

*Goodbye winter,  
Hello spring*



February 2023

# **The Freshford Newsletter**

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## INTRODUCTION

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Whilst helping to put the Bulletin together, it's been great to see how many thriving local groups and voluntary organisations there are in the village. There's something for everyone from pre-schoolers to nature lovers and local history fans!

And there's more...many residents give considerable time and effort to ensure that the community continues to benefit from the significant assets the village is so fortunate to have.

A number of major projects have been completed or are well on their way to completion: The Memorial Hall redevelopment, an extension to the Galleries Café, St Peters Church refurbishment and The Hop Pole pub – yes it's in Limpley Stoke – but I know Freshford residents have been involved with the project and will thoroughly enjoy the renovated establishment.

The Parish Council has also been busy, not only with the everyday business – commenting on planning applications, overseeing cemetery maintenance and responding to residents' queries – but also with some relatively major projects it's taken on. These include ensuring the Parish Council owned woods are managed responsibly, consulting on street lighting proposals, and striving for better pedestrian safety with improved road signage and a new radar speed indicator device.

It can be difficult to ensure that all residents know what's going on locally, but the Parish Council is working to help with this. Emails go out regularly to residents with news of forthcoming events, and emails providing updates on Parish Council activities are being added to the updates. The online 'Limpley Stoke News' provides a great monthly update on news and activities relevant to both villages. The Freshford village website contains lots of useful information too. And we hope that the revival of the Bulletin helps with parish communications – please let us know your thoughts on this.

This edition includes some adverts and we're very grateful to the advertisers and generous donors who have contributed to the costs of producing this publication.

We are also delighted that Plans are being drawn up for the Coronation celebration and we are most grateful to Peter King who has kindly volunteered to coordinate the event

Freshford website: [www.freshford.org.uk](http://www.freshford.org.uk) Sign up to Freshford emails at: [www.freshford.org.uk/community/communications/email/](http://www.freshford.org.uk/community/communications/email/) Sign up to Limpley Stoke News, please email: [sheena.broadhead@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sheena.broadhead@tiscali.co.uk)

Finally, a big thank you from us, Jessie and John, to everyone who contributed to the newsletter.

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## THE CHURCH

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### Update on St Peter's Church



St Peter's Church is looking forward to opening its doors once again at Easter. It has been a long journey and, as with most building projects, not without its challenges. However, we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and are very much looking forward to being able to share it with you all.

We will be holding a Service of Celebration in St Peter's Church on Easter Sunday morning, on 9th April at 11am, to which all are warmly invited.

We are planning an open day on Saturday, 29th April. More details of this will be available around the village nearer the date.

In addition, there will be an informal cafe style service on Sunday 30th April at 10.30am. This will be a Service of Re-dedication, and will be attended by the Archdeacon. Again, all are very welcome.

There will, of course, be many other services and events throughout Easter in our three parish churches so do look out for the notices. We'd love you to join us. Just one more thing.....we truly want St Peter's Church to be a building that can be enjoyed by churchgoer and non-churchgoer alike, by the whole community.

However, it can't maintain itself, so if you feel able to help us in any small way, perhaps with a little cleaning, or perhaps flower arranging (no expert skills required!), gardening in the churchyard.....please do let us know. The more, the merrier! With more help, we can spread the load. We would love to hear from you.....

Penny Murray

Pennylanemurray@aol.com

# Village Hall Refurbishment Works



We had our Re-Opening ceremony and Community Flag unfurling ceremony on Friday 13th January. Over 100 people attended and the Freshford Village Memorial Hall was re-opened by Cllr Neil Butters. The new Community Flag was unfurled by the 9 year old winner of the competition - William Childs from Freshford Village School.

Some ten years ago the Village Hall Trustees realised that the present lightweight village hall building was reaching the end of its life and a new more permanent building was needed. Architects and Designers were appointed but it quickly became apparent that a new replacement building suitable for both present and future uses would be unaffordable.

A decision was made to retain the present timber framed hall and to undertake an affordable phased development to both maintain and extend the existing facility over a period of several years and completed as and when funds became available. The first essential phase was to provide a new watertight and insulated roof replacing the 30 year old patch repaired old felt coverings. A new steel lined insulated composite paneled roofing system was relaid some two years ago at a cost in the order of £30,000. Subsequent funds were then sought to complete phase 2 – a new insulated external envelope fixed to the existing structure and comprising new triple glazed windows and rigid insulated wall panels finished with cedar shingles. These phase 2 works have now been completed at a cost in the order of £250,000. The works were designed by the Architects Hewitt Studios and constructed by local contractors Apeiron Homes. Funding was obtained from Bath & NE Somerset Council, The Medlock Charitable Trust, The Postcode Local Trust, National Lottery, The Bernard Sunley Foundation, The Cobalt Trust, BWCE Fund Quartet, The Garfield Weston Trust, The Rank Foundation, Freshford Parish Council and Freshford Pre-school.

