

CONTACT

Autumn/
Winter

Frome Society for Local Study
Frome and District Civic Society

2011



Gustave Doré's illustration of Lord Alfred Tennyson's "Idylls of the King", 1868

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Paul Truscott

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Anne Wallis

463378

Alan Yeates

461804

Chairman of Frome & District Civic Society

John Peverley

462644

Annual Subscriptions from 1st January 2012

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.

The preferred method of payment is by standing order to FSLS, and a form is available from Sheila Powell or can be downloaded from our website, www.fsls.org.uk

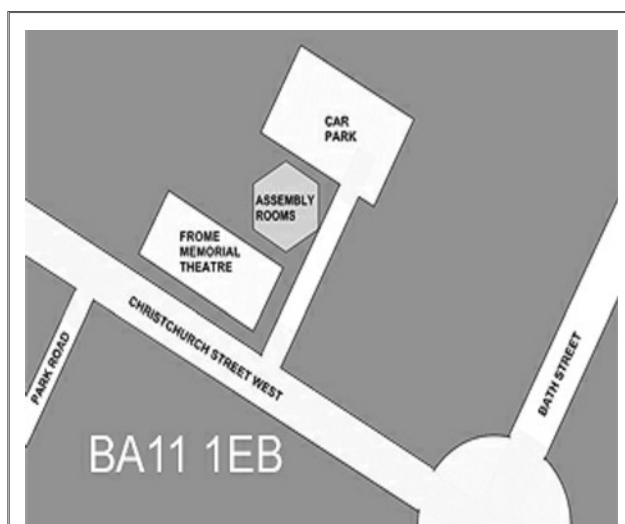
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"Family Matters"

There is a flyer enclosed with Contact which gives details of a new book by John Jolliffe entitled 'Family Matters'. It is a summary of 500 years of family history of the Asquiths, Horners and Jolliffes; approximately half the book covers activities in Mells and Ammerdown. Although the price is marked £18 post free, FSLS has negotiated a special price £12 per copy for local collection. Anyone who would like to buy the book should contact Alastair MacLeay (macleaytrudoxhill@yahoo.co.uk) so that a bulk order can be placed.



Ammerdown House



We have a new larger venue for our talks, at the Assembly Rooms behind the Memorial Theatre in Christchurch Street West, Frome **BA11 1EB**
All talks are at 2.30 p.m. unless otherwise specified and guests are welcome with a small charge of £2 per head

Report from the Chairman

It has been a great honour to take over the chairmanship of the Frome Society for Local Study. I am mindful of following several distinguished previous chairmen, who have served the Society well, not least my immediate predecessor, Alastair MacLeay, who led the Society for five years. Among his many contributions has been the high quality of publications – both in content and in production. I am very pleased that he has taken over the editorship of the Yearbook and will continue to look after the publications side of the Society.

I am also grateful for the support of each and every member of the committee who give a lot of their time to making the Society such a thriving organisation. Much of their work is quietly and effectively done: arranging the programmes of a range of excellent lectures during the winter, organising the outings during the summer, ensuring that all members are made to feel at home. A special acknowledgement goes to Ann and Donald Heseltine who have brilliantly and flawlessly planned and managed the tour of Kent this year.

A couple of years ago, while visiting the Isle of Wight, I was intrigued by the sight of a petrified forest on the shore near where we were staying. Wanting to learn more I visited the local museum. There I was confronted with a long shelf of the transactions of the local historical society. Unfortunately there was no index to this rich seam of information and I lacked the time (and inclination) to wade through each tome in the hope of finding what I wanted.

I came away determined that the FSLs should avoid such a fate and that, somehow, we had to facilitate access to our own yearbooks. By great good fortune Richard Wallis has proved equal to this task and has compiled a record of the contents of each yearbook since Volume 1. This invaluable document was

In the next year or so I am hoping that more members of the Society can be involved in its running. If you have any skill that you think may be of use, or any ideas as to how the Society may progress in the future, do please make contact with myself or a member of the committee.

Last year the lectures were very well attended and on one occasion – to our great embarrassment – we had to turn people away because of a full house. We have been immensely appreciative to St Catharine's Church for the use of their Hall, and we are sad to leave this welcome and friendly venue. From October we are changing the venue for the winter lectures to the Assembly Rooms at the back of the Memorial Theatre in Christchurch Street West. It can accommodate far more people without losing the intimacy of St Catharine's Church Hall.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Assembly Rooms for the first lecture on Saturday 8 October at 2.30 pm.

