

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1066961

www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk

**AGM Update re; the proposed upgrade to a (C-I-O)
Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

Since last May and over the summer, quite a lot of research has been carried out into the practical details of becoming a C-I-O. We have now received a very strong 'steer' from our mentors at South West Museums Group (Development Office) that upgrading to a C-I-O is not only being encouraged by the Charities Commission, it is also going to be a requirement for our forthcoming re-accreditation process.

So, all three of our current trustees have agreed to remain in place during the transition and I have offered to join them as part of the new team, in the first instance, which means we will start with a respectable minimum of four trustees. After that, it should be easier to allow some trustees to stand-down and hopefully possible to recruit some new trustees to join the new C-I-O, in the certain knowledge that personal liability has been eliminated **and** we will have established a widely recognised legal basis for fund-raising going forward.

If anyone is interested in becoming a new trustee, please call or text me - Hugh Whatley on 0777 552 2689.

Winter Talks

Our first talk will be on **Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House** on the subject of the 'Remember Me' project by Liz Ferguson. This will be linked to her research and travels for the current temporary exhibition, which runs until mid-November after Remembrance Sunday. However, if you haven't yet visited the Museum and seen the

'knitted soldier', you will need to do so before the first weekend in October when, due to popular demand, it will be moving to another location

Further talks are planned for January to March of 2024 but we really do need to find volunteers with an interest in arranging talks. There are plenty of suggestions available on the museums & local history circuit but with unfilled vacancies on the committee since our AGM, a smaller committee is currently very short of time with all the other tasks which need to be covered to keep the Museum running efficiently.

On the subject of talks, it is with regret that we have to report that Alan Freke has decided it is time to step down after some 25 years of being the 'face of Frenchay' to many local groups. His efforts have, without doubt, 'put us on the map' and he has generated many donations to the Museum from his various talks. "Thank you Alan" feels like a bit of an under-statement! His briefing on the Future of Museum Talks is re-printed below.

The Future of Museum Talks

For the past 25 years or so, I have been putting together talks on a variety of Frenchay related subjects, ranging from the Bells of Frenchay Church, to Hollywood. There are around a dozen different talks, and each is given using PowerPoint, and lasts about an hour. Over the years I have been able to give these talks to dozens of groups in the area, which is good publicity for the museum, and also produces income, as most groups give a donation to the museum in return for the talk. Unfortunately, I am now unable to give evening talks, which is when most groups meet, and so I am hoping that someone might take over from me and keep the activity alive. I will pass over all the talks, and can give any help and assistance required. The new speaker is welcome to tailor the talks to reflect their own interests and understanding of the subject. If you are interested in exploring this idea further, contact me at alanmuseum@gmail.com or 'phone 0117 9570942.

HOUSE & GROUNDS REPORT

Unfortunately we will also be saying goodbye to Hugh Evans who has looked after, and indeed improved, our grounds since we took on the new lease in 2017. So, grateful thanks for Hugh's many hours of volunteering and best wishes for the continued success of Warmley Signal Box on which he will now be concentrating (due to the lack of volunteers).

Meanwhile, there is nothing much to report on the planning front, other than a frustrating chase around South Glos who appear to have lost our Listed Building Application! If a letter to the chief planning officer doesn't elicit a reply soon, then the next stop will be one of our councilors.

The Museum entrance from the mini-roundabout is closed until Christmas for major highway works as part of the hospital site redevelopment, including a new pavement by the Museum. Diversion signs are in place which will take vehicles to the old 'A & E' entrance (opp. The Dings) and thence through the new estate roads back to the other entrance into the Museum car park.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

FRENCHAY IRON MILL

The Hobbs family owned Frenchay Iron Mill at the bottom of Frenchay Hill. In 1875 Fanny Hobbs died at the age of 81. She lived in Ivy Cottage which was the old mill manager's house.

In January 1876 her possessions were sold in a public auction which was advertised in the Bristol papers. A notebook recording what was sold and for how much was recently advertised on E-bay. The museum has acquired the notebook which records not only how much each item sold for, but also who bought it. There were obviously expensive items as the total sale raised £135 15s 9d. If you are interested in finding out more we are looking for someone to research who bought what so that we can match the items to Frenchay residents of that time.

MATCHSTICK MODEL OF FRENCHAY CHURCH

When showing children the model of the church they may look puzzled. Children of today have often never heard of a match! We keep a box of matches in the office and custodians can demonstrate what a match is for.

COCOA BUTTER

We also have a tube of hand cream made from cocoa butter. Chocolate is made by combining the cocoa powder and cocoa butter together with other ingredients. Before the development of chocolate, cocoa butter was a waste product used in cosmetics. Please feel free to use the hand cream to show visitors how cocoa butter can be used.

Are you interested in helping at Frenchay Museum?

Frenchay Museum is looking for volunteers to welcome visitors to the Museum. It is a very interesting role as you will learn new things about Frenchay and meet new people. You will be supported by our current Custodians.

The Museum is open for three hours on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons and we need two volunteers to cover each session. You are able to choose when you volunteer and you do not need to commit to a regular slot. If you are interested and would like more information please contact Anne Collins at FrenchayMuseumRota@outlook.com

Enjoying the Vintage Cream Teas



To pay homage to the local heroes of WW1 and WW2 Liz Ferguson has on display at the Museum her excellent "Remember Me" project. On September 17th, she hosted a vintage cream tea to highlight the exhibition, featuring scones, home made jams, home made cakes and WW bread and butter pudding. Delicious! Thank you Liz!

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