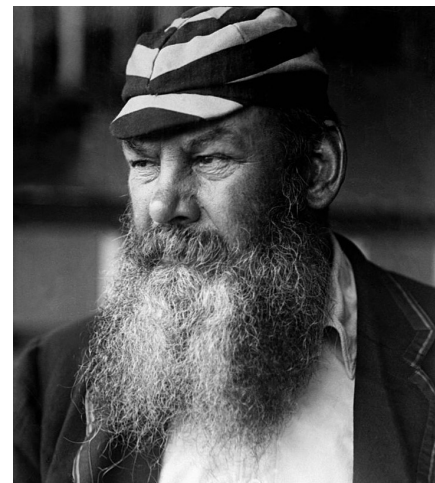


June 2021

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“ Never read print :
It spoils one's eye
for the ball. “

Dr. W.G. Grace

*(But do not stop
before reading this
month's FCN)*

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 July 2021 edition is 12 noon on the 10th June

To advertise (see the rates on the inside back cover) please contact :
kate1.davison@gmail.com

Frenchay Residents Association (FRA) Report No. 79

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As we come out of a truly challenging time it is nice to think we have the summer to look forward to and much of this month's FRA report is all about our great outdoors. We have lots going on to enhance our beautiful village in response to the current local council Climate Emergency and there are many opportunities to enjoy our green and pleasant spaces with our new found freedom. Thank you for the hard work by so many behind the scenes to help serve Frenchay's best interests, as FRA we will never lose sight of that responsibility to our residents and will work tirelessly with everyone involved in keeping our village and community so special.

Frenchay Picnic Afternoon – Sunday 18th July

We still plan to invite everyone to enjoy a village picnic afternoon on Sunday 18th July from 1pm. Our plans are well underway and we hope that as many residents as possible will be able to join us. This is designed to complement Frenchay Parish Church's World Climate Sunday service and events that morning.

The plan is to have people picnicking from 1pm on the new Village Green and any other green space they care to enjoy, like the common.

FRA will provide guided tours of the new voluntary village green and nature reserve, provide a family treasure hunt with suitable rewards for effort and Frenchay Museum will hold a special event with a fascinating 'then and now' picture postcard exhibition.

Grow Wilder will also be providing an exhibition and information centre for us.

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.

Wild Flower and 'No Mow' Trial Areas

These projects are now well underway, thank you for the support that we have had. It has been interesting to see that SGC have had a 'No Mow May' campaign, here is the link to their very informative web page; <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/no-mow-may>

A big thank you to Ges Rosenberg and his Marvel Explorer Scout Unit who have scarified and seeded a wild flower area adjacent to Becks Pool where we undertook a similar trial last year, we will watch with interest as the plants and flowers develop.

For the second trial area on the embankment at the top of Frenchay Hill, we are taking a Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh award community service student through her project.

This has involved researching the soil and suitability of sites for up to eight wild flower species on that embankment and at the time of writing the seeds are being sown and nurtured ready for eventual planting. This project is in response to FRA's offer of providing constructive educational assistance to young people and the young lady undertaking this project for us will provide an article about her experience and learning for this magazine later in the season. We are grateful for the parental support this student has had too.

Finally, the third area at the back of the triangle of grass at the top of Frenchay Hill will see a large arc of grass under and coming out from the trees left to grow just to see what comes through for this season, some wild flowers have also been planted around the trees.

With help from volunteers and the very knowledgeable contractor who is responsible for grass mowing in much of Frenchay, we have plans on what could be considered in spring 2022 already and we will outline these suggestions for consideration later in the year.

Becks Pool Update

Thank you to the 'pond team' who recently carried out more maintenance and planting of marginals around the pond, we have seen an abundance of wildlife as well as people enjoying this lovely setting. Unfortunately the abundance of food for the ducks and geese has led to a problem with rats which has now been dealt with successfully. Thank you to residents who have responded to our notices not to feed the ducks for a short period whilst the rat problem was being addressed.

Allotments

We have had a request from WPC to consider how new allotment space could be considered following a grant that has become available as a planning condition of a private development in the village. At present a space in Tuckett Field next to the black hut by the village hall is being considered and our current Frenchay allotment committee/users are doing a feasibility study to help us. There are already a number of people on the waiting list for allotments in Frenchay, a number that is likely to increase as Frenchay Park reaches capacity, so any new space, and financial assistance, to provide more of them would be most welcome.

More time working from home and the emphasis on healthy fresh home grown produce has also led to a boom in 'grow your own'. This goes a stage further where surplus produce from our current allotment holders is being donated to a local partnership scheme with a national charity assisting families and children. This is an excellent way to support those families and the Regional Organiser wrote saying:

"Thanks all for organising this, what a great opportunity for local families to eat locally grown allotment vegetables."

Help Needed Please

Sadly, on a less positive note, some mindless vandals have damaged the new tennis courts and destroyed two young trees next to the children's play area and at the museum end of Lime Tree Avenue. This almost certainly occurred on Sunday evening 2nd May.

The tree by the play area was planted in memory of a five year old girl called Zoe Smith who died on 8th May 1990. If anyone has information or knows the family please can you contact FRA so that we can arrange for a replacement tree to be planted in November.

It is hard to find the words to describe this awful vandalism, so any information to assist in finding the perpetrators would be very welcome for us to pass to the police investigation.

Please remember that for you and anyone you know who might need assistance, the FRA task force is available to help those needing to stay safe in isolation.

Stay safe and well everyone, thank you for your continuing support.

