

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum



Dr. Rob Wheeler delivers
the Spring Lecture

Newsletter No. 41
July 2022

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

A Note from the Editor

The 2022 season has got off to a good start with visitor numbers up on the 2019 levels. Lynnette Needham reports that several new volunteers have joined the Meeting and Greeting team, which means there are very few gaps in the Rota. If this is something you would like to be involved in please contact Lynnette, who will be delighted to hear from you.

As many of you will know Poppy's Page was a feature we introduced when I became the Editor of this Newsletter back in July 2012 with issue 11. It has been a popular feature with both young and older readers ever since. Poppy was our Parson Russell dog and sadly she passed away in early March, having been diagnosed with Diabetes.

We now have a 3 year old Border Collie called Loki and we have decided to let Loki present the Poppy's Page feature, as you will see on page 18.

It is heartening to see everything getting back to near normality this year, after two very difficult years battling the Covid Virus. The Education Team have a series of events planned for the summer which are listed on Poppy's Page. It was also good to see the Country Show being held once more and the 1940s Weekend is going ahead, with the museum participating as we always have. The "Music in the Garden" concerts are on the schedule once more and are fully reviewed on page 3. So all in all it should be business as usual for this season.

Marjorie Sargeant presents the latest letter from Bertha on page 16 and also continues with her exploration of the rare booklet "Axle Cooling" from the museum's archives. Nicholas Duke-Cox has drawn from the collection the fascinating story of the Pell Cup, which I have to admit I had never heard of, but then I don't play Bowls!

I hope you all have a great summer and perhaps I will meet some you at some of the events we have planned.

Philip Groves



Front Cover Story

The Annual Spring Lecture was delivered on Saturday April 23rd. by Dr. Robert Wheeler. His subject was the drainage of the fens and entitled "Sir Alan Banks - Hero or Villain of Fen Drainage". The lecture was well attended with about 60 people present. They heard how Banks manoeuvred his way through the politics of the day and delivered a successful outcome.

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The Newsletter Committee

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Reg. Charity: 1114268 Reg. Museum:1929

Music in the Garden - 2022

Once again the museum is delighted to be able to present its series of open air concerts on the front lawn of the museum through the month of August and first week of September.

This event has steadily increased in popularity since it was first trialled in 2016 and last year attracted audiences of around 100 for some of the events. The concerts are free, though the audience is able to make a donation. At the interval refreshments are served from the Courtyard Café and the delicious home made cakes are always very tempting!

The Line up this year is as follows:-

Sunday August 7th - “Sing it Loud” - They 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 14th - “Between the Lines” - This group are a highly popular and successful Lincolnshire Folk Band. These local heroes have gone to another level since the addition of guitar and mandolin maestro Dave Tucker, who provides the perfect counterfoil to the dynamic vocals of Phil Biggs and John Blanks. With three songwriters in the band and a huge repertoire of Americana as well, the band offers so much to enjoy.



Sunday August 21st. - “Spalding Folk Group”

Spalding folk club has been running continuously since 1979. There has been a strong tradition of song writing over many years, for which they have won awards at the “Write a Lincolnshire Folk Song” competition. Despite this, most of the regular performers have a repertoire of traditional material as well.



Sunday August 28th - “CATS” Strummers”

Gwenda and Steve formed CATS in 2014. CATS are a small ukulele group based in the Coningsby and Tattershall area. Their concerts are tremendous fun and offer plenty of opportunity for audience participation. They have performed at the Music in the Garden events several times and are tremendously popular,



Saturday September 3rd - The Spa Singers”



The Spa Singers are a group of fifty ladies and gentlemen based in Woodhall Spa who meet each Wednesday evening for the sheer enjoyment of singing together in a large group.

