

CONTACT

Spring/
Summer
2019

Frome Society for Local Study
Frome and District Civic Society



Stonehenge

Officers and Committee of the Society

Chairman: Julian Watson**

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Post currently vacant

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Chairman of Frome & District Civic Society

Richard Swann** 831256

** Trustee

Annual Subscriptions from 1st January 2019

Single Membership: £10.00

Joint Membership: £15.00

Life Membership Single: £100.00

Life Membership Joint: £150.00

CHEQUE PAYMENTS

The Treasurer asks that all cheques should be made payable to "Frome Society for Local Study" or "FSLs." The bank does not normally allow cheques made out to individuals to be paid into the Society account. The preferred method of payment is by standing order to FSLs, and a form is available from Janet Howard or may be downloaded from the FSLs website, www.fsls.org.uk

FROME TOWN WALKS 2019

The Frome Town Walks are organised by the Frome Society for Local Study and will take place on the second Sunday in May, June, July, August and September, and the first Sunday in July during the Frome Festival. They set off at 2.30 pm outside the Round Tower in Justice Lane and are designed to give an understanding of the development of the history and economy of the town from its foundation in 685 AD by St Aldhelm, through the middle ages to the present day. There is special emphasis on Frome's listed buildings with their broad range of religious and vernacular architecture.

The guides are Ruth Angel, Cliff Bawden, Alastair MacLeay and Janet Millar. Arrangements for special town walks should be made with Alastair MacLeay on 01373 836 595 or through info@fsls.org.uk These can cover different areas of Frome such as Fromefield, Trinity, Keyford etc or a specific interest such as architecture or industry.

Copies of the Frome Heritage Trail (£3), Frome Street and Place-Names (£6) and the Buildings of Frome (£9) will be available to buy.

Regular Frome Town Walks are free, except for those during the Frome Festival and specially organised walks; all contributions and donations are most welcome and will be given to support the Frome Festival.

The dates of the regular walks in 2019 are as follows:

12 May	9 June	7 July
14 July	11 August	8 September

Report from the Chairman

This is my third and last annual report as chair of this amazing society. It was a huge change for me to step up from being a rather inactive member of ten years to suddenly be asked to lead the organisation. I am slightly relieved to see that the society is still in excellent shape, with even more members than when I took over from Peter Clark, and with just as exciting a programme of ideas and experiences.

The abiding memory I shall retain is that of working with the friendly and hardworking group of people who have achieved all the excellent lectures, stunning visits to places of interest and fascinating publications. They are a remarkable band and I am very proud to have been involved in the development of their ideas, both those on the central committee and those who work quietly on the various sub-groups. Some are seeking re-election and others have chosen to have a quieter diary for a time. They all need your support and further active volunteers are required.

Along with all the more visible activities there is a great deal of work which goes into the publication, marketing and selling of the long list of society publications and Year Books. In particular, the writing and production of the volume on WOAD has been a highlight, with copies sold in significant numbers both in the UK and internationally. There have been new initiatives with small groups pursuing their own threads, all of which we celebrated at our 60th birthday party in the autumn. Society funds have also supported a wide variety of other projects, with a new website, an internet and touchscreen database for 'Home in Frome', and other grants to groups and individuals. The Society has considerable funds at its disposal and has recently extended its invitation to others to request grants that are in accordance with our constitution.

In February we enjoyed a talk on 'Friendly Societies' – that would make an excellent subtitle for our own organisation. Please welcome my successor and provide all the good will and active support which you have shown to me throughout my three years of service.

Julian Watson
Chairman, FSLs

2018 SUMMER PROGRAMME NOTES

This year we have arranged a varied programme of outings, including two National Trust visits, which we hope you will enjoy.

Bookings: call Pat Eames on **464464** after 9am. If necessary, please leave a message and your phone number. In an emergency on the day call **07493 419398**

- Cancellations must be made not less than 48 hours before the outing. Failure to do so will incur the cost of the coach and possible further costs non-refundable to the Society.
- Any communication must be made to the Society, not to the Coach Company.
- The preferred method of payment is by cheque (payable to FSLs) collected when boarding the coach at the end of the trip. The price shown includes coach fare, entrance fees, guides and gratuities.
- Guests will pay a supplementary charge of £3 and are responsible for their own travel insurance.
- There is always a facility for buying lunch, if not included, or you may prefer to take a picnic.

