



Welcome to this first edition of Witham Friary News! With things slowly getting back to normal after covid and with the monthly Postlebury News now becoming the Postlebury Annual Guide, it seems a good time to launch a monthly newsletter for Witham Friary. The next edition will be in October. We'll distribute paper copies for the first few months and then switch to email with paper copies available at the pub and Village Hall. Many thanks to Roxy Sedgbeer for designing the super newsletter masthead. Please email items for inclusion to withamfriarynews@gmail.com by the 18th of each month, 100 words max if possible. The newsletter is also on the Witham Facebook page and the village website if you want to use the hyperlinks.

Finally, BIG THANKS to Lorna, Pete and Emma for re-opening the pub in May and for providing such a welcome for everyone. Thanks also to Roy Featherstone for helping with the risk assessments that meant that the pub was able to re-open at the earliest opportunity.



Witham Friary Family Sports Day

Saturday 4th September. Come and enjoy an afternoon and evening of family fun. Starting at 2.00pm at Witham Friary Sports Field. Teams of 4 -6 including children. Entry £10.00 - Team. (proceeds to charity/ community projects). Seven events: Egg & Spoon, Sack race, Bale Rolling, Water Fill, Tug of War, Skittles and Wellie Wanging. Optional fancy dress. Followed by Hot Food and Live Music at the Seymour Arms. For more information and to reserve your team place please contact the Conker Committee conkers.witham@outlook.com



Take part in a Witham Species Hunt!

The Sustainable Witham group would like to know what species of plants, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates and amphibians we have already living in our lovely village. The group will have a stall at the Sports Day and will be handing out colourful identification charts for children and adults to help see what they can spot during the day. There will be small prizes for all those who take part. It would be great if as many people as possible could send any sightings to sustainablewitham@gmail.com Photos would, of course, be extremely welcome. We are aiming to make the log available to villagers. The group will be on hand to show people the now growing 50 trees planted around the recreation field last March, and hopefully plant a few more.



Witham Friary Women's Institute

The first meeting of the WI is on Thursday September 9th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. New members very welcome. Please mail Ann Stradling at astradling@talktalk.net for more information.



Witham Friary History Society

30th September 2021 - Sarah Villiers, author, local historian and former teacher. "Learn em Hard" Village schooling in Somerset. Sarah will outline the history of the development of education through the nineteenth century and beyond. 7.45pm Village hall. Refreshments available. Please see the separate History Society programme for our season of talks, quizzes and visits for 2021-22. Date for your diary - Saturday October 23rd Apple Day & 10th anniversary celebration: Civil War demonstration, lunch BBQ, apple juicing and homemade cakes.



Witham Friary Cricket Club

The Postlebury Ashes takes place at Witham on Sunday 29th August, from 10am. The Ashes is a 6 a side cricket tournament with teams from neighbouring villages and a few from the Witham squad. There will be a BBQ and of course the pub will be open, and we play in almost any weather. Each match will last around 40 minutes, 4 overs a side.

Come along and support the local team at future matches:

- Sun 5th September Napton Home Twenty20
- Weds 8th September Horningsham Away Hundred
- Sat 11th September Dulwich James Kavaney Cup Home 30 Over
- Sun 19th September Corsley Away 30 Over
- Sat 2nd October End of Season Dinner & Awards

More info here: www.witham.cc/match or email Henry Gibson at hello@witham.cc



Witham Friary Cricket Club Sports Quiz

Saturday October 2nd, 7.00pm, in the Village Hall. Who will be the Brains of Sport 2021? A not-too-serious quiz for all. To keep everyone safe this year, entry will be limited to twelve teams of four, so book your place early to avoid disappointment. £20 per table of four, including food. Bar available. Proceeds will help us provide youth cricket in the village next year. To book your place, please ring or e-mail David Heath on 01749 850458, or heathd@btinternet.com.



Sustainable Witham

The world has changed in many ways over the past 18 months, and it is clear that the climate change agenda has moved up the priority list for individuals, families and governments. The climate change agenda has very quickly become a climate emergency with more people looking for ways to reduce their impact on the planet. On a very local scale, Sustainable Witham aims to increase biodiversity in the village and to work cooperatively to do this. An example was our last event, in March this year, when 50 tiny trees were planted around the recreation field. See the Sustainable Witham Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/2381362188551859 and website www.sustainablewitham.wixsite.com/withamfriary for more information.

Do visit our stall on the Sports Day on September 4th, and come along to our events planned for this autumn:

- Saturday 23rd October - Apple Day & History Society 10th anniversary celebration. We'll be making juice from apples in the village. Come and try some local apple juice and homemade apple cake. Plus Civil War demonstration and lunchtime BBQ
- Saturday 4th December - The Village Hall Committee and Sustainable Witham will be holding their second joint Christmas Fair in the village hall.

Please let us have any other ideas or thoughts you may have to move Sustainable Witham forward. You can do this by emailing sustainablewitham@gmail.com or share your ideas at our various events.

