

The Freshford Newsletter

Autumn 2023



An Introduction

Hello everyone, welcome to the latest edition of the Freshford Newsletter! Inside you will find an exciting update on St Peter's Church and an article on the continuing, and so far disappointing, situation with the 94 bus. Dates of talks are included in the Newsletter, with details of fascinating guest presentations from both the History and the Horticultural societies. There are many events to look forward to as well – the Big Band Night and Limpley Stoke's Pop-up Art Gallery to name just two. Details of local talks and events can also be found on the Freshford community website:

www.freshford.org.uk

Please see page 34 for details of how to get in touch if you would like to be involved in the next edition of the Newsletter, and how to sign up to for updates via the community email. It has been a pleasure working with everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter and helped to bring it back. I am looking forward to continuing to edit the Newsletter. On behalf of John Putt and myself, thank you to everyone who has made it happen.

Jessie M Forbes



AUTUMN/WINTER AT IFORD MANOR

CAFÉ ; RESTAURANT ; WORKSHOPS SUPPER CLUBS ; PRIVATE DINING

WINTER OPENING TIMES

CAFÉ: 10AM—3:30PM, THU—SUN

LUNCH: 12PM—2:30PM, THU—SUN

JAZZ PIANIST ON SATURDAYS.

SUPPER CLUBS EVERY OTHER
FRIDAY, BOOKABLE ON THE WEBSITE

SEASONAL WINTER MENUS IN BOTH
CAFÉ & RESTAURANT.

WINTER WORKSHOPS

22 NOV: HOW TO MAKE & BAKE
SOURDOUGH

24 JAN: FUN WITH
FERMENTATION

21 FEB: HOW TO MAKE & BAKE
SOURDOUGH

20 MAR: ADVANCED SOURDOUGH
(‘ART OF LAMINATION’)

The perfect stopping-off point on a walk through the Iford valley, this winter the Iford Manor Café & Kitchen team are looking forward to welcoming you four days a week, from Thursday to Sunday.

Dog-friendly as ever, you can reserve your lunch table at ifordmanor.co.uk

The restaurant will offer a seasonal menu for leisurely lunches (jazz on Saturdays); the café will offer a new, extended lunch menu for quicker stop-offs including a seasonal lasagna, daily pizza, sandwiches and salads, along with freshly made cakes and of course our legendary pastries to accompany your locally-roasted coffee.

Keep your eye on local notice boards for our new ‘pizza nights for locals’, which will take place once a month to bring the local community together around fabulous hand-stretched sourdough pizzas. Supper clubs continue on Fridays, with some Advent and Christmas dates in there too.

The new workshops are a great way to try something new, and this winter our ever-inventive Head Chef, Matt Briddon, will focus on sourdoughs and ferments which are particular passions of his. A perfect Christmas gift for the loved-one that has everything, perhaps? Or just treat yourself.

In whatever capacity, see you soon!

(It’s all on the website:)

www.ifordmanor.co.uk

Update on St Peter's Church

We are delighted that St Peter's is now fully functioning in the way that we'd hoped. We have had a series of weddings and funerals over the Summer months, as well as two services for the children of Freshford School.

At one of the school services, we had a professional dancer, Synaet, from Cambodia. She performed an amazing dance based on the creation story in the book of Genesis. Both children and adults were spellbound, and it could only happen with our new flexible space!

It has been heartwarming to see those with limited mobility as well as those with children in buggies, able to access the church easily and then, once inside, finding it easy to move about freely.

A quick glance through the visitors book is a strong indication of how many people call in when they're passing. Different nationalities and creeds, walkers and local people who just want somewhere quiet to think, pray or simply visit.

We are now looking forward to making it available for wider use by the community. As many of you already know, we are completely self-funding and rely on the giving of church members as well as the generosity of others to keep it all going, in addition to a wonderful group of volunteers who help to keep it clean, decorated with flowers and open each day.

All these things work on a rota basis, so it really is a case of the more the merrier. We are hoping to set up a rota soon to keep the clock ticking and chiming....please let us know if you would be able to help with any of these things, even if only rarely. No special skills required, and it honestly makes all the difference!

THE CHURCH

Martin Walker, our dear friend and church surveyor, who sadly died recently, will be greatly missed by us all. He worked tirelessly for our church over many years, including carrying out our required building inspections at no charge.



More recently, he was heavily involved with our steering group in coordinating its refurbishment. Without his professional expertise, it would certainly have been much harder to achieve its transformation. Whilst he worked on many different projects around Freshford, he regarded St Peter's Church as the most important building in the village, steeped in history and an oasis of calm for many. A special place.

