



NEWSLETTER

July 2015



- Friends News -

Extraordinary General Meeting

It was mentioned in the last newsletter that the committee is proposing changes to the constitution, which requires a vote of the members to be held at a general meeting. The committee is therefore planning to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to deal with these matters in September 2015. Details of this meeting and of the proposed changes to the constitution are contained in the letter accompanying this newsletter.

Summer Raffle

Included with this newsletter is a book a tickets for the Friends Summer raffle. All the money from any tickets you are able to buy or sell will help to fund projects in the Castle.

- Talks -

The Past Beneath Our Feet

By Jim Wall in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday 4^h September 2015 at 7:30pm

For 15 years Jim Wall has been a member of the Bloxwich Research and Metal Detecting Club, one of the largest and longest-established such clubs in the country. He has unearthed a number of treasures, including a Saxon gold and garnet pendant, a gold posy ring (found in a Drayton Basset field) and a Saxon silver strap.

Jim will talk about metal detecting and some of the items he has found. Bearing in mind the fact that the Saxon Hoard was found by a detectorist, perhaps you may like to see what is involved in this ever-more popular activity.

Murder, Manslaughter and Strange Deaths
By Dr Richard Churchley in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday 2nd October 2015 at 7:30pm

Richard has more than thirty years experience in local and family history research and in 2010 was awarded a doctorate at the University Of Birmingham for his study of occupations in the Alcester and Redditch area 1660-1840. If you attended his talk on "Folklore and Fold Songs of the West Midlands" at the Castle in 2013, you may recall the engaging and interactive style of his presentation.

In this talk, Richard will discuss strange deaths and unexplained deaths in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, some of which you may be familiar with, but not in the detail which Richard will reveal.

The Other Hats in My Life

By Ken Knowles in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
On Friday 6th November 2015 at 7:30pm

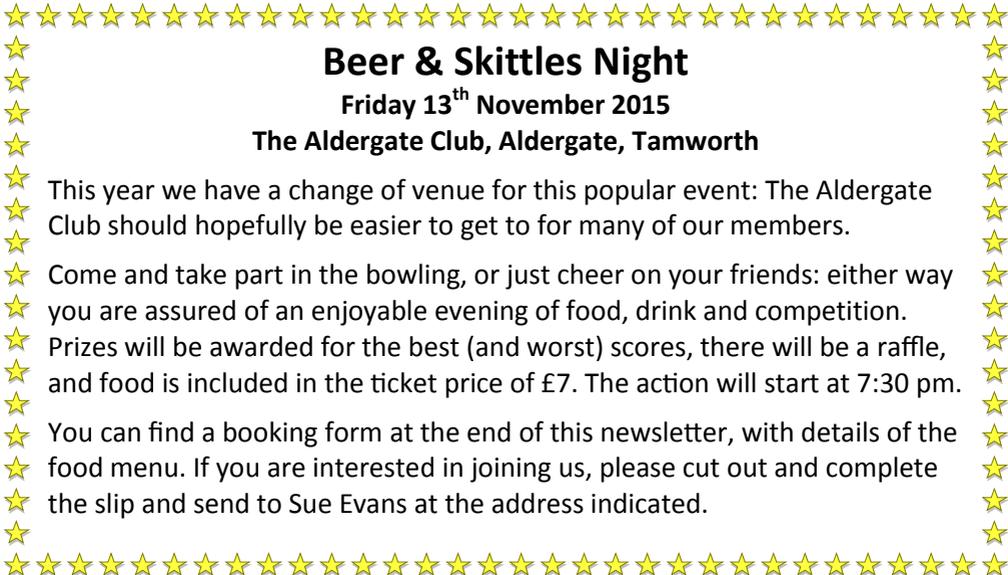
Ken Knowles is probably best known locally as Lichfield's award-winning town crier, and he gave us a talk on town criers last year. This time, however, Ken will talk about how wearing hats has influenced the many roles he has played in amateur theatre. Using a box of different hats he will tell how each one has anecdotes and monologues that reflect on his career in amateur dramatics.