Attendance figures indicate that last year's trial of only two pick up points was acceptable. There was no fall off in numbers and the visits were able to get on their way and return home more quickly. Accordingly, the pick-up points are unchanged from last year and are:

- **FROME CRICKET CLUB** (advertised departure time)
- **BUS STOP OPPOSITE FROME MEMORIAL THEATRE** (5 minutes later)

The Cricket Club offers a large parking area which will accommodate all members who wish to park their cars there before boarding the coach. ***Please avoid parking next to the Pavilion.***

Civic Society News

Review of 2018

I write this in the no-man's land between Christmas celebrations and the dawn of an uncertain New Year: a time to reflect on past indulgence and the leaner winter to come. The current uncertainties afflicting the nation are echoed in Frome. How and where will the town develop? Should the expansion of the town to newcomers be welcomed or will the historic, constrained infrastructure break under the additional pressure? Last year brought forth another batch of about 250 planning proposals in and around the town, some still in the balance, a few false dawns and non-starters.

Non-starters

Hoardings on Vallis Road promising 64 'New Homes in 2018' on the former Western Vinyl's site failed to deliver. Following the death of developer Martin Connolly, MD of site owner Connolly and Callaghan, the site is now understood to be on the market. A fresh application for housing is expected once sold. Other major sites with housing consent left undeveloped in 2018 include the T.H. White land further along Vallis Road (approved 2016, 58 dwellings) taken off the market, possibly sold to a developer. The Butler Tanner Dennis site off Locks Hill is understood to have been acquired by Acorn Property Ltd. A new planning application for about 160 homes on the site is expected shortly. Demolition of the old works is underway.

Frome Acorns...

Acorn Property Ltd is busy in Frome, not only on the BTD site but also developing Saxonvale with Mendip District Council to provide up to 250 dwellings in a mixed use scheme. Members of the Society's planning panel have met Acorn and their Architect Edward Nash over the last few months to review the emerging Masterplan for the site. The development land now includes Frome Town Council owned land. There are encouraging signs that a comprehensive plan could emerge. Initial public consultation at the Silk Mill on January 11th/12th is to be followed by a planning application expected in late spring.

Local Plan Part II

A proposal for (SGV) Selwood Garden Village was made public in February 2018 as reported in the last issue of *Contact*. The proposals for the mis-named 'Garden Village' are to build around 2,200 new dwellings on 72 hectares of countryside bounded by the by-pass to the south of Frome. The proposers aimed to almost double the number of houses envisaged by Mendip District Council (MDC) in the developing 'Local Plan Part II' housing trajectory for Frome of 1,714 new dwellings required to 2029 on land previously identified in the Local Plan. Members of the Society planning panel discussed the implications of the SGV proposal with MDC's head of Planning Policy and put forward alternatives for the development of Frome over the medium term. Local Plan Part II was submitted to the Secretary of State for final examination before the 24th January 2019 deadline. Once approved, the plan will be formally adopted as Local Planning guidance for all future proposals. The submission to the Secretary of State now incorporates responses to the local consultation, including the SGV proposal. It states: "SGV proposals submitted for a substantial expansion of the town are considered premature. There has been limited consultation and engagement on this proposal to date, no detailed sustainability appraisal or discussion of infrastructure implications. Other proposals have been put forward for extensions to Frome and these should form part of future engagement on options for Frome after Local Plan Part II." Residents of Little Keyford made a spirited and detailed objection to the allocation of three nearby fields by MDC for housing. However MDC have merged the three sites so a 'masterplanned' approach to its development will be needed, encouraging a more joined-up approach to delivering future schemes. Another hotly disputed potential housing site at Innox Hill off Packsaddle, MDC have decided to remove their initial designation of promoting this land for housing. A 2018 application for 96 dwellings has been withdrawn. The photogenic flock of black sheep inhabiting this hillside are thankfully safe for now.

In the Balance

Planning applications still being considered after lengthy consideration include proposed Hotel, Leisure and Recreation facilities, including 20 lodges arranged around the lake at Marston House Garden, Marston Bigot. A formidable array of objections have been lodged highlighting the damaging impact of the development on the Grade II* Listed House and this important historic English Landscape Garden.

Planning applications for 'Box Works', Market Yard, a 2017 MDC proposed installation of 20 shipping containers next to the Cheese & Grain and an alternative site adjacent to the Black Swan are apparently still 'on hold'. It is hoped that MDC have redirected their efforts to the development of Saxonvale, but there is no indication yet that the proposal will be withdrawn. Garston Lodge, the crenelated Victorian Grade II Listed Building at the Garsdale roundabout, was severely damaged by fire in October 2018. It had been remodelled in the 1830s in a way that masks much earlier fabric, probably dating from the 16th century. The roof structure in particular shows soot blackened timber work from that period. Sadly the roof structure appears significantly damaged but we understand that some of the interiors remain. A protective scaffold enclosure has been installed to protect the structure and allow for further examination once it is made safe.

