



NEWSLETTER

May 2014 (3)

- Friends News -

Annual General Meeting

The Friends AGM took place on Friday 25th April. Chairman Dave Ansell thanked the current members of the committee for their work during the preceding year and asked for nominations for the appointment of members for the next year. All of the existing members agreed to re-stand and all were re-elected to the committee. In addition, a new member - Chris Harris - was nominated and elected, and subsequently warmly welcomed by the other committee members. Chris has experience in a number of areas that will be of great assistance to the committee.



Among other items discussed was the proposed increase in membership fees: a letter had already been sent to all members explaining the reasons behind this proposal.

St. George's Day Stall

This year's St. George's Day event was a huge success, and just as successful was the Friends' stall in the Tamworth Castle grounds, which raised £128 from the tombola and product sales. Shown in the picture on the right are committee members Maureen Sherwood, Barbara Marston and Pauline Walsh manning the stall.



- Talks -

The Tradescants: Keepers of the King's Gardens

By Patsie Jarman in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 6th June 2014, 7:30 pm

The Tradescants (John the elder and his son John the younger) travelled the world in the 17th 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.

A Handful of Straw

By Peter Shelley in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 5th September 2014 at 7:30pm

This talk will be a journey through the amazing world of straw. Beginning with the simple corn dolly, Peter will then take us through the wonder of straw marquetry and Swiss straw work. Pictures and models of corn dollies and tied straw work will illustrate his talk, at the end of which listeners will surely have gained a new appreciation of this seemingly simple material.

A History of Selly Manor, Minworth Greaves and Bournville

By Gillian Ellis in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 3rd October 2014 at 7:30pm

Gillian is Heritage Manager at Bournville Village Trust. She will be talking about two ancient timber-framed buildings, Selly Manor and Minworth Greaves, which were saved from demolition by chocolate manufacturer George Cadbury. The Tudor manor and medieval hall were rebuilt in the garden village of Bournville, and house a superb collection of furniture and domestic objects dating from the 16th—18th centuries.

Gillian's illustrated talk will discuss the history of the two buildings and how they came to be moved almost a hundred years ago. She will also give a brief history of Bournville and the building of the model village by the Cadbury family.

- Trips & Social Events -

A Trip to Barnsdale Gardens On Saturday 21st June 2014

Barnsdale Gardens was created in 1983 from a Victorian farmhouse with 5 acres of land at Barnsdale, Rutland, by Geoff Hamilton, the longest-serving presenter of BBC1's *Gardener's World*. The show's venue was moved there in 1985 and continued to be filmed there until the mid-90's.

Today there are thirty nine gardens on the 8-acre site, each one with an individual theme and planting scheme: they are often referred to as "a theme park for gardeners".

The price for the trip is £28 per person and includes coach transport, entrance fee into the garden and a boat trip on nearby Rutland Water.

If you would like to join this trip, please complete the enclosed booking slip and send with payment to Ken Marston at the address shown on the back page of this newsletter.

The coach will pick up at the Jolly Sailor car park at 9:00 am

Birmingham Tour: The Jewellery Quarter and Aston Hall On Saturday 5th July 2014

We have organised a number of "grand tours" of Birmingham in the past, all of which have been extremely popular. If you join us on this one you will first visit Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, where you can join a free guided tour of the fascinating Jewellery Quarter Museum, based in the old Smith & Pepper jewellery factory. Then we will move on to the magnificent Aston Hall, one of Birmingham's most treasured historic buildings, boasting sumptuous interiors from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Its displays illustrate the part the Hall and its residents played in key moments in history, including the English Civil War, and how it prepared to receive royalty on more than one occasion.

The cost of this trip is just £10 per person and includes coach transport and all entrance fees. If you are interested, please complete the enclosed booking slip and send with payment to Ken Marston at the address shown on the back page of this newsletter.

The coach will pick up at the Jolly Sailor car park at 09:00 am

- Reviews -

Family History Part 2

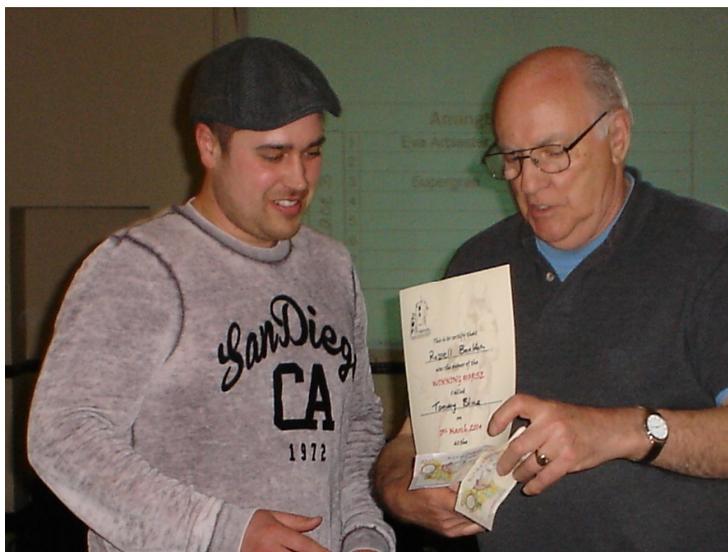
This talk about genealogy was given by Ian Burley, Development Officer at Tamworth Library, on 25th April. It was a follow-up of one he gave to us in October 2012, and he again provided us with useful information on sources we could utilize in investigating family histories and building family trees.

For those who could not attend the talk, it will be useful to note that Tamworth Library offers resources for those investigating their family histories, including access to computers from which they can freely access family history and genealogy websites.

A Night at the Races

At the Moat House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth
On Saturday 15th March 2014

This took place at the Moat House on 15th March, and although attendance was lower than in previous years, it was enjoyed greatly by those who did attend, and we raised in the region of £200 for our Castle funds. The picture below shows a representative of Ashby Road Service station, one of the race sponsors, collecting their winnings.



Summer Raffle

This year's Summer Raffle offers the following prizes:

1st prize: £100

2nd prize: £25 gift voucher for Pets at Home

3rd prize: Costa Coffee products

Plus other prizes donated by W H Smith, Poundstretcher, Homebase, Toys-R-Us, ASDA, and tickets for the Staffordshire Regimental Museum and Tamworth Castle.

Tickets are £1 each and will be available at Friends' tables and stalls at Middleton Hall (8th June), "We Love Tamworth" event (23rd August) and Heritage Open Day (14th September). The draw will take place at the Heritage Open day event.

If you would like to purchase tickets direct, or are able to sell tickets for us, please contact Pauline Walsh on **01827 715466** or at treasurer@tamworthcastlefriends.org.

Newsletter Delivery

You will have received a letter from our chairman discussing measures our organisation is taking to reduce costs, one of the largest of which is postage, mostly due to the delivery of newsletters. By keeping costs down we are able to keep increases in membership fees to a minimum, and to meet our obligations regarding the Inland Revenue's Gift Aid scheme.

In line with the above, if you have provided us with an email address you will have received this newsletter by email; any booking slips will also be sent as part of the same email. If you did not receive this newsletter by email and wish to do so, please let us know at newsletter@tamworthcastlefriends.org.

Booking for Trips and Events

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