

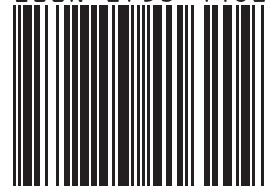
Tamworth

# HERITAGE

Magazine  
v2i1 Winter 2024



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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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**Cover Image:** Aethelflaed (Olivia-Joy Shepherd) in St Editha's Church © JAmelia

**Back Image:** Advert for Woodcock Printers (© Woodcock Printers)

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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. He also runs [Tamworth Digital Archive](#).

**Anthony Poulton-Smith BA**, Assistant Editor, a well known speaker and author 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  
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# Welcome from the Editor

## Progress is being made!

Welcome to Volume 2 Issue 1. A lot has changed in the 18 months since the idea for the magazine started. Unfortunately I discovered that I had used the wrong method in the typesetting program and will have to spend January resetting all the styles and templates correctly for the next issue.

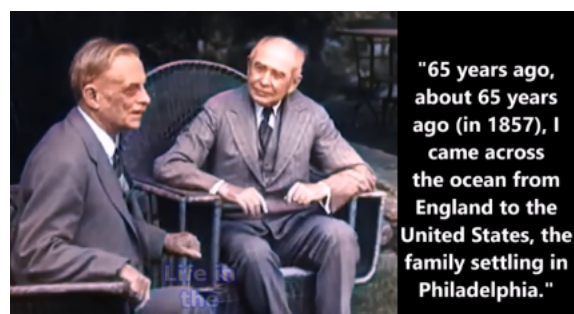
On a brighter note the assistant Editor and I wrote much of the first issue. Now we have a stable of writers, including professional and qualified historians. However just as important are those non-historians who are contributing family histories and insights. We do want more of those.

Over the last 60 years Tamworth has tripled in size of population and expanded even more in terms of buildings. This is all within living memory. So please consider writing an article about your family's journey. These are and will be in the future an absolutely invaluable record of Tamworth life. More to the point, we can record those who remember talking about it, either on video or just audio. Tamworth Heritage Magazine would like to build up an archive of family stories.

Have a look at [page 34](#), the history of Rugeley Power Station that has video and audio recordings of their past workers. Also [page 25](#) the story of Glen Cottage, a terraced house, and the family who lived in it since 1912. A fascinating point is the first occupant worked for a builder and actually helped build the house in Bolehall. In the 1960s many came to Tamworth from Birmingham and those stories are worth telling. We are hoping to record one of the older members of the family talking,



I did the same with my mother at Christmas. We discovered many things as she spoke about her parents and grandparents going back to the mid-1800s. This may surprise the youngsters but some of us did know people who were alive in the 1800s! It may not seem important to do this but interview in 1932 has a man aged 79 talking about his childhood in 1863 its priceless. With our modern video and audio equipment we can make high quality recordings that will last 100's of years <https://youtu.be/oqbLSisnME?si=xfET2rPAXnBZX>



So for 2024 make a resolution to write an article on your family heritage for Tamworth Heritage Magazine! The Editorial team can give you help and assistance on this.

Email [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk) if you have an idea for this. Don't be shy. If you look at the letters [page 37](#) in response to a letter we list some of the on-line places to get information for family research.

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# Out and about in Tamworth



**Dr. Trevor James Introduces the wider concept in which Tamworth History has developed.**

**Town Hall and Market Street late 1800s**  
**Tamworth Digital Archive**

Modern-day visitors to Tamworth immediately observe its very extensive out-of-town shopping areas and industrial estates and then, in stark parallel, notice the signs welcoming them to the capital of historic Mercia. Investigating this conundrum is the enthralling challenge of this relatively small town.

With its ancient parish church and castle creating a distinctive sky-line and with its association with two critically important figures in philanthropic and political history, Tamworth's complex history invites further exploration. In its narrow streets, a further complexity will emerge because its historic Gungate and Aldergate reveal that, alongside its role as an Anglo-Saxon and Norman defensive position, it also experienced the cultural diversity of having been within the 'Danelaw' because the '-gate' street names are Danish in origin.

