

Tamworth Heritage Open Day 2009

Sunday 13 September

www.tamworth.gov.uk

Tamworth Heritage Open Day



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Pick up point: Tamworth Assembly Rooms bus stop,
Corporation Street, from 12 noon.
Destination: Middleton Hall.

The Midland Red bus will operate five return journeys:

Timetable:

Tamworth Centre depart	1200	1300	1400	1530	1630
Middleton Hall arrive	1220	1320	1415	1550	1650

Middleton Hall depart	1230	1330	1500	1600	1700
Tamworth Centre arrive	1250	1350	1520	1620	1720

Entrance onto the bus is by ticket only and must be booked in advance.
Tickets are available from Tamworth Information Centre, 29 Market Street, Tamworth.
Phone 01827 709581



All information is correct at the time of print and may be subject to change

Tamworth
Borough Council

(8/09) 0773

13 September 2009

Tamworth Heritage Open Day 2009

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Tamworth Information Centre

29 Market Street, Tamworth, B79 7LR
Tel: Information 01827 709581
Tel: Box office 01827 709618
Fax: 01827 709582
E-mail: tic@tamworth.gov.uk
Website: www.visittamworth.co.uk



Opening times:

Monday 9.30am – 3.30pm

Tuesday – Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm

Our expert Customer Service staff will be more than happy to help you in any way. If you are not sure, just ask, you can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome.

Services available

Box office for local venues, national holiday brochures, city guides, national and local theatre vouchers, discounted tickets for many attractions, agents for Ticketmaster and National Express Coaches, local transport information, timetables, maps and merchandise.

Visit, telephone, fax or e-mail this award winning team.

Tamworth Castle

Tamworth, Staffs B79 7NA
Contact: Tel 01827 709626
Website: www.tamworthcastle.co.uk



Free entry 12 noon - 5.15pm. Last admission 4.30pm

Robert the Dispensator set about building a strong stone fortress around 1070, he was granted the site by William I as a reward for his valiant service in the conquest of England.

The castle has been owned by 3 powerful noble families and entertained royalty through the ages from King Henry I, King Henry III and King James I. It was 1897 that the Town Council decided to purchase the Castle from the Marquess of Townshend. The money was raised by private donations and public fundraising ending the chain of ownership that had lasted 800 years.

Come in and explore over 900 years of history in this magnificent motte and bailey castle. Walk around its wondrous rooms and experience its hands on activities.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
Wheelchair access to ground floor only.



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Tamworth Town Hall

Market Street, Tamworth
Contact: Tamworth Borough Council
Tel: 01827 709262

11.00am - 5.00pm

1.00pm - 4.00pm - Mayor in attendance

The Mayor Councillor Gerald L. Pinner, invites you to the Mayor's Parlour to see the Town's treasure and the beautiful Council Chamber with its portraits of people who have made a difference to the town, including Sir Robert Peel, whose statue stands at the front of the building.

Built in 1701 by Sir Thomas Guy, although born in London, he was educated at Tamworth Grammar School. The Town Hall once housed the Butter Market and was used to store the town's fire engine at one time.

In 1817 Mr John Robins donated a clock, which was mounted in the front wall.

It is one of Tamworth's most treasured landmark buildings and has been a focal point of civic life for over 300 years, having witnessed riots, rumpuses, fires and air raids.

Tamworth Heritage Trust, Tamworth Town Hall

Market Street, Tamworth
Contact: Mr J Harper, Mr N Morris

11.00am - 5.00pm

The Tamworth Heritage Trust is dedicated to celebrating the rich and varied history of Tamworth. The Trust will be staging displays of archive photographs and members will be talking to visitors about old Tamworth and memories of bygone years.



Colin Grazier, Tamworth Town Hall

Market Street, Tamworth
Contact: Phil Shanahan

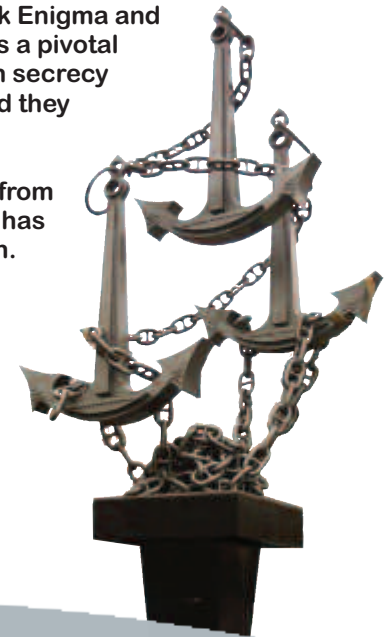
11.00am - 5.00pm

For almost 60 years after their deaths, three British Servicemen, whose brave actions shortened the Second World War by as much as two years, remained virtually unknown and uncelebrated. Two of them lost their lives retrieving vital German codebooks from a sinking U-boat, the third survived the war, only to die in a house fire while still a teenager.

