



# NEWSLETTER

## August 2018

### - Friends News -

#### Friends Membership

There have been a few occasions when members, on visiting the Castle, have been disappointed because they found that their membership did not allow free entry on the day, or did not include all members of their party. We have emailed all members who have supplied an email address with a message re-iterating the relevant conditions that apply, and these are repeated below for those whom we could not contact by email.



Membership of the Friends allows free entry to the Castle except when special events are on, for example:

- ◆ Any event that requires pre-booking of tickets (e.g. Children's Halloween Evening, Ghost Searches, Tudor Banquets and Santa Trails)
- ◆ Non-ticketed special events, including Dragon Hunts, Egg Hunts, St. George's Day, Storytelling, Castle Quests, Living History days and Haunted Castle events.

Members wishing to enter the Castle on an Heritage Open Day event must obtain free tickets from the Tamworth Information Centre.

Please note that family membership allows free entry for two adults and two children: if there are more than two adults or two children then you will need either to pay for the additional visitors at the door or have the relevant additional Friends memberships (for example if there are two adults and three children, then you would need one family membership and one junior membership).

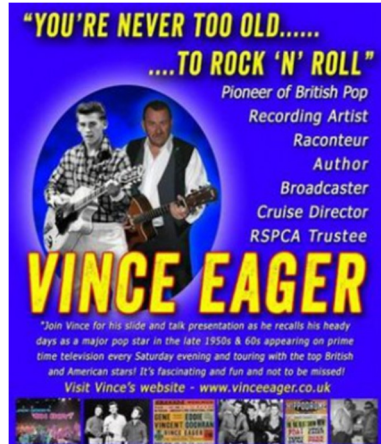
# - Talks -

## You're Never Too Old to Rock & Roll

By Vince Eager in The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 2:00 pm

(following the monthly lunch club meal)



If your memory goes back to the late 50's, you may recall the teenage Roy Taylor and the "Vagabonds Skiffle Group" that he helped form: they quickly became Vince Eager and The Vagabonds, touring and making records, and in 1959 Vince was a regular performer on BBC TV's *Drumbeat*.

During his 60 years in showbiz and cruise directing, Vince has collected a wealth of stories, anecdotes and tales that he enjoys talking and writing about. His on-stage popularity over the years has recently spun off into the success he's enjoyed with his book, "Vince Eager's Rock 'n' Roll Files" and his presentations. Along with his performing and writing, Vince is becoming more and more in demand for his talks and visual media presentations. Such is the wealth of material at his fingertips that he has three presentations. His talk is based on his early years of recording popular music, television shows, concerts and cabaret shows he appeared on.

The talk follows the Friends' monthly lunch club get-together: if you want to join everybody for the lunch, get there around 12:00 pm; if you want to come just for the talk, you need to be there for 2:00 pm. Non-members are welcome but we would ask that they make a £3 contribution to our funds.

# Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

By Sarra Kasraoui in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle  
On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7:30 pm



## Mary Shelley and an early depiction of the monster created by Frankenstein

English writer Mary Shelley, wife of poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, is best known for her horror novel *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*, which she wrote in 1818 at the age of 21, so 2018 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication. In the book, Victor Frankenstein builds a human creature (the “monster”) through the “scientific” methods of chemistry and alchemy, leaving it to fend for itself and try to make its way in the world of men, where it wrought horrible revenge.

Mary's book, as well as being a horror story, is widely acknowledged as being the world's first science fiction novel, although Sarra's spooky presentation will concentrate on the horror aspects, and the Castle's ancient Great Hall should provide the perfect back-drop!

## **The Perils of a Public Speaker**

**By Penny Wheat at The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate**

**On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 2:00 pm**

**(following the monthly lunch club meal)**



**Penny Wheat**



**What's inside the mysterious box?**

Penny taught silversmithing and jewelry at Stafford College for 36 years and has recently retired.

