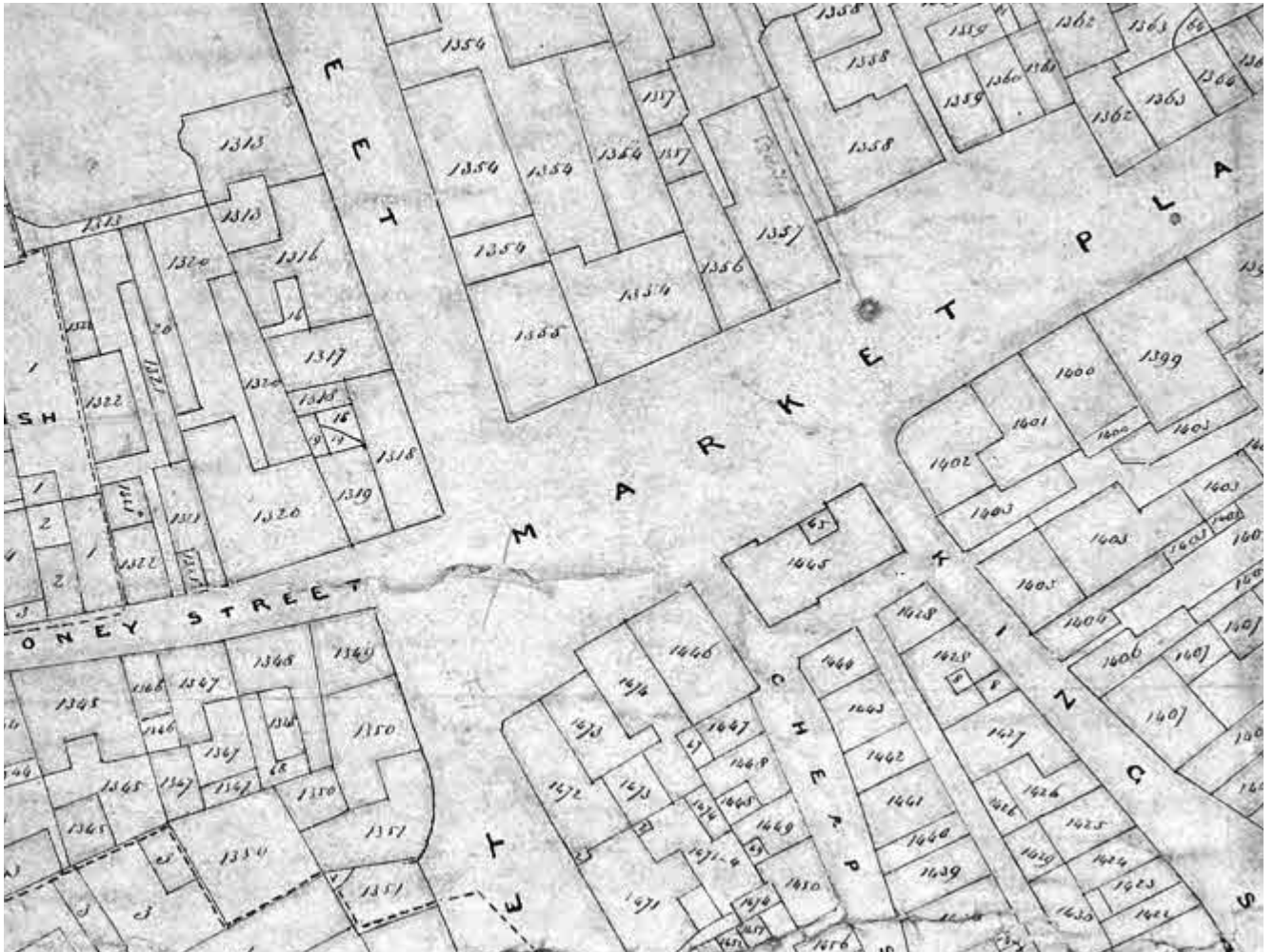


CONTACT

Spring/
Summer
Frome Society for Local Study 2010
Frome and District Civic Society



