

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



A New Perspective on the Cottage Museum

Newsletter No. 47  
July 2024

# Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

## A Note from the Editor

Hello again and welcome to the summer edition of the Newsletter. Yes, the 2024 season is now in full swing and we have details of all the events planned for the coming months. All the usual items are there as well, including the a very interesting item from the Collection from Nicholas Duke-Cox and the latest letter from Bertha, courtesy of Marjorie Sargeant. Marjorie also has a look at another entry from the "Axle Cooling" booklet looking this time at Hartington House.



The museum recently held its AGM. Sadly two of our Directors have resigned. Richard Evison, who was our Company Secretary has resigned as he is looking to move out of the area. His job has been taken over by Judy Everitt, Richard has done a great job as Company Secretary and we thank him for his contribution. Judy continues as our very competent and hard working Financial Director. Patricia Duke-Cox has also resigned, but thankfully is not cutting her links with the museum completely and will continue her work with the Collections Team. An article of appreciation for all her work, which spans very many years and written by David Hill, our Chairman, is published on the opposite page.

The job of attracting more volunteers to help in the day to day running continues and if you have friends or colleagues who might be interested do let us know. As has been said on many occasions our volunteers are the life blood of the museum and their importance cannot be stressed enough.

We have a busy summer ahead of us and I hope to see many of you as the programme of events unfolds.

**Philip Groves**

### Front Cover Story

Our cover picture for this issue shows the museum taken from a drone, flown by new volunteer David Weatherley. David and his wife Pat recently moved to Woodhall Spa and have become volunteers, following attending the special Coffee Morning held in April.

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### The Newsletter Committee

Chairman - Paddy O'Neill Editor - Philip Groves Marjorie Sargeant

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or email [philanddeliagroves@gmail.com](mailto:philanddeliagroves@gmail.com)  
Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum:1929



## Patricia Duke-Cox Stands Down from Board of Directors

To pay adequate tribute to the work of Patricia in a half page of our Newsletter is an impossible task! She has simply done 'so much' for the Museum.

When I first became involved with the Museum in the Summer of 1994 Patricia was there. She did many jobs to support David Radford, the founder chairman, and was already a key part of the volunteer group that got the Museum going! She took a short time out, but then came back and has been one of the main stays ever since. She took on the role of Chairman for three years when she ensured that The Cottage Museum made its mark across the Region. Her main interest has always been the Collection. What is a Museum without it's archives and collection? That is the main purpose of the Museum. To record the history of the village and surrounding area. To make sure that the information is recorded and catalogued so that it can be easily accessed by anyone interested. To tell the story of Woodhall Spa, its founding and its ongoing development.



Patricia Duke-Cox

Patricia has been a meticulous custodian of the Collection. She has ensured that everything is recorded and stored to the standard of 'Best Practice' and we, and those who come after, will benefit from her input and we are extremely grateful.

But there is good news to end this story! We are not losing Patricia completely. She will maintain an interest in the collection, and still volunteer and work at the Museum. It would be wrong not to mention that Patricia has been supported by her husband Nick who has produced books about the Petwood Gardens, The Spa Baths, and Jubilee Park, and has also made regular contributions to the Museum life with articles, displays and talks.

So a huge thank you to Patricia for all that you have done, and our grateful thanks to Nick.

David Hill

## The Museum at the Woodhall Country Show

The Woodhall Country Show was held this year on May 19th. As usual the museum had a stand in the Heritage Tent.

Our picture shows David Hill, Museum Chairman and Tina Delaney, Learning Co-ordinator talking with visitors. The weather was fantastic on the day ensuring the museum had a successful time with a steady stream of visitors, giving plenty of opportunity to talk with people about the museum, its collections and the volunteering opportunities it offered.



## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### The Spring Lecture -



*Ken Argent shows his child gas mask*

The Spring Lecture, held at the Golf Hotel in early April, was a great success. It featured the story of the war time evacuees. A story told with great passion by Ken Argent, who now lives in Horncastle. Ken was evacuated from Hornchurch in Essex to Birmingham at a very tender age. He made us realise the trauma that this inflicted on the children and their families.