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## VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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### Re-Opening Ceremony



Neil Butters addressed those present saying that there has been a hall in this location for over 100 years. The first being a former military hut used during the 1st World War and relocated from Salisbury Plain. The current building was erected in the 1960s and has been well maintained and available for all manner of clubs and societies over the years forming a social bond which, with the building of the shop and the café, has become an even more important village hub. The building was well built but has suffered wear and tear over the years and needed to be brought into the 21st century both visually and environmentally.

The Refurbishment Works.

The refurbished Village Hall was reopened by Councillor Neil Butters and Village Hall Chairman David Wright at a Ceremony on 13th January 2023 . Freshford residents attended the Ceremony.

# The Galleries

Your community shop & café is hard at work reinventing itself to deal with the choppy economic times ahead and, if you haven't already, come along and see for yourself. Here are just some of the things to look out for:

### **The café extension**

The new café room is now in use and customers are enjoying this exciting new space. Come along and admire the awesome views across the fields and whilst sampling Aliya & Mandy's home-cooked food.



*Did you know this exciting project was almost entirely built by local volunteers?*

### **Galleries refill station**

We are keen to promote our refill station because buying in bulk is always cheaper, comes with less wasteful packaging and weighing out goods at the refill station means that you buy only what you need, and this cuts down on food waste. A win-win all round!

*Did you know that a third of our power comes from Freshford sun and this will increase when we install more solar panels later this year?*

### **Steal of a deal**

We have weekly promotions and special offers offering great deals to our customers. If you don't already subscribe to our newsletter please email [manager@galleriesshop.co.uk](mailto:manager@galleriesshop.co.uk) or drop in and speak to us.

*Did you know that much of our produce is sourced locally?*

### **FLiSCA grants**

Galleries profits fund FLiSCA's grant awarding scheme and if you know of a local organization in need of funds, please suggest they apply. It's very easy to apply, decisions are made quickly and all the details can be found on the FLiSCA section of the Galleries website. Remember, the more you use Galleries, the more money is available to support Freshford school, our village halls, community groups and residents in need.

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## THE GALLERIES SHOP

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### **FLiSCA trustee vacancy**

Did you know that the profits from Galleries, our community shop & café, all go to FLiSCA (Freshford & Limpley Stoke Community Association), a community charity? As a result, FLiSCA has been able to paid out over £70,000 in grants to local community groups and associations in the last 12 years. We currently have a vacancy on the board of FLiSCA for a Secretary so if you'd like to use your skills to make a real difference to your local community contact Simon Coombe at [simonhjcoombe@hotmail.com](mailto:simonhjcoombe@hotmail.com).

### **Galleries extension grand opening**

The grand opening of the sparkling new Galleries extension will take place on Friday 31st March at 2:30pm

We'd have never got here without our dedicated team of skilled volunteer 'heavies' under Wags Firmin and our generous donors who include:

the Medlock Trust, Hills Landfill, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, the National Lottery Community Fund, Freshford and Limpley Stoke Parish Councils, Friends of Freshford and a number of generous local families and family trusts. Please come along and help us open our new community facility in style.



## Art Group

Are you looking for a time and place to make art alongside other people? Our friendly group meets on Tuesday mornings at Westwood Parish Room throughout the year, from 10am -12 with refreshments provided. All at the very small cost of £2/week for members.

“Do your own thing!” We work in a variety of mediums, e.g. watercolour, pen & ink, acrylic paints, pastels, coloured pencils, acrylic inks. You can work from our regular suggested themes and subjects or on your own projects.

Landscape, botanical, still life, wild life, abstract, whatever you fancy!.. Get inspiration and tips from other members. Create the art you enjoy.

So if you enjoy drawing, painting (or another art form) and want to explore the possibilities, we would love to hear from you. Ann on 01225 832860 Jane on 07817 505445 [jemitchell2017@outlook.com](mailto:jemitchell2017@outlook.com)

# Nature Chain



In response to the biodiversity crisis, where we are losing so many plants and animals, a small group from Freshford and Limpley Stoke got together to discuss what practical action we could take to help. We settled upon encouraging our community to make our gardens as wildlife friendly as possible, both to provide a home for nature in of itself, but also to link together the larger areas of countryside around us - hence the name Nature Chain.

We began at the very start of 2021 and have since organised a website and email circulation to share information, hints and tips, trying to focus on local aspects wherever possible. To this have been added talks, Instagram postings, open gardens and various other activities aimed at increasing the wildlife in our gardens. We even appeared on ITV News West Country. We have also been working with the owners of some of the larger plots of land to see if solutions to shared problems can be found (e.g. seasonal meadow mowing). Winsley and Turleigh have since set up their own Nature Chain group and we link to them and others, including our parish councils, in the hope of sharing ideas and creating an even larger chain for nature.

