

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.6



Woodhall Spa: The Movie!



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### A Note from the Editor

The 6th Newsletter in our recent series. Over the last five, we've chatted about the past in quite some depth, you and me: we've discussed the railway, the mine, the rise and fall of the Spa, some of us have even re-enacted it! We've even spent time solving crosswords about the past and even gone on a little treasure hunt through events in history. It's all quite exciting, it's all very interesting but, well, how can I put it? It's all in the past and it belongs to someone else.

We're all ticking over on our life's journey, meandering through our daily tasks, stitching our own historical quilt until it fits the bed of our lives and we pass on the needle to another generation. That's fine but I've got a hankering for a special patch on that quilt so what I propose to do is make a memory for my life's quilt. One that's just that bit more colourful, just that bit more interesting, to give me one more memory that when I look back on my long journey and across my patchwork, I'll pause for a while on this one and perhaps have a self-satisfied smile.

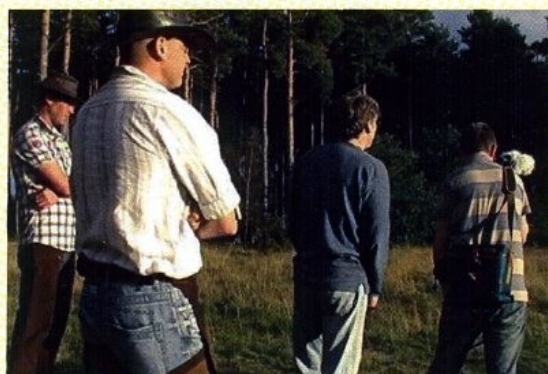
I'm going to give it a go! I've set out on a journey of discovery that might put me and Storm on the map: I'm going to make my mark and if you let me I'm going to take you with me. We're going to go there, get the patch and then we're going to come back and add it to our quilt! You and me are going to make a film, or more accurately, Woodhall Spa's going to make a film and I'm inviting you to be in it. It's by us, for us, and I'm so confident in you I've already booked the Kinema for a premier on December 3rd. Don't let me down!

The script is written, the local film maker primed, Woodhall Spa's music makers are busy writing the score, establishments have given over their premises, farmers their animals and real actors harangued for their time on facebook. I've even booked the band for the post-premier party. I know what you're thinking: well, I know what you're thinking apart from "Where do cowboys come into the history of Woodhall Spa?" You're thinking, "How can I be part of this?" Well its easy. Peruse the newsletter, read all the pages and you'll find 5 questions. Ring 01526 351153 and answer all 5 correctly and hey presto! Me and you are going to Hollywood via the Kinema!

..oh and I'll let you in on a little secret. There are no cowboys in Woodhall Spa's history but that hasn't stopped me weaving them into the film!

Good luck one and all!

### Mat Tuck





## Newsletter 6

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### From the Museum Collection

Looking after the museum's collection of photographs, postcards and negatives can be both fascinating and frustrating and over future issues of the newsletter I hope to give you an insight into some of our 6700 items. I also hope that it will prompt you to look out your collection of photographs and allow us to copy any that you have of Woodhall Spa and its surroundings. We are particularly interested in the 1940s – 1970s, but also earlier and later ones – today is tomorrow's history. If you can help please contact me on 01526 353184. If we can arrange a mutually convenient time, then I can scan them in whilst you wait. I am also at the museum every Tuesday morning with other members of the photographic team.

PH00763 This atmospheric picture is from a postcard, possibly taken by John Wield. It appears to be The Broadway. The building in the middle of the picture looks like St Peter's Church, which would mean that the water from the hose is squirting into the grounds of the Golf Hotel. The problem is the sign on the left-hand side. The second word on the top line is probably Hotel, but the others cannot be read. If we have the location right, then it would be in the grounds of the Alexandra Hospital. Puzzling! We assess that, from the dress and lorry that it was probably taken around the time of the First World War. It is possibly a demonstration by Woodhall Spa Urban District Council Fire Brigade. Is the water coming from a fire hydrant; no one is manning the tender pump?



