

Tamworth

# HERITAGE

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Preserving the Past, Recording the Present  
Safeguarding the Future



# Tamworth Heritage Magazine

The magazine is produced four times a year, Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn, by Tamworth Heritage Magazine for the public with an interest in Tamworth Heritage and history.



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## Tamworth Heritage Magazine Editorial Board

The Editorial board assists production of in house articles and checking of submissions.

This board currently comprises:

**Jill Gadsby** of the **Tamworth Genealogy Group** who has access to all sorts of databases on genealogy, history and newspapers. With a background as a legal secretary her research is thorough and precise.

**Diane Wells**, of the **Tamworth History Group** who has a lot of experience in local Tamworth history coupled with many years teaching in Tamworth.

**Chris Hills BSc FRGS, FRSA, RPS** A published author for 45 years on history, culture, travel and related topics. A Fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and Royal Society of Arts. Also a member of the Royal Photographic Society and runs **Tamworth Digital Archive**.

**Anthony Poulton-Smith BA**, Assistant Editor and well known speaker on things historical having written numerous books on historical subjects.

**Dr Simon Peaple BA, PhD** (History) who has held a history teaching post at Princethorpe Collage and the post of Research Fellow at Birmingham University. He has published several history books and is a former Mayor of Tamworth.

Preserving the Past, Recording the Present  
Safeguarding the Future



# Welcome from the Editor

## I am a doughnut!



Welcome to this new look Tamworth Heritage Magazine. We intend to produce them quarterly. The link will be emailed to you to download at your leisure. By doing this, THM will save on paper, ink, envelopes and postage. Not to mention a lot of time printing and posting.

One advantage is we can send the THM Magazine anywhere in the world. So you can receive it in Tamworth New South Wales or Tamworth USA just as easily as in Bolehall or Amington. The other advantage I am about to demonstrate in my next point is: we can interactively link to anything on the internet.

So why am I a doughnut? It was a reference to US President J.F. Kennedy's *Ich bin ein Berliner* Speech in 1963 Here is the video of the famous speech. (click on link or image) <https://youtu.be/y1NzrR4GYqs>



Though that is a distraction from his other equally famous quote: *"Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country"* at his 1961 inaugural address. For which we also have the video (click on the link or image <https://youtu.be/4phB-rRjYQw>)



My quote to you is *"Ask not what Tamworth Heritage Magazine can do for you — ask what you can do for Tamworth Heritage Magazine"* and I am right glad you asked!

Whilst I can put these magazines together I can't write *all* the content. I need articles to go in them. So a plea to all the Heritage Magazine readers: *Please produce articles for your magazine.*

We are looking for ideally 1000 words (500-2000) with some pictures and, if you are feeling adventurous, links to video, audio or web references.

If not an article then a Letter To The Editor with any feedback, comments, ideas or questions.

NOTE we have the **Tamworth Digital Archive** of 10s of thousands of images so ask the Editor if you need any for an images for an article. THM/JAmedia can take any new photos or make any new video needed.

Email the editor with any suggestions for articles [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)



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If you don't want the **next issue to be the last one** the editors need articles. See "in the Next Issue" for how to contribute. The Editors, History, Genealogy, Archive, Castle and Peel groups can all help with research and information. Email the [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)





**The Friends of Tamworth Castle** and Museum is a group of people with an interest in history and who want to support Tamworth Castle. They meet regularly and organise talks, visits and other events too.

Email [contact@TamworthCastle.org.uk](mailto:contact@TamworthCastle.org.uk)  
web <https://www.TamworthCastle.org.uk>

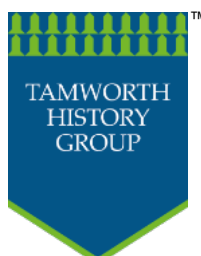
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**Tamworth Civic Society** is dedicated to the continuous improvement of Tamworth as a wonderful town in which to live, work, study and relax. Appreciating our past, enjoying the present and pursuing a vision for the future are at the heart of what we do. We are a friendly organisation and welcome new members.

Web <https://www.TamworthCivic.org.uk>

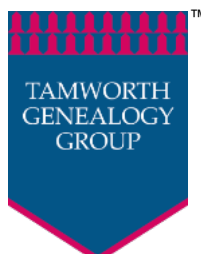
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**Tamworth History Group** is a social group which invites people to enlarge and share their knowledge of local history. The group do day time lectures in a warm social atmosphere in Tamworth Library.

email [info@TamworthHistory.org.uk](mailto:info@TamworthHistory.org.uk)  
<https://www.TamworthHistory.org.uk>

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**Tamworth Genealogy Group** is expert in tracing local families. There are many families that come from, through or are related to Tamworth. Many local dynasties and from the various influxes, including the Great Brummie migration in the 1960s. The Genealogy Group will dig up family trees and related photos from the Digital Archive.

email [info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk](mailto:info@TamworthGenealogy.org.uk)  
<https://www.TamworthGenealogy.org.uk>

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**Tamworth Digital Archive** is an initiative by Tamworth Heritage Magazine to digitise, catalogue and curate 10s of thousands of images of Tamworth going back over 150 years. Whilst adding to the collection with net images from collections donated to Tamworth Heritage Magazine. If you are interested in donating or researching please contact the archive.

Email: [archive@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:archive@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)  
Web <https://www.TamworthHeritage.org.uk/Archive>

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**The Peel Society** was founded in 1979 to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Metropolitan Police Service. The society promotes the study of the life, works and times of Sir Robert Peel and the Peel family. Its main objective is run a museum of Peel and police artefacts and is located at Middleton Hall, Tamworth, park.

Web <https://www.PeelSociety.org.uk>





## 60 Years of Tamworth Railway Station

**Anthony Poulton-Smith**

**Tamworth Station 1847**  
(Tamworth Digital Archive)

This year of 2022 marks sixty years since the demolition of Tamworth Station and the opening of the current building. It is difficult to argue that the present building is aesthetically more pleasing than its predecessor, but it is certainly the more efficient.

Opening in 1839, the original line was that of what is now known as the Upper Level, with the Lower Level tracks laid and the new platforms built in 1847. The new 19th-century station is the one shown below, this to a design by John Livock. When the new railway station opened, Tamworth would become the central junction for all England – or predicted Edmund Peel, Chairman of the Railway Company and brother of the Prime Minister, when the Trent Valley Line opened. Eight years had elapsed since the opening of the Birmingham-Derby Line. Now the new line would link Tamworth with Rugby and Stafford and also give access to London.

The new Trent Valley Line had been started one chill November morning two years previously when George Stephenson's son, Robert, had waited with a team of navvies in a field called Caunts Close near Staffordshire Moor (where Tamworth Industrial Estate later stood). The Mayor of Tamworth, with his Corporation and the directors of the Railway Company, had been entertained to a sumptuous 'dejeuner' at the

Town Hall. After the toasts were drunk all set out in coaches or on foot to be joined by the carriages and landaus carrying Peel's party of officials, gentry and nobility from Drayton Manor.

Sir Robert Peel, the Premier, cut the first turf with a silver mounted spade and placed it in a mahogany wheelbarrow. (Both were preserved for many years in the Castle Museum).

Also opening in 1847, a curving line linking the two lines on the north and west sides of the respective lines. Evidence of a second curve linking the south and east sides has been discovered, documentation suggesting this was constructed by the Midland Railway around 1866 and the track laid, but there is no reason to believe it was ever finished and linked to the Lower Level rails. This later curve had certainly gone by 1901, for maps show the line here as having been dismantled, but they could have been lifted as early as 1878. Note the terms Upper Level and Lower Level are not used before 1924.