We have a group known as the Friends of St Peter's Church, and Martin was one of its founder members. Its aim is to support the fabric of this historic building and, through various fundraising activities and membership subscriptions, it has assisted with repair work, etc. Its membership comprises a wide range of people who may have no connection with the church other than its value as a unique and special building in our village. The group has been dormant for a while, partly due to covid, but also during the restoration work, and we would now like to rejuvenate it in Martin's memory. He believed that we now have a building fit for the 21st century, and we really want to build on the recent achievements.

Look out for more news on this in the coming months!

Freshford & District *Local History Society*



We were very lucky to finish last year's LHS events with over 30 members enjoying a guided tour of Hinton Priory by Margaret Dodge, a very popular trip out. Our new F&D LHS programme started on 27th Sept. Those attending were entertained by a talk on 'Bath and its local government in 1800' by Rose Wallis, a Senior Lecturer from the University of the West of England. At the end of the 18th Century the local Magistrates or Justices of the Peace were responsible for both criminal judicial proceedings and local Government administration, including such social security as existed. They were unpaid and untrained, their authority based as much on their social status as gentlemen as on their office. With a rising population, war and political agitation, economic depression, increasing poverty and crime and, believe it or not in this locality, growing tourism, the Magistracy faced unprecedented challenges. Though much has changed in the intervening years, surprisingly much remains the same.

Freshford & District *Local History Society*

Meetings are held in Freshford Village Memorial Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month and last about an hour. The Hall is open from 7.00pm and meetings begin at 7.30pm. Annual Membership is £10 and due at the September meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend talks, at £3 a talk.

Autumn Talks 2023

25th October AN INTRODUCTION TO WILTSHIRE GATE LODGES
James Holden, Author and local historian

22nd November ALL THE QUEEN'S JEWELS 1445-1548: POWER,
MAJESTY AND DISPLAY
Nicola Tallis, Historical Author

There is no meeting in December.

Everyone is welcome to come. If you'd like to come but can't get transport, please let Penny know on 723447 or email jonespenny@gmail.com and we'll do our best to find you a lift.



Freshford & District *Horticultural Society*

Over the Summer we enjoyed two outings in June to nearby gardens. The first was to Coleford House where we were met by the charming owner, James Alexandroff who led 33 of us round his large garden, entertaining us with anecdotes which included buying up some surrounding cottages and showing us his considerable collection of classic cars which form part of the assets of his philanthropic business in Africa. He served us with a delicious tea on his own as his wife had chosen to be out for the day. The second visit was to Cortington Manor, just outside Warminster: nearly everyone got lost en route but eventually 28 of us enjoyed seeing round this exceptional garden where, again, we were greeted by the owner with a brief introduction and later treated to tea outside.



Our Annual Flower Show recommenced on 2 September after lapsing last year due to the prolonged drought. We were thrilled that over 40 people decided to enter one or more of the classes, some for the first time and were touched by the many kind and positive comments received afterwards. Talks recommence on 4th October with "A Considered Approach to Managing Garden Pests and Diseases" which will be given by Nick Morgan, a retired RHS official with 23 years' experience behind him and a Master of Horticulture award. Please give this Society a try - our aim for both this and the Local History Society is to entertain you as well as provide useful information on getting the best out of your garden and an insight into what makes us the society we are today.

Freshford & District *Horticultural Society*

Meetings are held in the Freshford Memorial Hall
The Hall is open from 7.00pm and meetings begin at 7.30pm. Annual Membership is £10 and due at the September meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend talks, at £3 a talk.

Autumn Talks 2023

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

Followed by a social time with mulled wine and refreshments

2024;

10 January CORNISH SEASCAPE GARDENS

Richard Harvey, professional photographer.



BAND NIGHT

Big Band Night: 24 Nov 2023

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Due to popular demand, we have invited the Park Lane Big Band to pay a return visit to Freshford. Come and join us for a wonderful night of music at Freshford Village Memorial Hall on Friday 24th November. 7.00 for 7.30pm. Tickets: £15.

Entry is by ticket only bought in advance.

Get your tickets by either completing the webform on the 'Get involved' page of our website www.friendsoffreshford.org/get-involved, send us an email

friendsoffreshford@gmail.com, or call John Ager 01225 722374 letting us know how many tickets you'd like, and we'll send you details of how to pay.

Please BYO food, drinks, plates, cutlery and glasses. And remember to bring cash on the night as there will be a raffle with great local prizes!



Are you looking for a skilled, professional local decorator?

