

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.7



“Mama always told me, this museum is like a box of chocolates.
You never know what you're going to get!”

Woodhall Gump 2011.

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

2011! Wow! Time flies! It seems only like yesterday that I was worrying about whether my staypress trousers were cut right or that there was too much gel in my hair or whether I'd get home after falling over dustbins repeatedly, drunk on cheap cider. Perhaps I was. Perhaps that's why I woke up this morning with a traffic cone on my head.

But no, alas, it was over 30 years ago in a world that's now freeze-framed in black and white, when I assumed, in my youthful ignorance, that my father was born in a cave and hunted mammoths! (He didn't as it turned out, it was rabbits, which my mother skinned and cooked for us.) But hey, it's all red meat. But still. it was so long, long ago.

Of course, kids today won't have to look back on little 4" by 4" white-bordered, monochrome memories or Polaroid instamatic pictures, complete with fingerprints, that are now kept in an old Quality Street tin. They'll have full coloured memories, sharp-focused quality pictures taken on a micro camera, kept in a virtual pc world and printed on photographic quality paper.

Today: Captured in the highest quality and ready to show to the world, today!

Definitely no 16 shot limit, winding on or double exposure and certainly not sent off to a chemist for developing and then waited for, like, a week. In the grand scheme of things it's a massive leap in the right direction. However, a cynic might tell you although it's abundant and instant, it's then released, it would seem, to perhaps the vaguely interested. Or am I, I mean he, just jaded?

Online a friend announced he'd made £1000 for charity, 4 people "liked" that, then a friend of a friend announced online she was having a cup of tea and 8 people "liked" that.

Welcome to the saturated generation.

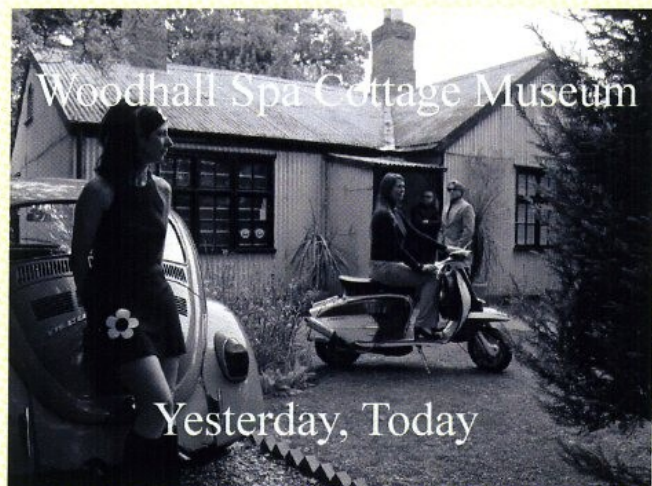
It makes you want to dig out the constant, irrefutable truths, and here's one: Come see the Cottage Museum in 2011. Last year 3000 people "liked" that!

Mat Tuck

For Sale now: Compact vanity mirrors with the cover design on the right, only £1 from the museum or Pam Cowlshaw.

All profits to the Cottage Museum restoration funds.

They're limited; get them while they're hot.



Newsletter 7

Woodhall Spa—the DVD!

Well, I completed the film. Three months start to finish and premiered in the Kinema on the 3rd December, while still being edited on the 2nd!! I roped in cinematographer, James Ritson, the MOD and most of the hotel, bar and business owners of Woodhall Spa and a few stray people who just happened to be passing.

It tells the story (loosely) of Woodhall Spa since its inception in the 1820's through the eyes of its three founding fathers: Pioneer John Parkinson, originator of the Spa and lord of the manor, Thomas Hotchkin and architect Richard Came. It's also peppered with cowboys, war, a James Bond wannabe and, of course, a penguin, all backed by the prose of Marjorie Sargeant..