Adrian Collins (Chair - FRA)

* * * * *

Geoff Haskett reports :

Going, going.....gone.

Restoration of BecksPool came too late for one decaying tree.

The Management reluctantly decided that it was in danger of falling into the pond. So early on Friday a cable was attached near the top and with the help of a chain saw and a hoist, it was felled onto the bank.

It will be missed as it was a familiar silhouette on the skyline., particularly by the Heron that used to perch near the top and watch for aquatic life below.



FRENCHAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Frenchay Primary has been blessed to have the support of The Noise again this year. Their hard work and dedication have given some areas of the school a much-needed boost. The Gruffalo garden area has been revitalised with new edging and a barked area, with the mosaic receiving a thorough jet wash! The playhouse is now light and inviting and the children are loving playing in it. The team worked tirelessly for 2 days to tackle many jobs around the site.



They also generously made a donation towards the resources which all the children will benefit from. With their support the school can continue to adapt and offer a better environment whilst we await our new build. Thank you to Richard and the team for all their work, positivity, and commitment.

We really do appreciate it. *Katherine Marks*, Headteacher



FRENCHAY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that the Village Hall now has a bike shelter, positioned towards the back of the carpark. It will hold up to 8 bikes and is in a location which is covered by lights and the CCTV system at the Hall.

A huge thanks to the members of New Life Church for installing this and for the many other jobs they carried out as part of the 'Bristol Noise' weekend. These included weeding and replanting the flower beds, painting the side fence and gate, building a new flower trough, removal of the old tables from the Hall and assembling new ones, with the old tables being given to Frenchay Museum and North Bristol Foodbank.

We are really pleased to see that several of our regular groups have been able to return to using the Hall albeit with restricted numbers and social distancing. This hopefully marks the start of a return to social gatherings and activities in the Hall which are so important for every community.

Finally the Committee has recently commissioned a full structural and design survey of the Hall so that we can start planning improvements to it, making use of the community sum payable by Redrow under the planning agreement . *Karen Morrison*



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Councillor Ben Burton reports :

We would like to take this opportunity to thank residents of Frenchay for voting in the recent South Gloucestershire Council, WECA and PCC elections. In particular, we are pleased to welcome Liz Brennan to the Frenchay and Downend Ward team of Conservative Councillors. We are here to represent all residents, irrespective of who you voted for, so please get in touch if you have any questions, issues or comments. We look forward to working with the whole Frenchay community in order to deliver some of our key local priorities, including completing the new primary school, road maintenance/safety and facilities for the new Redrow development.



As many residents will know an electric scooter trial is currently ongoing, which is operated by a company called Voi. The trial is led by the West of England Combined Authority in order to assess the effectiveness of electric scooters at cutting congestion, improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions. As it is at a trial stage, it is critical to ensure that both positive and negative feedback is received so that the scheme as a whole can be improved.

We think the Voi scooters potentially have a place in the available options for transport around Frenchay. However, we note there have been concerns locally about the position of parking bays, inappropriate use and a desire for some areas to be classed as ‘no riding’ zones. Some residents have already be in contact – thank you – but please let us know your experiences .

In particular, it is important to notify Voi of inappropriate driving (i.e. dangerous, on pedestrian only paths, multiple passengers on one scooter), badly parked scooters (i.e. if they are causing a nuisance or blocking pavements) or potentially underage riders (a provisional driving licence is required to hire a scooter). We know Voi are working closely with WECA, South Gloucestershire Council and the Police to ensure that inap-

We would urge any residents that have any feedback in relation to the scheme to make contact with either Voi, WECA or ourselves:

Voi Support – 0800 3768179

Cllr Ben Burton

•**Voi** Support – support@voiapp.io

T: 07596 338420

• WECA – escootertrial@westofengland-ca.gov.uk Ben.burton@southglos.gov.uk

Cllr James Griffiths Tel: : 07557587123 james.griffiths@southglos.gov.uk

Contact details for Liz Brennan will be available shortly.

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

Over 50s : Try our 6 week course at the special price of £15

LTA accredited coaches offer individual and group coaching aimed alternatively at Beginners, Improvers, or Performance Level players.

All group coaching courses are now available and can be booked on-line or by contacting the Club. New 6-week courses on offer include Parent & Tots, pre-school, and Tennis Express for adult beginners, all starting on the 10th May

For more information, please see our website : www.downendandfrenchay.co.uk

E-mail : info@downendandfrenchay.co.uk Tel : 07928 349154

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Introducing the newly-elected Councillor for the Frenchay and Downend Ward

Mum-of-three Liz Brennan has been elected as the new Councillor for Frenchay and Downend following the recent by-election.

Having secured 1,819 votes, the outcome of the by-election sees the South Gloucestershire Council Conservative Group retain the seat, which was vacated by Jon Hunt last year.



In joining South Gloucestershire Council, and existing Ward Cllrs Ben Burton and James Griffiths, Liz brings with her a wealth of campaigning experience, which earlier this year helped her to secure additional support for Downend High Street as part of a £120,000 Council investment, following an impassioned call to the Council's Cabinet.

Liz has also played a significant role in the national campaign for life-changing new medicines for people living with cystic fibrosis after her six-year-old daughter was diagnosed with the debilitating condition, taking part in public events as well as interviews on national television and meeting face to face with Government ministers – both in Parliament and in South Gloucestershire.

More locally, Liz was also responsible for launching the popular campaign to deliver free swimming for pregnant women in South Gloucestershire's leisure centre, alongside MP Luke Hall, which in 2019 was successful, giving an extra opportunity for expectant mums to stay healthy during their pregnancies.

