

TOM BROWN'S School Museum

The Friends Newsletter



TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM WINTER EDITION

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VICTORIAN DAY AT THE MUSEUM

On Wednesday, 17th November, pupils from Class 2 at Uffington Primary School turned themselves into Victorian children and attended the school at the Old Schoolroom (aka Tom Brown's School Museum). Lessons started, led by their teacher Mrs. Turner, and the Headmistress (Sharon Smith), with the children chanting

their numbers with the abacus. This was followed by handwriting with pen and ink or chalk and slates and reading. The School Inspector (Jane Cooper) visited to make sure that their learning was up to standard and they were tested on what they had learnt about the history of the schoolroom and also, the famous Victorian

character: Thomas Hughes. In the afternoon, they practised their drill and had an object lesson with an apple and looked at various objects relating to the home and work which had been provided by the Museum services.

VICTORIAN CHILDREN





Luckily, the cane didn't have to be used as the children were beautifully behaved! But we found that the hardest thing was keeping a straight – and stern – face!

BETJEMAN'S BOOK

We were pleased to receive a complimentary copy of 'John Betjeman and Cornwall' by Philip Payton. Professor Payton had spent time in the museum researching for the publication and kindly put in the following piece in the acknowledgements: "...the Uffington collection also includes a fascinatingly diverse mix of original Betjeman correspondence, personal papers, notebooks,

appointment diaries, newspaper cuttings, and ephemera of all types – including a stash of envelopes, addressed in Betjeman's hand and bearing Manx postage stamps! There is also personal correspondence from Penelope Betjeman to her husband. I have been fortunate enough to have had this extremely important Uffington collection put at my disposal, through the assistance of the Friends of

the Tom Brown's School Museum and the permission of Candida Lycett Green, and I am especially grateful to Sharon Smith for making all the necessary arrangements for me to visit the Museum on several occasions and to undertake extended research there."

The book will be added to our collection in the bookcase.

MUSEUM INDEX EXPLAINED

We thought that we would use this Newsletter to explain a little more of mysteries of the Museum – to help you find out more about what we have in the Museum!

The Index is a very important file which details all the ‘things’ which we hold in the museum. It is a **green ring binder** on the shelf under the display cabinet behind the table. It is divided by alphabetical order into various categories:

A = artefacts (all the objects that we hold in the museum are labelled with a number beginning with UFFTB:A/001, A/002, etc.) These are either on display around the room or stored in cupboards under the showcases on Thomas Saunders and Thomas Hughes.

B = books (all our books on the bookshelves, bookcase and display cabinets have a number beginning with

UFFTB:B/001, B/002, etc.)

C = CD's (copies of CDs – UFFTB:C/001, etc)

D = documents (each of our blue box files have a record number UFFTB:D/ and then two letters relating to the box file and then the number of the record within that box file, e.g. UFFTB:D/UR/001 would be the first document in the Uffington Records Box file. There is a list in the front of the Green Index file giving the description of each box file and what it contains and there is also a list in each box file giving the details of the records kept within it!)

E = exhibitions (when each exhibition is dismantled, the work is recorded and kept in a plastic box – UFFTB:E/B1/001 would be the first item in Box 1). We are now up to Box 10 and these are generally kept in the cupboard under the stairs.

F = folders (These are A1 folders for maps, and large documents that are too big to go in the box files e.g. UFFTB:F1/001 would be the first item in Folder 1) These folders are kept in the middle cupboard behind the table.

M = maps (Maps are rolled and kept in cardboard tubes in the first cupboard behind the table, (these are indexed TMA/001, etc.)

At the back of this file is also a list of all the audio recordings that we have on the computer.

There is **another green file** which holds records of our photographs but I will explain that file in the next newsletter and all these records are also kept on the museum computer – but that is another story!

EXHIBITION FOR 2011

We have starting thinking about next year's exhibition which will be on 'Uffington's Transport: Road, Rail & Canal'. We have

asked Adrian Vaughan, author of the book Faringdon Branch Line, to open our exhibition on 19th April, 2011 and we have also

asked the Wilts & Berks Canal Group to give a talk in May.

Committee Members

If you have any questions about the Friends please contact one of the committee members. All phone numbers have the prefix 01367.

Jane Cooper (Chair)	820207
Sharon Smith (Museum Curator)	820259
John Davis (Treasurer)	820318
Brian Short (Secretary)	820347
Pamela Preene (Newsletter)	820251
John Henville (IT)	820411
Lucy Dillistone (Rota)	820498
Bill Mitchell	820693

Rota

Any suggestions welcome to:

Lucy 820498,
Jane 820207
Sharon 820259.

The Museum's address is Broad Street, Uffington, FARINGDON, SN7 7RA
The Friend's web site is <http://www.museum.uffington.net>

‘Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year’

Friends AGM – Tuesday 15th February, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Museum and

Launch of the new exhibition on Tuesday, 19th April, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Museum

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

With the Museum safely shut for the winter we can say that 2010 has proved to be another successful year. In total we had 1194 visitors, which breaks down to be made up of 842 adults and 352 children. Our last Newsletter gave the numbers for the early months ie April 217, May 181, June 111, July 331, the later months were as follows, August 197, September 85, October 72. In addition to this we had the Victorian school day which is reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

We could not have managed any of the above without the great support of our Friends, especially those who gave up their time to join the rota and open the Museum for visitors. We do send all our Friends a “thank you “ for their support but a specially big “thank you “ goes to those on the rota. An extra “thank you” is also deserved by those who regularly distribute our Newsletter.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that two new members have agreed to join the rota and we do welcome them. They go a long way to replace the three members resigning but it still leaves us one person short for the rota so those of you who pay please think of saving your membership fee and join the rota. Just two weekend afternoons during the season are all that is needed and you will be helped to get started, no special knowledge is needed. Just ring Lucy on 820498 who will be delighted to hear from you.

Ivor Mildenhall

We are sad to have to report that Ivor died on 18th November aged 71years. He was one of the decreasing number of people who spent all their lives in Uffington. He grew up on his parents farm and eventually started his own building firm. He was a true craftsman with an extensive knowledge of traditional materials and methods. When we refurbished the gallery in the Museum and the plaster came off the north wall with the display boards, it was Ivor who came to our rescue. He not only told us what we needed to do but used his skill to re-plaster the wall in the traditional manner. We send our sympathy to his family.