

September 2013

TOM BROWN'S *School Museum*

The Friends Newsletter



WHITE HORSE SHOW

We took part in the White Horse Show again this year and were pleased to see the sun shining after the mud of last year. We decorated the stand with balloons from our Accreditation and with the pottery from Jo Marshall and the glass window decorations from



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2013

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Paul Pounds, our stand looked very smart! The computer presentations that we run at the show – 'The People from the Past' and 'Then and Now' always attract attention and it has made us think that perhaps these should be more accessible at the museum. We are currently thinking about how to improve our 'visitor experience' and any ideas you have will be put into the mix! Good wishes to Derek and Ann who are retiring after being involved with the Show for more than 30 years and being on the organizing committee for 18 years.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We were very pleased to be given 2 photographs recently by Amelia Cheyne who used to live in Beech Tree Cottage in Woolstone. The photographs are of the Turner Family.

Hugh Brunner also arranged for a copy of a book written by Isabel Quigly, 'The Heirs of Tom Brown: the English School Story' to be signed and donated to the museum.

I purchased a photograph recently from Ebay (for £2.71) which shows Uffington Station being visited by the Railway Enthusiasts Club in 1959.



Although we do not seek artefacts because we have no storage facilities, we are always happy to receive photographs, books and documents relating to the villages.

MY VISIT TO UFFINGTON

The mystery of unknown names and places, noted in an aged family document written by my Great Grandfather, has predetermined my journey into the past lives of my British paternal ancestors. Since 1995 I have gathered together information that has finalised with my visit from Australia to Uffington in August of this year 2013.

My mother's side of the family is descended from Edward Warren Esq of Uffington, Berkshire, my father's side from John Aubrey a London grocer from Essex. Their eldest son, John Edward Aubrey landed in Sydney on December 8th, 1868 from the vessel "Caldbeck".

Paying my respects at the burial site of my ancestors laid to rest at the Strict Baptist Chapel and St Mary's Church has been a most rewarding experience. Meeting with and receiving helpful assistance from village inhabitants has made me feel most welcome, as if I have truly arrived at the home of my fathers of times past.

The dedicated work by villagers to keep alive the legacy of Tom Brown's School Museum is much appreciated by myself and I am sure by many others looking for the footsteps of their ancestors. Thank you to all who now maintain the village way of life in Uffington in the Vale of the White Horse.

Janet Aubrey, Port MacQuarie, NSW. Australia

MUSIC CONCERTS + OTHER EVENTS

Faustus will be performing at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on 1st October. This is a trio of folk musicians – involving melodeon kingpin Saul Rose and two Bellowheads, Paul Sartin and Benji Kirkpatrick who have been nominated for the BBC Folk Awards. You may also remember seeing Paul Sartin in Belshazza's Feast last year.

Gordie MacKeeman and his Rhythm Boys will be returning on 12th February, 2014 to entertain us again with their exciting music and dancing. "Hailing from Prince Edward Island, they serve up old-time roots music with an energy level that practically yanks you out of your seat by the collar." They have recently been featured on 6Music and Radio 2 folk programme and are currently touring to rave reviews and wowing audiences from Glastonbury to Wallingford!

Both these concerts will benefit the museum and details are available from me: 01367 820259.

The Wantage (not just) Betjeman Literary Festival 2013 will take place from Saturday October 19th until Sunday October 27th.

The Festival has an exciting line-up of celebrities and authors including Michael Portillo, Alison Weir, Frances Osborne and John Lloyd. The festival will feature literary talks from national and local writers, music and theatrical events, poetry, an afternoon tea with a Jane Austen theme and lectures on a wide range of subjects, including Sir John Betjeman who lived in Wantage for many years.

Details of the programme and tickets are available on the website: www.wantagebetjeman.com or at the Vale and Downland Museum.

Living with The Uffington White Horse – a talk by Professor Gary Lock will be given in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall next October – date to be arranged – please look out for details which will follow shortly!

BAFM CONFERENCE

Cheryl White and I attended the BAFM (British Association of Friends of Museums) Area conference at Abingdon recently. This event was hosted by Abingdon Museum and we heard about the recent renovations as well as having a guided tour, including the view from the roof. The title of the conference was 'Sense of Place' and as well as Abingdon Museum, we heard about Combe Mill Museum on the Blenheim Estate. The discussion in the afternoon centred on how our museums defined their collections in terms of date, place and content. Of course, our museum 'ticks all the boxes' in that we cover pre-history to the present; we are set in a specific locality and have local content. It was interesting to learn about the other museums – e.g. Pendon deals with the Vale of the White Horse but in a specific time and Oxfordshire Museum is based in Woodstock but covers the whole of Oxfordshire. Of course the highlight of the day was the delicious food – particularly the brownies – and talking informally to representatives of the other Museums. We seem unique in the fact that there is no schism between 'volunteers' and 'friends' and reinforced our belief that we are the best!

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 Dillistone (Rota) 820498

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

Maurice Leyland 01367-241054 Verity Cavanagh 820683

**Please come and
support all the
Museums' events.**

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

The web site is :

www.uffington.net/museum,

THANK YOU FRIENDS!

The Friends have purchased a new lap top for the museum! This will mean that emails will go straight to the lap top and I can also use it for all museum work instead of using my home computer. The next step will be to get internet access in the museum but that is proving to be rather a challenge!

If you would like to receive future Newsletters by email, please send an email to museum@uffington.net and let us know.

Our museum lighting and redecorations have been much admired by our visitors – if you have not yet visited the museum this year, please take the opportunity before we close for the winter on Sunday, 27th October. During the weekends of 19/20 and 26/27 October, Archie and Jumbo – Betjeman's bears, will be visiting the museum whilst the Betjeman Festival is taking place.