He brought along a number of exhibits to illustrate what children had to suffer. These included children's gas masks and a contraption which babies had to be put in to keep them safe from gas attacks. He described how his baby sibling screamed when put in this device, He also described how on his return to home, after some three years, he was ostracised because he and his brother had picked up the Birmingham accent. He was told he was posh!

The event was very well attended, with well over 60 attending and raised much needed funds for the museum

**Philip Groves**

### Jubilee Park Fun Day

On Saturday May 11th Jubilee Park held a special event to celebrate 10 years of being a registered charity. The museum had a stand there which was very successful.

There was a steady flow of families with children wanting to try the activities - masks, badges and crowns. The new bar skittles was a hit with young and old and a few tried their hand at splat the rat and the bean bag cornhole. A few people also took leaflets about the museum and volunteering and we talked to parents about our forthcoming family activity day on the 29th May, whilst others left donations towards the museum funds.

Learning Co-ordinator, Tina Delaney said " I thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope the visitors to the park did so too - it made all the difference having nice weather as well."



*A young visitor tries a mask!*



## Music in the Garden - Programme & Artists for 2024

You are cordially invited to join us for the 2024 season of live music in the museum garden on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer.

“Music in the Garden” at The Cottage Museum will feature live music which will be playing from 2pm - 4pm. Entrance to the gardens is FREE but donations are always welcome and the Courtyard Cafe will be open!

Concert dates and artists for this years event are as follows:-

### Sunday July 28th.

**Woodhall Community Band** - We are a concert wind band (brass, woodwind & percussion) formed in 2022 by two ex-military band musicians to provide a much-needed service in our village and surrounding area. We are by the community and for the community, rehearsing weekly on Mondays 7-9pm and performing music where it is needed or appreciated around Woodhall Spa and beyond. We play a wide range of music for all occasions.

### Sunday August 4th

**Sing It Loud**- “Sing It Loud” are a fun and friendly singing group from Woodhall Spa. They sing a wide range of songs and everyone is welcome! With a life-long passion for singing and working in communities, Liz McIntosh leads the singers with warmth, humour and enthusiasm and believes that singing with others is a fundamental community building activity and that singing is for everyone

### Sunday August 11th - Silver Lions Ukulele Band -

<b>200 Club Winners</b>	
<b>February 2024</b>	
£25 [92]	Lynnette Needham
£20 [160]	Vernon Dunford
£15 [116]	Sam Evison
£10 [49]	David Smith
<b>March 2024</b>	
£25 [101]	David Armstrong
£20 [134]	Julie Heathcote
£15 [ 2]	Jeane O'Brien
£10 [74]	Delia Groves
<b>April 2024</b>	
£25 [180]	Judy Everitt
£20 [192]	Kieran Delaney
£15 [162]	Jackie Goodhall
£10 [155]	Malcolm Baxter
<b>May 2024</b>	
£25 [138]	David Sprath
£20 [ 90]	Patzi Thorne
£15 [168]	Walt Limb
£10 [131]	John Humphrey

Silver Lions Ukulele Band are small group of local people who love playing the Ukulele. Ukulele groups are always popular at our “Music in the Garden” concerts and this concert should be very enjoyable, as it was last year.

**Sunday August 18th - The Acoustic Itch** - The group was formed from the disbanded “Between the Lines” group following retirement of John Blanks. Phil Biggs wife Kim joined on vocals and Accordion to form “The Acoustic Itch.”

### August 25th - Al Brown

Al Brown appeared at last year’s concerts for the first time and was enormously popular. He sings songs from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s and has a tremendous rapport with the audience.



The Patio Cafe



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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### From the Collection - JOHN WIELD'S BIRTHPLACE

The photographic archive of the late 'Bill' Skelton, the well-known local journalist was donated to the Museum. Among the photographs was an image of a house by the side of a straight road. Written on the reverse, probably, in Bill's hand, we have, the birth place of John Wield. Where this was and if it still existed had to be ascertained.