Peter Clark

printed as part of Volume 13 and is also available as a download from our website at www.fsls.org.uk. Go to the 'downloads and links' button on the left hand side of the home page and click through to the 'index of year books'. The document is saved as a PDF and is fully searchable with a PDF reader such as Foxit.

There is a considerable stock of Yearbooks 2,5,6,7,8, 9,10,11&12. A complete set of these nine would normally cost £50, but will be available to Members for £35, or, a minimum three of these volumes can be bought at a reduced price.

Please contact Alastair MacLeay for details on 836595 or info@fsls.org.uk

Alan Yeates

A Trip to Lancashire

Following successful five day trips to York and Canterbury an outing to Central Lancashire is being contemplated for 2012. It will be based on a University College Campus off the M6, during their vacation. Visits will be paid by coach to places of special interest in the Ribble Valley and its surrounding areas. If you are interested in this proposed excursion please read the enclosed leaflet.

Donald Heseltine

FSLs FCS TALKS 2011/2012

Saturday 8 October Dave Crisp: “Discovering and Saving the Frome Hoard”



On 11th April 2010, Dave Crisp from Devizes made a chance in a lifetime discovery of 53,503 Roman coins dating from AD 253-305, buried in a field near Frome. This is the largest hoard of coins ever found in Britain, and includes coins from the reign of Emperor Carausius, who rebelled against Rome and ruled Britain as an independent state. Dave, who is Secretary of the Trowbridge and District Metal Detecting Club will talk about his lifelong passion for metal detecting, what it involves and how it is done. He will also tell us how he made the discovery of the Frome Hoard, the reporting of the find, its excavation, significance and content and its saving for the nation, for display in Taunton and Frome. The Frome Society for Local Study gave £1,000 to help save the Hoard.

Saturday 22 October Dinah Starkey: “Sitting for Mr Gainsborough, the Artist and Bath”

Dinah Starkey, a very popular lecturer on previous visits to Frome, will talk to us about Gainsborough's experience as the most fashionable painter of his time in Bath. His pictures, whether of noble clients or members of his own circle tell the story of a glittering society and the hard economic realities that underlay it. Dinah will be able to vividly describe the historical context of the era.



Next year, we hope to follow up this talk with a visit to the newly re-opened Holbourne Museum in Bath.

Saturday 5 November Edward Nash: “Re-creating the Kingston Mills at Bradford on Avon”



The Avon Rubber Factory, housed in the historic Kingston Mills in the centre of Bradford on Avon, was closed in 1992 and for the last 19 years, in a situation similar to Saxonvale in Frome, the buildings have decayed and become derelict as scheme after scheme failed to meet the aspirations of the local community. When the

Nash Partnership from Bath were called in, they started a proper consultation with 75 community groups and as a result, a viable scheme that includes energy from renewable sources is at last under construction. Edward Nash, an architect and senior partner of the Nash Partnership, will describe how the regeneration of this problematic site is being achieved and how it has empowered the local community, enhanced civic pride and won the Regeneration Award from the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2010. A visit to Kingston Mills will be included in the summer visits for 2012.

Saturday 19 November John Birkett-Smith: “The Joys and Tribulations of Managing an Independent Bookshop in a Small Market Town”



John Birkett-Smith has owned and run Hunting Raven bookshop in Frome since 2000. At a time when so many small shops have come and gone, this shop has prospered and in many ways is a hub of the

community. John has been a member of the Society for many years and has talked to us in the past on planning matters. Now we welcome him to share some insights with us about running his business, so popular with our members, and an outlet for our publications.

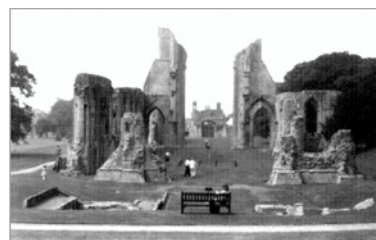
Saturday 3 December David Wright: “The Geology of the Frome Region”

David Wright, who lives at Rudge, has written on the landscape and geology of the Mendip region, and will talk on The Geology of the Frome Region



Saturday 17 December: Adam Stout: “Christmas in Arimathea: The Idea of Glastonbury since the Reformation”

Adam Stout is the author of *Creating Prehistory: Druids, Ley-Hunters and Archaeologists in Pre-War Britain*, 2002, and will talk on Glastonbury legends. He has been a member of



the FSLs for several years.

Saturday 14 January The Ashworth Memorial Lecture - Robin Thornes: "Quarrying in the Mendips"



FSLs published Robin Thornes' *Men of Iron - The Fussells of Mells* in 2010 and his most recent book *The Yeoman Story* is now available and published by Ash Tree

Publications. Robin Thornes is an industrial archaeologist with a special interest in the industries of the Mendips. This year he has been working on a history of quarrying in the Mendips with an emphasis on the development of the roadstone industry from the mid 19th century. He will be making a very welcome return to talk to us.

