

Blagdon Local History Society

We have discovered Zoom! Like so many of you we have had to re-think our modus operandi – no more meetings in Court Lodge for a while. We turned to Zoom in October with a well attended presentation 'Somerset against the King' by Ken Parsons. We learnt a few things, for instance, having a host as well as a presenter, turning off participants' microphones and managing questions. Our November presentation was from local retired sea captain and pilot Roger Francis, a very successful session which attracted around 40 participants. A real silver lining in the face of Covid.

Our next offering will be on **January 13th 7.30pm with Steve Tofts**, again via Zoom, who will talk about **'Roman and Victorian mining activity around Charterhouse'**.

Steve has been a long-standing member of CHERT (Charterhouse Environs Research Team), a group which has undertaken archaeological surveys, field walks and historical mapping on Mendip. The members decided to disband the group just before March and have joined the Blagdon Local History Society which is looking forward to benefitting from their experience. Steve will explain what is known about mining on Mendip and how CHERT carried out some of their research. We hope that when we can all get back to normal there will be some guided walks on offer.

Meanwhile we have been communicating with members and friends via a digital **Blagdon Life and Times** newsletter compiled by Peter May with a lot of input from Sheila Johnson. Another silver lining this, as it has enabled a wider audience access to the huge historical archive of photographs, newspaper articles, and residents' memories held by the Society. If you have not received a copy, please give your email to Mike Adams who will add you to the growing list.

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Our website is also under construction: you can access recordings of our talks and much more.

<https://www.blagdonlhs.com>