





# A New Year..... A New Exhibition.....

It's been four months since we published our last newsletter and whilst we are now into Spring, no one has told the weather! The Old Schoolroom has had to contend with wind, rain and snow. The 'Beast from the East' decorated the eaves with some wonderful icicles. Although these were beautiful they were never the less rather dangerous if you were standing underneath them.

We have been busy during the closed season with preparations for the 2018 exhibition entitled 'There But Not There' commemorating 100 years of the end of the First World War. Over 160 local men served in the Great War from the Uffington, Baulking and Woolstone area. Sadly, thirty did not return. We tell the stories of some of these men and explain the effect the war had on village life.





#### Join Us

In December we opened the museum again for a festive evening of mulled wine and seasonal treats. We were also joined by Friends of the museum for the exhibition launch in March. We are hoping to arrange more Friends events this year and look forward to even more of our friends and supporters joining us. It is always a good opportunity to catch up over a drink and nibbles!

### **Update on The Old Schoolroom repairs**

The fundraising for the wall repairs has been going from strength to strength with just over £43,000 in the bank and another £19,000 promised. With a confirmed total cost of £66,000, that leaves just under £4,000 to raise. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed in so many ways; from cash donations to loose change collected in the shop, quizzes and a very successful bridge afternoon. The contractor has been appointed and it is hoped work will start in May for a period of eight to ten weeks. You can keep track of the fundraising progress via the 'thermometer' displayed outside the museum. The thermometer was made by Paul Armishaw and painted by the very talented Dawn Mortiboy – with thanks to both for their support. Donations can still be made in the following ways:



Cheques payable to Uffington Parish Council posted to the Clerk or handed in to Uffington Stores Direct transfer to the Parish Council bank account - details available from parishcouncil@uffington.net



#### **Our Collection**

New box files have been purchased to maintain the safe storage of our John Betjemen correspondence collection. Special thanks to John Henville for producing new picture labels, which look very smart. Thanks also to Steve Cowlam for clearing our small backlog of new archives onto MODES, so if you are visiting the museum there will be new articles to see. Callum Skeat has been creating a summary of all our books to enable easier access for visitors, thank you Callum.

## How you can help publicise the museum

The museum needs to generate approximately £1,500 a season just to break even and income is only derived from donations when we are open or sales of merchandise, that is an average of £23 per opening. We therefore need as many visitors as possible who hopefully make donations and purchase souvenirs. Please take five minutes to put a review on TripAdvisor and/or like Tom Brown's School Museum Facebook page. Both mediums are used by prospective visitors so positive reviews can only help increase footfall.

https://www.facebook.com/UffingtonMuseum/?ref=avmt\_homepage\_panel

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\_Review-g315985-d3296751-Reviews-Tom\_Brown\_s\_School\_Museum-Uffington\_Oxfordshire\_England

#### Friends of Tom Brown's School Museum Committee Members

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