1838 Map of Frome drawn by Dixon & Maitland with inset a sample from the Churchwardens' Accounts at St. John's Church

Market Place			
1318	J. Gillmore	Luke Perman	House & Shop 58 10 0 ✓
1319	J. A. Taylor	Do	Do 15 15 0 ✓
1349	Francis Edwim	W. C. Brand	Do 110 0 0 ✓
1350	Am. C. Brand	Do	Do 110 0 0 ✓
1351	Edw. Jockey	E. C.	Do 81 0 0 ✓
1444	Stuckey & Co	Stuckey & Co	House 95 0 0 ✓
2	R. & W. Mees	John Mees	House & Shop 154 0 0 ✓
3	Henny Mees	Do	Ho. & Yard 120 0 0 ✓
4	Alf. W. Horrocks	H. Miller	Ho. & Shop 31 10 0 ✓
17	Let. Inc. Sinking & W. W. Gray	Some Sinking	Do 63 0 0 ✓
6	Trilly & D. Orsch	H. Miller	House 111 0 0 ✓
	Banking Comp. 7 S	Carried Over	11486 16 0 26 5



Officers and Committee of the Society

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Alastair MacLeay

Prospect House

Trudoxhill

Frome, BA11 5DP 836595

Vice-Chairman:

Vacant

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Frome, BA11 2HT 464464

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Paul Truscott 300141

Anne Wallis 463378

Alan Yeates 461804

Chairman of Frome & District Civic Society

John Peverley 462644

Annual Subscriptions from 1st January 2010

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 out to "Frome Society for Local Study" or "F.S.L.S." The Bank does not normally allow cheques made out to individuals to be paid into the Society account.

Solving Mysteries – Where did my Ancestor live?

The CD of the 1838 Borough of Frome map recently issued by FSLs, when used in conjunction with lists of Church Rates held in the archive of St John's Church, makes it possible to pinpoint easily where many townfolk lived in the mid-19th century. For the last few years that the parish collected rates, the plot numbers used on the map were included in the first column of the lists which named the occupier, owner and description of each property together with its rateable value. Even before plot numbers were included, the sequence of occupation and ownership of properties can be traced using consecutive rating lists to establish where individuals lived or traded. Space allows only part of the Market Place schedule for 1847–8 to be shown here. In that year the rate was set at 3½d (just over 1½p) in the pound to raise a total of £416–10s–2d.

Among the other properties in the small section of the map now illustrated are the George Inn (number 1354) and the Crown Inn (1357) each occupying

several plots, with their frontages separated by a house and shop numbered 1356. These hostleries were the bases for the opposing candidates in the 1832 election, held after the passing of the Great Reform Act that bestowed borough status on the town. Much damage was done to the George by rioters supporting the losing candidate Sir Thomas Champneys. They were led by a baker and beer-house keeper Henry Gregory whose premises in Stoney Street (1321) are now a photographic shop and part of the Garden Café. Faggots from his bread-oven were used as cudgels. Henry was the brother of my four-times-great grandfather.

The parish archives at St John's Church are open on the second Saturday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Images of the Churchwardens' Accounts are being made available on CD in support of the church's restoration appeal. Further information may be obtained by telephoning 01373 474474 or emailing myersfh@goolemail.com.

Report from the Chairman

The same team as last year of Clare Kerin, Jennie O’Kane and Anne Wallis has prepared another varied programme of outings for the coming summer and I would like to thank them on your behalf. We have visits to the American Museum and Beckford’s Tower following the brilliant lectures by Laura Brown and Amy Frost respectively and Alan Stone will be showing us more of Shepton Mallet following our first introduction two years ago. As usual I believe that there is something for everyone here.

Following the outstanding visits to York and Lincoln in 2009, Donald and Ann Heseltine have kindly offered to organise a week in Kent during June next year. Outline details are given in the flyer that accompanies Contact and, if you are interested, please could you return it to Donald as soon as possible. This does not commit you in any way, but we need to be aware of the level of interest before carrying out all the research that such an undertaking requires to be successful.

You probably know that the cost of postage will increase once again in April. Please could any

Member who would be happy to receive Contact and Newsletters by e-mail let Alan Yeates know by sending him your e-mail address to info@fsls.org.uk. This will save your Society a considerable amount of money and help us keep the Membership subscriptions at their current rate.

We still have a large stock of Yearbooks 2,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12&13. A complete set of these nine would normally cost £60, but will be available to Members for £42, or, a minimum three of these volumes can be bought at wholesale price. Please contact me for details on 836595 or macleaytrudoxhill@yahoo.co.uk

Finally, this is just a reminder that the Frome Town Walks guided by Members will take place at 2.30pm from the Tourist Information Centre on the first Sunday of every month from May until September.