We now have over 100 subscribers to our emails and over 300 followers on Instagram. You may see little plaques around our villages with our logo on it to show support for our aims.

If you would like to find out more please visit our web site, [www.naturechain.co.uk](http://www.naturechain.co.uk), email us on [thenaturechain@gmail.com](mailto:thenaturechain@gmail.com) or phone 01225 722330.



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# THE HOP POLE

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## **Moving forward into 2023 : firing on all cylinders!**

Having received the fantastic news on 10th December that we had been awarded a COF grant of £300,000, now the hard work really begins. We have until 10 December 2023 to spend that much-needed money so the team has been putting heads together to come up with an achievable, realistic plan to work towards.



We have a number of hoops to jump through including four planning applications (Listed Building Consent and Planning permission) and tendering for contractors to keep the project moving ahead swiftly and smoothly, so we are drawing up a workable schedule to make the whole process as manageable as possible.

Our initial focus is the repair, restoration and long-term sustainability of the existing building including the roof, guttering, masonry, damp proofing and internal fabric of the building. From the outside, it may look as though not much physical work is being completed on the pub, but behind the scenes we are working flat out to push the project forward! We will update you as we go and will give you a full briefing at our next EGM.

### **It's all about team work...**

With an extremely busy 12 months ahead, we have restructured our team to manage the project most efficiently. The main change is that we have created a Building Team sub-group to run all aspects of the pub's repair, restoration and extension. This Building Team will be headed up by Tim Tuckey, the project manager is James Sibson and the volunteers will now be co-ordinated by Nick Humpston. In addition, Nick has handed the role of Company Secretary over to Sally Humpston so Sally will be the main contact regarding shares going forward. A sensible and timely reshuffle which is already running well!

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## THE HOP POLE

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### **Volunteer update : spring clear out and the road ahead**

So far, with your help we have turned the wilderness into a garden fit for a Summer Jubilee party and a Winter Christmas market. We have removed three skip loads of rubbish, recycled where we can and sold to a scrap metal dealer to help the bottom line.

This week, our team of hardy helpers stripped the interior of the pub, clearing the kitchen, cellar, bathroom and store room, as well as the upstairs rooms. We even took out some of the windows for review and restoration.

Our volunteers have achieved so much already, but as you know the main work hasn't really started yet. Next steps are that our main tender document will be put together and a Principal Contractor will be appointed. We will then go through that document with our appointed contractor to identify exactly what works can be carried out by volunteers, potentially with some specialist training. Without this important work by our volunteers the project cannot succeed! There are approximately 100 volunteers on the list of which approximately half have been used so far, so if you haven't yet helped out you will get the opportunity later this year. Please look out for 'calls to arms' in our newsletters and social media and thank you, as ever, for your magnificent help! As the previous head of volunteers, Tim, is moving across to the Building Team he would like to pass on his personal thanks to anyone who has volunteered and helped out in any capacity while he headed up the team. All emails to [volunteerslscbs@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerslscbs@gmail.com) and tasks involving our brilliant volunteers will now be dealt with by Nick Humpston.

# The retirement of the councillor Neil Butters

Councillor Neil Butters has decided to retire from Bath & North East Somerset Council – after 16 years – at the May elections.

“I have now reached 75, served for 25 years on principal authorities, and would like to pursue some other projects whilst (hopefully!) I still have time.

It has been a huge honour representing Bathavon South Ward over this period – between 2007 and 2019 covering six parishes (Freshford, Hinton Charterhouse, Monkton Combe, Shoscombe, South Stoke. and Wellow), and doubled in size since 2019 (with Cllr Matt McCabe). The entirety stretching from Marksbury to Claverton. (Adding in also Camerton, Combe Hay, Dunkerton & Tunley, Englishcombe, and Priston.)

I had the very best of starts, following on from Gitte Dawson (now MBE). It was the most efficient local delivery operation I had ever come across!

It has been a joy to work with such forward looking, capable and determined people to deliver the Galleries shop and other projects around the village. I pay tribute to all those who have served as parish councillors, and in particular Chairs, over the years. You have much to be proud of.

I have from time to time cited Freshford at national level as an exemplar.

I will remain around, but will watch you progress further from more of a distance. I'm sure you will continue to excel, and show the way.

With very best wishes  
Neil Butters"

A career railway manager, whose many jobs ranged from station announcing at Paddington to serving as British Rail Assistant Area Manager at Swindon, to Management Development & Training Officer for Freightliner, to running BR's Management Training Centre (The Grove at Watford – now a 5-star hotel), to serving for many years as Secretary to the – national – Railway Heritage Committee, Neil started his political career in 1976 as a parish councillor in the Ridgeway village of Wanborough, near Swindon. He soon became Chairman, and repeated this when the parish was split into two: he was the first Chair of the new Covingham Parish – the first in Wiltshire since the 1880s. Between 1982 and 1986 he represented the St Margaret Ward on Thamesdown Borough Council, and between 1995 and 2000 Lawns Ward. (From 1997 the new Unitary Swindon Borough Council.) St Margaret and Lawns vied to be the largest ward in Wiltshire.