Its place name is what is technically known as a back-formation because it carries the meaning of a settlement on the River Tame. In other words the importance of the River Tame has determined its name, rather than vice versa. The name, if anything, understates its role. Tamworth

actually stands at the confluence of the Rivers Tame and Anker, the latter flowing from Nuneaton, and the Tame itself brings all the discharged surface water from around and beyond Birmingham, and from the east of the Black Country, through this confluence on its way to the River Trent. The scale of the movement of surface water can be observed in Tamworth's easily-identified and frequently-flooded river meadows. What happens here is one of the keys to the extensive flood risks which exist once the River Tame eventually joins the River Trent.

There are three key historic buildings in Tamworth, its parish church and castle confirming the antiquity of its foundation. Historically the parish church of St Editha was located in Staffordshire and the castle was in Warwickshire. This jurisdictional difference was swept away by the County Councils Act of 1890 which placed Tamworth wholly in Staffordshire. This historical complexity reveals that Tamworth had been a strategic and important 'border' town, although the fact that Warwickshire controlled both sides of the river-crossing points to its seniority in the relationship.

The Warwickshire county boundary still passes north-east of Tamworth to a point where Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire meet, a point known as 'No Man's Heath'. This indicates that, at that location, in pre-Norman England there was an undetermined boundary and that this open countryside, as it still is, was basically an area of shared public grazing.

How far the itinerant farmers came is illustrated by a decision after 1890, when all this area had to be allocated to a specific jurisdiction. At that stage part of the grazing was allocated to the parish of St Michael in Lichfield, a full ten miles away, so that remote neighbourhood must have been part of the historic shared interest in this location.

Within the centre of Tamworth, St Editha's Church is a highly distinctive landmark. One of its special features is the double spiral staircase within its tower. With its Anglo-Saxon origins, it was largely rebuilt after the disastrous town fire of 1345. The Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society has published a highly significant report on an excavation within the crypt of this ancient church. In the course of this,

some explanation as to why this church shares its unusual dedication with nearby Polesworth has emerged. Polesworth was the centrepiece of an extensive pattern of pilgrim routes to the shrine of the Anglo-Saxon abbess and princess Editha. Tamworth, like nearby Orton-on-the-Hill, shared the dedication because it was one of the penultimate stopping points on the network of pilgrimage routes to Polesworth.

The traditional story that somehow Tamworth's St Editha was a different St Editha than that at Polesworth can be discounted but the excavations within Tamworth's St Editha do point to there having been a structure in the crypt so significant in scale that it may itself have been a St Editha shrine, possibly with its own St Editha relic.

Tamworth has almost certainly had a fortified position at this strategic river-crossing since Mercia's King Offa had his palace there in 781, and certainly Aethelflaed's earthworks of 913 are under the present castle. The Norman castle has various distinctive features, including rather striking herringbone masonry and an irregularly shaped shell keep, along with the distinctive manner in which the inner castle site has been



Tamworth Castle  
Tamworth Digital Archive



**Tamworth Castle (JRMedia)**

filled with various structures arising from its role from Jacobean times as a stately home.

Tamworth's third major building of significance is its traditional Market Hall, the upper floors of which still contain the council chamber and the Mayor's Parlour. It is through this building that the lives and careers of possibly the two most famous of Tamworth's figures meet. The Market Hall was constructed in 1701 as the gift of Thomas Guy, later to be famous as the benefactor of one of London's principal hospitals. Guy was the son of a Tamworth woman, who brought him back to Tamworth when she was widowed when he was eight years old. He was educated at the Tamworth free grammar school and departed to

make his immense fortune in the printing and publishing business.

He served as the MP for Tamworth between 1695 and 1707. Not only was he the donor of the Market Hall, he also endowed almshouses in the town. However when the people of Tamworth declined to nominate him for a further term as MP after 1707, he angrily severed his links with the town. This explains how he came to invest his fortune, both in his lifetime and by bequest, in St Thomas's Hospital, of which he had already become a governor in about 1704, and in his new creation of what became known as Guy's Hospital.



How angry he was with the town of his ancestors is illustrated by the fact that he altered the covenants of his almshouses to exclude residents of the central parish of Tamworth in favour of people from the surrounding parishes.

The Market Hall has very important associations with the nineteenth-century Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel. The Peels had built factories in

**Guy's Almshouses**  
Tamworth Digital Archive



Tamworth and nearby Fazeley and had established themselves in their country house of Drayton Manor.

