

July 2021

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‘Summertime, and the livin’  
Is (not yet) easy.’

*(with apologies to George and Ira  
Gershwin)*



***N.B. Village Picnic Day  
postponed to 29th August***

*- see further at the top of  
page 2*

### **Frenchay Community News**

Articles and items of news are welcomed by the editorial committee, to be sent to :  
frenchaycommunitynews@gmail.com or, if posted or hand-delivered, to

31 Wadham Drive, Frenchay,  
Bristol BS16 1PF

The deadline for the August 2021 edition is 12 noon on the 10th July

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## Frenchay Residents Association (FRA) Report No. 80

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

### Frenchay Unlocked! Village Picnic Afternoon – Now Sunday 29th August

As this article goes to press, we are unable to go ahead with our Village Picnic afternoon on Sunday 18th July, due to the extension of the current Covid rules until 19th July. To leave some safety margin with this extra uncertainty, we feel it best to push this back to Sunday 28th August, which is a Bank Holiday weekend. Schools are due back that following week. We hope that this means more of you may be at home that weekend to join us.

Obviously we will keep everyone fully informed by all communication means available to us. Please also keep in touch with our Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/Frenchay-Residents-Association-FRA-290052364964121>

And Frenchay Community News; <http://www.frenchaycommunity.co.uk>

After such a difficult time during lockdown, our aim is to create a time when everyone can enjoy and learn more about our village space. It is particularly sad that our very popular Flower Show and Fete plus many other events cannot be held until summer 2022, so this occasion is hopefully something that we can all enjoy together in their absence.

This celebration of our village green spaces is particularly significant when you consider the incredible amount of work undertaken by so many to secure this legacy for our future generations. We only have one chance to get it right, as the balance between housing needs and protecting our environment and village is considered.

**Frenchay Residents Association** was formed out of Frenchay Residents User Group (RUG) on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014 to **Safeguard Frenchay's Best Interests** at all times.

**FRA's Purpose is formally set out as;** *The purpose of FRA, as the representative organisation for local residents, is to promote at all times the best interests of the community in and around Frenchay, with particular reference to the delivery area for the Frenchay Community News. This purpose includes, but is not limited to, all or any matters affecting the natural and built environment, without limit to current municipal boundaries.*

Prior to this RUG had fought to challenge the development of the old hospital site and loss of the hospital for a new replacement hospital in Southmead. Out of that campaign, where the old Frenchay hospital was lost, came promises that some secondary health and social care facility would be retained as well as BIRU and Headway. We are still battling to secure the additional community hospital development where land is set aside next to the BIRU buildings.

The huge achievement from the RUG and FRA campaigns was to secure 20 acres of 'Voluntary Village Green' and Nature Reserve from the 70 acre hospital site. The significance of a 'Voluntary Village Green' is that it sets aside this land as Village Green in perpetuity because the land owner has 'voluntarily' assigned it for Frenchay.

It comprises all of the area that was used for recreation and convalescence by Frenchay Hospital staff and patients. Many of the trees, and within the nature reserve by the allotments, are rare and interesting tree species. One, by the Observation ward bungalows, is the famous 'handkerchief' tree, (*Davidia involucrata*) whose large white rectangular flower petals in May/June drape down like someone has covered the tree in large white handkerchiefs.

This picnic event was originally designed to complement Frenchay Parish Church's World Climate Sunday service and events on the 18th July and the Church will provide refreshments from 4 pm until 5.30 pm. on that Sunday.

The plan for the picnic day on 29th August is to have people picnicking from 1pm on the new Village Green and any other green space they care to enjoy, like the Common. As the bye laws prohibit naked flames for safety reasons please note any BBQ's can only be in the area set aside by the school boundary where there is a stone area purpose built. Please go prepared to take all your litter home with you

FRA will provide guided tours of the new voluntary village green and nature reserve every hour from 2pm onwards, or every half hour if we are still restricted to smaller groups.

FRA will provide a family treasure hunt, with suitable rewards for effort, and Frenchay Museum will have a fascinating exhibition. Hugh Whatley has put a piece in this magazine about the significance of this year for Frenchay's medical facility heritage.

Grow Wilder will also be providing an information centre for us by a blue tent on the voluntary village green and other local event groups have been invited to do the same.

We particularly extend a warm welcome to new residents in Frenchay Park, who can hopefully meet their new village neighbours and learn more about our wonderful village.

Assuming that the planned progress in easing Covid restrictions can continue and we are blessed with kind weather, it should be a very enjoyable and social occasion for everyone.

Please bring games to play in addition to all of your picnic essentials, seeing the green spaces used for enjoyment is our number one objective. FRA will also provide portaloos.