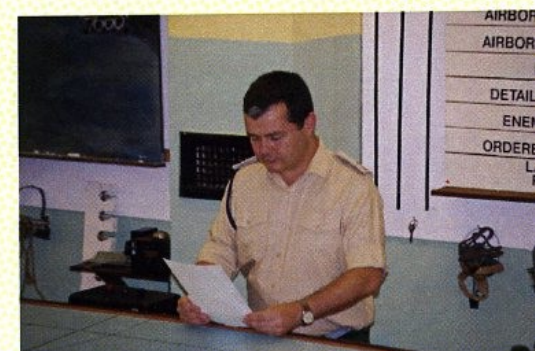
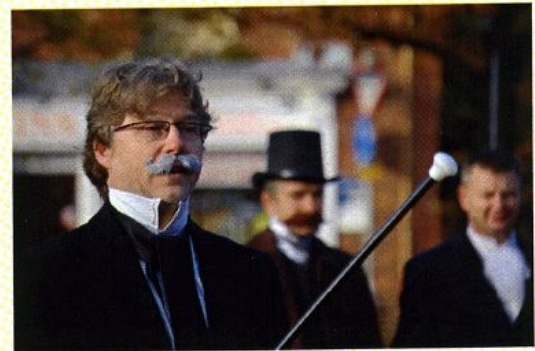
Reviews ranged from "A credit to Woodhall" and "That wasn't as embarrassing as I thought it was going to be" to "I'll pay you to never show it again."

A home win then, or at least a score draw.

The DVD release is on April 7th at 7pm in the Golf Hotel, and I would very much appreciate it if you came along and chewed the fat, watched the trailer, checked out the extended version of the film, had a drink and bought the DVD.

Only £4.99 with all the profits going to Help for Heroes.

That's my special patch for the quilt in 2010; what's in store for 2011?



Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Meet the Directors: Paddy O'Neill

Born in 1943 in Runcorn, Cheshire, Paddy was christened Peter John but acquired his current name when some wag at school thought Paddy a more appropriate name for an O'Neill and it stuck! After gaining 'A' levels at Helsby Grammar School he decided to take a year out before going to Leeds University. He took a job with the Westminster Bank and met Toni on a banking course in Oxford in 1962. University took a back seat and he joined the civil service as an executive officer in 1963. Toni and Paddy were married in 1964 and settled down in Thelwall, Warrington.



In January 1966 Paddy joined the Immigration Service and moved to Harwich, Essex. Their daughter, Clare, was born on 14 March (same date as Paddy). After ten years in Harwich, the family moved to Maidenhead in Berkshire, following his posting to Heathrow Airport, Terminal 3. He was promoted to Chief Immigration Officer and thereafter served in numerous posts, including Terminal 2, Heathrow, as a presenting officer in the Immigration Appeals Courts, Harmondsworth and in the Intelligence Unit, Harmondsworth, dealing with illegal entry. In 1983 he took over responsibility for the training of new-entrant Immigration Officers and newly-promoted Chief Immigration Officers.

Paddy moved to Stansted Airport in December 1990 to help prepare Immigration staff for the opening of the new terminal in April 1991. At that time passenger figures were less than one million a year and progressed slowly to one and a half million by 1997. During his time at Stansted, Paddy spent considerable time abroad, giving lectures on immigration topics to airline employees, police and government officials throughout most of Europe. Cities visited included Bucharest, Stockholm, Prague, Dusseldorf, Munich, Berlin, Amsterdam and Antwerp.

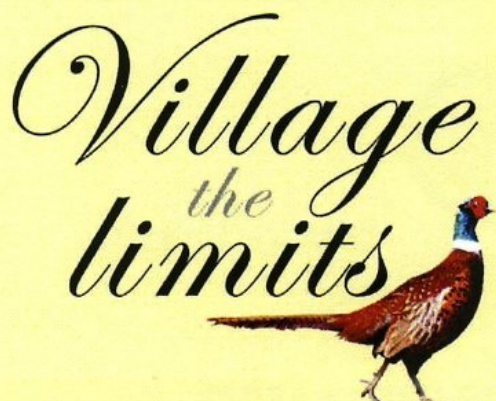
Paddy took early retirement in 1997, having been diagnosed as suffering from multiple sclerosis. He and Toni moved to Woodhall Spa, where they continue to enjoy life to the full. Toni was born in Boston and Lincolnshire was the only place to which they could consider retiring. Their daughter Clare lives Near Wallingford, Oxon.. They have four grandsons: Jamie, Jeremy, Elliot and Charlie, whose ages range from 27 years down to 8 years. Their daughter, Clare, lives some six miles from where Toni and Paddy first met!