Cllr Liz Brennan said: "Being given this opportunity by the people of Frenchay and Downend to represent our local community is a great honour and I look forward to representing residents on the Council alongside Ben and James, providing a strong voice for our communities. I am extremely passionate about delivering positive change and cannot wait to get started on delivering for the people who have elected me."



Cllr Toby Savage, the Leader of South Gloucestershire Council, added: "I am pleased to have such a passionate and committed campaigner as Liz join the Council and am sure she will be a fantastic representative for the people of Frenchay and Downend."

Froomshaw Alliance Neighbourhood Watch : Chris Martin writes :

Hi again, neighbours, I hope you are all keeping well and are getting through your second virus jabs. Everything is starting to get back to normal and if Boris Johnson does what he says, bringing things back slowly, we should be ok. But still keep your distances, wear your masks, and keep washing your hands.

Look after your cars. If you have a garage, that's great, and keep it locked up at night., and even in daytime. People have said that there is a person or persons going around our area stealing catalytic converters from cars. The Police do know it is happening and our NW rangers are on patrol. If you see or hear anything, please report it..

There are also dog thieves about, looking into people's gardens for valuable pets or particular breeds. We have been told by our police administrator to keep a look out for these despicable thugs, making people so unhappy and miserable when their pet dog gets stolen. It is an abhorrent thing to do, and I hope they get caught and punished.

We are still looking for co-ordinators for our other two group sites for Neighbourhood Watch. They are the Redrow housing estate and the Frenchay Common areas. We really want to cut crime down in our lovely village of Frenchay. I can give you more information if you e-mail me or ring. Well, that's it, so if you see anything suspicious call police 101 non emergency. Or real emergency 999. Crime stoppers 0800555111. Or e mail me (dreamcaracer@gmail.com) or phone 0117 9561340.

Thanks, and stay safe. *Chris, FANHW Frenchay.*

* * * * *

Frenchay Tennis Club

Submitted by Karen Morrison

Unfortunately we have to report that there has been some vandalism at the Frenchay Tennis Courts near to the play area and Museum in Frenchay. This happened on Sunday 2nd May in the evening after the courts had been used during the day.

We were aware that children had previously been trying to unlock the padlock to gain access to the courts to play football but on this occasion the gate was still locked so the vandals had obviously climbed over the fencing where they broke one noticeboard and completely destroyed one of the wooden benches.

The most worrying concern for us however is that the noticeboard was not only smashed but also slashed with a knife. Just outside the courts a sapling, which had been planted to enhance the area and as a memorial for a child who had died at the old Frenchay Hospital, has also been destroyed.

We have notified the police who say they will now patrol the area occasionally and the NHS Trust who still have responsibility for the area and asked if there is anything more they can do to prevent further incidents of this nature.

As a club we now have to consider what steps we can take to prevent further acts of vandalism which may include installing CCTV and new fencing, but it is sad to think that a small number of people are so thoughtless and destructive.

Please can we ask if anyone sees people misusing the courts to contact us by email on frenchaytennis@gmail.com

FRENCHAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY: mid-year Report (in lieu of a June 2021 summer meeting)

By the time this June edition of FCN is being delivered at the end of May, it is widely expected that we will be only 3 weeks from the last milestone on the 'Roadmap' to final release from Lockdown.

However, at the time of writing this report (10th May) although some inside venues are expecting to reopen, it is too soon to assume that a return to any kind of 'normal' can be taken for granted. So, reluctantly it is a fairly logical decision that we will have to hang on until the autumn before trying to organise an actual - as opposed to virtual - meeting. But watch this space in future editions!

Meanwhile, the 'Frenchay Members' on Winterbourne Parish Council (namely Paul Kembery, Charlie Watkins, Adrian Collins and myself) have continued to meet via 'Zoom' twice a month for the last 12 months or so. Thus a cross-section of your committee have been able to keep abreast of events and deal with various issues which continue to arise in and around Frenchay. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has meant that many things are taking longer, including the anticipated hand-over of the 'Voluntary' Village Green lands from North Bristol Trust to the Parish Council.

Finally, thanks to the excellent working relationship which has been developing with Frenchay Residents Association over recent years, I can keep this report short and refer readers to the FRA report No.79 and, indeed, all the reports written by Adrian Collins and his team. I trust that everyone will manage to stay safe and well and be able to enjoy summer in Frenchay.

Hugh Whatley (Chair – FPS)

* * * * *

Just Run – your local Frenchay ladies running club

On Saturday the 5th of June, Just Run Frenchay members, along with our latest 'Couch to 5km' graduates should hopefully have celebrated participating in the first of the restarted local Park Runs. Park Runs are free, inclusive and a great way to build fitness through the summer months - www.parkrun.org.uk. We have now started our Friday 5.45 pm sessions where we use the amazing green spaces around Frenchay to do running exercises designed to build up stamina, speed and increase fitness. Whatever your running ability and experience, it's the perfect way to start a weekend.

Monday is run day! Come join our 2, 3, 4- or 6-mile groups from our meeting point at 7 pm at Shaftesbury Park, BS16 1LG. Here's what Ruth one of our members says "I joined Just Run about 2 years ago after visiting a display stand advertising the group. Jess, the group leader, was friendly and persuaded me that running as part of a group could be fun. She wasn't wrong. The group is supportive, and I have loved getting to know new people and it helps me keep motivated with my running." For more info contact info@justrun.uk.