This early station building was of red brick, with stone dressings at corners and windows and balustrades, with tall chimneys clustered over the steep roofs with their pinnacles. The platform was paved in red, black and yellow tiles, with lofty arches and wrought iron





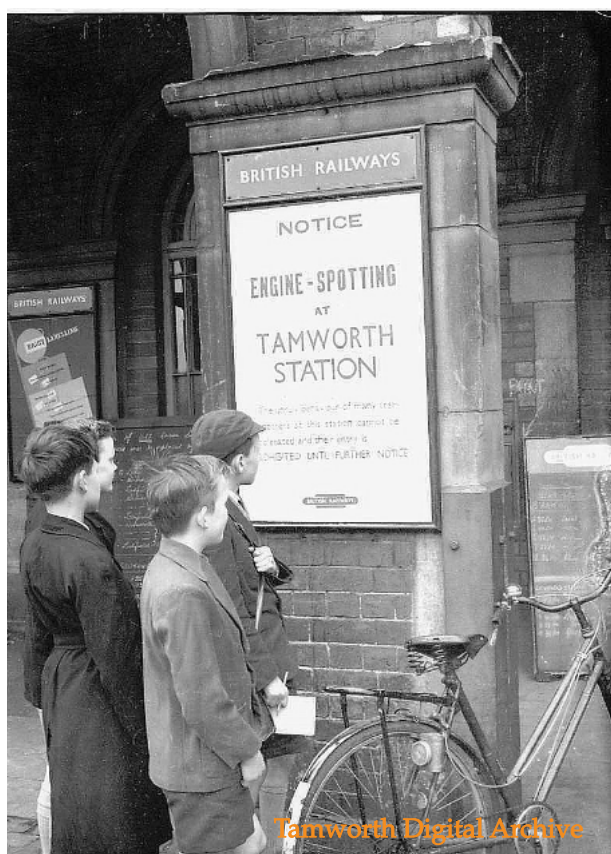
stanchions for the veranda along 135 feet of its 300 foot length. Inside the building there was commodious accommodation for the staff and passengers, and graceful stone stairways led to the higher level.

Tamworth was an important connecting link between Mail trains from north, south, east and west of Great Britain. Many an old railwayman will describe the excitement of those hours around midnight when the Mail trains came in. At 10:50pm the Lincoln Mail swung in from the east and the bags brought off and rushed down to the Low Level to catch the postal train from London to Glasgow. Minutes later the operation was reversed as the Mail was rushed up to the High Level to catch the Bristol-Newcastle train. Next came 'the flyer', London-Perth, first stop Tamworth, where Mails were exchanged for the West Country. Sometimes coaches had to wait in the loop line to pick up parcels for northbound trains. It was all very exciting and for three hours the station hummed with organised activity and commotion until the last clearance at 2am.

On Tuesday 28 November 1843, at 9:05 precisely, the Royal progress to the Midlands commenced from Windsor Castle for Watford Railway Junction, with the town of Tamworth the first stopping place on Her Majesty's tour. The road to the railway station, Victoria Road, had only just been finished in time, with workman's barrows and paving stones still being cleared away. The decorations for the Royal Visit were

almost ready – but in those days most of the garlands were made of fresh greenery and flowers, and these could only be put up at the last moment so that they would not have wilted by the time the royals arrived.

Sir Robert Peel, the second baronet, Prime Minister of England, lived at nearby Drayton Manor, and he was host to his sovereign for the first few days of her visit to the industrial heart of her kingdom. Not until her marriage to Albert, the steady, conscientious, elegant Prince of Coburg, did Victoria settle down. It was Albert who brought about her reconciliation with her elected government, recognising Peel's sterling qualities of honesty and humanity. Peel and his Queen eventually became great friends, and on his death she mourned, saying 'she felt as though she had lost a father'. Victoria was only twenty-four when she visited Tamworth. At home at Windsor, she left her three young children, two girls and the boy who became Edward VII. Robert Peel's family ranged from his heir, also Robert, to the youngsters at Eton and Oxford. One daughter came out to wave to Sir Robert as he mounted his horse that cold, bright November day to ride to Tamworth and greet his royal guest. On the lawn below, cannon fired a royal salute as Her Majesty descended from the train at Tamworth station. The whole station was decorated with a crimson cloth and a pavilion with striped awnings had been specially erected for the occasion. Here Her Majesty was greeted by Sir Robert and numbers



of the local gentry who waited to receive her. The royal carriage and cortege, attended by Peel and other gentlemen on horseback, then proceeded down the new Victoria Road to the entrance to the borough, with cheering crowds lining the route.

When the new station was built, the Lower Level lines were also electrified, meaning the Upper Level tracks and station buildings had to be raised by two feet. With Tamworth being the crossing points of two busy routes, it became an

important location on the railway network. In the 1950s over two thousand bags of mail were transferred between the two levels every night. With so many trains on view, be they only passing through, Tamworth became a favourite with ferroequinologists – train spotters, to you and I. The year of the image is unknown, but further investigation found an article in the Railway Magazine issue for July/August 1948. The notice reads: "ENGINE-SPOTTING at TAMWORTH STATION. The unruly behaviour of many train spotters at this station cannot be tolerated and their entry is PROHIBITED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE." The magazine article spoke of "juvenile spotters" and how their "trespassing and interference with equipment" gave the London Midland Region no option but to impose a ban. One trainspotter, speaking fifty years later, recalled how the ban stayed in place until at least 1960. But this did not stop the enthusiasts. While not the ideal solution, train spotters made their way through the embankment bridge to the field beyond.

Another blow for train spotters came in July 2022, with the news that Tamworth would not be chosen as the site for the headquarters for the new Great British Railways. The shortlist, compiled from applications from Tamworth and 41 other local authorities, would be decided by a vote, where the public could choose between Birmingham, Crewe, Derby, Doncaster, York, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.





## This season's significant dates and events



**January:** January is a quiet month unless you know different. It is the Birthday of June though.

**February:** Things liven up!

1<sup>st</sup> February 1963 - The Beatles play Tamworth Assembly Rooms. However as they were hungry they ate at The Moathouse. It is suggested they spent more time in the Moathouse than the assembly rooms! As a treat here is a video of the Fab four comparing Ready, Steady....Go! a few weeks after they were in Tamworth

<https://youtu.be/14pxCghhPcc>



24<sup>th</sup> February 1914 – fifty years before the Beatles the Tamworth Town Council met for the first time in the Great Hall of Tamworth Castle. February in the Great Hall... I bet that was cold!

26<sup>th</sup> February 1726 - 240 years before the Beatles: the first known postmark featuring the town of Tamworth. Rumour has it some letters still haven't been delivered!



### March

4<sup>th</sup> March 1916 - birth of Ernest Titterton  
This is the mathematician

11<sup>th</sup> March 1326 - King Edward II visits Tamworth Castle. One of many Royal visits over the centuries.

12<sup>th</sup> March 1938 - the first four-cylinder Reliant vehicle was produced. Four cylinders but how many wheels?

27<sup>th</sup> March 1642 - birth of John Rawlett We have an article about John Rawlett coming in a future issue



## Francis Banes Richards Memorial Plaque

by Roger Bragger

Late last year a couple came into The Tamworth Heritage Hub in the Middle Entry in Tamworth town centre and mentioned they had a Memorial Plaque to a soldier of WW1. They had not got it with them but wanted to know if it was possible to find a family member to return it to.

I gave then my 'phone number so when they got home, they could let me know the name on the plaque, as the plaques were individually named, hopefully a relative could be found. The name given was Francis Banes Richards a casualty of illness, another of the fallen of the Great War to end all wars. 1,355,000 plaques were issued on behalf of soldiers that had died, were killed in action, died of wounds, illness, or disease. The plaque shows Britannia bestowing a laurel crown on a rectangular tablet bearing the full name of the dead in raised lettering. In front stands the British lion, with dolphins in the



upper field, an oak branch lower right, and a lion cub clutching a fallen eagle in the exergue. The inscription round the circumference reads **HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR**. There are two marks on the plaque, one being the workers number, when it was cast and named, in this case **96** and the designers mark, **ECP** or Edward Carter Preston. A parchment scroll was issued with each plaque giving the deceased's name and unit, however being parchment, they rarely survived.