## **Wild Flowers and 'No Mow' Trial Areas**

These projects are now well underway, the eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed an additional trial around the evergreen tree on the small common opposite the Unitarian Chapel. Robert and Sarah Beetham have been monitoring Frenchay's flora and fauna for decades and are probably our most knowledgeable residents in the field, helping the Flora and Fauna project.

Robert and Sarah explain "The area around the evergreen tree (a Holme Oak) contains a good number of clusters of knapweed leaves and some hawkbit leaves. We hope that by leaving this area we may get an insight into what it might look like if left and what else may appear from the 'original' flora. We use the word 'original' in inverted commas because we don't actually know without access to the supposed flower survey made some time in the 1970s whether knapweed etc were part of the flora at that time.

Once we have the information, we can then plan with all stakeholders how any further approach to flora management in Frenchay can proceed with most people on board"

Thank you Robert and Sarah, we await the results from the various trials with interest and hope that many more can be put into place going forwards in response to the Climate Emergency.

## **Allotments**

We have permission from WPC to consider use of the S106 monies for additional allotments by the Village Hall in Tuckett Field and are in advanced talks with SGC and their 'climate emergency' partner 'One Planet Matters', where we hope to gain grant support for this very important project and others that we are involved with, like the Community Orchard along the new Woodward Walk way to the new school. More details will follow in August. One Planet Matters are seeking grants to assist all of these growing projects and if you can take the time to complete their online survey it will help them and us with the plans for Frenchay growing projects:

<https://forms.gle/TNeKDTQyyVDRKfV6> Thank you.

## **Zoe Smith Memorial Tree**

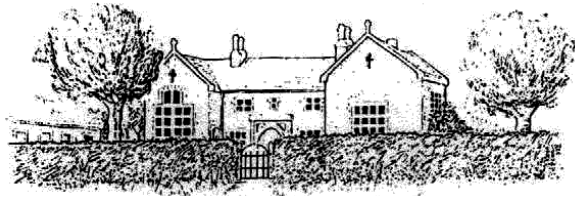
With many thanks to Alan Freke who is in touch with Zoe's family, we will arrange between FRA, WPC and Redrow for the tree to be replaced in November, which is the best planting time. A flowering cherry tree has been requested by the family, this is the same as was originally planted by the old hospital buildings in her memory.

Stay safe and well everyone, thank you for your continuing support and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July afternoon.

**Adrian Collins (Chair - FRA)**



## Frenchay Primary School



At Frenchay this term, the children in Griffin class have been continuing their topic: Is the World Fair to all? They have been looking at gender roles in jobs and sport and have been learning about the Suffragettes and other strong women who have fought for women's rights over the centuries.



They particularly enjoyed creating their own Suffragette placards and demonstrating in the playground for Votes for Women.

Next, they will be learning about racial inequality, particularly in South Africa. They will be learning a little about South Africa as a country, including its geography and culture, before looking at the history of apartheid.

This topic has allowed for some fascinating discussion and debate in the classroom and the Griffin teaching team have been very proud of the children's ability to express their empathic opinions in a clear and thoughtful way.

*Katherine Marks*, Headteacher



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**Councillor Ben Burton** reports

## **Frenchay School Update**

BAM Construction have been appointed by South Gloucestershire Council to construct the new Frenchay Church of England primary school. The new school building will provide for 420 primary aged children, the teaching spaces will be provided over 2 floors, with a double height internal hall space, and adjoining full catering kitchen. The new school will be a valued asset to the Frenchay community and will provide an excellent learning facility for the children of Frenchay for years to come

## **Old Frenchay Hospital Site**

South Gloucestershire Council have appointed Silverback arboricultural services to conduct a detailed tree survey across the proposed site. This survey assesses the: age, health, species, and ecological importance of the trees on and bordering the proposed site. The survey identifies many of the existing trees that will be incorporated within the new landscaping master plan. These trees will receive protective fencing throughout the duration of the construction works. It is the intention of the scheme to retain as many of the existing trees as possible. This tree felling and vegetation clearance is essential to prepare the proposed site for the new school, the works are planned to commence from week beginning 21st June 2021. A trained ecologist will survey the trees prior to the work commencing and will be in attendance throughout the felling works to ensure the trees are ecologically safe to remove and only the required trees are removed. Considering this essential tree removal, the landscape master plan is being developed to enhance the number of trees in the new soft landscape areas, involving the planting of many new trees of differing species.

As local ward Councillors we continue to progress the plans for the provision of health and social care facilities on an area of the former Frenchay Hospital site. We are pleased to advise that the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG, North Bristol Trust and South Gloucestershire Council have agreed to jointly appoint consultants to progress this development. This will provide the three parties with soft market testing, obtaining pre application planning advice for the proposed scheme, advice on overall financial viability and valuation of the site. This will ensure that any development on this site meets local requirements and is sensitive to the surroundings.