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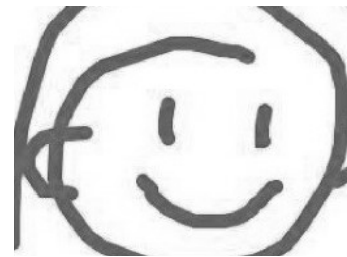
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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2021

Sunday Morning services are now being held in church

Commencing at 10.30am

6 June	Holy Communion
13 June	Morning Worship (Young Families' Focus)
20 June	Holy Communion
27 June	Morning Worship

*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.

Also on Sundays at 6.00pm there will be a Zoom service - mainly a discussion and prayer time following the transmission of one of the Sunday morning talks within the benefice. Join with ID 834 7641 2104 Password KnowingGod

Every Wednesday 8.00pm. Prayer meeting (using Zoom)
For updated information, please refer to the Church Facebook and website 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.

From the Registers : On 10th April 2021, the death of James Bennett

Dr. Judith Langfield writes:

A huge vote of thanks is due to Rev. Charles and his clergy team for providing church services via Zoom during the year. It must have involved a huge amount of work as well as adaptation to the required technology. It kept our church alive.

Thanks also to Sylvia Perry, the Churchwarden, and to her assistants for their organisation.

Our Rector writes

Dear All, What are you looking forward to?

Is it a restful weekend? Or maybe a holiday in the future? Or something even longer term?

Looking forward has been a dangerous occupation in recent months. Hopes are easily dashed, with plans having to be postponed or cancelled. So it might be tempting to give up on the idea of 'looking forward.'

But later I want to tell you about a 'looking forward' that cannot fail.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to our planned Patronal Festival on 27th June 10.30am at Frenchay. Lay Minister, Kate, will be looking after that service, and it is hoped that we may be able to sing hymns together without wearing masks!

A week later, on 4th July our ordinand, Ruth Harding, is due to be ordained deacon in Bristol Cathedral. I am so looking forward to the privilege of being her training minister during her curacy in the benefice of Frenchay and Stapleton.

I am looking forward to a summer celebration in the Community on July 18 when we can celebrate the care of our natural environment together (Climate Sunday).

Finally, for now, I am looking forward to when we can have effective lighting and a Powerpoint and sound system that really works for everybody when they come to Frenchay Parish Church. We will need your help with this one, I'm pretty sure!

So, what if I didn't live to see any or all of these things take place? What if government regulations prevented these from happening on account of COVID? This is where the Christian hope differs from every other kind of hope. It's definite.

We mark our years A.D. (From the birth of Christ) because presumably most of the world accepts that Jesus Christ really was born a human being. The Books of prophecy in the bible, and Jesus' own words, many times state that He is coming back again, this time in power and glory to judge the world and bring those who know Him to be with Him for ever. That is how I want to live now, in the light of the promise of His Second Coming. Will you have that sort of hope with me?

Rev Charles.

Back to 'normal'? Patronal Festival Sunday 27th June 10.30 a.m.

Frenchay Parish Church is the Church of St John the Baptist and in late June every year (except 2020) we celebrate his feast day. This year we have even more to celebrate than usual as it should also be the day when the church is fully open at last and the choir allowed to sing.

It would be lovely to see as many people as possible that morning, whether or not you see yourself as a regular churchgoer. We have an opportunity to come together in friendship, to see friends old and new, perhaps for the first time in over a year. An opportunity for the people of Frenchay and beyond to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future.

Kate Davison, Lay Minister

Changes in our Church – updating needed

For a church to meet the needs of the community it serves, it needs to move with the times. The last fifteen months have been difficult for all of us, with our building closed and with increasing reliance on electronic communications. We already knew we wanted better audio-visual capabilities in the church; the pandemic has increased the need for internet, using videos, better sound amplification and the other media that are so much part of modern life. Can you help?

The church is not just for Sundays, or even just for worship. It was built for the whole parish. We need to think about facilities that both improve opportunities for worship and provide a building that the whole community including our School can use, especially for larger meetings or concerts; an additional resource as our population grows.

As you know, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint. That means the church will have to consider new lighting and heating, too, in the fairly near future. If you can help – in any way – or would like to learn more, please get in touch with me.

Frenchay Church Community Leader Kate1.davison@gmail.com

SPIRE LIGHTING — IN REMEMBRANCE



20 April —Pat Grant

In loving memory on your birthday. We miss you and remember you today and always.

With love from Greg, Matthew, Paula, Debbie, Lily, Joe, Ed, Jack and Annabelle

23 April - George Dodd

"Keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me under the shadow of they wings" Psalm17 verse 8

From Joan, Rory, Fiona, Kate, Miles, Ella, Ollie, and Seth

* * * * *

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

‘O Love that wilt not let me go’ : the story behind the hymn

This hymn was written out of a deep sense of sadness and personal loss. The Rev Dr George Matheson wrote this on the evening of his sister's wedding. He said later that the words just poured out of him and he did not need to make any corrections. He had himself been engaged at the age of twenty but had started to go blind. When he informed his fiancée of this, she broke off the engagement. As a consequence he never married. His sister had looked after him for the next twenty years as he went totally blind but she would now be gone.

Rev Dr Matheson had been born in Glasgow, the eldest of eight children of a merchant. He graduated from Glasgow University with a first in classics, logic, and philosophy, and later became ordained. His first ministry was at Innellan on the Argyll coast for eighteen years, and then at St Bernard's Parish Church, Stockbridge, Edinburgh for thirteen years. He wrote one volume of verse entitled *Sacred Songs* and many books on theology. He was invited by Queen Victoria to preach at Balmoral.

