

Tom Brown's School Museum



Tributes to Museum Friends

It has been a sad few months when we have lost several good friends of the museum.

Jeanne Ayres

Jeanne Ayres, nee Packer, was born in the village in 1926 – the daughter of Bill and Win Packer. She worked in the office of the family firm and married local lad, Len Ayres, in 1950; they lived in a cottage in Upper Common Lane. Jeanne moved with her husband and young family to Newbury in the late 1960s but retained her love of the village. Jeanne had a phenomenal memory and this greatly helped us when we were preparing our exhibitions. She contributed such a lot to the Crafts and Industries Exhibition in 2009 that I asked her to launch the exhibition! This year, she was of enormous help with identifying where people lived in the village and providing photographs and artefacts for our display.

We were very touched that Jeanne's family asked for donations in memory of Jeanne to go to our Friends Organisation because the Museum was very dear to Jeanne's heart. When we went to her funeral the address included a comment from her nephew – "You can take the girl out of Uffington but you can't take Uffington out of the girl"!



Jim Brown

Jim, who was born in Goosey and spent most of his life in Fernham, was a founder member of our Friends Organisation and his help was invaluable. Jim had a huge collection of local photographs; all carefully annotated with people and places. He gave talks for the museum with a slide show of local photographs which were very interesting and many of the photographs in our museum come from his collection. Jim had published books on his wartime experiences and his childhood in the Vale. He also contributed photographs to many books, including those published by Adrian Vaughan and Malcolm Graham at The Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. Jim was an electrician by trade and looked after the electrics in the museum for many years before he retired.

Dr. Geoffrey Chapman

Geoffrey and Valerie moved to the village a few years ago but quickly became Friends of the Museum and Geoffrey volunteered to give a talk in aid of the museum about the Origins of the Olympic Games for our Sporting Connections exhibition in 2012. This was a subject on which Dr Chapman was well qualified to talk as he had read classics at Trinity College Oxford. He was also Professor of Classics at the University of Natal, in South Africa until 1988 and had recently retired from the Headship of Queen Margaret's School in York.



Candida Lycett Green

We were greatly saddened to hear of the death of Candida. Candida had spent her early years in Uffington at Garrards Farm before moving to Farnborough and then Wantage. She returned to the village some years ago to live at Mill House. Candida has been a great supporter of the Museum; contributing photographs from the Betjeman family album and also placing copies of her father's correspondence in the museum for public access. This raised our profile and researchers now come to the museum to see this correspondence. She was generous in her time and help and launched our exhibition on Our Two Literary Greats in 2006. She gladly lent Archie and Jumbo

(her father's teddy bear and toy elephant) to the museum during the Wantage Betjeman Festivals and they proved a great draw. We will miss sight of her riding her bicycle up to the shop and her wonderful parties! Candida said in a recent email to me that *'the museum is a bright star in the village'* – it was a lovely comment and we hope to keep it shining!

Our thoughts and good wishes go to the families of Jeanne, Jim, Geoffrey and Candida.

A Happy Coincidence!



Breaking off from painting the windows of our house, I nipped up to the shop in my old painting clothes to get some milk. I saw a car pull in at the top of High Street and the occupants leapt out to take photographs of the village sign and the Memorial Hall. As I passed them, I heard one say "Hey, you're wearing an Historic Rugby T shirt – have you been there?" It turned out that these visitors lived in Rugby, Tennessee (a village established by Thomas Hughes in 1880). They were in fact relations of Barbra Stagg – the Curator of Historic Rugby who we went out to meet during their celebrations in 2005.

They had been travelling around Scotland and England, and had been to Rugby, Warwickshire before coming to find Uffington and the White Horse Hill. We spent the day with them and showed them the village and museum before taking them up to the White Horse. We spent a much happier day with them than if we had been painting windows! Just to think, that if I wasn't wearing the T-shirt and hadn't chosen to go to the shop at that particular time we would never have met!

Sharon

Visit from Uffington Primary School

We were pleased to play a part in the Founders Service, held on the last Thursday of the summer term, when all the pupils of our village Primary school visited the museum to pay their respects to its founder, Thomas Saunders. The school will be coming to the museum again in preparation for Remembrance Day on 11th November.



Memorial Stone

Many thanks to Stuart and Tracey Rosum for cleaning up the memorial stone which marks where a Wellington bomber crashed in 1942 while on a training exercise. The stone was placed in a local field by Jim Jones who was a colleague of the RAF plane crew.. Look out for the sarsen stone in the field beside the footpath that leads up to Britchcombe Farm.

Visitor numbers

Visitor numbers have been excellent this year with groups from the U3A, WI, Cubs and Adult Education visiting.

The White Horse Show



We had many interested visitors to our Stand at the Show this year. Of particular interest was the presentation on the Men who served in the First World War.. Luckily, we were in the marquee and were able to stay warm and dry! Many thanks to Anthony, Verity, Steve, Lucy and Maurice who helped to look after the stall.

Sing-a-long Supper

We are looking forward to the Sing-a-long Supper organised by the Friends of St. Mary's Church and St. Nicholas Church in Baulking. This will be held at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on Friday, 5th September at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. We will be opening the museum from 4.00 on that day in case anyone would like to see the exhibition before going along to the supper.

Don't forget to visit WWI Exhibition!

Our current exhibition 'Remembering 1914' closes at the end of October and then we will be starting to think of next year and the exhibition on the Landscape Reinvented: The Uffington Enclosure Award of 1778.

Concert

It was back in 2002 that Simon Stafford, who lived in Largo House, offered his group to play a gig in the village hall to benefit the museum and raise funds for our community dig . So it became 'A Gig for the Dig by a group called Pig!' This was the forerunner of many great concerts by Simon Stafford and his group – now called Cooper Black – which benefitted the Museum. Simon is now living in Dorchester but is still keen on helping the museum and has offered to give a concert on Saturday, 15th November in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall. Simon plays and sings an eclectic mix of music and it is going to be a great evening to cheer us up when the evenings are getting colder.

Tickets are £7.50 from 01367 820259 or via email – museum@uffington.net.

You can support the museum while shopping on the Internet!

Easy Fund Raising

Easyfundraising.org.uk. Please use this site if you are ordering goods on line. As it's name suggests it does seem to be easy to use. The companies you purchase from will make a donation to the good cause of your choice. The companies involved are all well known ones which we are sure you already use.. 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 £180 so far 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.

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