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- *Polished plaster*
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Contact details:

01225 722289

07547 590775

rupertkirby@ymail.com



Why Did The Hedgehog Cross The Road?

We invite you to come and hear Hugh Warwick talk about one of our nations favourite animals, the hedgehog, in an illustrated talk to be held on...

Monday 16th October 7.00pm - 8.30pm

at...

Freshford Memorial Hall

Free entrance

Children welcome

Licensed bar

Tickets can be pre booked on Eventbrite

Donations will be gratefully received



Friends Of Freshford

Biodiversity projects on the Tynning Having spent the past two years planting 18 bollard trees, 3 heritage trees, 3 coppice trees, 30 metres of native hedge, an orchard of 12 fruit trees as well as thousands of seeds and bulbs, 2023 has been a year of plant maintenance and TLC.

Luckily, we've not experienced a drought this year, in fact quite the reverse, so watering hasn't been a problem, and we are pleased to report that most of our planting has done very well. The new native hedge is a good example. Despite the small size of the whips from the Woodland Trust, the majority have survived, and any infilling will be undertaken in early Spring 2024.

We were thrilled to see cowslips and pyramid orchids on the Tynning earlier in the year, and the young rowan and crab apples trees have produced their first crop of berries and apples, all of which indicate that our strategies to increase biodiversity on the Tynning are working well.

We'd like to thank those of you who sponsored a bollard tree or an orchard tree. We will be acknowledging the sponsors and identifying tree species on sustainable wooden labels which will be put in place in the autumn.

In the autumn we'll also be arranging further seed sowing and bulb planting days, and in Spring 2024 we'll be inviting a fruit specialist to visit the orchard and give us tips about how to prune to increase fruit yield. Please keep an eye on the website for dates and times of these events
www.friendsoffreshford.org.

The future...

We are looking for people who are passionate about our village and its natural environment to join the committee and help us to implement our continuing biodiversity programme and our work enhancing the character, amenities, and rural environment of Freshford.

FRIENDS OF FRESHFORD/ FLISCA

We'd like to invite anyone interested in becoming a committee member to come to a meeting to see what we're about. Let us know by completing the webform on the 'Get involved' page of our website www.friendsoffreshford.org/get-involved, send us an email friendsoffreshford@gmail.com, or contact Richard Blamey 01225 720048.

Finally, we'd like to thank our members and the community for your backing. Without your help we wouldn't have been able to support community projects and activities over the past few years.

Richard Blamey (Chair) and the Friends of Freshford Committee
www.friendsoffreshford.org friendsoffreshford@gmail.com

FLISCA News

Freshford & Limpley Stoke Community Association (FLISCA) is the community charity which uses the rent and profits from the Galleries Shop & Café to pay out grants to community groups and organisations.

It has been a busy year for FLISCA with the opening of the £75k café extension and the investment of a further £25k on the new solar panels. This source of solar energy, together with the support of Freshford and Limpley Stoke Energy Community Shares Limited (FLECS) has been critical in helping protect the Galleries Shop and Café against the post-Ukraine fluctuating world energy prices.

In the past year and in addition to supporting a resident in need, FLISCA has awarded grants to support the Freshford & Limpley Stoke Home Energy Group (FLHEG),

buy the new flags fluttering outside Freshford Village Memorial Hall, build the raised beds in front of Galleries, equip the new kitchen in St Peter's Church and help fund Freshford School's new playground equipment. Since inception, FLISCA has awarded grant of almost £80,000 and the upturn in the Galleries Shop & Café's business will allow us to award more grants in 2024. If you would like to apply for a FLISCA grant, please contact Liz Eyles at lizeyles@hotmail.co.uk. To find out more please come along to our AGM which is taking place in the Freshford Village Memorial Hall on Wed 29th November at 7pm.

Nature Chain

We have been putting a focus on hedgehogs this year and can report at least a few sightings around Freshford and Limpley Stoke which is encouraging - at least we have a local population to nurture and increase. Please go to our website (below) to see our articles on how to help them. Ahead of the Autumn and Winter, we have also purchased a few hedgehog boxes to put into communal areas to provide places for hedgehogs to hibernate and hope to arrange a talk from an expert to tell us how we can help hedgehogs further.



Talking of boxes, we have also installed a little owl box and barn owl box locally and are keeping fingers crossed that they will be used next year. Thanks to several people on the team and also to FLiSCA and Alan Duck for help in various ways.

We started the season in March with a talk on moths in our gardens by Freshford resident Robert Kelsh. Robert treated us to a very entertaining talk and opened our eyes to just how many types of moths we have in Freshford and Limpley Stoke - he has caught well over a hundred different species in a single night!