In 1879, the University of Edinburgh awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1890 he became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He died of a stroke in Edinburgh in 1906 and is buried with his parents in the Glasgow Necropolis.

The tune was composed by Albert Lister Peace, born in 1844 in Huddersfield. He was appointed organist at the tender age of nine at Holmfirth Parish Church, near Huddersfield. After other organists' posts he became organist at Glasgow Cathedral in 1879. The Church of Scotland had removed the ban on organs in 1865 and Peace was much in demand as a recitalist especially for newly installed instruments. In 1896, he took over as organist at St George's Hall, Liverpool, where he stayed until 1912, the year of his death.

Like Matheson's writing of the words, Peace's composition of the tune, called “St Margaret”, was also an outpouring. He was staying at Brodick Manse on the Isle of Arran when he read George Matheson's poem. He recalled that he wrote the tune straight off, with the ink of the first note hardly dry by the time he had finished.

Dr Judith Langfield

The first verse of the hymn reads as follows:

“O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee :
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller, be. “

Table Sale

in aid of Bristol Refugee Rights

www.bristolrefugeerights.org

Frenchay Meeting House (Beckspool Road, BS16 1NT)

On: Saturday 26th June 2021 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Entry Free and garden open

Plants, cakes and savouries, bric-a-brac, second hand books, handmade crafts

Recycling quiz stall

Painting and drawing table for children

Tea and coffee available (if covid rules allow)



Available for hire for the following:

- Meetings for clubs
- Community activities
- Private parties
- Weddings
- Fundraising events

Our main hall accommodates 120 people. We have 2 additional rooms upstairs each holding up to 50 people and 20 people respectively, a large kitchen and bar area, a disabled toilet and a stair lift as well as a car park for up to 25 cars.

For all enquiries please contact the booking secretary on telephone no 07794 955427 or by e-mail at frenchayvillagehall@gmail.com

Please also visit our web site at 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.

I am sure we all have our favourite kind of garden .

During my morning lockdown exercise around the estate I have been impressed with the tidy regimented front gardens ,manicured lawns and not a weed in sight .

I am not going to attempt to copy you but to tempt you to cottage style gardening .

A definition of A COTTAGE GARDEN .in the dictionary ...is an informal style of garden which has beds planted with a great variety of traditional flowers.

The best cottage gardens look like they planted themselves ..this is a myth ..but the design principles they follow are simple .

The English invented the cottage garden probably in about 1400 when even the humblest of plots were pressed into service to produce food for families .Every inch of earth counted—with herbs,fruit trees ,vegetables and flowers..which attracted bees to pollinate crops..jammed close together ...no room for weeds !!

Aside from being practical the effect was charming ..some might say ..organised chaos .

Today , modern cottage gardens look just as lovely—a spill of colour as edible plants mingle and flop over the edge of paths,roses clamber over trellis, hollyhocks lean against brick walls.. a romantic scene.

Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932 is the patron saint of modern cottage gardens.

She advocated a more natural look to the fussy formal plantings the Victorians liked .A book worth reading ..GERTRUDE JEKYL AND THE COUNTRY HOUSE GARDEN ..

Some ideas to help plan a cottage garden .

1. BREACH BOUNDARIES Plant flowers at the edge of garden beds and allow them to spill over onto paths and lawns .Bonus points for fragrant flowers that brush against ankles as you walk past .
2. Install sturdy arbors ,pergolas and trellises so that vines ,climbers and fragrant roses can grow into billowy shapes above doors ,gates and against walls.
3. Place benches and chairs strategically in the garden to lure visitors to spend time sitting among the bees and blossom. Put seats in a hidden shady corner or smack in the middle of a pretty flower bed .Add stepping stones to guide the way .
4. Common cottage garden flowers include as examples hollyhocks ,foxgloves ,nicotiana ,poppy ,nasturtium and cosmos .
5. Plant shrubs ,small trees ,obelisks covered in climbing vegetables among the flowers to add height ,structure and visual interest to garden beds
6. Lure pollinators and birds planting of lavenders, yarrow, black-eyed Susan's and asters...Bees will love them .
7. Lay out irregular shaped garden beds and allow paths to define spaces in the garden .A meandering walkway is better than a straight one .turn a corner ,slow down and find a secret garden .

8. Experiment with plants you love and reinvent the cottage garden to fit your busy lifestyle . Once established a cottage garden will be as weed free as the gardens I pass on my lockdown walk .

So whether your patch of heaven flourishes on 10 sun-drenched acres or on a 5 x 6 sturdy apartment balcony, with the miracle of soil, sunshine, and water, you can still relax in an enchanted cottage-style green space.

Whatever style of garden you like...keep gardening and ENJOY !!!



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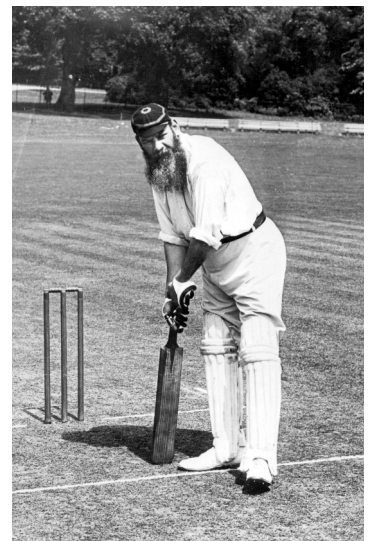
FRENCHAY CRICKET CLUB : THE 175 th ANNIVERSARY

This year represents a remarkable milestone for the Frenchay Cricket Club, formed in 1846. The first game reported in the Bristol Mirror of 29 August 1846 stated that “On Saturday a match came off at Frenchay between the cricket club of that village and the pupils of Mr. Stone’s school at Summerhill. It terminated in the club beating their opponents by 72 runs.”