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## NEIL BUTTERS

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In 1998, he received the highest number of votes of any candidate in the Borough. After several recounts beating by 5 no less a personage than now Cabinet Member Mark Harper! Neil has held many posts in Bath & North East Somerset, including as the 19th Chair – a particularly enjoyable time when he attended some 500 events, including the Earl of Wessex's installation as Chancellor of the University of Bath, the Special Olympics, a Royal Garden Party, and a sponsored dinner raising over £11,000 for local charities.

He has also served as Joint Cabinet Member for Transport Services, and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Avon Fire Authority. He is currently Rail Liaison Advocate, in which role he has been closely involved with the refurbishment of Freshford station.

Publications include Historical Transport Map of Wiltshire; and Bath's Railways in Photographs by JC Way.

Neil is married to local artist Charlotte Moore.

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## 20 IS PLENTY

Refurbished road markings in the village



The advertisement is enclosed in a purple border. At the top, the text 'Lets talk' is written in a large, purple, cursive font against a green background. Below this, the text 'Curtains, Blinds &amp; Cushions' is written in a smaller, purple, cursive font. Underneath, 'Alterations to soft furnishings' is written in a red, sans-serif font. Further down, 'Free estimate' and 'Call Naomi' are written in red, sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'Freshford 722218' is written in red, sans-serif font. A blue needle and thread are illustrated on the right side of the advertisement.



# Friends of Freshford

It's been a couple of years since the community consultation about Friends of Freshford's proposals to increase biodiversity in our village and we thought you'd like an update on the progress of the biodiversity projects as well as our other community activities.

### **Biodiversity projects**

With help from our members and the community we have achieved the following since March 2021:

#### Tynning grassland

- Thousands of seeds and bulbs planted on five separate days
- A new mowing regime established

#### Tynning Lane

- Eighteen bollard trees planted
- Logs laid to protect the grassland from vehicle erosion
- Widening and seeding of the biodiversity strip

#### Community orchard

- Twelve fruit trees planted

#### Heritage trees

- Three trees planted: Oak (the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree); Walnut; Small Leaved-Lime

#### New native hedge

- 30 metres of mixed native hedge planted with the help of the children of Freshford Church School

#### Coppice

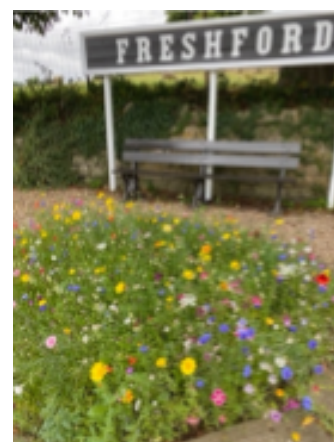
- Three trees planted as trial to see if a coppice is viable in such a shaded area

#### Cemetery

- Hundreds of seeds and bulbs planted with the children of Freshford Church School

#### Station Garden

- Continuing maintenance and development of the station garden now under the direction of Paul Jupp of Meadow in my Garden.



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## FRIENDS OF FRESHFORD

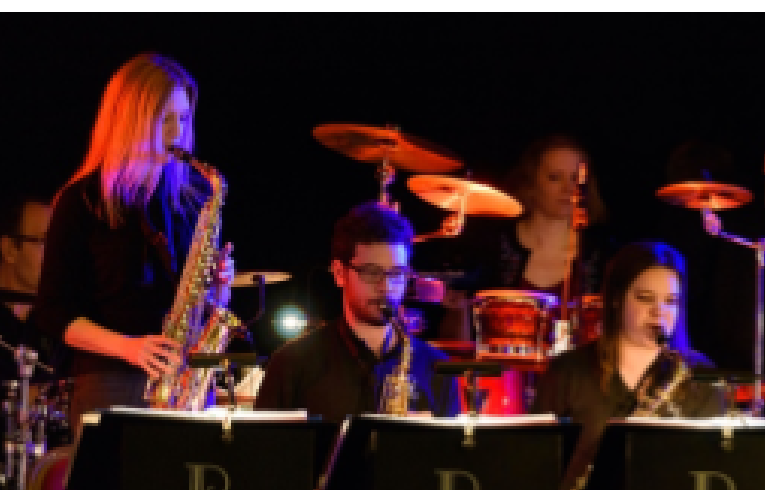
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We'd like to thank those of you who sponsored a bollard tree or an orchard tree. Not only did this enable us to plant the trees, but it also allowed us to give them an excellent start by purchasing compost, mulch, mycorrhizal fungi, and robust stakes. In 2022, this tremendous volume of physical activity was increased further by the long, dry hot summer which would have killed the fragile trees and hedge without regular and intense watering. The committee, helped by doughty volunteers, arranged a weekly watering rota from April to November to make sure all the plants survived the drought.