They meet to sing because they want to sing. They love their singing. They sing very well –and have great fun doing it! For information on the Spa Singers email thespasingers@gmail.com

Philip Groves

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

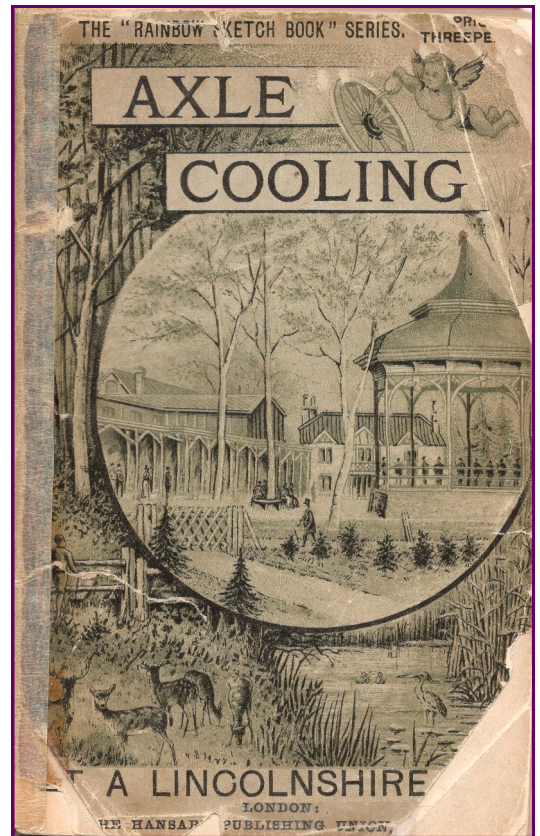
“Axle Cooling” - a very rare booklet

This is the delightful front cover of the article entitled “Axle Cooling,” written by a “mellow observer” in 1890.

It shows the pretty grounds of the Spa, complete with deer, rustic fencing and several trees for which Woodhall was famous. It is dominated by a bandstand peopled by a few gentlemen, perhaps members of the Spa Band, which played at regular intervals during the day throughout the Season. Behind the bandstand is Doctor’s house and on the left is a verandah running along the side of the Baths and the triangular pediment of the Pump Room.

It appears the observer was indeed in need of aid. He writes that he “elects to cool his axle, by repairing his body and balancing his mind under the wear and tear complaint.” “With stiffened joints and a dry cough but with a feeble expectancy flickering in his darkened mind,” he was swathed in shawls and transported to the terminus of the Great Northern Railway, where he was “wedged in a corner” of a train to be conveyed to Woodhall Spa.

Marjorie Sargeant



1940s Weekend

For the first time in two years the Woodhall Spa 1940s weekend will be held over the weekend of 9/10th July. As in previous years the museum will be



“Monty” salutes Arnhem

participating. The Courtyard Café will be open between 10am and 4pm on both days with tea and coffee etc. and



The Courtyard Café in full swing in 2018 the usual array of delicious homemade cakes to tempt the visitors. It is also planned to have a Tombola stall in the garden.

It is not too late to volunteer to help in any way you can, whether it be in the Courtyard Café, clearing tables, washing up, just let us know either by phone message or email. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

This event is normally hugely successful and given the time that has elapsed since the last 40s weekend it could well be bigger than ever.

