

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## Newsletter No.8



**Arnhem veteran George Barton and his family,  
take a trip down memory lane on “Just Jane”**



# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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## A Note from the Editor

Regular readers of this column will be aware that I usually use this page as an egotistical rant or advert for something I'm putting together that has a vague link to history or the Cottage Museum. Well this issue is going to be no different! You will be aware, if you've popped in before, that I am currently working my way through my very own bucket list: 2003 run a marathon, 2004 have my own radio show, 2005 work at Battersea Dogs Home, 2010 make a movie ....you get the idea? Well 2011 is....\*drum roll\* .....Hold a concert for charity! And not a normal one either!

This will be an audio visual experience involving Woodhall Spa's musicians and residents and once again you're all invited. The concept is for me to search out a bunch of musicians (all from Woodhall Spa) for us to learn 10 songs in our own "special" style and for myself and James Ritson to shoot a video for each one; each in a different genre and each starring residents of Woodhall. Then we'll hold a big concert near Christmas and invite all of Woodhall Spa to come along and see themselves on film and listen to us—how's that for entertainment? All right! Suit yourselves but I'm excited about this one; I feel like I've just dealt myself a pair of Aces and Johnny Cardsharp has gone all in with Jack and Ten of Clubs...and who knows, when the dust settles, we could perhaps put the finished result in the audiovisual section of the museum along with the history segment of our recent film. Directors willing, of course.

Anyway back to reality, summer's nearly here and Woodhall Spa's streets are, once again, beginning to fill with holiday-makers, weekend golf warriors and stray businessmen kitted out, sometimes bravely, in sandals and short-sleeved shirts. They flit from shop to shop like inquisitive bees, perhaps settling here, perhaps settling there, shedding loose change like pollen as they go. If you see them, will you do me a favour? Point them towards the Cottage Museum where they can land and settle for a while, look and learn and then, perhaps, coated with our memories, fly on, letting our little secrets rub off on the world as they go.

Yesterday makes today a better place.

Mat Tuck



Darn it! I've just dropped my poodle in there

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## Newsletter 8

### Development Progress

In the last two articles on the development I have been asking you to support our appeal for funds. This one will be no different, but, since the editorial team have kindly given me two pages, it will allow me to give you more information about how your money will be spent and the extra facilities that the development will allow us to provide in your Cottage Museum. I say this because this is a community museum run by volunteers from the community for the community.

The first obvious improvement will be to increase the life of The Bungalow, primarily by replacing the rotting sole plate that the walls are mounted on and also replacing any badly corroded sheets. However, we will also introduce insulation and an improved heating system to reduce running costs and make the internal environment more pleasant (At present, too hot in the summer and too cold in winter). The displays will also be greatly improved, but still be in keeping with the museum's present philosophy.



#### **WOODHALL SPA COTTAGE MUSEUM**

**Registered Charity: 1114268**

**Registered Museum:**

**The Bungalow, Iddesleigh Road  
Woodhall Spa, Lincs. LN10 6SH**

125 Club Winners

February

1st prize Mrs Uprichard

2nd prize Mrs Taylor

3rd prize Mr Woodrow

The museum's store room, work room and meeting room is currently the small back room in the bungalow and, as can be seen from the photograph, any more than 4 people in there and it becomes cosy! All these requirements, and more, will be transferred to the rebuilt outbuildings. I have included a schematic of the proposed layout to give you an idea of what the floor plan will be.

#### Cover picture:

Arnhem veteran George Barton and his family, flanked by the Cottage Museum's own Rico Phillips prepare to take their ride down memory lane's runway aboard East Kirkby's historic Lancaster "Just Jane". The ride was generously provided by the Lincolnshire Heritage Centre East Kirkby for last years Arnhem Appeal.

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Community Space. This will become the main room used for temporary displays, talks, and coffee for the general public. It will also be available for refreshment facilities and toilet facilities. A real leap forward.