In 1846, Queen Victoria, then aged 27, was 9 years into her reign : Sir Robert Peel was Prime Minister, succeeded mid-year by Lord John Russell : Parliament authorised funding for the Great Northern Railway from London to York : and the first medical operation under anaesthesia was performed. If alternatively you take your historical perspective from Bridgerton (and let’s not be too judgmental here, it cheered up a lot of people through lockdown), the stories were set a little earlier in a period from 1813 to 1827 : but it was during that period that the first people to make a cricket pitch on the Common were members of the Wadham family, who had moved into the Manor House in 1818. So let your imagination take it from there.

The most famous name from the early days of Frenchay Cricket Club was of course

Dr. W. G. Grace, who played for the club for a single season in 1870 and as Captain before going on to become one of the game’s greatest players and a key figure in the development of the sport. In later years he returned to play at Frenchay for other teams, including a game in 1885 for Thornbury when, somewhat untypically, he got a ‘pair of specs’, i.e. 0 in both innings! The Graces were a Downend family, and there were several members of the family who played at various times for Frenchay. G.F. Grace is said once to have hit the ball so mightily on one occasion that it hit the Church clock. On another occasion, a batsman, A. Humphries, hit a ball ‘half-way



up the steeple. However that was not the only way to earn a ‘six’ : at that time, part of the Common was still not restored from its former use as a quarry, and the tactic in those days was often to ‘hit the ball into the quarry and to run six’.

As compared to the present day, The Common had many more trees, and, near the school, the quarrying had scarred the surface and had left its tumps and holes to mar and spoil the beauty of the Common ; but in these surroundings was a, then small, flat space where the first cricket pitch was created. Much later,, in the early 1920s, legal issues threatened the Cricket Club when Winterbourne Parish Council took the view that ‘rights of Common’ meant that Frenchay Common was free for anyone to use as they pleased, including those who wanted to play football on the area maintained for cricket. Such usage would have been incompatible, and this led

P.G. Davies, a member of the Club, to bring an action in the Bristol County Court to win a ruling that the Common was held under 'Manorial Rights' (which he had acquired in 1921 so as to protect the Cricket Club) and therefore that the usage could be managed and restricted. Although football was to be permitted during the winter, the Council was to use all reasonable means to preserve the Cricket Club's pitch in good condition.

A wealth of detail of the operation of the Club during the first 100 years of its life, with names and personalities, matches and achievements, developments and anecdotes, is all set out in a 'Centenary Book' produced around 1946, and for those interested, this is well worth a read. A copy is held by Frenchay Museum, but can also be accessed through the internet. A couple of the anecdotes read as follows:

"When playing a Bristol team who were batting, a ball was hit into a four-wheeled low-basket carriage driving towards Bristol. To our astonishment, the driver whipped up the pony and, in spite of several of the team chasing him, he out-distanced us. We had no other ball until S. Piper went to the school and fetched the best practice ball, with which we continued the game."

"When league cricket was being played, Frenchay and St. George played a final game, on the Common, to decide who should be top of the league. St. George won the game, and it may be of interest to note that reports on its progress were sent back to St. George at intervals by carrier pigeon. The game attracted what must have been the biggest crowd on the Common up to that time. All the beer at the White Lion was consumed, and there was none left for the Sunday callers!"

Another game that attracted a large crowd was the one shown in the photograph below, believed to have been one of the 1946 Club Centenary matches.



In the immediate post-war years, it must have felt like coming out of lock-down, but on a much bigger, more intense, scale, and for so many people to come together for an important cricket match in the Village would have meant it was a very special and emotional occasion.

The Centenary Book records various tributes to the setting on the Common. "To walk on to the ground on a bright Summer's afternoon, with the green of the short-cut grass and the white of the screens and scoring tent showing up against the old grey church, gives one a thrill of pleasure and of anticipation of the sporting game to follow." "The very thought of a match with Frenchay brings to mind a typically English village scene, the Common, the Church, the trees, and the stately mansions."

However, in the immediate post Second World War years, the Club Management became increasingly frustrated with the facilities available on Frenchay Common. Attempts to build Changing Rooms on and near the Common were (understandably) rebuffed, and the opportunity arose to purchase an existing Sports Ground nearby on Filton Road. With the help of a £5000 Grant from the forerunners of Sport England, the Club purchased and moved to the 11 acre Ground in 1952. A second Cricket Pitch was later added, and a 'Third XI' formed in the '60s. Hockey was played on the 'outfield' for a number of years, and football at the 'top' end. In 1970, the existing Clubhouse, comprising a mix of ex-Local-Authority 'Terrapin' buildings, was opened by Bert Tann, then Manager of Bristol Rovers, replacing the two original wooden huts, including their ex-Omnibus seats.

On the Senior playing front, in 1971 traditional 'friendly' Cricket in the area was replaced by 'League' Cricket, and the Club joined the Bristol & District League (B & D) with all three Senior Teams competing. By the early '80s, Frenchay had added Youth Teams at Under 13 & Under 15 age groups. 1982 saw the construction of the 'front' 'Balcony' extension to the Clubhouse.