Nature Chain

In the same month, we also kicked off a feasibility study by Young wilders consultancy. The group has been concentrating on hedgehogs recently and has some camera traps which can be borrowed and set up in your garden.

Four hedgehog boxes have been made and placed at various sites around the villages. An article on hedgehogs will be on Nature Chain's October newsletter. Other talks and films are planned.

Maintaining and planting wildflower seeds around the villages is ongoing, as are building links with other villages, such as Winsley, Westwood, Wellow and also the school.

Come May, the Freshford Beavers did a grand job helping plant wild flowers in the Limpley Stoke Park and it was then the turn of bees in June with the showing of the film 'My Garden of a Thousand Bees' - a wonderful exploration of bees in the Bristol garden of film maker Martin Dorhn in his own garden during lockdown. This was so well received that we hope to show it again in the coming months.

Also in June was the Village Fete and we had a stall with quizzes and kit to make your own bird feeder - people seemed to have fun and hopefully we all learned something! And, meanwhile, the beautiful and insect-friendly flower patches by team members Paul Jupp and Loulou Brouard at both the entrance to the Freshford Hall and Galleries, and at the entrance to Midford Lane, continue to delight.

As well as events mentioned above for the future, we also hope to have talks on beavers and sustainable rivers, as well as a bat walk, so we hope to see you there!

For more information and to subscribe to our emails or Instagram, please visit www.naturechain.co.uk



HOMWOOD

HOTEL | KITCHEN | SPA

PLUNGE INTO SERENITY

and become a spa member at Homewood

homewoodbath.co.uk | reservations@homewoodbath.co.uk

01225 580 439 | [@homewoodbath](https://www.instagram.com/homewoodbath)

Limpley Stoke Pop-up Gallery

Visit our Open House to browse an inspiring collection of original paintings & limited edition prints, in a relaxed home setting.

*Sat 18th – Sun 19th November
10:00am – 4:30pm*

1 Cliffe Drive, Limpley Stoke BA2 7FY

**MODERN
ARTBUYER.**

modernartbuyer.com



Limpley Stoke Pop-up Art Gallery

Online gallery and art consultancy, Modern ArtBuyer, run by Jessica Lloyd-Smith will be hosting its annual Open House pop-up in Limpley Stoke over the weekend of 18th - 19th November. As always, the Open House will feature a carefully curated collection of original paintings and affordable limited edition prints in a relaxed home setting. Whether you're on the hunt for the perfect gift or after some art inspiration for your own collection, please pop in and enjoy a coffee or a glass of prosecco with us. We hope to see you then!

Where: 1 Cliffe Drive, Limpley Stoke, Bath BA2 7FY

When: Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th November, 10:00am – 4:30pm

Save the Hop Pole

Campaign update

Phase 1 of the project to secure the exterior shell of the building (roof, walls and windows) is almost complete and is on-budget. Along the way we have uncovered some fascinating facts about this 16th century building (to learn more please sign up to one of our Hard Hat Tours) and, thanks to the experienced professionals working for us and our army of skilled volunteers we have an exciting plan to sensitively refurbish the interior to ensure the Hop Pole will, once again, be a sustainable and vibrant village pub and hub.



To achieve this we are about to announce a second share issue to raise the £300k to complete this project. If we fail, we will be forced to abandon this project but if we succeed the Hop Pole can remain at the heart of our community for another 500 years. It's crunch time but we are confident that, with your support, we will be able to reopen the Hop Pole in the summer of 2024.

To learn more, please come along to the Hop Pole AGM on Wednesday, October 18 at Freshford Village Hall at 7pm. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be provided. Please help spread the word and we hope to see you there!

Save the Hop Pole

Campaign update

Inspiring craftsmen on board James Crossman of Iron Age Forge and John Yeo, glass conservator, are teaming up to bring their craft skills to bear on the Hop Pole windows. They are generously giving their time and expertise to fabricate new windows to closely emulate those that would have once been present.



In addition, the repair works team learnt that the pub is built of stone set in Earth mortar, and were totally astonished to discover that the ground of the pub is the main source of this mortar. With help from Pete Walker of University of Bath and Sam Clayson of SSHC, the team along with our brilliant volunteers went digging in the Hop Pole garden and surrounding areas to find the material to match the existing mortar, which will now be used to consolidate and repair the walls. A wonderful, traditional process that continues to add to our inspiring journey.

Opportunities to join our busy team

As part of the Limpley Stoke Community Benefit Society's second birthday celebrations we are looking for one or two new members to join the board. It's a rewarding project and we are a fun gang to work with! If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Simon Coombe on 07966 027637 or simonhjcoombe@hotmail.com.