#### **St Editha's Church 2023 (JAmedia)**

Peel succeeded his father as the MP for Tamworth in 1830 and continued to represent the constituency after the electoral changes of the Great Reform Act of 1832, until his unexpected death in Hyde Park in 1850.

celebrating Peel's creative creation of the Metropolitan Police in 1829. Sir Robert Peel is buried in a very fine tomb in Drayton Bassett Church.

Peel's particular association with the Market Hall is that he is believed to have delivered the constitutionally-significant 'Tamworth Manifesto' from one of its upper windows in the election campaign of 1835. This was the speech which transformed the Tories into the Conservative Party when Peel declared that they accepted the reform programme of the previous Whig government and would consider further reforms on their merits. This occasion and his personal standing are celebrated by his statue immediately outside the Market Hall and below the window from which the speech was delivered.

Just across the River Tame from Tamworth is the Staffordshire township of Fazeley. The influence of the Peels is strong here, with some of the high-quality industrial housing constructed for their workers still remaining, together with at least one mill building dating from their era of industrial pre-eminence, along with St Paul's Church, which was the gift of Prime Minister Peel's family to the neighbourhood.

After Sir Robert Peel's death, the Peel family's links with Tamworth continued into the twentieth century, to the extent that the Peel Society was formed in 1979 to recognise that association. They have their own museum at nearby Middleton Hall, which contains various items of Peel memorabilia, as well as items

One of the factors which drew the Peels to this proximity when they moved to the Midlands from Bury in Lancashire can be seen at Fazeley. Here is the junction between the Birmingham and Fazeley and Coventry Canals, and this would have given them easy access to national distribution opportunities for the output from their cotton mills.

Until the arrival of the railway at Tamworth in 1839, Fazeley was Tamworth's link to the coach routes which ran from the north-west and Wales

to London. This is because Fazeley is positioned on Watling Street along which Thomas Telford had created his arterial route in the form of the major turnpike from London to Holyhead. Because of its position on this turnpike Fazeley was a very busy place, with most traffic to and from Ireland passing along this route.

Of course the reference to Watling Street is a reminder that for nearly 2,000 years, since its origins as a Roman road, this has been a distinctive route. It is between two major intersections on Watling Street – High Cross, where Fosse Way crosses in a north-easterly direction towards Leicester and Lincoln, and

Letocetum (modern-day Wall) where Ryknild Street crosses travelling north towards Derby and Doncaster.

The indications are that the Romans kept to the south of the River Tame at this point. Some professional meteorologists strongly believe that the very pronounced localised weather variations regularly observed along the alignment of Watling Street from the High Cross to Letocetum are evidence that it was indeed constructed along a climatic boundary, one as noticeable to the Romano-British population 2,000 years ago as it is to modern-day commuters.

### Possible Links

Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society, Transactions ISBN 0 86061 1140 or SSN 14796368

Peel Society – [www.thepeelsociety.org.uk](http://www.thepeelsociety.org.uk)

Friends of Tamworth Castle – [www.tamworthcastlefriends.org](http://www.tamworthcastlefriends.org)

### About the Author

**Trevor James** is a lecturer in Local and Modern History at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, and Director of the Young Historian Project; previously he has been Deputy-President and Honorary Secretary of the Historical Association.

### Tolson's Mill, Fazeley

**Tamworth Digital Archive**



# Tamworth Around the World:

## Tamworth, Cumberland County, Virginia, USA

by Chris Hills



**Tamworth in Cumberland County, Virginia, USA is at the end of Tamworth Road. A road of some 500m running alongside Muddy Creek off, Cartersville road. (See Google map below) It lies between a couple of small villages in a rural, wooded area south of the James River.**

Tamworth comprises about 12-15 buildings including the Post Office and General Store, above, (closed in 1980s) There is also a mill building on the creek built in 1752 and enlarged in 1775.

Tamworth Cottage (picture below) was built between the two phases. Most of the other buildings appear to be a farmhouse and barns. Indeed Google Street-view does not actually enter the hamlet.

Tamworth VA's one claim to fame, it seems, is that in 2019 part of the film "Harriet" <https://www.focusfeatures.com/harriet> was filmed there. The film apparently made use of the mill building and barns.

So far I can find no connection to Tamworth UK (or any of the other Tamworth's)

Prior to writing this the Editor made multiple attempts over weeks to contact people and Schools around Tamworth VA for an article but sadly there were no replies.