Saturday 28 January Laurence Tindall: "Restoring Abbeys"

Laurence Tindall has worked with stone for over 36 years and after his conservation work on Wells Cathedral he helped found the Nimbus Conservation Trust in 1984. This firm is still in Frome but Laurence moved on to concentrate on other projects, for instance on his work with children. His illustrated talk will be covering the practical and philosophical issues of the way stone is used to repair historic buildings. Examples of all his work can be found on his website: www.laurencetindall.co.uk



Saturday 11 February Andrew Foyle: "Revising the Pevsner for North Somerset"

The series of Penguin books on the Buildings of England, written by Nikolaus Pevsner between 1951-74 are being revised and expanded. The revised



volume for North Somerset, covering the Frome area, which was first published in 1958 is due to be launched in Autumn 2011, fifty two years after it was first issued. Andrew Foyle, an independent historian and researcher, based in Bristol, and the author of the Pevsner Architectural Guide to Bristol and the revised

Pevsner for North Somerset will introduce the Buildings of England series and tell us about Pevsner, and about the physical development of the books from the earliest counties through to the new format. He will bring some volumes, letters and notes in Pevsner's minute and unreadable writing, which led to some comical mistakes in typing up, and will cover his revision for the Frome area and talk about some specific buildings, local character and experiences in undertaking the work.

Saturday 25 February Stephen Minnitt: "The New Somerset Museum"

Stephen Minnitt is Head of Museums in Somerset with specific responsibility for archaeology and has played a leading role in the new Museum of Somerset in Taunton Museum. Stephen's illustrated talk will take



us through the project and also highlight some of the particularly significant artefacts on display and he has hinted at a mention of the

Frome Hoard! As a follow-up to this talk the Frome Society will be given a guided tour of the new Museum in the spring of 2012.

Saturday 10 March Alexander Sturgis: The Re-creation of the Holburne Museum

In Mark Fisher's guide to Britain's Best Museums and Galleries, the Holburne Museum in Bath is the only one to be awarded four stars in south-west England. For the past three years the Museum has been closed for a complete renovation and to build a new exemplar extension to display more of its collection of coins, miniatures, silver, ceramics, porcelain, glass, furniture and paintings, including works by Turner, Stubbs and Gainsborough. Alexander Sturgis, who worked at the National Gallery for fourteen years, initially as Education Officer and then as Exhibitions and Programmes Curator, was appointed Director of the Holburne Museum in 2005. He will outline how the project was conceived and brought to fruition, overcoming many obstacles on the way, how the collections are better displayed, and how the Museum has functioned, since its re-opening to the public in May 2011. A visit to the Holburne Museum will be included in the programme for 2012.



Saturday 24 March 2 p.m. Humphrey Barnes: "FAOS, Frome Memorial Theatre and the History of Pantomime" preceded by the AGM.

Humphrey Barnes, chairman of the trustees of the FAOS and the Memorial Theatre, will talk to us about his association and experiences. He has been a member of the FAOS for 60 years and can tell us of the development of this important and remarkable part of Frome life, accompanied by his own lively reminiscences.



FROME AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

English Heritage and National Trust Free Access Passes

One of the benefits of joining Civic Voice is that all members of Frome and District Civic Society and Frome Society for Local Study can apply for a free access pass to English Heritage and National Trust properties. The Passes will provide one free access for one person to one English Heritage and one of the participating National Trust properties during normal opening hours.

To obtain either of these Passes, if you have a computer, go to www.civictrust.org.uk and type in the search box "English Heritage Pass", or "National Trust Pass", and fill in and return the online form. If you don't have a computer, write to Ian Harvey, Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, Liverpool L1 4DQ, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and requesting either or both of these passes, and mentioning that you are a member of this Society. If there are two members at the same address, you will need to apply for two passes. The English Heritage Pass is valid to 31 January 2012 and the National Trust Pass to 30 April 2012. If you are already a member of the National Trust, you can give your pass to a friend.

Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

As reported in the previous issue of 'Contact', public consultation on Mendip District Council's Core Strategy Preferred Options, which will replace the Local Plan, was undertaken during March 2011. It proposed 2,300 new homes mostly on brownfield sites, more employment land at Commerce Park on the ring road, more open space, two new primary schools and in the town centre a small to medium size foodstore, plus up to 75,000 sq ft of new non-food shopping, 43,000 sq ft of offices and a linear park along the River Frome. The next stage is in February 2012 when the Council, after considering comments made during the last consultation, is expecting to publish a final version for submitting to the Secretary of State for examination in public by an Inspector later in 2012. There will be an opportunity in February to submit comments for consideration by the Inspector.

