



NEWSLETTER

April 2017



- Friends News -



50th Anniversary Celebrations

Events are being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Friends in July, including a balloon race, a 60's evening and a Tudor banquet. Details of these can be found inside this newsletter.

In recognition of the anniversary, the Tamworth Herald included a full-page spread of photos of members of the Friends at the Castle, in appropriate historical garb, in its February 9th edition; one of these can be seen below.



(Photograph courtesy of the Tamworth Herald)

Friends FaceBook Page

We now have a FaceBook page, courtesy of David Bill (thanks David), appropriately called “Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum”. If you already have a FaceBook account, just type in the name of the group and ask to join. If you do not have a FaceBook account and you want to follow us on FaceBook, you can set up a basic account (for free), then join us as above.

Please upload any photos and comments (either about the Castle or the Friends) to our page for all to enjoy, and ask any of your friends who may be interested to do likewise.

There is a link to our FaceBook page at the bottom of each page of the Friends web site **www.tamworthcastlefriends.org**.

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

A membership renewal form accompanies this news letter. If you have received the news letter by email, the renewal form will be a separate attachment and you should print out the form: if you have any difficulties doing this, please contact Sue Evans, whose contact details are shown on the back page.

Please complete the renewal form and return it to Sue with a cheque for the appropriate amount (details on the form).

- Castle News -

The roof repairs that have been underway for some time have now been completed except for a few minor issues.

The Castle is a finalist for the *What's On Live* "best visitor attraction in Staffordshire" and "best St. George's Day event in Staffordshire" awards.

- Talks -

Richard III: The New Evidence

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



Speaker Dominic Smee, wearing the armour specially made for him to replicate that worn by Richard III

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 Henley in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 12th May 2017 at 7:30pm

Margaret Henley is a retired barrister with an interest in local history, and has a Masters Degree in history. She is Chairperson of both The Polesworth Society and The Polesworth History Project, which is dedicated to the research of the history of Polesworth and the surrounding area.



Polesworth Abbey (above) was founded in the 9th century by St. Modwena and King Egbert, and Sister Albreda was Prioress there in the 1400's. Margaret will talk about the Abbey, it's nuns and of Albreda's role at the Abbey. During the talk Margaret will be displaying relevant articles of the time (clothing, pots and pans etc.) and she will discuss the etiquette that applied then.

(More information can be found about the Polesworth Society at www.polesworthsociety.org.uk, and about the Polesworth History Project at www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/organisation/polesworth-history-project-group)

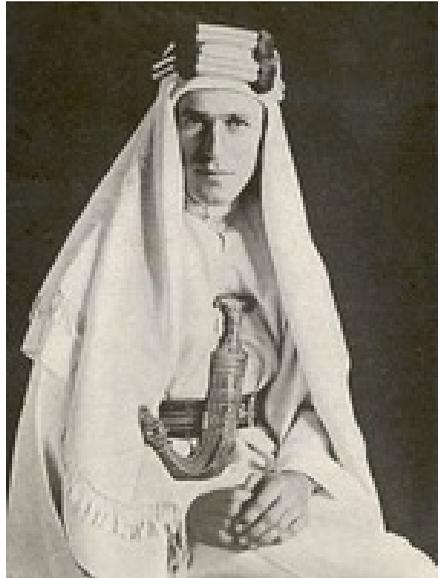
T E Lawrence—“Lawrence of Arabia”

By Roger Bragger in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 9th June 2017 at 7:30pm



Roger Bragger



T E Lawrence

Roger Bragger has an interest in a number of subjects, including medals, the Hejaz expedition of the first World War, Captain T E Lawrence, Captain Sir William Peel and MG TA sports car restoration!

His interest in Captain T E Lawrence arose from his research into medals that he has collected: specifically those relating to the Hejaz expedition of 1916-17, where the British government provided aeroplanes to support the Arabs in their fight against the our common enemy during the first World War—the Turks.

Lawrence fought alongside Arab guerrilla forces in the region (now part of Saudi Arabia), and his exploits were later dramatized in a film that most of us will have watched at some time or another—“Lawrence of Arabia”.