- Trips, Social & Other Events -

Dudley Canal and Caves
Saturday 5th September 2015

This is a trip to the Dudley Canal Trust centre, where you will experience a two-hour narrow boat trip along the 2.9 km length of the mighty Dudley Tunnel, deep beneath Castle Hill. You will be given a comprehensive tour of the limestone mine and caverns, including a video show explaining how the limestone was formed, a reconstruction depicting how the limestone miners worked in the 18th century and an astonishing music and light show in the Singing Cavern. You will also be offered the chance to try your hand (leg?) at the traditional art of "legging", where you will propel the boat along by "walking" along the roof of the tunnel.

The price is £28 per person and includes coach transfer from Tamworth (the coach will leave from Corporation Street, Tamworth at 9:30 am). A booking form is included at the end of this newsletter.



Beer & Skittles Night

Friday 13th November 2015

The Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth

This year we have a change of venue for this popular event: The Aldergate Club should hopefully be easier to get to for many of our members.

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, there will be a raffle, and food is included in the ticket price of £7. The action will start at 7:30 pm.

You can find a booking form at the end of this newsletter, with details of the food menu. If you are interested in joining us, please cut out and complete the slip and send to Sue Evans at the address indicated.



Halloween—31st October 2015

The Friends' ever-popular Childrens' Halloween event at the Castle will take place on Saturday 31st October this year. 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 the next newsletter, and in the 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, please contact Roger Ashford on **0790 0088960** or at admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org.

- Reviews -

Cavalier Dogs and Roundhead Rogues

A talk by Mary Bodfish on Friday 24^h April 2015

This was a fascinating talk by someone who obviously has a passion for the subject, and a great deal of knowledge. Mary made the subject come alive for the audience, with details of the origins of the English Civil War and of the cut and thrust of the various skirmishes and battles around Birmingham, Coventry, Tamworth and other local areas.

Melton Mowbray

April 25th

This well-attended trip included visits to a pork-pie making establishment, where we were shown how hand-raised pork pies were made; to a cheese shop where the art of stilton-making was explained (with plenty of tasty samples), and to the local museum.

A very enjoyable trip, and thanks again to Ken Marston for arranging it.

Murder at Seckington

A talk by Chris Harris on June 5th

This very interesting and informative talk was given by a member of the Friends, Chris Harris on 5th June. The talk was well attended and included visitors from the village of Seckington and staff from Tamworth Castle, all wishing to find out more about the murder of Aethelbald. Chris' search for information came from his study of ancient documents and writings and uncovered some surprising facts about the king of Mercia and his reign, including his connection to Repton, and culminating in his murder at Seckington. Congratulations to Chris on a very entertaining evening enjoyed by all.

Hanson Auctioneers Valuation Day

This event, organised by the Friends, took place in Tamworth Town Hall in May, and was a popular event. One item bought in for valuation is shown below: Adrian Rathbone, Hanson's Associate Director, said of it "A c.1890



risqué corkscrew in the shape of ladies legs complete with striped stockings. These corkscrews are very collectable and this has been consigned to Hanson's 26th June Fine Art Sale and expected to fetch £200 - £300".

A good find!



Friends Events for 2015/16

- 05/06/15: Talk "757-The Murder at Seckington"
- 17/06/15: Trip to the Richard III Visitor Centre & Leicester Cathedral
- 04/09/15: Talk "The Past Beneath Our Feet"
- 05/09/15: Dudley Canal trip & limestone caverns
- 02/10/15: Talk "Murder, Manslaughter & Strange Deaths"
- 31/10/15: Children's Halloween Event at the Castle
- 06/11/15: Talk "Ken in His Other Hats"
- 13/11/15: Beer & Skittles at the Aldergate Club
- 23/01/16: Friends festive meal (venue to be decided)
- 05/02/16: Talk "Stories of the English Coinage"
- 04/03/16: Talk "Puppets Around the World"
- 22/04/16: Talk "Treading the Boards"

Contact Details

Where booking slips are included with the newsletter, please complete these and send, 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**

Booking Forms

Beer and Skittles at Aldergate Club

Friday 13th November 2015, 7:30 pm

Please reserve _____ places for me at this event at £ 7.00 per person.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

How many of each meal do you require? (enter the numbers against each):

Fish and chips _____ / Sausage and chips _____ / Pie and chips _____

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

Dudley Canal & Caves Trip

Saturday 5th September 2015

Please reserve _____ places for me on this trip at £ 28.00 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:

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