But it was the precious documents they seized in October, 1942 that enabled Bletchley Park's codebreakers to crack Enigma and so win the Battle of the Atlantic. Now recognised as a pivotal moment in world history, the mission was cloaked in secrecy for decades and not even their families could be told they had paved the way for peace.

One of the men, Able Seaman Colin Grazier, came from Tamworth and for the past 10 years Phil Shanahan has campaigned to bring the story to public recognition. His book, *The Real Enigma Heroes*, tell the men's remarkable story and the fight to honour them.

Phil was invited to present Prince Charles and Camilla with a copy of the book during a Royal visit to Bletchley Park in 2008. He will be manning a mini exhibition on the story and signing copies of his book.



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Tamworth Football Supporters Club, Tamworth Town Hall

Market Street, Tamworth
Contact: Dave Clayton, Tel 07967 756918

11.00am - 5.00pm

Tamworth FC have nearly always had a Supporters Club since the Football Club was formed back in 1933, although the current Supporters Club was founded in 1995 with a specific group being formed a couple of years ago with the aim of securing Heritage Lottery Funding to carry out a project relating to the history of Tamworth Football Club and the part it has played in the history of the town.

Take a look at the new live website, and some old video footage of Tamworth FC in action through to the present day. Have a chat with the supporters and ponder over memorabilia, such as shirts, programmes, etc.

Tamworth Twinning Association, Tamworth Town Hall

Market Street, Tamworth
Contact: Mrs M Clarke, Tel: 01827 330669.

11.00am - 5.00pm

Tamworth Twinning Association will celebrate their 30 year anniversary with Bad Laasphe in 2010, with a special event planned in Tamworth on 12th June. It was a chance meeting when former Town Clerk, H B Leake met his equivalent in an Inn in Bad Laasphe and decided it would be a good idea to become twin towns, the rest is history. Tamworth is also now twinned with Vaujours. On display will be many pictures of both towns and details of the annual trips to both France and Germany will be available.



Tamworth Assembly Rooms

Corporation Street, Tamworth
Telephone: 01827 709620

2.00pm - 5.00pm

The Assembly Rooms were built in the Italian Renaissance style with money raised by public subscription to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887. The total cost of the build was £5,500. The building was used as the venue for large public meetings, plays, dances and special occasions, and is still used for these purposes today.

There have been many famous people who have trod the boards including The Rolling Stones, P J Proby, Bob Geldoff, Elkie Brookes and many, many more. The Beatles in the 1960's, reputedly signed one of the walls in a dressing room. In 1924 The Assembly Rooms had the honour to entertain the then Duke of York (the future King George VI). Suffragettes protested on the steps outside during political meetings, Jarrow marchers stopped here for food and rest on their way to Westminster in 1936, a building steeped in history.

Come and take a look at this most fascinating venue, information on the past, present and future will be available and there will be a free soup kitchen, recreating the General Strike of 1926.

Tamworth Arts Club, who regularly perform at the venue will be displaying costumes and photographs of productions gone by.