As many of you will be aware, the planning process is currently under review by Parliament, and major changes are expected to be enacted within the next year. How these might affect the Core Strategy is uncertain.

Saxonvale

During the past months, many of you will have seen articles and letters in the local press, for and against a large Tesco superstore located on derelict land at Saxonvale. A consensus appears to be developing supporting the adopted Planning Brief for Saxonvale.

This Brief was arrived at after a period of extensive and lengthy public consultations and has the support of all four landowners. The Brief calls for a high quality development of shops, offices, employment and housing set around a pattern of streets, squares and open spaces covering all four land ownerships. At a meeting on 30 June at Rook Lane Chapel, Kevin McCloud strongly endorsed the qualities set out in the Planning Brief as being the right way forward for the future of Saxonvale. The Brief does not include a large superstore, but does call for a mix of shop sizes to accommodate a range of shops.

The proposal drawn up by Terramond, based on the Saxonvale Brief, although not ideal, has received planning permission, providing that a legal agreement can be signed between the four landowners, which has not yet happened. Terramond's proposal includes housing, offices and open space and between 25,000-45,000 sq ft of shopping distributed in 4 or 5 separate buildings arranged around streets and squares. One of these buildings could accommodate a small to medium supermarket of 16,000 sq ft.

Last Autumn, the directors of Notts Industries Pension Fund, who own part of the site, invited St James Investments, property developers, to prepare an alternative scheme, to include a large supermarket. It was expected that St James Investments would start public consultation on this scheme in the Spring, but at the time of writing, this has not happened.

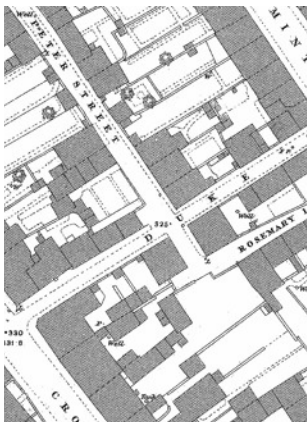
The Showfield

Last June, Frome Recreation and Open Ground Supporters (FROGS) applied to Somerset County Council to have the remainder of the Showfield that will be left after the development of the new Medical Centre, designated as a Town or Village Green. FROGS are concerned that with the development of the Community Hospital and now the Medical Centre, the Showfield open space, which is owned by the Frome and District Agricultural Society Ltd, could be at risk from further developments in the future and that designation as a Town or Village Green will help to prevent further loss of open space. Following consultation with those affected by the application, the County Council will have to determine whether to make the designation.

Local Listing

If you are interested to help in the surveying and compiling of an inventory of Frome buildings of local historic interest please telephone 01373-462644. The Society is doing this in association with Frome Town Council and Mendip District Council. If you have any suggestions for 'Local Listing', please send them to Jane Llewellyn at Frome Town Council, 5 Palmer Street, Frome BA11 1DS (tel: 01373-465757) or email her at: llewellynj@fome-tc.gov.uk

Map of Frome in 1886



In June, members received a folded copy of the very large scale map of Frome first published in 1886 as part of the Ordnance Survey's most beautiful series of engraved town maps of Britain. Nine sheets covering the town centre and the Trinity area have been merged onto one sheet and reduced to a more manageable and

comprehensible scale. Flat copies are available for anyone wanting to display the map and a CD is also available covering a much wider area of the town. From 6 September, Frome Museum is having an exhibition of maps and plans of Frome, including a recently conserved original copy of the 1886 map.

Planning and Development

Last May, Somerset County Council Highways Department removed a listed Cockey lamp in Whittox Lane and replaced it with a new lamp and also removed cracked stone paving slabs in Sheppard's Barton and replaced them with tarmac. After considerable protests from local residents and councillors it is understood that the Cockey Lamp will be repaired and reinstated, but it is still uncertain whether the County Council will reinstate the stone paving. There are 69 Cockey Lamps in Frome, of which 25 are currently listed.

Revised proposals have been submitted to demolish the Weaver's Pub in The Butts and replace it with 6 flats and 2 houses. An application has been made to convert The Farmer's Arms in Spring Gardens into a house. Permission has been granted for 2 houses in the garden at the side of Critchill Grange, and for a 70 bed residential care home on the site of the former Gas Works in Welshmill. Permission has been renewed for two non-food retail units and a car wash on land behind Sainsbury's. A revised scheme has been submitted for 14 houses, on land off Beechwood Avenue.