Paddy assumed responsibility for organizing rotas of Meeters and Greeters duties in 1999. He prepares their duties for the whole season prior to the Cottage Museum opening each Good Friday and is always looking for new faces. He also serves on the 'Friends' committee and chairs the newsletter committee.

Woodhall Spa
Cottage Museum

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1929

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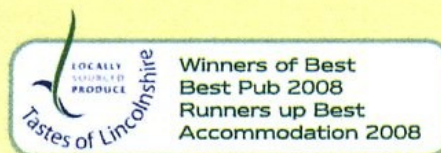


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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum Arson Attack

I believe that there are few residents who are not aware of the arson attack that resulted in the destruction of the 120 year old Wield family workshop, photographic studio and donkey stable at the rear of the museum. We fondly referred to them as 'the sheds'. Although dilapidated they formed an important part of the site in that they maintained an aura of times past, and thus contributed to the 'ambience' much commented upon by our many visitors.



One of the most important items in the museum's collection, the Victorian bath chair, was also virtually destroyed, along with some larger photographic equipment made by John Wield and his photographic back cloths. Although the damage could have been worse, small items had been removed from the sheds some years ago, (it was still upsetting since, as custodians of the village's and the Wield family's history, we were unable to prevent this). Estimates for the rebuilding of the sheds, replacement of the display furniture stored in them and renovation of the bath chair total nearly £90,000. It was an expensive December afternoon for the museum and residents of Woodhall Spa!

However, there is always something positive to be gleaned from any situation and we were quick to spot potential opportunities. There has been overwhelming support from the community and the local press who have done all in their power to support us. We turned to St Andrew's school for inspiration. They are members of the 'Young Journalist Academy' and have won awards for their film making. The group visited the museum and interviewed volunteers. The excellent result of their efforts can be found at www.youngjournalistacademy.co.uk/2011/01/tragic-fire-hits-local-museum

The fire was also woven into a film script written by a group of young air cadets from Horncastle. They have just produced a film as part of the Lincolnshire Heritage Forum's Young Film Maker's project. How they creatively used the incident of the fire and managed to get two donkeys on site, the first since the 1940s will be published shortly.

The remains of the sheds still form the footprint for rebuilding and remain a major part of our plans to refurbish the Bungalow, provide secure storage facilities for our remaining collection, much needed extra working space and the new community archive. Our heritage lottery application continues and we literally will, like the phoenix, rise out of the ashes.

Jackie Goodall
Chairman

DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

When I last wrote about the development, I expressed concerns about the amount of work required before we were able to submit the Round 2 HLF bid. I wasn't wrong and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the development committee, and assisting volunteers, for all the time and effort they have put into the project.

So, how are we doing? Well, we have had delays and the costs have increased from those estimated in the Round 1 bid (Just like Grand Designs!). However, we have a design for the outbuildings that will significantly improve our facilities. We have had a full structural survey of The Bungalow and it is in better condition than expected. We have planning permission and initial building regulations approval for the outbuildings.

The display designer has come up with excellent proposals for the new displays and display space. The Activity Plan Team has carried out a number of consultations, including 2 one day workshops, to look at what the museum can offer for the first 5 years after the development. The volunteers' feedback on how we can improve their time at the museum has been particularly useful.

There have been 'downs', the fire destroyed virtually all the possible timbers that we were going to use in the refurbished outbuildings. This has meant that building regulations see this as a 'new build' and all the new build regulations will apply, leading to a significant increase in costs and further delays. Resolving the insurance claim has also delayed the project.

So where do we go from here? We now plan to have the Round 2 submission to HLF by the end of August. This means that we will now refurbish the bungalow over the winter of 12/13, leading to a year's delay; this is unavoidable (Grand Designs again!). Finally, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to the appeal, but we still have a long way to go to meet the appeal target! If you are able to make a donation or are able to suggest an organisation we could approach for funding then please do so. Please contact Pam on 352112 or David Hill on 353070 if you would like to make a contribution to the appeal.

