

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM



The Friends Newsletter



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FILMING AT THE MUSEUM

“Escape to the Country” escaped to Uffington in August! Aled Jones filmed the opening sequence outside the Museum – using the cane and a gown to act out the part of the schoolmaster. The programme didn't feature any

houses in the area but used the surrounding countryside to illustrate the Vale of the White Horse – the White Horse itself, Wayland's Smithy and the Blowing Stone and I was used to 'introduce' the area to the couple. They

seemed to like the area but we will have to watch the programme to see if they liked the houses that had been picked out for them! It will be shown in about 5 months time.



Visitors to the Museum 2010

As most of you will remember we hope to have a least a 1000 visitors a year to the Museum. Up until the end of July this year we have had 840 visitors as against 763 at the same time last year although in 2008 we had had 859. The breakdown month by month is as follows, April- 217, May- 181, June- 111 and July- 331. The low numbers in

June reflect the counter attractions of Wimbledon and the world cup. The high numbers in July, the number of school groups that visited us, 3 in one week! This breakdown explains why some Volunteers have a busy afternoon in the Museum while others find it a long session. I fear it is just luck if you get the numbers you like but they all help to-

wards our total.

We should be on course to meet our target but do bring your visitors to see the Museum and encourage others to do likewise. Our viability is measured by our visitor numbers, not our financial position.

A HAPPY VISITOR

One Sunday an elderly visitor was brought in by her grand- daughter asking to look in the old school register. The two of them spent some time working out the dates with much mirth as they kept mistaking the cen-

tury at which they were looking. Eventually they found our visitor's entry which greatly pleased her. They then looked at some of the old school photos and in two of them our visitor identified herself. She was thrilled and left saying we had made her

weekend. A good visit for all of us!

*OLD SCHOOL REGISTER
USED TO MAKE VISITOR
HAPPY*

Does anyone know the Museum at Thornbury, South Gloucestershire?

In the BAFM magazine (British Assoc. of Friends of Museums) this museum is claiming to be the small-

est museum to achieve Accreditation status but we wonder if they are right or we should make this claim. They are housed in an old butchers shop with 2 display rooms AND a back-room downstairs with an-

other display room and office upstairs. Sounds quite large to me! We have tried to email them but to no avail! If anyone knows it can they contact Sharon on 820259 or Jane on 820207 www.thornburymuseum.org.

Work to the Schoolroom

Those living in Uffington will have seen the work to the roof of the schoolroom. We are extremely fortunate in having a building in which to house the museum and that the responsibility for the building rests with the Parish Council. The Parish Council took the decision some while ago to get a professional survey carried out on the state of the building and what work needed to be done in order to keep it in good repair. We

applied and received a grant towards the cost of the survey from the Oxfordshire Historic Buildings Trust but they are unable to fund the cost of the work. The report identified which work needed to be carried out immediately and which we could tackle over a longer time scale. Following on from this report, the Parish Council decided to tackle the first job on the list:

Replace missing stone slate to the roof and carefully re-

move moss growth to surface of stone slates.

Each slate is carefully scraped to remove the moss and then brushed with a stiff brush to clean it. The work is quite labour intensive and we are keeping our fingers crossed that they do not find too many slates that need replacing. Finances mean that we shall have to move down the list as the money is available, but it is good to know that the work has started.



Report on the White Horse Show

Thank you to the Friends who took a turn manning the stall at the White Horse Show – Keith Birtwhistle, Linda Walker, Brian Short, Steve

Claridge, Jane Cooper and Dave Kennedy. We took the record amount of £102 over the weekend – mainly thanks to the Betjeman Books which

had been donated to the Museum by Candida. Our aim at the Show is to make our presence known but it is nice to make a profit as well!

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)	820493
Bill Mitchell	820693

Rota

We would like to thank the three people who are leaving the rota at the end of this season for all the time they have spent looking after the Museum, thereby helping us to open our village "treasure" to the public. BUT it does mean we will need at least three new people for next year so please do try and think if there is anyone you could persuade to join the rota or perhaps, in these hard times, someone might like to save their £5.00 subscription and change to the rota. Any suggestions welcome to Lucy-820498, Jane 820207 or Sharon-820259.

Museum mobile phone

This is for the convenience of Volunteers especially if they are on their own and find themselves in a situation that makes them anxious and wish to summon help. This hasn't happened so far but we thought we ought to have a system in place just in case. A number of Friends in the village have their telephone numbers entered in the phone and the phrase to use to make them aware of your position is "I've found that book you asked about, do you want to collect it now?". The idea being that this would not alert anyone to your anxiety but let the person on the phone know you wanted help.

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

The Uffington Parish Trail

I have been asked to lead a walk of the Parish Trail as part of the National Trails Event programme for Autumn/Winter 2010-11. This will take place on Sunday, 17th October and start at 10.30 am from the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall car park. This walk is open to all and you are very welcome to join us!

National Trust Warden

It has been good to work closely with Caroline Searle, the National Trust Warden, over the past few years and we will be sorry to see her go from this position but wish her luck as she pursues a teaching career. She will be replaced by a Ranger, Andrew Foley, who takes up his post mid – September.

Uffington Brickyard

Channel 4's Restoration Man TV programme is following the conversion and restoration of Uffington Brickyard, also known as the "Engine House" in Uffington. The Producers are looking for historical information on the Brickyard and to speak to people who have memories of the building. Perhaps you or your relatives worked there? We are also looking for old photos of the building. If you have any information for the producers please contact Tom Cullum on 020 7529 9529