***Cllr Ben Burton***

[ben.burton@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:ben.burton@southglos.gov.uk)



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Please also visit our web site at [www.frenchayvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.frenchayvillagehall.co.uk) where you will find a list of our charges and details of all regular activities that are held at the hall which may be of interest.

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### **Begbrook Social Club Frenchay Park Road BS16 1HY**

We would like to inform all our customers and groups old and new that we are looking forward to welcoming everybody as soon as we can open again.

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## IS IT REALLY 100 YEARS SINCE THE BEGINNINGS OF MEDICAL WORK AT FRENCHAY?

A recent acquisition going on display at the Museum is a brochure celebrating the 'Golden Jubilee' of the Hospital (1931 – 1981). It was only sometime later - as noted on page 7 of the book on The History of Frenchay Hospital – that it was realised that the celebrations were ten years too late! In fact the hospital opened in 1921 when an elegant Georgian Family house was purchased by the Corporation of Bristol in order to turn it into a children's TB sanatorium. The book by James C Briggs goes on to record that the purchase was agreed in May 1921 and the Deeds of the House mention "July 1921" as the date of purchase. It is possible that this confusion arose due to a relatively 'low-key' opening in 1921 (alteration works from July to October) and it taking another 10 years to plan & build some new facilities. **Hugh Whatley**



### **Neighbourhood Watch Report :** Chris Martin writes:

Hi Neighbours, welcome. The Neighbourhood Watch team would like to welcome a few more people that have moved into Frenchay these last few weeks to live, and we hope you will enjoy living in our lovely village.

I have been asking Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, if he can sort out our problem about a guy who runs a car business in Frenchay Park Road and who dumps his cars in our roads, some not taxed, some without MOT. It is a problem because residents cannot park in their own street because of this. A lot of people have complained, with cars also dumped in Begbrook Park, Stanshaw Road, Fromshaw Road, and other roads. We have reported it to the Council and to the Police many, many times. I have also spoken to the Council about the area near the Museum where people park long-term or abandon cars, and I have asked the Council to clean up the same area, as people say there are drug needles found there. There has been vandalism near the play area and the tennis courts which the police will help patrol when they can, as will we, the NHW team. We also welcome people who wish to join NHW in Frenchay. E-mail ([dreamcaracer@gmail.com](mailto:dreamcaracer@gmail.com)). Or phone on 01179561340. Thanks and stay safe.

Chris , FANHW Frenchay



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## Winterbourne Parish Council Report

### Allotments

Parish Councils have an obligation to provide adequate allotments. We set up the Jubilee allotments in Winterbourne some years back which have been full most of the time. There is a smaller area within Frenchay on the former hospital site but there is a need to look for more land. As Adrian Collins reported in the previous edition we have been looking at an area by the side of the village hall which is partly overgrown and has the potential of a new allotment area. Local feedback so far suggests positive comments and there has been a lot more interest in the past few years as stated in the media in growing vegetables locally at allotments and good for the mind, fitness and teaching children on how produce is grown. Winterbourne Parish Council have been discussing this area in Frenchay and possible grants and money available for allotments from local building developments contributions.

### Beckspool Road

The 'build outs' to slow the traffic opposite the Church on Beckspool Road installed a few years ago have been controversial and many cars have had damaged wheels. It was agreed by South Glos. Council that a review would be done and likely they would be replaced by traffic calming speed tables similar to the ones from the Village Hall towards Cedar Hall. One speed table at this area has had the side of the Common eroded and South Glos Council have agreed to repair this and look at better methods to prevent motorists avoiding going over them as they are designed to do.

### Former Hospital Site

There has been a delay in the handover of the land to Winterbourne Parish Council due to some outstanding works to be completed and other items. We have had some constructive Zoom and on-site meetings with North Bristol Trust who still own the land. Our solicitors have been looking into legal aspects and we hope in the near future that the land will be handed over for future generations in Frenchay to enjoy under the control of Winterbourne Parish Council.

*Paul Kembery*

Chairman, Winterbourne Parish Council



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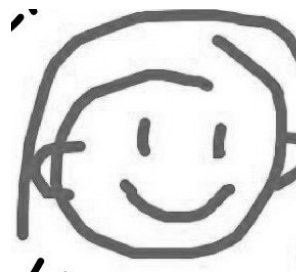
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## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JULY 2021

### All Sunday services are now being held in church

Commencing at 10.30am

4 July	Holy Communion
11 July	Morning Worship (Young Families' Focus)
18 July	Climate Sunday with Shortened Holy Communion
25 July	Morning Worship

Commencing at 6.00pm	4 July	Holy Communion
	11 July	Evening Prayer
	18 July	Evening Prayer
	25 July	Evening Prayer

*It is compulsory to wear face coverings (masks) in church. Sanitisation will be provided.*

The need to provide social distancing to be observed means we need to plan the seating arrangements. We would like to welcome as many people as possible. To assist us do so, it will help if you let the Church Warden Sylvia Perry know of your intention to attend. Contact her on 01179571446 or [churchwardens@frenchaychurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@frenchaychurch.org.uk).

