



NEWSLETTER

May 2019



- Castle News -

Dragon Hunt

The “dragon hunt” event is always popular with children. This year’s event, held in the castle between the 16th and 22nd of February, was the most successful yet, with 2,616 visitors.

- Friends News -

Halloween 2018

The figures are in—last year’s children’s Halloween event, organised by the Friends and run jointly by members of the Friends and Castle staff, realised £3,014 in ticket sales—£500 more than the previous year. After expenses, a total of £1,125 went to the Friends Castle fund and a similar amount to the Castle itself.

Jenny Wilson

Collections made at the funeral of long-standing Friends member Jenny Wilson were donated to the Friends and used for the purchase, in memory of Jenny, of a court (or wedding) cupboard to be donated to the Castle. The cupboard, dated 1633 and engraved “Sir Humphrey Ferrers Knight And Dame Anne”, referring to Sir Humphrey Ferrers III and Anne Stanhope (Pakington) was presented to the Castle, where it was installed in the Day Parlour and officially unveiled on the 10th of May. Jenny’s son, Jeremy, was thrilled with the prospect of the purchase, and donated the balance of the purchase cost. The Friends additionally donated money to cover the cost of the specialist transport required. The cupboard will prove to be a valuable and interesting addition to the Castle’s collection of historic furniture, particularly in view of its connection with the Castle, Sir Humphrey Ferrers III having been born there in 1600.

- Talks -

The Battle of Waterloo

By Tim Burgin in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 10th May 2019 at 7:30 pm



The Waterloo Protagonists— The Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte

Using prints, books, replica weapons and models, Tim’s talk will follow the culmination of the “100 days” following Napoleon’s escape from Elba—the Waterloo campaign—and one of the most famous battles in history, the battle of Waterloo. He will look at the event from the point of view of the people who took part, and what they saw and did. The tale Tim tells is quite bloodthirsty, and is not for the faint-hearted!

The Holbeche Family of Warwickshire

By Laurence Ince in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday June 14th at 7:30 pm

In this talk, Laurence gives an account of the Holbeche family of Warwickshire, beginning with the family’s origins in medieval times at Holbeach in Lincolnshire, where they were knights and landowners. In late medieval times the family relocated to Warwickshire, and Laurence recounts their rise in local society up to the end of the 19th century. The family had important links to Oliver Cromwell, Charles I, the British monarchs of the 18th century and Cambridge University. This fascinating story stretches from the battlefields of the Wars of the Roses right up to Victorian times.

A Thousand Years of Knowle

**By a member of the Knowle History Society
in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday July 12th at 7:30 pm**

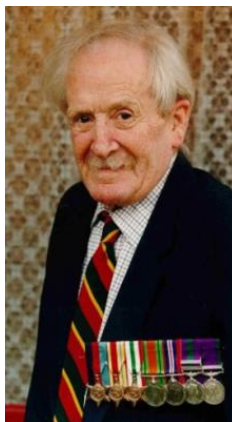
Knowle lies about a mile south of junction 5 of the M42, and around 3 miles from Solihull. This talk will give a chronological history of Knowle from before the Norman Conquest right up to the present day, including its famous families, its buildings, the coming of the canal and the railway, the Victorian expansion and the effects of the two world wars.

The Meaker Brothers

**By Roger Bragger in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday August 9th at 7:30 pm**



Roger Bragger



Mr D E J Meaker

Roger is a keen collector and researcher of medals. One time in Atherstone he came across a collection of medals on a stall in the street market; the medals were named to the SAS, which is unusual, and were awarded to Trooper Meaker and Sergeant Meaker. Roger will talk about his research into the medals and what he found out about them and the Meakers.

The Etymology of Clothing

By Anthony Poulton-Smith in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday September 13th at 7:30 pm



Anthony Poulton-Smith



Anthony is a freelance journalist and author of some 76 books concerning such diverse subjects as place names, ghosts, a history of toilets, ley lines, railway stations, pub names, old wives' tales, crimes on the canals, British piers...and in his spare time he is also a member of the Friends' committee!

In his talk, Anthony may tackle such thorny questions as “why are ‘trousers’ and ‘tights’ plural, but not ‘dress’, shirt’ or ‘blouse’?”, “where did the word ‘anorak’ come from?” (and we’re not talking about train spotters!)

You will definitely learn a thing or two from Anthony’s talk, with a laugh along the way.

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

Severn Valley Railway—Step Back to the 1940’s
Sunday 7th July 2019 £49.50 per person

If you join us on this trip, you will be turning the clock back to wartime Britain of the 1940s, with a light-hearted journey down the Severn Valley line. There will be Famous faces, battle re-enactments and costumed characters—Sir Winston Churchill and King George VI will be making appearances!

(Severn Valley Railway—continued)

Re-enactors will travel alongside passengers on the intensive service of 'evacuation trains' along the 16-mile line, from Kidderminster in Worcestershire to Bridgnorth in Shropshire, and at each of the stations along the way, there will be things to see and do.

Kidderminster will also play host to some firefighting re-enactments and firefighting vehicle displays. There you can get your own ration books, visit the hairdresser to get your 'Victory Rolls' spruced-up, and enjoy free vintage bus rides.

Gain an insight into wartime life with the replica air raid shelters, ARP Post and tobacconist, and wave the evacuees off as they head to safety in the countryside. In addition, at many of the stations and sites there will be vintage vehicles, clothes and memorabilia stalls, and buffet food.

If you feel so inclined, dig out any 1940's-style clothes you may have and join in the fun!

Book quickly to reserve your place by filling out the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

5-Day Break in Bruges

Sunday 1st Thursday 5th September 2019

Sue Evans has organised a 5-day break in Bruges, Belgium, from the 1st to the 5th of September 2019: the price is £369.50 per person (with a £200 single-room supplement), and includes:

- Return coach travel
- Ferry crossing (P&O Dover – Calais)
- 4 nights accommodation
- Full buffet hot/cold breakfast (4 mornings)
- Trip to Ypres, with an opportunity to visit the Flanders museum (entrance not included)
- Trip to Sluis (Netherlands) via the coast

If you are interested in joining this trip, please call Sue on **01827 55916**.



Friends Events for 2019/20

02/02/19	Trip to York for the York Ice Trail
28/02/19	Talk "Albrighton Pottery" *
28/03/19	Talk "What really did happen n the Dark Ages?" *
26/04/19	Talk "Local murders of the 20th century"
26/04/19	AGM
10/05/19	Talk "The battle of Waterloo"
14/06/19	Talk "The Holbeche family of Warwickshire"
12/07/19	Talk "A thousand years of Knowle"
09/08/19	Talk "The Meaker Brothers"
13/09/19	Talk "The etymology of clothing"
31/10/19	Talk "Painting with light" * (note: this is a change of date)
28/11/19	Talk "The Restoration of Middleton Hall" *
31/01/20	Talk "101 Great British Curiosities" *
27/02/20	Talk "Secret Life of the Magician" *

* These talks will take place following the monthly lunch club meeting at The Globe Inn: all other talks will take place at the Castle

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

Severn Valley Railway—Step Back to the 1940's

Sunday 7th July 2019

Please reserve _____ places for me at this event at £49.50 per person.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to **FRIENDS OF
TAMWORTH CASTLE AND MUSEUM**

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to:

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