Freshford United F.C.

NEED YOU!



This year we're pleased to have a team in nearly every age group from Under 5s to Under 15s (apart from Under 12s), as well as our adult team.

All teams are looking for more players of all ages, abilities, boys and girls. We can offer a free tester session for two weeks to see how your child gets on before you have to commit to anything. We are always looking for coaches, helpers, supporters and committee members to cover a wide range of roles, of which some would only require an hour of your time a month at the most, so please contact Chris on the number below if you would like to get involved.

At Browns Park in Freshford we have our Under 5s, 6s, 7s, 8s, 13s, 14s and Adults. At Rode Playing Fields we have our Under 9s, 10s and 11s and at Westwood we have our Under 15s playing and training each week. If your child is looking to get into football or would like to come along and watch then please get in touch and come and test it out.

The Club is after some rubble, but mainly any soil, for our pitches in Freshford. If you have a building project happening soon and want to save the cost of skip hire, we would be happy to accept these. If you want to discuss this more, please speak to Chris on the number below.

As always, we welcome any support from the village and if you want to keep up to date with what is happening information is always available on our website www.freshfordunitedfc.com
Chris Birleson Club Manager 07738 741477 cb@dentons.net

Link

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. If possible, 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 seldom asked to make more than one journey 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.



Your Community Oil Buying Scheme – buying oil together, to pay lower prices.

If you rely on oil for your heating and hot water, then you may have considered joining a syndicate buying group...but did you know you have your own, local, well-established group, buying throughout BaNES, North Somerset, South Gloucester and Bristol?

The West of England Rural Network is a local charity promoting rural sustainability. Already well recognised in the community as the organisation from which the Village Agents operate, they have additionally, over the last 10 years, been successfully operating a syndicate oil buying scheme, aimed at reducing rural fuel poverty. By placing a single, large order once a month and negotiating with multiple national suppliers to get the best price, members may on average pay 6 pence per litre less than the average high street oil price.

Thanks to a grant awarded by Quartet Community Foundation, annual membership (*normally £20/year for domestic users) is free for domestic heating oil users aged 70 and over. The scheme is open to all residents, community buildings (£30/year) and businesses (£100/year) within Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

If you're interested in joining or learning more about the Community Oil Buying Scheme, give Kaz a call, on Tel: 01275 333701, email: karen@wern.org.uk or visit WERN's website <http://www.wern.org.uk/community-oil-buying-scheme/>

THE INN
AT
FRESHFORD

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THE INN AT FRESHFORD, THE HILL, FRESHFORD, BATH, BA27WG

The 94 Bus update

The Parish Council is disappointed that, since the last community email in June, there is relatively little more to report on the long-term future of the 94 bus service. The only information that we've received about the future of the bus is from Unitary Cllr Johnny Kidney, who represents affected parishes in Wiltshire. He's advised that Wiltshire Council will continue to fully fund the 94 service until at least Christmas.



The Bathavon Ward Councillor Fiona Gourley has reported back to the Parish Council on meetings she has had with the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Transport, B&NES' Deputy Leader with responsibility for Sustainable Travel, and bus officers. A cross-party letter has been sent to the Government's Minister for Buses and to the West of England Combined Authority. At a meeting with WECA's Metro-Mayor, Ward Cllr Gourley suggested that, of the bus services under threat, the No. 94 bus was more financially viable because of its cross-county funding model.

A cross-party petition is being organised for presentation to the WECA Board meeting on 6 October 2023, subject to obtaining enough signatures. We'll let residents have details when this is launched. In the meantime residents can show their support for the 94 bus by using it! Like all buses, fares are currently £2 for adults and £1 for children. The 94 operates from Monday – Friday, on an approximately 2 hour service. Could residents let visitors know about the bus should they want to visit Bath, it drops off passengers on Grand Parade in the heart of the city. See timetable and route.

Mondays to Fridays only (except Public Holidays)

