



NEWSLETTER

August 2016



- Castle News -

Enchanted Castle

The Castle staff are busy getting ready for the second “Enchanted Castle” event of the year, where guests will meet knights, dragons, fairies and pixies set in magical scenes as they make their way through the castle. A great deal of interest has been shown in the event, particularly through FaceBook, and the Castle is expecting a bumper crowd. If you are interested in attending this event, which takes place 22nd—26th August 2016, you should call the Castle on 01827 70618, or pop into the Tourist Information Centre in Corporation Street.

Castle By Candlelight

“Castle by Candlelight” is back again this year, on Saturday 12th November. Visitors will get the chance to walk through the candle-lit period rooms and meet the Castle characters who will be talking about the use of light through the ages.

The Castle are asking for volunteers from the Friends to help with both of the above events (see “Friends News” for details)

- Friends News -

Heritage Open Day

The Friends’ stall will be making another appearance at this year’s Heritage Open Day, on Sunday 11th September 2016.

We would really appreciate offers for help in manning the stall—details are given in the following article.

Appeal for Volunteers

There are a number of up-coming events where you could help by volunteering a little of your time:

Enchanted Castle event (22nd—26th August): the Castle have asked us if we could provide volunteers for marshalling the rooms (no particular experience or knowledge is required, whatever time you could spare would be appreciated)

Castle by Candlelight event (12th November): another event organised by the Castle, similar duties to above.

Heritage Open Day (11th September): the Friends committee would appreciate any help you could give in manning the Friends stall at this event.

Volunteers should contact Maureen Sherwood by 'phone on 01827 66150 or by email at secretary@tamworthcastlefriends.org

- Talks -

Fiona and Stan, Isobelle and the End of a Broken Heart

By Colin Davies in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 9th September 2016 at 7:30pm

Intrigued? Colin Davies, President of the Friends, presents this talk and will say only that “this is an evening of fact, fiction and fun—if you are curious, come and join us”.

Puppets Around the World

By Derek Wharton in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 4th November 2016 at 7:30pm

Many of you will remember Derek's fascinating talk to us back in April, entitled “Treading the Boards” and he will be back with us in November, this time talking about his interest in puppets. Derek was a children's entertainer for over 40 years, since when he has been collecting puppets with a passion, obtaining them from many parts of the World that he has visited. He will entertain us with anecdotes about the puppets, information about their origins and details of how they are operated.

Sounds like a lot of fun!

Jack the Ripper

By Gary Hyde in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 14th October 2016 at 7:30pm

Jack the Ripper was an unidentified serial killer who was active in the Whitehall district of London in the late 1880's. He was known as "The Ripper" because of the particularly brutal nature of the murders. Many books, films and TV programs have been made of this notorious character.

Ex-policeman Gary Hyde has studied this crime for many years, and in his talk will let the audience in on his findings.

The Wise Woman of Rouen

By Christina Smee in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle

On Friday 9th December 2016 at 7:30pm

(Details of this talk will be published in the next newsletter)

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

The Imperial War Museum (North), Manchester

(Originally scheduled for Saturday 3rd September 2016)

We have, unfortunately, had to cancel this trip because the low number of applicants means that the cost of the trip would not have been covered.

Chatsworth House and Christmas Market

Wednesday 16th November 2016

In association with Middleton Tours, we are arranging a trip for members of the Friends to Chatsworth House and Christmas market on Wednesday November 16. The house will be dressed for Christmas, themed on the Russian ballet "The Nutcracker".

Places are limited and must be confirmed with Middleton Tours quickly, so if you are interested in coming with us please contact Sue Evans As soon as possible to check if there any places left. You can telephone Sue on **01827 55916** or email her at **social@tamworthcastlefriends.org**.

The price is £32.50 per person and includes coach transport from Tamworth and entrance to the house (entrance to the market is free). If you reserve places, you will be asked to pay by cheque, payable to "Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum".

Children's Halloween Evening 29th October 2016

It's that time of year again! The committee is starting preparations for the Friends' Childrens' Halloween event at the Castle, which will take place on Saturday 29th October: hopefully it will be the sell-out event it was last year, which raised a significant amount of money for our Castle fund.

It will follow the same format we have used in previous years, with all sorts of spooky events taking place in the Castle. More details will be given in fliers and posters that will be available at various places around town nearer the time.

Tickets will be available from the Tamworth Information Centre in the Philip Dix Centre and, as usual, paying children will receive a free (real) pumpkin lantern.

A number of our members volunteer year after year as marshalls to guide and assist our guests as they tour the Castle, and members of the organising committee will approach these over the next month or two to see if they are willing to help again. We could always do with more, however, so if you would be interested in helping in any capacity and you enjoy dressing up as witches and wizards (or anything frightening that takes your fancy!), please contact Roger Ashford on **0790 0088960** or at **admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org**.



- Reviews -

Goose Grease and Brown Paper

A Talk Given by Kath Reynolds on Friday 13th May 2016

Kath took the audience on a trip through time, explaining how various “medical” remedies (some effective, others downright comical) were used in the past. Samples of many of these were laid out on a table at her side, which we were able to look at, touch (and sniff) at the end of the talk. As Kath mentioned the names of each of the items being described, many chuckles and murmurs of “aah yes..” could be heard from the audience as childhood memories were invoked.

Folk Night at the Castle

A performance by “The Old Castle Band” on 27th May 2016

A great evening was had by all who attended this event, listening to music supplied by Brian Williamson and his associates. The music ranged from folk to popular to classical guitar, providing everyone with real entertainment.

Dispelling the Myths—An Introduction to Bats

A talk Given by Kevin Reynolds on Friday 8th July 2016

Kevin gave us an excellent talk about Bats, and the talk was well-attended. The audience was shown photographs of bats from all over the world, and why people have a fear of bats was explained. It was interesting to be told that the commonest place for bats to nest is modern homes where they gain ingress from any small gaps in the fascia and soffit boards (behind the guttering). They will not cause any harm to the structure but if they need to be removed they are a protected species and will need to have specialist attention. This is because of the decrease in the bat population generally owing to the reduction in the type of landscape that they require to thrive.



Friends Events for 2016/17

09/09/16	Talk “Fiona & Stan, Isobel & the End of a Broken Heart”
14/10/16	Talk “Jack the Ripper”
04/11/16	Talk “Puppets Around the World”
16/11/16	Trip to Chatsworth House & Christmas Market
09/12/16	Talk “The Wise Woman of Rouen”
10/03/17	Talk “The Origins of Pub Names”
21/04/17	AGM
21/04/17	Talk “Richard III—New Evidence”
12/05/17	Talk “Sister Albreda”

All events are also listed on the Friends website, in the members area.

Don't forget—the Friends lunch club meets at the Globe Inn, Lower Gungate on the last Thursday of every month at 12:00.

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: **<http://tamworthcastlefriends.org>**