### **Every Wednesday**

7.00pm.	Zoom Service (incorporating the Sunday sermon)
8.00pm	Prayer Meeting on Zoom

For updated information, please refer to the Church Facebook and website [www.frenchaychurch.org.uk](http://www.frenchaychurch.org.uk) and notices outside the church, on other notice boards in Frenchay and as kindly included through the Frenchay Residents Association.

If you would like to be on the church mailing list each week, please advise the Church Warden as above.

### **Confirmation Preparation**

Discipleship Explored will be used as an Adult Confirmation Course this year. So please follow up with Ian Serjeant and Kath Sugden, but also notify Rev Charles Sugden if you would like to be confirmed by Bishop Lee Rayfield on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm at St James, Mangotsfield. Charles will be providing some of the additional content to the course, including teaching about Holy Communion and the meaning of Confirmation for those adults who are candidates or interested in these subjects.

Any young people considering exploring Confirmation Preparation, please ask your parent/carer to contact Rev Charles Sugden. There will be separate Preparation sessions made available.

## One of our Lay Ministers writes:

In the last few months the restrictions on what we can do and where we can go have meant that many people have become more aware of the beauty of God's creation. But the dangers of Climate Change are growing in importance and urgency and we all need to play our part in turning things around.

I have mentioned before that our parish church is committed to change. We have made a start and I am happy to be able to say that in June we were awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award, one of only about 15 churches out of over 200 in Bristol Diocese to reach Bronze, with a further half dozen already gaining Silver.

On **Sunday 18 July** – a date you will have seen mentioned elsewhere in this edition of FCN, with various activities planned for Frenchay – we shall be focusing our worship on **Climate Day**. The Bible starts with God creating the world then giving mankind responsibility for caring for His creation. That theme continues through both the Old and the New Testament. Even if you do not share those beliefs it is clear that in the last few hundred years things have changed and are now in danger of spiralling out of control. Climate change is the greatest environmental threat to our world, already causing devastating international problems.

Taking small, conscious steps to reduce our environmental impact in our everyday lives is something we all need to do. Above all, though, we need to minimise the use of fossil fuels and make the most of clean, green energy. Our Church has an old, inefficient, oil heating system – not conducive to reaching zero carbon by 2030 – and much of what heat it does produce is lost when we open our main doors to the West winds that blow in from the Common. The lighting was great when installed but now needs updating. In the Churchyard we want to keep graves accessible but also to encourage greater bio-diversity. I hope that many of us can share the work needed to make these changes.

The rainbow, seen much since the rise of Coronavirus, was a promise not just to humankind but to 'all God's creatures'. What can we do to ensure our children and grandchildren, and their grandchildren, still have a beautiful planet to live on?

*Kate Davison*



For Requests (cost £10), contact churchwardens@frenchaychurch.org.uk or on 07979961815

### **SPIRE LIGHTING - June 2021**

**3 June Langfield** In loving memory of Francis Langfield

**10 June Hockin** With praise and gratitude for sixty wonderful years of family life, 55 of which have been spent in Frenchay. - *Bruce and Caroline*

**26 June Matthews** Remembering today with great affection a gracious and much loved Mother, Marjorie Winifred Matthews - *Sylvia and Keith*

# Discipleship Explored

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Discipleship Explored will be available in person or on Zoom and will commence in the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Contact Ian Sergeant [iansergeant@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iansergeant@yahoo.co.uk) or Kath Sugden [sugden868@gmail.com](mailto:sugden868@gmail.com) for more details and to register your interest. <https://discipleship.explo.red/>

## The Story behind the Hymn --- ' I watch the sunrise '

The text of this hymn was laboriously written at a time of personal crisis in the life of its writer but has become popular worldwide, even featuring on television shows such as *Coronation Street*.

John Glynn and Colin Murphy were fellow students during training for ordination. Colin composed tunes on his guitar to which John wrote the words. The tune for this is called "Close to you" and the hymn was first published in 1975. It has been sung at the national service of remembrance for a space shuttle crew, at Hillsborough disaster memorial services, and more recently at a memorial service for victims of the Manchester bombing. The hymn is full of hope and trust in God and celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. It follows the sunrise, the sunlight, the sunset, and the moonlight, with God always being close.

