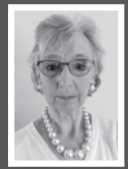


FRIENDS OF Tom Brown's SCHOOL Museum

Forthcoming Events
 Wednesday
 17 May, 7.30pm
 with **Mike Heaney**
 See pg 3

Friends Membership Fees NOW DUE for 2023

NEWSLetter
 SUMMER 2023



Josephine Coad

One Friend to Another..

We launched our 2023 season at 11.30am on Easter Saturday. We were lucky to have a beautiful sunny day and made full use of Jane's bench. It was wonderful that so many Friends found time to pop in to see the new exhibitions and enjoy a hot cross bun. It was especially good to see our longest serving and founder member of the Friends, Bill Mitchell.

The long Easter weekend is a busy time for seeing relatives and because of this we are considering having the Friends' event a week earlier next year.

It was disappointing to cancel the talk by Edward Caswell (Treasures of Oxfordshire) on 8th March, but I am pleased to say he has been rebooked for September.

Farmer's Market - we are looking for teams of two to take a turn on the museum stall at the Sunday farmers' market from 10am to 12.30am in the Uffington Memorial Hall. You are provided with the table and a box of goodies to sell but the main aim is to make people aware of our wonderful village museum. Please contact Garry for further information.

Thank you again to all the Friends who have agreed to take a turn on the rota. I

will send out a reminder and the key safe number prior to your date. Should you have a last-minute problem please arrange to swap with another person on the rota and notify Verity. I hope you all have lots of visitors.

Finally, I'd like to ask that you think about signing up to Easyfundraising. It's a fabulous way to donate to the Friends and it won't cost you a penny. Just order online through your usual supplier (ie John Lewis, Booking.Com, etc).



- www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 1 Choose a charity --
Friends of Tom Brown's School Museum
- 2 Sign up
- 3 Choose the retailers you use most.
- Remember to use these retailers when you book or order anything online. It does not cost you anything.
- Easyfundraising automatically makes the donation as a percentage of your spend.



Garry Gibbons

Curator's Report

Well, the exhibitions are finally up and the museum is open!

Although it was Easter bank holiday weekend, a good number of Friends turned out to attend our annual event marking the museum's official opening of the new season. Verity really pulled out the stops to provide a lovely Spring feel to the proceedings with daffodils, hot cross buns and wine. The morning offered a chance to view the new exhibitions and catch up with the broader community of Friends.

This year we also welcomed a number of guests who made a significant contribution to the new 'Archie' exhibition. Steve Jackson, Chair of the Betjeman Society, made the journey down from north Derbyshire and Phillida Gili, illustrator of the book *'Archie and the Strict Baptists'*, joined us from London. Closer to home Pat and Bernard Mattimore of the Wantage section of the Betjeman Society graced us with their presence having provided invaluable help in pulling together the 'Archie' exhibition.

Finally, and certainly not least, Jo Coad, Chair of the Friends, has just about single-handedly made sure the museum, in its entirety, was beautifully presented on the day and also assisted with setting up the 'Scouring the White Horse' exhibition. Jo's hard work behind the scenes generally goes unseen -- but that does not mean it should go unacknowledged.

Moving into the new season those of you who follow the museum on Facebook (if not, why not?) will note a strong emphasis on Archie. We are particularly asking anyone who still has their teddy bear to photograph her/him and post on our FB page, along with a little story about your furry friend. Whilst on the subject of the

museum's digital presence, our website now features a 'News' section with regular updates -- so do check in regularly.

By the time you read this newsletter, we would have kicked off our new talks season with yours truly exploring Wiltshire's white horse hill-figures. Sadly, what was due to be our first talk in March was cancelled due to snow but, as will be seen on the next page, we have an almost complete run of talks and trips that takes us through to the end of the year -- so please do come and support the events and help raise money for the museum.

I too would like to thank all those who have volunteered to be on the rota this year. Without you we can't open and as last year's Visitor Survey confirmed, the rota volunteers are an important part of our visitors' experience. When you are on duty, please do ensure that you ask everyone to complete a **Visitor Survey** as we need the breadth of information it provides for future grant applications and for our forthcoming accreditation renewal.





FORTHCOING EVENTS

Wednesday 17 May

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington

The Ancient English Morris Dance

Join Mike Heaney of the Bodleian Library in a fascinating talk that disentangles myth from the real history of the Morris.

The Icknield Way Morris will perform on the night prior to Mike's talk...so do turn up early. Following the talk, there will be dancing and a music session at the Fox and Hounds, Uffington.