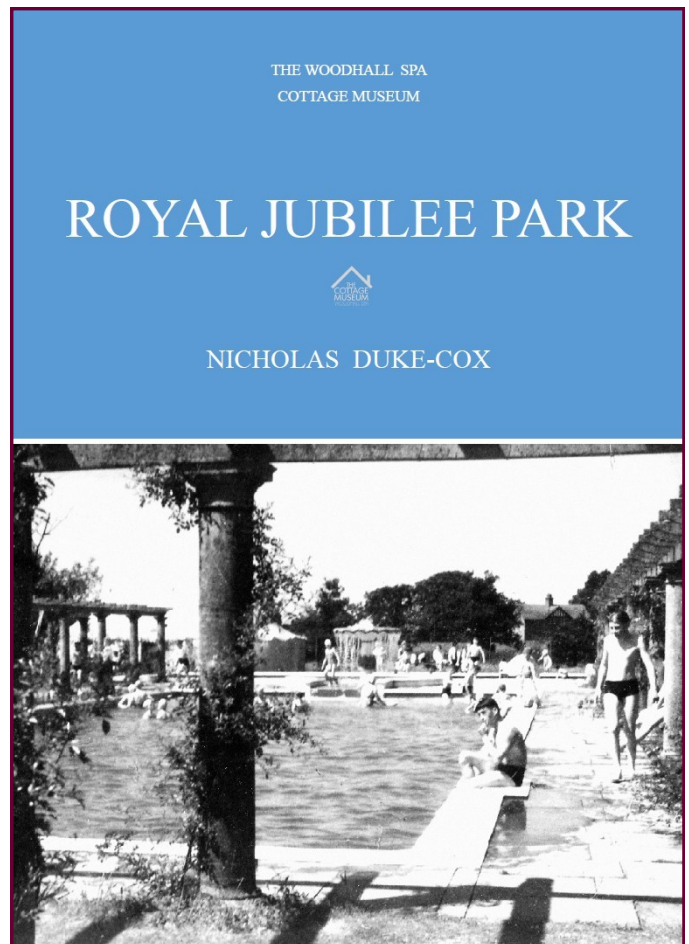
Philip Groves

New Book on Royal Jubilee Park

A new publication is now on the shelves at the Cottage Museum that complements the first two volumes depicting images from the archives of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum, those being "The Gardens of Petwood" and "Taking the Waters at Woodhall Spa".

The research for this book has centred on Jubilee Park in Woodhall Spa and was suggested by one of the Trustees of JPWS Ltd. The title of the book is "Royal Jubilee Park" with images again taken from the archives of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum.

The history of this beautiful recreational area is detailed from the time of its ownership as a field by Grace Weigall of Petwood House. She envisaged constructing gardens and sports grounds to be laid out for her intended Bath house. Photographs and copies of documents in the possession of the Museum have been used to illustrate the history. The story takes us from the 1920s, to the laying of the Foundation Stone for the Bath house in 1935, the gift of 1947 and on to the present day with the latest acquisition of a fitness suite, the sensory garden and wood



Cover of the new book

carving

sculptures being decorative features around the park as well as the ever popular modern swimming pool. The amenities and continuing sporting clubs are included with a brief history.

The book is available as a cased (hardback) copy, from the Museum either by a visit (open Wednesday to Saturdays 10.30am – 3.30pm), phone 01526 352456 or by email to info@cottagemuseum.co.uk. The cost is £20. The author is willing to sign copies of the book that can be collected by arrangement.

Patricia Duke-Cox

200 Club Winners

February 2022

£25 [197] Amarylis Midgley
£20 [22] Francesca Hall
£15 [179] Charlie Bell
£10 [182] Chrissie Lake

March 2022

£25 [120] Julie Westerman
£20 [200] Julie Pole
£15 [29] Marcus Williams
£10 [96] Margaret Cole

April 2022

£25 [183] Jane Townell
£20 [47] Patzi Thorne
£15 [161] Kelly Jestin
£10 [17] John Noble

May 2022

£25 [111] Jayne Thornally
£20 [152] Joanne Brealey
£15 [49] Christine Sharp
£10 [23] Carolyn Smith

June 2022

£25 [99] Joseph Gordon
£20 [199] Joe Stanhope
£15 [104] Sydney Wilkinson
£10 [145] Ron Bixby

Volunteer Coffee Mornings

A coffee morning

is normally held monthly to enable volunteers from the various teams to meet each other and to meet some of the Directors. It affords a great opportunity to exchange ideas and make suggestions, or just have a general chinwag! The next event is planned for Wednesday July 6th from 10.30am. There is no event in August but coffee mornings resume on the first Wednesday of the month thereafter, dependant on public health considerations. Please check our website, or social media for the latest information.

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From the Collection

THE PELL CUP

For all those keen on bowls amongst our membership, I relate an interesting story, with the accompanying photographs from the museum archive, which occurred annually in Woodhall in August from 1933 to 1938. In the archive there are a total of eight photographs, all taken at the same place but in different years.

Edwin Pell (1909-1967) was a local councillor but not a local man. Both he and his wife Edith née Johnson (1910-1993) originated from Sheffield, Yorkshire. They married in 1931. He was the son of a fish merchant and came to Woodhall with his wife and two children in the late 1920s. He built an imposing detached house in 1928 on Witham Road and called it 'Duncannon'. He became a builder constructing a number of houses in Woodhall Spa.



Edwin was keen on bowls and while in Woodhall created and maintained an excellent 2-rink bowls green on the lawn to the rear of his house as well as setting up the Woodhall Spa Bowling Club in about 1930. He initiated an annual bowls competition for members of the club. Qualifying rounds were played at the Golf Club greens but the semi-finals and final always took place on his own green. The occasion was well

attended by both competitors and spectators sitting in deck-chairs as can be seen from the image above. This is the semi-finals of 1934. The players on the green are left to right, Mr. Peppercorn, Mr Wattam, the eventual winner, Mr.Lister and Mr.Tyler.

