



# NEWSLETTER

## March 2014 (2)



### - Castle News -

#### Heritage Lottery Fund Work

The last of the main project work (snagging etc.) is just about complete. Work is now also being completed on the new interpretation panels in the Castle (paid for by the additional HLF funding reported in the last newsletter).

#### Castle Events

In addition to the events reported in the last newsletter, a series of "Saxon Living History" events are to be staged by the Castle over the summer; they are also looking at re-introducing the popular "Castle by Candlelight" tours.

### - Friends News -

#### Annual General Meeting

**The Great Hall, Tamworth Castle, Friday 25th April 2014 at 7:30pm**

The AGM is where you can hear about the work we have carried out during the previous year, and about proposals for the coming year. It is where you can have your say on the running of the Friends organization and, if you wish, volunteer your services as a committee member.

Even if you do not want to be more involved with the running of the Friends, you may wish to voice an opinion on any changes that may be proposed, or to discuss items of particular interest to you with members of the committee.

The AGM will be followed by what I am sure will be a very popular talk on genealogy and family trees—more information is given in the "Talks" section, on page 2.

## **- Talks -**

### **Family History Part 2**

**By Ian Burley in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

**On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014, following the AGM at 7:30 pm**

This talk is a follow-up of the one he gave to us in October 2012, and he will be offering us more advice on the practicalities of researching your own family history, how to go about this, what hints and tips will prove useful, and what pitfalls you need to avoid.

Questions can be asked at any time either during or after the talk itself. If you are interested in researching your family history and documenting your own family tree, this is a talk you must not miss!

This talk will follow the Friends AGM (details on page 1).

### **Castle Poetry**

**By Mal Dewhirst in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

**On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7:30pm**

Last October 4<sup>th</sup> was National Poet's day and on that day Tamworth poet Mal Dewhirst was inaugurated as Staffordshire's first-ever poet laureate.

Mal is the man behind the celebrated Polesworth Poetry Trail and other poetry workshops and events in the area, and this illustrated talk promises to be one not to be missed.

### **The Tradescants: Keepers of the King's Gardens**

**By Patsie Jarman in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

**On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 7:30 pm**

The Tradescants (John the elder and his son John the younger) travelled the world in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in search of plants and trees for gardens that included Chilham Castle in Kent, Cranborne Manor in Dorset, Hatfield House in Hertfordshire and New Hall in Boreham. In 1630 Charles I engaged John the elder as "Keeper of our gardens, Vines and Silke-wormes" at Oatland Palace in Surrey.

In her talk, Patsie tells the story of their travels and of the plants they collected from around the world, many of which are still enjoyed today. Gardeners among you may recognize the genus Tradescantia, named after John the elder, which includes such garden flowers as Wandering Jew and Purple Heart.

## **- Trips & Social Events -**

### **A Long Weekend in Yorkshire Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

The cost is £28 per person. If you are interested in the trip, please complete the booking form enclosed with this newsletter or call Ken Marston as soon as possible on **0121 378 2120**, or email him at **social@tamworthcastlefriends.org**.

### **By-Gone Tamworth Remembered**

**Organized by the Tamworth Heritage Trust for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 12:30 pm**

Come and see inside Tamworth's historic Town Hall, including the Mayor's Parlour, and take tea and biscuits with the Mayor.

Hear about by-gone Tamworth in an illustrated talk by one of Tamworth's more senior local historians, Mr John Tracey, who will recall the town of his youth in the 1920s/30s.

Tickets are £3.00 and are available from Tamworth Tourist Information Centre in Corporation Street.

## - Reviews -

### Festive Meal

This year's festive meal, held at the Moat House on January 31, was very much enjoyed by all who attended. The meal and service were excellent, for which thanks are due to Moat House director Jill Larkin and her team, who worked hard to ensure that everything went smoothly. Entertainment was provided by the Tamworth Ladies' Choir, whose selection of popular songs and witty repartee greatly enhanced the occasion.



Thanks to Ken Marston (shown left with our guest, Mayor John Garner) for organizing the meal, and to the choir (below) for putting on a splendid show.



## - Forthcoming Events -

Our events organizer, Ken Marston, is as busy as ever dreaming up ways to enhance the social side of our organization. Possible future offerings include:

- Beer and skittles
- Boat trip
- Weekend in Paris
- Holiday in north Devon
- Christmas 1-day show

Watch these pages for more details!