The 1990's saw blossoming success on the field, firmly based on a proactive Management Committee and a burgeoning youth system. In 1996, the Club celebrated its 150th Anniversary with a 'Celebration Week' of Matches, concluding the season with a Celebration Dinner at the BAWA Club. Meantime, younger boys were being encouraged into Club Cricket by the formation of an Under 11 Team. Two B & D League Championship Titles were claimed in 1997 & 1998, followed by acceptance into the County Alliance League in 1999.

Further restructuring of local Senior Cricket in 2000, saw the Club join the West of England Premier League (WEPL) extending to Gloucestershire, Somerset and North Wiltshire. Since that time, the Club has regularly sought the playing services of an 'Overseas Player' for the summer season, including lads from Australia, South Africa, Bermuda and India, who in most years, have also brought coaching expertise to put into youth and other areas of the Club. Continuing success followed, and the 1st XI rose up through the WEPL pyramid, to enjoy two seasons (2005/6) at the highest level. However, that was a really tough level to play competitively with other sides bolstered by County Professionals, and the 1st XI is now at a solidly competitive level varying between the B & D and WEPL.

Since 2010, the Club has worked hard to improve and extend the diversity of its membership and offering.

With major support from South Gloucestershire Council, a Girls Section was started in 2010. Coaches went regularly into local Primary Schools (including Frenchay C of E) and Winterbourne International Academy during the summer Term, focussing primarily on the girls. The recruits from this activity, which received the National Chance To Shine 'Project of the Year' Award in 2016, have been the foundation of a seemingly ever-increasing number of girls at the Club. There are now girls' at Under 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 age groups, with many having reached Gloucestershire County Performance levels and on to 'Senior' level for the Club,. For the last few years, the club has also been running an increasingly popular 'Womens' Softball Cricket' Group, and anticipates moving into 'Womens Hardball' cricket in the near future.

Also in 2010, the Club became involved with Disability Cricket, forming the Frenchay Falcons Disability Cricket Group for Secondary School and Adult ages. More recently, the Falcons has also become a Lords Taverners 'Super 1 Hub', and an ECB 'Community Club'. In addition, with thanks to Councillor Ben Burton for his support, the Disability offer is being extended by introducing a 'Junior Falcons' summer programme for Key Stage 2 SEND Children this summer.

In recent years, the condition of the now 50 years old, primarily wooden Clubhouse has given increasing concern. Planning Permission has been given for a new pavilion with facilities to meet the requirements of the modern cricketing era. It is hoped that this will be constructed in the next couple of years.



Shown above is the delightful 'Bob Stone Ground' (named after a Club stalwart) where visitors at matches are very welcome, particularly at the forthcoming anniversary celebration principal matches—**Dates for your Diaries :**

Sunday 27 June : the 1st XI vs. a 'Former Frenchay 'XI

Friday 9 July : Frenchay vs. a MCC Team

Bring a chair : sit on the boundary ; the bar will be open : relax in the setting : and with half-decent weather, what's not to like?

(With thanks to Jim Donaldson of Frenchay C.C. for his substantial contributions for this article)

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News from The Dings

At long last there is real light at the end of the tunnel. The National Clubs Association have announced the fixture list for the 2021/2022 season. We start with a long haul to Westcliff on Sea in sunny Essex, we have another visit to that area later in the season with a game against Rochford. As in previous seasons we travel all around the South of England and have another 'overseas' trip to Guernsey.

Our pre season fixtures are :

Saturday, August 7th. 3pm Stourbridge, away.

Saturday, August 14th (13:00 pm and 15:00 pm kick-offs).Luctonians at home,

Saturday, August 21 (15:00 pm kick-off).Rams Rugby, (National League 1) at home

Thursday, August 26th (19:30 pm kick-off). Weston-super-Mare at home.

Why not come along and watch a very good level of Rugby?

Our youth section is in full cry and it is great to see so many youngsters enjoying organised physical exercise again.

The Cafe is about to reopen in full accordance with Government Guidelines, keep an eye on the website for confirmation, breakfasts are being served outside at the moment.

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News from Downend Library

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Our catalogue of 2.5 million items gives you even more to choose from at www.librarieswest.org.uk if you wish to order specific titles.

- **If** you prefer, you can still order ahead using our Click and Collect service [. Book a collection slot online <https://sglibraries.eventbrite.com>](#) or by calling 01454 865022 we'll choose items based on your answers - for you, for your children or both.

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- Use a computer or Wi-Fi for free for 1 hour each day. Printing for the computers is available for a small charge. You can call 01454 865022 to book ahead and guarantee your space but often you can just drop in at the hours above.

- If you have a baby aged 0 – 12 months pick up a FREE Bookstart Baby Bag by visiting any South Gloucestershire library. We anticipate resuming our Rhyme Time sessions for pre-school children by the end of June. Please email downend.library@southglos.gov.uk for more details.

Books to help you look after your wellbeing

Now more than ever many of us find ourselves needing a bit of support and advice to get through difficult times; we have the expert endorsed national Reading Well collections of books for all ages on mental health topics such as stress, anxiety, depression, bereavement and grief free to borrow and free to reserve.

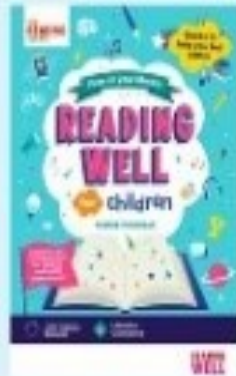


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If you have articles, ideas, or suggestions for future editions of FCN, or if you are just happy to be a 'CHIS', please feel welcome to contact FCN, as directed on page 1.