Before Francis enlisted on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1916, age 21, he worked in the Tamworth Herald printing office for four years and lived at 11, Ludgate, The Leys, in Tamworth. He had four brothers serving in the Army, three of whom were in France, William Joseph Richards and Herbert Wilfred Richards a Sergeant in the Essex Regiment and Sapper

Harold Farmer Richards. Francis married Marian Matilda Bramall, this is where the connection to the Peel family comes from. Francis was taken ill just before Christmas 1917, transferred to Cardiff from France where



he was serving as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery. Francis died of Tubular Laryngitis and was conveyed back to his hometown of Tamworth where he was buried in Wiggington Cemetery. Francis Banes Richards is buried in section A grave number 9145, should anyone wish to pay their respects go through the main gates and on the right-hand side two rows down, fourth grave in.

His full medal entitlement apart from the memorial plaque is a British War Medal and Victory Medal as depicted in the medal entitlement of his brother Harold Farmer Richards as shown in this article. At sometime his family placed the Memorial Plaque on his grave and left it there. It was found by the cemetery groundskeeper who kept it in his shed until such time as the family claimed it, they never did, so the plaque remained in the shed until the council did away with the groundskeeper job. The shed was cleared out and removed, however the plaque was kept by the groundskeeper and passed to his son and subsequently to his grandson.

I now have a dilemma, I recognised the Banes of his middle name and realised he was a member of the Peel family (not such a bad memory as I have over 38,000 names in the Peel family tree). I know of a member of the Peel family; Carol A Smith. Carol is a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 4 times removed of husband of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin twice removed whereas Francis Banes Richards 1895-1917 was the brother-in-law of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin twice removed of husband of 1<sup>st</sup> cousin twice removed (ancestry is wonderful!). The middle name Banes comes from his grandmother on the maternal side, originally it was spelled Baines, but at some time, probably on the census returns the "i" was missed out and it became Banes. Carol also has the medals of Francis's brother Harold Farmer Richards 1895-1967 a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. Harold's middle name came from his grandmother on the maternal side. Harold was gassed twice and on 4 October 1917. In addition he suffered gunshot wounds to both legs, was awarded a Silver War Badge and was granted a pension. Logically the medals should go to Carol, however, I know who has got the medal



group to Driver Francis Banes Richards, so should the plaque be re-united with his medals? Or should they go as a one off to the lady who has his brothers' medals, alternatively they could go to the Peel Museum in Middleton Hall and be displayed there?

Another facet of this conundrum is that at the last Winterton auction on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, the Distinguished Conduct medal group to Francis and Harold came up for sale. These were put into the auction by his great granddaughter Susan E Higgs whose grandmother was the daughter, Nancy Richards, of William Joseph Richards. These medals were purchased by a colleague of mine, the one that has the medals to Francis Banes Richards. The photograph that was in the Tamworth Herald of 29<sup>th</sup> December last, shows the wedding group at the wedding of her 'gran' to Frederick Stanley Bowler (he died in WW2 in the Submarine HMS Grampus when it was sank in the Mediterranean Sea). Susan believes that the plaque should go into 'The Peel Museum' what do you think

As they used to say 'Answers on a postcard' to [RogerB@tamworthheritage.org.uk](mailto:RogerB@tamworthheritage.org.uk)



## The story of the WW1 Memorial Plaque

The WW1 Memorial plaque, also known as the Dead Man's Penny, Widow's Penny, Death Penny, or Death Plaque is rather unusual in that as far as the author knows is the first and only time "medal" or plaque has been awarded to *all* who died during a war. That is those who died in combat, later from wounds, from disease, illness or accidents not in combat or not even in the combat zone.

Thus, someone who was working in the military in the UK or away from the combat area, in logistics, intelligence, Whitehall, a naval port, etc. was unlikely to get any medals. Therefore if they died from a disease, illness or accident due to being in war work their next of kin would get this Memorial Plaque as the recognition of their war time service.

Also uniquely every plaque has the name of the recipient cast into the front face but, without any rank, just the name. *All* were seen as equal in death. This was a rather modern egalitarian

position for a country that, over 100 years ago, still had a strong class system in place.

Some notes suggest that the next of kin of those who committed suicide also received a plaque. On a personal note my grandfather (Surrey Rifles in WW1) once commented that if someone committed suicide where possible it was put down as "killed in action" so the wife got the pension as the suicide was usually a direct consequence of being in the trenches.

However, the next of kin of 306 British and Commonwealth military personnel who were executed following a Court Martial could not receive a plaque.

Over 1,355,000 plaques were produced. They went to the next of kin, usually a wife, hence often being known as the "Widows Penny" with the inscription **"HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR."**

Some of you may be wondering when I said "*all who died*" if this included women. The answer is yes. Some 660 Plaques bear the inscription **SHE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR.** As you can imagine, it is very rare to find one.





The plaques were mainly issued between 1919 and 1921. Though some were cast up to 1926/7, there are comments that a few were issued in the 1930s for the New Zealand forces if the death was related directly to WW1.

For those of you who don't remember pre-decimal coins from the last millennium the British Penny from 1860 to 1970 was a bronze coin 35mm in diameter (larger than any current decimal coins) with a Britannia on it that had more than a passing resemblance to the memorial plaque.

The Britannia design was constant, on British pennies with minimal, minor, alterations for 110 years with only the monarchs head on the other side changing.

You may be asking how and why the Memorial Plaques came into being in the first place. Also there is, as you may have noted from the picture at the start, more to it than just a plaque.

It all started in 1916 some two years in to the war. It was the *First World War* because it involved multiple countries and their empires. There were, for the first time, fewer neutral countries in the world than participants. Also due to the nature of WW1 trench warfare in Europe the casualties were far higher than any other conflict to date (other than wars in ancient China where they took no prisoners and often slaughtered the defeated civilians).

In October 1916 after two years of WW1 with casualties mounting due to the war stagnating into trench warfare and mass charges on foot over the battle field the British Government set up a Committee to look into some sort of commemorative plaque, medal or object that could be given to the relatives of those who had been killed. Possibly because it would be difficult to award medals for whole companies that were wiped out walking across no mans land.

The committee was drawn from the houses of Commons and Lords with some Civil Servants from government departments. The Chairman of the committee was Sir Reginald Brade, MBE, JP who was the Secretary of the War Office at the time.



In 1916 the UK had a War Office not a Ministry of Defence.

It was agreed that the memorial would be a plaque paid for by the Government and issued to the next of kin. They would go to any member of the British or Dominion [Empire] Army or Navy who was killed/died during the

war. Whilst there were aircraft the [army] Royal Flying Corps did not become the Royal Air Force until nearly a year later.

In August 1917 the committee set up a competition for any one *British born* to design a bronze plaque to record the name of the deceased person. The entry forms were provided by the Admiralty.

The short list would receive prizes of up to £500. The judging was by the committee and the Directors of the National Gallery, the Director of the V&A and the Keeper of the Department of Coins and Medals also at the V&A. The closing date was initially the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1917, but due to the response, over 800 entries from around the Empire, it was extended to 31st December 1917.