	▲					
Trowbridge, Manvers Street	---	0900	1108	1308	1513	---
Trowbridge, Trinity Church	---	0902	1110	1310	1515	---
Southwick, Church	---	0909	---	---	---	---
Wingfield, The Poplars	0715	0913	---	---	---	---
Wingfield Cross Rds, Trowbridge Rd	---	---	1114	1314	1519	---
Westwood, New Inn	0720	0918	1118	1318	1523	---
Westwood, Turning Circle	0723	0923	1123	1323	1528	1705
Staples Hill	0728	0928	1128	1328	1533	1709
Freshford, School	0730	0930	1130	1330	1535	1713
Freshford, Park Corner	0732	0932	1132	1332	1537	1715
Midford Lane (A36)	0735	0935	1135	1335	1540	1718
Limpley Stoke, St Marys Church	0737	0937	1137	1337	1542	V
Limpley Stoke, Post Office	0740	0940	1140	1340	1545	V
Monkton Combe, Church	0750	0945	1145	1345	1550	V
Claverton Down Rd (for University)	0757	0952	1152	1352	1557	V
Bath, Grand Parade	0809	1000	1200	1400	1605	1732
					▲	
Bath, Grand Parade	0810	1008	1208	1408	1610d	1745
Bath, Guildhall	0811	1010	1210	1410	1612d	1747
Claverton Down Rd (for University)	V	1017	1217	1417	1623	1755
Monkton Combe Church	V	1024	1224	1424	1635	1804
Limpley Stoke, Post Office	V	1031	1231	1431	1644	1811
Limpley Stoke, St Marys Church	V	1035	1235	1435	1650	1815
Midford Lane (A36)	0826	1036	1236	1436	1651	R
Freshford, Park Corner	0829	1039	1239	1439	1654	R
Freshford, Post Office	0831	1041	1241	1441	1656	R
Staples Hill	0833	1043	1243	1443	1658	R
Westwood, Turning Circle	0838	1049	1249	1449	1703	R
Westwood, New Inn	0841	1052	1252	1452	---	R
Wingfield Cross Rds, (Trowbridge Rd)	0845	1056	1256	R	---	R
Wingfield, The Poplars	---	---	---	R	---	R
Southwick, Post Office	---	---	---	R	---	R
Trowbridge, Trinity Church	0852	1100	1300	R	---	---
Trowbridge, Manvers Street	0857	1103	1303	1512	---	---

Sorry, no service on Saturdays, Sundays or on public holidays from 9th January 2017

Key: R - Calls at this point only if required by passengers on the bus
V - Runs direct via the A36
d - Departs Bath 5 mins later during school holidays
▲ - Also calls at King Edward School on Schooldays

The PreSchool

We become 'Freshford Preschool Forest School' this year, allowing us to head out every week for our dedicated Forest school sessions. The children had such fun storytelling in the forest, learning all about archery, abseiling, den building and creating masterpieces to take home with them. A visit from Explorer Dome, teaching us all about the environment, habitats and different climates broadened and enriched our knowledge too! We are all settling back into preschool after the summer holidays, and it has been so lovely getting to know our new cohort.



Reflecting on the summer term, there were so many highlights and adventures, making memories to treasure. At preschool, we strive to utilise the outdoor environment as much as possible, and so it is vital that the children are safe whilst out and about. We take part in Beep Beep Day twice a year, dedicating a week of preschool to road safety based activities, songs and role play. We enjoyed a variety of outings, including going to Bath City Farm, as well as Bradford-on-Avon on the train to the library which enabled us to put what we had learnt to the test!

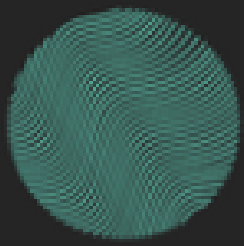
The PreSchool

To coincide with the changing of seasons, we will also be welcoming Wessex Water to the setting, which is always a fun morning! This will promote and encourage the children's natural curiosity around all things to do with water, which we can then further support through STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities, allowing problem solving and testing out ideas.

We understand the importance of early reading, and books play such a vital role in our day to day routine. We are using the book Dear Zoo as our Active Story making book, learning the signs, as well as playing around with the story, changing characters, wording and becoming storytellers ourselves!

We always welcome visitors to come and share their hobby's with us, and some highlights were meeting Mike the Beeman, and tasting some of his delicious honey, hearing all about marathons and triathlons from one of the parents, learning some Spanish as well as a dance, and learning all about what food we need to keep our bodies healthy. All of these experiences were weaved into our End of year Graduation, where we celebrated the super year we shared together, before many were set to transition to school, and some graduated to their preschool year. The triathlon talk inspired us to create our own sporty day triathlon, which was another event we shared with families towards the end of last term.

Looking forward to the next couple of months, we have some lovely events and activities planned for the children to create, explore and discover with. A current fascination for the children is animals and so with this in mind we have booked for Tropical Discoveries to come and visit us, with their different creatures and to learn more about them! Our yoga session will incorporate the changing of the seasons, and no doubt some animals will be a part of this!