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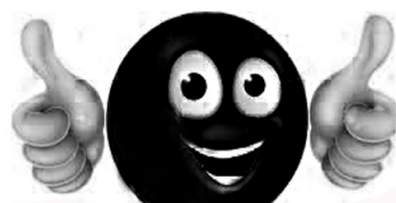
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Frenchay Friends Meeting House

- a poem by U.A. Fanthorpe

*When the doors of the house are shut,
Eyes lidded, mouth closed, nose and ears
Doing their best to idle, fingers allowed out
Only on parole; when the lovely holy distractions,
Safe scaffolding of much-loved formulae,
Have been rubbed away; then the plant
Begins to grow. It is hard to rear,
Rare herb of silence, through which the Word comes.
Three centuries of reticent, meticulous lives
Have naturalised it on this ground.*

*And the herb is the Vine, savage marauder,
That spreads and climbs unstoppably,
Filling the house, the people, with massing insistent
shoots
That leaf through windows and doors, that rocket
through chimneys,
Till flesh melts into walking forms of green,
Trained to the wildness of Vine, which exacts
Such difficult witness; whose work is done
In hopeless places, prisons, workhouses,
In countinghouses of respectable merchants,
In barracks, collieries, sweatshops, in hovels
Of driven and desperate men.*

*It begins here
In the ground of silence.*

Ursula Fanthorpe was a renowned poet of the latter half of the 20th century, and who had connections to Frenchay through her work with local hospitals in administrative roles, and through her life-partner of 44 years, Dr. Rosie Bayley. The poem opposite was inspired by a visit to the Friends Meeting House in Frenchay, and is reproduced with permission of Enitharmon Press, publishers of her works and on behalf of the copyright holder, Rosie Bayley.

Ursula Fanthorpe, CBE, was awarded a Queen's Gold Medal for her poetry, and she died in 2009.



The Rev'd Judith Lee writes : During Lent, a dozen of us really enjoyed exploring some of the poems from The Heart's Time collected and commented on by Janet Morley.

We were particularly interested to discuss 'Friends Meeting House, Frenchay Bristol' by U A Fanthorpe as it is so local to us and many of us have spent time there over the years. I remember leading a Quiet Afternoon and being able to go out into the garden. Meeting together on Zoom enabled us to share matters of faith and learn of each others different experiences, I certainly looked forward to Friday afternoons. *Rev'd. Judith*

ESMÉ S ARTICLE — ‘ Bristol ‘

In 1932 I was born in The Avenue, St. George, and I am glad about that! I am very proud of Bristol. We were living in Clifton before moving to France. Clifton too is famous and was mentioned in the Domesday Book, but spelt Cliftone. As our flat faced the Clifton Downs, there was always something interesting to watch. Our bedrooms faced the Old Vic Theatre School. The Theatre Royal is the longest running theatre in our country. We enjoyed the atmosphere there!

Both my daughter and I were Red Maids. Our school is the oldest girls' school in the country. It started in Denmark Street as an orphanage for 12 girls. They were taught domestic skills to enable them to gain employment as servants. There was also a Blue Maids orphanage but it closed in 1927.

When we lived in Clifton, we had season tickets for the Zoo, so we were able to walk through the pretty grounds to shop in Clifton Village, use the Library, and enjoy the restaurants. One of the latter was owned by Keith Floyd, the famous chef, and it was Keith who bought our flat! The Zoo is now moving to The Wild Place Project, near junction 17 of the the M5 .

I am also proud of Clifton College. I thought that Public Schools were built for the wealthy, but not at all. They were established for parents who could not afford to have their children privately educated at home! The school theatre is called 'The Redgrave', after Sir Michael Redgrave who was a student there, as were John Cleese, Trevor Howard, Josiah Wedgwood,and our son !

How about Bristol Blue glass - so beautiful! And one of my granddaughters is getting married in Clifton in August ! Stay well, *Esmé*.

FRENCHAY VILLAGE MUSEUM

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Twenty-one years ago, a group of volunteers took over a derelict lodge belonging to Frenchay Hospital. With the help of a Millennium grant from Winterbourne Parish Council they completely renovated it and built display cabinets. It was opened to the public showing the history of Frenchay and its residents. It is open 3 afternoons a week and entry is free. There is a series of talks during the Winter months. It later attained 'accreditation', which shows that the museum is run to a high standard

Those original volunteers have now reached "a certain age" and are looking for volunteers to join them. If we cannot find replacements there is a very real possibility that the museum will have to close.

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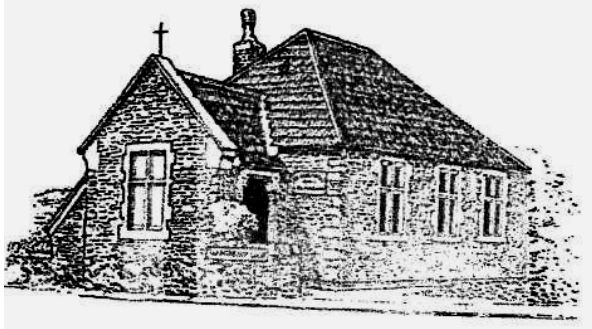
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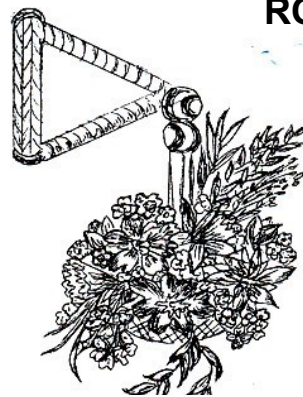
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