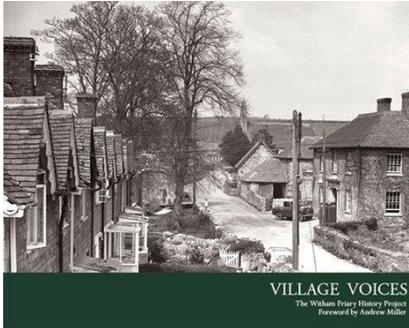


'Village Voices' Reminiscences of Witham Friary



Recorded by the Witham Friary History Project and published for the first time in this collection, residents of the parish recount life in the village from the 1920s onwards; country courtships; wartime; Beeching's axe; farm, school and pub.

Village Voices brings to life the landscapes and traditions of Witham Friary in Somerset, from centuries-old Friendly Society rituals, carol singing on Christmas Eve, to more recent times placing the village in conflict with the Duke of Somerset and the private water he still supplies.

Edited with a wry sense of humour and a powerful sense of history, the collection contains 12 evocative transcripts on England through seasons and years.

Copies available (£7) from the Seymour Arms or by post - please send a cheque made payable to The Witham Friary History Society for £9.50 (£7 + £2.50 p&p) to: The Witham Friary History Society, Friarsmede, Witham Friary, Somerset BA11 5HD

About Witham Friary History Society

The Witham Friary History Society was set up in 2011 to promote interest in the history of the village and the surrounding area. It is a small charity run by a group of trustees elected annually by its members.

Become a member

Membership of the society is free and we're always looking for new ideas for future programmes. Email us for an application form.

Trustee meetings 2019-2020

Oct 18 2019 Annual General Meeting
Jan 17 2020 Trustees' meeting
Apr 3 2019 Trustees' meeting
July 3 2019 Trustees' meeting

All trustee meetings start at 7pm in the Seymour Arms and members are very welcome to come along.

Trustees

Chair: Geoff Sheppard
Secretary: Roy Featherstone
Treasurer: Michael Gorman
Events: Chris Featherstone

Contact us

 withamhistory@gmail.com
 01749 850392

Find out more about Witham Friary

www.withamfriary.org.uk
 Follow Witham Friary Village

Front picture courtesy Gordon Stevens.

Witham Friary History Society

Programme 2019-2020



Witham Friary and the surrounding area has a fascinating agricultural and industrial history, as well as links to Roman times, St Hugh of Lincoln, Henry II and Thomas Becket.

Come along and enjoy free local history talks and join in our fundraising events.

Everyone welcome!

Thursday 26th September
The Wonderful World of Glass

Dr Francis Burroughes is bringing along items of glass to illustrate the history of glass-making from 3,000 B.C. to the present day. An acknowledged expert, Dr Burroughes has advised and appeared on television antiques programmes. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Thursday 24th October
The Archaeology of Iron Age
Landscapes in the South West

Dr Richard Massey from Cotswold Archaeology will talk about the Iron Age of nearby Wessex, much of which is almost on our doorstep. Village Hall 7.45pm

Thursday 21st November
The Home Guard

As requested, popular local speaker and former MP David Heath looks back at the contribution of the local Home Guard to the defence of Somerset, the role of Frome MP Mavis Tate, and the top-secret preparations for resistance if Britain were to be invaded. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Friday 13th December
Christmas quiz

An evening of seasonal fun for everyone. Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £3 per person. Raffle. Please bring your own refreshments. *Contact withamhistory@gmail.com or 01749 850392 to book a table.*

Thursday 23rd January
Joseph Glanvill Vicar of Frome
and Esteemed Demonologist

Dr Andrew Pickering will talk about Joseph Glanvill, an important writer, philosopher and clergyman known for his writings on seventeenth-century witchcraft, science and religion. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Friday 7th February
Group visit to SS Great Britain

Enjoy a day exploring the ship, museum and dockyard. Brunel's SS Great Britain is one of the most important historic ships in the world - when she was launched in 1843, she was called 'the greatest experiment since the Creation'. *Save the date - details to follow.*

Thursday 20th February
Benefits, Brass and Gurtest
Grandest Day

Phillip Hoylland will talk about West Country Friendly Societies including our own in Witham Friary which is one of the earliest surviving societies. Village Hall 7.45pm.

NB: All event details accurate at time of going to press but please check village noticeboard and Witham Friary Village page on Facebook nearer the time to confirm.

Friday 20th March
Bumper spring quiz

Not at all serious – lots of fun – something for everyone! Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £3 per person. Raffle. Please bring your own refreshments. *Contact withamhistory@gmail.com or 01749 850392 to book a table.*

Thursday 23rd April
Stonehenge

Author, TV presenter and renowned archaeologist Julian Richards of *Meet the Ancestors* fame will talk about his research into Stonehenge. As Julian has kindly waived his fee we will be collecting for his chosen charity. Village Hall 7.45pm.



Julian Richards