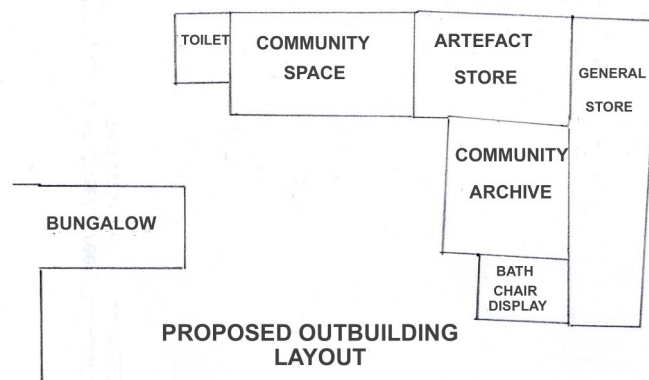
Artefact Store This room will give us the controlled storage area, something that we need. Racking, the storage capabilities within this is an area where we, as an accredited museum, can allow the long term storage of our artefacts and keep them.

General Store The general store will be for those items that do not require the higher level of storage conditions; for example, admin filing cabinets, tables, chairs and garden tools etc. We shall have to store the photographic materials in cabinets with low humidity and these will probably be in this store.

Community Archive This will be an exciting new facility that the museum will be able to offer. In addition to the 6500 items of photographic material and artefact collection that the museum has, we also have the Urban District Council Records and the Spa Baths Trust Records, plus the museum's scrap-books. The aim is to digitise these records and make them available for researchers. There will be two dedicated work stations to allow input and output. Digitising the data will allow rapid access to the material. The room will also house the museum's library. Part of this room will be the museum's admin area which at present, is usually found in various directors' homes! Whilst not an exciting subject, professional administration is vital to the smooth running of all aspects of the Cottage Museum's operations.

Bath Chair Store Despite the significant damage suffered by the bath chair in the arson attack, it is still possible to see what it looked like and we propose to put it on display in its own area. In the fullness of time, it will either be rebuilt or, if a similar one can be found, possibly replaced.

We are still on track to having the Round 2 submission to HLF by the end of August. This means that we will be rebuilding the outbuildings during 2012 and refurbishing the bungalow over the winter of 2012/13. Now comes the begging bit; 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 or myself on 353184, if you would like more information about this exciting project which will define the future direction of our museum.



Woodhall Spa  
Cottage Museum

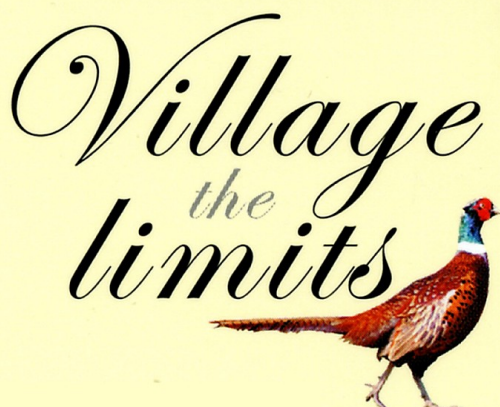
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The Bungalow,  
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Rodger Pickavance





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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### From the Archives



PH00078 – This photograph has prompted much discussion and argument as to the location. I thought it was at the top of Tattershall Road, with Witham Road off to the left. The wooden fencing in the background had been used around St Andrew's Churchyard at some time. However, the style of building does not fit in with Chapman's Corner (see other picture). The sign on the wall also cannot be read. Any ideas where it is?



PH00057 – This picture is full of social history. Why are all the children on the road? Perhaps waiting for a parade? Three boys are wearing top hats with writing on them. It is indistinct and cannot be read. Who is the gentleman in uniform? Kirkby Cash Stores, formally Chapman's, hence Chapman's Corner, has now been demolished to improve visibility between Tattershall Road and Witham Road.

Again, can I put out a request for any pictures of Woodhall Spa, its surrounds or any events; we can scan them in whilst you wait. Please contact me on 01526 353184 or come to the museum on a Tuesday morning.

### Rodger Pickavance



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

Welcome back to the continuing tale of our founding forefathers and remember, my pen only scratches the surface of this fascinating tale! Your own researches will always be very welcome too! Simply email them to me [ddfradford@hotmail.com](mailto:ddfradford@hotmail.com) and we'll see about fitting them in to future issues.

