



NEWSLETTER

March 2015

- Friends News -



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 24th 2015 at 7:30 pm, directly after the talk "Cavalier Dogs and Roundhead Rogues" (details of which can be found in the "Talks" section).

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. A copy of the agenda is enclosed with this newsletter.

It is likely that we will need to elect several new committee members this year: if you feel you would like to contribute in such a role, don't be shy in coming forward—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.

If you think you may be interested in joining the committee but are unsure what is involved, the committee could arrange for you to attend one or more meetings to meet the members and see what goes on: if this is something you would like to do, please contact the Secretary, Maureen Sherwood, on **01827 66150**, or at **admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org**.

Friends Present Costumes to Castle

The Friends applied for and received a grant of £500 from Tamworth Borough Council for the procurement of costumes which were urgently required by Tamworth Castle for their Workshops and Events. The photo below shows our Chairman, Dave Ansell, presenting the costumes to the Castle's Education and Events Officer, Linda Baker, in the Great Hall of Tamworth Castle.



The men's Tudor costumes shown comprise two longline jackets, two hose and two white shirts. Also included (but not shown) were two medieval liripipe hoods. All of these garment were made by Adele Scott-Harrison, a professional costume maker.

Friends Festive Meal, January 2015

The meal this year was held at the Castle Hotel and was well-attended by members and guests. A substantial amount of money was raised for our funds—excellent work by those involved!



The Mayor and Mayoress of Tamworth attended the meal: they can be seen in this photo accompanied by committee members Ken and Barbara Marston.

Friends Lunch Club

This month (March) sees the introduction of a monthly Lunch Club, which will take place on the last Thursday of every month at the Globe Inn, Lower Gungate, in the centre of Tamworth, at 12:00. This is a chance for members to get together and chat over a nice meal. The first lunch will be on Thursday 26th March and any member who can make it is welcome to come along. It would be useful if you could let Maureen Sherwood know if you will be coming, but this is not essential. You can contact Maureen on **01827 66150** or at maureen.sherwood@yahoo.com

- Castle News -

Audrey Pulcella Retires

Audrey has worked at the Castle for many years, lately as Visitor Services Officer and Wedding Co-ordinator. Her retirement in February also ends a long association with the Friends, whom she has helped immensely over the years with various events we have organised. We wish her all the best in her “post-Castle” life.

- Talks -

Cavalier Dogs and Roundhead Rogues

By Mary Bodfish in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 24^h April 2015 at 7:30pm

There was support for both King Charles I and for Parliament in this area during the English Civil War. As people took sides and their forces engaged each other repeatedly, action swirled around the area between Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Lichfield, with places like Tamworth Castle changing hands as the tide of war ebbed and flowed. This talk looks at the causes of the war and how it took hold here, and brought much upheaval and damage to the region. The words of participants and eye-witnesses are used to bring to life this pivotal period of our history.

Mary Bodfish is Chairman of the Smethwick Local History Society and has taught local history research and palaeography for the University of Birmingham's School of Continuing Studies. For anyone interested in our local history, her illustrated talk promises to be one not to miss!

757—The Murder at Seckington

By Chris Harris in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 5^t June 2015 at 7:30pm

Æthelbald, king of the Mercians, was treacherously and miserably murdered in the night by his own bodyguards at Seckington.

Chris Harris has spent the last few years searching for answers.

Aethelbald was a true storybook character from the age of heros and legends.

Why did he spend the night at Seckington, four miles from his stronghold at Tamworth?

Who plotted his demise?

We will be looking at sites Chris has visited that were involved in this mystery, including both Seckington and Repton, plus other surprisingly far-away places. Some of the facts he has uncovered will surprise you.

Do you have any information relating to this murder ?

Come along and join in the investigation

A Photographic History of Tamworth

By John Tracey in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 15th May 2015 at 7:30pm

In his talk John, one of Tamworth's more senior historians, will recall the Tamworth of his youth in the 1920s/30s, following the progress of the town with the aid of the many photographs he has collected of Tamworth over the ages.

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

Hanson Auctioneers Valuation Day

Saturday 16th May, 10 am—2 pm, Tamworth Town Hall, Market Street

This will be the second valuation day organised by the Friends. Two of Hanson's auctioneers will be present to value items brought by the public: entrance fee is £2.00, donated to the Friends funds. Refreshments will be provided.

A Day Out in Melton Mowbray

Saturday 25th April 2015 at

This is a trip to Melton Mowbray, famous for its pork pies and Stilton cheese. This trip includes:

- A tour of a pie-making factory
- A tour of a cheese factory
- Free time to visit the free museum and the street market

The price is £20 per person, and includes coach travel and the above tours. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter: if you would like to join us on this trip, please complete and return the form as soon as possible with payment by cheque.

- Reviews -

Victorian Birmingham

A talk by Brian Beasley on 6th February 2015

Brian, presented a fascinating talk about life in inner city Birmingham in the Victorian era. His recounting of the poverty, criminality and harsh justice of the period will surely have cured all who listened of any hankering for the so-called "good old days"!



Friends Events for 2015

- Fri Apr 24: talk "Cavalier Dogs & Roundhead Rogues"
- Fri Apr 24: Annual General Meeting
- Sat Apr 25: trip to Melton Mowbray
- Fri May 15: talk "History of Tamworth"
- Sat May 16: Hansons Auctioneers Valuation Day at the Town Hall
- Fri Jun 5: talk "757-The Murder at Seckington"
- Fri Sep 4: talk "The Past Beneath Our Feet"
- Fri Oct 2: talk "Murder, Manslaughter & Strange Deaths"
- Sat Oct 31: Children's Halloween Event at the Castle
- Fri Nov 6: talk "Ken in His Other Hats"

All talks will take place in the Great Hall of Tamworth Castle at 7:30 pm

Contact Details

Where booking slips are included with the newsletter, please complete these and send, with payment, to:

Ken Marston, 3 Crecy Close, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, B76 1DQ

If you do not have a booking slip or would like more details about a trip, you can contact Ken by phone on **0121 378 2120** 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**