If any Member would like to arrange a party for a Town Walk, please contact me to make the arrangements.

Alastair MacLeay

2010 SUMMER PROGRAMME NOTES

This year we have arranged a varied programme of outings, some relating to the interesting talks we have had during the winter months. We hope you will enjoy them.

Advertised coach departure times are for **OAKFIELD RD Bus Stop opposite the Police Station**. Thereafter, the Coach **will not depart from other pick-up points before the times specified**. These times can be calculated by adding the number of minutes shown below to the advertised departure time from Oakfield Road.

MEMORIAL THEATRE – Christchurch Street West	5 minutes
NEW ROAD – Ellworthy Court Jctn	10 minutes
VINE TREE – Berkley Road	20 minutes
BRUNEL WAY – opposite Blagdon Walk	25 minutes
STONEBRIDGE DR – Ashtree Rd Bus Stop	30 minutes

Telephone bookings can be made contacting Pat Eames on 464464. Please leave a message including your contact number if she is out. Please NOTE Pat will not be available 30th July – 9th August and 20 – 29th September. The bookings list will be held during these times with Clare Kerin on 464404. Bookings can be made on the coach of the previous outing, but phone bookings will not be accepted before the dates specified on the programme.

Should you need to cancel, please do so not less than 48 hours before in case there is a waiting list. The Outings Policy of the Society states “Cancellation of a booking by any person giving less than 48 hours notice prior to departure, including failure to join the coach having made a firm booking, will create a charge. This will normally be the cost of the coach fare but would include any non refundable costs to the Society. Also the Society reserves the right to cancel an outing.”

Outing prices shown include any coach fare, entrance fees, guides and gratuities. The preferred method of payment is by cheque (payable to FSLs) collected on the coach. There will be a supplementary charge of £2 per guest. There is always a facility for buying lunch or you may prefer to take a picnic.

Clare Kerin

Thursday April 1st: The American Museum, Claverton Down.

Last autumn Laura Brown gave us a lively lecture showing how the Museum has been changing in recent years. We arrive before it's open to the general public so in several groups we shall have volunteer guides taking us through the various rooms. Afterwards we are at leisure to return to the period



rooms and some may choose to return to the textiles room for a longer stay and then wander through the 40 acres of Grounds seeing the signs of spring in the woodland and formal gardens over-looking the beautiful countryside. There is now the Terrace and Orangery to buy a light lunch, drinks, their famous cookies and cakes. The special exhibition this year is "Classic American Quilts" which gives the chance to see quilts that are rarely seen due to their great size and fragility and there is also another special exhibition which is of maps and called "Treasure & Terror".

Please note there are lifts accessing all floors.

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 9.45am

Price £16

Phone booking from 11th March

Friday 23rd April Heelis NT Headquarters and Lydiard House and Park

Described as an architectural gem built in 2005, the Trust's award winning central office is a remarkable example of innovative and sustainable building construction. As we may only visit during the lunch hour it is suggested you take a packed lunch. One half will be shown around while the half eat and vice versa.

Drinks will be available. We shall then go on to Lydiard House and Park. This was bought by Swindon Corporation in 1943 from the St John family and they



restored this fine palladian house. Visitors are free to wander throughout the elegant ground floor apartments where ornate plasterwork and original family furnishings are preserved alongside portraits and photographs of the St John family who lived here for 500 years. There is also a lovely walled garden and an embroidery exhibition produced by members of the Great Western Embroiderers' Guild. The church is also worth a visit.

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 9.15am

Price: £15

Phone booking from 1st April

Monday May 10th: More hidden delights of Shepton Mallet.

Alan Stone, the Shepton historian, is leading an early evening stroll through the western parts of the town



guiding us towards the hamlet of Bowlish which was once the heart of the local woollen industry and has

examples of houses belonging to the clothiers. We had our eyes opened before by Alan and no doubt he will delight and surprise us again. He has suggested he'll lead us to an appropriate place for refreshment before the coach meets us there.

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 5.30pm

Price £7.50

Phone booking from 19th April

Tuesday 8th June: The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, near Chichester.

This award-winning museum has a collection of nearly 50 vernacular buildings dating from the 13thC to more recent times. These were saved from certain destruction and

were carefully dismantled and re-erected here in this working landscape. The traditional methods of farming are employed using older breeds of livestock. There are



various domestic skills demonstrated and also the skills of thatching and carpentry, for instance. You will also discover charcoal burning in the woods, a working forge, a brick-makers and flour being milled in the working water mill. If another building is being erected we will see building techniques that have been used for over 500 years.