History tells us that John's father Thomas and his wife came to Lincolnshire in c.1875 and resided at 'Edlington'. However, no road similar to that in the photograph exists at Edlington village. The road does look very familiar to Stixwould Road going out of Woodhall to Stixwould. Examination of early maps shows the area on the west of Stixwould Road was called 'Edlington Moor' even though it is some miles from Edlington village. In the 1881 census Thomas describes himself as a ...grazer of 14 acres at Edlington. Could this be a corruption of Edlington Moor?



A present-day image from the same viewpoint provides a possible answer. This shows the Village Limits Motel and Restaurant. Closer examination shows that the original house is still there, now totally engulfed by later extensions and alterations but architectural features common to both are discernible.

Thomas later moved to the Bungalow to work at the Baths and eventually set up his Bath-chair business

Courtesy of Streetview)

Nicholas Duke-Cox

## Community Room for Hire

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### Volunteering at the Museum

The Volunteer Coffee morning event held on April 10th was a great success and attracted many prospective volunteers and provided an ideal setting for them to meet current volunteers and find out about possible areas in which they could become involved. At least 5 new people were interested and signed up to become volunteers. If you missed this event and are interested in volunteering at the museum do contact us. Alternatively you are very welcome to come along to one of our monthly Friends and Volunteers Coffee mornings. These are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Community Room starting at 10.30am. You will be very welcome. Our next coffee morning will be on Wednesday July 10th.

The range of opportunities is very wide, be it meeting and greeting visitors, using office and computer skills or practical skills in general maintenance or gardening. For more information please don't hesitate to contact us or go on our website at [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk) or email: [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk)

### Salute to the 40s

Saturday 13th July would have originally marked the start of the 40s Weekend in Woodhall Spa, but sadly the event is cancelled. The museum have decided to bring their own bit of the 40s excitement to the village and hold a "Salute to the 40s" Day on the museum lawn. Rachel Bea, who has regularly been seen entertaining on the museum lawn during the 40s Weekend will be singing her own salute to the 40s between 10am and 4.30am and the Patio Cafe will be open to serve light refreshments. There is no entrance fee but donations will be gratefully accepted.



*Rachel Bea at the museum at last year's 40s weekend*

### The Community Room

You may not realise that the Community Room at the museum is available generally for hire for small meetings and events. It is an ideal venue for such gatherings and is well equipped with a water boiler and refrigerator for making hot and cold drinks etc. It is very versatile, having plenty of tables and chairs available as required. If you are interested please email the museum at [info@cottagemuseum.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagemuseum.co.uk). Hire charges are very reasonable and full details can be found on the museum website [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk).



*Museum End of season reception held in the Community Room*

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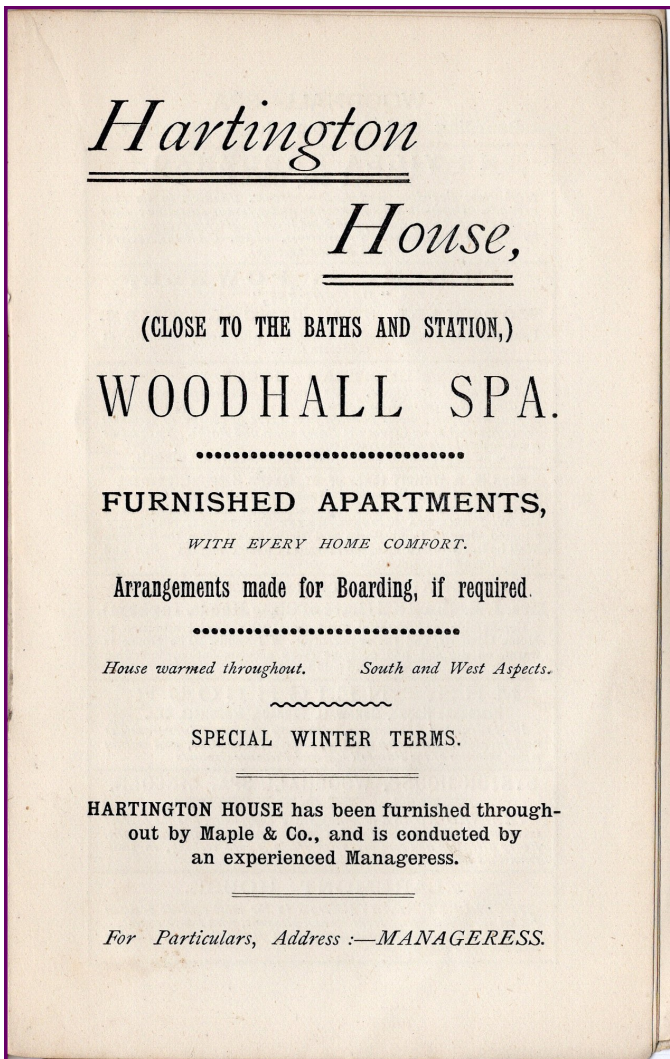
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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