In 2023, we will continue our seed and bulb planting programme and maintain and water the trees and hedge already planted. We'll be keeping a particular eye on the three trees we've planted in the north-west corner of the Tynning to see whether this shaded area is suitable for planting the coppice. Also, we will be sourcing sustainable labels for the trees planted in 2022.

### **Fundraising and grant giving**

Friends of Freshford was established in 1969 to enhance the character, amenities, and rural environment of Freshford. In terms of fundraising, our 2021/22 quiz nights and the Park Lane Big Band event in November 2022 raised over £3,000. Out of this we've funded our biodiversity projects and have awarded grants totalling £2,250 to organisations such as St Peter's Church, FLiSCA, Galleries Shop and Café, Freshford and Limpley Stoke Fete, the Hop Pole Inn and Freshford School and its PTA



### **Looking to the future**

Lifetime membership of Friends of Freshford for a family or an individual is only £20. If you are not yet a member, please join and help us to continue our work enhancing the character, amenities, and rural environment of our community for years to come. To become a member get in touch.

We'd like to thank our members and the community for your help and support over the past couple of years. We couldn't have done it without you!  
Richard Blamey (Chair) and the Friends of Freshford Committee  
[www.friendsoffreshford.org](http://www.friendsoffreshford.org) [friendsoffreshford@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffreshford@gmail.com) 01225 720048.

# Your Village Agent, Chantal Young

Hello again, I've been in my role as Village Agent for a few months now and I just wanted to let you know about some of the work I have been doing across my patch of seven villages since I started. I thought it might be useful to illustrate my work using a few real examples of residents I have supported. These have been through a mixture of home visits, phone calls and email support, all confidential and free of course. There is never a dull moment in this role and there are people needing extra help and support in every community. We help any adult 18 years and over. I've helped to support a couple where one had become quite frail and their spouse had recently been diagnosed with a life limiting condition. My support included helping them think through what specific personal support/activities they needed help with at home when sourcing a home care provider, researching and recommending a personal alarm system for their safety and independence and being on the end of the phone to help them through an emergency at home until help came.

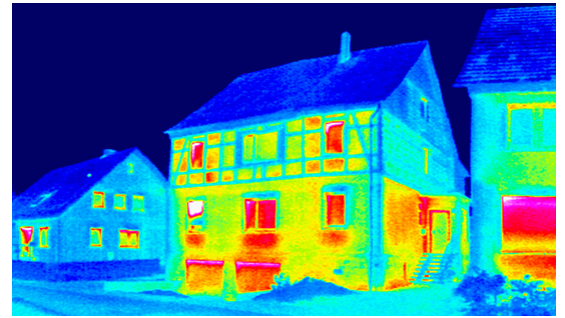
I recently helped a resident who felt quite lonely by finding a befriending service that came to their home and activities they could join outside of their home, which included transport to get there and back. There was a resident who lived alone and was struggling financially in the current climate so I was able to talk through with them and their daughter a range of benefits and grants they could apply for to increase their income and live more comfortably. I also supported a resident by providing information about services to support them as they had just been discharged from hospital and they were struggling with their mobility at home and needed help.

And finally, there was an elderly resident who needed an adaptation to make some steps outside into the garden safer for them and I was able to identify for them a charity that could possibly pay for the adaptation.

These kinds of situations which people find themselves in are very typical of the cases myself and my Village Agent colleagues come across every day and for which we help residents to find solutions so they can stay living independently at home, our core purpose.

If you think I can help you or you know of someone in your community who could benefit from my help please email me at: [chantal@wern.org.uk](mailto:chantal@wern.org.uk); or call the office on 01275 333700.

# Freshford and Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group



We are the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group, FLHEG, and our aim is to help people through the often-confusing process of upgrading their homes with energy-saving ideas to reduce carbon emissions.

We've been very busy in our first year, conducting 28 home energy surveys using thermal imaging, and offering free advice about projects large and small that can help boost energy efficiency and lower costs. We also maintain a list of suppliers on our web page (link below) who have been used and recommended by local people – and if you have a contractor you like and trust, please do let us know.



We have organised a series of informative talks, available to all villagers in Freshford Village Hall, on home energy topics, with another one on insulation and retrofitting coming soon, and we send out regular tips and advice via the parish council mailing list. A highlight of last year was an Open Homes event,

where local householders who have “taken the plunge” in various energy saving ways, invited people to come have a nosey and ask questions – and we're planning more Open Homes for this year. We also have some of the case studies available to read on our web page.