PH001170a This print is taken from a damaged John Wield glass plate negative. The first set of questions are who are the people and where and when was it taken? The lady looks terrified and the gentleman bored. Then you look closer at the tricycle and more questions arise. Do the 2 levers just steer the tricycle or power it? If they power it, then I cannot figure out how the movement of the levers drives the wheels and how would it be steered? Does the box under the seat have a battery and motor in it, it looks rather small for that, especially if it is to pull the bath chair. Answers on a £20 note (The development fund needs it!).



Rodger Pickavance



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### Meet the Directors: Pam Cowlshaw



Treasurer and Chair of Friends  
of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Born a yellow belly in Barton-Upon-Humber, although not about to prove it, Pam has returned to the county of her birth after spending many years living and working in Buckinghamshire. Pam was brought up and educated in Knipton, a small village near Belvoir Castle. She joined the WRAF in 1963 and served on a number of bases, including RAF Binbrook, for 5 years. Following her marriage to Brian in 1968 they lived in Germany for 2 years and on return to England she worked as a civil servant with the Ministry of Defence. Her career involved a number of roles including human resources, finance and strategic planning, culminating in a posting, in February 2001, to RAF Coningsby to manage their multimillion pound budget.

Following retirement Pam has immersed herself in village life, at various times helping with RNLI fund raising, the Witham Ladies Probus as well as the Cottage Museum.

As Treasurer, Chairman of the Friends of the Cottage Museum and other minor roles her time is very much occupied but what free time she does have, she enjoys reading, theatre going, and spending time with her family and friends

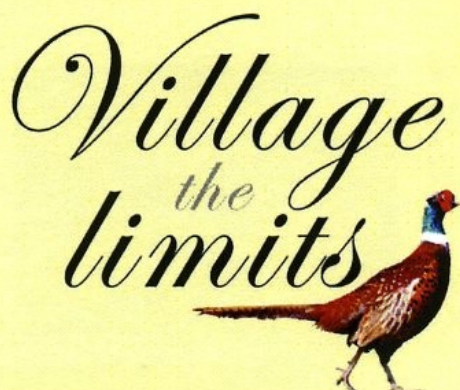
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Cottage Museum

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(1) What was  
the year and  
month of the  
Dambusters  
raid?

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### Dedication of the Arnhem Memorial

On Saturday morning, 18th. September a large congregation assembled in the garden of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum to dedicate a memorial to the men who were billeted in Woodhall Spa and the surrounding areas in 1944, before being airlifted to fight at Arnhem as part of Operation Market Garden. Of the 2320 men who left Woodhall Spa only 471 returned after 9 days of fierce fighting. Veterans of the battle mingled with Civic Dignitaries, including The High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, John Godfrey, The Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Tony Worth, invited guests and members of the public, to pay tribute to fallen comrades.



The Service of Dedication was introduced by Revd. Andrew Smith Priest in Charge, St. Peter's Church, Woodhall Spa. The Revd. Colin Watkins, Minister, Woodhall Spa Methodist Church, conducted the dedication of the memorial. The hymn "Abide With Me" was then sung to the accompaniment of The Mareham-le-Fen Victory Silver Band. Last Post was sounded, followed by the "Ode To The Fallen" spoken by Father John O'Donnell, Parish Priest, Church of Our Lady and St Peter Roman Catholic Church, Woodhall Spa. After two minutes silence, Reveille was sounded and Revd. Andrew Smith read "The Airborne Prayer and Blessing".

Wreaths were then laid, led by The Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, followed by representatives of the Veterans and Regimental Associations.

Lunch was provided at St. Peter's Church Hall for The Veterans and guests, followed by the showing of the vintage film "Theirs Is The Glory" at The Kinema in the Woods, together with community singing to the accompaniment of The Compton Kinestra Organ. An exhibition of work by local schools entitled "War and Peace" was staged in St. Peter's Hall during the afternoon.