### The Scroll

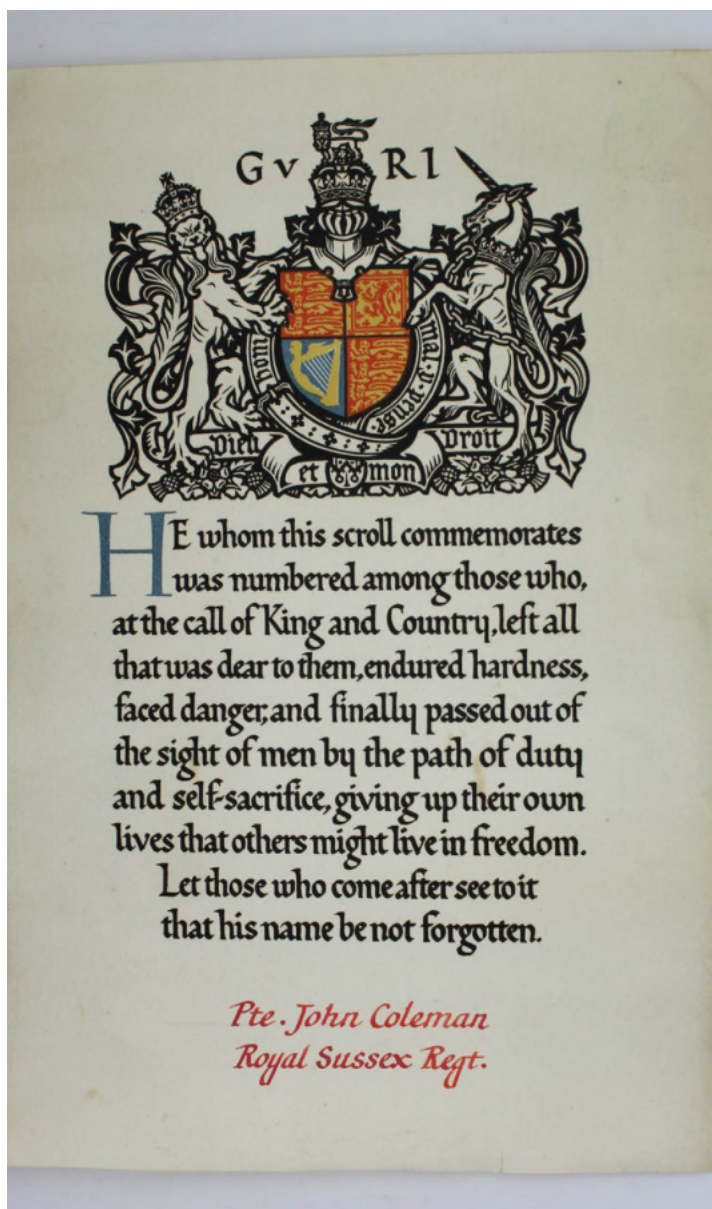
In October 1917 whilst the competition for the plaque was under way it was announced that the committee wanted to issue a scroll 11 by 7 inches to go with the plaque.

This prompted discussions in to January 1918 as to what the appropriate words might be. Along with many other prominent writers Rudyard Kipling was asked to write something. This was poignant because Kipling had lost his only son in September 1915. He was still officially listed as "missing" in 1918.

Eventually the committee asked Dr Montague Rhodes James, Provost of King's College Cambridge to write the words. With some discussion with the committee and edits including a request from King George V to be included in this token of thanks the words "at the bidding of their country" was changed to "at the call of King and Country". The final wording became as on the scroll shown.

By 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918, only 8 months before the end of the war, the winner of the competition was announced.

There were seven prize winners and 19 highly commended from the over 800 entries. 6 of the 7 on the short list were circular. The seven won various prizes of £100, £250 and £500, all



significant sums in 1918. The designs were put in an exhibition for the public to see at the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A), in London.

All the entries were under pseudonyms. The pseudonym, real name and contact details being held in sealed envelopes. These were held by the Director at the National Gallery. A very egalitarian system for its day.

Curiously two of the 7 finalist plaques, out of 800 submitted were by "Pyramus". This turned out to be Mr Edward Carter Preston (1894-1965) in Liverpool. One his designs was declared the winner in The Times on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March.



There are several significant points on the design. Britannia standing, holding a laurel wreath with a trident and dolphins denoting Britain's Sea power as the world's most powerful Navy at the time. She is with a Lion, often a sign of British power. However do note that under the lion is another small lion biting a grounded [Imperial German] eagle.

Every plaque has ECP stamped by the Lions front paw. This is for Edward Carter Preston the designer.

There is also a stamp for the worker who made the plaque: it is by the hind most foot of the Lion. Those from Acton, if they have a number, have it behind the foot. The early Acton plaques had no number



At this point in 1918 it was clearly felt Britain and its Empire, the French and the Americans were going to win.

Production started in late 1918 and the first ones were actually turned out December 1918 a month after the war ended. This was at the Government Factory in Acton, London. After initial batches production was moved to the Woolwich Arsenal factory in London. The Woolwich plaques have a W A logo stamped on the back.

All those from Woolwich have the number in front of the foot. Unfortunately the number to workers name documentation has been lost to time and the blitz.

Initially, all the medals were for "HE". In order to be able to make them for "SHE", the H was made narrower so accommodate the S between the Lions leg and the E, which was also slightly reworked. All the Acton Plaques all have the wider "H" and most of the Woolwich plaques (with or without the S) have the narrower H.

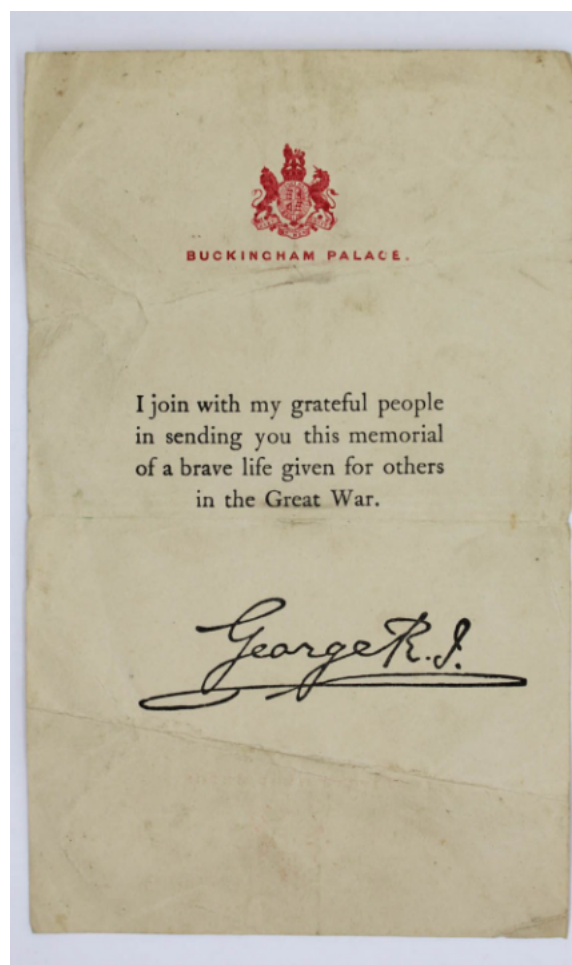
In all 1500 "SHE " plaques were made at the Woolwich arsenal and bear the makers number of "11" Some 600 of these were issued. Only the name of the recipient was put in the plaque the rank and unit were not included. Though, both rank and unit were included on the scroll.

The Army Records office sent out W.5080 forms to all *registered* next of kin across the world who had to complete the form and get it counter signed by a minister or magistrate. Therefore although some 1,533,000 plaques were issued it is likely that, especially for those next of kin living in far flung parts of the empire, a significant number never claimed their plaque.

In addition for many, particularly personnel from the Empire, they had no listed next of kin to write to. So the 1,533,000 is almost a random number rather than a definitive count.

Whilst complete records for the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian issued plaques exist those for the rest do not. Largely due to WW2 bombing. Also all the production records are lost and records only exist where the W5080 is found in the serviceman's records.

Despite the over 1.5 million sets issued: The complete set of plaque with its cover and envelope with the scroll and its case and the covering letter from the King are very rare to find, more so one of the 600 for the women. Whilst it is vulgar to put a price on these things collectors will pay over £150 for a "He died" set.



I note that a standard WW1 medal set of War and Victory medals like my Grandfathers is worth £35 but then he lived for another 65 years after WW1. What price that?