Last but definitely not least, we have so far installed radiator foil behind 200 radiators across 30 local homes to reduce energy consumption, a fairly simple process that can make a really noticeable difference. We will continue to offer this at cost, thanks to a materials grant from our local parish councils. If you're interested in radiator foil, booking a free energy survey, being added to our mailing list or joining our group, we'd love to hear from you - [flhegroup@gmail.com](mailto:flhegroup@gmail.com) . You can check out our web page here: [FLHEG web page](#)

2022 was the year home energy zoomed to the top of the agenda for reasons we are all too familiar with, and it looks set to stay there in 2023 – so it's the ideal time to join together to make our homes cheaper, warmer, more sustainable and energy-efficient!



# An outstanding start to the year!

Freshford preschool have had the most wonderful start to this year by being able to share that in December, for our latest OFSTED inspection we were rated outstanding. We are all so proud and elated with this, and it is testament to the super children, staff team, committee and families support, enthusiasm and engagement. We continue each day to ensure we offer meaningful, exciting, fun activities for the children, following their current fascinations. This has meant we have enjoyed exploring the environment, investigating trees and linking this to stories and yoga moves! We were able to celebrate Christmas festivities with an audience, filling the village hall for our Nativity which ended a magical term full of excitement for the children – a highlight being a special visit from Santa!

Our weekly sporty sessions have focused on balancing, hopping, jumping and ball skills, which have been practised in our hall or on the field. With the colder weather after such a lot of rain, this enabled us to explore the water cycle and become scientists making our own rain clouds. We bake weekly and these have included savoury and sweet treats, such as traffic light muffins when promoting road safety week, flapjacks, mince pies and many more!

During road safety week we had a great visit from the Mayor of the West of England – you may have spotted us on the front page of the Bath Chronicle! The police then came to see us and were very impressed with our traffic light song the children asked to share with them. The preschoolers showed such confidence to speak and sing to them, asking them questions and trying out some of the equipment they brought.

Looking forward to the next few months we have an outing to the Bath Abbey planned, so will be taking a journey on the train which is always great fun. We have our regular yoga session with our instructor planned, as well as lovely music sessions. With the renovations in the hall, we are able to use a projector and have another presentation planned all about creatures. The creepy crawly talk given recently was so interesting, so this is set to be super. As well as these planned activities, we will also be taking into consideration the children's interests and using these to plan and provide provocations that extend and enhance the children's learning and development, incorporating all areas of the curriculum.



### **Limpley Stoke and Freshford Link**

**07714169216**

Now that Link is fully operational after the Covid lockdowns, it seems timely to give some reminders of its function to those who already know of its existence, and some information of what it is and does to anyone who doesn't know.

#### What is It?

Limpley Stoke and Freshford Link was set up in 1989 in Limpley Stoke, and later extended to Freshford, to help people make journeys to destinations outside the reach of public transport. Common destinations are hospitals, surgeries, shops and supermarkets, but Link also provides a service for a wide range of social or personal needs. If in any doubt, ring and ask.

Link functions, therefore, as a resource for those of us who are experiencing a problem with transport which cannot be easily resolved in any other way.

The scheme is run by members of a committee drawn from both villages and further details may be found on each village website.

#### Funding

Link is a voluntary organisation, and all its drivers are volunteers using their own cars. Drivers receive expenses to cover the cost of petrol. The other principal expenses are insurance and the cost of the mobile phone. To pay for the cost of covering these expenses we ask for donations from users. Drivers carry special envelopes stamped with Link for donations which can either be returned to the driver or handed in to the Galleries shop. Donations are welcome – Link cannot run without them – but they are not obligatory.

#### How to Use the Link

Phone one of the Link co-ordinators on 07714169216. Leave a message and a phone number if you get a recorded reply. Give details of name, date, time and destination, and the co-ordinator will make every effort to get a driver for you and ring you back. Please give two days' notice.

#### New Drivers

Link provides an essential device for those in need of a lift. The more drivers we can call upon, the more likely we are to find one when needed, and the less likely to make demands on those already volunteering. Drivers are unlikely to be called upon more than twice a month.

If you can find a little time to volunteer, please do so. Link provides an invaluable service to those who need transport, and there is no obligation to make yourself available if it is not convenient for you.

# “That was the best thing ever!”

When parents and leaders hear that joyful cry at the end of a session, we know our children have experienced some scouting magic!

We choose activities that help beavers, cubs and scouts enjoy new experiences, challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zone, learn new skills and develop character to equip them throughout their life. We are extremely fortunate to have fantastic volunteers who run the group and deliver sessions. They are rewarded each week with the appreciation of our super-enthusiastic youngsters.

The Beavers have enjoyed detecting bats, navigating themselves on a walk, practising first aid, singing to their families, and trying out yoga and mindfulness. A visit by two police officers gave them interesting insights and the fun of having their fingerprints taken. The Cubs are working towards their Silver Award, the highest badge they can achieve. They have enjoyed honing their navigation skills, making their own film, cooking and games nights.