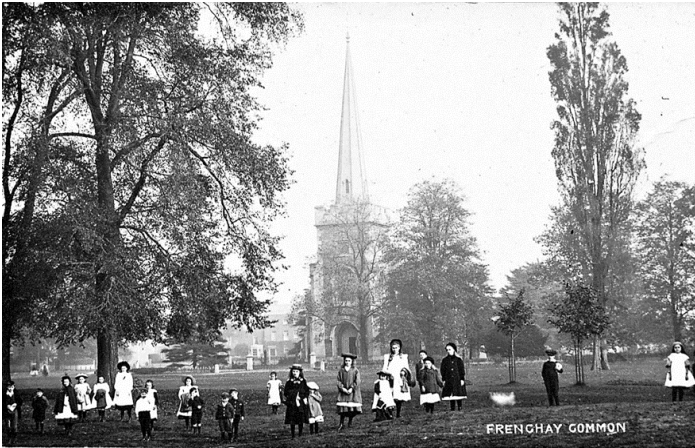
John Glynn was born in 1948 in Barnet, Hertfordshire, and brought up in East London. He trained for the priesthood at St John's Seminary in Wonerish, Surrey and was ordained in 1974. While working in various parishes, he continued to write hymns and published three albums with the support of a group of musicians called the Aquila Music Trust: *May the Lord bless you*; *Open the door*; and *Let Me be your home*. In 2010, he resigned from ministry at the age of 62 and the following year got married to Christine, who shares his love of music and ministry. They live in Norfolk.

Colin Murphy, the composer of this haunting melody, sadly died in 2018. I can find no more information about him.

## **Frenchay: Then and Now : Frenchay Museum from Sunday 10th July**

Join us for our opening on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, where you can see our new exhibition 'Frenchay: Then and Now' a photography exhibition of Frenchay's iconic scenery displayed alongside 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century postcards and images of the same location. This is a wonderful 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, please find the link below

[www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/Archives/PagesPhoto/Groups/VillageThenAndNow.htm](http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/Archives/PagesPhoto/Groups/VillageThenAndNow.htm)



To keep up to date with details about our re-opening and its accompanying events please follow us on Facebook <https://bit.ly/3w98QPv>

### **PICNIC RECIPE      Fruit and Cheese Roll**

Although this takes a bit of time, it looks intriguing and is a great addition to a special picnic. It can be made up to 4 days in advance and improves in flavour with a couple of days in the fridge. These ingredients will serve 2.

100gm chopped mixed dried fruits	50gm chopped mixed glace fruits
2 tablespoons of port	250gm cream cheese
100gm grated cheddar cheese	1 teaspoon grated orange peel
Approx 150gm poppy seeds	

Combine the fruits in a bowl with the port, cover and stand for 1 to 2 hours.

Beat softened cream cheese and cheddar cheese together in an electric mixer, stir in the orange rind and fruit mixture. Cover and refrigerate for an hour.

Roll mixture into log shape about 20cm in length, roll in poppy seeds, cover and refrigerate for at least 24 hours.

Serve with cheese biscuits and grapes.



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## Redrow Homes Update

The summer days will be even more enjoyable this year for Frenchay residents, with the addition of several enhancements to the village green and local area. The preserved woodland and open space that links to the existing Frenchay Common has benefited from significant community investment from Redrow Homes.

Nearing the completion of its 10-stage community project, Redrow Homes hopes these new outdoor facilities which include tennis courts, a large play area, allotment enhancements, and a picnic seating area will be used and enjoyed throughout the summer and beyond.



With the improving weather and lockdown restrictions easing, many people have already been out and about making use of these great spaces. The trampoline and timber framed swings in the park area have proved to be particularly popular with children and young families.

In addition, during the spring, the village green also gained some beautiful wildflowers, as well as some enhanced bulb planting for late blooming. Many of the trees and woodland areas surrounding the Common have been given a makeover with professional tree surgery and landscaping, it was important to ensure that this work took place outside of the bird nesting period.

Preservation of the natural environment has been key to this project, with the existing pond located within the woodland having been enhanced to increase the local wildlife habitat.

