritage of this once famous Spa and its inhabitants.

The main museum building, The Bungalow, is a very rare Boulton and Paul pre-fabricated, corrugated iron building that was erected on its present site in 1887. The aim of the planned conservation is to fully refurbish the building and to sympathetically introduce insulation and a greener form of heating to reduce the overall running costs. This will ensure that it will remain available for the benefit of future generations. The opportunity will also be taken to improve and update the museum's displays; the challenge here is to do this without detracting from the museum's present charm that is so liked by our visitors.

Visitors to the museum will be aware of the dilapidated outbuildings to the rear of the museum that used to be the workshops, photographic studio and donkey stable. At present, a small back room in The Bungalow is our meeting room; work room and storage area. The proposal is to fully refurbish the outbuildings to provide a good sized meeting/work room; an artefact storage area; a community archive that will house the museum's library and computer suite and a new display area for the museum's donkey drawn bath-chair.

Where do we go from here? Whilst we are back in competition with other projects at Round 2, the HLF website does say that 5 out of 6 Round 1 passes result in the award of a Round 2 grant. Furthermore, HLF would not award the museum the Round 1 Grant unless they believed in the museum and its future viability. In addition to all the paperwork required for the Round 2 application, there is the financial commitment. The museum needs to find £25,000 worth of donations and sponsorship for the project and additional matched funding – no mean feat in the present financial climate! There is still a great deal of work to do and we are keen to find volunteers to assist with the project planning and fund raising tasks. This is a unique opportunity to assist in improving this very valuable community asset. If you feel you can assist or want more information, please contact me on 01526 353184.

Rodger Pickavance

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Meet the Directors: Jackie Goodall

Born in 1951, Jackie hails originally from Burnley in Lancashire and has lived in Barnsley, Peterborough, Cambridge, Faringdon and Walton on Thames before arriving in Woodhall Spa. Having trained as a teacher she spent over twenty years working with young people between the ages of four and sixteen, some of whom were disadvantaged and difficult pupils. During her career she held the position of Special



Needs coordinator, year leader, deputy head, then acting head teacher,

In 1996 Jackie decided to change her career and became a partner in her husband's business. For nearly twenty years they have specialised in the renovation and sale of antique boxes. Now retired, antiques remain 'in the blood' and searching markets and antique fairs for 'little gems' can be classed as one of her hobbies! Other interests include reading, cooking, craft work and visiting the theatre.

Jackie moved to the outskirts of the village in 1998 living in a house built on the site of Kirkby Moor army camp. Fronted by nature reserves containing some of Parkinson's first oak plantation and surrounded on the other three sides

by Forestry Commission land, the development of a wildlife friendly garden and trying to grow vegetables has become a challenging hobby. The surrounding woods have a thriving bird population; deer, foxes, stoats and of course rabbits are regular visitors; the woods also provide an ideal place to walk her two dogs.

Jackie first became involved with the Cottage Museum in 2002 when she was asked to help with the museum's photographic archive. Once her educational background became known she was asked to develop activities with local schools. Always up for a challenge and enjoying new projects Jackie managed the successful 'Creating Memories' and the 'Treasure Box' projects both of these being given Heritage awards. Her interest has also led to her becoming a community governor at St. Andrew's Primary School.

Jackie has recently been elected Chairman of the Cottage Museum and recognises that, although David Radford, the previous Chairman will be a hard act to follow, with the support of the many volunteers the museum will continue to thrive and play an important role within the community. Exciting and challenging times lie ahead. The successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid to enable the refurbishment of the museum and the development of much needed work and collection care space is already underway.

Jackie has endeavoured to develop links with the Heritage community of the East Midlands and to this end she represents the museum at various events. She is a member of the East Midland's specialist learning panel which is responsible for the development of good practice throughout the region. Until recently she was chair of the Lincolnshire Heritage Forum, a network of over fifty museums and heritage sites.

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Cottage Museum

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Cottage
Museum
opened on
2nd April and
will close on
the 11th
November

Newsletter No.5

What Our Visitors are Saying

We are now some 10 weeks into the 2010 season and already there have been 1334 visitors through the door, including 149 children. This is up on last year, so hopefully we are on track for a bumper year. Visitors so far have come from as far afield as Sri Lanka, Southern Australia and the USA. As usual many leave comments in the visitors' book. Here is a selection of their comments.