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The Memorial Hall



As always the hall has been in almost constant use with the pre-school, numerous societies, sporting activities and private functions making up the bulk of the bookings. All this activity has taken a toll on the fabric of the building and so the Village Hall trustees have decided to commence the next phase of renovations, this time indoors. Funds have been raised from a wide range of donors, including the residents of the two villages.

The Memorial Hall

A breakdown below shows the amounts, the sources of the funds collected so far and the plans for how this will be used. The trustees would like to thank all donors and sponsors for their generosity. We have had a lot of problems with the floor in the main hall which seems to expand around this time of year and pop up. A number of trustees and friends of the hall have given many hours of their time to solving this problem which will allow us to keep the hall in use, a big thank you to those of you who stepped in, particularly Philip Haile who organised the teams.

Sadly we have lost two of our long(est) term trustees and friends in Nick Stevens and Martin Walker. Both gave freely of their time, wisdom and experience particularly for legal advice (Nick) and construction management (Martin) and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts as always are with the families.

2023 figures so far:

Unrestricted Grants & Donations

Pre-School	2,500
In memory of Nick Stevens	873
Horticultural Society	257
Freshford Parish Council	1,194
Total	4,824



Restricted Grants & Donations

Morrisons Foundation	7,000	Floor & Stage curtains
National Lottery Community Fund	7,000	Blinds & curtains
Tesco Community Grant	500	Redecoration
Community Appeal	6,256	Redecoration and new chairs
Total	20,756	

The next phase of upgrading the hall will include new chairs and a replanned green room for storage. After this we need to rebuild the roof over the entrance lobby and kitchen to improve the drainage and to enable us to add solar panels to reduce both our carbon footprint and our energy bills.

Your Village Agent

I thought it was time for another update from me about the work myself and other VA colleagues have been doing in the area over the past few busy weeks.

We started a project In March in the RUH with our partner AGE UK bringing the services of B&NES Wellbeing Hub to patients, visitors and staff so they have direct access to services, information and advice that supports people to live independently at home.

Following on from this work, we have become partners in a brilliant new project there that can help to streamline the discharge process for patients by improving access to a range of support B&NES residents can receive when they are discharged and go home, minimizing the risk of re admission. And, we also now have a presence in St Martins and Paulton hospitals too. My employer, The West of England Rural Network have for several years been successfully running a Community Oil Buying Scheme in the B&NES area. Its free to join for anyone who is 70 years or older and for anyone else there is a £20 membership fee. Typically members pay 6 or 7 pence per litre LESS than average high street prices saving a minimum of £120 per year. For more information call Karen on: 07825 202043 or email karen@wern.org.uk. We work in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy and last month I asked them to visit a resident I have been supporting in a local village to do a mini audit of how much they were paying monthly for their energy bill and do checks on other “utility” usage and expenses. They got their energy payments reduced by £45 a month, with a £131 rebate and their mobile phone cost down by £10 a month. That added up to an annual saving of £664 + £131 = £795! This resident lives in a one bedroom bungalow. That was a result! (What could the potential savings be in a larger home?) And with the help of Age UK we are supporting the resident in applying for Attendance Allowance which is likely to bring in another £272 per month, £3264 per annum....tax free and it's not Means tested....and we are supporting them to apply for a Blue Badge.

VILLAGE AGENT

Question, would you ever NOT claim your old age pension? Of course not, you are entitled to it and have paid your NI contributions for years! So why is it, other payments people could be entitled to aren't claimed? As a Village Agent I often come across residents who could but aren't claiming Attendance Allowance, or Carers Allowance, or Disability Living Allowance and Council Tax benefit. I am now finding more residents I come across in my villages are "asset rich but cash poor" and they aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to, indeed some people don't feel its right that they do. But some are struggling to make ends meet.

It's currently estimated £15bn goes unclaimed, up to 3.4 million pensioners are not claiming Attendance Allowance, 400,000 are not claiming Carers Allowance and many hundreds of thousands more aren't claiming other allowances and grants they are entitled to.

If you want to find out more for yourself or someone you know, please get in touch. If you, or someone you know needs information or support to remain living independently at home, please get in touch. Everything I do is confidential and free and often it's just a phone call that's needed, tel: 01275 333700 or email chantal@wern.org.uk.

Registered chiropodist/ podiatrist



Diana Monk

Home visits please telephone
01458851255 for an appointment

Parish Council Update

May 2023 saw local elections being held across B&NES. In Freshford, as in many other local parishes, there weren't enough candidates to require an election of parish councillors.

We said a fond farewell to those councillors who stood down:- Jean Hawker, Annabel Batchelor-Wylam and Ben Walters. Jean was a long-serving councillor who worked for the community over many years. Annabel had done a great job liaising with Freshford School & as part of the Cemetery Advisory Group, and Ben had brought useful experience and knowledge on planning matters and the environment to the Council.