Richard Swann

Chair Frome & District Civic Society

2019 FSLs Visits

Thursday 11th April

Shaftesbury & Jigsaw Factory at Ashmore

Owing to the limit of 35 people at the Jigsaw Museum, many members were unable to go last year so by request this outing is being repeated. We will first be able to explore the small hilltop market town of Shaftesbury and discover its galleries and interesting shops. At the top of picturesque Gold Hill is the delightful Museum which is full of fascinating artefacts showing the social history and archaeology of North Dorset and along Park Walk you will find the peaceful gardens and ruins of the Abbey founded by King Alfred.

In the afternoon the coach will take us up to Cranborne Chase for our tour of the small factory, JHJ Jigsaws Ltd. where hundreds of jigsaws are made to order. After an introductory talk we will watch the various stages of production and even have the chance to operate a machine. We will then be served tea with homemade cakes, (included), and given the opportunity to buy jigsaws.



Departure from the Cricket Club: 9.30 am

Cost: £16.00

Numbers limited to 35

Phone bookings from Monday 25th March

Monday 29th April Stonehenge and its Prehistoric Landscape (NT & EH)

Our mid-morning arrival at Stonehenge will hopefully be at its quietest. There are toilets where we join the shuttle bus and before it starts the driver can be asked if anyone wishes to walk the last half of the journey to the stone circle. The shuttle has a recorded commentary about Stonehenge. In your own time, walk along the shorter route by the circle or take the circuitous path around it for the complete view before walking back or taking the shuttle bus to the Stonehenge Centre. Here you might choose a visit

to the excellent café before exploring the Neolithic Houses with their interesting interiors. You might prefer to visit the Exhibition Centre after lunch as this needs a longer linger to absorb the visual information and the sounds. There will be time to visit the Shop and the café again before the coach takes us for a short look at the intriguing Woodhenge site before returning to Frome in the afternoon.

Departure time from Cricket Club: 9.15am

Cost: NT/ EH members: £10.00

Non-members: £25.00

Phone bookings from: Wednesday 10th April

Wednesday 8th May

Gloucester National Waterways Museum

Our visit to the recently renovated pedestrian docklands area of Gloucester, now known as Gloucester Quays, takes us on a discovery of Gloucester's past as a thriving port going back to Roman times. The Quays has a large choice of restaurants, cafes and seating areas and pride of place is given to the refurbished grain store, built in the 1880s, which is now the interactive Waterways Museum run by the Canal River Trust.

Our tour begins with a journey with commentary on the Queen Boadicea II boat through the docks and along the Gloucester and Sharpness canals. After a lunch break we will have a conducted tour of the Museum where we learn more about Gloucester's history. Part of the Museum exhibits is a restored dredger which is now an art gallery. There will be time after the tour to explore further or have a cup of tea before our return journey.

Departure from the Cricket Club: 8.15am

Cost: £21.00

Phone bookings from Thursday 25th April

Wednesday 22nd May

Wells and the Bishop's Palace and Gardens

Wednesday is Market Day in Wells and we will arrive nearby with enough time to wander around the bustling Market Square and perhaps the Cathedral. There are various cafés including the excellent one in the Cathedral for coffee before assembling at the Bishop's Palace at 11.30am.

For over 800 years, Wells has been the official residence of the Bishops of Bath & Wells and there have always been a pair of swans living in the Moat who teach their cygnets each year to ring a bell for food. Sadly, the family had left after last summer but hopefully a new pair has now taken up residence! The tour guides will divide us into groups for our guided tours of the Grounds and Medieval Palace.

Keep your individual tickets to allow you to leave and re-enter the site when wished; they will also give 10% discount in their shop and in the Bishops Table café.

Departure from Cricket Club: 9am

Cost: £14.00

Phone bookings from Tuesday 7th May

Thursday 13th June

Mottisfont Abbey NT

Our visit takes place in June to maximise our chances of seeing the rose gardens at their best. The gardens are being restored to the original plans of Graham Thomas and we expect the herbaceous borders to be lovely. There is also a walled garden to enjoy. The Abbey/Priory is 800 years old and the 12th C vaulted Cellarium can be visited. There are six rooms to visit downstairs; notably the Rex Whistler room with his fascinating murals. Up easy stairs is an Art Gallery including works by Lowry, Hepworth and Gwen and Augustus John. There are free Guided Walks available and these can be signed up for at the Reception when we arrive. There are two cafés, plant sales, a second-hand bookshop and interesting walks by the River Test.



