



# NEWSLETTER

## February 2019



### - Castle News -

#### **Saxon Battle Tribute**

If you have visited the Castle recently, you will have noticed that the large second-floor room that previously contained the “Tamworth Story” exhibits has been stripped of these exhibits and is not accessible. This is because the room is being re-developed as a “Saxon Battle Tribute” exhibition area and will contain a brand new set of displays, designed and built with the aid of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the Friends of Tamworth Castle funds. The displays will include an interactive Saxon battle display, a Saxon throne room , and a display of items from the Saxon Hord. The refitted room with its displays is scheduled to be open to the public in April 2020: more information will be included in the newsletter closer to the time.

### - Friends News -

#### **Annual General Meeting**

**Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum 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. At this year’s AGM we will be looking for volunteers to fill a number of positions on the committee that will become vacant because of members who will be either stepping down from the committee or relinquishing their particular responsibilities on the committee. In particular, we will need to fill the positions of Secretary and Trips

(continued overleaf...)

## **Annual General Meeting (cont.)**

Organiser. If you feel that you would like to help us in respect of these positions, or just as an ordinary committee member, please make yourself known at the AGM or beforehand. Committee membership is not an onerous task (we meet once a month on a Monday evening) and does not require any particular experience, so please consider putting yourself forward for membership.

The AGM will be followed by the talk “Local Murders of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” (details are shown opposite).

### **- Talks -**

#### **Albrighton Pottery**

**By Annette and John Christophers at The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate  
On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 2:00 pm  
(following the monthly lunch club meal)**

Annette and John, of the Albrighton Pottery, have been making pottery for over 50 years and in this talk they offer a fascinating insight into the history of pot-making in the pottery that is situated in the pleasant village of Albrighton in Shropshire.

#### **What Really Did Happen in the Dark Ages?**

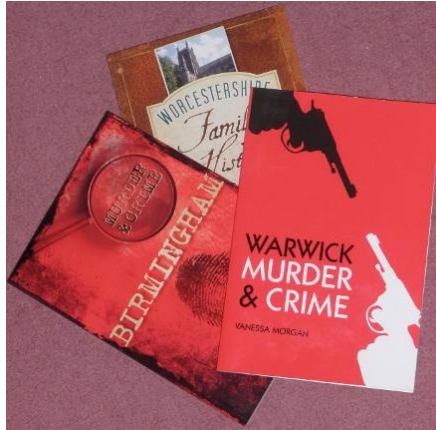
**By Dr Trevor James at The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate  
On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 2:00 pm  
(following the monthly lunch club meal)**

The Dark Ages, more accurately called the Early Medieval Period, stretched from the decline of the Roman Empire, around the 5th century AD, to about the 10th century AD. The term “Dark Ages” was meant to reflect the lack of records, and therefore knowledge, of events, during the period.

Dr Trevor James is Editor of *The Historian* and has been the *Director of the Young Historian Project* for the last 22 years. He has presented many talks on historical periods right up to the early 20th century, and in this talk he will shed some light on what actually did happen during the Dark Ages.

## Local Murders of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

By Vanessa Morgan in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle  
On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7:30 pm (following the AGM)



Vanessa Morgan is a genealogist and local historian for Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Birmingham. She has written many articles for genealogy and local history magazines and has had a number of books published, including ones about murder and crime in Birmingham and Warwickshire.

This talk will take place immediately after the AGM.

## The Battle of Waterloo

By Tim Burgin in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle  
On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7:30 pm



The Waterloo Protagonists— The Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte

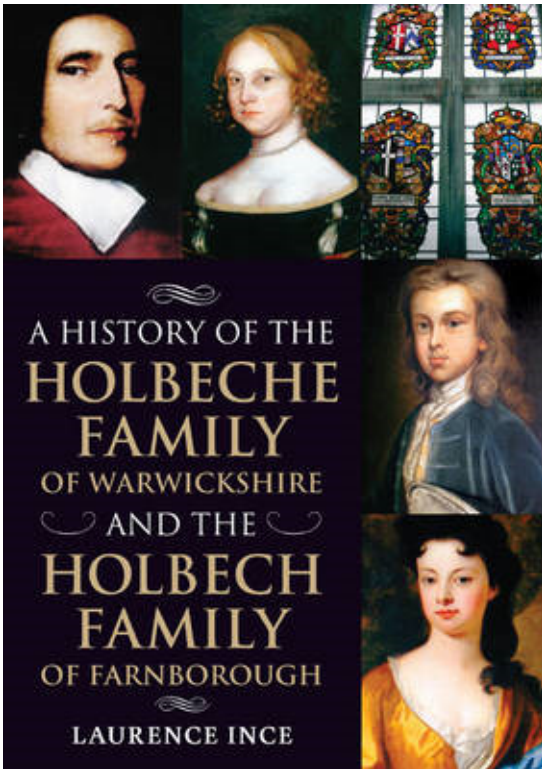
## The Battle of Waterloo (cont.)

