



NEWSLETTER

February 2016

- Friends News -

Helen Hughes

We learnt with great sadness of the recent death of Helen Hughes, long-time member of the Friends and wife of previous president Ken Hughes. Helen, who for many years acted as “accounts-checker”, verifying the charity’s accounts, passed away in hospital in January after becoming ill at her home a few days before.



Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum

This year’s AGM will take place in the Great Hall of the Castle on Friday April 22nd, directly after the talk “Treading the Boards” (details of which can be found in the “Talks” section) at 7:30 pm.

This is the most important of the Friends events you could attend this year: it is where decisions are made regarding the running and operation of our organisation, and where you can make your opinions known. So please put this date in your diary and resolve to help us, the committee, make those decisions.

If you feel you would like to contribute as a member of the Friends’ committee, don’t be shy in coming forward—all that is involved in being a committee member is attending a monthly evening meeting, unless you feel you would like to take on a more active role in some of the organisational activities—it is entirely up to you.

Children's Halloween Event 2015

The Friends' Halloween event, which took place on October 31st last year, was a huge success, with virtually all tickets sold.

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all of the members and their families and friends who dressed up and came along to help us put on such a good show, and to the actors who put on such a brilliant playlet in the Withdrawing Room. (Some of our "witchy" friends can be seen below!)



The total net profit from the event was almost £2000, half of which goes direct to the Castle and half to the Friends' funds for future allocation to specific Castle items or projects.

St. George's Day

The Friends stall will be making an appearance at the Tamworth St. George's Day event on Saturday 23rd April 2016, in the Castle Grounds (near Ankerside Shopping Centre).

- Talks -

Origins of Place Names

By Anthony Poulton-Smith in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 4th March 2016 at 7:30pm

Anthony is a freelance journalist and the author of sixty-five books, mainly on the subject of the origins of place-names: not just the names of towns and villages but also hills, streams, districts, fields, streets, and even public houses.

He will talk about the origins and linguistics of local place names, and will host a question-and-answer session where you can ask him his opinion on the likely roots of the names of places local to you.

This promises to be a very interesting talk!

Treading the Boards

By Derek Wharton in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 22nd April 2016 at 7:30pm

In his talk, Derek will tell us of his experiences in the field of amateur dramatics, and of the funny things that can happen.

Goose Grease and Brown Paper

By Kath Reynolds in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 13th May 2016 at 7:30pm

Kath says "I am keenly interested in people; their lives and their communities - my talks reflect a great many years of collecting stories, memories and musings from the people of Staffordshire and the surrounding area. I am always vigilant to research and verify "facts" which are presented to me - although I often share the facts which are clearly fiction...purely because they are entertaining."

In this talk Kath takes us on a fun trip down memory lane to pre-NHS days and the kitchen cupboard remedies inflicted by our nearest and dearest! Honey, salt, onions, mustard...not to forget the snails, urine, string and cow muck! This is very much an interactive session and audience participation is warmly welcomed but not compulsory!

If this stirs memories with you, or even if you're too young to know about such things, this talk looks like being one you won't want to miss!

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

Quiz Night

Friday 8th April 2016 at the Globe Inn, Lower Gungate, Tamworth

Another of our ever-popular quiz nights: start getting your teams together now, and dust off your general knowledge!

An application form is included with this newsletter: the price of £7.50 includes a meal, which you can choose from the following:

- Fish & chips
- Braised beef & chips
- Vegetarian option

The evening starts at 7:30 pm

Nottingham Galleries of Justice

Saturday 16th April 2016

This trip takes us to the Galleries of Justice Museum in Nottingham. Voted the Best Small Visitor Attraction of the year in 2014, it is based in Nottingham's old courthouse and gaol and is the only museum of its type in Europe. It features audio and performance-led tours, exhibitions of 300 years of crime and punishment, and an exhibition covering the legend of Robin Hood: for centuries the building was the base of the villainous Sheriff of Nottingham!

Included in the trip is an interactive tour led by an actor who will dramatize the beastly goings-on that took place in times less liberal and forgiving than the present day.

(Please note that the museum is spread over five floors, many of which are uneven, and has low ceilings in places.)

After the visit to the Galleries of Justice, you will have time to find a place to take lunch (there are a number of restaurants and pubs close by) and to look around the city centre before boarding the coach for home at 4:30 pm.

The price of this trip is £26.50 per person, which includes coach transport. The coach will pick you up in Corporation Street, Tamworth, at 09:30 am.

If you would like to join us on this trip, please complete the booking form that can be found at the back of this newsletter: **these must be with us by 7th April.**

- Reviews -

Stories of the English Coinage

A talk given by Phil Griffiths on 5th February 2016

Phil gave an interesting and very informative talk that was enjoyed by an audience of over 30 members.



Friends Events for 2016

04/03/16	Talk "Origins of Place Names"
08/04/16	Quiz night
16/04/16	Trip to the Nottingham Galleries of Justice
22/04/16	Talk "Treading the Boards"
22/04/16	Friends Annual General Meeting
13/05/16	Talk "Goose Grease and Brown Paper"
03/06/16	(Provisional) Musical evening in the Castle
18/06/16	Trip to Winterbourne Gardens
08/07/16	Dispelling the Myths of Bats
03/09/16	Trip to the Imperial War Museum, Manchester

Don't forget—the Friends lunch club meets at the Globe Inn, Lower Gungate on the last Thursday of every month at 12:00. Everybody is welcome.

Contact Details

Where booking slips are included with the newsletter, if return details are not included on the form please complete and send them, with payment, to:

Sue Evans, 48 Barbara Street, Tamworth, B79 7EJ

If you do not have a booking slip or would like more details about a trip, you can contact Sue by phone on **01827 55916** or by email at

social@tamworthcastlefriends.org

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding newsletters, please contact Roger Ashford by phone on **0790 0088960** or by email at

newsletter@tamworthcastlefriends.org

Membership queries should be addressed to

membership@tamworthcastlefriends.org

For any other issues, contact **admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org**

Booking Forms

Quiz Night at The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate, Tamworth

Friday 8th April 2016, 7:30 pm

Please reserve _____ places for me at this event at £ 7.50 per person.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

How many of each meal do you require? (enter the numbers against each):

Fish and chips _____ / Beef and chips _____ / Vegetarian _____

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to **FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH CASTLE AND MUSEUM** and a stamped, addressed envelope.

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to:

Sue Evans, 48 Barbara Street, Tamworth, B79 7EJ

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Trip to the Nottingham Galleries of Justice

Saturday 16th April 2016

Please reserve _____ places for me on this trip at £ 26.50 per person.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to **FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH CASTLE AND MUSEUM** and a stamped, addressed envelope.

Please complete and return this form by **7th April** to:

Sue Evans, 48 Barbara Street, Tamworth, B79 7EJ

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