



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

- Friends News -

Can You Help?

Jan and Adrian Tomes have resigned from the Friends committee, for personal reasons: we would like to thank them for the effort they have put in since their election to the committee earlier in the year. This means that the committee is now one member short. If you feel you would be able to help in this respect, could you please contact Roger Ashford (by emailing admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org, or 'phoning 07900088960).

Membership of the committee is not an onerous task, and the additional member we would like to appoint will have no specific responsibilities other than attending the monthly committee meetings (unless they decide they would like to take on more). We meet on the evening of the first Monday of every month for around 1½ hours at a town centre location (currently The Globe Inn) to discuss and decide on current issues.



Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Tamworth Castle and Museum

Next year's AGM will take place in the Great Hall of the Castle on Friday April 17th 2020 at 7:30 pm (note that this is a change to the date originally shown on our website)

As always, this is the most important of the Friends events you could attend: it is where decisions are made regarding the running and operation of our organisation, and where you can make your opinions known. So please put this date in your diary and resolve to help us, the committee, make those decisions.

- Talks -

The Restoration of Middleton Hall

**By Brian Teall in The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate
on Thursday November 28th at 2:00 pm**



Middleton Hall today



Brian Teall

Middleton Hall is a Manor House near to Tamworth, a grade 2 listed building set in 42 acres of the North Warwickshire countryside. After a thousand years of history, the hall fell into total dereliction and has been restored over the last 40 years.

The hall is managed by a charitable trust who, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, worked on the reconstruction of the hall. Brian, a trustee, will talk about restoration of this beautiful hall, surrounded by its historic gardens and grounds.

101 Great British Curiosities

**By Dr Colin Harris in The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate
on Thursday January 31st 2020 at 2:00 pm**

Dr Harris is an experienced and professional educator and has worked as a tutor for Open Studies at the University of Warwick. He is also an experienced speaker, specialising in all aspects of folklore, customs and traditions, especially The Green Man, Gargoyles, Medieval beasts and “really ugly uglies”.



Colin's talk will be a light-hearted journey through our unique and bizarre Great British culture, exploring such devious curiosities as:

- Heath Robinson Fantasies
- Origins of names and places
- Seldom-seen birds
- Nursery rhymes
- Gurners. Liars and Twermers
- Follies
- Curious caves

And lots more! Plus an “Exploratorium of Extraordinary Objects”. If you have a curiosity of your own hiding at the back of a cupboard, in the shed or in the loft, bring it along to challenge the audience over its origins—a prize is offered for the most curious object.

The Secret Life of the Magician

**By Neil Roberts in The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate
on Thursday February 27th 2020 at 2:00 pm**



One of the best kept secrets of magic is the fact that most towns and cities have their own magic club or society. There are currently over one hundred magic clubs in the UK alone. Award winning magician Neil Roberts reveals this clandestine world from its earliest beginnings to a discussion on the current magic scene. His discussion will be full of anecdotes from his backstage career and even a few tricks performed live.

Gymslips and Chalkboards

**By Kath Reynolds in The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate
on Thursday March 26th 2020 at 2:00 pm**

We all love reminiscing about our childhoods, our schooldays, and “the good old days” in general.

Kath could be regarded as a professional reminiscer: while working for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent libraries, she helped develop a course called “Delivering Reminiscence”. She is keenly interested in people, their lives and their communities and her talks reflect a great many years of collecting stories, memories and musings from the people of Staffordshire and surrounding counties. This particular talk is an interactive schooldays reminiscence session recalling the “best days of our lives” - uniforms, books, time-tables, inkwells (remember them?) and playtimes. So pump up your memories, get out the rose-tinted spectacles and prepare to enjoy this talk!



Shot at Dawn

**By Michael Byrne in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle
on Friday April 17th 2020 (after the AGM)**

Between 1914 and 1920, more than 3,000 British soldiers were sentenced to death by courts martial for desertion, cowardice, striking an officer, disobedience, falling asleep on duty or casting away arms. However, only 346 were actually executed, with 37 of these having committed capital crimes such as murder. The remaining 309 are the subject of this talk.

Michael will explain the background to how these events unfolded and he will pick out a handful of examples and tell their stories, explaining how they were finally pardoned after 90 years of disgrace to their families

This talk will immediately follow the Friends Annual General Meeting (see the front page).

- Social Events -

Festive Meal

Friday 17th January 2020

The Globe Inn, Lower Gungate, Tamworth

This year's post-Christmas meal will be held at The Globe Inn, in central Tamworth. The price is £20 per person, which includes a choice of two-course meals and entertainment.

Menu

- Mains*
- Roast turkey crown, served with stuffing, pig in blanket & gravy
 - Roast topside of beef, served with Yorkshire pudding & gravy
 - Salmon fillet, Served with Hollandaise sauce
 - Vegetarian option—Quorn roast, served with stuffing and vegetarian gravy

(all accompanied by roast potatoes, new potatoes & seasonal vegetables)

- Dessert*
- Christmas pudding, served with brandy sauce
 - Ice cream sundae, served with chocolate sauce
 - Sticky toffee and date pudding, served with custard
 - Baked vanilla cheesecake, served with raspberry coulis & cream

Followed by coffee and mince pies

Entertainment will be provided by the local ladies' choir "Impromptu", who will treat us to a collection of well-known songs and one or two extremely funny comic monologues.

We are meeting at 7:00 pm to sit down at 7:30.

You will find a booking form at the end of this newsletter—please book early to avoid disappointment



Friends Events for 2019/20

- 28/11/19 * Talk "The Restoration of Middleton Hall"
17/01/20 Festive meal
31/01/20 * Talk "101 Great British Curiosities" *
27/02/20 * Talk "Secret Life of the Magician" *
26/03/20 * Talk: "Gymslips & Chalkboards" *
17/04/20 AGM
17/04/20 Talk: "Shot at Dawn"
08/05/20 Talk: "Wrong Sex, Wrong Instrument"
12/06/20 Talk: "The Spirit of Triumph"
10/07/20 Talk: "Two Ships in the Night"
14/08/20 Talk: "Saddlers & Loriners to Queen Elizabeth II"
24/09/20 * Talk: "Historical Lock-Ups"
29/10/20 * Talk: "56 Years in Showbusiness: the NOT so Secret Agent"

* These talks will take place following the monthly lunch club meeting at The Globe Inn: all other talks will take place at the Castle

Contact Details

For details about a trip or event, please contact Roger Ashford on **0790 0088960** 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

Festive Meal at The Globe, Lower Gungate, Tamworth

Friday 17th January 2020, 7:00 pm

Please reserve _____ places for me at this event at £20 per person.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to

FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH CASTLE AND MUSEUM

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to:

Pauline Walsh, 66 Fox's Covert, Fenny Drayton, CV13 6BQ

Meal Requirements

Below, please indicate how many of each dish you require

Mains

Turkey _____

Beef _____

Salmon _____

Vegetarian _____

Dessert

Xmas Pudding _____

Ice cream _____

Sticky toffee _____

Cheesecake _____

(See the newsletter article for more details of the dishes)