There is a secluded seating area by the mill-pond for picnics and there is a cafe in a timber framed medieval hall serving meals made with produce fresh from the gardens and also another in the Winkhurst Tudor Kitchen which serves light refreshments. There are 50 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside which makes this a very special place containing a fascinating collection of national importance.

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 8.15 am

Price £20.00

Phone booking from 18th May

Wednesday 30th June: Beckford's Tower and Museum; part of the Bath Preservation Trust.

Those of our members who overcame ice and snow to hear Amy Frost's delightful lecture on William Beckford were shown scenes of the paintings and objects illustrating his life as a writer, collector and patron of the arts. Amy and her guides will show us these and the amazing furniture originally made for Beckford's home on Lansdown. Then we have the opportunity to climb the spiral staircase to the top of the Tower and take in the spectacular panoramic view. On the way home we will have a stop for tea.

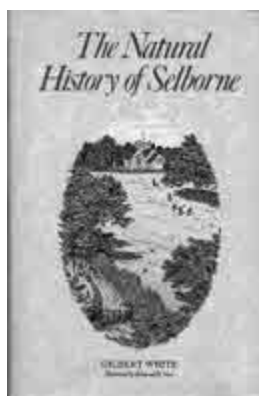
Departure time at Oakfield Road: 1pm

Price £9.50

Phone booking from 9th June

Saturday 31st July Gilbert White's House & The Oates Museum at Selborne

The Reverend Gilbert White (1720-1793) author of the world-famous *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* was the founding father of modern natural history recording. He was a pioneer in his appreciation of the interdependence of animals and plants in nature and he studied and recorded his observations intensely. The



Oates Museum commemorates the Oates family in particular Lawrence Oates who accompanied Scott to the South Pole in 1911. There is a pretty garden and the village is very attractive with the church to visit as well as two art galleries and a pottery.

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 9.0am

Price: £17.50

Phone booking from 10th July

Thursday 12 August Visit to Sherborne

Sherborne has been described as the most attractive town in Dorset, with stone buildings of all dates from the 15th century onwards, and the county's most beautiful church, St Mary, once the seat of the Bishop of Wessex, with St Aldhelm (the founder of Frome's St John's Church) as Bishop from 705-709. On arrival, we shall have morning coffee at the Half Moon Hotel, followed by a tour of the town with Rob Curtis, a local guide. This will include the town centre, the school grounds, originally part of the



Benedictine monastery (and location for the film "Goodbye Mr Chips"), and the exterior of the Abbey. You are then free to make your own arrangements for lunch. Thursday is Sherborne's market day, so after lunch you may visit the market and shops in Cheap Street, the interior of the Abbey Church with its fine Perpendicular fan vaulting and magnificent monuments, the wonderful exhibits in the Sherborne Museum (£1, last entry 4pm) or the lovely Almshouse of St John, refounded in 1438, which has a 15th century triptych from Cologne (£2, open 2-4pm)

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 8.45am

Price: £11 including morning coffee

Phone bookings from 22 July

Thursday 2nd September Barrington Court (National Trust)

The echoes of the past haunt this now empty Tudor manor house, so beautifully restored in the 1920s by the Lyle family. They lived in style, installing a sprung dance floor; the winding mechanism can still be seen under the sweeping main staircase. What were once cow yards, pens and fields became delightful flower gardens, their design influenced by Gertrude Jekyll. The working stone-walled kitchen garden produces a variety of wonderful fruit and vegetables, which can be enjoyed in the restaurant, while the arboretum delights visitors. Overall a place to relax and refresh the senses.



Departure time at Oakfield Road: 10.30am

Price: £14.50 NT members £7

Phone booking from 12th August

Wednesday 29th September Bristol Botanic Gardens



The gardens have been relocated in the last few years to the Holmes, Stoke Bishop. Most of the plants have come from the old botanic gardens at Bracken Hill. We are

able to have a guided tour which should last about 1½ hours and tea is possible afterwards.

We are making this a half day trip so an early lunch would be advisable.

