

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
New Year 2023 Newsletter

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www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk

House and Grounds report from Hugh Whatley

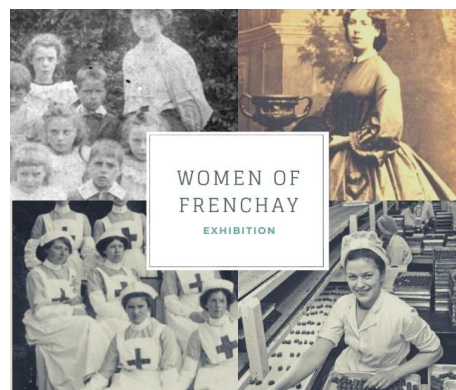
It's nearly a year on from our successful planning application for an extension – so where are we now? Unfortunately, we are still waiting for South Glos planners to finish dealing with the Listed Building Application - this should have been a formality but they seem over-stretched. Anyway, our architect, John Page is on the case and we are also endeavouring to clear some other planning conditions, such as samples of proposed materials and tree works, etc.

Other preparatory works are continuing quietly, including discussions with our 'mentor' at South West Museums (Development Office) re; such matters as fund-raising strategy, proposed up-dates to our charitable status and of course 'Re-accreditation' of the Museum (delayed by Covid). Hopefully, there will be a lot more to report at our AGM in May.

Meanwhile, our volunteer groundsman – Hugh Evans (of Warmley Signal Box fame) is already preparing for the arrival of spring with a new round of planting proposals. We are still waiting to be contacted by Redrow and their specialist contractors about the highway improvements which are necessary on the road from the mini-roundabout. Plans have been provided by North Bristol Trust which show the new road and pavement being positioned more-or-less on the same line as the edge of our grass but with the addition of a new pavement, so the actual road will be further away.

Please watch out for these road works, and no doubt lots of cones & signs as we progress into spring... There are other associated proposals which will affect the adjoining car park, all of which should ultimately help to improve the setting of the Museum in the former 'West Lodge'.

Women of Frenchay Exhibition



Join us for the re-opened 'Women of Frenchay' exhibition. Through objects and displays this exhibition explores some of the roles women played in Frenchay society with a particular focus on education and employment.

Subjects include working at Fry's chocolate, life as a VAD nurse during World War One, the role of school mistresses and also the importance of the arts in the lives of women during the 19th century. These topics are explored through various biographies and photos of real women from Frenchay, bringing their stories to life.

Objects on display include an illustrated autograph book filled with drawings and poems by convalescing soldiers and given to a nurse caring for them, pictures by Lizzie Tuckett an artist and writer, Victorian school photographs as well as letters and brochures tracing the employment of a young woman working at Frys, which also gives us a fascinating window into what it was like to work there. We are interested in expanding on this exhibition so if you have any stories about women in Frenchay please reach out to us

frenchaymuseum@hotmail.com

Tuckett Talk March 9th

7.30pm Friends' Meeting House

Alan Freke will talk about what was on the Frenchay Hospital site before Redrow filled it with houses.

Anniversaries

50 years ago. On 27th February 1973, Alan Eden-Eadon died in Bristol. He was born in 1898 in *Elleray*, Beckspool Road, and spent most of his life in aviation. His achievements included founding the first aeronautical training college at de Havillands, and as Director of Civil Aviation, he organised the world's first mass evacuation of civilians by air from Burma in 1942. He is buried in Frenchay churchyard.

75 years ago. On 30th January 1948, Hollywood actor Nigel de Brulier died in Los Angeles. He was born Francis Packer in the West Lodge of Frenchay Park in 1877, and as a boy attended Frenchay School. After leaving Frenchay School he worked as a servant in Frenchay Park House, then emigrated to America in 1897. He appeared in his first Hollywood film in 1914 using his newly assumed name of Nigel de Brulier. His last film was in 1943. He had appeared in around 120 films during his career.

100 years ago. In 1923 Alice Tuckett conveyed more land to the Village Hall to allow for its expansion. On 15th November 1923 at around 2 o'clock in the afternoon, Frenchay church was struck by lightning, which destroyed the spire. Services were held in the Village Hall until the following April, when the church building was made safe. However, it took many more months to complete rebuilding the spire.

150 years ago. J.S. Fry & Sons introduced the world's first chocolate Easter Egg. Always pioneers in chocolate – they had produced the first chocolate bar in 1847 and the first chocolate confectionery (Fry's Chocolate Cream) in 1853 – the chocolate Easter Egg was an immediate success, and was rapidly copied by other manufacturers. Enjoy yours this Easter!!

Museum Custodians

Hello, my name is Anne Collins and I am now helping Margaret with the Museum custodian rota. We have moved the rota on line so that custodians are able to sign up from the comfort of their own homes and this is going really well. Custodians can also check which days they have signed up for as the rota is always accessible to them and so this is also proving very helpful.

We are always looking for more custodians and so if you are interested in helping with this please get in touch with me by email in the first instance at

frenchaymuseumrota@outlook.com. We can then arrange to meet you to discuss what is involved. The commitment we are asking for is an afternoon every month or every other month on a Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

TYPHOID IN FRENCHAY!

Frenchay Museum has a subscription to the British Newspaper Archive which has the records of millions of news items. Here is one of them.

In 1886 Miss Gough ran Frenchay Ladies' College in Clarendon House. Mr Kent, who was a horse slaughterer by profession, removed his daughter from the College as she had contracted Typhoid there. He was suing the college for the return of his fees. A builder who was employed to inspect the drains said the smell from them was so great that he had to spend £1 on tobacco for his employees – presumably to disguise the stench. The court ordered the school to return £6 to Mr Kent and a few weeks later the Bristol Newspaper reported that the school had been given a clean bill of health.

Contacts

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