Rodger Pickavance



Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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Newsletter 7

Cottage Museum Meeters and Greeters

The Cottage Museum re-opens on Good Friday, 22 April 2011 until Armistice Sunday, 13 November 2011. I shall be preparing a duty rota in March, covering the period from 22 April to 31 October, during which time Tourist Information Officers will be in attendance. I shall arrange attendance for November nearer the time. Anyone who would like to give a couple of hours of their time to welcome visitors to the Cottage Museum, should contact Paddy O'Neill on 01526 354982 for more information. It is not an onerous task and provides an opportunity to meet lots of interesting people. There are opportunities to meet fellow Meeters and Greeters socially; the last social gathering was on 2nd March 2011. You will not be alone in the museum as there is always a Tourist Information Officer in attendance. The hours of opening of the Cottage Museum are 10.30am to 4.30pm seven days a week.

Meeters and Greeters have rendered valuable assistance to the Cottage Museum over the years and their contribution is greatly appreciated.

Paddy O'Neill



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What I will miss about Woodhall Spa and why I would return

Since coming to Woodhall Spa in 2000 at the start of a new millennium, the transition from the Middle East, to the UK was quite dramatic. Adjusting, however, was easy. Woodhall Spa is a tranquil village, private but comforting and overall friendly. Ten years on, the prospect of university is looming. Even though the idea of freedom and change is enticing, there are definite aspects that will be missed.

Although the youth to O.A.P ratio may not be so balanced, after whatever chaos happens at school and the weekends, it is always a reassuring thought knowing you're going back to Woodhall, where home is; guaranteed a calm evening, free from rowdy riots or youths in revolt. Regardless if you've been boarding for a term away, no one is anonymous. Nods of acknowledgment or chatting at supermarket kiosks are something that can't be avoided. Familiarity and a sense of belonging, when venturing out to a new environment and all that it entails, re-branding myself amongst strangers and coping out of my comfort zone will draw attention to how much I appreciate living in such a tight-knit village. It is certain, that after my studies, travels and my ambitious wish list are fulfilled, returning to Woodhall is the plan.

Woodhall Spa, is for me an ideal family location: nearby schools, cosy cinema, health care and an array of restaurants. All newly-established buildings are assets to the village and fortunately we have no eyesores. Never has boredom settled in, make the most of the situation, with the great cycle/walk routes, golf course and video shop, I'm happy that my previous years were spent mainly outdoors or watching the entire contents of the Broadway Movies shop. Community shapes character significantly, so I feel fortunate and thankful that, with credit to parents and schooling, my environment has helped to form my personality, helping me carve out my identity and principles. The prospect of returning to Woodhall Spa once I officially leave, fills with me with joy. Of all the villages and towns within the vicinity, (a trip on the Brylane Bus to Lincoln guarantees viewing many!) Woodhall Spa is by far my favourite.

Sarah Richards

Just for fun—put these Divas of the 20th century into age order!

Lead singer of New Wave band Blondie— Debbie Harry

Soul sister—Tina Turner

Supreme- Diana Ross

70's rocker Suzi Quatro

Recording artist and Oscar winner Cher

Answers on page 17

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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The Petwood is a friend and supporter of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

On the 28th March the Cottage Museum quiz team, featuring your editor, will once again do battle in The annual WI charity quiz. Defending 3rd in 2009 and a very inebriated 11th in 2010, we will endeavour to make you proud (or get drunk trying) in 2011.

Divas Answers

Tina Turner was born in 1939

Diana Ross was born in 1944

Debbie Harry was born in 1945

Cher was born in 1946

Suzi Quattro was born in 1950



Debbie Harry: Who will be on 66 on July 1st

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Centenary Celebrations At Woodhall Spa 1911 – 2011

Extract from Morton's Lincolnshire Almanack 1912

'A hundred years ago in 1811, the great mineral waters of Woodhall Spa were found and from that time the Spa has been known as a place of health and brightness. Its waters, ever growing in popularity, and publicity, are taken by thousands of invalids from year to year. It was the occasion of this centenary that Woodhall people thought that they should have a celebration of some kind or other and they readily accepted the idea suggested by Mr. Harry Jalland, the well known theatrical manager, etc., of Horncastle. It was his suggestion that a Pageant of Lincolnshire History should be given and with Mr. S.V. Hotchkin, JP at the head of the committee, and Mr. Jalland supervising, organising and correcting, everything was soon in motion. Never before have the inhabitants of Woodhall Spa and Horncastle and the neighbourhood worked together with such excellent results, and on July 26th and 27th, the climax was even more successful; in fact, nothing could have been arranged to benefit Woodhall more greatly, for thousands of people saw and were interested in the Pageant, which indeed was a magnificent triumph.'