Readers of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum's newsletter will have no difficulty, I hope, in recognising the name 'Stanhope'! Just think! There's Stanhope Avenue, just off the Broadway, which leads directly to attractive Victorian-canopied shopping at the heart of our community. Then six or so miles away lies the town of Horncastle with its elegant Stanhope Monument situated in the market place and, of course, the newly named Stanhope Hall, fought for and won in recent times by another community which also values its precious heritage. Again there's the Stanhope connection with Revesby too! What is more, the erstwhile family seat of the Stanhopes was at Chevening! Bequeathed to the nation by the seventh and last Earl Stanhope, it proved of sufficient stature to become the official residence of the Foreign Secretary after being initially considered as a possible home for Prince Charles!

Edward Stanhope(1846-1893), the second son of Philip Stanhope, 10th Earl Stanhope, a forefather of whom we should be proud!

Educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, he served in the Indian Army and was at the Inner Temple and whilst establishing his career as a barrister he also played cricket matches for Kent!

What a career was being forged!

Member of Parliament for Mid-Lincolnshire and later for Lincolnshire, further prestigious offices of state awaited: Parliamentarian, Under Secretary of State for India, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, Secretary of State for the Colonies and Secretary of State for the Colonies(1886-1887) he was also busily formulating plans for the new spa near the villa at Woodhall Spa!.....

David Radford



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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# Newsletter 8

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## What Our Visitors are saying

The Museum has only been open for about 7 weeks and already 609 adults and 73 children have been through the doors. As usual many of them have written comments in our Visitors' Book and a selection of them are reproduced below. Our visitors so far have included the nephew of Guy Gibson, a Beefeater from The Tower of London and a person who grew up in the village and now lives in Oregon, USA.

M.H. from Martin - Great to see my "great, great" Uncle Guy Gibson's story.

K.H. Woodhall Spa - Well done – much improved on last year.

A & B S, Hereford - Unfortunately we are old enough to remember much of what is displayed – very interesting

W family, N. Wales -Very good displays containing detailed information.

R & S S Northampton - So glad we made the time to see.

E & I Horncastle - The donkey training was very good – thank you.

S & J I Oregon USA - Grew up in the village – great to visit, thanks.

H & D A Brigg - Wonderful memories of happy childhood stays.

J, L & T Woodhall Spa - Brill! Awesome!

M.S. Leicester - Real history.

L & R N Yorkshire - Very interesting – so much history in one small space.

N.C. Alicante, Spain - Good of you to remember – Well done.

K & K Grimsby - Great old photographs. Walk down memory lane of Woodhall

Mr & Mrs C. Lincoln - It is good to see that people keep the memories alive

A.C. Rotherham - Packed with lots of a of good information.

D Family Reeds Beck - Good for teaching the younger generation. Dressing up was fun!

A great selection of comments again, showing that the Museum is getting through to people both young and old from all walks of life.

125 Club Winners

April

1<sup>st</sup> prize Mrs A Midgley

2<sup>nd</sup> prize Mrs B Ross

3<sup>rd</sup> prize Mrs W Radford

**Philip Groves**  
**Director**

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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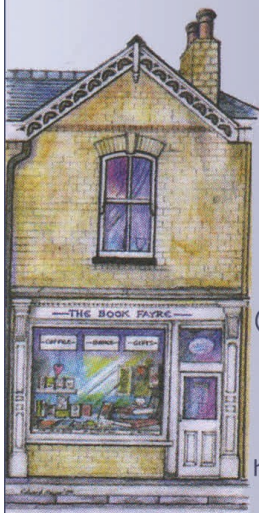
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125 Club Winners

May

1<sup>st</sup> prize Mr R Ward

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**e:** [info@jamesritson.co.uk](mailto:info@jamesritson.co.uk)

James Ritson's work can also been seen in :

“Woodhall Spa—The Movie”

a film premiered in December in the Kinema and now on sale in Smarties Wine Bar at £4.99

(all profits to Help for Heroes)

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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## Meet the Directors

I was born in Blyth, Northumberland – a Geordie. However, I was expected to “speak properly” i.e. not in dialect. Interestingly, I can “taak aboot gaanin hyem, hinnie”, quite easily now!

My mother wanted to call me Gillian but as it was considered inadvisable in those days of Imperial Measure. I had a wonderful childhood of freedom with my mother and brother; we explored the sand dunes; we went for walks and picnics – as long as we were home by a certain time on the watch but we became adept at estimating time. In my teens, I was a member of various school sports teams but my school days were dominated by sport. After A levels I trained for teaching at Headingley and returned to Blyth and taught at a “rather rough” school. I met Don at the tennis club.