(For those who may be interested, details of Roger’s interests and research can be seen on his web site www.rogersstudy.co.uk)

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

50th Anniversary Events

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum in July 1967, the following events are being organized:

60's Evening—1st July

This will be held at The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate, Tamworth and will include a 60's disco and a buffet. If you have a Beatles jacket or a Cathy McGowan outfit lurking at the back of the wardrobe why not dust them off, (let them out!) and come along and enjoy the atmosphere? Tickets are £10: the time will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Tudor Banquet—14th July

Going back even further in time, this will be a candle-lit 5-course Tudor-style banquet, taking place in the Great Hall in Tamworth Castle. Entertainment, games and story-telling will be provided during the evening, which will begin at 7:30 pm and finish at 11:00 pm. Tickets will cost £60 per person.

Balloon Race—15th July

Balloon tickets will be on sale at the St. George's Day event on Saturday 22nd April, and by application using the enclosed form; the balloons will be released from the Castle tower on Saturday 15th July. The balloon that flies the furthest will earn its owner a great cash prize (and also its finder will receive a cash prize). Balloon tickets will be sold for £2 each, or £5 for 3 tickets.

Booking forms for all of the above events are included at the back of this newsletter

- Reviews -

Festive Meal, January 2017

The Friends 2017 festive meal, held at the Castle Hotel, was enjoyed by just under fifty 'Friends' members and guests. Our newly appointed Patron, Mr Christopher Pincher MP, was welcomed as our guest for the evening. After a very enjoyable meal, Mr Pincher addressed the 'Friends' for about fifteen minutes, firstly saying how honoured he was to be asked to take up such a privileged position and then to praise the 'Friends' for the good work that we do in supporting and promoting our Castle. He went on to say he would support us wherever possible and looked forward to a long and happy relationship with our society.

After the meal, guests were entertained by a talented singer who managed to get us all joining in on occasions.

Our thanks go to the management of the Castle Hotel for providing us with a superb meal and to Mr Pincher for his attendance and after-dinner speech.

The Origins of Pub Names, March 2017

Entertaining speaker Mr Anthony Poulton-Smith returned to the 'Friends' in March as our guest speaker and gave us a very enlightening talk and explanation of the origins of British Pub names. His talk was completely self-supported, no picture slides, no script - just some passionate talk about the subject, standing up and addressing his audience.

He explained that most of the names and the pub signs were connected to a building, a person or profession of someone nearby....

'You have to remember that when these hostelries came into being, the vast majority of the local population couldn't read or write but, they could understand what was being portrayed by the picture shown on the sign. For example if the pub was named 'The Three Horseshoes' and the sign outside the building was simply three horse shoes and you were riding past on a horse that had lost one of its shoes, then the sign would be telling you this was the place to stop, take a rest and refreshment while your horse was having its lost shoe replaced'.

Anthony gave many more interesting explanations and tales during his talk including local names such as The Prince of Wales, The Royal Oak, The White Hart and many, many more.

After the talk members were given the opportunity to ask questions and to buy some of his numerous books (at very good discounted rates). Well done Anthony, it would be nice to see you back again at some point in the future.



Friends Events for 2017/18

21/04/17	AGM
21/04/17	Talk "Richard III—New Evidence"
12/05/17	Talk "T E Lawrence" (Lawrence of Arabia)
09/06/17	Talk (to be confirmed)
01/07/17	Anniversary 60's evening at the Globe Inn
14/07/17	Anniversary Tudor Banquet at the Castle
15/07/17	Anniversary Balloon race
13/10/17	Talk "A History of Lace-Making"
10/11/17	Talk "Comedy, Magic and Me"
08/12/17	Talk "Eaves-Dropping on the Soviets"
Jan 18	Festive meal
09/02/18	Talk "After the Yorkshire Ripper"
09/03/18	Talk "The Perils of a Public Speaker"
20/04/17	Talk "The Man Who Creates Invisible Art"

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: **www.tamworthcastlefriends.org**

Booking Forms

60's Evening at The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate, Tamworth

Saturday 1st July 2017 (time to be confirmed)

Please reserve _____ places for me at this event at £ 10 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 as soon as possible to:

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

Tudor Banquet in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

Friday 14th July 2017, 7:30 pm—11:00 pm

Please reserve _____ places for me at this event at £ 60 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 as soon as possible to:

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

Balloon Race

Balloons to be released on Saturday 15th July 2017

Cash prize for the furthest-travelled balloon

Please supply me with _____ balloon tickets at £2 each (or £5 for 3)

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 as soon as possible to:

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