JF of Sleaford	"A real treasure house"
VB of Lancaster	"A lovely visit, with many things we must not forget about"
CD of Fiskerton	"Nice displays"
SG of Poulton-le-Fylde	"Very well put together collection"
SB of Boston	"What a wonderful find. I thoroughly enjoyed it all"
M of Stoke on Trent	"Awesome"
MB of Bury St. Edmunds	"Very interesting – hope to come again".
EL of Chelmsford	"Another most interesting visit"
J & P A of Lincoln	"A very interesting find. The attendant was charming and informative. A real pleasure"
MD of Coningsby	"I like the Army models".
HCV of Leicester	"Nice varied exhibition – thank you"
C of Kensington	"Just like my old days"
PB of Rugby	"Very good and nice to be able to bring my dogs in – thank you"
M & D of Cleveland	"Really enjoyed visit, lovely staff too"
CW of Macon USA	"Very enjoyable displays"

As always some very complimentary comments. If you have not been to the Museum recently why not pay a visit. All the displays have been redesigned, giving a totally different experience. The Museum is open every day from 10.30 am until 4.30 pm until Remembrance Sunday and costs only £1.50 for adults – children go free.

Philip Groves
Museum Director
June 2010

Can I say a big thank you to all those volunteers who manned the drinks station at the 3km point of the Woodhall 10k. I, for one, appreciated their smiling faces and good natured encouragement as I battled round for my 56:05—Mat the editor

After an unexpectedly good showing in the 2009 WI quiz eventually finishing 3rd out of 16 teams, the returning Museum foursome had high hopes of repeating their bronze medal position in the 2010 event. True to form they were lying 2nd after 6 rounds. Then disaster, a particularly wayward Flora and Fauna round (you mean fauna can be animals as well???) and a few too many lagers and we dramatically imploded. Eventually finishing in a morass of dodgy answers and blurred vision we trailed in 11th but fear not we have vowed to come back and fight



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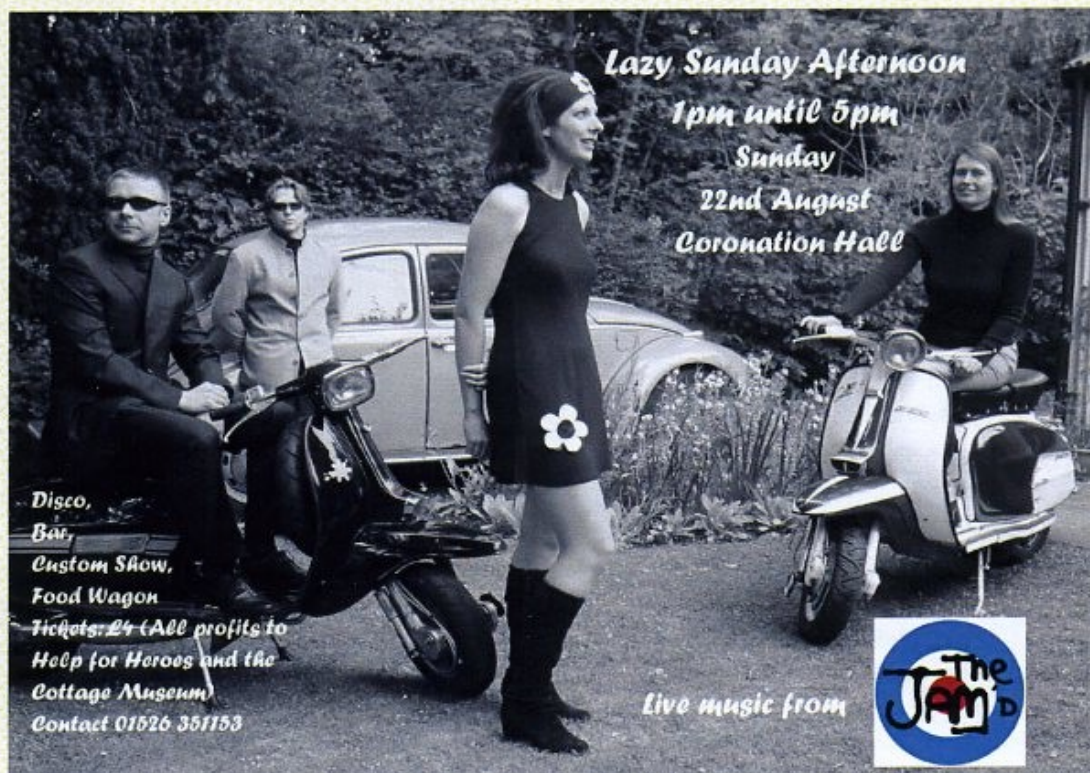
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On my Radio...

