

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
New Year 2018 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1066961
www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk

Museum Purchase Update

At long last The NHS Trust has sold the West Lodge to South Gloucestershire Council and the Frenchay Tuckett Society have purchased a 125year lease on the building from South Gloucestershire Council, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

The Committee and Trustees are now in the process of looking at ways to raise more funds to improve the building, with the provision of toilets, space for storage to house our growing collection and more display space.

Visiting Exhibition in the Museum

January, February and March
Somerdale: Then and Now



Former Fry's employees are mounting an exhibition to record the dramatic changes at Somerdale. Cecil Fry of the Grove, Frenchay laid the foundation stone of the office block there in 1932, and in 2016 his grandson used the same ceremonial mason's tools to lay the foundation stone of the new St Monica's retirement home being created in the chocolate factories that had ceased production in 2011. ***The exhibition runs until Easter, but on Sunday 28th January there's a chance to meet some former Fry's staff – who will have a sweet surprise for you....***

Frenchay Village Museum Talks Series

Jan 11th 2018



Unseen Bristol – Julian Lea-Jones *highlights things in Bristol that seem unremarkable, but which have intriguing stories*

Feb 8th 2018



A History of Frenchay - Roger Angerson *tells the story of our village community.*

The Sawyer Memorial Lecture

March 8th 2018



The Later Avon Valley Copper and Brass Industry - Richard Ross *continues the story Tony Coverdale started last year, with the later developments.*

These talks are in Frenchay Quaker Meeting House starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £2.

MEMORY CAFÉS

As part of the museum's outreach work Carol Thorne has been giving a series of talks the Memory Cafes. These are held in various local venues for people with dementia and their carers. She gives a talk about the River Frome – from where it rises at Doddington to where it finishes at the city centre.

This is followed by passing around various items to stimulate memory. A wooden scrubbing brush and carboric soap, washing tongs, a toast rack, nut crackers and a darning mushroom are some of the items which spark memories and lead people to talk about their past.

THE RIVER RIVER

Do you know the origin of the names of local rivers?

When the Romans came to Britain they asked the local tribes what the local river was called. They replied "Avon", which is Celtic for river and the Romans assumed this was a particular river. There are several rivers and places called Avon in Britain because of this – Stratford on Avon, Bradford on Avon, Avonmouth, Aberavon – which have no connection to each other.

When the Normans came to Britain they decided to compile the Domesday book which records every place and river. They asked the locals what their river was called and they replied "Frome" which is Anglo Saxon for river. There are numerous rivers and places called Frome which have no connection to each other except for the name.

Frenchay Museum reopens on January 6th

and is then open
Sat., Sun. 2 – 5pm and Wed. 1 - 4pm
Free entry

AGM May 10th 2018 at 7.30pm

in the Quaker Meeting House
followed by a talk to be announced.

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. There are many other tasks that need doing, besides manning the museum when it's open. From straightforward cleaning to mounting new displays, there are many jobs waiting. If you feel that you would like to get involved in any way, call **Alan Freke on 0117 9570942** for a no-obligation chat.

HELLFIRE BATEMAN

The 1881 census records that Robert Bateman, together with his wife, small child and parents lived at Oldbury Court house. He was a stone mason and also trained to be a Baptist minister. He later emigrated to America where he became mayor of a town in Florida. In 1911, after the death of his parents, he returned to Bristol to arrange for the erection of a headstone on their grave. In April 1912 he boarded the Titanic to return to Florida and his wife and children. He held a service on the evening before the Titanic went down and was known as "Hellfire Bateman" because of his fiery sermons. He gave up his place on the lifeboat to his sister in law who was accompanying him to make a new life in America. It is said that he was the person who ordered the band to play "Nearer My God To Thee" as the ship went down. He handed his Bible to his sister in law and for many years it toured America as the only bible to survive the Titanic.

Contacts

Curator Alan Freke 0117 9570942
Chairman Roger Angerson 0117 9569490
Treasurer Paul Green 0117 9567020
Archivist Ray Bulmer 0117 9569324
Custodian Co-ordinator Margaret Bulmer 9569324
The Frenchay Tuckett Society
Frenchay Village Museum
Begbrook Park
Frenchay,
South Glos. BS16 1SZ

email - frenchaymuseum@hotmail.com
web - www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk