

September 2021

CONTENTS

2—4	FRA Report
4	Downend Library
6—7	Cncllr Ben Burton reports re Malmains Drive development.
7	Frenchay School
8—9	Artist helps to bring back a Buzz.
13	Church Diary
14	A Minister's Letter
15	Hymn story
15	Tributes on retirement
18	Probus Re-launch and Invitation
19	Olympics star set to return
20	Frenchay W I
20	Unitarian Chapel
21	Foxes on the Common !
21	And also making the News.
23	Crowdfunding :18th century style
24	Frenchay Cricket
24—25	Just Run
25	News from the Dings
26	Esmé's Article
27 - 28	The Garden in September
28	Rockleaze Rangers F.C.

'**La Rentrée**' is a term often seen and heard in September in France, referring to much more than 'back-to-school' (la rentrée scolaire) but also embracing the return of normal routines for business, sports, and social activity after 'les grandes vacances'. In 2021, all of that is scaled up, both in France and here, as life emerges from the shadows of Covid restrictions. Several articles in this edition reflect that.

It is also a pleasure in this edition to highlight the achievements and aspirations of three young persons, each associated with Frenchay, in the realms of the environment, art, and sport, namely Ammaarah on pages 2—3, Emma on page 8—9, and Jasmine on page 19.

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 September 2021 edition is 12 noon on the 10th August

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Frenchay Residents Association (FRA) Report No. 82

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

If you receive this magazine before Sunday 29th August please remember to join our 'Frenchay Unlocked' village picnic afternoon from 1pm on the new village green and common. Hopefully you have seen all of the pre event details in August's FCN and on posters/messages on social media and email. I look forward to seeing you all.



Wild Flower and 'No Mow' projects

As part of the FRA project to experiment with wild flower (no mow) areas can we firstly thank everyone for their engagement. These changes are a big step, but the Climate Emergency that we all face needs action now and SGC are asking all Parishes to respond.

Real 'wilding' means shutting the gate and leaving areas untouched, which in an urban area is just not practical. So our emphasis has been on creating 'urban meadows' and riots of colour, such as the area adjacent to Becks Pool the village pond.

FRA wanted to use this opportunity to help educate our local children by using our spaces for Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Community Service accreditation.

Ammaarah Vohra, a local student, applied and her excellent report follows here;

#nomow was a campaign I hadn't even heard of before I volunteered with FRA, but looking back, it has taught me so much. #nomow is a campaign that began on Twitter to encourage native wildflower growth and creation. Bristol Parks forum supports one of the main objectives for local authorities to achieve, to reinstate and create wildflower habitats.

As a result of this, Bristol is already amongst the much greener areas of the UK, covered by lush greenery and beautiful meadows. The forum focuses mainly on growing these flowers on roadside verges, motorways, railway edges etc. These are the single MOST VIEWED habitats in the country, so this is a chance for thousands of people to have everyday contact with the wildflower journey and hopefully educate many on how important planting these flowers are.

I was really interested in this as it is vital in combatting the climate emergency and helping the environment, but also making Bristol an even prettier and healthier city than it already is. Since the 1930's, over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost (7.5 million acres) due to pollution, deforestation and as well as a loss of wildflowers, wildlife has decreased too. All of this plus the negative impact humans have on the environment, I knew this would be a chance for me to give back to the world, positively.

For three months I volunteered for my Bronze DofE by researching and growing wildflowers. .

In this project there were three main locations we focused on to plant flowers; Frenchay pond, the steep grass bank on Frenchay Hill, and the grass triangle on the Frenchay Road and Beckspool Road intersection

We had a variety of seeds that we were going to grow, and this would help us compare which plants in different locations and situations. We had a wide range of flowers that we planted, such as:

Betony, Wild Teasel, Red Campion, Meadow Cranes Bill, Oxeye Daisy, Wild Carrot, Clustered Bellflower and Field Scabious.

After researching all the attributes of all the flowers, I knew as well as their ability to be pollinated, they also looked aesthetically pleasing, and their bright colours would attract even more bees and insects.

For around the six weeks the plants were kept in trays in a greenhouse as they grew, watered every other day. At around 4 weeks I transferred some of the plants to plug pots so they had more space to grow individually, before planting them into the ground.

*Even after they had been planted, we continued to check on them and water them for another fortnight, before letting them adapt to the new environment. They have made excellent progress and I loved the process. It not only made me more aware about the environment, but also kept me active and busy. Thank you to Adrian & FRA for this opportunity and I hope to continue giving back to the world and the environment, for it has given me so much. **Ammaarah, age 14.***



This has been a fascinating and rewarding experience, and thank you also to Ammaarah's mother, Huma, for being willing to invest the time and effort to help her daughter and FRA conclude this fantastic project.

What happens next is down to us as residents so that between all stakeholders we can plan forwards, order seeds and prepare planting schemes, especially when the new Frenchay Parklands are handed over to the Parish. Here is a whole list of ideas and actions that we need you to let us have your views on, plus any other ideas and initiatives which we would welcome from you all;

Would residents be willing to grow wild flower plug plants for us?

Where would you like to see more urban meadows or wild flower drifts?

Who is willing to help with the manual work restoring areas such as the pond in the nature Reserve in the old hospital grounds?

FRA have many ideas and considerable pledges of funds and resources now from many sources including One Planet Matters, SGC and BAM who are building the new Primary school. The Climate Emergency has created many green credit opportunities for investment funds and private organisations to fulfil and we intend to take full advantage of these.

For example, it would cost £250 a year to continue a spring bulb planting programme, to create a similar carpet of colour to that opposite CLIC Cottage. FRA have been able to procure this through the Rotary International 'in memorial' purple crocus campaign.

We also want to help the Parish create something special to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022 and have been fascinated by the Kings College Cambridge project to let all of their grasslands become meadows which were recently cut by horse drawn hay making equipment. Could we do this on the common opposite the Church?

Please let us have your thoughts, commitments to help and ideas ASAP.

CN Magazine Distribution As you are probably aware we help significantly with this logistical operation and due to existing helpers moving away and expansion due to new houses there are several areas where more volunteers are required.

At present we need help with Worrell Road, Clarendon House and please can we have some Frenchay Park volunteers? Over 1300 magazines are distributed each month, rising to 1500 by 2022.

Speedwatch is now up and running on a weekly basis in key locations, thank you to the team doing this to make our roads safer. The traffic police liaison contact has been surprised at some of the excessive speeds and driving behaviour, which is just why FRA have campaigned and succeeded in getting this road safety scheme in place.

Rubbish Walks please continue the good work litter picking in and around our Village, the results have been superb and very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you all.

Stay safe and well everyone, we really look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday 29th August afternoon.

Adrian Collins (Chair - FRA)

News from Downend Library Our weekly Rhyme Times take place every Wednesday at 9.30am. These are free sessions. They are aimed at parents with toddlers/babies up to 2 years old although older pre-school children are also welcome. At the time of going to press we are still booking limited numbers :please email downend.library@southglos.gov.uk

Mental Health Books All South Gloucestershire libraries have copies of the books recommended by medical professionals on a range of mental health subjects including depression, anxiety, phobias, dementia and also other long term conditions. The full list can be viewed at www.reading-well.org.uk.



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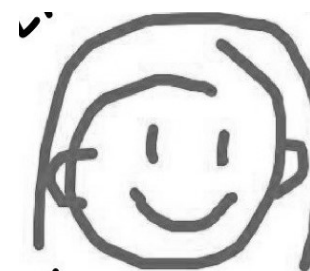
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Councillor Ben Burton reports :

Malmains Drive - Residential Development

As many residents will know, the 'dog walking field' at Malmains Drive was originally reserved for many years by South Glos Council for the provision of a new primary school. However, work has now begun at the old Frenchay Hospital site to construct the new 420 place Frenchay CoE Primary School.



As your local Councillors, we managed to secure £9.6 million from last year's budget to complete the school works and to ensure that it was constructed on low carbon principles (Passivhaus standards).

Many residents attended the second consultation event organised by Aequus on 3 February 2020 that set out the plans for the new residential development at Malmains Drive. The development of this site was critical in order to fund the new Frenchay CoE Primary School and to ensure it provided the facilities required by local families. We understand that new development is contentious but, as your local Councillors, we needed to strike a balance between the development potential of the site at Malmains Drive to enable the new school whilst ensuring it was completed in a sympathetic way for the local community.

The consultation events and our correspondence with local residents has identified a number of concerns in relation to the development at Malmains Drive, including: increased traffic, a loss of green space, ecological standards of the development and the number of dwellings. We have been working with Aequus to reflect these concerns and have managed to secure the following:

- The number of proposed dwellings were reduced from 48 to 30.
- 66 parking spaces have been provided in the scheme to reduce pressure on local roads.
- A significant amount of landscaped green space is retained at the heart of the scheme to promote green and healthy living.
- Visibility splays have been improved to provide safer access to and from Malmains Drive.
- The new homes are being built to a AECB silver standard (better energy performance that includes the use of solar panels and air source heat pumps).

· Landscaping and tree planting have been included around the site to emphasise the village feeling of Frenchay

We have also been in contact with many residents in Malmaims Drive, and the surrounding roads, to understand concerns about traffic volumes and excess speed. There have been many views expressed about the best way of addressing these issues and we are keen to try and agree some local proposals that we can then ask South Gloucestershire Council to implement (i.e. waiting restrictions yellow lines, access only, permit schemes). We will shortly be distributing a letter to residents in Malmaims Drive and surrounding roads to canvass your views. We are looking to arrange an in person meeting, now that restrictions have been lifted, so we can answer your questions and hear your ideas. We hope this will produce a consensus that we can take forward.

We also wanted to explain why Aequus have been chosen as a partner on this joint venture. As they are 100% owned by Bath and North East Somerset Council, many of their principles relating to sustainable developments align with South Gloucestershire Council's own aspirations. This gives greater control over the development and more flexibility in creating community benefit rather than development profit being the overriding factor. Without this approach, the land may have been sold to a commercial developer who would look to maximise the profitability of the site, probably with greater numbers and intensity of housing.

We hope the above details helps to explain how we have balanced the development of Malmaims Drive and the need for funding the new school. *Ben Burton*

* * * * *

Frenchay Primary School : As the School enters what should be its final year in the old school building, **Headteacher Katherine Marks** reports

“ At Frenchay Primary we are looking forward to a new term ahead. The children have all returned to something more like normality following the extensive changes to school life because of COVID_19. We are keen to get back to working as a whole school again rather than bubbles, and for those younger children to experience worship together as a school.

We are also excited to see the new building in process, after a very long wait! The Public artists have been appointed and we are really excited to be working with them. They will design a piece of vinyl artwork, like stained glass, that will feature of the library atrium windows, linking to our vision, Believe, Belong, Become! The children will get a chance to work with the artists, for a truly whole school approach. “

Frenchay Artist helps to get local High Streets Buzzing again !

A young artist from Frenchay was one of the designers selected by South Gloucestershire Council to promote local High Street businesses through the 'Bee Trail Challenge'. Sixteen fibreglass bees have been placed around eight 'High Street' shopping areas in South Gloucestershire, including at Downend and Staple Hill, each bee individually designed with an artistic theme. Emma Beavis created her 'Astronobee', inspired by space and the world of the unknown, and the artist and her creation are shown in the photograph alongside, although it would need a colour version to do justice to this imaginative design..



Better still, locate the original, not just of this one but also as many of the others as you choose to track down while you indulge in a bit of retail therapy, and put yourself in with a chance of winning a weekly draw for £150 vouchers to spend with local Independent traders. To enter the draw, you have to take a 'selfie' on your mobile device of each of the two bees in your chosen shopping area and upload them with your name and contact details. The full workings of the Bee Trail Challenge, including maps of each of the bee locations, information on the artists, and a full list of traders taking part, can be found at :www.southglos.gov.uk/shopsouthglos .

The Bee Trail Challenge **runs to the 18th September**, and later the individual bees will be auctioned for charity at an event to be hosted by the Chair of the Council.

Emma lives at her family home at Riverwood, Frenchay, having completed her degree course of BA (Hons.) Illustration at the University of Plymouth in July of this year. Her earlier education started at Bromley Heath Primary School, followed by what was then the Ridings at Winterbourne, and on to SGS at Filton where she did an Extended Diploma and Foundation Course in Art and Design. From her very early years, she had a love of drawing that she has developed most impressively..

Even more prestigious that her selection by South Glos Council for this present project was winning through a competitive process to provide the artwork used for merchandise produced for a major international sailing event hosted at Plymouth in July of this year, the Great Britain Sail Grand Prix. The design shown here fulfilled the brief to celebrate the Ocean and all that it represents.

Emma herself explained : “I wanted to convey motion by creating a flowing focal point with seagulls guiding you towards Smeaton’s Tower where the boat is heading. The biodiversity of the sea is captured through delicate illustrations of marine life as they push the boat through the water, surrounded by oxygenating sea-grass and powerful waves. “ The distinguished Panel of Judges felt that she achieved those objectives, and were particularly impressed with how, in a static image, she conveyed the motion of all the elements in the representation. The Chair of the Judges commented : “Emma has captured the spirit of competition as well as subtly including the ‘action’ below the waves.”

To appreciate better not only this work but also a wide range of skills and creativity, visit her website which promotes her as an aspiring freelance illustrator, ready to take on projects that give scope to her varied skills. She applies digital technologies to her core artistry to produce short animations in several forms. She also has the musical skills to compose and play musical accompaniments to her work. The site to find is **emmerstudios.com** , and readers are likely to enjoy in particular the Animations section. Generally, she is looking to appeal best to her own younger generation, but whatever your age, you will find plenty to admire in these samples of her work.



Emma’s attitude to her art is often a playful one, and this also manifests itself in the website name, where ‘Emma’ is corrupted to a West Country ‘Emmer’, originally deriving from how her Bristolian grandfather always addressed her, and now it is fondly recognised in her public profile. Emma is all the more proud of her Bristolian roots on account of its success in the world of animation and creative arts, and the chances are, that in the course of time, she will only add to that..



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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

All Sunday services are now being held in church

Commencing at 10.30am

5 September All Age Holy Baptism
12 September Holy Communion
19 September Morning Worship/ Peace Sunday
26 September Holy Communion

Commencing at 6.00 pm

Holy Communion (BCP)
Evening Prayer
Evening Prayer
Evening Prayer

It is not compulsory to wear face coverings (masks) in church but please do so if you wish. Sanitisation is still available.

We would like to welcome as many people as possible. And the Choir is back !

Every Wednesday 8.00pm : Prayer Meeting on 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 Parish Secretary parishsecretary@frenchaychurch.org.uk

Spire Lighting in late July and in August

27th July Caroline Anne Coleman It seems only yesterday.
I will love you for forever. *Richard*

2nd August : Winnie Hallett In loving memory of my Dear Mum and Grandmother who passed away last year aged 96years. Everyday you are so deeply missed. God bless you, With love from *Karl Kim Kingsley Mylie & Mia.*

12 August Lilly Langman A wonderful woman .Thank you Mum. *John*



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**One of our Ministers, the Rev'd Judith Lee,
writes :**

Many of us have journeys on our mind; either those we wish to make or those we have managed to make. John and I recently applied to renew our passports. Well, we won't be going anywhere abroad in a hurry : they won't be ready until the end of October.! But I would love to see my brother in France in time for this Christmas : we still have their last Christmas presents to take!



Any big journey often brings out big emotions at the start. A lot of the time we just want to hurry on and make it to our destination as quickly as possible.

On the journey of faith things are a little different. The destination is so far off that we won't even reach it in this lifetime. And the journey we take to get there is so full of challenges. And it is long : so long that it will last beyond our final breath.

But at least we don't travel alone. God is both our destination and our guide, and He has promised to be with us every step of the way.

What should those steps look like? Micah 6:8 tells us:
'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

You and I are definitely going to lose our footing from time to time, but when we do , let us not lose heart. Let us look up and see His hand outstretched above us, helping us to get back on our feet.

So let us act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Our thoughts begin to turn towards Christmas boxes of Mission to Seamen based at Portishead. Please help if you can, we need shoeboxes covered with Christmas paper, knitters, items to put in the boxes, and money for phone cards to enable the sailors-men and women, to phone home : many have been away from home for over year, sometimes still waiting to be paid.

We will be having a special service to remember loved ones who have died, on October 31st at 6pm. Please join us. *Rev'd Judith.*

Deaths recently recorded on the Register

Beryl Noreen Archer aged 96 18.5.21 Jean Mary Kinsey aged 82 15.6.21

Helena May Huish aged 92 15.7.21 Mervyn Albert James Brown aged 92 15.7.21

The Story behind the Hymn : ‘Heavenly Love Abiding’

Remembered only for writing this one hymn, Anna Letitia Waring was born in South Wales in 1823. Her family were Quakers but she was baptised into the Church of England in 1842. She followed in her family's footsteps in writing hymn verses, and learned Hebrew so that she could read the Old Testament in the original.

Her collection of hymns was published as *Hymns and Meditations* (1850) and was re-printed many times with additional material. She was involved in philanthropic work and was a supporter of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society visiting the prisons of Bridewell and Horfield in Bristol. She never married, and lived in Clifton, dying there in 1910. She was buried at Arnos Vale Cemetery.

The tune was composed by Professor David Jenkins, born in 1848 in Trecastle, which was then in the county of Brecknockshire but is now in Powys. He was apprenticed to the tailoring trade but his musical talent became evident and he enrolled at Aberystwyth College as a student of Joseph Parry. In 1878 he graduated Mus. Bac. from Cambridge. He was appointed Lecturer in the newly formed University of Wales becoming Professor of Music in 1910, a post he held until his death in Aberystwyth five years later.

He was a prolific composer of hymn-tunes, oratorios, cantatas, and many other choral works, as well as being a highly regarded choral conductor. The tune, called “Penlan”, was composed in 1898 and is named after a suburb of Swansea.

Dr Judith Langfield

Tributes paid to dedicated volunteers at Frenchay Church

At the service on 1 August two members of Frenchay Church, Rosemary Thomas and Pam Willis were recognised for their major contributions to the life of the church.

The first years of Rosemary's 40 years at Frenchay were as the wife of the Vicar, Revd Roger Thomas, then later in that time a long period of being the organist and choir trainer. She took on many other roles as leader of the Mother's Union, foundation governor at the Frenchay Primary School, organiser of Sunday Afternoon concerts as well as many other fundraising events and continued as relief organist at Frenchay and other churches.

Pam Willis has also undertaken significant roles, as Churchwarden, a member of PCC Fabric and other committees, Hospitality Chair and the organiser of Sunday Teas every summer.

During lockdown, tribute had also been paid to two other PCC members who had given their time and experience to the Church. Pam Ellis did two terms as Churchwarden as well as undertaking almost every other role and responsibility. Heather Hawkins has safeguarded the finances of the church for a record 14 years as the Treasurer, as well as a term as Churchwarden.

All these dedicated contributions have been much appreciated.

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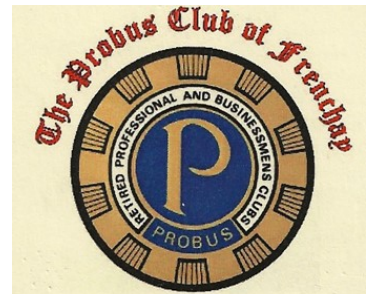
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Re-launch of Frenchay Probus Club and Open Invitation

After a period of some 18 months or so when the members of the Club have been unable to meet together, there is to be a re-launch and open invitation for people to attend an



Open Meeting on Wednesday October 6th, 10.15 a.m. at Frenchay Village Hall

Probus Clubs are an opportunity for men who have retired from business or professional life, but wish to meet socially with others in a similar position. Probus Clubs arrange for visiting speakers to give talks on a wide variety of subjects, as well as holding social events and occasional outings.

Based at our Village Hall, our local Probus Club has been running successfully for over 40 years but needs to recruit new members, particularly from the more recently-retired. There are existing members content to continue organising a programme of activities, but more members are needed to keep it viable

An open event is planned for Wednesday October 6th between 10:15 a.m. and 11.15 at Frenchay Village Hall to provide the opportunity to meet current members, and to find out more about the Club.

As a spokesman for the Club explains about the open day

“Just drop in! You will be warmly welcomed, and refreshments will be available.

“We meet normally at 10:00 am until 12.00 on the first Wednesday of each month, and there is period at the start of the meeting for coffee and chatting...

“The main part of our meetings features a wide range of talks. In the past they have included the “Dambusters Raid” (given by Johnny Johnson, the last British surviving member of the raid). And a notable talk was an update on Britain’s 1,000 mph car, particularly interesting to our local engineers. We have local history topics, and presentations given by experts in their field, including a cardiologist from Bath, a professional rugby referee, a Wimbledon Lineswoman, a psychiatrist (talk on mental health), and even one from South Glos. Council on waste recycling and disposal. And coming up in November is a talk on the History of Bristol (Bears) Rugby Club.

“It’s never too late to learn, discuss and ask questions about subjects you never thought you would come across or be interested in.

“We also have occasional meetings when partners and wives are invited.

Away trips have included the Police Headquarters at Portishead, behind the scenes at The Hippodrome, the Royal Mint, a whiskey distillery in Wales, the Curzon Cinema at Clevedon, and the Concorde exhibition at Filton, and a ride on the Fire Boat in Bristol harbour.

Our Lunches in summer and in the Christmas season are always popular. There are also plans to meet together for occasional breakfasts at Shaftsbury Park in Frenchay.”

“So book the date: Wednesday October 6th 10.15 to 11.15” It would be helpful, but not essential, to e-mail your interest in attending, to : frenchayprobus@outlook.com

TOKYO 2020



Olympics Star set to light up Shaftsbury Park

Great Britain's Women's Rugby Sevens Team sadly just missed out on the Bronze medal, losing out to Fiji in the decisive play-off game, but there was plenty to be proud of in their brave performances. While it necessarily was very much a team performance, the most exciting individual player, in the views of many, was the Welsh winger, Jasmine Joyce, who will resume playing for the Bristol Bears Women, regularly to be seen at Shaftsbury Park, Frenchay.

Jasmine is slight of stature but amazingly quick and a strong and beautifully evasive runner.

She scored seven tries in the Tokyo Olympics, having also played in the Rio Olympics at the age of 21..



