

SEPTEMBER 2012

# TOM BROWN'S *School Museum*

The Friends Newsletter



## WHITE HORSE SHOW 2012



### **AUTUMN 2012 EDITION:**

Page 1 -

- **White Horse Show 2012**

Page 2 -

- **Sir John Betjeman**

Page 3 -

- **Sir John Betjeman**
- **Autumn Talks**
- **How well do you know your village**
- **Tom Brown's School Day Celebrations**

Page 4 -

- **Accreditation**
- **Emails!**

Thanks, as always, to those who helped at the Show and in the Museum during the August Bank Holiday. The mud at the Showground proved an extra challenge as we could not get the car close enough to unload or load up all the equipment and stock – many thanks to Maurice who helped to carry the 'stuff' backwards and forwards. But at least it meant that we didn't have to call on the services of the tractors to help pull us out! Despite, or perhaps because of the rain, we made about £67.00 on the day and then were very pleased to receive a donation to the Friends of £38.30 from the Aisle O'var Backswording Clubbe who took a collection for our funds.

## Sir John Betjeman

Last year, the Museum was given a prestigious file of letters and postcards written by John Betjeman to 'Darling Margie'. These letters chronicle a secret love affair which took place in the early 1970's although they had known each other 40 years earlier. This file of correspondence has been donated to the Museum because although Margie never made the affair public in her lifetime she 'thought it would be helpful for some future student writing about John Betjeman for his or her thesis'. Margie had written accounts of the love affair and of her life and these were included in the gift to the Museum.



With the help of Candida, I have been trying to translate John Betjeman's difficult letters are now ready to be released to the public! There will be an event at the Betjeman Literary Festival 'not just' on Thursday, 1st November at 2.00 pm with Jim Mitchell and Richard Baker reading extracts from the letters.

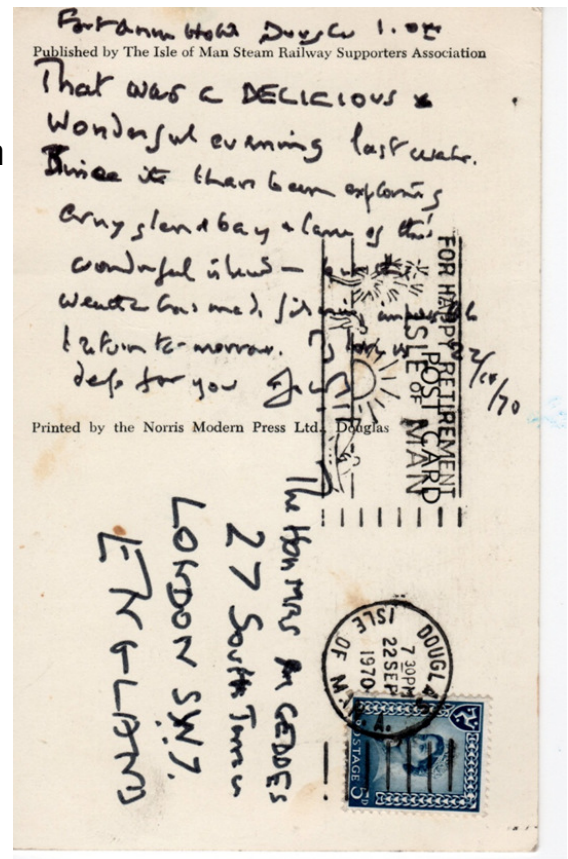
This will be held in the Civic Hall and tickets at £8.00 will be available from me or Jim Mitchell, 01235 767975.

We will also have these letters on display in the final weekend of the Museum's opening on 27/28th October and Archie and Jumbo will be on hand to guard them! As you can imagine, these letters are of immense interest to scholars of Betjeman and we are very privileged in being the repository for them. Because of their great value, both in monetary and academic terms, we have decided to store the original letters at the Oxfordshire History Centre for safekeeping but digital copies will be available at the Museum.

You can see from the sample reprinted here how difficult his writing is on this postcard from the Isle of Man on 22nd September 1970 and there is still one word I can't decipher.

He writes:

That was a DELICIOUS and wonderful evening last week. Since it I have been exploring every glen and bay and lane of this wonderful island – but the weather has made filming impossible and I return to-morrow. My love is.....for you. John B



### Autumn Talks

We have been asked to repeat our series of talks about the history of Uffington in the Autumn. Because of other commitments, we can't do this until November and propose to do this during the day – either on Mondays or Thursdays. As we will be using the resources in the Museum, numbers will be restricted to 8. Please let us know whether mornings or afternoons would be preferable and we will choose which time suits most people best! Deadline for applying will be the end of September.

### How well do you know your village?

The Thomas Saunders Trust are holding a 'Saunders Trust Village Trail' on Saturday, 13th October in order to raise funds. This will be a light hearted quiz – with answers to be found around the village - for all the family with prizes to be awarded at the end of the afternoon. More details to follow but please keep the date free now!

### Tom Brown's Schooldays Celebration!

The Wantage (not just) Betjeman Literary Festival are also organising a showing of the classic drama, Tom Brown's Schooldays in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on Friday, 2nd November at 7.30 pm. Traditional music, bites and drinks are included in the ticket price: Adults £8.00, concessions and children £6.00 and a family ticket of £18.00 (2 adults and 2 children).

Tickets are available from Sharon or [Jim@wantagebetjeman.com](mailto:Jim@wantagebetjeman.com)

## Accreditation

The good news is that we have submitted our application for Accreditation under Southern Arts England before the deadline of 31 July. I have left the folder in the Museum for anyone to look through if they are interested. I have been told that it is likely to be 3 months before we hear further. Fingers crossed!

## E-mails

Thank you to those of you who have changed your e-mail addresses and LET ME KNOW. If anyone reading this has an e-mail address but has not been getting notification of events eg latest publicity on Betjeman letters, can they please let me know.

I hope you are finding this system useful. I am afraid we sent out one lot of information in too small a format but we are still learning! It is certainly much easier for us just to press some keys rather than plod round to Friends letter boxes. Any suggestions welcome. Jane

## Secretary

We are delighted to welcome Tracey Rosum as our new Secretary and hope she will not find us too troublesome.

This appointment was needed as a result of Brian Short's resignation. We do thank him most warmly for the efficient way he has carried out his duties over a number of years. He made sure I kept to the script in meetings and kept accurate records of all our meetings. We shall miss him.

## Jennifer Short

It is with sadness that we report the death of Jennifer Short on Thursday September 7th, following a short illness. She died well cared for at home, as she wished. We extend our sincere sympathy to Brian and the family. Jennifer was a very talented and knowledgeable embroideress and a most generous person. Jennifer will be greatly missed by all.

Please come and  
support all the  
Museums' events this  
Autumn!

The Museum address is Broad Street,  
Uffington, Faringdon, SN7 7RA

The web site is :

[www.uffington.net/museum](http://www.uffington.net/museum),

email: [museum@uffington.net](mailto:museum@uffington.net)

## Tom Brown's School Museum Committee Members:

Jane Cooper (Chair) 820207 Sharon Smith (Curator) 820259

John Davies (Treasurer) 820318 Tracey Rosum (Secretary) 820308

John Henville (IT) 820411 Lucy Dilistone (Rota) 820498

Pamela Preene (Newsletter) 820251 Anthony Parsons (Archivist) 820433

Maurice Leyland 01367-241054