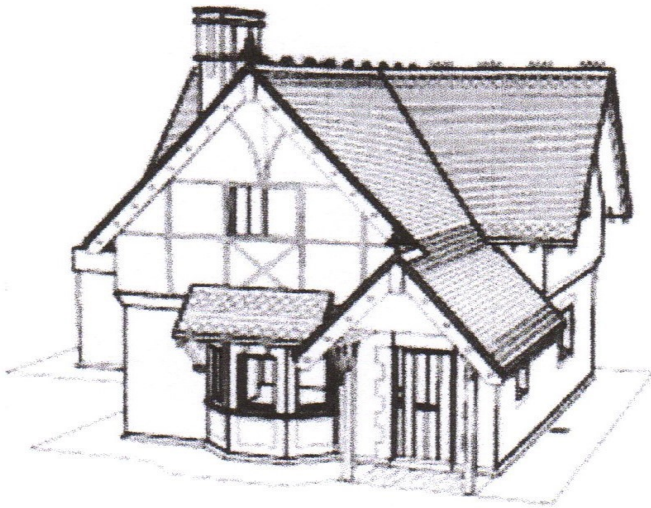


Charlotte Newnes, area sales manager at Frenchay Gardens explains: “Part of the Redrow vision was to create a community and activity area that allowed everyone to gain from this large green space. We wanted this project to bring value and support the local area and it’s been hugely rewarding to see come to life.”

The final stage of the project will see a Pentanque Court, a cricket pitch, and a croquet lawn.

With the development and maintenance of this hugely important community space, Frenchay residents now have their own park area for all to enjoy. Redrow is thrilled to have been able to create this fantastic mix of beautiful open spaces and activities.





## FRENCHAY VILLAGE MUSEUM

### GRAND REOPENING

Museum reopens on

**SATURDAY JULY 10<sup>th</sup> 2-5.00pm.**

Be the first to see our new exhibition 'Frenchay Then and Now'.  
A selection of postcards and paintings showing Frenchay 100 years ago  
and the same view today.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY JULY 29th  
7.45pm, Frenchay Village Hall.**

Everyone is invited. Please come along and find out more about the  
museum and our great plans for the future.

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### **FRENCHAY VILLAGE DAY**

Now re-arranged from 18 July to **Sunday 29th AUGUST**

We will be there with an extensive selection of our books about  
Frenchay and its past residents. There will be free activities for  
children. Every adult will receive a free copy of The Grand Tour of  
Frenchay which normally sells for £2, and every child will receive a  
bar of Fry's Cream Chocolate.

## ‘London Calling’

Many a person walking down Frenchay Hill during lockdown, and not used to the route, will have been surprised to see ahead of them a mural painting on the end wall of one of the cottages. Bristol may have a reputation for ‘street art’, but this is Frenchay ! However once past this initial surprise, most people will pause to admire this expressive and artistic painting.

Puzzlement may then turn to the subject, clearly a rock-star, but who in particular? Guesses such as Eddie Cochrane or Bruce Springsteen are wide of the mark, and if the singer in question does not feature in everyone’s playlists, he was undoubtedly an influential figure in the alternative rock and punk era of the late 1970s and through the 1980s.



The representation is of Joe Strummer, guitarist and vocalist with the Clash, whose best-known song was ‘London Calling’, and the lyrics of which, in the handwriting of Joe Strummer, are reproduced at the head of the mural. Strummer maintained a prominent career in music, and in related TV and radio, over several decades until his untimely death in Somerset in 2002 at the age of 50, but which had nothing to do with any perceived life-style of a rock musician : it was brought about by a previously undetected congenital heart condition.

The mural was commissioned in 2019 by the owner of the cottage, Colin Archer, himself a person whose love of music has led him to play with several different local bands over the years, and currently with Blackfire, and he eagerly awaits the chance to sit behind his drum-kit when live music can once again resume in earnest.

Reaction to the painting and its contribution to the street-scene has been very predominantly positive, and while a few initially questioned its lawfulness in a Conservation Area, all appear now to be satisfied with its legitimacy.

The artist who undertook the work is Ollie Gillard, also known as ‘Gage’. He is a street artist and graphic designer based in Bristol. For over 10 years, he has been painting large commissioned murals on buildings, in homes, and on vehicles. Special paint was used to make the mural durable against the elements, and so far the painting has kept its vibrancy of colour. So expect it to continue to be a feature of Frenchay Hill for some many years to come.





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## **News from The Dings**

Well the summer for many rugby clubs is a time of R 'n R, but competing at the level at which we play does not allow too much relaxation. The teams will be back in training soon as we have a stiff set of 'friendlies' to play in August as a warm up for the new season. One of the games is against Pontypool, a very famous name from Welsh Rugby (remember the Pontypool Front Row, aka the Viet Gwent, )

We also now know against whom we will play in the league, gone are Guernsey, Birmingham and London Irish, however the travelling doesn't ease, with our opening fixture being Westcliff on Sea! Other fixtures against Leicester Lions, Redruth and Bury St. Edmunds ensure we will be clocking up the miles again.

There is much other activity at the club over the Summer, including youth sports sessions.

For those of you who are not aware but we have a gym and weight room that can be hired, and the cafe is open on Wednesday lunchtimes and Friday mornings.