We married and lived in Newcastle upon Tyne, where Don was employed by Martins Bank. I taught for 2 years until the birth of Christopher and then Jeremy. When Jeremy was three months old, Don was promoted to the lovely Northumbrian town of Hexham, where we lived for two years.

1966 was a memorable year. Sadly, my mother died in April; in May, Don was appointed Manager of Martins Bank in Boston (I was taken aback by this as, ignorantly, I knew only of Boston Mass.) In June, I sold the house and with the boys (aged three and two), joined Don in Boston - Lincolnshire! On 14<sup>th</sup> July, Roger was born. I have always had a lot of energy.

In 1971, Don became Manager of Barclays in Horncastle and we moved to “Robin Lodge,” on Horncastle Road, Woodhall Spa. I taught at St. Andrew’s School, which our sons attended; we had many friends and there were parties and outings and travels abroad with the caravan; there was the Tennis club and the Golf Club for Don; we were very happy.

In 1985 Don was promoted again and we moved to Grantham but when he retired, naturally we returned to Woodhall Spa! We enjoyed travel and at one time visited two sons living in U.S.A. as well as having an apartment at the golfing complex, La Manga, in Spain and a cabin in Switzerland. A sixtieth birthday present was a paraglide in Switzerland. I did this from the Schilthorn, at 6,000 metres. It was wonderful!

In 1985, I had an unfortunate accident from which I was not expected to recover. Afterwards, an elderly lady of our acquaintance said, alarmingly, “Marjorie, you must have been spared for great purpose”!!

I wonder, would research and writing for the Cottage Museum count?

## Marjorie Sargeant

As promised the Cottage Museum quiz team put in a sterling effort at the annual WI quiz and despite the excessive alcohol imbibed we came out in another creditable 3rd





The guest speaker was Edward Mayor and his Pageant of 1911



Friends and guests at the National Memorial and Arboretum on 6th May. It was a thought provoking and emotional day.



## Newsletter 8

### 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.

It is hard to believe that we are nearly half way through the year already. We are well into the events season, having, as you will have seen earlier in the newsletter, so far enjoyed the annual dinner and the trip to the National Memorial and Arboretum. Fundraising continued with a bottle stall at the Woodhall Show on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

We have been lucky enough to engage David Start, Director of Heritage Lincolnshire, to give one of his talks; we have seven to choose from. Look out for the details on the Cottage Museum web-site. The web-site is worth a look anyway as it has been revamped under the new web-master James Ritson. If you have any comments or ideas for the website please let me know and I will pass them on.

The Friends of the Cottage Museum have now been in operation for five years. A good time to take stock and review where we are and where we want to go from here.

Looking at the events organized by the Friends I think we could do with a revamp. Any ideas that you have for new and innovative fundraising would be gratefully received. This subject will be one of the points for discussion at the next Friends AGM to be held at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Cromwell Avenue at 2.30 pm on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please put your thinking caps on.

Membership renewal forms are enclosed and this time you are asked to indicate if we can use your email address either to send out the newsletter directly to your computer or to send you other information about the museum. Your email address will not be passed on to anyone outside the museum.

The renewal form can equally be used by anyone wishing to join the Friends group. All are most welcome.

The committee members are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM. If you cannot be there but have comments to make, please let me know prior to the event.

**Pam Cowlshaw**



Woodhall Spa  
Forthcoming Attractions of a  
museum orientated  
nature:  
July 2011

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

9<sup>th</sup> July Pageant  
9/10<sup>th</sup> July 40's weekend  
9<sup>th</sup> September AGM  
24<sup>th</sup> September Arnhem Day  
14<sup>th</sup> October trip to Harrogate  
14<sup>th</sup> October Ultimate Madness at  
Coronation Hall  
12<sup>th</sup> November Memorial Lecture  
21<sup>st</sup> November David Start's lecture  
25<sup>th</sup> November Coffee morning  
5<sup>th</sup> December Pennells Garden Centre and  
Doddington Hall Christmas display  
9<sup>th</sup> December Late night shopping