Departure time at Oakfield Road: 12.30pm

Price: £12.50

Phone booking from 8th September

FROME AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

Kevin McCloud talk 12th July 2010

Enclosed with this copy of 'Contact' is an insert giving information about a forthcoming talk by Kevin McCloud that has been organised by the Civic Society and the Frome Society for Local Study as part of Frome Festival. If you would like reduced price tickets for this event, please return the slip, with your cheque, before 16th April.



Kevin's current Triangle project in Swindon. Image from Luke Engleback of Studio Engleback

Saxonvale/Garsdale

A decision on the complex planning application for the redevelopment of Saxonvale/Garsdale for shops, offices and 350 homes is expected in the next couple of months. The developers, Terramond have improved the scheme by reducing and remodelling the height of buildings around the new Public Square, introducing flexibility for the expansion of commercial uses, included more trees, and reinstated the play area and pedestrian link to the riverside park. The Civic Society continues to maintain its objection that the Public Square is still too small, the main access road still divides the two housing areas and there is no pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river. We also object to Somerset Highways requirements for costly changes to the layout of roads at the Gorehedge junction, which do nothing to improve pedestrian convenience and safety at this very difficult intersection.

New building for Frome Medical Practice

A planning application is expected in March/April for a new £11 million building for the Frome Medical Practice, located on the Showground, just south-east of the Community Hospital. The 2 storey building will accommodate 33 consulting rooms for doctors in 3 teams of 11 each, plus other related functions, with only the very small Locks Hill Surgery retained on the south side of town. Members of the Civic Society have serious concerns over two key issues. Firstly, whilst this will improve efficiency for the doctors, the needs and convenience of patients are not being equally analysed. The concentration of almost all consulting rooms on the north side of Frome will disadvantage many patients and inevitably result in more traffic movements across the town. At least one of the three teams should be located on the south side of Frome.

Secondly, when the Community Hospital was built, the Primary Care Trust acquired 8 acres of Showground which provided sufficient land for both the Hospital, and for the Medical Practice to be built to the north-west of the Hospital. This vacant 2 acre site still exists and is big enough to accommodate the Medical Practice, even though it is now larger in size. However, the current proposal locates the Medical Practice to the south-east of the Hospital and will take a further 2 acres from the Showground, making the open space significantly narrower. In the Civic Society's view, there is no insurmountable reason why the vacant 2 acres of land to the north-west of the Hospital could not now be used for the new Medical Centre, thereby saving further loss of 2 acres of Showground open space.

Conservation Area Extension

Last Autumn, Mendip District Council's Planning Board approved the Frome Conservation Area extension to include parts of Nunney Road and Oakfield Road, including Critchill Grange and the old Victoria Hospital in Park Road. This is very welcome news.

Local Listing

Local Listing, which as well as local buildings of historic interest, includes walls, railings, lampposts, milestones, etc, has been mentioned in several previous issues of 'Contact'. All preparatory work is now complete, and local listing begins this Spring. If you have any nominations for inclusion in the Local List, please send them to Jane Llewellyn, Planning Administrator at Frome Town Council in Palmer

Street (llewellynj@frome-tc.gov.uk). The Town Council is very supportive that Frome's local heritage is recorded.

Local Development Framework – Preferred Core Strategy

The next stage in the preparation of the Core Strategy document that will replace the Local Plan, will be in September, when the publication of the 'Preferred Core Strategy' is launched for public consultation. It is currently proposed that housing growth in Mendip is constrained, with the greater proportion of new housing in the south west region being allocated to major centres, such as Bristol, Bath, Taunton, etc, to lessen the effect on smaller towns, such as Frome, becoming dormitory suburbs. For Frome, this could mean that for the period of the Core Strategy, 2006-2026, no additional greenfield sites will be needed, as there are sufficient brownfield sites to accommodate the 2,300 new homes that are needed.

However, there is a further complication that needs resolution. Somerset County Council is saying that during this period, Frome will need a new First School, replacing Berkley First School, and that this will need to be privately funded through the development of 400 additional houses on greenfield land south of Asda, because the County does not have sufficient capital funds to build the school on the site in Packsaddle which is already in their ownership!