If anyone has any contacts with Tamworth VA please get them to email the Editor [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)



# Richard Rawle, the Vicar of Tamworth, who became a Bishop in Trinidad By Patrick Comerford

The three lower clerestory windows on the south side of the chancel in Saint Editha's Church, Tamworth, are filled with highly coloured glazing. These windows by William Wailes (1808-1881) of Newcastle form an important collection of Victorian stained glass in Tamworth by a celebrated artist, who also designed the great East Window in the church.

One of the three chancel windows by Wailes remembers the life of Richard Rawle, a 19th century Vicar of Tamworth who became a Bishop of Trinidad in the West Indies, and who was the principal of a theological college in Barbados that has been in the news in recent weeks because of slavery reparation payments.



**Above: Richard Rawle, 1869-1872**

**Below: window in Saint Editha's, for Bishop Richard Rawle**

(© Patrick Comerford)

This easternmost window honours of the appointment of Richard Rawle while he was the Vicar of Tamworth as Bishop of Trinidad in 1872. The subject is described, 'Melchisedec (sic), King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning, & blessed him.' The dedication reads: 'To the Glory of God & in memory of the call of R Rawle, Vicar of this Parish, to be Anglican Bishop of Trinidad. W Wailes makes & dedicates this window with a thankful heart AD 1872.'

Richard Rawle (1812-1889), who was the Vicar of Tamworth in 1869-1872, was the Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago (1872-1888) and the Dean of Port of Spain Cathedral.

Rawle was born in Plymouth on 27 February 1812, the third child and only son of Francis Rawle, a lawyer. He was still only two when his mother, Amelia (Millett), died on 6 October 1814. He was educated at Plymouth Grammar School and Trinity College Cambridge (Scholar 1833, BA 1835, MA 1838, Fellow 1836, assistant tutor, 1836-1839).

He was ordained deacon by Joseph Allen, Bishop of Ely, in 1839, and priest by John Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln soon after, becoming Rector of Cheadle, Staffordshire, in the Diocese of Lichfield, that same year.



Rawle remained at Cheadle until 1847, when he moved to Barbados in association with the Anglican mission society SPG (now USPG, United Society Partners in the Gospel). In Barbados, Rawle became the second Principal of Codrington College (1847-1864), one of the oldest Anglican theological colleges in the Americas.

**Above: Codrington College**  
**Below: All Souls College Oxford**  
 (© Patrick Comerford)

Codrington College was founded with the profits from the bequest of Christopher Codrington (1668-1710), the colonial slave trader and plantation owner. When he died in 1710, Codrington left portions of his sugar cane estates – the Codrington Plantations as well as land on Barbados and Barbuda to SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) to establish a college in Barbados.

As the sugar cane plantations were still operating, SPG and Codrington College benefited directly from the institution of slavery. In addition, Codrington left £10,000 (the equivalent of £1.2 million today) and 12,000 books to All Souls College, Oxford.

Codrington's bequest was unusual at the time in its intention to benefit the Afro-Caribbean population of Barbados, unlike other colonial colleges that benefited white planter families. Codrington wanted a portion of his bequest be used to educate the enslaved population of Barbados. However, this provision was effectively blocked by objections from other planters and slave owners.



In the years that followed, SPG took over the Codrington Plantations and continued to use slave labour.

The word 'Society' was branded on the chests of slaves owned by SPG. Slavery in Barbados ended with the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. At that time, SPG received £8,823 in compensation for the loss of the labour of 411 slaves.

Rawle arrived at Codrington College 14 years later, in 1847. There he was successful in resisting attempts to have the college revert to its former function of educating the sons of the gentry and the college went on to produce many graduates who made their mark not only in ordained ministry but also in teaching, law, medicine and the civil service.

The college curriculum was improved and expanded, and the college had regained its reputation as a seat of learning. Rawle made many improvements to the buildings and grounds of Codrington College.

Rawle also put the Lodge School on a stronger footing, and SPG's elementary schools were thoroughly reorganised, becoming models for other Anglican schools throughout the island.

He returned to Staffordshire briefly in 1851, when he married Susan Anne Blagg, daughter of John Michael Blagg, of Rosehill, Cheadle, in Cheadle parish church, on 14 January 1851.

He declined the offer to become Bishop of Antigua in 1859, and he remained at Codrington College until 1864, when he resigned due to ill-health and returned to England.

