



Woodhall Spa is a civil parish and village in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, England within a wooded area on the Southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, about 6 miles south-west of Horncastle and about 15 miles east-south-east of Lincoln. It is noted for its mineral springs, cinema, and its Second World War association with the RAF 617 Squadron. The cinema has the last remaining rear screen projector in the country.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

During The Second World War Woodhall Spa's two main hotels, The Golf Hotel (top) and The Petwood Hotel (lower), were requisitioned for the RAF, and Pinewoods used to hide military equipment, especially on its northern perimeter.

RAF Woodhall Spa airfield was built to the south of the village in the parish of Tattershall Thorpe. It closed for operational purposes in 1964, although it is still owned by the Ministry of Defence, used mainly for jet engine maintenance and testing, and is operated as a satellite unit of nearby RAF Coningsby.

A memorial wall depicting the breaching of the German dams in Operation Chastise, otherwise known as the "Dam Busters" raid, stands at the crossroads in the centre of the village. It is dedicated to the memory of those from 617 Squadron who were lost during the night of 16–17 May 1943.

The memorial is the location of a local school choir photograph, published in Lincolnshire Life magazine, which included a black Labrador dog; the photo-caption asks if this "mysterious" animal was Guy Gibson's dog, which was run over and killed shortly before Gibson



departed to bomb German dams.

Most of the Royal Hydro Hotel and Winter Gardens were destroyed by a German parachute mine which fell on 17 August 1943, although part of it did survive and became the Mall Hotel.

THE KINEMAIN THE WOODS

The Kinema in the Woods is located at the centre of the Pinewoods next to the now derelict Spa Baths and opposite the site of the former Victoria Hotel. Housed in a converted cricket pavilion, when it opened in 1922 it was one of the first cinemas in Britain. It is one of the few cinemas in the

country that still employs back projection and also offers regular entertainment on an original Compton Captain Organ.

NATIONAL GOLF CENTRE

The first nine-hole golf course was opened in Woodhall Spa in 1890, but only survived until 1895 when the land was required for building.[19] A new site was found and another nine hole golf course was laid out, but by 1902 it became clear that the golf course would have to find another new home as the land was again required for the expansion of the spa town.

Local landowner Stafford Vere Hotchkin, offered a sandy tract of land off the Horncastle Road to build an 18-hole course. The course was designed by Harry Vardon and was formally opened for play on 24 April 1905. It was remodelled in 1911 by Harry Colt, and again by Hotchkin himself in the 1920s.

Womersley House was built by the Hotchkin family, who were instrumental in the development of the adjoining Hotchkin Golf Course - now the headquarters of the English

Golf Union, who bought the course in 1995 to set up a National Golf Centre. A second course, "The Bracken", opened for play in 1998 alongside the original course, now named "the Hotchkin". The St Andrews Trophy was held at the golf course in 1996.

It was voted 20th best course in the world by Today's Golfer magazine in 2010.

JUBILEE PARK

Jubilee Park, opened in 1937, lies adjacent to the Pinewoods and includes Jubilee Park Swimming Pool, a heated outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, a bowling green, children's playground, croquet and a cricket ground, which is home to Woodhall Spa Cricket Club. On 22 December 2010, BBC Radio 4 broadcast the half-hour-long Australian Wanted in Woodhall Spa, presented by Chris Ledgard and detailed overseas players playing for English amateur cricket clubs.

In December 2010 East Lindsey Council sold Jubilee Park to the Woodhall Spa residents for £1. It is currently undergoing renovations. Jubilee Park is next to a caravan park of the same name and is suitable for large RVs.