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning:  
We will remember them.**

Pictures courtesy of Cultman Collectables

[https://www.cultmancollectables.com/shop-online/military-medals?product\\_id=9486](https://www.cultmancollectables.com/shop-online/military-medals?product_id=9486)

For Further research

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/medals/memorial-death-plaque-of-ww1>

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/memorials/memorial-plaque.htm>

<https://www.researchingww1.co.uk/ww1-memorial-plaque>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Plaque\\_\(medallion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Plaque_(medallion))

<http://www.jackclegg.com/Plaque-history.htm>



# Book Review

## Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts, by Christopher de Hamel

Publisher: Allen Lane 2016

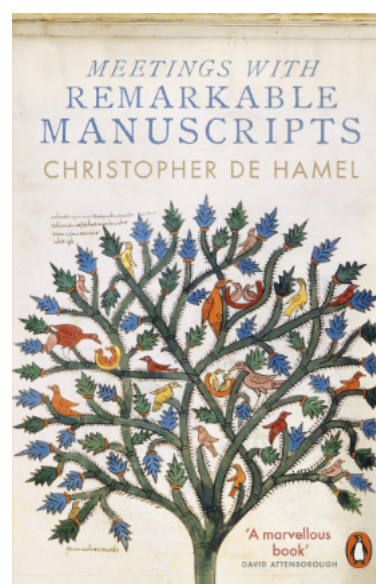
ISBN-10: 0241003040

**Christopher de Hamel** has created his own remarkable book; part travelogue, part history part and review of books. This volume in twelve chapters spans 12 manuscripts from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. It also takes the reader into a dozen very different museums, often to the parts the casual visitor cannot access, to touch these manuscripts that most of us will never get to handle.

The twelve manuscripts from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century Gospels of Saint Augustine, held at Corpus Christi Collage, Cambridge, to 16<sup>th</sup> century The Spinola Hours held in the JP Getty Museum in Los Angeles via The Book of Kells, in Dublin, the Carmina Burana, in Munich and eight other manuscripts around the world. Each one is of great historic importance but together in one illustrated book is something spectacular.

The chapters are self-contained and can be read in any order. For each there is the reason for choosing the particular manuscript, how the author gets to the Museum and his experience there. They all have their own character and architecture both literal and metaphysical. Then you have the history of the manuscript itself. The content of which is also analysed and has a direct connection to the history of the time: webs within webs!

The author does, however, make the text, whilst accurate and precise, very readable. Details of the museum buildings and even the seating and refreshments crop up, coffee and pastry in an Italian monastery, so you can imagine being at these wonderful museums and archives. Of course as the author is a world class authority on manuscripts. Being both Fellow and



Librarian at Corpus Christi Cambridge he has an easier path getting to handle these manuscripts than any of us ever will. In which case this book is the closest you can get to being there and with such a well informed and amiable guide.

The last parts, after the Epilogue, more of which later, are a comprehensive bibliography and index along with notes and precise list of illustrations. Readable this book certainly is but it also has full academic rigour so you can reference and follow up on any point.

I have had this book since it was published in 2016 and it is worth every penny. I never grow tired of it and from time to time, usually prompted by a TV program or some other research; I dive back into particular chapters.

The Epilogue, apparently written in an airport departure lounge, explains there are a lot of other manuscripts (in far flung museums) that could have been included giving food for thought that you might want to research them... So if you or a loved one is looking for a fascinating book with a long shelf life this is a great present.

The book is now in paperback (£12 on Amazon) but really you deserve the hardback if you can find at a sensible price.



## The Dig at The Mill

by Joan Bennett

It came as a surprise to be asked to give my personal opinions on the recent archaeological dig in the grounds outside Tamworth Castle. I feel privileged to be able to report the dig as I, a volunteer, observed it and thank those concerned for the opportunity to take part.

The castle site is ancient, circa 850 CE, and is thought to have seen buildings here for much of that time. Standing atop a mound near Ladybridge, it overlooks the site where the rivers Tame and Anker meet. The dig was at the base of the motte, and at a site which had been underwater. Here the waters had been allowed to create a mill dam to turn the wheel and power the watermill. For those interested, further information is available from <https://www.tamworthcastle.co.uk/>. Previous archaeological workings have uncovered a gatehouse near this same wall.

This dig was very informative for we volunteers. The aim had been to find the mill associated with Robert Peel, although previous mills will have been around here too. Dating to at least medieval times when the population of Tamworth was recorded as just 77 people. [Source p51 British Medieval Populations by J Russell]



The 2022 dig was a test over four days. All we volunteers were made most welcome, and invited to come forward and ask as many questions as we wanted. The experts on site were able to answer fully and clearly, both on the mill dig and on archaeology and history in general. Such diverse subjects as William Shakespeare, Time Team, possible mill remains, animal bones, and ancient standing stones were covered, with much interest, also, the work of one of the archaeologists in Bosnia. All our questions were all given equal consideration and answered with great politeness.

One young volunteer, aged just nine years old, was so excited with the possibility of, in his words, possibly "Digging a skelly up". The resident archaeologist explained how, while they had not yet found any bones, should they do so, the skeletal remains



would be recovered with the greatest care and given the utmost respect.

One gentleman queried how, should any remains of any construction be uncovered in the test pit, the archaeologists would recognise these as part of a mill and not just a shed or outhouse belonging to the church. We were told it would be clear to the expert eye, for a mill would be a much stronger and substantial building and of much better quality in materials used and construction methods than used when putting up a shed or outhouse.

I took the opportunity to question Will Mitchell on a number of points, including his opinion on why the stonework at the base of the Castle is quite rough compared to that of the castle keep; and told the work for a lower wall would never be required to be as good a standard as that required for the residential part of the castle. In response to my query on the marks in the ground during the summer's long dry spell, I learned they may have been indicative of outlines of a mill, but the dig suggested these marks may have been from much more recent times when that area had been used for exhibitions. There was a suggestion this area may have been a midden or ground fill that's being dug out, on the upper layers. Indeed, it could be a reminder of the ground fill from 1920's when this area was levelled out.

The work was painstakingly undertaken, with every rule and regulation followed to the letter.

Every bucket of soil removed was sieved and anything being recovered was searched through again by hand. The dig was separated out into layers, with lower levels being older than those above. The archaeologists were particularly interested in the finds from the second layer examined. Will Mitchel was very busy, having to act as PR man for the dig, answering questions, pausing to give a number of short lectures on finds and procedures, seemed to move constantly between one area and the next. He checked the work of the amateurs, offering advice, praise and encouragement, ensuring they were able to take breaks, remain hydrated, giving everyone a change of task from time to time.



Finds were displayed and further questioning invited. At this point someone queried the curved metal item uncovered with the question "That must have been a really small horse". Will pointed out it was not a horse shoe but because people worked long hours and had larger families to keep, they put metal shoe heels to prevent shoe wear and save money".

Several teeth were uncovered, these identified as coming mainly from rabbits, pigs, and sheep. When asked why these were among the most numerous items found, we learned how it was common practice to boil animal heads in days past, the meat from them used to feed the people. With money in very short supply, old Tamworthians would have eaten much more of the meat from an animal after it had been slaughtered. We still eat some of these meats, for example tongue is still available today, although pigs cheek is less popular. Here were a few queasy looks from people more used to big mac or KFC!

When a young girl asked why they "Didn't just have pizza", she was told they probably did have something similar to pizza, although they would not have called it that, but evidence of any pizza-like food would have been cleared up by small animals, such as mice or birds, and any crumbs would not have lasted in the ground as long as bones and teeth which are much harder.

Will spoke about his one published book, now difficult to obtain, but he is working on two more books. His specialist subject may have been Shakespeare, but he spoke to a group of ladies knowledgeably about standing stones, although knew of none in the vicinity of Tamworth but spoke of several in nearby Derbyshire and there are a great many elsewhere for them to visit. He was more reserved when speaking about his work in Bosnia, but did reveal he was not alone but part of a team.

I for one hope this team of archaeologists are able to return next year and continue the work from the original test pit.



the items uncovered all were hopeful of a much bigger operation next time and, fingers crossed, the earlier remains will then be uncovered. It would be exciting to think the remains might be opened up to public viewing, although any further work relies on the support of the university and through local funding.