The local Air Training Corps provided valuable assistance throughout the day, including looking after the Veterans and Arnhem Veteran Eric Booth donated £100 to the local ATC.

All who attended the dedication were touched by the occasion, which was very emotional at times, but also had moments of great humour and camaraderie.

### Phil Groves

Annual Lecture  
13th November 2010  
2.30pm  
English Golf Union  
"When Dragon Flew"  
About the Battle for Arnhem  
Please ring 01526 352112 for tickets



### A Fresh Pair of Eyes:

From a young person's perception, without being prompted, Arnhem means little or nothing. In very much the same way, I imagine that a young person, if asked, in 1944, about a battle that took place in the 1890s, would equally have little or no knowledge of the subject, who was involved, or what it was about.

However, once I had read-up on the story of Arnhem from information gleaned from the internet, I did find it a fascinating read. The first thing that became apparent from the story is how complicated it must have been to organize all those men and their equipment to be in the right place at the right time and to have to work with equipment that was not fit for purpose, such as inaccurate maps and walkie-talkies with low communication range. Also, intelligence information gathered was both misleading and inaccurate; the British troops were told the Germans were poorly equipped and that their moral was low, which proved to be completely wrong. Add to this poor weather conditions and it made for an incredible difficult and dangerous operation to perform, with the chances of success being very limited. Yet despite all the obstacles these people fought bravely, with little thought for their own safety, determined to do the job to the very best of their ability, with the information and tools they had been given.

From a young person's point of view, it is helpful to be reminded of the hardship that these people endured and overcame and to put into perspective some of the problems that beset us today, which are quite trivial by comparison. We must learn to use our initiative to sort out our day-to-day problems and be more accommodating in helping each other. Thanks to battles like Arnhem, despite its failings for the allied forces, the tyranny of Nazi Germany was defeated and Arnhem had played its part in enabling us to live in a free and open democracy, as opposed to communist countries such as China and totalitarian states like North Korea and we should remember and appreciate that.

### Sarah Richards

The Last Post







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## Newsletter 6

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### Our Woodhall Spa's Forefathers continued.....

Newsletter readers will remember the Right Honourable Henry Chaplin (1841-1923), the first Viscount Chaplin, member of the syndicate which planned the expansion of the then tiny Woodhall Spa, and who had his family seat at Blankney Hall, Lincolnshire. His social circle was of the highest in the land and included the future Edward VII amongst its august members! Thanks to the wonders of cyberspace, some emails from Ernie Sealey in Cheshire arrived in my inbox as I browsed its contents here in Lincolnshire a little while ago! Thank you, Ernie, for giving me permission to share elements of their interesting and informative contents with our readers. One of the stories of our sporting country squire told the graphic tale and its consequences of his victory in the 1867 Derby with Hermit. This exceptional chestnut stallion had won despite running in a snowstorm at 1000:15 odds in a race with 10 false starts!! We are now taken into the second of the hunting, shooting and fishing country gentleman's pursuits and I quote.....

"Just a little bit more info on Henry Chaplin for you. After his win at the 1867 Derby he went to the "toffs gun shop" Purdey and ordered four 12 bore shot guns. The only survivor of the four is still in use today though I do not use it as often as I once did."

Ernie went on to describe how he had come across a wreck of a gun in a dealer's car, managed to scrape the money together to buy it (he was only 20!) as it had the magical name 'Purdey' inscribed on it. "after nearly seven and a half years and the cost of what sometimes did feel like every penny I earned I shot the gun for the first time. But in the end it is a vintage Purdey gun and you can count the number of owners of such guns on one hand and to be in your twenties well no words can describe what you feel."

Ernie went on to give further details...

Maker: James Purdey 3141/2 Oxford Street London, Year of Manufacture: 1869, Construction: Side by Side Bar in Wood, Thumb Leaver Action, Hammer Gun, Gauge :12, Barrels: 30 inch Damascus steel, Nitro proof.

