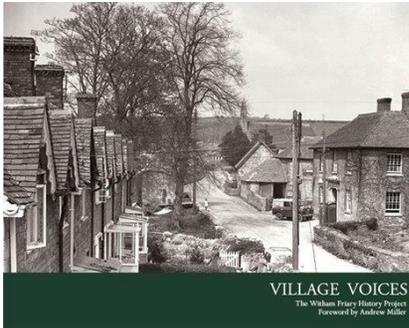


'Village Voices' Reminiscences of Witham Friary



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 2021-2022

Oct 15 2021	Annual General Meeting
Jan 14 2022	Trustees' meeting
Apr 8 2022	Trustees' meeting
July 8 2022	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 Liz Kefford. Herding cows in front of the former inn, the Red Lion. Early 1970s.

Witham Friary History Society

Programme 2021-2022 10th anniversary season



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

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

Everyone welcome!

Thursday 30th September
“Learn em Hard”

Village schooling in Somerset

Sarah Villiers, author, local historian and former teacher. Sarah will outline the history of the development of education through the nineteenth century and beyond. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Thursday 21st October
“A man of great honour”

Ralph Hopton of Witham

Mike Gorman will tell the story of Ralph Hopton who was born in Witham in 1596 and became the ‘King’s man in the West’ in the English Civil War. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Saturday 23rd October
Witham Friary History Society’s
10th Anniversary

Join us for our 10th anniversary celebrations and Witham Friary’s Apple Day. Demonstration of English Civil War weaponry followed by lunch BBQ in the pub garden. Everyone welcome! Details nearer the time.

Thursday 18th November
“Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey
and Coifs”

Dr Janet Few, history interpreter, writer, researcher and lecturer will describe the lives of our seventeenth century ancestors covering all aspects of domestic life including homes, food, clothes, customs, medicinal herbs and witchcraft. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Friday 10th December
Christmas quiz

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

Thursday 20th January
A short history of Naval Aviation

Graham Mottram from the Fleet Air Arm Museum will explain how the Royal Navy gradually and reluctantly adopted aviation as a key technology and operational asset. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Thursday 17th February
Town and Country 1850-1950

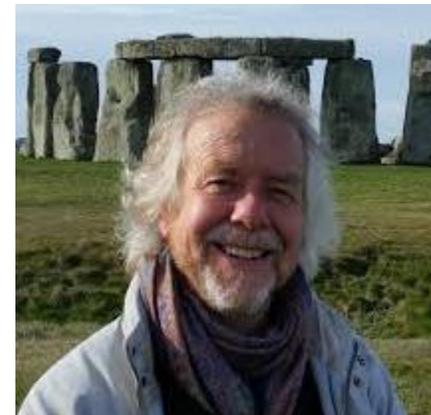
Frome based local historian and author John Payne will draw on his own family history and his latest book, *A West Country Homecoming*, to outline the decline of villages in east Somerset such as Chewton Mendip and growth of towns such as Bath and Frome. He will demonstrate how, as at any time of social change, there were winners and losers. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Friday 18th 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. Email withamhistory@gmail.com to book a table.

Thursday 21st 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

May 2022
Group visit to Stonehenge

Enjoy a day exploring this World Heritage Site and the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe. Visit the world-class exhibition to discover how the Stonehenge builders worked and walk amongst the Neolithic houses to experience how they lived. Date and details nearer the time.

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.