Using prints, books, replica weapons and models, Tim's talk will follow the culmination of the "100 days" following Napoleon's escape from Elba—the Waterloo campaign—and one of the most famous battles in history, the battle of Waterloo. He will look at the event from the point of view of the people who took part, and what they saw and did. The tale Tim tells is quite bloodthirsty, and is not for the faint-hearted!

## The Holbeche Family of Warwickshire

By Laurence Ince in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm



In this talk, Laurence gives an account of the Holbeche family of Warwickshire, beginning with the family's origins in medieval times at Holbeach in Lincolnshire, where they were knights and landowners. In late medieval times the family relocated to Warwickshire, and Laurence recounts their rise in local society up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The family had important links to Oliver Cromwell, Charles I, the British monarchs of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Cambridge University. This fascinating story stretches from the battlefields of the Wars of the Roses right up to Victorian times.

**A Thousand Years of Knowle**  
**By a member of the Knowle History Society**  
**in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**  
**On Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**

Knowle lies about a mile south of junction 5 of the M42, and around 3 miles from Solihull. This talk will give a chronological history of Knowle from before the Norman Conquest right up to the present day, including its famous families, its buildings, the coming of the canal and the railway, the Victorian expansion and the effects of the two world wars.

**- Trips, Social & Other Events -**

**Severn Valley Railway—Step Back to the 1940's**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019    £49.50 per person**

If you join us on this trip, you will be turning the clock back to wartime Britain of the 1940s, with a light-hearted journey down the Severn Valley line. There will be Famous faces, battle re-enactments and costumed characters—Sir Winston Churchill and King George VI will be making appearances!

Re-enactors will travel alongside passengers on the intensive service of 'evacuation trains' along the 16-mile line, from Kidderminster in Worcestershire to Bridgnorth in Shropshire, and at each of the stations along the way, there will be things to see and do.

Kidderminster will also play host to some firefighting re-enactments and firefighting vehicle displays. There you can get your own ration books, visit the hairdresser to get your 'Victory Rolls' spruced-up, and enjoy free vintage bus rides.

Gain an insight into wartime life with the replica air raid shelters, ARP Post and tobacconist, and wave the evacuees off as they head to safety in the countryside. In addition, at many of the stations and sites there will be vintage vehicles, clothes and memorabilia stalls, and buffet food.

If you feel so inclined, dig out any 1940's-style clothes you may have and join in the fun!

**Book early to reserve your place by filling out the booking form at the end of this newsletter.**

## **- Reviews -**

### **The Perils of a Public Speaker**

**A talk given by Penny Wheat on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Penny gave a very amusing talk about her many humorous experiences while travelling to and giving talks to local WIs, Townswomen's Guilds and other groups. Her resilience in the face of trying situations was in evidence at the talk, when we found that the function room had been booked by another party and we had to hold the talk in one of the side-alcoves of the Globe!

### **Bournville**

**A talk given by Bob Booth on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

Bob gave a fascinating talk about the history of Bournville and the Cadburys; how the famous chocolate factory was developed, together with the garden village that the Cadburys founded. In many ways the Cadburys were years ahead of their time in providing for the welfare of their workers.



# Friends Events for 2019/20

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 02/02/19 | Trip to York for the York Ice Trail                           |
| 28/02/19 | Talk "Albrighton Pottery" *                                   |
| 28/03/19 | Talk "What really did happen n the Dark Ages?" *              |
| 26/04/19 | Talk "Local murders of the 20th century"                      |
| 26/04/19 | AGM   |
| 10/05/19 | Talk "The battle of Waterloo"                                 |
| 14/06/19 | Talk "The Holbeche family of Warwickshire"                    |
| 12/07/19 | Talk "A thousand years of Knowle"                             |
| 09/08/19 | Talk "The Meaker Brothers"                                    |
| 13/09/19 | Talk "The etymology of clothing"                              |
| 31/10/19 | Talk "Painting with light" * (note: this is a change of date) |
| 28/11/19 | Talk "The Restoration of Middleton Hall" *                    |
| 31/01/20 | Talk "101 Great British Curiosities" *                        |
| 27/02/20 | Talk "Secret Life of the Magician" *                          |

\* These talks will take place following the monthly lunch club meeting at The Globe Inn: all other talks will take place at the Castle

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@tamworthcastlefriends.org)**

Membership queries should be addressed to

**[membership@tamworthcastlefriends.org](mailto:membership@tamworthcastlefriends.org)**

For any other issues, contact **[admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org](mailto:admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org)**

Friends Website: **[www.tamworthcastlefriends.org](http://www.tamworthcastlefriends.org)**





# Booking Forms

## Severn Valley Railway—Step Back to the 1940's

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at this event at £49.50 per person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to **FRIENDS OF  
TAMWORTH CASTLE AND MUSEUM**

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

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