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From the Collection continued...



Detail of PC02315

The first prize trophy was originally a modest but still substantial affair, but at his own expense, he later donated a magnificent silver trophy known as 'The Pell Cup' (illustrated left with the replica) which was presented to the winner for them to keep for the year. It was surmounted, as was the runner up trophy, by a crown bowl. A small replica was given to the winner to keep. Even the other prizes were of the highest quality. Unfortunately, the current whereabouts of this trophy is unknown but apparently the lid is with the Woodhall Town Bowls Club.

Edwin captained the team of the Woodhall Bowling Club against Sir Archibald Weigall's team at the opening of the sports grounds at Jubilee Park in April 1934. Edwin's team were the winners. Just over a year later the Park itself was opened. The image left below shows Edwin Pell with his daughter, Dorothy and Sir Archibald Weigall at the 1934 Pell competition at which Dorothy presented the prizes. Note how immaculately dressed they are.

Edwin's son, also an Edwin, also came to live in Woodhall with his family. He built a house on the Horncastle Road and named it Norfolk Lodge. When Edwin senior retired from his community positions, he and his son exchanged houses but took their own house names with them. Hence 'Duncannon' on Witham Road became 'Norfolk Lodge'. The name remains to this day.



Detail of PC02313

Edwin Pell died at a relatively young age. His widow continued to live at 'Duncannon' on Horncastle Road until 1977 when she moved to a small bungalow, Maple Lodge, on the Broadway. She remained there until her death in 1993.

This is a condensed version of a much more detailed monograph on Edwin Pell I researched, which is in the museum archive.

If anyone has any knowledge of the Pell Cup please contact the Cottage Museum.

Nicholas Duke-Cox

Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

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Retirement of Pauline Kirk - Museum Volunteer

On Thursday 7th April we had a small farewell event for Pauline Kirk, who has worked for the Cottage Museum for over 12 years as a regular volunteer.

Pauline was presented with some flowers and a card to mark the occasion.

Pauline volunteered to

come in every Thursday to help with the cataloguing and maintenance of the museum's artefacts.



Pauline Kirk and her husband Ralph at Pauline's leaving event



Pauline models a maid's cap

She was part of the team who helped move the artefacts from the old museum stores to the brand-new state of the art storage that we have today. This work meant she had to assist with classifying the items, photographing the items, and helping to digitise the collection ready for relocation. We spent many happy hours working on this project and Pauline was a great help with her meticulous lists and photography skills.

Since moving into the new buildings she has steadfastly helped with ensuring items are packed correctly, labelled clearly and in the correct locations. (see the photograph of her modelling a maid's cap with label attached!)

More recently she tried her hand at preparing the exhibits for the Museum openings and helping plan and display the artefacts and photographs as part of the Display team, putting forward ideas and plans for the regular changes of the Museum Displays. This included finding the items in the stores that were to be displayed, unwrapping them, cleaning them and placing them in the Display, plus after the season was over returning the items to the stores after again cleaning them, rewrapping them and replacing them in the original location.

We worked well as a team and had a jolly time as well, we will miss Pauline's mischievous sense of humour, however we wish her well and all the best in her "Retirement."

Thank you, Pauline, for all your hard work and cheerful companionship.

Heather Colebrook



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Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Woodhall Spa - July 1922

Dear Readers,

In my last letter I said that the Royal Hotel was being converted into flats. By April six were taken.

In the middle of May, I came out of the bakery and walked down the Broadway. There was a gathering of people outside Morton's, the printer at number five. Apparently, a young bullock belonging to Mr. Bourne, the butcher on the Broadway, was being taken to the slaughter house on Witham Road when it became restive and blundered into the shop! It viewed itself in a large showcase for some seconds before with "a little persuasion," it walked calmly out. (Perce snorted at that, "persuasion" he said, "it was a beast, not a pet puppy.")



Morton's the Printer at No.5



The "Royal"

The bullock, with its harassed-looking herdsman crossed the railway lines and passed the Mall but at the Royal it became unruly again, suddenly swerved to its left and Lordy me! It crashed into a large window of the flat owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, causing not a little alarm.

