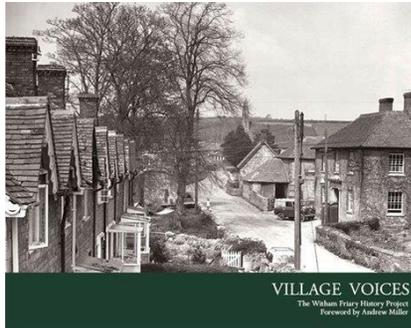


## **'Village Voices' Reminiscences of Witham Friary**



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 (£5) from the Seymour Arms or by post - please send a cheque made payable to The Witham Friary History Society for £7.50 (£5 + £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 2022-2023**

Oct 14 2022	Annual General Meeting
Jan 13 2023	Trustees' meeting
Apr 7 2023	Trustees' meeting
July 7 2023	Trustees' meeting

All trustee meetings start at 7pm in the Seymour Arms and members are very welcome to come along. We will email trustees if these dates need to change.

#### **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](http://www.withamfriary.org.uk)

 Follow Witham Friary Village

Front picture courtesy Liz Kefford. Witham Friary Silver Jubilee party, Seymour Arms garden, June 1977.

# **Witham Friary History Society**

## **Programme 2022-2023**



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 29<sup>th</sup> September**  
**The life of William Dampier**

Bernard Merrick's talk will outline the life of William Dampier. Dampier was an English explorer, pirate, privateer, navigator, and naturalist from East Coker in Somerset. Village Hall 7.45pm.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**Metal detecting**  
**Finding the Frome Hoard...and much more besides**

The Frome Hoard was the largest single collection of Roman coins found in the country and it was discovered right here in Witham Friary in 2010. Dave Crisp was the metal detectorist who made the find. Dave will talk about the hoard, how metal detectorists work and other finds he has uncovered. Village Hall 7.45pm.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Selwood Forest**

Julian Hight is an author, graphic designer, photographer and ancient tree specialist. Witham Friary was in the middle of Selwood Forest and Julian's talk will cover the history and legends of our ancient trees. Village Hall 7.45pm.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:withamhistory@gmail.com) to book a table.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Frome shops and their owners**

Sue Latham, local historian and photographer, will give us an audio visual tour around the town shops produced by Home in Frome. The owners talk about their history together with photographs old and new, some taken by Sue. Village Hall 7.45pm.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
**The role of the Royal Mail Guard**

Martin Horler will tell the true and fascinating stories about the postal service from 1784 to 1840, before the railways came. Village Hall 7.45pm.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:withamhistory@gmail.com) to book a table.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**  
**The Somerset Russets present:**  
**Music-Makers of Somerset**

From a Wells Cathedral organist to a Cheddar railwayman, a Quantock shoe-maker, a Mendip knife-grinder, a Brendon Hills miller and a vicar's gardener, the Somerset Russets present the music of some of the men and women who have kept the county singing and dancing over the last three hundred years. Hear about their lives and listen to their music and songs, arranged for winds, strings and squeazy things. 3.00pm Witham Friary Parish Church.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Britain's seasonal festivals**



Professor Ronald Hutton is a leading authority on the history of the British Isles in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and on ancient and medieval paganism. This talk explores the history of

Britain's main seasonal festivals, including Christmas, May Day and Halloween. It considers how many there were, what took place, their relationship with those elsewhere in Europe, the difference that Christianity made to them, and how they have changed with the coming of modernity. Village Hall 7.45pm.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Woven in time**  
**Frome's first Local History Festival**

Witham Friary History Society will be joining other local history societies in this brand new festival of talks, walking tours and events focused on the cloth trade in and around the Frome area. Details to follow 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.*