She was born in Pembrokeshire and has represented Wales on many occasions including in the 2021 Six Nations Championship, and having played her initial top-level club rugby at Welsh club Scarlets, she joined Bristol Bears in 2020.

After attending University in Cardiff, Jasmine worked for three years as a Personal Trainer, before deciding to move into Teaching and started studying for a PGSE at University in Swansea, inspired by one of her Primary School PE teachers and by the good experiences she had at both her Primary and Secondary schools.

An exciting season in prospect lies ahead for Bristol Bears Women, with the appointment as Head Coach of Dave Ward, an experienced and competitive Premiership former player, and also with the recruitment of two high-profile players from last year's champions, Harlequins, namely England internationals Leanne Riley and Abbie Ward. Abbie's husband may indeed be the new Head Coach, but she has earned 46 England caps and was named in the Allianz Premier 15s 'Team of the Year' last season..

So there's plenty to look forward to in the season ahead at Shaftsbury Park, commencing on **Saturday 4th September at 12.30 p.m. vs Exeter Chiefs** .



Frenchay WI are pleased to announce that we are re-starting our meetings on Monday 20 September in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Anyone interested in joining Frenchay WI is invited to come along to any of our meetings – on the third Monday of the month. At the moment, there is no waiting list so new members would be very welcome. Please don't be afraid to come alone – there is always a friendly reception awaiting new members. There are no strangers in our group – only friends you have yet to meet.

In addition to the hand sanitiser provided by the Village Hall, we shall be putting some of our own 'safety' measures in place to make our members feel more comfortable.

The wearing of masks will not be mandatory unless the speaker requests this, although members are welcome to wear one if it makes them feel more comfortable.

Tea and coffee will be available in the break, but, for now, we are asking members to bring their own cup/mug. We will also provide wrapped, individual packets of biscuits instead of the usual delicious homemade cakes supplied by our 'tea ladies.'

Chairs will be set out fairly normally, but members are welcome to move their chair.

Our speaker secretary has arranged for **Jo Richardson of Space Detectives** to speak to us at the September meeting. Her talk will be about human space exploration; the skills an astronaut needs and the future of space industry.

We are really looking forward to seeing members –new and old—after such a long time away.

The Committee, Frenchay WI

Frenchay Unitarian Chapel

Meditation in Frenchay.

The pandemic has made us more mindful of our lives, what we miss and how we connect with others and nature. We shall be starting the meditation groups at Frenchay chapel in September beginning with an introductory Talk on Meditation practices. It will relate ways we can achieve peace - including an award winning programme element to share and discuss.

4.00 p.m. Sunday 5th September at Frenchay Unitarian Chapel. Free to anyone
We look forward to seeing you.

Heritage Open Days 2021 - Frenchay Chapel and Museum - Sat 18th Sept

This year there is a reduced programme but Frenchay Chapel and Frenchay Museum will both be open on Saturday 18th Sept at 2-5pm. The chapel is the oldest building in its original form in Frenchay and the oldest non-conformist chapel in the country still with a Unitarian congregation built 1691. A lovely atmosphere too with the garden for a nice Saturday afternoon stroll, exhibitions and guides. *Peter Bruce, Chair*

For more : www.heritageopendays.org.uk or www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk



Foxes on the Common !

Frenchay Foxes ladies choir met up again for a picnic on the Common, prior to the resumption of their weekly practices in Frenchay Village Hall as will start in September after a long 18 month break. The Choir Director, Fran Bolton, seen here on the left with a choir member, one of 25 or so attending the picnic, is really looking forward to leading the singing once again and gave this message explaining what Frenchay Foxes is all about :

“ Think you can't sing? Haven't sung since school? A bit of an X-Factor wannabe? Almost ten years ago, if you lived in or near Frenchay, you may have seen these questions on one of the many posters that went up in the neighbourhood, advertising the start of a brand new community choir for women: The Frenchay Foxes.

Around 30 women answered yes to at least one of those questions and, further comforted by there being no auditions and no need to read music, they turned up at the village hall one Wednesday afternoon in September, not knowing quite what to expect and feeling a little nervous; a couple of hours later, having met new people, sung new songs and laughed way more than they had expected, the new recruits were hooked!

Ten years on and the choir is still going strong, with around 60 members who meet every week to sing, chat and laugh. Of course, we've not been able to meet for the past 18 months, and we've really missed our weekly Foxes fix, but we're aiming to start again in September, catch up with our Foxy friends and oil our rusty voices!! “

Fran Bolton

And also Making the News !