Wednesday 7 June

A Guided Tour of NT Coleshill

Monday 24 July

And So To Ted....A History of Teddies and Other Bears

Melanie Gibson-Barton

Wednesday 6 September

Treasures of Oxfordshire

Edward Caswell, Oxfordshire Finds Liaison Officer

Wednesday 11 October

The Wilts & Berks Canal

Brian Stovold, WBCT Trustee

Wednesday 15 November

Sex, Drink and Death in the 17th Century

Tim Healey, Broadcaster and Writer

Uffington Cubs Help Out at the Museum

We were delighted to enlist the assistance of the Uffington Cubs in preparing the Museum's new display 'Scouring the White Horse, 1750 -- 1900'.

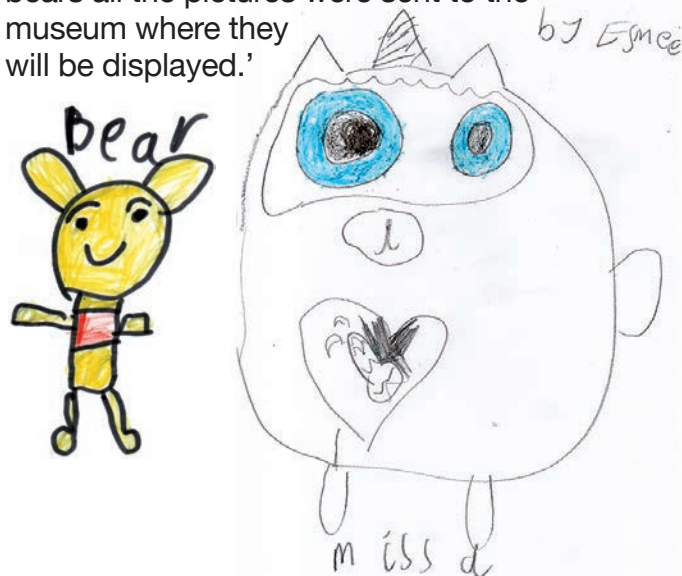
Working with leaders Michelle Garwood and Oliver Stanton, the Cubs have built a fabulous wooden reconstruction of a section of the horse, complete with chalk used at last year's scouring.



Uffington Beavers meet Archie

Beavers Co-leader, Dave Barnes writes, 'As part of learning about our community, we invited the curator of the Uffington Museum to talk to us about this year's exhibition, *Archie and the Poet*.'

'The Beavers brought along their favourite teddy bears and cuddly toys to hear about Archie, share stories about their bears, and to imagined them taking part in different activities. After a session drawing their bears all the pictures were sent to the museum where they will be displayed.'



Artemis and the Artist

Those of you who have seen the museum's new exhibition, *Archie and the Poet*, will have noticed the exciting contribution artist Emi Fujisawa has made in better understanding Archie.

Emi is a Japanese textile artist/designer based in Oxfordshire specialized in hand weaving and natural dyeing. She launched her slow fashion collection using textiles and antique/vintage natural fabrics in 2021 which focused on nature, sustainability and the value of 'handmade'.

Emi said: 'I always have had a strong interest in textile conservation as I like to imagine what might be the history and background behind antique fabrics.

When I saw Archie for the first time, his patches reminded me of a Japanese textile technique called "boro". It was common practice in Japan to repair clothing and goods with hand stitching



using old fabrics borrowed from friends or family, making them more meaningful and special. I had the same feeling about Archie.

I am excited to be involved in this project for analysing Archie from the textile conservation point of view, but also having the opportunity to be involved in the creation of a 'new' Archie.'

Emi's 'new' Archie – named Artemis – can be viewed in the museum.

www.emifujisawa.co.uk

Art Journaling Workshop at the Museum

Draw, notice, stroll, write, relax, learn! This art journaling workshop and walk will enable you to explore some of the fascinating history and nature of the Ridgeway National Trail with Jo Beal, Wiltshire-based artist, and Sarah Wright, Ridgeway Officer.

The morning will be spent indoors at Tom Brown's School Museum in Uffington. Sarah will introduce some of the Trail's history and artefacts, and Jo will help you to capture your thoughts and observations in your journals with easy and accessible drawing techniques that will help build confidence.

In the afternoon, participants will take a gentle stroll from the National Trust car park to White Horse Hill to view the internationally renowned Bronze Age chalk figure of the White Horse. We will spend time looking, listening and journaling our experience of this ancient place, before heading back along The Ridgeway.

Interested? Contact Garry for more information.

If you'd like to volunteer for any of the projects we're working on...get in touch:

uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com