Since then we've been joined by Jessie Forbes and Jennifer Clamp – a warm welcome to both new councillors and we look forward to them getting involved in local matters.

We currently have seven councillors, with two vacant positions. We're really keen to fill these posts. With more people, your Parish Council can achieve more things! We're looking for community-minded people with a variety of different skills, interests and experience. Please consider if there's something you can bring to the Parish Council to help your local community thrive.

The Parish Council meets at 7pm on the second Monday of the month in the Memorial Hall (no meeting in August), so please come along and see what we're about, or get in touch to find out more via:

parish.council@freshfordvillage.com

Here are some of the activities that the Parish Council has been involved with since the last edition of the Newsletter:

- **Street Lighting** – Following consultation with residents, we're obtaining quotes from two companies to implement a trial switch-off of some lights over the winter period. This project is more complex than it at first seems, and we'll keep residents fully informed. A further consultation is planned following the trial.
- **Traffic Speed** - Data from the recently installed speed radar camera has been reviewed and indicates that the device is having a positive impact on reducing motorists' speed.

Parish Council Update

- **Street Cleaning** - A new Village Steward contract has been operating since March, to undertake path clearance, vegetation strimming, etc. If you see something that you think the Village Steward team could address please let us know.
- **94 Bus Service** - Councillors remain concerned about the uncertain future of the 94 bus service (more details about this matter are on page 23). Since this issues arose, councillors have liaised with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), B&NES, our MP and other local parishes to make sure local concerns are heard. Councillors continue to liaise with Ward Councillor Fiona Gourley for updates and information on what the Parish Council and local residents can do.
- **Parking** - There's been liaison with B&NES about possible yellow lines in the village. The Parish Council will consult with residents about proposals before deciding whether to apply to B&NES to have the lines considered for installation.
- **Waste** - We've worked with the Memorial Hall and B&NES to have a new bin installed (and emptied!) by the park at the back of the Hall.
- **Cemetery** - The Parish Council continues to listen to residents ideas' about maintaining the Cemetery in a way that preserves it as a place of tranquillity, but enables nature to thrive.
- **Renewable Energy** - Councillors continue to work with Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) and local parishes to explore the potential for a solar project in the area.

It's fitting to end this article by paying tribute to Nick Stevens and to Martin Walker. Both Nick and Martin were active members of the Freshford community and made significant contributions to the Parish Council, as well as other local organisations, over a number of years. They will be sorely missed.

Cllr John Adler (Chair) & Selina Jobson (Clerk) Email:
parish.council@freshfordvillage.com
Website: www.freshford.org.uk

RiverBlitz project

River water quality is of growing concern these days with calls for action to clean up our rivers.



With this in mind, Emily Pennant-Rea and I took part in the Bristol Avon RiverBlitz citizen science project this July. This is the first time either of us had taken part. We were provided with their easy-to-use water quality testing kits which meant we took a small sample of water from the river, inserted a test paper which changed colour and then matched it against a colour chart to gauge the amount of nitrates and phosphates in the sample. We did this for two sites, one on the Frome near the Freshford Inn and the other on the Avon near the swimming spot on the footpath towards Jess's kissing gate.

Our samples showed the same readings for both sites, with the nitrates being at a high level and the phosphates being at a low level. Nitrates and phosphates are amongst the most common pollutants of freshwater environments and can have wide ranging harmful effects on wildlife. They can enter our watercourses from various sources, such as pesticides and fertilisers washing into our rivers, waste from livestock, sewage overflows, and even treated sewage discharges as treating wastewater does not remove all chemicals.

Unfortunately the general picture is that pollution is getting worse in the Bristol Avon River Trust area (BART). 193 citizen scientists helped with sampling rivers in July, gathering 293 samples. The data will help target further investigations and future conservation work and help monitor water quality in the years to come. The results show that when nitrate and phosphate results are combined, 89% of sample locations recorded high levels of nutrients, with only 1 out of the 293 sample locations showing a low concentration. Please go to the BART website for more details about the RiverBlitz.

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Thank you to everyone who has participated in writing an article for our 2023 Autumn edition of the Freshford newsletter. If you would like to get involved in the next addition of the newsletter (spring 2024), please email either;

Jessie Forbes - jejwne@hotmail.com

Or

John Putt - john.putt2@sky.com

If you wish to sign up to the Freshford community email for more regular updates on the village, please visit the Freshford website at;
www.freshford.org.uk/community/communications/email

G. MANNINGS

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