This will be an amusing, light-hearted talk based on her many years' experience of giving talks to Staffordshire's WIs, Townswomen's Guilds, Probus, Rotary Clubs and other groups. She will be displaying LOTS of items during her talk, including jewellery and silver items, drawings and craft items made by prisoners, and a huge treasure chest containing...well, you will have to wait and see, but comedy is certainly involved! The talk will be lavishly illustrated and very lively—don't miss it!

## **- Trips, Social & Other Events -**

### **Table Sale**

We held a second table sale in the Market Vaults, Market Street, on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, raising £70 for the Friends' funds. A huge thank-you to those who pitched in to help set up and man the tables, and to landlord John for allowing us to commandeer his front bar for the afternoon!

## **Beer & Skittles Evening**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7:30 pm**  
**Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth**

This year this popular event is being held at the same venue as last time—  
Aldergate Club, in the centre of Tamworth.

Come and take part in the bowling, or just cheer on your friends: either way  
you are assured of an enjoyable evening of food, drink and competition.

Prizes will be awarded for the best (and worst) scores and a fish-and-chips  
supper is included in the ticket price of £10.

If you would like to take part, please complete the booking slip at the back  
of this newsletter.

## **Oxford and Waddesdon Manor Christmas Fair**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

On this trip, the coach will first take you to Oxford, City of Dreaming Spires, where  
you will have 2½ hours for sight-seeing, shopping and lunch.

Then you will be taken to Waddesdon Manor, a French château built by Baron  
Ferdinand de Rothschild in the 1870s to entertain his friends and family on



Summer weekend stays.  
The manor is filled with  
royal treasures and a  
host of other interesting  
objects, and outside the  
Christmas Fair will be set  
against the backdrop of  
the floodlit north front of  
the Manor, with its 20-ft  
Christmas trees and  
magical light and sound  
show.

The price of this trip is £39.50 per person (or £26.00 for National Trust members),  
which includes entrance to the Manor. A booking form is included at the back of  
this newsletter—please book early as places are limited.

## **Festive Meal**

**Bolehall Manor, Amington Road, Tamworth  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

This is an early notice of our post-Christmas meal, to enable you to note it in your diary. This time the event will be held at Bolehall Manor on the date shown above.

The meal will be the Manor's carvery, and the price of around £25 will include this and entertainment. More details and a booking form will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

## **York Ice Trail**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**

This is a chance to visit York and experience one of the highlights of its calendar—the annual Ice Trail, when the streets of York are transformed into a Winter Wonderland of Ice Sculptures.



This year there are even more carvings to find, with over 40 frosty figures formed from crystal-clear ice sprinkled across the centre and surrounding streets. Warm up with street food and sip mulled wine as you decide which statue is your next stop.

The price of this trip is £20 per person and includes coach travel between Tamworth and York. A booking form is included at the back of this newsletter—please book early as places are limited.



# Friends Events for 2018/19

20/04/18	Talk "The Man Who Creates Invisible Art" (following AGM)
11/05/18	Talk "Unsung War Heroes, WW2 to Afghanistan"
08/06/18	Talk "Mad as a Hatter" - origins & meanings of sayings
12/06/18	Table sale in the Market Vaults
13/07/18	Talk "Æthelflæd & the Origins of Stafford"
02/09/18	Beer & Skittles evening
27/09/18	Talk "You're Never Too Old to Rock & Roll"
12/10/18	Talk "Mary Shelley & Frankenstein"
27/10/18	Children's Halloween (date provisional)
22/11/18	Trip to Oxford & Waddesdon Manor Xmas Fair
29/11/18	Talk "The Perils of a Public Speaker"
09-10/12/2018	Trip to the Thursford Xmas Spectacular
18/01/19	Festive meal
02/02/19	Trip to York for the York Ice Trail
Feb 2019	Talk "The Meaker Brothers" (date to be confirmed)

## 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

## Beer & Skittles Evening at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7:30 pm

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 Oxford and Waddesdon Manor Xmas Fair

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me on this trip at £39.50 per person

And/or \_\_\_\_\_ places at £26 per person (National Trust members)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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