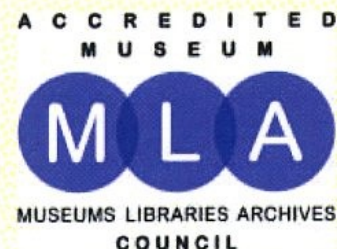
Christmas 125
Club winners
were
1st Prize £125
Mr. Brian
Cowlshaw
2nd Prize £60
Mrs Mary
Walsham
3rd Prize £30
Mr Richard
Sivill

In 2011 there will be a centenary celebration, commemorating the Pageant of 1911. Although there is little written evidence, it is now thought that the waters were discovered in 1820 so this is not quite the celebration of the 200th birthday of the village. However, the community are determined that there will be festivities and with this in mind a steering group have booked events for July 9th 2011 running in conjunction with a 1940s event at Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre. The "People's Pageant 2011" will take place at various venues around the village utilising land owned by various businesses and community spaces such as Jubilee Park. All community clubs, societies and schools are being asked to be part of the celebration and we hope that local shops and business will get involved too.

There are a number of activities and entertainments being explored and a lot of organisational work is yet to be done. The 'Steering Group' would welcome new members interested in helping us to organise this historic event. Alternatively, if you would like to make a donation, hold an event such as raffle, coffee morning etc and donate the proceeds towards the 'The Pageant', this would be gratefully received. Time is short, we need all the help we can get particularly booking entertainers. If you know of someone who could contribute to the day then please do let us know, oh and don't forget to write the date in your diary!

Jackie Goodall

Contact:
Jackie Goodall 01526 352454
Carol Bennett 01526 353466





QUEEN ELEANOR OF CASTILE AND KING EDWARD I.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Rawnsley

*Scenes
from the
pageant
of 1911*



Newsletter 7

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

Hello Friends.

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2011. I hope that you all had a good Christmas season and are now ready to face 2011 with a spring in your step. The Friends committee met recently to consider the returns we had had about your suggestions for trips and events and the outcome is listed at the side. Hopefully there will be something there for everyone but if you do not see an event that you would like to attend listed please let me know and we will see what we can do. In addition we are considering trips to the theatre and have been asked to arrange a trip to view a Pre-Raphaelite art exhibition in Birmingham. If you are interested in any of the events listed or in a trip to Birmingham to view the art please let me know on the number above.

Some of you may know that a number of the volunteers associated with the museum meet at the Mall pub at 7.00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and we would love to see you there. It is just a social get together and we talk about the museum and anything else that is of interest at the time. If you would like to come along please let me know and I will arrange to be there to meet you. The next few meetings are 16th March and 20th April.

If you would rather, come along to the pre-opening event at the Museum at 2.00 pm on Sunday 17th April. There will be a cup of tea and an opportunity to view the new displays for the 2011 season. Directors will be there for you to talk over with them the opportunities for volunteering and future plans for the museum.

Looking forward to seeing you at one or more of the events listed or in the pub on a Wednesday evening. Please get in touch if you need any more information or visit the museum's web site at www.woodhallspa-museum.co.uk and follow the arrow "way in".

Pam Cowlshaw



Woodhall Spa
Forthcoming Attractions of a
Museum orientated
Nature:
March 2011

See also
www.woodhallspa.org

15th April Annual Dinner
17th April Pre opening event at the museum
6th May Trip to National Arboretum
22nd May Stall at Woodhall Show
17th June Cheese and wine evening at the museum
25th June Pageant lecture
9th July Pageant
9/10th July 40's weekend
9th September AGM
24th September Arnhem Day
14th October Trip to Harrogate
12th November Memorial Lecture
25th November Coffee morning
5th December Pennells Garden Centre and
Doddington Hall Christmas display
9th December Late night shopping