On the 28th April the museum received a visit from BBC Radio Four's Making History programme. The reason for their trip to Woodhall Spa was to produce a programme on the Spa Baths and how the significance of this historic building is measured with regards to national heritage protection measures.

The programme presenter, Vanessa Collingridge, and Nick Patrick, the series editor, were met by museum director Karen Shanahan and were introduced to a selection of local experts on Woodhall Spa and the Spa Baths. These were Michael Czajkowski and Charles Hughes, representing the Woodhall Spa Heritage Committee, David Radford the Founder Chairman of the museum and, museum director and local author Marjorie Sargeant. The recording took place at the museum and at the Spa Baths site and included an interview with Robert Walker the Conservation Officer from East Lindsey District Council.

The programme was broadcast on Tuesday 8th June and can be heard by accessing the Making History Website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxdc>.

Karen Shanahan

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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The Story of a Storm Boat Motor: By Jackie Goodall

Once upon a time a small museum in Lincolnshire decides to tell a story. It is about 3,000 soldiers who, in 1944 were based in Woodhall Spa, trained there and went to Arnhem. They were taken by Horsa glider to Holland but only 471 returned. The rest were either killed or taken prisoner. The museum team has produced a display about this and is raising money for a memorial stone to be placed in the museum's grounds.

The local community and various veteran groups are very supportive, and continue to give generously. This has enabled the stone to be purchased, and the Kinema in the Woods booked, so that there could be an afternoon when residents, veterans representatives regimental associations and local organisations can, free of charge, sit down to an amazing experience. The afternoon will include the famous Compton organ being played, a short film and sing-along, and the screening of the famous vintage film 'Theirs is the Glory'. Local schools have become interested in the project and are working together to produce an exhibition based on the theme 'War and Peace'. The exhibition is going to be in St. Peter's Hall and all this is planned to take place on September 18th 2010.

Far away in Holland a gentleman called Robert Sigmund had, for years, studied the history of the battle. He was a volunteer librarian at the Hartenstein Museum Oosterbeek and has written regimental books about Operation Market Garden. He organises the annual Arnhem weekend and publishes the commemorative book. He allowed the small Lincolnshire museum to have a full page in the 65th anniversary publication so that it could appeal for veterans who were based in Woodhall Spa to come forward and tell their story and some have!

A few months later, the chairman of the museum received a phone call from Canada. A gentleman named Bill McVean had been to the Arnhem weekend and spoken with Robert Sigmund. He wanted the little museum to tell how the 23rd Company of Royal Canadian Engineers were called upon to cross the lower Rhine and rescue as many of the besieged airborne troops as possible. This was achieved by the use of storm boats. Mr. McVean now owns one of the storm boat motors and has loaned it to the museum in order that this story could be told as well.

The storm boat motor is to be delivered to the museum shortly, where it will be seen by lots of visitors. As a result of ongoing conversations arranging for this to happen, the chairman received the following email from Bill.

Dear Jackie:

I have just been informed of the passing of Russell Kennedy, the man who operated the last storm boat to bring airborne troops out of Oosterbeek at the conclusion of the Battle of Arnhem. We had become great friends. I visited him two days before his death, he was as happy as I am about the motor, and its new home. We also talked about a new theory for the failure of Market Garden. Although Russ was 93 years old, he drove a car and was fully independent. I am so pleased I was able to tell him of the finalized plans for the motor, it means a great deal to me to have been able to tell him, as it would be the last time I saw him. Thank you for what you did to make this possible.

Best regards

Bill

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A 16 year Old's perspective of Woodhall Spa

Woodhall Spa is not known for its vibrant youth culture. However, we don't need a bustling city with a stream of Starbucks or a shopping complex to keep us entertained. On our own doorstep we have a variety of options to keep us occupied. Bainland and Jubilee Park provide the fitness factor with tennis courts, golf and swimming pool, film entertainment from the Kinema and the Coronation Hall holds a regular youth club for 11-19 year olds, offering activities such as dj'ing, pop and rock music production, arts and crafts as well as day trips out to go go-karting and to visit talent shows which many may not have the opportunity to do otherwise. Courses in Hair and Beauty and First Aid, both beneficial qualifications for career paths, are also available.

