

Newsletter – June 2015

OLHA

The Oxfordshire Local History Association enjoyed their Study Day in Uffington in May. After their AGM – which lasted about 10 minutes – I gave a talk on Betjeman and Hughes then Professor Gary Lock gave a talk on the White Horse Hill. After lunch, delegates visited the Museum.



Art Weeks

I hope that you took the opportunity to visit Art Weeks in the Museum – the museum was filled with pottery, flowers and lampshades and looked lovely! This year, we held a 'Private View' on Friday evening and guests were able to enjoy a glass of pimm's whilst looking at the display.



2 recent correspondents

I recently had two surprising contacts – the first was from Marilyn Bunting who lives in Cornwall. She sent me a lovely photograph of Manor Farm in Woolstone along with information on her grandfather, William Reason Hicks and his nephew, William James Reason, who we researched for our 'Remembering 1914' exhibition. These lovely photographs will be added to our collection.

The second was from Mrs. Carol Andrews who has sent me information and photographs about her great-uncle, Charles Richens from Kingston Lisle who worked at the Carpenters Shop in Uffington – now Wheelwrights in the High Street. She has kindly sent another photograph of another great-uncle, William, and his wife, Sarah, who lived in a cottage in Uffington. With the help of the 1911 Census, we were able to trace this family to Tamerlane Cottage in Packers Lane. From the inscription on the back of the photograph which mentions a 'flying machine passed over our garden this morning – it came to the ground at Baulking' we can date this to precisely 25 August 1911 as this was when the aeroplane landed at Baulking which you might remember from our exhibition last year.

Roof

The Parish Council, with help from the Friends of the Museum, have now completed the work to the museum roof. Some four years ago, we started the process by cleaning off the moss from the stone slates and replacing those which were broken. The next task was to 'replaster' the inside of the roof to seal up any gaps between the slates. Finally, this year, with help from a grant from the White Horse Show Trust, we were able to afford the work to the coping stones on the gable ends and to repoint the chimney.

Take Over Day

Together with pupils from Uffington Primary School, we are taking part in Take Over Day. This is a national event which is normally held in November but we thought that Wednesday, 1st July would suit our Museum better! The children are busy preparing for their stint as Tour Guides and I am sure that they will do a wonderful job!

Moving

Those of you living in Uffington, may have noticed the 'For Sale' sign appearing outside our house! We have finally decided to take the plunge and move nearer to family in Norfolk. After 40 years it will be quite a wrench moving from Uffington, our house, our friends and the Museum! We have been warned that it may be a protracted business – so we might well be here this time next year!

Easyfundraising

We have now passed the magic £500 mark! Thank you to everyone who remembers to use the site when ordering goods online – it's relatively painless and, as you can see, raises money for the museum.

Gordie MacKeeman

We had another terrific performance from Gordie MacKeeman and his Rythmn Boys last month. The Bar earned almost £500 for the Museum and a similar amount was given to the school. Look out for another concert next year when they will be appearing together with The East Pointers, who some of you may have seen performing at Baulking recently.