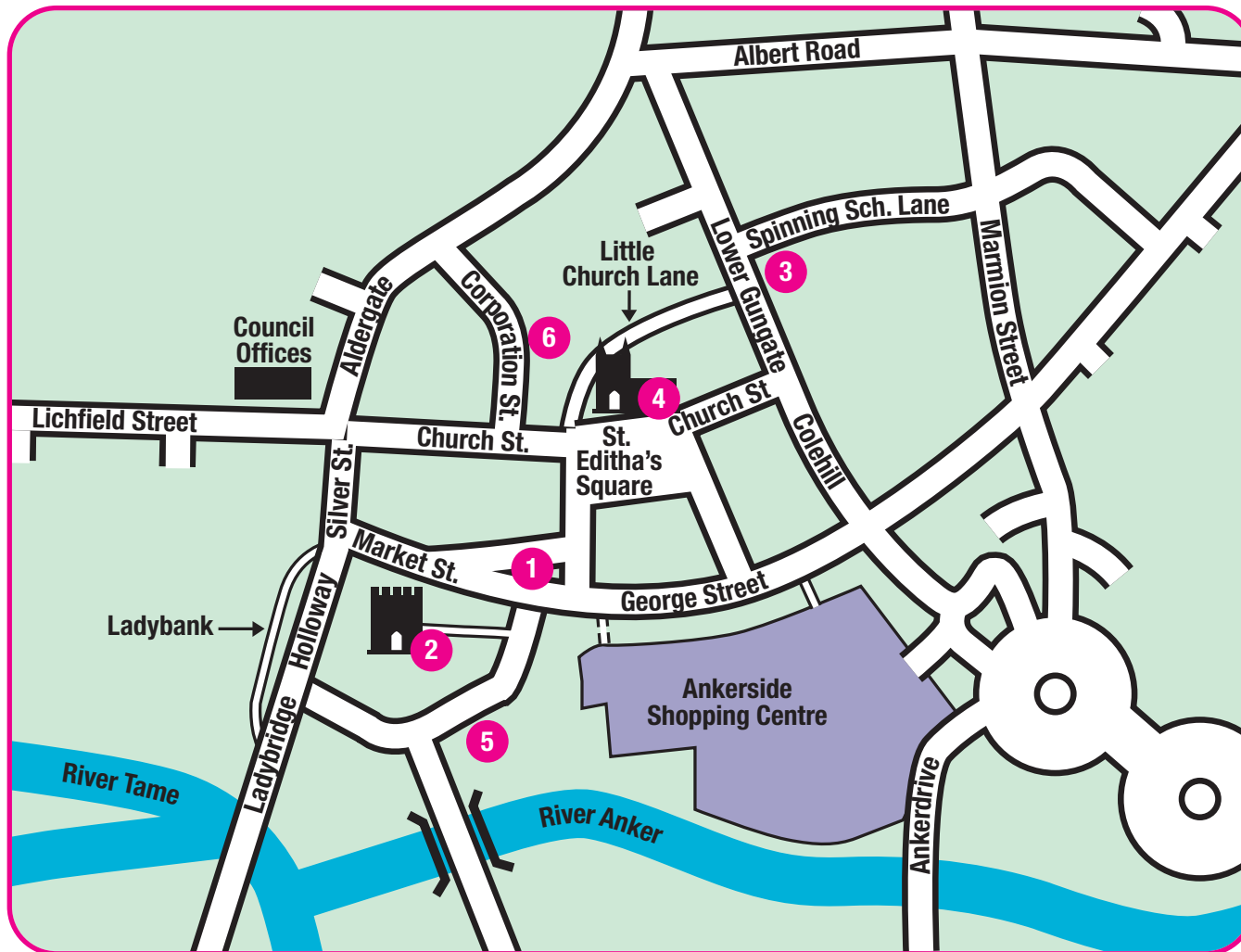


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Key

- 1 Town Hall (Heritage Trail starts here)
- 2 Tamworth Castle
- 3 Thomas Guy's Almshouses
- 4 St. Editha's Church
- 5 Castle Grounds & Bandstand
- 6 Assembly Rooms (Heritage bus tour to Middleton Hall starts outside the Assembly Rooms)

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Thomas Guy's Almshouses

Lower Gungate, Tamworth

2.00pm - 4.00pm

The original Almshouses were demolished in 1912. The splendid almshouses we know today date back to 1913, relatively modern but still built in the free Georgian style. The almshouses have been extended over the years, but the additions of 1928 and 1936 keenly reflect the 1913 design.

There will be various activities taking place in the beautiful quadrangle garden and residents will be on hand to answer questions and chat to visitors. Tea and cakes will be served from 2.00pm - 4.00pm



Reliant Motor Club

Market Street, Tamworth
Contact: Elvis Payne

11.00pm - 5.00pm

The Reliant Motor Company was formed in 1935, Reliant introduced the most famous of their three wheelers, the Reliant Robin in 1973. Production was based in Two Gates and remained there for 65 years, until December 1998 when the factory was closed.

Come and view the many Reliant vehicles on display in St. Editha's Square where owners and enthusiasts will be only too pleased to talk to visitors and answer questions.