Visitors witnessing the incident were astonished. They select this country spa and then frequently are surprised by manifestations of rural life.

It is only fifteen years ago, in May 1897, that the Royal Hotel received its first visitors. Then, the next month, like the rest of the village, it was bedecked with flags and banners to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The day was a holiday, of course, with sports and competitions and teas. In the morning a band led a procession of residents and children in their Sunday best, to St. Peter's Church for a service of thanksgiving for Her Majesty's long reign.

Her revered Highness served almost 64 years on the throne! Surely that was a record for all time.



Samuel Redshaw's shop bedecked with bunting for Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897

Bertha
July 1922

Marjorie Sargeant

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POPPY'S PAGE

presented by **LOKI**

I am Loki, pictured on the right. I am 3 years old and have been rescued by the Editor after Poppy sadly passed away in March. Poppy's Page appeared in July 2012, the 25th Anniversary year of the museum. I hope you enjoy the puzzles and perhaps can come to some of the activities.

Bye for now, Loki



Activities for the Summer

The Time Travel Trail

from 6th July to 10th September

Rag Rugging

Wednesday 3rd August 10.00 am to 12 noon

Jubilee Clay

Wednesday 17th August 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Jane Hodgson

TWO PUZZLES FOR THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

Puzzle 1 WHAT AM I?

My first is in CORONATION but not in JUBILATION.

My second is in PEARL but not in DIAMOND.

My third is in GOLD but not in SILVER.

My fourth is in WONDERFUL but not in JOYFUL.

My last is in PLATINUM but not in SAPPHIRE.

My whole is something the Queen may wear.

(Answer on Page 9)

Puzzle 2

How many different words with 3 or more letters can you find in

PLATINUM JUBILEE?

They must begin with P or J.

Good Luck.
Jane Hodgson



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The Friends of the Woodhall Spa Cottage Museum

Committee: Annette Southcott

Membership Secretary: Judy Everitt

Dear Friends

It's hard to believe that we are almost half way through the year. Where has the time gone?

At the Museum we have been busy as usual. The Spring Talk by Dr Rob Wheeler took place on 23rd April on the subject of Sir Joseph Banks and his role in the drainage of the Fenlands. It was a very well attended event with around sixty in the audience. We certainly all learned something about the politics involved and how the Fens became the productive agricultural lands that we know today. As the county is now having similar discussions about renewable energy supplies and the same political arguments, nothing changes it seems!

After a two year absence, preparations are underway for the 1940s weekend and the Museum will be playing its part. The café will be open on both days from 10am until 4pm and as always, we rely on Friends and volunteers to help with baking cakes, serving in the café, clearing tables and washing up. We also plan to have a Tombola stall in the garden.

If you can spare any time and have not already put your name down, it's not too late. An hour or so would make all the difference, Just send us a message detailing what help you can offer or leave your details at the Museum or on the answerphone.

Please note, there will be no Coffee Morning in August, but they will resume as usual on the first Wednesday of the month up until Christmas.

Finally, it is with much regret that we have to announce that John Wilkinson the current chairman of the Friends Group is stepping down from the role. We will miss his wisdom, experience and Lincolnshire humour as well as his vast knowledge of all things Woodhall Spa.

We send every good wish to John and Barbara for the future. The Friends Group plays a vital role in fundraising for the Museum. During the period of lockdown, that role was severely curtailed for obvious reasons. We would like to re-establish the Group to help plan and run further activities so if you are interested and have time and enthusiasm to spare, we would love to hear from you. As before, just drop us an email or leave a message at the Museum. Best wishes

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**



What's On Guide

**Events planned for this year
but subject to change
dependant on Covid
restrictions**

**40s Weekend
9-10th July**

**Tombola Stand in the
museum gardens and
refreshments from the
Courtyard Café.**

**Music in the Garden
2 to 4pm**

**Sunday 7/14/21/28 Aug
and Saturday 3rd Sept**

**Time Travel Trail
6th July to 10th Sept**

**Rag Rugging
3rd Aug 10am to 12 noon**

**Jubilee Clay
17th Aug 10am to 12 noon**

For the latest information visit
www.cottagemuseum.co.uk
& www.woodhallspa.org

Annette Southcott

