



NEWSLETTER

March 2022

- Castle News -

Mythical Beast Seen Prowling the Castle Courtyard!

With the help of funding provided by the Friends, the Castle have been able to arrange for the restoration of a terracotta sculpture of a Gryphon that was made by Glascote company Gibbs and Cannings over 140 years ago. It is one of several made to adorn the external walls of the Natural History Museum in London, this one as a spare. The Gryphon (below) has now been installed in the courtyard of the Castle, where it is keeping a watchful eye on visitors.



Friends Fund Purchase of Gold Posy Ring

The Committee has agreed to provide funding for the purchase by the Castle of a 16th/17th century gold and enamel posy ring, found by a metal detectorist at Whittington. It will be displayed as part of the Castle's historical collection: a 16th-century posy ring with similar features can be found at the British Museum.



The ring, shown here, is decorated with hexagonal cells, originally filled with enamel (traces of enamel can be seen in some of the cells, some of it turquoise and some a darker blue).

Saxon Die

The Castle has acquired a Saxon die—a piece of equipment that the Saxons used to emboss the silver and gold foils that formed parts of their helmets. This will be displayed at the Castle as part of its Saxon exhibits.

Bazar

A model of a bazar on display at the Castle has been damaged and is in need of repair and renovation, so the Committee has agreed to provide funding for this work.

- Friends News -

Ken Marston

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death in February of Ken Marston. Ken and his wife, Barbara, were long-time members of the Friends and both served on the Committee for many years. Ken will probably be best remembered as our trips and holidays organiser, and many of you will remember the sight of him walking up and down the coach, counting heads before setting off for a trip. Ken and Barbara also played parts in our annual children's Halloween event, Ken attacking pumpkins with his knife and Barbara acting the part of a friendly witch. I am sure that the whole membership will join the committee in expressing our condolences to Barbara and her family.

2022 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum

This year's AGM will take place on Friday 8th April, starting at 7:00 pm, in St. George's Chapel, St. Editha's Church, Church Street, Tamworth. At the meeting, the Committee will present the following proposed amendments to the charity's governing document (constitution) for discussion and approval:

1. Classes of membership

With effect from the 1st of May 2022, the number of different classes of membership will be reduced. The classes and rates of membership shall be as listed below, with memberships being on an annual individual basis:

Individual	£12
Concession*	£10

*Juniors under the age of 18, senior citizens aged 60 or over, full-time students over the age of 18

With effect from the 1st of May 2023, the rates will increase to:

Individual	£15
Concession	£12

AGM (continued)

2. Quorum applicable to General Meetings

The Number of attendees at Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings deemed to form a quorum shall be reduced in both cases to 6 voting members (a quorum is the minimum number of voting members that are required for a vote to be valid).

The AGM is the event at which you can have your say on how our organisation is run, contribute ideas for the raising of funds for the Castle, comment on any proposals being made by the Committee and, if you are willing, stand for membership of the committee. So please do make the effort to attend the meeting if you are able—we do need your input.

Following the AGM a talk entitled “Stupid Moments in History” will be given by committee member Anthony Poulton Smith

Can You Help at the Castle?

The Castle is appealing for volunteers to help with private ghost search events in November: you would be needed between 8:00 pm and midnight. You do not need any experience with such events (or with ghosts!): if you feel you may be able to help, please contact Linda Baker at the Castle at linda-baker@tamworth.gov.uk or on 01827 709632.



Friends Events for 2021/22

31/03/22	Lunch club
08/04/22	Annual General Meeting
08/04/22	Talk "Stupid Moments in History" (after AGM)
28/04/22	Lunch club
25/11/21	Lunch club
26/05/22	Lunch club
30/06/22	Lunch club
28/07/22	Lunch club

We are in the process of planning future events and talks, and these will be published as soon as possible

Contact Details

For details about any event mentioned in this newsletter, please contact Roger Ashford on **0790 0088960** or by email at

admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org

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

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Membership queries should be addressed to

membership@tamworthcastlefriends.org

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

Friends Website: **www.tamworthcastlefriends.org**

