

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Newsletter No.9



**Woodhall Spa residents re-enact the Quadrophenia film poster to advertise a forthcoming concert for local charities**

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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## A Note from the Editor

So here we are again. The nights are drawing in as another year nears its end and a hint of frost is on the grass, which is strange as it feels like only this week that I was basking in 85 degrees of heat. Oh, hang on, I was. Apparently they were the hottest days on record in October for 100 years and then, today it snowed in Scotland.

Where else would you get that contrast? Where else has that eclectic mix of old and cultured and shiny and new? Where else would "There's no-one quite like Grandma" by St Winifred's school choir get to No.1 in the pop charts?

Britain, I love it.

And where else could I have a drink or two, daydream an idea and the next day convince a teacher, a bar manager, a plasterer, a green keeper, a student, a businessman, an RAF officer and a sergeant in the army to appear in a poster? Or make a film and get the local councillor to act stupid or an Army Warrant Officer to play an effeminate cowboy? Or decide to start a band for charity on a Monday and have nine members in it by Friday?

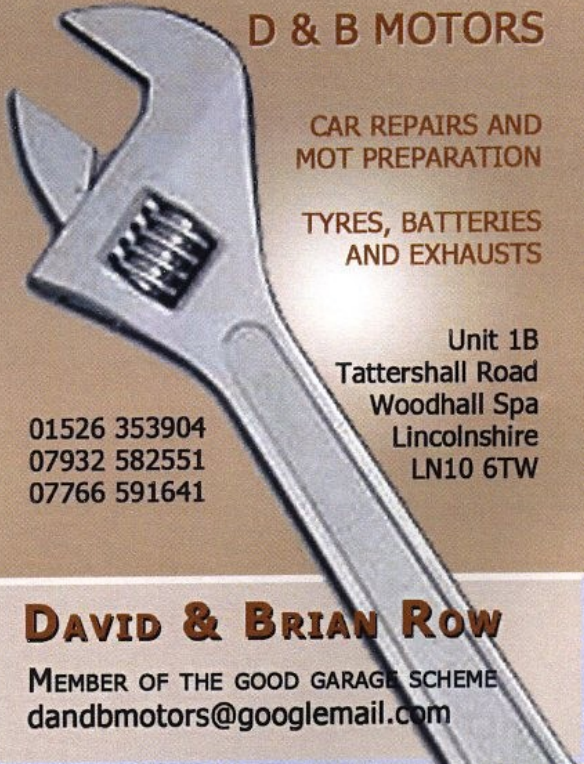
Woodhall Spa, I love it.

You should all be very proud.

## Mat Tuck



Ft. Lt Sam Hanson appearing in "Silent Woodhall", the first video for the forthcoming audio visual concert by Woodhall Spa's very own band "STAR ME KITTEN".



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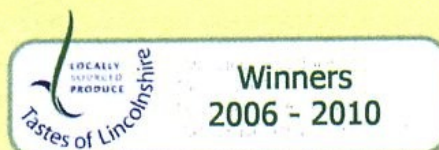


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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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On the 30 August, at 3.15pm, I finally plucked up the courage to press the 'submit' button on the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Round 2 Application Form; resisting the temptation to read through it one more time! A lot of the 'paperwork' had been posted to the HLF on a CD the previous Saturday. For Jackie, Pam, David Hill and myself, there was a lot of work carried out over the Bank Holiday weekend to finalise the last few items. Furthermore, none of us realised just how much time and effort was required to produce the all important Activity Plan; thank you Jackie for the tremendous endeavours that you put in to complete it. Thanks also to all the other museum's volunteers who have contributed to the production of all the supporting documentation required (and there was a lot!).

So, what happens now? The HLF personnel will spend the next 3 months going through our submission and we may be asked to provide additional information or clarify aspects of the application. Our Case Officer, plus a member of the committee, will visit the museum for a day to discuss our project. That day will be our opportunity to 'sell' the project and its subsequent benefits to the community. The committee will meet in early December and, to a great extent, success will depend on who we are in competition with. As per 'DIY Village SOS', I should get a phone call, possibly on that day, with, hopefully, good news.

