

FRIENDS OF Tom Brown's SCHOOL Museum

Forthcoming Events

Autumn
programme of

**Friends'
talks and
trips.**

Volunteer NOW

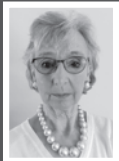
Call for
volunteers
at this year's
**White Horse
Show.**

NEWSLetter

SUMMER 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

- Curator's Farewell
- Introductions: The Curator
- Museum Mystery
- Museum News
- A Beaver Invasion!
- White Horse Show: Volunteers



Josephine
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One Friend to Another..

It was great to see so many of you at the launch party to say farewell to Karen. We are going to miss her dreadfully but as you can imagine she has not just abandoned ship, she is training Garry who has now been officially appointed as the new curator and is helping him get established.

The museum has now been up and running for two months with visitors gradually trickling back; Sunday proving



Presentation of a brass plaque acknowledging Karen's service to the museum.

to be the most popular day. Please remember to tell your friends and colleagues about the museum and encourage them to pay a visit.

The rota is working well, thank you for your time as we could not open without you. I will continue to confirm the key security code before your duty.

Looking to the future we are planning a series of lectures for the Autumn. The first will be held on Monday 5th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall where Professor Gary Lock (Oxford) will present a talk exploring the hillforts of Uffington, Segsbury Camp and Alfred's Castle. Make a note in your diary and further details will be circulated nearer the time.

Enjoy your summer holidays and remember to sign up to Easyfundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>) which turns your online shopping into charity donations for the Friends. This does not cost you anything -- *it is the company who gives a donation.*



Karen Pilcher

Curator's Farewell

After nearly 7 years, the time has come to hand over the baton to a new curator to take over the running of the museum.

I was very fortunate back in 2015 to have inherited the role from Sharon and Jane who did so much to develop the museum into what it is today. We are only ever guardians of this 'little gem' and I hope that I have added to what was started by John Little in 1984 when the idea was formed to create our village museum.

I am pleased to be handing over to Garry Gibbons who has been a Friend for nearly 2 years and whom many of you will have now met. I will leave Garry to introduce himself later in the newsletter and I hope you will continue to support him in his new role, especially in the first few months when everything will be new.

It leaves me to thank everyone who gave me a wonderful send off at the launch in April and for the very generous gift of garden vouchers. They will be put to very good use when our new house is built and I can get into our new garden!

MUSEUM NEWS

Beaver Invasion!

We were delighted to welcome sixteen members of the 1st Stanford in the Vale Dragon Beavers and three of their supervisors to the Museum for an energetic tour.

The Beavers poured over the museum's exhibits covering local history, the world-famous white horse, and Uffington's more illustrious residents – poet Sir John Betjeman and author Thomas Hughes.

The Beavers split into four groups to complete the Museum's prize quiz which was undertaken with no small degree of energy. It was refreshing to see the museum filled with the type of enthusiasm only younger people can provide!

The Museum offers an open invitation to Uffington's Beavers and their families.



Beaver supervisors (l-r): Ross Kuklinski, Alison Palethorpe and David Palethorpe.

Mystery from the Museum Collection

Can you help solve a riddle?

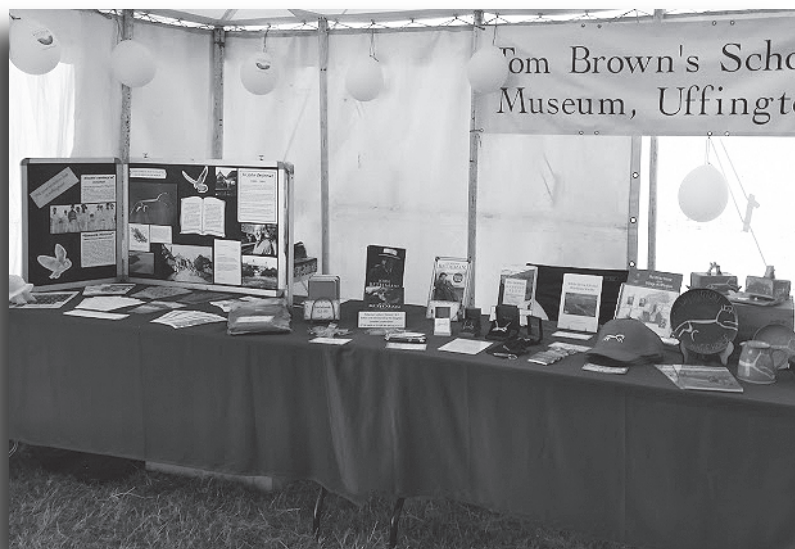
This object is labelled as a 'Drug Shoe'. The Museum has two similar examples of this intriguing artefact – but what is it?

