

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
New Year 2019 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1066961
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FRENCHAY TUCKETT SOCIETY – Museum Update

A new lease for 125 years was finally signed with South Gloucestershire Council in the late autumn of 2017.

During 2018, we have been proceeding quietly with a Feasibility Study looking at many aspects of the on-going management of the Museum over the next 10 or 20 years. (Yes, it is nearly 20 years ago since a dedicated band of volunteers first got together and persuaded Winterbourne Parish Council to adopt the proposed Frenchay Village Museum as a 'Millennium Project'.)

To date, the feasibility study has included a planning application for a new extension, meetings with various museum consultants & mentors and recruitment of new volunteers who are a vital part of maintaining, and hopefully expanding, our activities. Thanks to all who have helped with taking on many of the tasks previously carried out by Alan Freke such as membership records, newsletters & publicity - not to mention the curating, cataloging and checking of the various archive locations.

Hopefully by Easter we will be able to report on achieving planning permission and the start of some serious fund-raising activities. News is also expected about the transfer of the car park to Winterbourne Parish Council and the arrival of our new neighbours on the adjacent tennis courts.

Winter Talks Series



Jan 10th 2019
Local Maps in
Frenchay's History

Chas Ashley uses Ordnance Survey Maps as a tool to study our past.



Feb 14th 2019
Vice and Virtue –
Old Market through the Ages

Michael Manson unravels the seen and unseen history of this area of Bristol



Mar 14th 2019
Builder of Dreams

The life of William Blathwayt and the building of Dyrham Park

These talks are in Frenchay Quaker Meeting House
Beckspool Road BS16 1NT

Museum Reopening
SATURDAY JANUARY 5TH 2019

DATE CORRECTIONS ON
MEMBERSHIP CARD
Winter Talk January 10th (not 11th)
AGM -May 9th (not 10th)
Followed by a Talk to be announced

The Museum will open again on Saturday 5th January, with the current temporary exhibition on local nursing during the First World War available until the end of the month. The next temporary exhibition, planned for February, will feature medical illustrations of activities at the old Frenchay Hospital and this will run up to Easter 2019

Are you a member of a group that would like to mount a display? If so, please contact Roger Angerson 0117 9569490 or Carol Thorne 0117 9569963 for an informal chat.

P.T.O

Could I be a Frenchay Museum volunteer?

The answer is yes, you could. But I hear you say you are not from Frenchay, or don't know the history. Then you will fit in fine, as very few of our volunteers are from the area. You tend to pick up the knowledge as you go along and there are some with the knowledge who get the hard questions passed to them.

I am still at work so won't have time

Some of our younger volunteers are working people. Museum volunteering is suitable for dipping in and out to suit your life. There is no minimum commitment. Most people offer one afternoon a month but others can only do one or two a year. You select your own duty on the blank rota to fit in with your availability. The museum is open three afternoons, Saturday, Sunday 2pm to 5pm and Wednesday 1pm to 4pm from January to November.

Will I have support?

There are always two people on duty. New volunteers have an induction and an information booklet which covers everything you need to know. You then have the opportunity to work with someone experienced until you are more confident.

What is involved and is it complicated?

I think most would say it is quite straightforward once you get into it. It involves:

- Opening and closing the museum
- Recording visitor numbers
- Selling our few books etc
- Being a welcoming face in the museum

What will I get out of it?

- An afternoon in an interesting environment
- Meeting a wide range of people
- Gaining information about Frenchay and much more
- Being part of a valuable village resource
- An opportunity to get involved with the future plans for the museum
- A bi monthly newsletter
- A summer garden visit and afternoon tea

Interested?

You can call into the museum and chat with our volunteers on duty or have an informal chat with me. I am not pushy or scary. I recognise people are very busy, but without new people coming forward, the museum will struggle to keep going. Please consider if you can give a few hours to help out at the museum.

Contact : Margaret Bulmer 0117 9569324

THE WILCOX SCRAP BOOK

Frenchay Museum has recently acquired a scrap book containing memorabilia about Lieutenant Wilcox, a First World War soldier whose parents lived at Hambrook Court. There is a lot of research to do to unravel his story but we have transcribed one of the postcards he sent home from a German prisoner of war camp. The scrap book is part of the current exhibition to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

Christmas Day 1917

My dear T,

Well here we are on what is supposed to be the happiest day of the year but can't say that we are having a very cheery time. For one thing we have not yet had our parcels sent on from the other camp so we are not very well off for food or tobacco. However, it might be much worse because this is quite a comfortable camp. Have not heard yet when we are going to Switzerland but we all hope very soon. I am sorry this is the first time I've written to you since I was taken prisoner but you know that there are a lot of dear girls I must write to. Thanks awfully for writing so regularly – I received yours of Oct 28th two days ago. I have not had any Xmas letters yet but probably they will arrive in a few days. If there is anything amongst my kit at home which will be of use to you be sure and take it. I should love to be able to see you before you go out but no luck, I am afraid, but anyhow dear T I wish you best of luck in your exams and when you go out to the front. Today there is about an inch of snow on the ground but this place is not very cold. On Sat I went for a topping walk in the hills near here. They are very pretty & one gets a great view from them. Well cheerio & good luck to all at home.

Yrs, Noel

During the war injured were sometimes taken from prisoner of war camps to Red Cross camps in Switzerland which was neutral. But were prisoners allowed to go for 'topping walks'?

Contacts

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