



Newsletter

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL MUSEUM

March 2022

Welcome Back!

It's been over 2 years since we've produced a newsletter for the Friends and despite COVID, a lot has happened during that time. Karen's curators report will detail the huge amount of work that has been completed inside the museum and there is information on this year's new exhibition and details of the Friends launch event at Easter.

For those that are local to the museum, you will have seen the new footpath that was installed in January 2021 and the wonderful flower borders that have been tended by Julie Rumble, both giving real 'kerb appeal' to the building. As we speak, a small amount of re-plastering is taking place under the gallery window where the wall is starting to crack – not surprising in a building which is over 400 years old!

I am, as always, grateful to all the rota members who have agreed to continue for the 2022 season and to those who offered to undertake an extra turn if necessary. We will open as usual Saturday and Sunday afternoons and the bank holidays including the Platinum Jubilee weekend, however we are offering openings during the week for small groups, so watch your E-mails for requests to support additional dates.

It was great to see so many of you at the AGM and thank you to all those who signed up to help with small jobs in the museum – many hands do indeed make light work. I look forward to seeing you all at the launch.



Josephine Coad

Chair
Friends of Tom Brown's
School Museum

New Exhibition Launch



All Friends are invited to the new exhibition launch from 11am to 1pm on Saturday 16th April prior to the museum opening at 2pm. This will be held in the museum with a gazebo outside in case of inclement weather and to prevent overcrowding inside.

You are welcome to enjoy a tea/coffee, a hot cross bun and have a preview of the new exhibition and see the many changes that have been made to the displays.

You will also be able to meet Garry Gibbons who we hope will be appointed as the new curator by the Trustees in May. Karen is standing down as curator after 6 years, however she will remain as Chair of Uffington Museum Trust and will work with Garry over the coming months to handover the reigns.

Curator's Report: Where to Start?!

With the museum not opening at all during 2020 and a delay in opening until July 2021, we took the opportunity to try and clear a long list of outstanding jobs.

The museum's backlog of donated items, have finally been catalogued and added to MODES and most are now available for viewing, either as part of the displays or for research such as photograph's and newspaper articles.

We have also started to clear 2 cupboards which have housed artefacts for nearly 30 years that have never been on display. Some will be disposed of as they have either deteriorated or do not meet our collections policy, however many will be retained and added to the displays.

We have new cabinets displaying some of the items such as the White Horse Show mugs and goblets found in the loft and coins and jewellery loaned by a local resident from his metal detecting. There are new pictures including a lovely print of the White Horse which came all the way from Chile and a copy of an original picture of High Street that sold at auction in December 2021 for EUR90,000.

We will be opening for the new season Easter Saturday 16th April from 2pm to 5pm where you will be able to see our new exhibition **Village Celebrations**. This is to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee and displays photographs and articles we hold of events in the local villages going back over 100 years.


Before we open we have the annual spring clean to include a professional clean of the carpets and if you can spare an hour on a Tuesday morning between 10am & 12pm there are always cobwebs to be cleared.

A final note – we did have one visitor just before Christmas. A squirrel that made its way down the chimney causing havoc in the museum, nibbling the bottom of our oak bookcase, knocking books off the shelves and depositing the contents of the chimney in the hearth. He then decided to 'pass away' behind a cupboard and was only found when the smell became too much – even the lily of the valley air freshener didn't help! RIP Cyril the squirrel.



Karen Pilcher

Chair
Uffington Museum Trust

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Tom Brown's School Museum

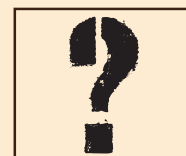
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WANTED EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR



The Friends committee would like to arrange more visits and talks and are looking for a volunteer who could take on the role of organising events, possibly 2 or 3 a year.

If you are interested please contact
Jo Coad on 07724 564107
for more information.