St Editha's Church

Church Street, Tamworth
Contact: Tel 01827 68339

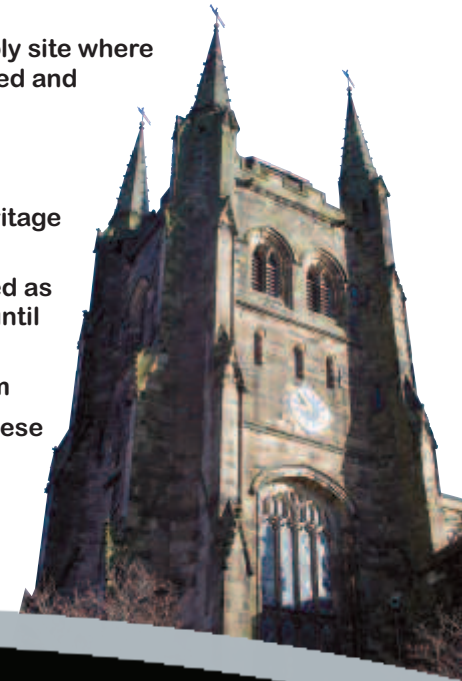
Dating back some 1200 years, dedicated to St Editha, our Saxon Saint, the church was founded by King Edgar in 963 but was re-built by the Marmion family following the Norman Conquest.

Having been ravaged by fire in 1345, of which discolouration can still be seen today on the zig zag carvings on the enormous round arches, local stone from Hopwas, Tamhorn, Wilnecote and Hockley was used in the re-build.

St Editha's has an intricate design including a unique spiral staircase and a honeycomb of passages in the thick walls.

Still standing in the heart of the town today, a holy site where generations of Tamworth people have worshipped and continue to do so.

- There will be the usual service at 8.30am
- At 10.00am there will be a service with a Heritage theme
- After the service tea and coffee will be served as usual and then the church will remain open until 5.00pm
- The double spiral staircase will be open 2-5pm
- Guided tours will be running from 1.00pm, these take about 20 minutes
- Tea and coffee will be available
- There will be various small exhibitions for people to see.



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Amington Band

Bandstand
Castle Grounds
Tamworth
Contact: Alan Gifford, Tel 07710 426588



Performances:- 13.45pm and 15.45pm

Amington Band was founded in the 1900's. In the last 20 years, the band is reputed to be one of the best in the Brass Band arena, culminating in appearances at the Royal Albert Hall in successive National Finals.

The band will be performing twice in the Bandstand.

The bandstand was built in 1900, the flowerbeds were added later in 1940.



Tamworth Heritage Trail

Tamworth Town Centre
Blue Badge Guided Tour
Contact: Tamworth Information Centre,
Tel 01827 709581

**Places must be pre-booked through
Tamworth Information Centre**

Walks start at 15.00pm and 16.45pm

This unique tour offers you the chance to explore the heritage Tamworth has to offer. Walk through 900 years of Tamworth's history discovering buildings and monuments, each with a fascinating story to tell. See how famous figures have influenced the town through the ages, admire the grand architecture of days gone by and see how ancient meets modern in Tamworth today.



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Middleton Hall

A4091, Middleton, Staffs, B78 2AE
Contact: Tel 01827 260545

11.00am - 5.00pm

A variety of activities, including Henry VIII costumed character giving audiences throughout the day and walking around. Tudor Quiz for children. Family history groups helping us find out 'Who do we think we are', guided tours of the Hall within this rich historical setting, Sutton Bee keepers, Archers in the Glade, with Bar open (weather permitting), also Jan Harris Jazz Quintet in Peter Thomas Room in the afternoon.

The first hall which still exists, was built by Philip de Marmion, the holder of Tamworth Castle, Queen Elizabeth stayed here and John Ray wrote the first ever bird recognition book here, which includes the well known picture of the Dodo. Tea room open all day.



The Peel Collection, Middleton Hall

A4091, Middleton, Staffs, B78 2AE
Contact: Nigel Morris, Tel 01827 51242
Email: njhmorris@aol.com

11.00am - 5.00pm

The Peel Collection is on the first floor at Middleton Hall by kind permission of the Trustees. This interesting display of memorabilia collected by The Peel Society over many years commemorates Sir Robert Peel's great achievements as a political leader of the United Kingdom. These include the Emancipation of Roman Catholics, the founding of the Metropolitan Police and the Repeal of the Corn Laws.

There are also artefacts and pictures from Drayton Manor, his residence near Tamworth, Queen Victoria described it as the most comfortable house that she had stayed in during her visit in 1843.



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