By the time you read this, work should have started on the new £11 million Medical Centre on the Showfield and on fitting out the former Martin's shop in the Westway Precinct for a new branch of the Radstock Co-operative Society. Wimpey's development of 74 dwellings on the site of the former Slipps Nursery is nearing completion and work is well advanced on Flourish Homes' development of 99 affordable homes and 36 extra care flats at Singers Knoll and Randolph Road.

John Peverley - Chairman

HOME IN FROME

Who we are

Home in Frome is a broadly-based community organisation. Our aim is to document and celebrate what is special and distinctive about Frome.

The guiding light for the project has been Jacqueline Peverley, who brought Robert Golden's 'Home' exhibition to Frome for the 2009 Festival. Another Frome Society member, Alan Yeates, is in charge of our web-site (www.homeinfrome.org.uk). Our Publicity Officer is John Payne, who is also going to edit the 'Workers of Frome' publication for publication in 2012. This will complement the Frome Society's 'Industries of Frome', written by the late Rodney Goodall.

Our Chair and Secretary are Sheila Gore and Gill Harry, while our part-time co-ordinator is local composer Helen Ottaway. Niamh Ferguson co-ordinated our successful Shop Talk and Graffiti Art activities during the 2011 Festival. Annabelle Macfadyen was the brains behind our wonderful 'Home' float in the 2011 Carnival, and with Mel Day is also leading our preparations for Carnival 2012.

What we do

During Frome Festival Week, over 500 people came to our Shop on the High Pavement in Catherine Hill to watch films, look at our displays, and record memories of their lives in Frome. Many of them took



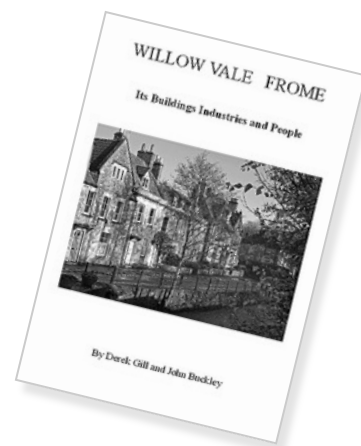
MP3 players on a guided walk round old shops in Frome, listening to memories of the shop-keepers as they went.

Look out for our Big Heads in the Frome Carnival procession on Saturday 24 September. Our Oral History work (Frome Aloud) will continue through the winter. These projects are funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Frome Town Council, Flourish Homes and Active Citizens.

How you can get involved

If you want to record your memories of living and working in Frome or have photos of working life in Frome's factories and shops, markets and offices, please contact John Payne on 01373-455746 (e-mail: johnpayne@phonecoop.coop).

FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY BOOKS	£
1838 Frome Map by Dixon & Maitland on a CD	10.00
1886 Map on a CD	10.00
1886 OS printed map (flat or folded)	10.00
1903 O.S. Map of Frome	9.00
Men of Iron	11.50
Willow Vale Frome	8.00
The Industries of Frome	7.00
The Buildings of Frome	7.50
Crime and Punishment in Regency Frome	3.50
The King's Peace	6.00
A History of Mells	6.00
The History of Nunney	7.50
Villages of the Frome Area	4.50
Gardening at Marston House	3.00
Frome Street and Place Names	4.50
FSLS Yearbooks Volumes 2,3&5	3.00
FSLS Yearbook Volume 6	4.00
FSLS Yearbooks Volumes 7,8,9,10 & 11	6.00
FSLS. Yearbook Volume 12&13	10.00
The Mystery of Fidele	2.50
Frome through the Ages	5.00
The Making of Frome	4.50
The Book of Frome	9.99
The Bounds of Selwood	1.00
Argyll House	3.00
Westbarn Grange part 2	1.00
Future of the Past	1.00
Experiences of a 19th Century Gentleman	10.00
Frome Hundred	10.00
The Coopers' Company's School in Frome 1939 - 1945	9.00
A History of Stoke St Michael	8.50
Stoke St Michael in Old Photographs	7.50
The Book of Leigh upon Mendip	12.50
Beacon Hill	1.00
Chantry Village and Church	2.00
Around Frome (Francis Frith)	9.99



All Frome Society publications are available from the Hunting Raven Bookshop, Cheap Street, Frome or direct from Alastair MacLeay, Prospect House, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DP (01373 836595 or macleaytrudoxhill@yahoo.co.uk). Postage & packing extra at cost.

E-mail: info@fsls.org.uk

Website: www.fsls.org.uk