### Axle Cooling – Hartington House



*Advertisement for the house in Axle Cooling*

This may have been one of the buildings “Mellow Observer” had in mind when, in 1890, he wrote, “Woodhall Spa is bright and new with well-built residences, commodious and drained, durable and compact and surrounded by gardens.”

I note in the advertisement that as well as, “every home comfort,” the house is “warmed throughout.” Today, of course, we would not expect otherwise.

How interesting that it was furnished by Maples, the well-known London firm. Some years after this, heiress Grace Maple, came to Woodhall Spa to take the waters. She later became Lady Weigall of Petwood.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Hartington House became Woodhall Spa High School for Girls. The day girls and boarders were educated to Cambridge Matriculation level, and had visiting tutors for subjects such as art, dancing and music; only French was spoken at lunchtime. The girls were expected to behave as young ladies in deportment, conversation and dress; gloves must always be worn outdoors. The successful school remained at Hartington House

for some 25 years before the property reverted to being a guest house.

It is still a handsome building, standing on the Broadway, witness to over a century of change in traffic and fashion. Now it is composed of privately owned apartments.

**Marjorie Sargeant**

### Come and Join Us

The backbone of the Cottage Museum is our volunteers and some of them are putting a lot of hours in and could really do with a hand. Can you help? Do you have a few hours to spare in the month? It does not have to be a massive commitment. There are numerous opportunities to suit most interests. If you would like to find out more without committing yourself then please call us on **01526 352456** .





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## Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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### Bertha, July 1924

Dear Readers,

The Season is in full swing in Woodhall Spa but we used to have far more visitors. People blame the destruction of the Victoria Hotel but the Baths are not doing well.



*The Spa Bath Building*

Last year, Rev. Brooks, representing our spa at the British Spas Federation meeting in Buxton, reported "excellent progress" here. Perhaps he was referring to more modern appliances but as Perce says, "what the village needs is more bodies using them."

In the Spring, Annie and I went to a talk by Rev. Whiting who used to be Vicar here. He is now the "Venerable Archdeacon Whiting, late of Mauritius." From Woodhall Spa to the Indian Ocean! He described brightly

coloured birds and waving sugar canes, not like our dull "tayets." I said to Perce, "If we did not have the Baths, why would anyone choose to come to Lincolnshire?"

Talking of faraway places, the prizes at Hartington House School this summer were given by Sir Henry Lunn, who founded the travel company. He is the brother of Miss Lunn, headmistress of the school. Of course, I know no-one travels as far as Mauritius but he started the Alpine Skiing Club in Switzerland.



*The Mill on Mill Lane*

With fewer visitors, Perce and I decided to see a bit of the Season ourselves. At the beginning of the month we had an outing to the 4th Annual Kirkstead Show. Its Chairman is Colonel Weigall. Perce said they should have one of their own... er... gentlemen, not poach from Woodhall. There was a gymkhana, cycling races and sports. A novelty race was Musical Chairs on Bicycles which caused much hilarity - not from men who fell off! The catering was done by J.D. Rose of the bakery at the Mill on Mill Lane - at least Kirkstead had its own caterer.

*Bertha*  
*July 1924*

**Marjorie Sargeant**



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**LOKI'S PAGE** Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of Loki's page! I expect you are all looking forward to the summer holidays and hoping for lovely weather. We need it with all the events planned for the holidays. Hope to see you at some of them. Good luck with the Wordsearch Bye for now 

## Family Fun Activity Days Through the Summer

There are 3 Family Fun Activity Days coming up on -  
**Wednesday 24th July**  
**Wednesday 7th August**  
**Wednesday 21st August**

### The Summer Trail in the Museum is 'Find the Odd One Out'

and it starts on Tuesday 9th July 2024.

