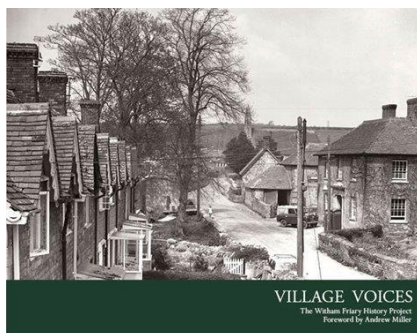


'Village Voices' Reminiscences of Witham Friary



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 the seasons and years, each accompanied by a portrait photograph taken by Chris Chapman.

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 at withamhistory@gmail.com us for an application form.

Trustee meetings 2024-2025

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Oct 14 2024 | Annual General Meeting |
| Jan 13 2025 | Trustees' meeting |
| Apr 7 2025 | Trustees' meeting |
| July 7 2025 | Trustees' meeting |

All trustee meetings start at 6pm in the Seymour Arms and members are very welcome to come along. We will email members if these dates change.

Trustees

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

Contact us

withamhistory@gmail.com

Website

www.withamfriaryhistory.com

Find out more about Witham Friary

 Follow Witham Friary Village

Cover illustration: 16th century brewer

Witham Friary History Society

Programme 2024-2025



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!

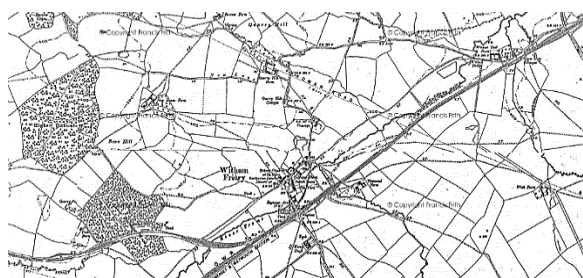
www.withamfriaryhistory.com

Thursday 26th September
Beckford and the Transatlantic
Slave Trade
Dr Amy Frost

Amy is the Architectural Curator of the Bath Preservation Trust, the Curator of Beckford's Tower & Museum in Bath and an expert on William Beckford (1760-1844) whose father built a stately home in Witham Friary. Amy will describe the social advancements and retreats of the Beckford family, which relied largely upon the profits of transatlantic slavery. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Thursday 24th October
The History and Mystery of Maps
Tony Painter

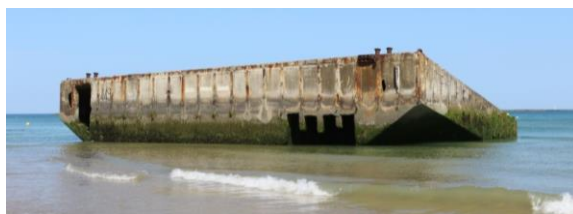
Tony is a geographer, former MoD research officer, author and writer of local history notes for the Alan Godfrey maps. This will be an illustrated talk on the history of maps, covering mediaeval maps, County maps, including Somerset, the OS, online maps for historians, military maps and some cartographic oddities. If people wish to bring interesting old maps Tony is always keen to have a look at them. Village Hall 7.45pm.



Witham Friary OS map 1902

Thursday 21st November
Mulberry Harbours and D-Day
James Porter

James is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, originally from Guernsey in the Channel Islands. He retired in 2011 after 41 years' service which took him all over the world. The Mulberry harbours were floating artificial harbours used to protect supply ships anchored off the coast of Normandy, north west France, after the D-Day landings of 6th June, 1944. Village Hall 7.45pm.



Mulberry Harbour, Arromanche-les-Bains

Friday 13th December
Christmas quiz

Our traditional annual evening of seasonal fun for everyone. Not at all serious, but you'll need luck on your side, given the date! Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £3 per person. Raffle. Please bring your own refreshments.

Thursday 23rd January
Photographs of the Seventy Best Stone
Circles in the UK
Max Milligan

Max began his career working as a wildlife cameraman for the BBC and National Geographic. He has recently been in Iceland photographing the erupting volcano. Sit back and relax while you travel the UK through Max's wonderful photographs. Village Hall 7.45pm.

Thursday 20th February
Shepton Mallet Prison
Maurice Gee

Maurice will be presenting a PowerPoint Tour of Shepton Mallet Prison over its almost 400 years of working life. Maurice was a Tour Guide at Shepton Mallet Prison for three years following his retirement in 2020 having spent over three decades as a Prison Officer. It was this, and his previous military background, that inspired his involvement with Shepton Mallet. Village Hall 7.45pm.



Shepton Mallet Prison

Friday 21st March
Bumper spring quiz

Put a spring in your step at our annual March quiz. Everyone welcome! Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £3 per person. Raffle. Please bring your own refreshments.

Thursday 24th April
Reconstructing a Tudor Brewery
Marc Meltonville

Marc is a consultant food and drink historian researching and lecturing on many diverse subjects all over the world. For 25 years he worked as food historian for the Historic Royal Palaces working on bringing to life the Tudor kitchens of Hampton Court Palace. This talk is about his project with Trinity College Dublin. As part of the project, Marc wanted to test Tudor beer for its nutritional values to look at the diet of the working man. A Tudor brewery was built and heritage ingredients sourced. A lot of work for a pint of beer. Village Hall 7.45pm.