### **Frenchay Cricket Club News July 2021**

The season is now well under way, with the Club busy every evening with youth matches, senior games played on Saturdays, and youth training spread between Fridays, Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. To date, at 'Senior' level, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI have had a mixed time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have found life tough but with some close matches, and the 3<sup>rd</sup>s have so far been doing very well. The new 4<sup>th</sup> XI have blooded lots of young players, and with a mix of the more experienced, have had some good learning experiences. The Womens Softball Team has also been doing well.

At youth level, the 'All Stars' for 5 -8 year olds has been buzzing on a Sunday morning, and the 'Girls Dynamos' for 8 – 11 year olds has also proved very successful. The 'mixed' Under 9 are similarly involved in matches, as are the two U11 Boys. The U13 Boys reached the South Gloucestershire Final of the Vitality National Club KO Cup, an achievement matched by the U15 'A' Boys. The U13 'Heat' Girls are progressing well in their Glos South League, the U15 'Flames' Girls in the Lady Taverners National Cup, as well as the local Competitions, as are the U17 'Fire' Girls. The new 'Junior' (Dynamos) Falcons Disability Group is growing slowly, and the 'Senior' Falcons will soon be playing matches.

The redoubtable MCC arrive on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July (11.00 start) for a '175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' Celebration match. And the Club will also be celebrating this milestone with the installation of a new electronic Scoreboard for the Main Pitch.

In June, the Club hosted two SEND Schools Cricket Days, while July will see several Primary Schools Cricket Days, as well as the Regional ECB 'Wicketz' Festival involving Teams from Bristol, Cardiff, Plymouth and the West Midlands.

## July Gardening

For those of you new to gardening hopefully you have enjoyed the explosion of growth and colour during June.

July is a time to keep on top of dead heading as this will encourage more flowers, the flowers will otherwise form seeds and the plant will think it has achieved its purpose in life and will give up flowering. Hanging baskets can also be revived by cutting back the growth. As your hardy geraniums stop flowering cut them back to encourage a second flush later in the year. Cut back delphiniums, penstemons and lupins and they may also reward you with more blooms. Lastly, repeat flowering roses benefit hugely from deadheading.

All the plants, especially those in hanging baskets and pots will keep healthy and productive with a weekly dose of a seaweed based feed using rain water or grey water if at all possible. Sweet peas need to be watered every day and the flowers cut very regularly otherwise they will quickly fade.

If you have any vegetables keep watering, keeping them moist and weed by hand or with a hoe so the vegetables get the benefit of all the water and nutrients available.

There are not many gardens that do not suffer from at least one of the worst two invaders, ground elder and bindweed. They have plenty of leaf now so its the best time to treat them with a glyphosate-based weed killer. They are worthwhile keeping at bay as they can take over your garden. If you do not know what they look like look them up on the internet.

Lastly, keep a keen eye on all your plants for disease and treat accordingly. The staff in your favourite garden centre can be incredibly helpful if you are unsure of what you are dealing with, just take along a picture of the problem on your phone to show them.

Having a garden is a joy and the most important thing of all is to take a little time to sit and watch the wildlife your garden attracts and the beauty you have created. My favourite time is sitting early in the morning with my bowl of cereal !!

*The Tidy Gardener*

# Downend & Frenchay Tennis Club

Located on the Frenchay Cricket Club site, next to the Golf Centre )

Welcomes all ages and abilities to come along and meet us. There are 4 floodlit courts available to members, but also to non-members on a 'pay & play' system



**Special Offer** : 8 week trial memberships Adult £20 : Juniors £5 ; Households £40

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For more information, please see our website : [www.downendandfrenchay.co.uk](http://www.downendandfrenchay.co.uk)

E-mail : [info@downendandfrenchay.co.uk](mailto:info@downendandfrenchay.co.uk) Tel : 07928 349154

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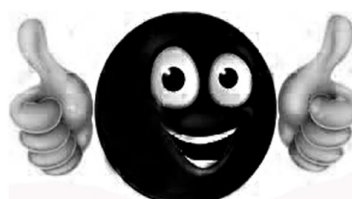
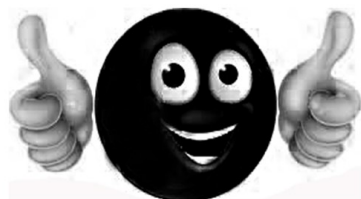
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If you wonder why my title is in French, there is a reason. It is not because I adore France, although I do. It is because the word 'picnic' originated from the French version. In 1692 it was the term used to describe 'ap erson who brought their own wine to a restaurant'.

