

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
Autumn 2017 Newsletter

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

STOP PRESS

By an email dated 6th September 2017, we are advised that the transfer from the Health Care Trust to South Glos. Council of the West Lodge site has been completed. Therefore your Committee understand that from 18th September 2017, the final hurdle in the purchase of the Museum site by the Frenchay Tuckett Society can be achieved. At this stage your Committee are not holding their breath, but are most hopeful for completion of the purchase of Frenchay Village Museum.

WATCH THIS SPACE...

Roger Angerson

Museum December Shutdown

The museum will be open for the last time this year on Wed. Nov. 29th, and reopen on Sat. Jan. 6th 2018. This is to allow for our annual "deep clean", updating displays, and some minor re-decoration. If you can help in any way, please contact Margaret Bulmer on 0117 9569324.

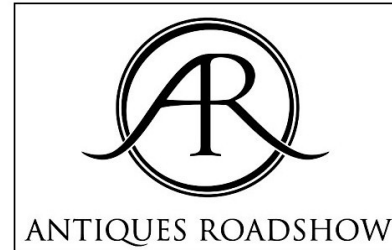
Frenchay's Highwayman

At the AGM we heard Roger Angerson tell of Higgins the highwayman, who lived in "The Grove" at the bottom of Frenchay Hill, and that 250 years ago he was arrested in Bristol, but managed to gain his freedom. He resumed his nefarious activities in Wales, but soon met his fate in Carmarthen. He was again arrested and found guilty and sentenced to hang, but despite a forged "pardon" that was delivered to the prison just before the due date, he was finally hanged there on 7th November 1767.

Winter Talks Series

Oct 12th

Behind the Scenes at the Antiques Road Show *Clifford White tells of his years working on the iconic BBC programme.*



Note. At this meeting we will hold a vote to formally appoint Charles Watkins our independent examiner of accounts.

Nov 9th

Local Archaeological Finds – *Kurt Adams tells of the latest finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.*

Jan 11th 2018

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

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

New Road Names

In response to their request, we submitted a list of possible road names to Redrow, and the first names have now been announced. They are:

- Deane Close** Alderman Thomas Deane, a Bristol Merchant, the first known owner of Frenchay Park.
 - Sinatra Way** Frank Sinatra who visited the hospital in the 1950s.
 - Packer Way** Francis Packer, born in Frenchay Park Lodge in 1877, became a Hollywood actor in 1913.
 - Alexander Rd** Mr George Alexander, the first head of the Regional Neurosurgery Unit based at Frenchay.
 - Briggs Rd** Dr. James Briggs, Consultant Pathologist at Frenchay, author of "The History of Frenchay Hospital".
- Recently Dr Briggs visited the museum. We took him to Briggs Road, where he had his photograph taken!!

Vintage Vehicle Day 2017

This year our Vintage Vehicle Day on Saturday 15th July was again held in conjunction with the Flower Show. A very successful day – a BIG THANKS to all who helped.

We would particularly like to thank Hugh Evans, formerly of Fry's at Somerdale, who used his considerable gardening skills to clear the overgrown car park of overhanging bushes, whilst others cleared away the waste.

If you are able to help with either preparing for next year's event on July 14th, or being involved helping organise things on the day, please contact Paul Green on 0117 9567020, or Hugh Whatley on 0117 9566378.

New Book

The Tuckett Family of Frenchay

We have just published a new book, **The Tuckett Family of Frenchay**, which tells the story of the Quaker family that directly gave rise to the Frenchay Tuckett Society. Originating in Devon and Cornwall, the family arrived in Frenchay in 1801, and the last of them to live here died in 1928. They made a significant impact on the village, where their legacy includes the Village Hall, Tuckett's Field, and the museum. The book also explores their wider impact in New Zealand, Australia, and Europe. Copies of the 116 page book, which is copiously illustrated, are available in the museum from mid-September price £5, or by post £6.50 including UK postage.

Child Evacuees

At last year's talk about Frenchay Hospital, Alan showed photographs of child evacuees housed in Frenchay Hospital between the Autumn of 1940 and the Summer of 1941. Where they came from was a mystery, but the school logbook for that period shows they were from West Ham. We even have a name for one girl, and we're currently trying to contact her.

BRISTOL UNIFORMS

Did you know there is a company based in Staple Hill that manufactures specialist stab proof vests for the police and fire resistant coats for firemen? It was founded in 1810 and formerly made overcoats which were exported all over the world including South America and South Africa. It now makes hi-tech clothing for our emergency services. We now have a book celebrating the History of Wathen Gardiner & Bristol Uniforms for sale in the Museum at an introduction price of £3.50.

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.

Museum News

The exhibition currently in the visiting room, marks the 50th anniversary of the untimely death of **David Fry** at the age of 49. His death signalled the end of his company **Frenchay Products**. Exhibits include the prototype Moulton bicycle made at Frenchay Products, and the Chantal Meteor 200 jukebox. Bristol Motor Club have loaned us a trophy, which is a model of David's *Freikaiserwagen* record breaking hillclimb car. But if you want to see it you need to be quick, because during October and November there will be a display celebrating **Frenchay School's 175th** anniversary. Founded in 1842, it has a rich history to celebrate.

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 had our first attack by vandals, which was fortunately not too serious, but we intend following police advice to clear the hedge that borders Begbrook Park, so that the building is more visible from the road.

Contacts

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