The photographs are mine and taken to show my views and opinions on the dig which, in my opinion, was one of the best of 2022. Undoubtedly worthy of the funding and we all hope to see it back for a more extended dig next year.

It certainly inspired me to find out a bit more about this fascinating town of Tamworth, and a little research of my own revealed our town to have been listed in the Domesday book. We could well have much more hiding there than just the one mill. In 1066 Tamworth is listed as 8 villeins, 1 border, 6 plough. Woodland 1 league by half league, plus meadow 6 furlongs by 2 furlongs. Not enormous but big enough to be a royal residence at one time.

There must be more history hiding beneath our feet. Let's get together to show it, make it valued once again.



# Letters to the Editor

The astute amongst you will have noticed that this is the first edition of the magazine yet it has a *Letters To The Editor* page and may surmise there are no actual letters from readers.

This is true. There are no readers letter yet.

So your editor needs some letters to publish. I could cheat and write a letter "from" the lady who came into the hub asking about the spiral staircase in St Editha's or the people who came into the hub asking about the memorial plaque.

In fact it is *questions to The Hub* that has caused two of the articles in this edition to be published. However you will note Roger's article ends in a request for information. Please email back to him or the Editor

Any one of you doing research can ask for help via a letter or email. The team have a lot of information or will know some one who does.

So send a letter. Even if it is just to ask a question about something or anything to do with Tamworth Heritage.

It might spur someone on to write an article about it. On the other hand you may want



to make a few notes that can turn into an article. We can help with research, documents, books and photos etc.

Actually we need articles for the next edition of the magazine!

As I said in the Editors rant I can produce and edit the magazine but I can't write all the content myself.

Letters to:

[editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)

The image is a leaf from Book of Hours, Zanino di Pietro (Italian, active from 1389, died before 1448) [God's Minstrel: St. Francis of Assisi. The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore. 1982.](#)



## The mystery of the Spiral Staircase at St Editha's Church

by Chris Hills

Tamworth's Parish Church, St Editha's is unique in the UK and possibly the world. It has the world's only complete full height single newel, twin Spiral stairs that we know of. This may seem a bold claim but the research supports this and the story around it and the other European pretenders is worth telling.

To tell the story we need some definitions. Is it spiral or helix? Well, it depends... In mathematics a spiral is 2 dimensional is a line spinning out from a central point. A helix is 3 dimensional going up, or down, at a constant diameter. The most commonly used helix example is the twin helix of DNA.

This prompts conspiracy theories about "double helix stairs", with Stonemasons, or more usually Freemasons, secret/occult knowledge of DNA and other "secrets". Have a look on YouTube where videos will also "prove" the earth is flat!

However we are talking stairs not mathematics, medicine or DNA. It seems in the world of stairs different definitions are used. A **spiral** stair case has a central point or newel post. All the steps come out from a central point. In

contrast a **helical** stair has no central post and steps come from the outer wall. There is a space in the middle therefore helix or helical stairs need more space than spiral stairs.

For a more pictorial and contemporary explanation of spiral/helix stairs (and maybe order your own set) see [Bisca helical or spiral know the difference](#) or [Complete stairs spiral and helical stairs make sure you know the difference.](#) or [Canal's helical vs spiral staircases what are the differences](#) So no matter what the mathematicians say about spiral and helix these are the stair makers definitions!

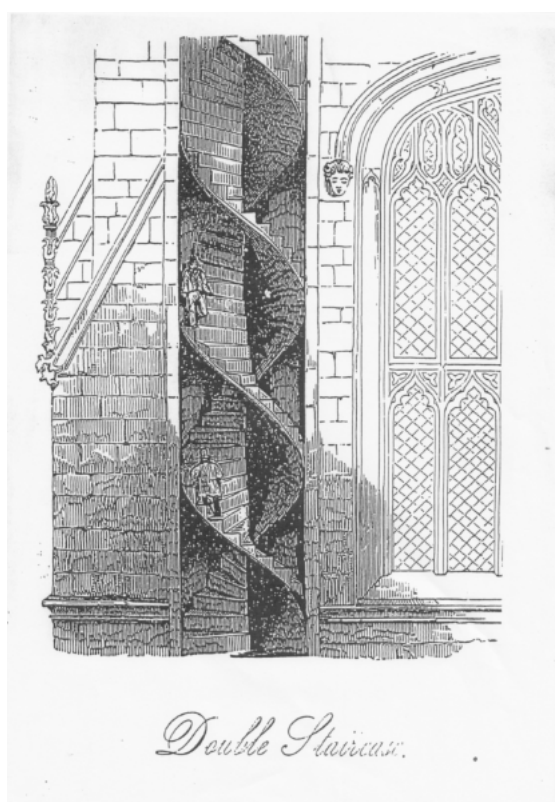
Having cleared that up, we are discussing, in Tamworth, *spiral* stairs, though we will come back to *helical* stairs later.

There are very many spiral stairs in the UK particularly in churches and castles that have tall towers or where floor space is at a premium. A spiral stair needs very little floor space, as little as a 2 meter circle and can go up almost any height. Lighthouses, and some castle towers, have helical stairs as there are rooms in the middle of the tower.



## St Editha Tamworth

Tamworth's St Editha's Church is *unique* in that it has a complete, full height double spiral. [I can hear the mathematicians screaming "HELIX!" at me]. A double spiral has two separate sets of stairs starting at the base on opposite sides of the circle with both sets of stairs using the same central newel post. One 360 degree revolution has to go up twice that of a single spiral making them quite steep. This is because in one revolution the other stair also has a vertical 5-6 foot (approx. 2 metre) climb. The ceiling of one set of stairs being the floor of the other stairs.



Why does Tamworth have this unique configuration? No one is completely certain but the evidence does let us draw conclusions.

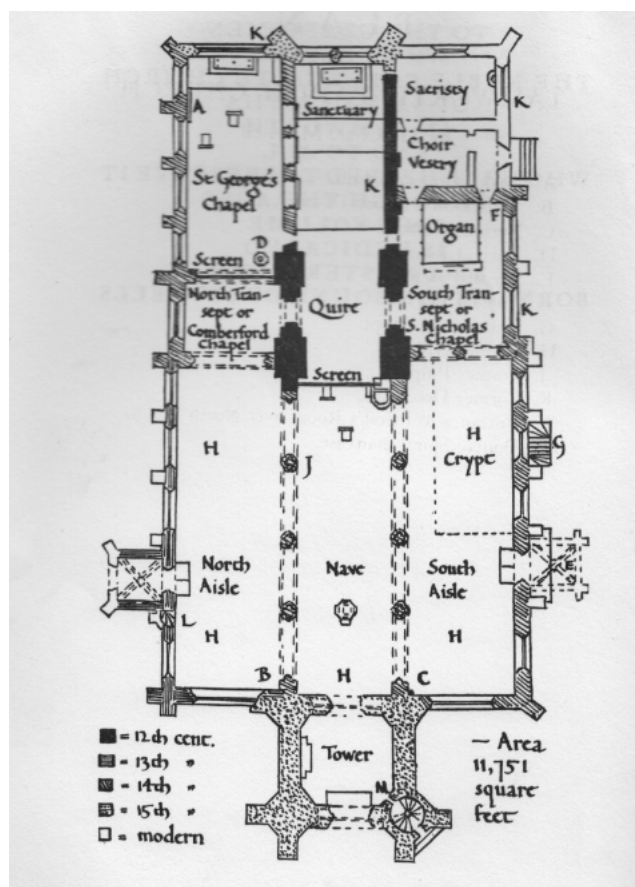
We start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1345 when the Norman church was burnt down. Well not just the Church but most of the town in the Great Fire of Tamworth. There had been churches on the site since at least 667AD but the Norman one was said to be somewhat magnificent. Whilst there are few records the archaeology shows a church of a similar size the current St

Editha and highly decorated. In 1288 it was valued at 55 marks whereas the Church at Berkswell was valued at 5 ½ marks.