Planning and Development

Since the last issue of 'Contact' in August, an application to fell 14 trees at Critchill Grange and plant 14 new trees has been approved. The proposal to convert the former Sheppards Barton Baptist Church into offices has been withdrawn. A very controversial proposal to build 11 homes on a paddock site at the rear of 18-36 Alexandra Road and 14-28 Locks Hill was approved despite strong opposition. A proposal to demolish 54 'Cornish' prefabricated houses in Singers Knoll and Randolph Road and replace them with 99 affordable homes and 36 flats as part of an 'extra care' facility linked to Gorehedge has been recommended for approval. Work has started on the construction of 10 new homes at 1 Locks Hill, by the traffic lights. Planning permission has been given for a new pedestrian bridge to replace the Bailey Bridge at the Market Yard. An application has been made to convert the former estate agent on the corner of Willow Vale and North Parade into 5 flats. Bloor Homes is expected

to start work soon on the construction of 187 dwellings on brownfield land off Garston Road.

This coming summer, Frome Town Council is facilitating a visit to the town of a group of American architectural students and their professors from Notre Dame University, Indiana. As part of their academic studies of the area, it is expected that they will produce ideas and plans for the future development of the town.

John Peverley, Chairman of FDCCS

HOME IN FROME

Many members came to the Silk Mill last year for the launch of Rodney Goodall's latest book the Industries of Frome and to see Robert Golden's powerfully evocative exhibition, HOME, of black and white photographs taken in Britain during the 1960's -70's.

Many of the 1,200 visitors who came to the exhibition enjoyed sharing their memories and commented on how different life is now, to then. Many also availed themselves of the opportunity to record their memories or take part in making an audio visual film.

This positive response has encouraged us to form an Oral History Group. We would like to hear from anyone interested in helping to record people talking about their memories, for the benefit of future generations, and so enabling comparatively recent history to live on. We believe that today's living creates tomorrow's history.

As well as using this material for our own information and projects, we wish to tape, edit and transcribe interviews to the standard acceptable by Somerset Archives. This material will also offered to Frome Museum and the Library Service.

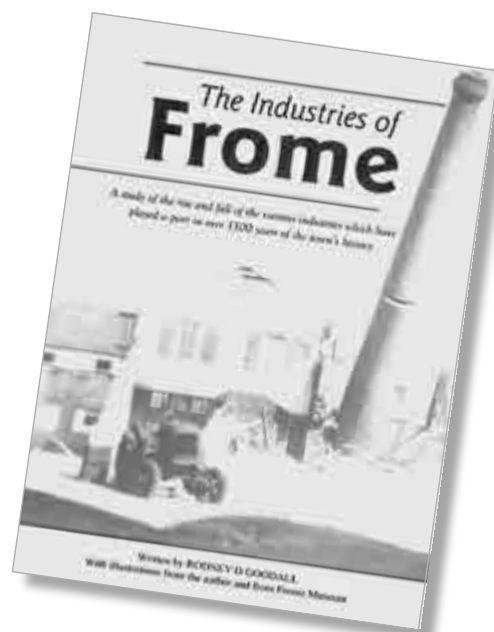
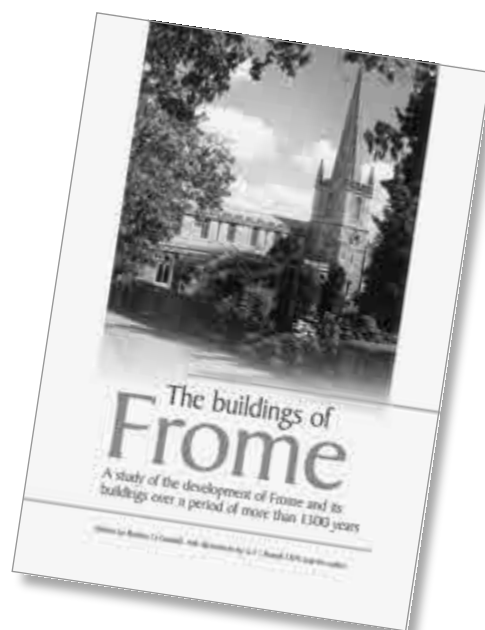
If you are interested in helping, please contact the Home in Frome secretary Hilary Clarke, email clarke-hilary@sky.com or write Mrs. Clarke, The Keep, Castle Street, Frome BA11 3BN. Some free in-house training is available.

Jacqueline Peverley, Chair, Home in Frome.

FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY

Registered Charity No 292340

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The Buildings of Frome	7.50
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The King's Peace	6.00
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Villages of the Frome Area	4.50
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The History of Nunney	7.50
Around Frome (Francis Frith)	9.99
1838 Frome Map by Dixon & Maitland on a CD	10.00



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