Covid safety



Please note that the events listed in this newsletter are all subject to covid restrictions which could change by the time of the event, so do check the Witham Friary Village Facebook page for updates beforehand. (www.facebook.com/WithamFriaryVillage). The village website has more information from the Parish Council about covid safety at <http://withamfriary.org.uk/#home>. Lateral flow tests for home delivery can be ordered from: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



Parish Council news

Witham Water update

The Witham Water situation was on hold until the end of the last Covid-19 lockdown, but that did not change anything and the Duke of Somerset's Estate still wants to pass on responsibility for the supply of water to the village to another organisation. From the beginning they have wanted us to be involved in that process and we have cooperated as far as possible with the intention of maintaining the current spring water supply.

However, during lockdown we thought it wise to look at alternatives and had Bristol Water look at establishing a supply to the village. They eventually decided they could do it but it would cost over £2M, most of which would have to be borne by the Parish.

Your Council has looked at various options including setting up a Community Interest Company (CIC) to take over WW LLP. That has involved a lot of research into the running of a private water supply company. We concluded that while there is an opportunity here to set up a CIC, it is not a simple task. The liabilities of such a CIC could be onerous and we would need to find: someone to run it, somewhere to house an office and the money to underwrite it. A Parish Council is not allowed to run a CIC, so if there is anyone in the Parish with the expertise, time and inclination to take this on, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Hugo Brooke (PC chair), either at Manor Barn, BA11 5HF or by email to hugobrooke@gmail.com.



Parish Council clerk needed

Sadly our Clerk to the Parish, Donna Featherstone, is moving away and we are looking for her replacement. It is a responsible part-time job for up to 10 hours a week, paid at the current NJC scale of 18-25, £17,891-£22,434 (pro rata) according to experience. The role also includes the post of Responsible Financial Officer, and therefore requires good bookkeeping skills. Experience of local government would be useful and good IT skills essential. Anyone interested in applying, please contact Hugo Brooke (PC chair), either at Manor Barn, BA11 5HF or by email to hugobrooke@gmail.com.



Witham Friary Parish Councillors and responsibilities

- Hugo Brooke (Chair): Planning, Recruiting and any general enquiries.
- Will Sheppard (Deputy Chair): Farmers and the Playing field
- Fred Nicholls: Highways, potholes, street lighting etc.
- Colin Horstmann: Communications, Website etc
- John Knowles: Finances, Witham Water, the Play patch
- Marcus Powell: Network Rail and the Footpaths

After a number of Zoom meetings and a couple in Manor Barn garden, we intend to hold the next PCM in the Village Hall. It is scheduled for 14th September, at 7.30pm. Setting a date for the Annual Parish Meeting will be on the agenda. Residents are welcome to attend PC meetings as observers. More information about the PC and meeting minutes here: <http://withamfriary.org.uk/#parishcouncil>. To contact the PC, email: withamfriary.parishcouncil@gmail.com

Local round-up



Recycling collection: Sept 4 (Sat); Sept 10; Sept 17; Sept 24; Oct 1.

Refuse collection: Sept 10

More information here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/6752/Collection-Dates>

Garden collection: Suspended until week beginning September 13th. More information here: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/gardenwaste-suspension/>



The Post Office

10.00-12.00 every Wednesday in the Village Hall. All Post Office services are available plus everyday personal and business banking; cash withdrawals; cash deposits; cheque deposits; Post Office card account withdrawals.



100 Club

The 100 Club holds a draw for three prizes every month (£20, £15, £10) and five prizes of £50 in December. There are a few numbers available for new members or should you want another one (£12pa per number). All proceeds go towards supporting community facilities and projects. Please contact Mike Gorman (Mgorman2017@gmail.com) or Roy Featherstone (r.featherstone@yahoo.com) for more information.

August winners: T Hyde; T&E Reynolds; M&K Ferrari.



Risk assessments for village events

Roy Featherstone (Health and Safety Consultant) has kindly offered to continue carrying out risk assessments for village activities. Please contact Roy at least one week before your proposed event: r.featherstone@yahoo.com 07714 705620 / 01749 850752.



Village hall bookings

Available for private and community functions. Bookings for the hall are via Jess Hyde, email withamfriaryvillhall@gmail.com or call/text 07970 434299. Email is preferable. Further details here: <http://withamfriary.org.uk/#villagehall>.



More Witham Friary news and information

Witham Friary Village Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WithamFriaryVillage

Witham Friary village website: www.withamfriary.org.uk



Further afield

The Frome Cheese Show is back, on Saturday September 11th at West Woodlands Showground: www.fromecheeseshow.co.uk

Call for volunteers at Frome Museum

Frome Museum is the major location for the history and heritage of the town, preserving and explaining its more than 23,000 items for this and future generations. There are many opportunities for getting involved: stewarding, research, cataloguing, exhibition planning, social media - the list is endless. If you are interested please call 01373 454611 between 10am and 2pm on a weekday to arrange a visit or email info@frome-heritage-museum.org

Witham Friary News is compiled by Mike and Marcia Gorman and is published at the end of each month with news and events for the coming month. Please email items for inclusion to withamfriarynews@gmail.com by the 18th of each month, 100 words max if possible.