

The Frenchay Tuckett Society
New Year 2022 Newsletter

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10th MARCH 7.30pm

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE (QUAKERS)

Followed by a talk by Karin Walton

"What Exactly does a Curator do?"

*Karin was our museum's mentor until her retirement
as Curator of Fine Arts in Bristol City Museum*

Frenchay Museum opened in 2000 and is run entirely by volunteers. We have great plans to extend the museum to house the many objects we have no room to display and to provide storage, an indoor toilet and a meeting space. Our planning application to extend the museum is being decided on 10th March so we may be able to let you know the decision at the AGM.

The current committee, and the custodians who are on duty when the museum is open, have run the museum for more than 20 years. Some of them are now reaching their twilight years and are looking for volunteers to replace them. Can you help? We promise we will not press gang you into anything you do not want to do so come along and find out more.

This is your museum so please come along to our AGM and support us in any way you can. Without your continuing support there is a very real chance that the museum may not be able to carry on.

• **PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

We are planning an exhibition to celebrate the Queen's 70 years as monarch. Many people have memorabilia from the Coronation and we are looking to borrow items to display as part of the exhibition. We have already had an offer of a map showing the route the coronation procession took, a mug given by Bristol Education Committee, and a commemorative tea caddy. Can you help us? If you can please contact Carol Thorne on 0117/9569963.

H

House and Grounds Report from Hugh Whatley

At the time of writing (first week in February) it feels like we have been through long autumn & winter, so thanks once again to Hugh Evans, our tireless volunteer who has kept the garden tidy. I know that he is now thinking about spring planting and more colour in time for Easter, which is only 2 months away!

Meanwhile, thanks to some 'quiet diplomacy' with South Glos planners over these last three months, we are making some progress with the third (yes third) design proposal for a modest extension. In mid-January, what can only be described as a 'ringing endorsement' from Cllr Ben Burton (Frenchay and Downend) appeared on the planning application portal under ref: **P20/17040/F**. Our application is now expected to be 'decided' by the Development Management Committee (DMC) on 3rd March, so I should have some news for our AGM, a week later.

We are preparing a short presentation to DMC to cover just a few key points in the time available:

1. The Museum opened some 20+ years ago, in April 2000, and since negotiating a new lease in 2017, we have developed a 'vision' for the next 10 to 20 years, which includes updating our displays and also attracting the next generation of visitors & volunteers, following advice from our museum mentors.
2. A modest extension is vital to deliver this 'vision' by providing inside toilets, proper storage for our artefacts, some flexible display space and an upstairs office & research area to free-up the ground floor areas for public access. We also hope to run short courses -eg; family history groups using the internet.
3. The architectural design proposals incorporate all the 'conservation' principles for an extension to a curtilage listed building, whilst at the same time taking the opportunity to improve the 'setting' of West Lodge with new garden areas when the road layout is upgraded immediately outside our boundary.

Finally, there will be mention of environment issues such as tree protection, removal of concrete paving, solar panels and hopefully the installation of an 'Electric Vehicle' charging point. All of this is supported by an outline business case and fund-raising proposals. We just need to be allowed to get on with it.....

P.T.O

Two Sesquicentenaries

The 1st of April is 150th anniversary of the death of Frederick Denison Maurice. His father became the minister of the Unitarian Chapel in 1813, when Maurice was just 7-years old. He left Frenchay to go to university when he was 18-years old, but kept lifelong links to the village through his friend Francis Tuckett. His pioneering work in London included founding Queen's College, the first college to award degrees to women, and the Working Men's College offering further education for ordinary men and women. In 1848 he founded the Christian Socialist Movement, out of which came the Labour Party.

In London to mark the 150th anniversary of his death, at Lincoln's Inn (where he had been chaplain) there will be a choral service in the chapel, which will be attended by representatives from Queen's College, the Working Men's College and King's College (where he had been a professor). There are a number of fundraising events to support charities whose values would have been close to Maurice's heart, including a bicycle ride through London during the first weekend in April passing all the main places where Maurice lived in London, institutions he impacted, and ending in Highgate Cemetery where he is buried.

In Frenchay on Fri. 1st April there will be a talk about Maurice in the Unitarian Chapel in Frenchay starting at 7.30pm. Copies of our booklet about Maurice, *An Utterly Good Man*, are available in Frenchay Village Museum, price £2.

The 31st of May is 150th anniversary of the death of Lizzie Tuckett. Born in Frenchay in 1834, she became a great traveller in the Alps with her brother Frank. She was an artist and the author of many books, including children's books – but mostly about Alpine travel. Her last book *Zigzagging Amongst Dolomites*, was very influential. Novelist Amelia Edwards, who lived in Westbury-on-Trym, was moved by the book to retrace the journey with a friend. The travel bug had bitten, and Amelia next went to Egypt. This eventually led to her founding the Egyptian Exploration Society.

Through visits to F. D. Maurice in London, Lizzie got to know members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and William Holman Hunt produced a sketch of her, which is on display in the museum. She married in 1871, and died in childbirth the following year.

Copies of the book *Lizzie Tuckett's Letters from the Alps* are available in the Museum, price £2.

• Women of Frenchay 9th March

In this new exhibition we examine the role of women in the workplace, how class distinctions defined the opportunities that were available to them and how social change and key moments in history blurred these lines. These themes will be explored through the lives of women who lived in Frenchay in the 19th and 20th century's and will features a variety of objects from our collection that can help narrate this story.

Frenchay has been home to numerous business owning families, which gave gainful employment to many women in the local South Gloucestershire area. One such business was Fry's chocolate; in this exhibition we will explore the role of women within this organisation. Furthermore, we highlight the importance of education for women and the jobs that emerged for them as a result, for example nursing and teaching as shown through VAD nurses based at Cleve Hill Hospital and the women who taught at Frenchay Village School. Another dimension to this exhibition will be how middle and upper class women filled their days, changing attitudes to work among the upper echelons of society and what triggered this. As well as this there will be examples of what work women of this status could do and how defining moments in History, like the First World War, transformed societies expectations of the female sex.

This exhibition will be open on the 9th March in our Temporary Exhibition space and will include an accompanying exhibition guide and activities for children and families to enjoy.

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