The Scouts undertook a night walk from Freshford to Bathampton during the coldest snap of the winter! After braving the walk in temperatures well below zero, they camped in a scout hall and cooked their own breakfast in the morning. They have also prepared a meal using surprise ingredients in unmarked tins!

With warmer and longer days coming, we have exciting plans for making the most of our lovely surroundings. The highlight of these will be opportunities to camp and put to use some of the practical skills learnt over the year. We wish to offer something each week that feels like “the best thing ever!” Please step forward if you can help. We desperately need more leaders and helpers, particularly females. And we would love to hear from you if you can teach a new skill, or provide insights into the interesting work you do or hobby you have.

Beavers and Cubs meet on Thursday evenings. Scouts meet on Fridays. To find out more or volunteer, please contact Sam Lascelles: [sam.lascelles@gmail.com](mailto:sam.lascelles@gmail.com)



scouts completing a night walk in sub-zero temperatures



Beavers practising yoga and mindfulness



Cubs enjoying a feast they cooked themselves

# Pipehouse goes Fibre

Openreach has installed a dedicated fibre internet cable from Bath to Pipehouse.

Pipehouse and Marchant's Lane residents can now access internet speeds of up to 1Gb/s, dependent upon how much they are willing to pay.

The story of how this happened is one of community co-operation, a good deal of hard work, persistence and in the end, a bit of luck. You may recall that in late Spring 2020, after the first Covid lockdown, Truespeed salespeople were actively promoting sign-ups to Truespeed fibre connections in Freshford. There was some support for this in Pipehouse, where internet speeds were slow - Pipehouse is a long way from the fibre cabinet by Freshford school. But the support was less in the centre of Freshford, where speeds were much higher. So Truespeed never achieved the threshold of commitments they needed to proceed in Freshford and consequently moved elsewhere. Slowly the Pipehouse folk grew restless!

The instead made an approach to Openreach who were offering a 'Community Fibre Partnership' in which the costs of full fibre installation were shared between Openreach and the residents. And in September 2021, Openreach provided a price for connecting 23 homes in Pipehouse and Marchant's Lane to full fibre internet. After a little negotiation, the residents came to an agreement to fund their share. The wheels then turned.

So far so good! The more difficult challenge to be overcome was for Pipehouse to obtain government funding to offset these costs. The Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme is a government scheme designed specifically to promote fibre connections in rural areas. After their surprise and disappointment in finding themselves ineligible for Gigabit Vouchers, Pipehouse residents made lengthy and repeated representations to their MP Mr Jacob Rees-Mogg. He, in turn, made representations to the Department of Digital, Media, Culture and Sport. The vouchers were finally secured at the last minute following a change in government funding approach in our area. The Pipehouse installations consequently became free of charge to its residents.

Pipehouse residents report that the monthly cost for their new fibre service with improved speed and connectivity is generally on a par, if not slightly less, than the cost of the previous slower broadband service.

A story with a happy ending!

# FRESHFORD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



## PROGRAMME FOR 2023

Meetings are held in the Freshford Memorial Hall

The hall is open from 7.00 pm and meetings begin at 7.30 pm.

Membership fee £10 per person.

- 11 January **FUCHSIAS MY WAY**  
Derek Dexter, British Fuchsia Society
- 1 February **GARDEN VISITING: A VERY BRITISH OCCUPATION**  
Margie Hoffnung, Conservation Officer, The Gardens Trust
- 1 March **AGM**
- 5 April **GARDENING WITH HARDY PERENNIALS**  
Paul Green, Greens Leaves Nursery, Newent
- 3 May **READY STEADY GO FOR SUMMER, TOPICAL TIPS ON ALL THINGS GARDENING**  
John Tucker, retired Judge of Bath in Bloom
- May **PLANT SALE**
- 6 June 2.30pm **OUTING TO COLEFORD HOUSE, COLEFORD,**  
Nr. RADSTOCK BA3 5LU £10.00 inc. refreshments
- 21 June 2.30pm **OUTING TO CORTINGTON MANOR,**  
Nr. WARMINSTER BA12 0SY £10.00 inc. refreshments
- 2/9 September **ANNUAL SHOW**
- 4 October **A CONSIDERED APPROACH TO MANAGING GARDEN PESTS AND DISEASES**  
Nick Morgan, retired from RHS Wisley
- 1 November **DEVELOPING BLACK SHED**  
Paul Stickland, Black Shed
- 6 December **THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME**  
A presentation by Dave Moon, long term NGS exhibitor
- 2024
- 10 January **CORNISH SEASCAPE GARDENS**  
Richard Harvey, professional photographer.

Meetings are held in Freshford Village Memorial Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month.  
Easy parking at the hall which opens at 7.00 pm. Meetings begin at 7.30 pm.  
Annual Membership is £10.00. Visitors £3.00 a talk.

