

Witham Friary History Society Trustee meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2025 in The Seymour Arms

Present: Geoff Shepard (GS) Chair, Chris Featherstone (CF) (Events Organiser) Roy Featherstone (RF) (Secretary), Mike Gorman (MG) (Treasurer), Marcia Scott, David Heath (DH) Caz Netherton (CN) George Pritchard.(GP) Ann Howard (AH)

1. Welcome and Introductions.

GS took the chair and welcomed everyone.

2.0 Apologies

There were no apologies

3.0 Declarations of Interest.

None declared.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

(See below)

5.0 Matters Arising

DH stated that his forthcoming talk (22/Jan 2026) is entitled:

“Pictures out of Darkness. How a woman from Frome brought down The King of the Belgians.”

Visit to Beckford Tower. MG to action..

6.0Chairman’s Report.

GS thanked all for their continued hard work .

Attendance at meetings has been good again with an increase in attendees from outside the village. Turn out for the quiz was disappointing, due to a number of regulars not being available.

7.0 Treasurer’s Report.

Since last meeting in Jan 2025:

Income

Raffles at talks £178

Quizzes £91.25

MG Probus talk £60

Expenditure

Speakers (both paid in cash) £160

Catering £35

To come:

Speaker 24.04.2025 £150

Catering: £50?
Income from raffle: £50

Balance today 07.04.2025: £1046

We should end the season with a balance of around £900
MG noted that village hall fees are likely to increase. A suggestion was made to introduce admission fees. We are OK at the moment but will monitor the situation.

8.0 Programme for 2025/2026

25th September – Ian Messider- The life and times o a Kenspeckle Man.

16th October – Ceilia Blay – History of Maiden Bradley

20th November – Dr Graham Twemlow – The History of Poster Art

12th December – Christmas Quiz

22nd January – David Heath – Pictures out of darkness. How a woman from Frome Brought down The King of the Belgians.

19th February - Mike Gorman – 4000 years of Plague

20th March -Quiz

23rd April - Gary Kearly – The Monmouth Rebellion

9.0 Proposed Dairy Farming Event

A working party has been set up and progress so far is good.

10. Suggestions for 2026/2027

- History of Carnival (Not Frome based)
- History of Longleat
- Max Milligan
- POW,s during the war
- White horses and hill figures
- History of farming during the war

11. AOB

AH noted that this year was the 80th anniversary of VE day. It was agreed that it would have been good to have celebrated in some way, however preparations for the Dairy Farming Day had prevented this. It was agreed that in the future we would check for possible clashes when planning events.

12. Date of next meeting – July 7th 2025

The meeting closed at 7.0 pm.