Despite the Church being burnt down in 1345 and most of the men of Tamworth being in France at war (Indeed they distinguished themselves in the Battle of Crecy in 1346) and then in 1348 the Black Death swept the land followed by a famine killing 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the population the Church was re-built in 20 years being completed in 1365! It was a fairly rapid build for a church of this size in those days.

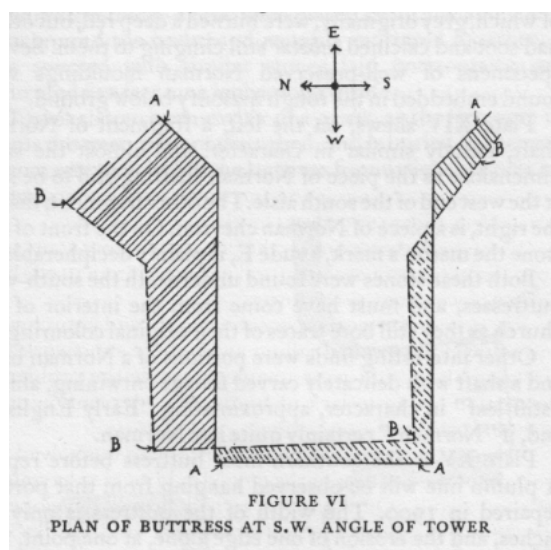
Delving into the archives it seems that the Marmion line had broken as there were only daughters. Whilst the Ferrers claimed it by marriage the King held the church not the Lord in the Castle. The 1935 Mitchel book Tamworth Parish Church has a whole chapter on this political intrigue. However the King and other powerful friends may have been the reason such a large church was built and rapidly.

The Norman Church was not completely destroyed. Some parts of walls remain near the



altar and quire. The new church was built largely on the foundations of the old one. If you look at a plan of the church the aisle is not straight.

The nave is on a slightly different orientation to the part from the screen to the sanctuary. This may account for the Tower almost, but not quite, sitting on the old foundations. Whilst the kink mid aisle is obvious the tower foundations offset were not discovered until renovation work in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



The offset appears to be minor and it is not clear if there was any settling of the Norman infill rubble they built on in the last 600 years.

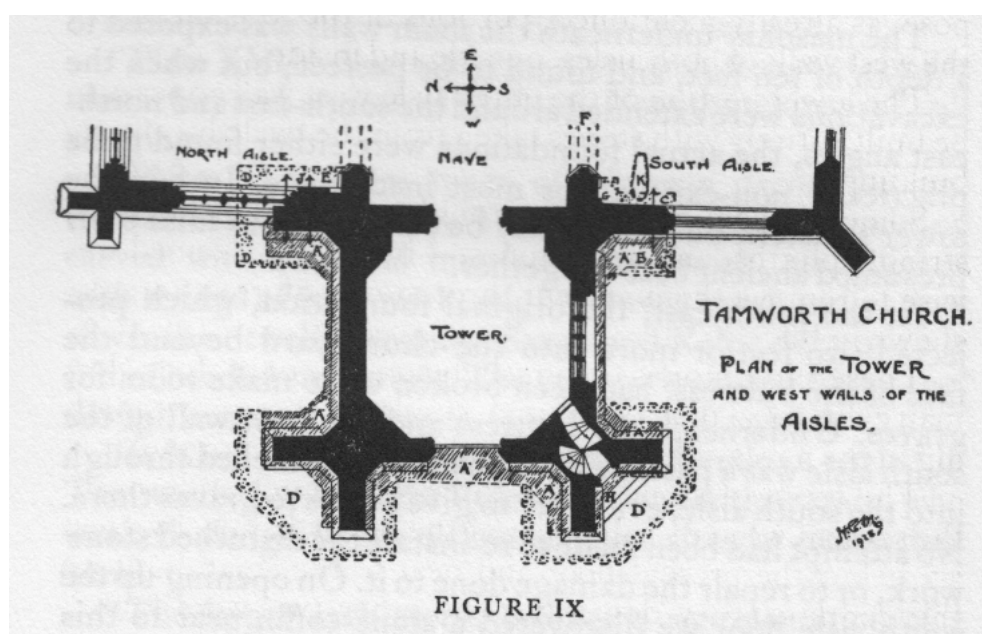
It should be noted that the tower was originally intended to have a spire but this was



not done. Three of the four tower buttresses were hollow and three of the walls have large openings in them meaning that the tower would not be able to support the weight. In 1350s the use of metal tie rods was not known.

However, the Church was definitely going to be the tallest building in Tamworth.

The church tower parapet, even without the top of what would have been the base of the spire, is 6 metres (20 feet) taller than the parapet of the castle tower. I suspect male egos at work here as the Lord of the Castle was in dispute with the King over the church. The Church remained the tallest building in Tamworth from 1365 for 600 years until the construction of the Lichfield Road Tower blocks in the 1968.





The question is now why a double spiral staircase? A good question! The Church was intended to be the tallest point in Tamworth. Tamworth had just had Great Fire, the Plague, famine and disturbances. The Castle was in title wranglings with the King. The town laid siege to the Castle in 1348 over a dispute. There are also reports from the period of the Parish [Church] Constable and Bailiffs providing The [night] Watch. This was a rudimentary town police service. It was also the duty of local townspeople to do this. So much so in 1368 the town laws said anyone who refused to do their watch would be fined 4d for each shift missed. This would be about a day's money for most so not a trivial sum.

So it is clear that Tamworth had a Watch and the church tower was going to be the Watch point. It is also clear that all the men of the town would take part. Some may be more or less honest than others.

So you have a twin spiral. The set accessed from inside the Church (locked at night?) accesses all the rooms on the way up, or down.



The externally accessed stairs only go to the roof. I am assuming that initially there was some way of locking the draw bridge access to the inner set from the roof. . © JAmédia



So there we have it sadly practical and predictable with no secret knowledge of DNA, Freemasons or Dan Brown in sight. A pragmatic way of letting random members of The Watch access the lookout point without accessing the Church treasures.

So that is the history of Tamworth's stairs. Are they unique? Well yes, and no.

Yes, in that they are the only complete, full height, twin spiral set we know of in the UK.

No, because there are two other sets which we will now look at . One whilst also short is only, intentionally, a twin spiral for half the height but is complete as designed. The other set is short and incomplete. That is it unless you know of another set of twin spiral stairs out there somewhere in the UK. Email the Editor if you find it [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)

. © JAmédia



### All Saint's church Pontefract

All Saint's Church Pontefract is currently more well-known set because it is on their web site,

The Pontefract set is incomplete and only has 35 steps of twin spiral. This is about 1/3 the number of the Tamworth stairs. Like Tamworth there is a drawbridge arrangement where the two stairways meet, then 9 more single steps, to the bell ringing chamber. The rest of the climb to top of the 80 foot (24metres) tower being via a "very long" ladder.

As with Tamworth one entrance is inside the church and the other outside. It seems from the 1800s to 1996 the inner stairs were filled with rubble from a restoration and only the outer set was used.

All Saints claim the stairs were built around 1280 some 45 years before Tamworth's stairs. Though they also say the section from the ringing chamber to the bell tower is 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

However Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1313269?section=official-list-entry> and [https://](https://www.99b.uk/B6History/Pontefract/H45CHist.htm)

[www.99b.uk/B6History/Pontefract/H45CHist.htm](https://www.99b.uk/B6History/Pontefract/H45CHist.htm)

and also [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All\\_Saints'\\_Church%2C\\_Pontefract](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints'_Church%2C_Pontefract) all say work on the church began at the start of the 14<sup>th</sup> century with the belfry mid-14<sup>th</sup> century and the octagonal tower late 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

This suggests that the Pontefract stairs are of a similar age to the Tamworth stairs.

All Saints also incorrectly claim their "twin helix" set is unique having a single newel post despite both Tamworth and the third set also having a single newel post.

We did try and make contact with All Saints by phone, email and indeed two visits but had no response at all to our requests. Including knocking on the door (and phoning) when there was clearly someone in the office.