The graffiti that blights the side wall may reflect the angst of our local generation or simply a knee-jerk copy-cat response to outside influences. Fortunately Woodhall hasn't been as big a victim of vandalism as other villages. However there is a noticeable deterioration of standards. The BBC News once stated that Britain's teenagers are among the most badly behaved in Europe. I don't think Woodhall Spa's teenagers reflect this as the pre-dominant older generation help to keep a healthy balance and enable us to get on in life. The council and local businesses put a lot of effort into maintaining a well kept village. Our image reflects our attitude and so contributes to the lack of anti-social behavior and the friendly atmosphere in Woodhall Spa. In the current problematic times, many may indulge in crime because they lack a sense of belonging to a community, which we could relate perhaps to the bank break-in attempts and drugs discoveries in the last year. Places such as The Coronation Hall are putting their efforts into popularizing social values, inevitably having a knock on effect to the wider community and society.

Our generation is surrounded by media influences and constantly plugged into technology, as if it's some sort of life saving device which we have become dependent on, and addicted to. Relentlessly having to be entertained and switched on to everything that's happening. Feeling rejected if we don't fit the mould that the media falsely promotes, forced to carve out our own identity resulting in lack of true values, shallowness and a materialistic lifestyle, confiding through technology instead of direct human interaction.

Family values are a core asset with parents showing respect and not remaining fuddy-duddy but being empathetic, non-condemning and willing to listen. In return and most probably in time, the child will reciprocate.

Nearby villages such as Horncastle and Coningsby host regular events; musical social and sporting entertainment. The Coronation hall has frequent hobbies such as Salsa, Yoga and Spinning classes. The Youth club, held every Monday 6.30pm-9pm and Thursday from 7pm-9pm, welcomes old and new members. For more information you can contact the Youth development workers Sarah Ward sarah.ward@lincolnshire.gov.uk and Viv Cross on viv.cross@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Sarah Richards

Newsletter No.5

Richard Everard Webster, the 1st Viscount Alverstone

In my first article on the first Viscount Alverstone, I promised to share more with you in the next issue, so mightily impressed was I by this founding father who gave his name to one of our leafy avenues!

In a press obituary which announced his death in 1915, Dick, as he was popularly known, received the accolade "One of England's best-loved public men." This was closely followed by, "An athlete in his youth"... and that before his other great public achievements!!

So how did this come about?

Dick started his gentleman's education at King's College School and Charterhouse going on from there to Trinity College, Cambridge.

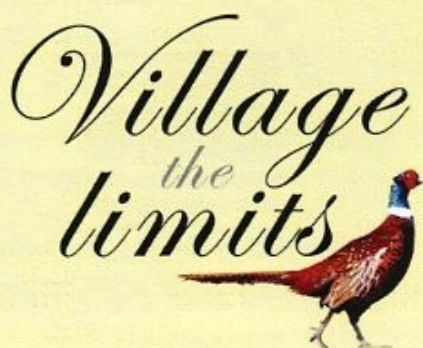
His sporting prowess soon came to the fore and he represented his college at the first Inter-Varsity steeplechase in 1864. Dick came second in that race. The next year, however, he won the mile and two mile races! He had frequently done the mile in 4 minutes 30 seconds it is reported! The Cambridge Alverstone Club was named after him and, it seems, a variation on The Lord's Prayer was dedicated to him ending in, 'For thine is the club, the tie and the track, For ever and ever, Amen!!'

Cycling was one of the pursuits of the age and Dick was one of the earliest enthusiasts. Then in his middle aged years tennis beckoned but at 60 golf won!

He maintained his interest in cricket and foot-racing and refereed races for the early Amateur Athletic Club and set the rules for long jump and shot put. No mean cricketer, he was President of Surrey County Cricket Club from 1895 until his death in 1915 and of the Marylebone Cricket Club in 1903!

I wonder what he would think of World Cup soccer's invasion of the time the good Lord had set aside for sunny cricket!!

David Radford



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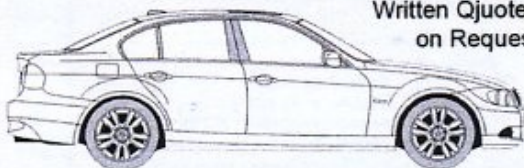


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David Radford retires as Chairman

On the evening of 22 April 2010 David thought he was attending the museum AGM , followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors . Little did he know that this was merely a smokescreen designed to camouflage a surprise party arranged to celebrate his twenty five years “committed and enthusiastic service” to the museum .