What have we asked for? The good news is that we are still only asking HLF to fund 83% of the project. The bad news is that the project costs have risen significantly from the estimate in our Round 1 submission. The project cost is now £804,000 and we are looking for a grant of £667,400 from HLF. Due to the fire, ELDC now consider the outbuildings to be 'new build' and all the new regulations for carbon reduction, draught proofing etc apply. They also demand that, in the event of a fire, the main structure retains its structural integrity for an hour, rather than half an hour, which has a high cost penalty. At Round 1, we had not built in the costs of the Activity Plan implementation (£87,000) and we have significantly increased volunteer time (from £9000 to £56,000) – which is considered a project cost as well as project income. Our anticipated matched funding income has also reduced, due to the present economic climate. To compensate, we have significantly increased the contribution from our funds – which has meant that we have had to dip further than we hoped into our reserves. This makes the Appeal even more important. The total is rising, but we still have a way to go.

We now wait, and hope, for good news in early December. If that happens, then our fully re-vamped museum will be ready for opening in Easter 2013. Note that the work will not interfere with the operation of the museum during the 2012 season. One recent piece of good news is that we have received conditional approval for a grant of £9515 from Lincolnshire County Council for the project – a sign of things to come? I hope so!

**Rodger Pickavance**



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Woodhall Spa  
Cottage Museum

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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### From the Archives

GN04244 – With this issue coming out close to Remembrance Sunday, I thought it appropriate to show this World War 1 image of soldiers convalescing and their nurses, probably at the Alexandra Hospital. Note the blue uniforms that the soldiers used to wear, rather than their normal khaki uniforms.



GN04116 – In this family group, the soldier in the back row has been ‘pasted in’. We have another print/plate with a gap where the soldier is shown. Considering the technology available, the ‘pasting’ is very good. Again, the dress suggests World War 1. Unfortunately, we do not know the date, location or the name of the family.



Both of these are from Wield glass plates.

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**



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### Remembering Rene Ismanycka of Woodhall Spa

I hope you have enjoyed the facts I have been able to research on our founding fathers. This month, however, for a change, I should like to bring to you a poem which I recently discovered amongst the reams of correspondence from those frenetic, founding years of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum. It was written by Rene Ismanycka, one of our volunteers from the late '80s.

Rene was a daughter of Mr Collins, the chemist. She lived next door to the Wilds and attended the Misses Lunns' school for young ladies in Hartington House and the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Horncastle.

Always a support in those distant days, attending stalls or using her artistic skills to produce delightful watercolour paintings to raise funds to help pay off the Cottage Museum mortgage, Rene was a true stalwart. It gives me great pleasure to remember her through her poem entitled "Memories".

David Radford

Memories by Rene Ismanycka

It seemed to me, in summer time the sun shone every morn  
On fields around. The larks did sing  
Their wild, sweet song, upon the wing.  
Sweet, warm dusk, in summer time,  
Nightingales' song, sweet smell of lime.

Primrose blooms on banks of streams,  
Anemones, violets, a time of dreams.  
Snow lay deep in winter time,  
Snowball fights with friends of mine.  
Pulled to school on a wooden sleigh,  
Warm fires at home, at the end of day.

But now, alas, those days have gone.  
Not for us the wild birds' song,  
No more homes for the wise old owl  
Silently flying his nightly prow.  
The barns and trees are all pulled down  
To build more houses, for folks from town.

Now for us, the jet planes roar,  
To keep invaders from our shore  
For our children, and babies small.  
Will they survive the acid rain's fall?  
Will those days 'ere come again  
When cowslips grow in leafy lane?  
I remember, I remember, the days when I was small,  
Men died for peace, for one and all.



