

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
Summer 2021 Newsletter

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AGM 7.45^{PM} JULY 29TH

FRENCHAY VILLAGE HALL BS16 1NU

Followed at 8pm by a talk by
Karin Walton

“What exactly does a Curator do?”

Our museum’s mentor until her retirement
as Curator of Fine Arts for Bristol City Museum,

Come and renew your membership, hear the
latest up dates and get your programme of
Tuckett Society Talks for the coming year.

**The Visiting Display in the Museum
when it reopens on July 10th
will be**

Frenchay Then and Now

A photographic exhibition of Frenchay’s iconic
scenery displayed alongside 19th century and early
20th century postcards and images of the same
location. An opportunity to admire the beauty of
Frenchay and seeing how much it has remained the
same or changed over the years. Many of these
photos are also available on our website to view:

www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/Archives/Pages/Photo/Groups/VillageThenAndNow.htm



Museum Custodians

Three new volunteers have been on duty in the
museum and have found it very interesting and
others have returned from temporary leave,
but we would still welcome additional
volunteers. Most of the volunteers at present
are ladies and we would love more men or
some younger people to join the team. Being
retired is not a requirement as we don't expect
anyone to commit to regular slots, so doing a
session once or twice a year may be fine for
some. If interested, contact me for an informal
chat.

Margaret Bulmer 0117 4403345

House and Grounds report from Hugh Whatley

I must start my report with a big “thank you” to Hugh
Evans who has been looking after our grounds for the
last 4 years or so since the Health Trust stopped ‘cutting
the grass’ when the Trustees negotiated the new lease.
Over several seasons, the immediate setting of ‘West
Lodge’ has steadily improved and the flower beds are in
fine bloom. (We also look after the planter under the
parish council notice board.)

Unfortunately the adjoining car park is looking rather
neglected but there is still a long term plan for
Winterbourne Parish Council to take over the land from
the Health Trust when ‘Covid’ delays have been
overcome. Meanwhile, we now have permission to
tidy-up round the old ‘gas shed’ (concealed in the
bushes) and use it for some additional storage of stuff
which can be decanted from the old garage.

Elsewhere, the case for some proper ‘museum
standard’ storage, an inside toilet and more display
space continues to be made to South Glos planners!
We are now on our 3rd (yes, third) design proposal as
part of the on-going feasibility study about the future of
the Museum over the next decade... Is it really 21 years
since the Museum opened in April 2000? A progress
report will be available at the AGM in July.

**Free entry to the museum
Open
Wednesdays 1-4pm
Saturdays and Sundays 2-5pm**

P.T.O

Gerald Franklin

In February we were sorry to hear of the death of Gerald Franklin of Honiton at the age of 92.

Gerald, and his wife Jill, were great supporters of the Frenchay Tuckett Society, and his passing brings back many memories, beginning with our first meeting at Hubert Fox's house back in the mid-1980s.

We had got to know of Hubert Fox, a grandson of Mariana Tuckett of Frenchay, through a distant relative, and he agreed to see us at his home on Dartmoor when we were on holiday in Devon, to show us all his Frenchay Tuckett treasures. Hubert also asked his friend Gerald Franklin from Honiton along, which is how we came to meet him.

We were to become good friends. Later, in 1989, when we borrowed many Tuckett items from Hubert for an exhibition in Frenchay Church to raise money for the church roof, again Gerald was at Hubert's to help. Hubert also introduced us to Richard Fox of Wellington, and we next met Gerald at *Tonedale*, Richard's home in Wellington.

In 1994 we borrowed Hubert and Richard's "Tuckett treasures" for an exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of Dunedin by Frederick Tuckett. This led directly to setting up the Frenchay Tuckett Society the following year, and Gerald and Jill were founder members.

When younger, Gerald had been an active mountaineer, and became very interested in researching the Tuckett family, especially Frank Tuckett, and began transcribing all the original material he could get hold of. His dedication and hard work led to the production of booklet after booklet, on subjects as diverse as the Tuckett girls holiday in Falmouth, Frederick Tuckett's travels in Europe and New Zealand in the 19th Century, and of course, the family's many Alpine journeys.

For fifteen years Gerald and Jill spent several months in New Zealand each year, where they transcribed the New Zealand journals and letters of Frederick Tuckett held by the University of Otago, Dunedin. These he turned into a book, which has been of great benefit to researchers. Gerald and Jill also supported many of our events here in Frenchay – talks, village walks, even our Vintage Vehicle Day, and their presence always meant a lot to us. At this sad time our thoughts are with Jill, and we will always remember and value the many contributions Gerald and Jill made to the Society.

Didge and Alan Freke

Gerald and Jill



FRENCHAY MUSEUM NEW ACQUISITION

Frenchay Museum has recently been handed a prayer book which belonged to Cuthbert Blair Godwin.

Cuthbert was born in 1891 and lived with his family in a Frenchay house called Woodfield (now Fromeshaw). Both Cuthbert and his father were stockbrokers. He enlisted in the Army during World War 1.

Inside the prayer book there are 2 small pieces of paper. One contains a pressed poppy labelled "found on my way to the front August 1919" and the other has pencil written notes about the state of the countryside.

"Ypres all houses down walls standing riddled with bullets. Wooden houses built and in building for villagers. Station nearly all gone Cloth Hall and churches in ruins almost unrecognisable.

Villages all in ruins also trees along the road all charred. Shell holes etc. 21 shells fell in water reservoir and didn't explode.

Neuport all ruins like Ypres

Ost Dunkerque some unexploded shells. All sea walls & promenade gone. Banks of Yser a hopeless mass of ruins. On opposite bank a true skeleton wagon overturned. Roads etc destroyed absolutely. Some trenches filled with sand. Dunes one mass of trenches and places for cannon. Beach strewn with rubbish."

Although the fighting stopped in November the war did not come to an official end until June 1919. These notes remind us that for villagers caught up in the conflict their suffering continued for many years as they tried to rebuild their communities.

Contacts

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The Frenchay Tuckett Society

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