"It was not until 2007 that I contacted Purdey to see who they initially built the gun for. It did not seem to matter to me until I wrote a small article on the trials and tribulations of restoring the gun of that age and value in the 1970s. Two interesting facts came out of their letter other than Henry Chaplin Esq. One my gun was number 1 of a set of 4 (very few people had the financial resources to order 4 guns from Purdey at one time) and the other was each gun cost £65 and in 1869 that really was nearly a king's ransom when viewed from a normal working man's position."

Thank you so much, Ernie, for your fascinating emails which took me once again into Henry Chaplin's world as I must confess to being very much a learner as regards the world of the Purdey and its delights! It was a real pleasure to know that the newsletter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum is reaching so far afield! I wish you many more hours of enjoyment in reading future editions and with the No 1 gun especially!





## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



The Vale, 50 Tor-O-Moor Rd.  
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e-mail [margot.mills@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margot.mills@hotmail.co.uk)

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## Newsletter 6

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### Dates for your Diary

#### 'AFTERNOONS WITH ART'

Relax and enjoy wonderful reproductions of paintings, prints and drawings as Edward Mayor introduces four artistic themes from his library of rare books.

1. Great collections of Japanese prints.
2. Monet and Bonnard - neighbours on the Seine.
3. Dutch continuity - Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Mondrian.
4. Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson and Felicity Vogler - a complicated St Ives triangle.

To be held in the Library between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on 16th, 23rd, 30th Nov and 7 Dec.

Fee of £5.50 per session or £20 for all four. Tea and Coffee included.

All proceeds generously donated to the Cottage Museum Development Fund by Edward.

Space is limited (maximum of 12 places) so don't delay contact Pam Cowlshaw on 01526 352112 to book your place

#### 125 Club Winners

##### July

1st St Andrews Children's Hospice  
2nd Mr P Byrne  
3rd Mrs G Noble

#### 125 Club Winners

##### August

1st Mick Harness  
2nd Mrs B Spurrier  
3rd Mr B Clifford



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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(2) The Cottage Museum was established in which year?



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October 2010 (W5 D1 L2).

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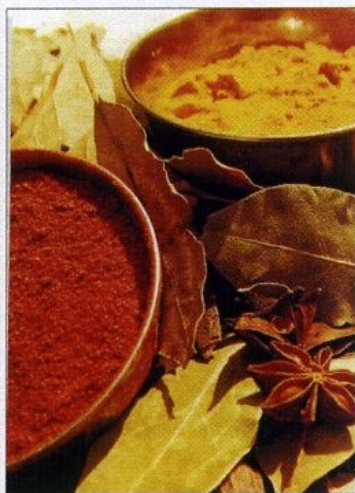
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A gratuitous picture of Storm wishing you a very merry forthcoming festive season and a happy New Year 2011



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### What Our Visitors Are Saying

We are nearing the end of the season now and close on 3000 visitors have been through the doors and, as usual, many leave very interesting comments in the Visitors Book. Since June we have had visitors from USA, Australia, South Africa, Sweden, The Netherlands and Jersey as well as those from the UK. Here is a selection of their comments.

L & family from NSW Australia "Trip down memory lane to when I was young"

NB from Lincolnshire "Fantastic photos – great displays"

S & N G from Andover "Thoroughly interesting. Let's hope the old Spa is re-instated"

F & T from Guildford "Excellent Museum. Very helpful staff."

B & D from Ontario Canada "A wonderful delight"

B from Eindhoven "Very interesting"

ML from Leicester "Visited yesterday – brought my husband back today as I know he would be interested."

N & L A from Port Elizabeth, South Africa "Wonderful history"

EM from Lancaster "Brings back a lot of happy and very sad memories."

JHW from Perth Australia "Wonderful staff – keep it up!"