All past trustees of the museum were invited, together with Hannah Gould, Lincolnshire Museum Development Officer, and the Cottage Museum Directors. Patricia Duke-Cox , a former trustee , gave a humorous account of David’s love affair with the museum during the past 25 years and presented him with a silver case and a memory stick, holding many photographs from the museum archives. David’s wife, Wendy , was presented with a “Silver Jubilee” rose bush .



Patricia Duke-Cox
making the presentation



David and Wendy following
the presentation

There followed a most enjoyable evening sharing anecdotes and memories of yesteryear, aided by wine, canapés and nibbles .

The following evening the Abbey Lodge was the venue for the Annual Cottage Museum Dinner and David was presented with a framed watercolour painting of the museum by David Hill.

David with his painting



Why Woodhall Spa?
This engrossing 87 minute DVD is narrated by Alan Stennett the well-known author and broadcaster. It traces the remarkable tale of this unique Lincolnshire Spa from its earliest beginnings to the present day. It tells the story of the Kinema in the Woods, the Spa's wartime connections with 617 Squadron (The Dam-busters) and the Arnhem operation, plus many more stories relating to the Spa. The DVD is priced at £10.00 and can be obtained from the Museum, selected local retailers, or on-line at: [Lincolnshire Heritage Forum](http://LincolnshireHeritageForum)

Newsletter No.5

The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Museum

Committee Members

Chairman	Pam Cowlshaw	01526 352112
	Ann Houlton	01526 352323
	Paddy O'Neill	01526 354982
	Isabel Swift	01526 352546

Those of you who were at the Annual Dinner on 23rd April will know that the planned speaker, Mr J Green, owner of the Kinema in the Woods, had fallen a victim of the Icelandic volcano and was stuck in New York on the day in question. Very fortunately Kate Witney was able to bring forward her planned visit for the 2nd July and entertained us right royally in song and word. Our grateful thanks go to her. At the dinner a tribute was made to David Radford who stood down as Chairman of the Board of Directors of our museum the evening before, a post he has held since before it opened in 1987. I am sure that you agree with me in wishing him well in his retirement and thank him for all of the support, encouragement and dedication he has given in his 25 years at the helm. We should also welcome Jackie Goodall who has been elected Chairman to replace David. Good luck Jackie for the next 25 years.

There have been 5 other events so far this year. The trip to Haddon Hall on the 13th May was a resounding success and enjoyed by all who went. Despite the heat we also manned a stall at the Woodhall Show on Sunday 23rd May. There were a good stream of visitors to our tables and a creditable £150 was taken.

Next on the agenda was the evening in the Cottage Museum on 18th June. There was French bread, cheese and a glass of wine on offer. Visitors were also invited to test their knowledge of small ancient farm and household implements. The cost of the evening was £4 for members and £5 for guests.

As mentioned above Kate Witney was not with us on 2nd July so we invited Valerie Marshall to come and talk to us about St Petersburg and the treasures of the Russian Hermitage museum. The evening started at 7.30 pm in the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Cromwell Avenue. A glass of wine and nibbles was on offer and the event cost £4 for members and £5 for guests. Finally, the usual tombola stall and games were taken to the Tattershall Thorpe 40's weekend on 10/11th July. Many thanks go to all who helped man the stalls.

The trip to Norwich will go ahead as planned on 18th October at a cost of £15 for the coach. The time in Norwich will be free time for you to do as you wish.

I can also confirm that the trip to see the wonders of Belvoir Castle dressed up for Christmas will go ahead on 8th December. More details later but we have ascertained that the coach will be able to go right up to the door of the castle and there will be opportunities to get a meal if you so wish.

Please don't forget the Friends AGM at 2.30pm on 27th August at the RC Church Hall. As well as the formalities there will be a guest speaker.

If you wish to book in for any of the events above, or offer help at the Family Fun Day at the Conservative Club please get in touch with any of the committee members listed at the top of the page.



Woodhall Spa
Forthcoming Attractions of an
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July 2010

www.woodhallspa.org

21st July: Classics at the
Kinema—Sunset Boule-
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31st July: Woodhall Spa
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day Afternoon" 1pm til
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