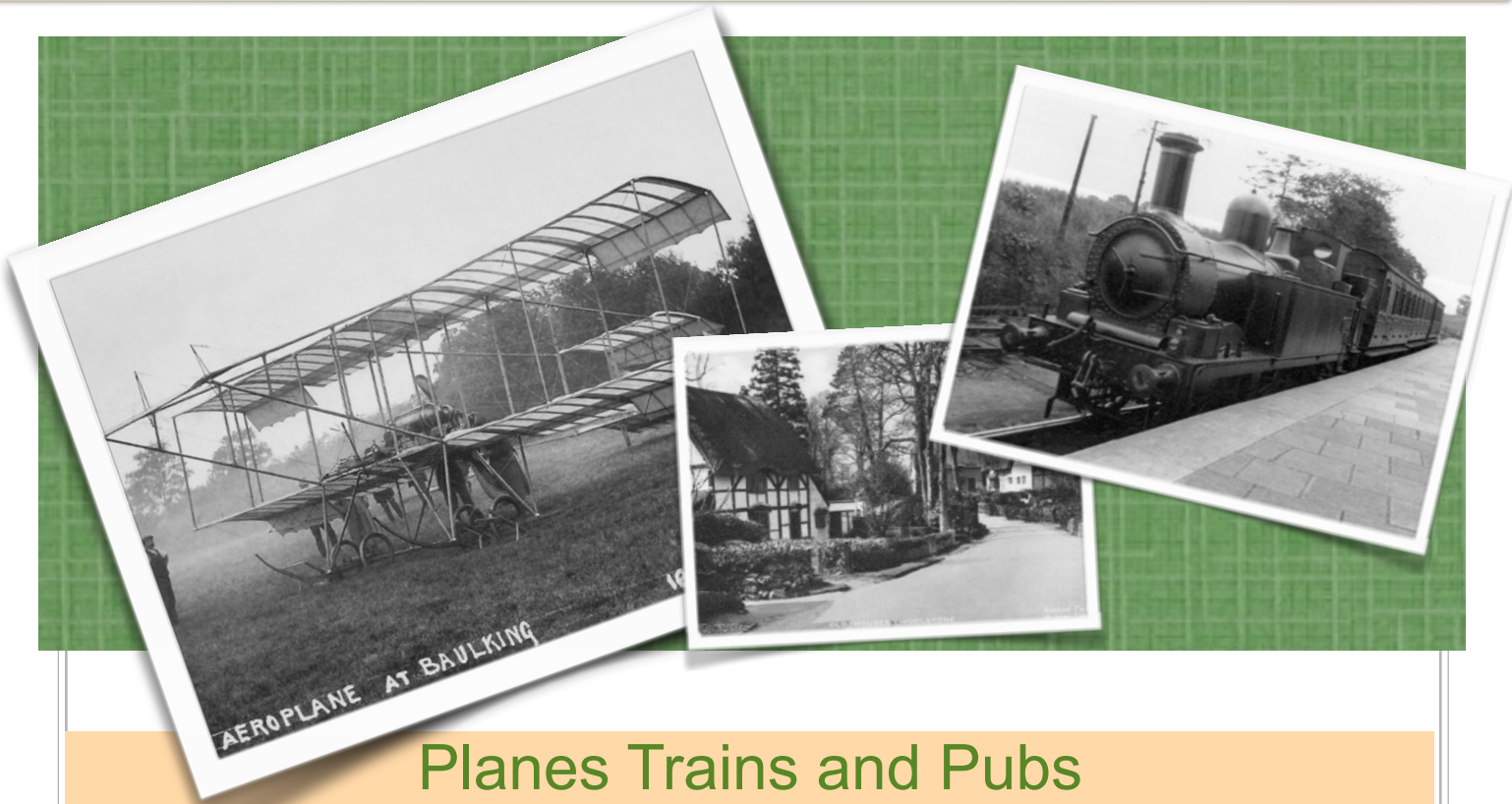


Tom Brown's School Museum



Planes Trains and Pubs

We attracted lots of attention this year to our stand at the White Horse Show when we displayed a number of photographs from the enormous collection we have in the museum. The photos of Uffington past including people, trains and four of the pubs in Uffington were particularly popular with visitors and the WW1 presentation and Landscape Reinvented were also well received. We are hoping it will attract new visitors to the museum over the remainder of this year and into 2017.

