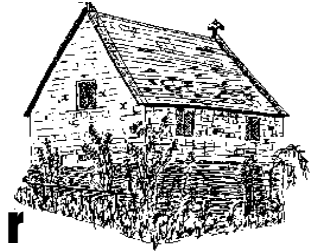


MAY 2011

TOM BROWN'S School Museum

The Friends Newsletter



TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM SPRING EDITION

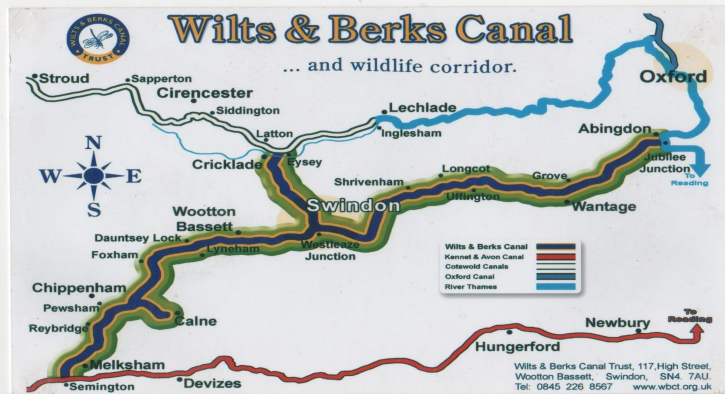
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LAUNCH OF NEW EXHIBITION 2011

Friends and guests gathered together on a warm sunny evening to celebrate the opening of the new exhibition on Uffington's Transport: Road, Rail & Canal. We were pleased that Cllr. Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor was able to open the exhibition for us and also that Cllr. Val Shaw was able to attend from the Vale of the White Horse District Council.

TRANSPORT: ROAD, RAIL AND CANAL



Visitors were able to see the results of the work that has taken place over the winter months and the contributions to the exhibition by Anthony Parsons, Sandy Millikin, Brian Stovold of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and Adrian Vaughan. Once again, Jo Marshall, has helped to make a visually attractive display and we are grateful to her for the work that she has put into the Museum. The Museum opens on Easter Saturday and runs until the end of October.

WILTSHIRE AND BERKSHIRE CANAL TALK

Some friends were surprised at how close the Canal ran to the village and there will be a chance to hear more about the plans for the restoration of the Canal at a talk in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on Thursday, 26th May at 7.30 pm given by Brian Stovold of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. Entry to Friends will be free, non-friends £2.00 per person.

THE NORTON FAMILY

I am researching the history of our house Craven Cottage in Broad Street. The Museum has a wealth of information, including old photographs, census data, commercial directory listings and newspaper cuttings. I have also made extensive use of the internet, and discussions with local residents.

In the early 1900s, the house was occupied by the Norton family, who took it over from the Wheelers. William (Bill) Norton, who came from a large family in Stanford in the Vale, joined GWR in 1881 and was a signman at Uffington Station from 1885 until his retirement in 1928.

The 1910 photograph from Adrian Vaughan's book 'A History of the Faringdon Branch and Uffington Station' shows William Norton second from the left in the back row.

*'A History of the
Faringdon Branch
and Uffington Station'*



William and his wife Kate moved into the village in 1887/88 and had 5 children: Kate Ellen, Lena, Walter, Stanley and Ivan. An old photograph found in the Museum shows the family outside Craven Cottage, in about 1910.



From left to right are: Unknown (possibly Mrs. Wheeler), Kate Norton, Walter, Kate Ellen, Ivan, Stanley, Lena, James Slatter, and William Norton.



William and Kate were members of the Uffington Congregational Church in Fawler Road, and another old photograph in the Museum (donated by Ernest Dainty) shows them in a group of Helpers for the Sunday School Treat 1908. William is 4th from the left in the back row (his daughter Kate Ellen is second from the left) and Kate is seated on the right.

All three Norton boys served in WW1 and are commemorated on a plaque originally in the old Uffington Congregational Church and now in the Museum. Stanley, who had been a junior clerk at Farington Station, was unfortunately killed in action on the Western Front in 1918. Ivan lost a leg at Cambrai and was awarded the Victory Medal. He returned to Uffington, married Elsie Langford in 1928 and, despite his disability, played a role in local sports activities, becoming a committee member for Uffington Football Club and, allegedly, playing for Uffington Cricket Club as wicket keeper!