When he left Codrington in 1864, some 150 students had 'sat at his feet,' the number in residence had risen from eight when he arrived to 24.

Rawle's greatest service, however, was to the island itself, and he was influential in shaping and establishing the educational system. The esteem and affection in which Rawle was held were expressed by a public donation of £400 which he used to found an exhibition at the College 'for thoroughness in mental Culture.'

On 4 February 1866, the Barbados House of Assembly passed 'An Act to Vest a sum of money in the Bishop of the Diocese and the Principal of Codrington College. for establishing a

Scholarship at Codrington College.' Interest and earnings from the £400 was to be used to support the student receiving the Rawle Scholarship at Codrington.

After a time of convalescence, he refused the offer to become an honorary canon in Ely Cathedral.

Rawle was the Vicar of Felmersham, Bedfordshire (1867-1869), before becoming Vicar of Tamworth in 1869.

While Rawle was Vicar of Tamworth, a new diocese was created in the West Indies in 1872 when Trinidad was separated from Barbados. Rawle was invited to become the first Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago, and he was consecrated bishop in Lichfield Cathedral on Saint Peter's Day, 29 June 1872.

The Bishop of Lichfield, George Augustus Selwyn, had persuaded the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archibald Campbell Tait, that the Vicar of Tamworth should be consecrated bishop in the cathedral of the diocese where he had been a parish priest. Nine bishops were present at what was described as 'a striking ceremony', and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Peterborough, William Connor Magee, later Archbishop of York.

For the next 17 years, Rawle worked indefatigably in his diocese, and also became Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, his diocesan cathedral in Port of Spain, from 1878. Codrington College became affiliated with Durham University in 1875, and a year later, in 1876, Rawle received an honorary doctorate (DD) from Durham.

While they were on leave in England, Rawle's wife Susan died in Bournemouth on 1 March 1888 and she was buried in Cheadle churchyard, the church where they were married.

Meanwhile, an economic depression in Barbados, caused by the fall in the price of sugar, put Codrington in a critical economic position. After a very brief time at the college, Canon Frederick Meyrick resigned, leaving the college without a principal from 1887 because there was no stipend.

Rawle volunteered in 1888, at the age of 76, to serve as an unpaid principal. He resigned as Bishop of Trinidad and returned to Codrington

College as both Principal and Professor of Divinity. It was 'a labour of love.' But within a year, Rawle was dead. He died on 10 May 1889 at Codrington College, the place where he had spent the most useful 17 years of his life.

Rawle's coffin was carried to his grave the next day by a group of old men who knew him and loved him and who also remembered the days of slavery on the Codrington estate. It was arranged for them to carry his coffin part of the way, along the level road from the college, and they were to be relieved at the foot of the hill by younger men. But the old men stubbornly refused to hand over his coffin and continued on along narrow steep goat path to his final resting place. He was buried with only a simple cross to mark his grave.

The former Vicar of Tamworth has left a positive legacy in Barbados and is remembered to this day with fondness at Codrington. Meanwhile, both All Souls College in Oxford and the mission agency USPG are confronting the legacy of benefiting financially over 300 years ago from Christopher Codrington's slave ownership and his plantations.

All Souls College has taken several steps to address the problems created by Codrington's legacy. Although Codrington's statue remains at the centre of the library, the library no longer uses his name, a memorial plaque has been erected at the entrance 'in memory of those who worked in slavery on the Codrington plantations in the West Indies,' and £100,000 has been pledged in donations to Codrington College,

USPG the successor to SPG, the mission society that supported Rawle's work, is confronting that slave-holding part of its history in Barbados, and has committed £7 million to tangible repentance. USPG announced its latest commitment in Barbados on 8 September.

'USPG is deeply ashamed of our past links to slavery,' the Revd Duncan Dormor, general secretary of USPG, said after the Codrington Reparations Project met at Codrington College. 'We recognise that it is not simply enough to repent in thought and word, but we must take

action, working in partnership with Codrington, where the descendants of enslaved persons are still deeply impacted by the generational trauma that came from the Codrington Plantations.'

USPG agrees that making amends is a long-term project. Its pledge is meant to cover work spanning 10 to 15 years. The project is expected to begin in spring 2024, and includes community engagement and infrastructure, historical research and education, burial places and memorials, and family research.