Hartington House

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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## Newsletter 9

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### What Our Visitors are saying

Our visitors continue to leave their comments in our visitors' book, most complimentary and some funny. We have had visitors from Australia and New Zealand as well as many from Woodhall Spa itself since our last Newsletter. Here are some of those comments:-

AC from Rotherham	Picked up lots of good information
C Family from Rugby	Good to see the origins of Woodhall Spa
J & A H from Boston	Brings back memories of a long ago childhood
S S from Beeston	Will spread the word – thanks
D & P M from Lincoln	Wonderful memorabilia and very moving WW2 display
U B from Stoke on Trent	Very interesting and thoroughly enjoyed it
J C from Australia	Interesting reading
J & J from Wales	Lovely little museum. Well worth a visit
R R from Norfolk	A nostalgic visit to the village of my childhood
T H from New Zealand	Thoroughly enjoyed my look at history
M & D R from Northumberland	It's always good to be reminded of all the courageous people who fought to save Britain in the war
J & S from Peterborough	Interesting social history
L & R R from Kent	Very enjoyable – wish we had more time
M & W G from Yorkshire	Ex-Para – so very interesting (Listen carefully - I will say this only once!)
P & N plus dogs From Tynemouth	Very interesting – wonderful building
D & B W from Heighington	Very interesting and helpful staff
RG from Gosport	Very interesting. I loved the “I remember” bits
L & P N from York	Very interesting. So much history in one small space.

**Philip Groves**

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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## Newsletter 9

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### 2nd Arnhem Commemoration

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 was the second year that veterans, Air training Corps cadets, members of the British Legion and The Anglo-Polish Society joined with residents of Woodhall Spa to commemorate Arnhem. Revd. Andrew Smith led a short service in St. Peter's church after which the assembled Standards and the Veterans, led by a lone piper, processed across The Broadway to the Cottage Museum, where wreaths were laid.

Councillor Tim Peacock represented the Parish Council and District Cllr. Craig Leyland played an active part in the service. R.A.F Coningsby and B.B.M.F. both sent representatives.

Visitors to the village were able to see the Lancaster circling on two occasions as well as the Hurricane fly past at lunchtime.

Following lunch in St. Peter's Hall Veterans were able to participate in guided tours of the Roughton and Kirkby Moor army camps, in mini buses kindly loaned by St. Hugh's school, together with other places in the village where troops were based. Special displays were mounted on the Kirkby Moor site so that visitors were able to view photographs and handle artefacts unearthed through tree clearing and gardening. These prompted memories and reminiscences, often good humoured!

The Cottage Museum would like to express its thanks to the many volunteers who helped on the day.

### Jackie Goodall



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### The Bell Award

The Bell Award is given to a young person who has done something of merit for the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum. The original Bell Cup (the property of the Woodhall Spa Agricultural show) was recently stolen. However, the Bell family kindly donated the insurance pay out to the museum to purchase another award, thereby continuing the tradition of the Bell Award.

I originally volunteered to help out at the museum due to my family and friends being involved. Knowing that the museum was eager to recruit younger members, I was happy to spare the time to contribute to a worthy cause.

Helping at the museum was also a benefit to me; it gave me the opportunity to work on my writing skills and enhance my knowledge of the local history.

To be given the Bell Award in May 2011 was rewarding as it is always satisfying to have your efforts acknowledged and appreciated.

Sarah Richards



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



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### Meet the Directors

I was born in Perry Barr, Birmingham in 1946. When I was three my parents moved to Sutton Coldfield and that is where I lived until 1969. I started school when I was four. My future husband John, his twin brother and older sister were already pupils there.

Growing up, I enjoyed a variety of outside activities including music lessons and singing in the church choir. I became involved with the Guide movement,

firstly as a Brownie, then as a Guide and I became a Guide leader when I was seventeen. We camped for a week every summer, travelling to the camp site, which was usually in the Cotswolds, on a flatbed lorry. The equipment was piled in the middle and we sat round the outside singing. What fun! So much for Health and Safety but no one ever fell off.

