



NEWSLETTER

January 2017



- Friends News -

A Letter from Our Chairman, David Ansell

A New Year greeting and good news to members of the 'Friends'

Dear Friend,

Your committee and I would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year as we welcome in 2017, the 50th year of our society. It is with much pleasure that, at the start of this momentous year, we can give you the news that we have all waited so long to hear.

You may already know that your committee has been searching for a suitable patron to help us with our aims and objectives and to raise the profile of our society.

As we approach our 50th anniversary we thought it most appropriate to complete that search and appoint a patron, and we recently wrote to Christopher Pincher, Member of Parliament for Tamworth, and invited him to assume the role.

It is with delight that we are able to advise you that he has accepted our invitation, with honour, and has asked us to pass on his thanks to you all.

We hope that you will join us at any future event attended by Mr Pincher and take the opportunity to meet and talk to him in person.



Christopher Pincher MP

David Ansell, Chairman

(On behalf of the Committee of The Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum)

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 21st 2017 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 that you would like to be more involved in the running of "The Friends", please consider standing as a member of the Committee: 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.

The AGM will be followed by a talk—"Richard III: The New Evidence", details of which can be found on the opposite page.

Subscriptions

In accordance with the decision made in 2015 to make all members' subscriptions payable on the same date, all subscriptions will be due for renewal in April 2017. Subscriptions that were previously due on different dates were adjusted in 2016 to make this possible.

- Castle News -

The Castle Wins Another Award

We have received the following message from Louise Troman, Heritage and Visitor Services Manager at the Castle:

"Just to let you know that on Tuesday (15/11/16) we found out that we had won the gold award for Staffordshire Small Visitor Attraction of the Year 2016. It was very unexpected and we are all delighted. We now go through to the Visit England national competition with judging taking place over the next 2 months.

My thanks go to you all and the whole of the committee who support the activities at the Castle - just shows that our combined efforts do pay off and that we are recognised as great place to visit - the best in Staffordshire."

- Talks -

Tamworth Pub Names

**By Anthony Poulton-Smith in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday 10th March 2017 at 7:30pm**

Anthony has written a large number of books on the subject of place names, river names, street names and pub names (one of the latter on Tamworth pub names). In this talk he will discuss the origins of the names of a selection of pubs located in Tamworth and the surrounding villages.

In examining pub names both modern and from yesteryear, Anthony says of the subject "Here we will find heraldry, humour, advertising, royalty and even religion" Ever wondered where "The Black Swan", "The Red Lion" and "The Queen's Head" came from? Come along and perhaps you will find out!

Richard III: The New Evidence

**By Dominic Smee in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday 21st April 2017 (after the AGM)**

In 2014 Dominic Smee took part in the Channel 4 documentary "*Richard III—The New Evidence*" after discovering that he, Dominic, had an uncannily similar deformity of the spine to the King. Dominic agreed to train for four months with a group of historians as Richard's body-double, and helped scientists discover how much, or little, Richard's deformity would have affected his ability to wear armour, ride a horse and fight. Dominic became involved with the Battle of Bosworth re-enactment group and has been helping re-create scenes at the site of the bloody showdown between Kings Henry and Richard.

In his presentation, Dominic will talk about his experience in making the documentary and how the discoveries have affected him.

Sister Albreda

**By Margaret Henly in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday 12th May 2017 at 7:30pm**

(Details of this talk will be included in the next news-letter)

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

Festive Meal

Friday 20th January 2017
The Castle Hotel, Ladybank, Tamworth

For this year's post-Christmas meal we will again be dining at the Castle Hotel. Once again the price has been held at £20 per person, which includes a 3-course meal and musical entertainment.

Menu

Winter vegetable soup with rustic croutons

Creamy garlic mushrooms with garlic bread

Prawns bound in a tomato mayonnaise on a bed of green leaves

»

Roast turkey with traditional accompaniments

Roast beef with a hot peppered sauce

Vegetable Wellington

(all main courses are served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes)

»

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Profiteroles with a chocolate sauce

Honeycomb and butterscotch cheesecake

»

Followed by coffee and mince pies

We are meeting at 7:00 pm, for a 7:30 meal.

If you would like to come to this meal, please contact Maureen Sherwood as soon as possible to check if there any places left, on

01827 66150

Stratford-upon-Avon

Thursday 30th March 2017

This is a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, which will include a 2-course meal and free time to take in the sights.

The price is £25 per person and includes the meal and coach transport. The coach will pick up in Corporation Street, Tamworth: pick-up time is not known at the moment but all who book tickets will be informed of the time about a week before the trip.

If you would like to join this trip, please contact Sue Evans on **01827 55916** or at **social@tamworthcastlefriends.org**

- Reviews -

Talk—Puppets Around the World

This talk was given by Derek Wharton in November to an audience whom he delighted with stories of various puppets he has collected in his travels around the World. Derek's comedic style is well known by the Friends from his previous talk in April ("*Treading the Boards*") about his thespian pursuits, and much chuckling and tittering was in evidence as he demonstrated the workings of the puppets and talked about how he acquired them.



Friends Events for 2017

20/01/17	Friends' festive meal
10/03/17	Talk "Tamworth Pub Names"
30/03/17	Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon
21/04/17	AGM
21/04/17	Talk "Richard III—New Evidence"
12/05/17	Talk "Sister Albreda"
09/06/17	Talk (to be confirmed)
14/07/17	Talk "The Real Dad's Army"
July 17	Friends 50 th anniversary celebrations (details to be confirmed)

All events are also listed on the Friends website, in the members area.

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**

Friends Website: **<http://tamworthcastlefriends.org>**