We were able to sell a number of items to aid our fundraising including raffle tickets. Thanks go to Jo Marshall and Louise Remington who made a donation from the pottery we were able to sell on their behalf. Thank you also to Anthony, Verity, Lucy, Steve & Maurice for manning the stall over the two days and to John for assisting with the IT.



A father and son who visited the stand had fun mimicking our schoolroom figures!

Update on Museum Building



The Parish Council is currently responsible for the upkeep of the 400 year old museum building and in recent years repairs have been completed to the coping stones on the gable ends and repointing of the chimney. Those that are on the weekend rota or who have visited the museum recently will have noticed that we have a problem with mould on some of the box files. This is caused by high humidity in the museum, probably from damp penetrating the west wall where cracks have appeared in the chalkstone and mortar – and also from the prevailing weather on that side of the building. Quotes have now been obtained to complete the repairs and will be discussed at the October Parish Council meeting whilst concurrently completing the Grade 2 listed building consent. A quote has also been obtained from a specialist environmental Company to provide a humidity and temperature sensor so that both can be regularly measured to provide trend data. Grants will be sought to provide funding for both the repairs and the sensor purchase.

Memories of Uffington in the 1950s by Mrs June Doran

This fascinating record of an Uffington vicar's wife in the 1950s is among items which June Doran personally donated to the Museum on a visit recently. June Doran is on the right in the first photo.



This shortened version was kindly edited by Anthony Parsons . Here are some selected highlights which evoke the rural life of the fifties wonderfully; see if you can spot some familiar village names!

You are welcome to come and read the full version at the museum.

1951 My name is June Doran and I moved to Uffington on Monday 15th January 1951 with my husband, the Revd. Sidney Doran, six weeks after our wedding. I was nineteen and a half years old.

It was a daunting prospect as our furniture was unloaded at the huge Vicarage. The house was Victorian, facing west towards the Church, and approached by a long overgrown drive. There were battlements three stories up, above the porch, and the house was grey, built of clunch. There were only two houses in the village with a bathroom and WC, ours and the manor house. The village school master came for a bath once a week! The only power point in the house was in the scullery by the cooker. If we wanted warmth we had to light a coal fire or use a paraffin stove. It does sound very daunting and basic, but we were so happy to be together making a joint start in a new parish that we just revelled in coping with it all. The Induction service was held on 20th January 1951. A few days later we had the Churchwardens to supper. The Wardens at Uffington were Ernie Packer and Bob Isles. At Woolstone there was Charlie Reynolds, who sometimes helped in our gardens, and Mrs Monserrat. We had a busy time getting to know our parishioners and being entertained at their homes and inviting them back.

We had been getting round the parish on our bikes and it was often very cold and uncomfortable. Once we knew we were expecting baby we just had to get a car. The man at the local garage took Sidney for

his first lesson on 29th March, we bought the car on 6th April and Sidney passed his test on 3rd May. The car was a 1935 Austin Tourer and we called her Martha; she had a canvas roof that could fold down and was very draughty. She cost £165, a large part of Sidney's annual stipend of £390.

We had 5 acres of glebe land, the vicarage was surrounded by paddocks and there was a third one across the lane. We bought some Ayrshire calves and let them graze the paddocks. We later realised they were not ideal and switched to Jersey cows in May 1952. Food was rationed, and the meat allowance very small. Rabbits were plentiful in the fields and Bill Packer suggested he and the Vicar should go out and shoot some rabbits to help out. Sidney drove our car across Bill Packer's field, the windscreen would swing open horizontally and Bill aimed the gun through the gap. The noise made Sidney deaf for several days! Since I couldn't face the task of skinning a couple a rabbits I had been given, Charlie Bailey said his wife would gut them for me. "There's a h'art in it Madam", which confused me until he repeated "I mean a h'art in skinning it".