Departure from Cricket Club: 8.30am

Cost: £9.00 NT members

£22.00 non members

Phone bookings from Tuesday 21st May

Wednesday 26th June

Wimborne St Giles, (House, Tea and Church)

The Frome Society is very fortunate because our President, Michael McGarvie, has arranged a very special treat for us and one that might never be repeated! While in conversation with Lord Shaftesbury, Michael was given an invitation to bring members to St Giles House and to be shown around by the Earl. It was built c 1514 by Anthony Ashley who had many interesting descendants, such as another Anthony in the 19thC who was created the 1st Earl of Shaftesbury. He was honoured for his philanthropy in advocating schools for all, abolition of child labour and for his part in founding the Great Ormond St. Hospital. The current Earl of Shaftesbury has done much to restore his home and after his

guided tour he has promised us afternoon tea. We will also visit the church which was rebuilt in the classical style in the 1730s and then later had some Victorian Gothic restoration.

Departure time from Cricket Club: 12pm

Cost: £45.00

Phone bookings from Wednesday 12th June

Monday 1st July

Lulworth Cove and Lulworth Castle

Today is a chance to learn more about the Jurassic Coast in the Lulworth Visitor Centre where Ranger, Derek Billings, will give us an Introductory Presentation on the fascinating local geology. Afterwards you can choose either to walk down the lane towards the Cove for lunch or take the longer but gentle climb to see the spectacular Stair Hole, a formation of much folding in the rock and the marvellous view westwards to Portland before descending while seeing the amazing Cove below and joining the others.

After lunch is the short ride to the Castle, the late 16thC hunting lodge of the Weld family who still live nearby. The curator will welcome us on the coach with an introductory talk before showing us the lift to the main floor. Despite a fire in 1929, there remain many interesting insights to the Welds' history. There are flights of stairs for those wishing for more stunning views. Walks through the Grounds will take you to the family's Catholic Chapel and also to the parish church of St Andrews. In the basement is a 'Below Stairs' exhibition and a café.

Departure from Cricket Club: 8.30 am

Cost: £13.00 EH members

£19.00 non members

Phone bookings from Wednesday 12th June

Monday 22nd July

Forde Abbey

Our visit to Forde Abbey, the home of the Kennard family, is on a Monday so we can be given exclusive entry and tour of the house before it opens to the public. Much of its medieval history is preserved; the monks' quarters can still be seen, as well as alterations up to and after the Dissolution in 1539 and on to the present. After our tour of the house, the day is free to explore the varied gardens, including the walled kitchen gardens, and see England's highest powered fountain. The café serves lunches and teas including g/f. There is the Eeles Pottery and also the Plant Centre and gift shop.

Departure from Cricket Club: 8.30 am

Price: £22.00

Phone bookings from Thursday 27th June

Wednesday 7th August

Tiverton Castle

After a short comfort stop at Taunton Deane Services, we continue to Tiverton and where the coach will be dropping us at the bus station in the centre of town. There will be up to 3 hours to explore and have lunch; perhaps visit the town museum, walk by the canal and in the church of St Peter you can see the burial place of the last Plantagenet, Katherine the daughter of Edward IV. The helpful Tourist Information Office in Becks Square will provide details of the walking Tiverton Merchants Trail. The coach will pick us all up for the short ride to the Castle which is the family home of Mrs Gordon who will be giving us a tour of the grounds and her home. There will be a chance for refreshments on the return journey.

Departure time from Cricket Club: 8.45 am

Cost: £26.00

Numbers limited to 30

Phone bookings from Thursday 18th July

Monday 19th August

Devizes: Wharf Museum & Caen Hill Locks

A day to help us explore and understand the workings of the Kennet & Avon Canal in the Devizes area and we begin at the Wharf Museum. Here we shall have a talk and refreshments, (included), and take a stroll to the canal side. The coach will then take us to the town centre giving us an opportunity to explore the historic Market Square and surrounding little lanes with time enough to potter and have lunch before returning to the coach. We will be taken to the famous stretch of eleven locks which allow craft to ascend and descend Caen Hill and witness this engineering masterpiece as explained to us earlier in the Museum. There are magnificent views down the hill overlooking the flight of locks and way beyond towards Somerset and a short walk will take you to the Quayside for a drink or an ice cream before returning to Frome.

