

*The Frenchay Tuckett Society*  
**New Year 2017 Newsletter**

Registered Charity No. 1066961  
[www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk](http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk)

### **Frenchay Iron Works**

Frenchay Iron Works was perhaps more familiarly known as the Flock Mill at the bottom of Frenchay Hill. The mill buildings were demolished about fifteen years ago to build houses, but the Flock Mill had been used for light industrial purposes for some years before that.

Until around 1900 this had been Frenchay Iron Works, founded in 1761. There was another iron works by Cleeve Road Bridge. The two amalgamated in 1810, the one on Frenchay Hill then being known as the Lower Iron Works. By the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it mainly produced tools and was owned by Thomas Moore. A postcard from the early 20th Century shows the sign on the building reads, "**T. Moore Frenchay Edge Tool and File Works**". We knew of no examples of the work's output, although it's probable they made the original iron kissing-gates around Tuckett's Field.

However, we've just acquired an "edge tool" that was almost certainly made there. It's a large axehead that's almost 12 inches deep. Made from a single sheet of steel that was bent double around a former to create a channel for the wooden handle, then the two halves coming together to form the blade were hammer-welded together, and an edge ground for cutting. The blade is stamped with a trademark, and the word "**FRENCHAY**" in block capitals. It will be on display in the museum when we re-open in January.

### **Museum Custodians**

We always welcome more custodians, so if you are interested in coming along and finding out more, call Margaret Bulmer on 0117 9569324 for an informal, no obligation chat. Whether you help once a month, or once a year, you will be welcome. Every year we thank our custodians by having a garden visit, then a cream tea. There are many other tasks that need doing, besides manning the museum when it's open. From straightforward cleaning to mounting new displays. If you can help, call Alan Freke on 0117 9570942 for a no obligation chat.

### **Museum Purchase**

There is still no news about our purchase of a 125 year lease. The mechanism is to be that South Gloucestershire Council purchases the museum from the NBHT and then leases it to the museum immediately. Originally we planned to purchase the museum outright from the hospital but after taking advice we decided to lease it from South Gloucestershire to safeguard it in the event that there is no-one to run it in 50 or 100 years time.

### **Visitor Numbers**

In October we welcomed our 30,000<sup>th</sup> visitor. Since opening in 2000 we have averaged 1,875 visitors per year. Since the closure of the hospital we have worked really hard to maintain our visitor numbers.

### **Questionnaires**

From May to October 84 questionnaires were completed by visitors – they all gave us positive feedback.

### **Visiting Exhibitions**

We're delighted to welcome back the **Alpine Club** with an exhibition about **The Golden Age of Alpinism and British Victorian Climbers** from January 7<sup>th</sup> to the end of March.

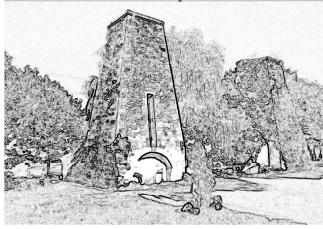
In April we welcome the **Dings Rugby Club**. Founded in 1897, the club is currently creating their new ground in Frenchay. A chance to find out about our newest neighbours.

Are you a member of a group that would like to mount a display? If so, please contact Alan Freke 0117 9570942 for an informal chat. We have hosted exhibitions as diverse as The Alpine Club of London, to our local Girl Guides.

See Frenchay Hospital as you've never seen it. A new film taken from the air.  
<http://www.bristol247.com/channel/news-comment/features/video/video-former-frenchay-hospital-seen-from-drone>

**P.T.O**

**Jan 12th**  
**The Local Brass Industry**



Tony Coverdale tells of the pioneering industrialists of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, who led the world in brass production. At Kingswood the world's first integrated factory allowed metal ores to enter at one end, and finished goods leave at the other.

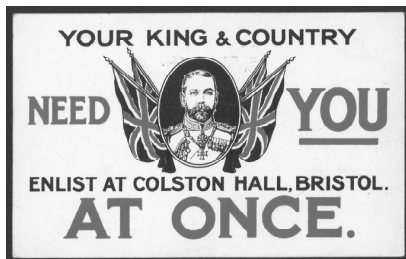
**The Dramway**

The talk on November 10<sup>th</sup> about the Dramway, turned out to be mostly about Avon Wharf, which was the speaker, Jim Pimpernell's, particular interest. The Avon and Gloucestershire Railway, to give it its proper name, was established in 1828 by a company set up by the Kennet and Avon Canal Company, mainly to transport coal from the South Glos. coalfields to the River Avon, and hence to Bristol and Bath. Two Frenchay residents were involved: George Worrall of Frenchay Park was the K&A's "Treasurer" – equivalent today to Financial Director, and Robert Bruce of Cliff Court was the Chairman of the A&GR. When the line was completed in October 1831, W. H. Eastwick, the engineer in charge, and Robert Bruce travelled the 8 mile length of the line in a wagon in less than an hour to ceremonially open the line.

Alfred Tuckett (1804-89) had a brickworks on Siston Common, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Series Ordnance Survey maps show a branch into the brickworks line from the Dramway, which passed nearby. Alfred would have needed coal for his brick kilns, and probably the finished bricks would also be transported to Bristol and Bath using the Dramway.

**Feb 9th**

**Out and about in Bristol 1914 – 1918**



John Penny tells of day-to-day life in Bristol during the Great War.

**Mar 9th**

**The Golden Age of  
Alpinism and British  
Victorian Climbers**

(This is a change to the published programme)



**Hywel Lloyd** of the Alpine Club recounts the exploits of mountaineers in the Alps from the 1850s to 1900, including Frank Tuckett of Frenchay. This talk is in conjunction with the Alpine Club's Visiting Exhibition.

**Vintage Vehicle Day 2017**

Our Vintage Vehicle Day will be on Saturday **15<sup>th</sup> July** in conjunction with the Flower Show.

If you are able to help prepare for this event, or be involved helping organise things on the day, please contact **Paul Green on 0117 9567020**, or **Hugh Whatley on 0117 9566378**

All our talks are held in the  
**Quaker Meeting House** Beckspool Road,  
Frenchay Starting at **7.30pm** Admission **£2**

**May 11th at 7.30pm in the Meeting House**

**AGM** - followed by a talk about the **Restoration of Frenchay Park House** – Now a private house again after almost 100 years, the new owners will be telling how they are restoring the house to its former glory.

**Contacts**

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