



NEWSLETTER

June 2017



- Friends News -



Anniversary Celebration Balloon Race



The Friends are staging a balloon race from the Castle on Saturday 15th July as part of our celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the founding of our organisation. Help to support us by buying one or more balloons in the race: they are £2 per balloon or £5 for 3 balloons. If you want to buy balloons, please contact Sue Evans on **01827 55916** (they will also be available at the Friends lunch club meeting in June).

The balloons will be released from the Castle: depending on which way the wind is blowing, it is possible for balloons to reach as far as France or Germany. The person who finds and returns the ticket attached to the balloon that has flown the furthest will receive a reward, and the person who bought that balloon will receive a prize of £100.

- Castle News -

Work on the second Heritage Lottery Fund bid, which will result in the complete renovation and re-design of the room that currently holds the “Tamworth Story” displays, is proceeding. Members of the Friends are working with Castle staff on the steering committee that is advising on the plans being formulated for the new displays that will be built in the room: the new displays promise to be very exciting, informative and educational, and details will be published in future editions of this newsletter.

The **Dragon Hunt**, held over the Spring Bank Holiday week, was a great success and we are expecting similar successes with other events being held in the near future (details of these can be found on the Castle’s website, www.tamworthcastle.co.uk).

- Talks -

The Birmingham Back-to-Backs

By Clive Katz in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 15th September 2017 at 7:30pm



Clive Katz



**Panorama of the central courtyard
of the Birmingham Back-to-Backs**

Clive Katz is a National Trust guide at the Birmingham Back-to-Backs, a carefully-restored, atmospheric 19th-century courtyard of working people’s houses.

Clive will talk about the Back-to-Backs and the lives of the Birmingham working people who lived in these dwellings from the 1840s to the 1970s. You will find out how Court 15 survived the 1960s redevelopment. Clive will speak about life in the Court during four periods in history – 1840s, 1870s, 1930s and the 1970s.

A History of Lace-Making

By Jane Partridge in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 13th October 2017 at 7:30pm

For three years Jane Partridge held the office of Honorary Secretary of the Lace Guild, a registered Educational Charity and accredited museum. It is the largest organisation for lacemakers in the British Isles and has an international membership. The aims of the guild are to provide information about lacemaking, its history and use.

Jane will talk about the history of lacemaking and will display samples of her work. She will also have with her samples of the equipment used in lacemaking, which will be available for anyone wishing to “have a go”.

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury

Tuesday 8th August 2017

On this trip we will first proceed by coach to the Down Inn, a country pub and restaurant set in the heart of Shropshire, just outside Bridgnorth. Here we will be provided with lunch after which we will be taken to Shrewsbury, one of England’s finest medieval towns. Voted “the 8th happiest place to live in the UK”, and having over 600 listed buildings, Shrewsbury boasts such a wide range of attractions that you will find it impossible to be disappointed.

For the gardeners amongst us, flowers are everywhere; in the parks, gardens and streets. For the historians, there are the Museum, Abbey and Castle. For the sight-seers there are picturesque cobbled alleys and squares with black-and-white Elizabethan buildings, and Victoria Quay on the river Severn. And for shopaholics there are an exceptional number of interesting, independent shops that make shopping there so special.

The cost of this trip is £23 per person, which includes lunch and coach transport. A booking form is included at the back of this newsletter. Coach pick-up will be in Tamworth, location and time to be advised later.

London—Regent's Park Canal Cruise

Tuesday 12th September 2017

On this trip we will be travelling by coach to London, where we will board the Jenny Wren narrow boat at Walker's Quay for a 90-minute cruise. We will travel through the World-famous Hampstead Road canal lock and along the most picturesque stretch of the Regent Canal, passing through London Zoo and Regent's Park and heading to Browning's Island at Little Venice. We rise 2.5 metres in the lock at Camden and there will be time to browse the stalls at Camden Market and take lunch if desired, before re-boarding the Jenny Wren for the return journey. There will be an interesting onboard commentary during the canal journey.

The cost of £35 per person includes coach transport from Tamworth and the canal trip. A booking form is included at the back of this newsletter. Coach pick-up will be in Tamworth, location and time to be advised later.



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.

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.

(See the cover article for details on buying balloon tickets)

Tudor Banquet

The number of bookings made for this event has not reached the minimum level required for us to break even on the cost, so unfortunately we have had to cancel the event.

- Reviews -

Richard III: The New Evidence, April 2017

Dominic Smee gave an interesting and informative talk about his involvement in the making the Channel 4 program *“Richard III—The New Evidence”*. As someone suffering from the same spinal deformity as Richard, Dominic gave a fascinating insight into how Richard could have appeared and what his capabilities may have been.



Friends Events for 2017/18

01/07/17	Anniversary 60's evening at the Globe Inn
15/07/17	Anniversary Balloon race
08/08/17	Trip to Shrewsbury, with lunch at the Down Inn
12/09/17	Canal cruise through London Zoo & Regent's Park
15/09/17	Talk "The Birmingham Back-to-Backs"
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"
19/01/18	Festive meal
09/02/18	Talk "After the Yorkshire Ripper"
09/03/18	Talk "The Perils of a Public Speaker"
20/04/18	Talk "The Man Who Creates Invisible Art" & AGM
11/05/18	Talk "Unsung War Heroes, WW2 to Afghanistan"
08/06/18	Talk "Mad As a Hatter" - origins & meanings of sayings

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

Trip to Shrewsbury, With Lunch at the Down Inn

Tuesday 8th August 2017

Please reserve _____ places for me on this trip at £ 23 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

Canal Cruise Through London Zoo & Regent's Park

Tuesday 12th September 2017

Please reserve _____ places for me on this trip at £ 35 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