Departure from Cricket Club: 9.15am

Cost: £17.00

Numbers limited to 40

Phone bookings from Tuesday 6th August

Thursday 5th September 2019

Weymouth, Nothe Fort & Museum

Weymouth is one of the historic ports of England and is in two parts on either side of the River Wey. Weymouth itself has buildings and a town plan that go back to the Middle Ages and to the east is Melcombe Regis which became a favourite seaside town following the patronage of 'mad King George

III'. Peter Clark will talk about the history of the town on the coach. We begin at Nothe Fort that was built at the time of Napoleon III and in use until WW2 ended. If wished, there will be time for a coffee before our guided tour of the Fort. After a picnic or lunch at one of many outlets, we visit the Town Museum in Brewers Quay. After that we will have a walking tour of Melcombe Regis looking at buildings of architectural, historic and literary interest that will take us back to the coach that will be waiting for us at the railway station.



Departure from Cricket Club: 8.15am

Cost: £21.00

Phone bookings from: Thursday 15th August

Thursday 3rd October

Lawrences Auctioneers, Crewkerne

This is a return to Lawrences Auctioneers, where we shall be entertained by an excellent speaker, art expert Richard Kay, who has given memorable lectures to the Society over the years. On arrival we shall be offered coffee and biscuits, before Richard Kay gives us a talk on a Fine Arts topic. Richard is prepared to give valuations from a photograph of members' favourite pictures but hopefully not everybody will take up this offer as time is limited! Then we shall have a two course lunch with wine or soft drinks and coffee and then are invited to look round the Auctioneers' house and view the exhibits to go into the Sale the following day.

We are due to leave Lawrences at 2.30pm when there will be time to look round the quaint old town of Crewkerne. The Museum and the Parish Church are both well worth a look and maybe have a cup of tea before our return journey.

Departure 8.45am from the Cricket Club

Cost of trip £36.00 which includes £25.00 for the included lunch and talk at Lawrences

Numbers limited to 40

Phone bookings from Wednesday 4th September 2019

PUBLICATIONS

	£
<i>Woad to This</i>	24.00
<i>The Butler and Tanner Story</i>	12.00
<i>The Book of Frome</i> (fifth edition)	15.00
<i>A History of Mells</i> (third edition)	7.50
<i>The Kings Peace</i>	6.00
<i>Villages of the Frome Area</i>	4.50
<i>The History of Nunney</i> (second edition)	7.50
<i>The Toll Houses of Somerset</i>	9.95
<i>Stoke St Michael in old Photographs</i>	7.50
<i>A History of Stoke St Michael</i>	8.50
<i>A History of Holcombe</i>	10.00
<i>The Book of Leigh on Mendip</i>	10.00
<i>A History of Wanstrow</i>	10.00
<i>Marston House</i>	3.00
<i>The Mystery of Fidele</i>	2.50
<i>Frome through the Ages</i>	5.00
<i>Willow Vale Frome</i> on CD	5.00
<i>Bath Street</i>	3.00
<i>The Sheppards and eighteenth century Frome</i> on CD	10.00
<i>Frome Street and Place Names</i> (fourth edition)	6.00
<i>Frome Heritage Trail</i> (third edition)	3.00
<i>Experiences of a nineteenth century Gentleman</i>	10.00
<i>Crime and Punishment in Regency Frome</i>	3.50
<i>Argyll House Frome</i>	3.00
<i>The Blue House Frome</i>	3.00
<i>The Buildings of Frome</i> (third edition)	9.00
<i>The Industries of Frome</i>	7.00
<i>Future of the Past</i>	1.00
<i>The Bounds of Selwood</i>	2.00

Historic Inns of Frome 10.00

Rodden Church 3.00

Yearbooks

FSLs Yearbooks 1, 2, 3, 4 on CD 10.00

FSLs Yearbook 5 3.00

FSLs Yearbooks 6 and 16 on CD 10.00

FSLs Yearbooks 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 each 6.00

FSLs Yearbooks 12 and 13 each 10.00

FSLs Yearbooks 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 each 10.00

1886 OS map of central Frome (folded) 10.00

1903 OS map of Frome (flat) 9.00

1838 Borough map of Frome on CD 10.00

1886 OS map of Frome on CD 10.00

Framed Painting of Frome by WW Wheatley 5.00

Painting of Frome by WW Wheatley (unframed) 1.00

Frome Society publications are available from:

Winstones Hunting Raven Bookshop, Cheap Street, Frome; Frome Museum; Frome Information Centre or from Alastair MacLeay, Prospect House, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DP (01373 836 595)

Postage & packing extra at cost.

e-mail: info@fsls.org.uk website www.fsls.org.uk



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