Why write about picnics anyway? It is because Sunday 18th July is 'Climate Sunday' and the day when everyone was to have been welcomed to join the Frenchay Picnic. (*Sadly, that date has now been postponed to 29th August due to the extension of Covid restricions*) After 21 years of living in France, I know that English people, on the whole, are more keen on picnics than the French. The motorways in France often have picnic areas with tables and benches, but they are usually half-empty, whilst the cafeteria inside has a queue waiting to go in !

In the South, you rarely see people eating meals on the beaches. But why would you when they are lined with fabulous and fairly-inexpensive cafés and restaurants?

My only picnic memories result from living in Westbury-on-Trym! We lived near the Downs, as our house was in Downs Cote Drive. Very often on fine days, I would drive home from teaching all day, fetch a picnic already prepared from our kitchen, then fetch our two children, and head for a picnic on the Downs!

It is more practical to wrap individual portions in foil, and then put each person's share into a little basket if you have one. Only the cake I didn't pre-slice. Often I took a tube of chocolate spread for it. I hoped that more went on the cake than on the children!

So, have fun, and enjoy what ever your choice of meal.

*Esmé*



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## Just Run, Frenchay

July is a great time for taking advantage of running in the cooler shady spots along the River Frome and through the woodland of Oldbury Court and Stoke Park. Our Monday night 7pm 2-, 3-, 4- and 6-mile groups try and maximise the use of off-road routes in the dry summer months. Our Friday 5.45 session aimed at stamina, speed and fitness continues to be popular as does our regular couch to 5km course. For more info about the community running group contact Jessie at [info@justrun.uk](mailto:info@justrun.uk).

We asked one of our groups what Just Run gives them. "Running with other ladies has given us the confidence to run and provides a feeling of safety, support and fun. It's a good start to the week and helps with feeling happier and sane. Almost always we have strong feelings of satisfaction after a club run. We have discovered so many local routes and places we didn't know existed. In summary, running in the group helps us all to feel good about ourselves." What better reason to come along and join us?

## News from Downend Library

Summer is upon us - so that means the 2021 **Summer Reading Challenge – Wild World Heroes** – is taking place. Primary school aged children can collect their FREE starter pack from Downend Library from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Our staffed hours of 10am – 5.30pm on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays & 9.30am – 1pm Saturdays. Then they collect rewards (including the always popular smelly stickers!) for each book they read. Those children who complete the challenge by reading 6 books will be awarded a Wild World Hero medal and certificate as well as the other rewards.

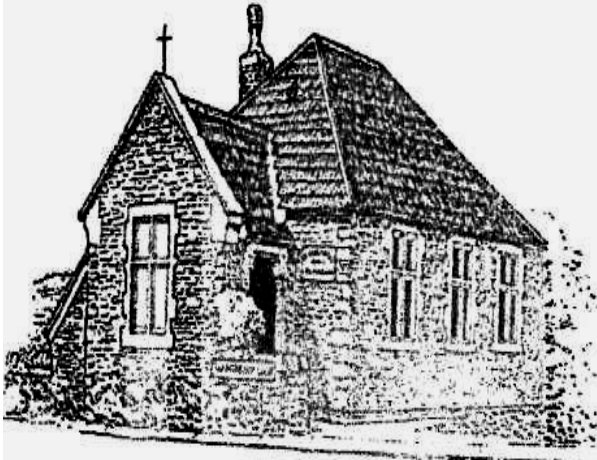
Also **NEW this year - a Mini Challenge for pre-school children**. Children get a collector card and each time they read a story (this includes sharing/listening to a story), they get one of the jumper stickers to add to their card. When they complete the card, they get a gold sticker

Although we cannot run any craft activities in libraries this year there will be FREE craft packs to collect and do at home. These proved very popular in 2020 so please ask staff at Downend Library for these during the school summer holidays.

It does, of course, remain FREE to join the library. To do this either go on line to [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk) - this will give you a temporary number which you can then give to library staff – or pick up a joining form from staff. If your card is lost or no longer works please email [libraries@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@southglos.gov.uk) so we can sort this out for you.

*All South Gloucestershire libraries will continue to operate in line with Government Covid guidelines see [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries) or phone 01454 865022 for our current services*





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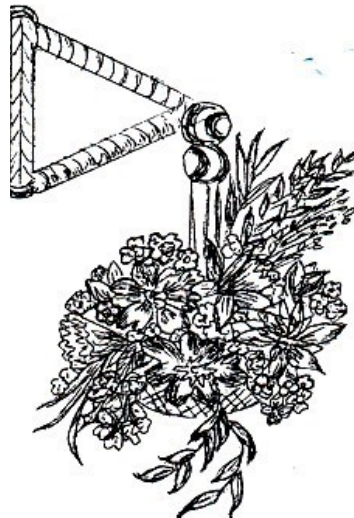
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