Another choir celebrating a return to music was The Great Day Choir, a ladies choir based in Mangotsfield but with a strong Frenchay contingent. . On the 17th July , the day when indoor singing in groups was again permitted, they were featured on BBC Points West, as well as on some bulletins of the national News, expressing their happiness to be back singing together again.



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FRENCHAY SUBSCRIPTION BRIDGE

The bridge at the bottom of Pearces Hill was built in 1788. Before that there was a ford across the river. In winter the river was too deep to ford which was very inconvenient.

When we heard that a book recording details of the building of Frenchay Bridge was being auctioned, Dan Kembery offered to bid on the museum's behalf. We were surprised that there were 2 other bidders but he was successful and we now have the book – actually an ordinary looking exercise book.

Preliminary study shows some interesting facts.

Some of the names of the people who subscribed to the bridge (only 1 woman) are familiar names in Frenchay - Harford, Probyn, Beck, Bradford.

Nehemiah Bradford was a generous donor who subscribed 5 guineas. He was a doctor and lived in "The Old House" next door to the Unitarian chapel. Another generous subscriber was Joseph Beck, (5 guineas) who built the Manor House and gave his name to Beck's Pool. The total cost of the bridge was £226.0 ¼ d.

Two people agreed to subscribe but it is recorded that they subsequently refused to pay. Sam Gerrish promised 5 guineas and Richard Stump 1 guinea but both failed to pay.

The workers who built the bridge were paid an average of 1/6d per day (7 ½ p in today's money). They also received about a quart of beer per day (just over a litre). Was it from a local brewery? 368 pints were recorded in the expenses.

It will help our study of the book if someone who can type could transcribe the information in a program so that we could see how much each named person worked etc. If you can help us, please ring 0117/9569963.

Frenchay Cricket Club News

As the 2021 Season draws towards a conclusion, the Club can reflect on a mixed year both on and off the field. The ever-present side effects of the pandemic have tended to overshadow lots, but at least most aspects of cricket have been able to proceed with care and common sense as 'lockdown' was gradually relaxed through the summer. Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Club has been a central theme, but that has also been somewhat muted in the prevailing circumstances.

On the field, as this is written, the 1st XI are still in contention for promotion, while the 2nd XI continue to struggle in some close matches. The young 3rds side remain challenging for promotion, and the 4ths can reflect on bleeding so many youth players into 'senior cricket'. The Sunday X1 have enjoyed some challenging matches, and the Womens Softball side are going from strength to strength, with some now looking to progress into Womens 'hardball' cricket. Thanks to lots of work by the many volunteers involved, the various Youth Teams have all had good seasons, with a number reaching the later stages of Competitions.

All of this 'on field' activity is courtesy of the highly committed team of volunteers who look after the ground so well. This past season, they have prepared around 250 individual wickets for each match played on the two 'Squares', plus lots more for the 'Softball' matches played when we host Schools and other Festivals.

Off the field, a new Electronic Scoreboard has been purchased, temporarily sited this summer on the Scorebox, but to be resited over the close-season at the car park end of the Ground for better spectator visibility. Progress also continues on the new

Just Run, Frenchay

You don't have to go too far to read or hear about the physical and mental health benefits associated with running no matter how early or late in life you run.

Many of many of Just Run Frenchay members have reached mid-life and started or re-started running. We take great pleasure in seeing them flourish and gain confidence when they realise they are capable of so much more than they imagined. We like to think our nurturing, supportive club environment contributes to this ☐.

For women in midlife, the right exercise can help manage hormonal shifts and brain fog as well as tone up the body. The more you exercise, the slower the rate you age. Studies have found that running (our Monday evening session) and interval training (our Friday evening session) contribute to cell regeneration and healthy ageing as well as providing physical and emotional strength.

At this stage of life it is a good idea to complement running with low-intensity cardio exercise which could be swimming, brisk walking or cycling ideally a few times a week.

Lifting weights will help you stay toned while beating osteoporosis. This doesn't need to be too technical; you can achieve a lot just with a couple of tins from your food cupboards. You'll find lots of information on the internet. Working out in a group will keep you motivated, and our members' say the Monday club run sets them up for the week while you can't beat the buzz of starting the weekend by completing the Friday interval session. No matter what your level and experience of running there will be a group for you. For more information contact Jessie at info@justrun.uk

News from the Dings

Well, at long last, having missed an entire season we are back up and running. This season will be the last in the present format with the current leagues being reformat- ted for next season to try and iron out much of the lengthy travelling we currently do. Our second XV, the Knights will this season play in the Gloucester Premier league at level 8, this will give the players competitive rugby against regular opposition at a good level.

Training has gone well and we have been able welcome some new players to join with our returning squads.