Do you know where and how it may have been used? Did you use one in your working life?

If you can help identify this object, please contact us: uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com



Call for Volunteers



White Horse Show, 2019

Uffington White Horse Show Sunday 28th August and Monday 29th August, 2022

After nearly 3 long years we have been notified that the White Horse Show will be returning this August Bank Holiday.

As in previous years we are planning on having a stand at the show on both the Sunday and Monday and are looking for volunteers who can help with a 2-hour slot.

The stand will be set up and closed down by Karen and Garry so the requirement is to speak to visitors, publicise the museum and sell some of the merchandise.

This is an ideal opportunity to boost our funds and increase visitor numbers so any help would be gratefully received.

Time slots for Sunday 28th August:
10.00am to 12.00pm
12.00pm to 2.00pm
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Time slots for Monday 29th August:
10.00am to 12.00pm
12.00pm to 2.00pm
2.00pm to 4.00pm

If you can help please email:
uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com

Introductions...

Hello my name is Garry and I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new curator here at Tom Brown's School Museum.

I'm an archaeology graduate (1999) from the University of Southampton where I studied as a mature student. Since graduating I've been a part-time lecturer with the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education and Brookes University, and have run a number of heritage-related research projects. Before switching into the heritage sector, I worked as a graphic designer and photographer in the publishing industry.

My specialist interests are chalk hill-figures, with specific attention paid to Wiltshire's chalk horses of which there are currently seven examples. I've recently published journal papers on the Marlborough chalk horse and the 'lost' Devizes chalk horse. And, of course, my research can't help but include Uffington's world-famous hill-figure.

Over the past month or so, I've set myself the task of talking to as many of the Museum's Friends as possible and I intend continuing to do so over the coming months. I'm most interested in your feedback regarding the Museum and hope to hear of any ideas you may have for enhancing the Museum's offer so please do feel free to contact me via the museum's email address should you wish to meet up for a chat.

Alongside Jo, I'll be working towards reintroducing a series of Friends' events starting this coming autumn (see Jo's report). We are planning a series of monthly talks and a trip or two before the close of the year -- so look out for announcements in the forthcoming quarterly newsletters and parish circulars.

The Museum's collection is a treasure trove; I hope to use my experience to develop the resources held at the Museum and reach out to the community at large.

I look forward to meeting you all.



Curator's Report

Although it's early days for me as Curator, I have over the past few weeks been making contact with local - and not so local - museums.

Earlier this month Karen and I attended an event at the newly launched **Museum of Oxford** following its £3m revamp. The resulting exhibits and quality of the displays are understandably amazing, providing some display ideas that might be relevant here in Uffington.

Last week I travelled to **The British School Museum**, Hitchin, where the curator, Bee, showed me around their absolutely fascinating museum featuring classrooms from the early nineteenth century and different periods across the twentieth century.



My first concrete contribution as curator has been to establish a 'Museum Visitor Survey' that's designed to better understand the people who explore the museum, encourage their feedback, and identify how we might better grow our visitor numbers.

In parallel, I've also developed a 'Community Survey' aimed mainly at those who have never been to the Museum in order to assess the degree to which a local museum is valued across the wider community and to record who is actually aware of our Museum here in Uffington.

I'll summarise these survey results in the first Friends' Newsletter of 2023.

Ask Us about Volunteering

Do you have skills that would help the Museum grow and extend its reach across the community?

Perhaps you were involved in teaching or have been an active organiser in youth programmes? You might be involved in other local community groups and would like to partner with the Museum? Or you might have experience in delivering domestic care or you were a community nurse?

Whatever your level or area of skills, please do contact us to arrange a chat: uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com



Model of the Old Schoolroom, Pendon Museum

**Friends of
Tom Brown's School Museum**
<https://www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk/join-the-friends.html>

Contact:
Josephine Coad
*Chair, Friends of Tom Brown's School
Museum*

