



# NEWSLETTER

## October 2015



### - Friends News -

## Extraordinary General Meeting

An EGM was held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to discuss a number of amendments that the committee felt needed to be made to our Constitution. The following changes were agreed by unanimous votes of all members present:

- All subscriptions will be payable annually in advance to run from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April, instead of from the anniversary date of joining. New members will pay pro-rata for the initial portion of the year.
- Any future changes to subscriptions will come into effect on the 1st May following the AGM/EGM at which the changes are agreed.
- The committee will consist of six officers and at least two other members, instead of six officers and six other members. This allows the committee to continue with its work in a situation where fewer than twelve members are elected for membership of the committee at the AGM.

## Summer Raffle

The Friends summer raffle was drawn in the Town Hall on English Heritage Day by the Mayor, Councillor Maureen Grant. The following are the lucky winners:

1st prize, ticket 5360 - E. Blackwood. 2nd prize, ticket 5807 - Mr C.R. Jackson. 3rd prize, ticket 5742 - K. Rose. 4th prize, ticket 5604 - M.J. Mullen. 5th prize, ticket 5860 - A. Poulton Smith. 6th prize, ticket 5778 - Mrs E. Tyler. 7th prize, ticket 5848 - G. Aplin. 8th prize, 5534 - M. Lickorish. 9th prize, ticket 5823 - A.M. Brownsword. 10th prize, ticket 5316 - Margaret Duddell. 11th prize, ticket 5334 - Mr Cook. 12th prize, ticket 5343 - Mrs Deeley. 13th prize, ticket 5852 - Steph Farnworth.

## **- Talks -**

### **The Other Hats in My Life**

**By Ken Knowles in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

**On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Stories of the English Coinage**

**By Phil Griffiths in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

**On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7:30pm**

Phil's interest in coins began over 40 years ago in the run-up to decimalization, and led to an interest in English coins through the ages. He will present an illustrated talk of the development of coinage from the Greek civilization 2700 years ago, through the first coins in use in the British Isles 2000 years ago, up to the latest post-decimalization coin designs. The talk shows how coin design is influenced by the economics, politics, religion, technology, culture and art of their time.

The many illustrations include photographs of coins, maps, and illustrations of coining techniques supplied by the Royal Mint.

### **Origins of Place Names**

**By Anthony Poulton-Smith in the Great Hall, Tamworth Castle**

**On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7:30pm**

Anthony is a freelance journalist and the author of sixty-five books, mainly on the subject of the origins of place-names: not just the names of towns and villages but also hills, streams, districts, fields, streets, and even public houses.

He will talk about the origins and linguistics of local place names, and will host a question-and-answer session where you can ask him his opinion on the likely roots of the names of places local to you.

This promises to be a very interesting talk!

# - Trips, Social & Other Events -

## Beer & Skittles Night

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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—31<sup>st</sup> October 2015

The Friends' ever-popular Children's Halloween event at the Castle will take place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 fliers and posters that will be available in the Castle, in the Tourist Information Centre and at various places around the 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**.



# **Festive Meal**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015**

**The Castle Hotel, Ladybank, Tamworth**

For this year's post-Christmas meal we will again be dining at the Castle Hotel. Once again the price has been held at £20 per person, which includes a 3-course meal and entertainment by Brian Williamson, a well-known local musician who will be singing to guitar accompaniment.

## **Menu**

Winter vegetable soup  
Creamy Garlic Mushrooms

Prawns Marie-Rose  
Pearls of Melon

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Roast Turkey  
Roast Beef

Grilled Cod Fillet  
Vegetable Lasagne

»

Christmas pudding  
Profiteroles

Baked Vanilla Cheesecake  
Ice cream

»

Followed by coffee and mince pies

**We are meeting at 7:00 pm, for a 7:30 meal.**

If you would like to reserve a place, please complete the form at the back of this newsletter and return to Maureen Sherwood (details on the form)

## - Reviews -

### **Dudley Canal and Caves Trip, September 2015**

The members who joined this trip enjoyed a 2-hour cruise in a narrow boat through the Dudley Tunnel where they saw and heard some astonishing scenery and exhibits. Some even had a go at the traditional art of “legging”, lying on their backs and “walking” along the side of the tunnel to propel the boat.



### **“Murder, Manslaughter and Strange Deaths” Talk, October 2015**

Richard Churchley gave an interesting talk about historic murders, man-slaughters and unnatural deaths around the region, and reflected on how the punishment for murder and manslaughter has changed over the years, and how in the past court judgments and punishments depended very much on the social status and sex of the offender.



## 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
- 22/01/16: Friends festive meal at the Castle Hotel
- 05/02/16: Talk "Stories of the English Coinage"
- 04/03/16: Talk "Origins of Place Names"
- 22/04/16: Talk "Puppets Around the World"

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@tamworthcastlefriends.org)**

Membership queries should be addressed to

**[membership@tamworthcastlefriends.org](mailto:membership@tamworthcastlefriends.org)**

For any other issues, contact **[admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org](mailto:admin@tamworthcastlefriends.org)**

# Booking Forms

## Beer and Skittles at Aldergate Club, Aldergate, Tamworth

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

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# Festive Meal at The Castle Hotel, Ladybank, Tamworth

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, 7:30 pm

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at this event at £ 20.00 per person.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Please enter the numbers of each dish required for each course (see page 4 for details):

## Starters

## Mains

## Dessert

Soup \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey \_\_\_\_\_

Xmas Pudding \_\_\_\_\_

Mushrooms \_\_\_\_\_

Beef \_\_\_\_\_

Profiteroles \_\_\_\_\_

Prawns \_\_\_\_\_

Cod \_\_\_\_\_

Cheesecake \_\_\_\_\_

Melon \_\_\_\_\_

Lasagne \_\_\_\_\_

Ice Cream \_\_\_\_\_

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:

**Maureen Sherwood, 61 Woodhouse Lane, Amington, Tamworth B77 3AF**

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