In 1915, Walter Norton married Dora Pike, whose parents James and Susanna had a butcher's shop in Broad Street and later with Dora took over the business, which became known as 'Norton's Stores'. Dora carried on running the Stores after Walter died in 1936. Their daughter, Margaret married Jack Fisher from Baulking. In 1910 Kate Ellen married Lewis Crook, who with Stanley was a clerk at Farington Station, and in the same year Lena Norton married James Slatter.

THE NORTON FAMILY continued

Lena and James Slatter had twin sons, Don and Stanley Slatter. Don later took over Norton's Stores in 1950 and was responsible for acquiring the present shop, which had been a chapel in the Reading area. It was taken apart, transported and reconstructed on its present site next to Norton House by George Packford, Bill Mace and Bobby Iles. We believe William and Kate Norton continued to live in Craven Cottage until he died in 1941. The Iles family took up residence in 1942.

My research into the Nortons (and their predecessors the Wheelers) is continuing and I would welcome any information about either family.

Pete Smith.

NEW SEASON

At the start our new season we wish everyone a happy time for their session in the Museum. An updated rota is enclosed to help people remember when it is their turn. Any problems with the rota ring Lucy on 01367 820498.

You are welcome to search the contents of the files and cupboards. Nothing is private and we do hold a wealth of information on the village, please just return things to where you found them so they can be located by someone else.

We particularly welcome four new people from the village to our rota; Jessica Clark, Valerie Chapman, Evelyn Godfrey and Simon Knapper we are delighted they are joining us and hope they enjoy their time in the Museum.

BILL MITCHELL

We are sorry to have to report that at our last AGM Bill Mitchell indicated that he was no longer able to continue as a member of the Friends of Tom Brown's School Museum committee. We shall miss his practical approach to our discussions and his in depth knowledge of the history of our village. We thank him very much for his wide and valuable contribution to our work in the past.

This leaves us with two vacancies, one for a committee member and the other for a person prepared to be a co-opted member of the Management Committee (see below for details)

CAN YOU FILL THIS SPACE ?

WANTED 1 someone prepared to support the museum by joining our Committee. We meet 3 times a year in the evening for about 1.5 hrs. The meetings are informal although minutes are taken.

The Friends are a separate organisation to the Management Committee and our object is to support the Curator in her running of the Museum.

2 someone to attend Management Committee meetings on our behalf. The Management Committee consists of the Parish Councillors and 3 co-opted members. Jane Cooper and Brian Short are the co-opted members at present. They meet 3 times a year for about half an hour. This is a small time commitment but can be important as the running of the Museum is their responsibility. Co-opted members have full voting rights.

For further information ring or e-mail Sharon 01367 8202259. museum@uffington.net

Jane 01367 820207. janemcooper@gmail.com.

ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT

This year there are no mice to be found but rather small plastic cut outs of various forms of transport are hidden. Do familiarise yourself with their location before visitors arrive. This comes from experience, Jane did not do well on her trial run

Full details are in the yellow Friend's folder.

VISITOR QUESTIONNAIRE

This is new this year as we are asked for information about our visitor profile. Can you please do your best to get it completed without harassing our visitors!

MR ERNEST DAINTY

The village has lost a great friend with Mr. Dainty going to live nearer to his daughter. Mr. Dainty has been a source of incredible knowledge of the village and its inhabitants as his father, and grandfather lived in the village and Ernie, with his wife, Betty Gwendoline and children Peter and Barbara, had lived in Church Cottage for the past 67 years.

Mr. Dainty's grandfather, Frederick, took over the Fox & Hounds in the 1890s and Ernest followed his father, Harry's, profession as carpenter, working for The Craven Estate as well as local firms. We are pleased that we have some audio tapes of Ernest recalling early times in the Museum and these are available to listen to on the computer. Mr. Dainty expressed the wish that the Museum should have some of his tools, and we have chosen 2 wooden planes that belonged originally to Job Wakefield and given to Harry Dainty and used by Ernie. Job Wakefield's daughter, Alice, was Ernie's Infant Teacher in the Primary School.

We wish him well for the future.