

April 2013

TOM BROWN'S *School Museum*

The Friends Newsletter



ACCREDITATION



ACCREDITED MUSEUM

SPRING 2013

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We've done it!

We have now been accredited with the Arts Council England which "*sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums. To qualify, museums must meet standards on how they are managed, for the services they offer and on how they care for collections*". We aim to celebrate this award on Sunday 16th June in the afternoon – do come and join us! We would like as many Friends as possible to drop in sometime during the afternoon – please see enclosed invitation.

LAUNCH

We were joined by supporters of the Alfred Williams Heritage society at our Launch on 26th March on a very cold night. Everyone was appreciative of the changes to the museum and enjoyed looking at the Alfred Williams display. This year is the centenary of the book that Alfred Williams wrote called "Villages of the White Horse". An afternoon of readings and songs by Alfred Williams will be held on Sunday, 19th May, in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall.



Sharon and Graham Carter from the Alfred Williams Heritage Society standing in front of a picture of Alfred Williams)

WINTER WORKS

Over the winter we have repainted the museum (thanks Peter Abel for the loan of his scaffolding) and the new wiring and lighting has been installed – many thanks to Simon Newman. This will mean that all the lights – in the room and the showcases are operated by a switch pad by the door. As this work necessitated clearing the museum of all the displays and artefacts, Jo and I took the opportunity to re-do all the displays on the ground floor. Whilst we were busy here, The Alfred Williams Heritage Society prepared a display for The Gallery. The lighting has made a terrific difference to the museum and the displays making it much more welcoming, light and airy. We could not have managed without the help of Simon – firstly for taking on the job and then persevering in the face of suppliers going out of business, costs rising and weird viruses. Many thanks to Verity, Cheryl and Jane for their help in getting the museum back to – almost – normal. Do come and visit and see what we have done!

MORE FUND RAISING

Cheryl introduced us to the Spend and Raise site – this is a way for corporate businesses to support charities through online purchases. It is very easy to use – even I have managed it. You just log onto the site <http://www.spendandraise.com/tombrown/> and then you can go through to an amazing list of retailers – WH Smith, Amazon, John Lewis, Waitrose, Debenhams, etc. to just name a few, and just do your shopping on line. You won't be charged any more for your goods but the retailer will donate a percentage to the Museum. So far we have raised £27.00!



Another way you can help is by posting your green tokens into our box at the Waitrose in Wantage during April. We will get a share of the £1000 dependent on how many tokens are in our box. We are competing against hens and toddlers – there is a chance we might beat the hens but I'm not so sure about the toddlers!

OLD ROAD

An oral history film about the Ridgeway National Trail from 1973-2013

Do you have memories of the Ridgeway you could share?

Would you like to help us make a film about them?

Outdoor Culture, a small arts and heritage company based in Buckinghamshire, is looking for people to take part in a project this summer, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Ridgeway's opening as a National Trail in 1973.

We want to make a film about people's memories of the Ridgeway, documenting and preserving the most recent historical chapter of this ancient route. We would like to hear from people who have stories to tell of what this much-loved trail has meant to them and why it is special. We are also looking for volunteers who would like to learn about oral history film-making and help us by recording interviews with other people – no experience needed!

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Alistair Will of Outdoor Culture on 07920 180710 or email alistair@outdoorculture.com

**Please come and
support all the
Museums' events
this SPRING!**

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

The web site is :

www.uffington.net/museum,

email: museum@uffington.net

LIGHT BULBS

Following on the replacement of ordinary bulbs with low energy LED ones we have a quantity of bulbs to give away. These are small spotlights – GU10.

BETJEMEN'S LETTERS

These are now in the Museum for you to see. The 'translations' of his hand written letters are in a red file on the bottom shelf of the Betjeman Files and scanned images of the letters are on the computer on the ground floor – Alt F4 to navigate away from the power point presentation then - C Drive/photographs/Betjeman letters.

WORK GOES ON...

General administration of the museum usually takes place on Monday mornings in the Museum. We file, update the records on the computer, archive photographs, and generally try to keep the cupboards tidy! I usually try to get there by 10.00 am, and you can give me a ring beforehand just to check whether I will be there!

Sharon