We are offering rugby from an early age for both boys and girls, with a solid base of coaches, please come along and try out.

The cafe continues to offer good homely fare, with the lunch specials on Wednesday.

Esmé's Article : "Teddy Bears"

I am very fond of teddy-bears, and I pass a building in Frenchay which always reminds me of one of mine! I expect that many of you know The Manor House in Beckspool Road. As a child, I was often there, as the owner, a Miss Fry of the 'chocolate' family, was one of my Aunt's best friends, as they were both Commissioners in the Girl Guide movement in Bristol.



Miss Fry gave me A.A. Milne's book 'Winnie the Pooh' and wrote inside it "To Esmé, because she loves Teddy". Until I started at infant school, I always had my favourite Teddy under my arm. I remember being amazed that one person lived in such a huge house.. Manor Cottage next door is a well-thought-of Care Home, and it is believed that most of the servants lived there. The buildings are from the 15th century and are listed.

I wondered where the name 'Teddy' came from. A.A. Milne first called his bear 'Edward' or 'Teddy' for short. He changed that name to 'Winnie' after a bear in London Zoo called 'Winnipeg', and so his book became 'Winnie the Pooh'.

Theodore Roosevelt loved bears so much that, on a shooting trip, he refused to shoot one! Did you know that Giles Brandreth and his wife have opened a Teddy Bears Museum? I wonder how many of you reading this still have your teddy-bear?

The last present that Ron, my husband,, bought me in France, comes wherever I am in my flat.. That was from the year 2000. The bear is very big, white, and is called 'Cuddles'. Enjoy September!

The September Gardener

by Alan Caswell

Who knows what to expect weatherwise this month? The year seems to have been quite a mix and not too great for the gardener – still things have caught up and even though there is rain in the forecast for September there is lots to enjoy and plenty to keep you busy in the garden this month.

The approach of Autumn is a fantastic time of year to plant your spring bulbs, feed your lawn or prepare for your winter vegetable planting. Sow hardy annuals now for spring flowers the following year. The seeds can be sown in spring but sowing in autumn often results in earlier flowers and more robust plants. Sowing hardy annuals is easy – either sow in rows, or broadcast the seed on a prepared seedbed. Particular favourites are Love-in-a-mist - a cottage garden favourite, Corn Flowers - makes an excellent cut flower, California poppy brings swathes of bright orange-yellow to borders, self-seeds readily so once sown you will enjoy them every year and lastly Poppies - opium, field and ladybird poppy can all be sown now.

It's is a good time to take cuttings of many plants. Some plants, such as half-hardy perennials or tender shrubs, may not make it through the winter, so by taking cuttings you can ensure that you can enjoy them the following year. Taking cuttings in autumn is also a good way to increase your stock of your favourite plants and save money. Take semi-ripe cuttings, from this year's growth. They are woody at the base and soft at the tip. In autumn, hormone levels are high, so plants should root and grow well, the hard base makes the cuttings less likely to rot and, if you have some, hormone rooting powder helps. Give it a go! There are no gardening mistakes only experiments.

Tomatoes and outdoor lettuce should be in abundance and the winter vegetables should be coming into their own. There should be plenty of fresh garden vegetables to enjoy if you have managed to get some planted as long as the caterpillars, slugs and birds leave you some. Make room in your greenhouse or windowsill and pot up your parsley, mint and chives and they will keep growing over winter. Whatever you have – garden or just pots - just make sure you enjoy what has grown, learn by your mistakes and never give up. Gardening is too precious and plants gives us more than we realise.

News from Rockleaze Rangers : *from Peter Bradbury*

As the 2021/22 season swiftly approaches, I think all clubs are hoping that after two seasons of disruption, things can start to return to some semblance of normality again. Pre-season has been mixed, with a number of players and coaching staff taking the opportunity of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions to see loved ones or take a much-needed holiday. Whilst this has made fielding a consistent and settled side a challenge, it has nonetheless given opportunities to a number of our under 18s players, as well as other triallists. The 1st team have nonetheless started to now hit a bit of form, just in time for our season opener on Wednesday 18 August where we face a tricky away trip to Hardwicke in the Gloucestershire County League.

We are also pleased to announce the formation of a new Saturday 'D' team, as well as our first open-aged Sunday team. Rockleaze Rangers FC are a friendly and welcoming club, and are always on the lookout for new players for both our Saturday and Sunday sides - anyone interested in getting involved should call Peter Bradbury on 07891331891 (Home Ground : Hillside Gardens, Frenchay)

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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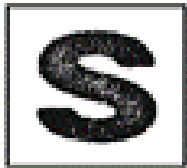
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