So the best we can do is this web page <https://allsaintschurhpontefract.org.uk/our-buildings/double-helix-staircase/> which we know is inaccurate and this video <https://youtu.be/Kwb1dkD1tkc>





### Much Wenlock Abbey

Much Wenlock Abbey is the less well known third set of stairs, at least less well known these days. The 1845 Palmer book on Tamworth does mention Much Wenlock stairs just as the history of the Much Wenlock Abbey mentions the Tamworth stairs. Other texts also mention both sets of stairs so at one time the Much Wenlock set were quite well known.

The Abbey, now a private house belonging to [Gabrielle Drake](#) the well known British actress of stage, screen and TV and her late husband Louis De Wet.



See the video "In The Gaze of Medusa" at <https://www.louisdewetfoundation.com/> of Louis discussing the house and renovations.

Much Wenlock Abbey should not be confused with Much Wenlock Priory which are the ruins of the church (an abbey) that was part of the same complex for centuries. The Priory is now an English Heritage site and open to the public. See the English Heritage web site <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wenlock-priory/history/>

Looking at the English Heritage plan of the Abbey and Priory <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/places-to-visit/wenlock-priory/history/wenlock-priory-plan.pdf> you can see it was built, extended and remodelled in the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Not to mention other remains and other histories dating back to circa 670AD.

We were able to visit the Abbey, which is not open to the public, and Ms Drake commented that during her husband's sympathetic renovations and restorations in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries they also came across renovations and changes from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. So an accurate history of the Abbey and Priory is complex and difficult!

However you can start here <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/salop/vol2/pp38-47> and here <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/salop/vol10/pp399-447#h3-0005> other texts the author found are in Latin or behind pay-walls so will have to wait for a later article!

There will be an enhanced and expanded stand alone book on these three twin Spiral staircases.

The range with the double spiral stairs dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, later than Tamworth or Pontefract. It is the picture above.

The range contains a chapel, and imposing Priors lodgings. See [the plan in the English Heritage PDF](#) On that plan the twin spiral is in the thick wall above the room marked "Priors lodgings" on the right of the square below the main church (in purple denoting 15<sup>th</sup> Century).

The double spiral staircase is believed to link the Herbalist's Room (next to the kitchen) to his bedroom above next to the Great Hall.

The intertwining stairs rise up a floor higher going from ground floor, believed to be the kitchen, up to the Great Hall and continuing up to the attic. There is a peep hole at the top of the staircase giving a view of the Great Hall. The attic rooms are possibly where the kitchen servants resided.

This does make sense as the Herbalist would have needed a continuously warm dry space, indeed the room has a large inglenook where



herbs can be dried. The kitchen is the other place that would also normally have fires burning constantly. The Herbalist would need access 24/7 and the high value of the herbs and other items would make sleeping above the shop essential.

It is possible that the door to the herbalists room could be locked making the only access through the bedroom above. This is plausible as in the herbalist's room and on his stairs to the floor above there are hatches in the stone walls approx. 8 inches (20cm) square with sliding wooden covers opened from the inside (see picture above) where medicines could be dispensed to the corridors on the ground and first floors.

I can't see any reason to construct these two openings in the thick stone walls if people could normally walk in to the herbalist's room.

These hatches are too small to dispense plates of food but are large enough to permit the passing of small items.



On the other stairs: access from the servant's quarters (?) in the attic down, past the Great Hall to the kitchen invisibly without disturbing anyone important in the house. As the wall the stairs are built in in has a large fireplace each side, one for the kitchen and the other for the Herbalist and on the first floor one for the Great Hall it would need to be substantial and therefore an ideal place to put "service stairs". However this is just supposition on my part.



So those are the three sets of spiral stairs in the UK of which Tamworth is the largest complete set.

#### Comparison of the stairs

Tamworth Church	76 metres (250 feet)
Much Wenlock stairs	12 metres ( 40 feet)
Pontefract Church stairs	10 metres ( 35 feet) est.

This article will be expanded to a stand alone document

#### Tower heights

Tamworth Church	76 metres (250 feet)
Tamworth Castle Tower	70 metres (230 feet)
Pontefract Church Tower	24 metres ( 82 feet)
Much Wenlock	45 Cubits (approx.)



## The European Pretenders

Whenever twin spiral/helix stairs are mentioned in Tamworth a European one is always brought up: A French one! This is a twin *helix* not a twin spiral in the 16th-century [Chateau of Chambord](#). They are attributed



to, or “inspired by”, **Leonardo da Vinci**.

These stairs consists of 274 steps says Wikipedia

and can be seen on [YouTube here](#)

### The Vatican Stairways to heaven in Rome

These are also twin helix both sets. Surprisingly there are two sets of stairs in the Vatican!

[Bramante Staircase](#) is the name given to two staircases in the [Vatican Museums](#). The original [Bramante staircase](#), in the Pio-Clementine Museum, was built in 1505 to a double helix design by Donato Bramante. It connects the Belvedere palace of Pope Innocent VIII to the



outside and stands in a square tower of that building. The staircase was built to allow Pope Julius II to enter his private residence while still in his carriage, since walking up the several flights in heavy papal vestments would have been onerous.

There are the modern stairs also referred to as Bramante Staircase designed by Giuseppe

Momo, sculpted by Antonio Maraini and built by the Ferdinando Marinelli Artistic Foundry



for the Vatican Museums in 1932. It encircles the outer wall of a stairwell approximately fifteen meters wide and with a clear space at the centre. The balustrade around the ramp is of ornately worked metal.

### The new Reichstag dome, Berlin

The glass dome on the [Reichstag](#) is a modern design by Norman Foster built in 1993 to replace the dome destroyed in WW2. It also has a twin helix but like one of the sets in the Vatican it is a smooth slope not stairs.



This permits tourists to have a single path up and then down.

### Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank:-

Gwen at St Editha's Tamworth.

Hanna and Karen at English Heritage, Wenlock Priory.

Gabrielle Drake and Vivien at Much Wenlock Abbey for their assistance (*and chocolate biscuits*), without which this article could not have been written.



# Next Edition

## Spring 2023

**Publication Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Copy Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Articles on anything relating to Tamworth will be happily accepted. Articles should be 800-2000 words. Letters any length under 500 words.

Please submit any articles, letters or ideas to [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)

### **Copy Date (to in send article) 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

However please give as much advanced notice as possible. So we can allocate space or just in case there is more than one person writing on the subject.

Please send in article/letters in text, RTF, MS doc or docx format. ***With any images sent separately.***

Images as high quality as you can manage in PNG, tiff or JPG. We can scan or convert most other formats. Also any video.

**The Editorial Team can help with research,** finding documents, scanning items, finding images (we have a photo library of over 15,000 images). We can take new photos if you need help with photography.

Being a PDF magazine: We can also link-in web site links and video or audio files. **We can also produce video and audio if required.** Just contact the [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)

**NOTE** Any long articles may be shortened for the Magazine but also could be expanded and turned in to stand alone THM books. Contact the [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)



## In the Next issue

### **Pincher dead! Darkie to hang?**

The first murder in Tamworth for 90 years

### **100 years of Tamworth Royal British Legion**

in 2022 the Tamworth Royal British Legion reached its centenary but actually has a longer history.

### **Freemasons in Tamworth**

A look at 150 years of Tamworth's oldest Masonic Lodge.

### **St Editha's under fire**

When St Editha's was shot at in the war!

### **Upper Gungate Wagoner Dies Tragically**

Jesse has his legs mangled while transporting three large colliery wheels hauled by traction engines.

### **MP's Son Survives Fall from Speeding Train**

Tamworth's stationmaster reunited mother and son after he fell from train from Liverpool.

If you don't want the **next issue to be the last one** the editors need articles. The Editors, the History, Genealogy, Archive, Castle and Peel groups can all help with research and information. Email the [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)

Tamworth

# HERITAGE

Magazine



Preserving the Past, Recording the Present  
Safeguarding the Future