## TALKS IN 2022/2023

2022

28 September **CANCELLED**

26 October Vernacular Architecture in Wiltshire  
Dorothy Treasure, Principal Buildings Historian,  
Wiltshire Buildings Record.

23 November Bath v Lyme: Architecture in the time of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*  
Dr. Amy Frost, Senior Curator, Bath Preservation Trust.

There is no meeting in December.

2023

25 January Ancliff Square  
Trevor Turpin, Author.

22 February A History of Iford's Families and their Influences on their  
Surroundings. Marianne Cartwright-Hignett, Co-owner of Iford Manor

22 March Joseph Glanvill, Rector of Bath Abbey  
and Witch Finder of the West Country  
Tony McAleavy, Author and Local Historian.

26 April St Mary's Church and St Edith's Pilgrimage Walk  
*(We will be meeting in the Church, BA2 7GH, not in the Village Hall)*  
David Sibley, Retired Director of Music, Monkton Prep School and  
local organist.

24 May AGM & Alan Dodge Memorial Lecture  
An Extraordinary Life: The Revd. Francis Pocock 1829-1919  
Founder of Monkton Combe School  
Jacqueline Burrows, Archivist, Monkton Combe School.

June Visit to Hinton Priory, guided by Dr Margaret Dodge  
(details to follow)

## **Freshford & District Horticultural Society**

Freshford & District Horticultural Society meets in Freshford Village Memorial Hall at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start on the first Wednesday of the month, January-May and October-December, with an hour's talk from visiting gardening experts, plus a Plant Sale in May, two summer outings to local gardens and an Annual Flower Show in the Autumn. Annual membership costs £10.00, visitors are charged £3.00. I'm attaching our programme for 2023. These talks are for everyone, not just gardening experts! Details of the talks can be found on Freshford Village Website.

The Freshford & District Local History also meets in the Memorial Hall at the same time on the fourth Wednesday of the month, following the academic year, from September-November and January-May. Our talks focus mostly on historical events and aspects of this area. If you have recently come to live here, it's a good way of finding out about the way people lived and how they came to shape our villages, towns and countryside. Annual membership costs £10.00, visitors £3.00. Everyone is welcome. I'm attaching our programme for 2022-23. Details of the talks can be found on Freshford Village Website. With best wishes and thanks  
Penny Jones.

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## **Climbing frame appeal – Please support us!**

Children and families at Freshford Church School will be taking part in a sponsored walk on Sunday 14 May. The circular walk to Iford and back will raise money for a new climbing frame and trim trail – much needed equipment for having fun and incorporating physical activity in the children's daily lives. The walk will start and end at the school where finishers, and supporters, will enjoy well-deserved wood-fired pizzas, ice creams and drinks. We would love to invite you to sponsor a child or make a donation if you are able. Our school is at the heart of our community, with so many of us having connections there, both past and present. We want to make sure its outdoor equipment will support the children's enjoyment and development for years to come.

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## FRESHFORD SCHOOL/ BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

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Our target is £5000. This will buy a replacement climbing frame. If we can raise £8000, we will install a trim trail, climbing wall and rubber flooring.

Please cheer on the children if you see them during the walk and join them for refreshments in the playground during the afternoon at the end from 3pm onwards.

If you have questions or would like to make a donation, please contact:

Gemma Hardy Tel: 07768 773937 Email: [gemma.hardy@aspireleadership.co.uk](mailto:gemma.hardy@aspireleadership.co.uk)

# Coronation Bank Holiday Weekend 6-8 May.

Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at 'Coronation Big Lunches' on Sunday 7th May 2023, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship.

To arrange a Big Lunch in Freshford, a small working group has been established. Having managed to book the Memorial Hall, the DIY Picnic Lunch will be held on the Playing Field, with the Hall available in case of inclement weather. Please mark Sunday 7th May in your diary and more information will be forthcoming as plans develop.

Keep an eye on Parish Council Community emails for updates!

The Coronation Big Help Out – a suggestion

We are also aware that the Monday national event (The Big Help Out) is planned and one proposal is for a 'Village Garage Sale' where residents would be invited to place, outside their property, serviceable pre-used items no longer required (e.g. pots and pans, garden and other tools, sports gear, toys etc) for anyone to purchase (or just take away!) Participants would also be invited to make a donation, which would go to a charity (not yet selected).

### **Do you wish to advertise in this space?**

We are a bi-annual magazine reaching approximately 400+ households in Freshford and neighbouring households.

If you wish to advertise in the next edition, please contact  
[nicola.j.smith@hotmail.com](mailto:nicola.j.smith@hotmail.com)





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# Olio Restaurant & Terrace

Alfresco dining at Olio, re-launching in May

In this mag you'll find an exclusive locals discount 🐼

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