The vicar of Baulking, Philip Harton, was appointed to become Dean of Wells and it was then decided that Baulking should be added to Uffington and Woolstone under my husband. Unfortunately there was some kind of feud between Baulking and Uffington and the people were not pleased about sharing the Vicar. The Baulking church, dedicated to St Nicholas, was very old with a massive stone screen cutting off the chancel from the nave. The houses in Baulking were set around the large village green where sheep and geese grazed. Our son was born soon after and we called him Nicholas Sidney. Using the name Nicholas did much to mollify the people of Baulking and many turned up for his baptism at Uffington church, the first time many of them had been there!

King George died in February 1952 and our bell ringers rang a muffled peal; it was such an eerie sound

Our milk was delivered by a man on a bike with a large can on the handlebars. He ladled the required amount into my jug. With the dogs sometimes sniffing the top of his can, it was quite unhygienic and we were determined to do something about it before Nicholas started drinking cow's milk. In May we bought two Jersey heifers called Trixie and Sally and another cow called Bluebell who had just calved, so we had our own milk supply. Bluebell was milked by hand.

During the conversion of the stables into a cowshed, some very old Church Registers going back to the 17th century were found by Sidney. They must have been there for a very long time; we cleaned them up and passed them to the County Archivist

1953 We bought an in-calf heifer called Rosie from Mrs John Betjeman after she had decided to give up her cows and concentrate on geese. Mrs Betjeman had asked to be called when Rosie calved. This happened within a day or two of my coming home from hospital after our daughter – Elizabeth Grace – was born following a difficult pregnancy. Mrs Betjeman arrived on a motor bike and rushed into the field to fling her arms around Rosie's neck. Nothing was said about my baby!

June 2nd was Coronation Day and Sidney helped to arrange for a television to be installed in the village Hall so everyone could watch the ceremony. In the afternoon Sidney planted flowering cherries in each of the churchyards, and there was tea for the children

1955 The new school was finally opened on 7th October. It was all worth waiting for. The Bishop came to take part in the opening ceremony. It was the first school in the Diocese to be modernised since the war and the everyone was very proud of it. It would never have happened without Sidney's vision and meticulous planning.

1956 Our second daughter was born on 14th April. We called her Mary Susan – Mary for Uffington.

The Bishop of Oxford, Harry Carpenter came to preach for our Harvest Evensong on 7th October. He came to dinner afterwards and was served our own cream and other produce. A few weeks later he was speaking at a dinner and said how much he liked going to Uffington because the Vicar there farmed his own Glebe. The Oxford mail followed this up with an article...."The Reverend Doran looks after his stock as well as his flock. He deals with a farming community and now finds he is invited into the milking parlour as often as the front parlour. It is a tremendous help in his relations with parishioners."

1958 This was to be a momentous year for us. On 6th January Sidney received the formal offer of the living in the Parish of Bray (near Maidenhead in Berkshire). The saddest thing was all the "goodbyes" and including the sale of cows, calves and poultry.

If you would like to read more of Mrs Doran's memories just contact the museum....

Many hands make light work.....

Having recently taken over as curator I am even more in awe of the amount of work that both Sharon and Jane with the support of the Friends put into creating our small but perfectly formed museum.

There are always a number of on-going jobs to be done whether indexing our artefacts, producing the weekend rota, replying to correspondence or simply cleaning the museum.

At the moment a few of us spend a couple of hours each Tuesday morning 10 to 12 in the museum but we could always do with more help. This doesn't have to be every week or for the full two hours and you can just turn up if you are free that day – anyone is welcome and if you'd like more details then give me a ring on 01367 820978. Whilst the museum will be closing at the end of October to prepare for next years exhibition, we are very keen to attract more visitors & Friends. Subscriptions are £10 per year per family or £100 for a life membership. Alternatively if you can spare either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon from Easter to October and can join the rota then you can become a Friend of the museum for free. Forms are available from myself or Jo Coad (01367 820428) I look forward to hearing from you !
Karen Pilcher

Easy Fundraising

If you shop on line you can make donations to the museum at the same time.

EasyFundraising costs you nothing. The firms you order from pay a percentage of your purchase to the charity of your choice. The site is easy to use, just sign up, name your good cause (Tom Brown's School Museum) then click on the company you wish to shop with. All the favourite retailers are there, M&S, John Lewis, Amazon, Waterstones, there are literally hundreds of well known and trusted High Street companies involved in the scheme.

To date we have raised **£864.87** by Friends donating in this way.

The site is: www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

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