Some odd things have been happening in the Museum. It all started after the Time Travel Trail. Some of our time travellers left objects around the Museum which do not belong there.

**Can you find them?**

## THE ODD ONE OUT WORDSEARCH

N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	L	T
E	E	E	O	U	S	V	A	S	H
E	A	V	N	D	D	I	N	N	I
T	N	E	E	N	C	N	S	O	R
N	E	S	E	L	E	O	O	T	T
E	T	H	R	E	E	N	I	N	E
V	R	B	T	E	S	D	Z	U	E
E	L	F	I	V	E	A	N	B	N
S	I	T	C	D	O	M	C	I	K
F	N	X	T	A	T	H	G	I	E

**Can you find the hidden words?**

**They are horizontal, vertical, diagonal and sometimes backward.**

**ONE THREE FIVE SEVEN NINE ELEVEN THIRTEEN FIFTEEN SEVENTEEN NINETEEN and the odd one out EIGHT.**

Jane Hodgson





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## The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

**Committee:** Annette Southcott

**Membership Secretary:** Kelly Jestin  
(Hours of work Tuesday - Thursday 9.00-4.00pm  
Email: friends@cottagemuseum.co.uk)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to summer! It's hard to believe we are almost half way through the year, and plans for the summer activities at the Museum are well underway.

Our annual spring talk was held on Saturday 13 April in the Golf Hotel. This year it was given by Ken Argent, who spoke of his wartime experiences as a small child from Hornchurch, being evacuated to Birmingham. Yes, you did read that correctly, Birmingham! This was just the start of many surprises in Ken's talk which was funny and poignant in equal measure.

We had a great turnout of over sixty people and raised £462.00 from tickets and £140.00 from the raffle. We were also able to give a donation to the British Evacuees Association at Ken's request in lieu of a speaker's fee.

As you will no doubt have heard, the Woodhall Spa 1940s weekend is no longer running. However, we are aware that many visitors have already booked advance accommodation so with this in mind, the Museum will be hosting a **Tribute to The 40s** for one day on Saturday 13 July. Rachel Bea will be performing throughout the day and the courtyard cafe will be open from 10.30-3.30pm. As always, we rely on our team of helpers to bake cakes in advance and to serve in the cafe so if you haven't already volunteered and would like to help in any way please get in touch with the Museum and let us know.

The Music in the Garden events will take place every Sunday starting on 28th July and every Sunday until the end of August. We have a great line up of performers booked. Again, we will need your help with baking cakes and serving teas to the performers and the audience at the intervals. As well as being a good opportunity to meet and socialise, these activities make a significant contribution to the Museum funds and are a crucial part of our income, so we are very grateful to our Friends and volunteers who make these happen.

The Museum will be taking part in Heritage Lincolnshire's Open Day programme when participating venues have free entry. This year it will be on Saturday 7 September and it is planned to have some activities in the gardens. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

Coffee mornings are now open to volunteers and held on the second Wednesday of the month, with a couple of exceptions which are notified in advance. We look forward to welcoming you and our thanks for your continued support.

Best Wishes



### What's On Guide

#### **"Salute to the 40s"**

Rachel Bea sings 40s songs on the front lawn  
Sat 13th July  
10.00am to 4.30pm  
Patio Café will be open  
Free admission but donations welcome

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#### **Music in the Garden**

Sunday afternoons through the Summer 2-4pm  
28 July - Community Band  
4 Aug - Sing It Loud  
11 Aug - Silver Lions Ukulele Band  
18 Aug - Acoustic Itch  
25 Aug - Al Brown  
Patio Café open at interval  
Admission Free  
Donations Welcomed  
Full details on Page 5

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For the latest information visit [www.cottagemuseum.co.uk](http://www.cottagemuseum.co.uk)

### Friends and Volunteers Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning is normally held on the second Wednesday of the month, to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors.

The next event is planned for Wednesday 10th July from 10.30am until 12 noon.

**Please check our website, or social media for the latest information.**

Annette Southcott

