

Tom Brown's School Museum

Friends Newsletter



Museum Launch and WWI Exhibition

It has been a hectic few weeks since the Museum Launch in April. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Launch when the Exhibition, 'Remembering 1914', was officially opened by Councillor Yvonne Constance. Emma Banks, who pointed us in the direction of a Micro Consultancy grant for our new technology, and our Museum Mentor, Carol Anderson, also came to see our new presentations in operation. They were both impressed with what we had achieved. If you have not visited the museum recently, we hope you will be pleasantly surprised by the changes.



Do look out for the new computer presentation which links a map of the village in 1914 with the 1911 census. Poppies represent the homes of our WWI servicemen. By touching the poppies our new computer provides information on the men who went to war and a picture of their house at the time.



BBC visit Uffington for Betjeman programme



A.N. Wilson and a BBC 4 film crew came to Uffington to film a programme about Sir John Betjeman. As well as the museum they visited Garrards Farm and St. Mary's Church.

The famous writer and newspaper columnist, known for his critical biographies, and the BBC producer were both very complimentary about the museum. A.N. Wilson wrote in our visitors' book – *'the best local museum in England'*!

Andrew Wilson was also very interested in Thomas Hughes and we were trying to persuade the producer to make a programme about his life and works too! The programme about Betjeman is due to go out in July on BBC4.



Museum Hosts local Artists for Oxfordshire Art Weeks



Local Arts and Crafts

We were very pleased to host 'Uffington Artists' at the museum as part of Oxfordshire Art Weeks, which took place in early May.

Uffington Potters Jo Marshall and Louise Remington along with local artists Jessica Loeb, exhibiting photographs, and Trudi James, displaying her decorated lampshades, all took part.



The added interest of the displays helped to attract over 200 visitors to our museum over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

It was lovely to see the Museum so well used with pottery, pictures and lampshades complementing our displays.

Oxfordshire Museums Council

Museum volunteers are welcome to attend the Oxfordshire Museums Council meetings. This year the following events are planned:

22 May at 6.00 pm
Social Networking Meeting at Aston Martin Museum, Drayton St. Leonard.

19 June at 2.30 pm
General Meeting at the Waterperry Rural Museum.

9 September at 6.00pm
Social Networking at Soldiers of Oxfordshire – new museum at Woodstock.

8 October at 2.30 pm Annual General Meeting at The Oxford Bus Museum at Long Hanborough.

Please let Sharon Smith know if you would like to attend any of these meetings.

Visit from The Yeomanry Museum

When Sharon was researching for the WWI exhibition, she was greatly helped by The Yeomanry Museum and their supporters; Andrew French and Wayne Ratcliffe, who both came to visit the Tom Brown's School museum. It has been good to exchange information with this Museum and they were pleased to have local knowledge of the men that had served in the Berkshire Yeomanry.

Information Point



Councillor Constance also officially opened the new village 'Information Point' in the recently refurbished telephone box near the museum.

New Equipment at the museum.



Museum Friends and visitors try out the new touch screen computer available for visitors to access archives and information. The museum has also updated the software used for recording archives.



John Henville shows the new museum 'Welcome Screen' to Graham Banks. John has been responsible for the acquisition and installation of all the new equipment.

Rota Members

If you are due to take your turn on the Museum rota in the next month or so, you may wish to know about the recently installed IT equipment in the museum.

We have written instructions under – ‘Opening the Museum’ in the yellow folder and there is an extra leaflet specifically on the computer equipment. These are left on the table. I think they are self-explanatory!

If you would like Sharon to show you round - then she is more than happy to meet you in the museum at your convenience - just contact her on:
museum@uffington.net

You can support the museum while shopping on the Internet!

Easy Fund Raising

Our on line money-raising site – Spend and Raise – has been incorporated into a new site called Easyfundraising. It does seem to be easier to use and you have the option of loading a Toolbar onto your computer which will automatically alert you to when a donation is available when you are shopping online. You will then have the option to credit the Museum with a small percentage of your spend. This will not cost you anything, the donations are funded by the many companies who are part of the scheme.

This is a useful way of raising money for the museum – at no cost to yourselves! We have raised £100 for the museum in this way.

Please look at the site by clicking on this hyperlink –

<http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/tom-browns-school-museum>

You don't pay any more for the goods – it is just a way of the big firms contributing to a charity - good for them and good for us! There are a large number of retailers who operate in this way – you can check out the A-Z list on the site where you will find names like Amazon, John Lewis, Debenhams, Laura Ashley, etc.

CONTACTS

Tom Brown's School Museum Committee Members:

Sharon Smith (Curator) 820259 Josephine Coad (Chair) 820428

John Davis (Treasurer) 252796 Keith Birtwhistle (Secretary) 820099

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

Verity Cavanagh (Newsletter) 820683 Anthony Parsons (Archivist) 820433

Maurice Leyland (Images) Dave Kennedy (Webmaster)

e-mail: museum@uffington.net

www.museum.uffington.net

Tom Brown's School Museum, Broad Street, Uffington, Faringdon SN7 7RA