My family spent every summer holiday in St. Agnes, Cornwall because my grandparents retired there in 1949. The little cottage had electricity but no gas so cooking was done on an antiquated paraffin stove. I recently saw an identical model in a museum in Jersey. With no motorways and our little old black Hillman car laden with luggage, the journey took ten hours.

My father was a well known musician throughout the Midlands. In addition to teaching piano, lecturing and giving recitals, he became the music critic for The Birmingham Post and Mail so from my earliest years I went to concerts and classical music festivals. Through him I have inherited a love of classical music but sadly not his talent.

I always wanted to be a primary school teacher and I realized my ambition in 1967, having trained in Derby. By this time John and I were engaged and we married two years later. He started work with the National Provincial Bank in Birmingham but was moved to Leicester in 1966. We set up home, firstly in Oadby and then Kibworth. We lived in Leicestershire for 38 years. John joined the building society in 1971, which after several mergers became the Alliance and Leicester, now Santander.

I continued my teaching career until 2005. I had a break for several years after our son Chris and then our daughter Sally were born. Throughout that time, as well as teaching children of all primary ages from four to eleven, I ran a play group, helped to organize and run a thriving holiday play scheme and put on Christmas parties for senior citizens.

John's love of golf, in particular the Hotchkin Course, resulted in him becoming a member of Woodhall Spa Golf Club in 1995. It was therefore a sensible decision to relieve him of a weekly four hour round trip and come to live here. We moved in April 2007 a week after he retired. It was the best decision we could have made.

I joined the museum volunteer team in 2009. I have had the opportunity to be involved with various activities and as part of the Learning Team I am still engaging with young people either in school or at the museum. I also represent the museum on the Aviation Heritage Committee. As well as helping to put up displays I can often be found on my hands and knees in the garden - it helps to be flexible in more ways than one!

Gill Noble



Matthew Flinders of Lincolnshire (1774-1814) amongst a life of daring-do mapped the entire coastline of Australia. He was ship wrecked on his way home then interned by the French and finally wrote a book of his life

## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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"Woodhall Spa—The Movie" A film made for Help for Heroes

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## Newsletter 9

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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

Hello Friends.

It was nice to see so many of you at the Annual General Meeting on 9th September. It's hard to believe that we have been going for 5 years. In the time-honoured fashion it is time for a review of how we do things. I have already started to look at membership numbers. I have an ambition to be able to tell Heritage Lottery Fund that we have 100 paid-up members, so I should be grateful if you would spread the word to see if we can increase numbers from our current 85 members to 100! I am also looking at retail opportunities. It has been reported to me that there are not enough Woodhall Spa specific memorabilia available within the village. We cannot let this gap in the market go unfilled can we? We need to research sources of suitable items and retail opportunities which do not require paying someone else to sell them.

If you want to join me on this quest please get in touch and we can arrange to meet. Success in either of these areas will increase the money that the Friends Group contributes to the running costs of the museum. These are likely to increase as those of you at the AGM will have learned as Rodger described the plans for the development of the museum should we get the Heritage Lottery Fund money that we have asked for.

I hope those who went to Harrogate on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct had a good day out. This was quickly followed by the first of Edward Mayor's lectures on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. There are later lectures on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. If there is still time and you would like to go to Edward's home please ring him on 01526 353734. The next item on the calendar is the Annual Lecture "Vulcan to the Sky" on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Don't forget the talk by Dr David Start, Hd of Heritage Lincolnshire, You will be able to learn "What ever happened to Tattershall Castle" at 2.30 on 21<sup>st</sup> November. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the coffee morning on 25<sup>th</sup> November and finally, for this year, the Christmas trip to Pennells Garden Centre and Doddington Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Further information on all of these events can be obtained by ringing me on the number listed above.

**Pam Cowlshaw**



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

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

25th October and 1st November Edward Mayor lectures  
12<sup>th</sup> November Memorial Lecture  
21st November Dr David Start 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