PA from Suffolk "A great little Museum"

SP from Jersey "All these photos took me back to my childhood"

JF from Grimsby "Beautifully done – great show"

RB from Essex "Spiffing"

As always some humorous, some poignant, but all show that our visitors are touched in some way by our Cottage Museum. We are open until Remembrance Sunday, so do come in and see for yourself what all the comments are about.

**Philip Groves**



Tel: (01526) 345670

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## Newsletter 6

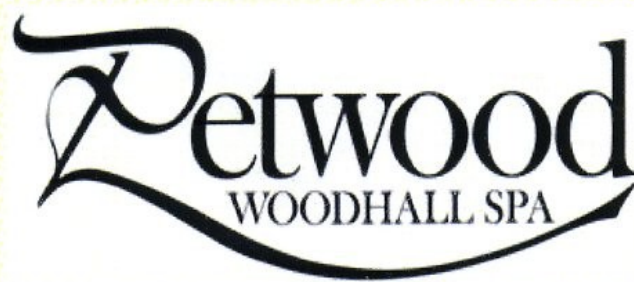
### Lazy Sunday brings in the punters and the cash for charities in Woodhall Spa!



With an attendance in excess of 250 the Lazy Sunday Afternoon at Coronation Hall in August with the JAM'd headlining brought in over £600 for local charities including the Cottage Museum re-generation.



(3) There were two main makes of Italian scooter used by the Mods in the 1960s, what were they?



The Petwood is a Delightful Edwardian Country House hotel set in 30 acres of secluded gardens and woodland. Home of the Dambusters during the second world war. Having extensive conference, wedding and special event facilities and offering short holidays and golfing breaks with 53 bedrooms all individually designed. Member of "Tastes of Lincolnshire" the Tennysons Restaurant promotes local produce. The Petwood is a friend and supporter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.





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(4) What was the name of the architect employed by the syndicate in the late 1800s to design Woodhall Spa's expansion?



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(5) Storm the  
dog played  
which well  
known musician  
on the cover of  
newsletter 4?



## Newsletter 6

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### 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

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum took place on 27<sup>th</sup> August and was very well attended. Following the formalities Edward Mayor entertained us to a talk on Norwich and in particular the Norwich School of Art. He demonstrated their skills with pictures from his collection of rare books and works of art. You will also see from the article "Dates for your Diary" elsewhere in the newsletter that Edward has generously offered to contribute to the Museum Development Fund by giving a series of talks on various aspects of art this autumn. Our sincere thanks go to him.

The coach for Norwich on 18<sup>th</sup> October is now full as is the one to Belvoir on 8<sup>th</sup> December. This is the first time that we have had full coaches and begs the question, have we been going to the wrong places in the past. In order that we can organise trips that will attract the greatest number of passengers we have included a questionnaire for you to complete. Based on the returns that we get, we will arrange trips for next year.

One trip that we have in mind already is to the National Arboretum, the modern memorial to those who died in the service of our country since the end of the last world war. This will be a long day with an early start but following Rodger and Eileen Pickavance's moving description of their trip given at the AGM, we felt that it would be something that appealed to a large number of our Friends.

We are working at making the Coffee morning on 26<sup>th</sup> November the best yet. If you can help please let me know. If any of you would like to help the Committee manage the activities and events that the Friends organise each year, without the responsibility of being a member of the committee, please contact Pam for an informal talk about the many ways that you could become involved.

Finally, the Committee of the Friends of Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2011. Thank you for your support.

**Pam Cowlshaw**



Woodhall Spa  
Forthcoming Attractions of an  
Historic  
Nature:

[www.woodhallspa.org](http://www.woodhallspa.org)

3rd December: "Woodhall  
Spa-The Movie" showing  
at the Kinema

10th December: Woodhall  
Spa Christmas Market

15th December: "Its a  
Wonderful Life" at the  
Kinema

24th December: Christmas  
Eve spectacular at the Ki-  
nema