'It is our hope that, through this reparations project, there will be serious reckoning with the history of the relationship between the Codrington Trust and USPG, but also a process of renewal and reconciliation that will be healing of the pain of the past,' said Archbishop Howard Gregory of the West Indies.

### **Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port of Spain**

**Patrick Comerford**



### **About the Author**

(Revd, Canon, Professor) Patrick Comerford is an Anglican priest living in retirement near Milton Keynes. He is a regular visitor to Tamworth, with a special interest in his Comerford family heritage <https://www.patrickcomerford.com/>

## Doorway to Tamworth

Where is this doorway in Tamworth? Each issue will feature a door in Tamworth town Centre. Some will be well known, some historic, some quirky and some a little more obvious, like this gem. It is in a main shopping street in the town centre. But do you know where?



Last Issues Doorway:  
Side door to Halifax bank

Photo © Jamedia

# This season's significant dates and events

collated by  
Tony Poulton-Smith

## January to March

**7th January** June's Birthday.

**7/Jan/1725** - Thomas Guy buried

**7/Jan/1839** - storm blew down the top of the southeast pinnacle and battlements of St Editha's Church Tower

**14/Jan/1916** - earthquake shook the area causing damage to Polesworth Church

**20/Jan/1989** - death of Beatrice Lillie, wife of Sir Robert Peel, 5th Baronet, and former actress, born in Canada on 1894. If you know who she is with in the picture email the editor.



Beatrice Lilly with a well-known actor.  
(© Tamworth Digital Archive)

**30/Jan/926** - marriage of a Christian princess to a converted Viking. It appears to be one of Aethlstan's sisters but the history I can find is a bit vague. If you know, let me know!

## February

**05/Feb/1788** - birth of Sir Robert Peel, MP for Tamworth and future prime minister.

**21/Feb/1868** - birth of Major General Sir Charles Vere Ferrers Townshend, who purchased Tamworth Castle in 1833

**26/Feb/1726** - Earliest known Tamworth Post Mark

**26/Feb/1937** - death of Rev William MacGregor

**28/Feb/1724** - birth of Field Marshal George Townshend, 1st Marquess Townshend, who owned Tamworth Castle from 1751

## March

**10/Mar/1801** - first census records 2,768 in the Borough of Tamworth (1,154 in Staffordshire and

1,632 in Warwickshire) in a total of 545 houses. The county border ran from Ladybridge up Holloway and Silver Street, turning long Church Street and then north up Gungate.

**11/Mar/1327** King Edward II stays at Tamworth Castle

**15/Mar/1887** - Tamworth Industrial Co-operative Society Limited legally incorporated.

**27/Mar/1642** - birth of John Rawlet



1806 Series Ordnance Survey Map (© Crown)

# William Wailes stained glass artist

By Patrick Comerford



Great East Window St Editha's Church (JRMedia)

William Wailes (1808-1881), who designed the three lower clerestory windows on the south side of the chancel in Saint Editha's Church, Tamworth, was a key artist in the Gothic Revival movement. He was also the proprietor of one of the largest and, at the time, the most prolific stained glass workshops in England.

One of his most impressive works is the great East Window, see left, in St Editha's Church Tamworth. This is a tribute to Rawle's immediate predecessor, the Revd James Ogilvy Millar (1828-1890). Millar was the Vicar of Tamworth, in Saint Editha's, 1865-1869. He was instrumental in the restoration of the church.

Wailles began in business as a grocer and tea merchant. However, his artistic talent and practical skills led him to set up a small kiln in the backyard of his premises in Newcastle, where he made and fired small decorative enamels that were sold in his shop.

In 1830, Wailles went to Germany to study stained glass design and production under Mayer of Munich. In 1838, he set up his own stained glass studio to design and manufacture windows and in 1841 the business began producing its own glass.

In 1842, Pugin approached Wailles about producing windows for him. Working with Pugin was a thankless task, as Pugin went from one workshop to another in an attempt to get his designs realised at the lowest possible cost, and the working relationship lasted for only three years until 1845, although Wailles continued to produce glass for Pugin on-and-off until Pugin died in 1852.

When Wailles was joined by his son-in-law Thomas Rankine Strang (1835-1899) as a partner, the business became Wailles & Strang. Wailles lived in Saltwell Towers, Gateshead, from 1859. He died there and is buried in Saint Peter's churchyard, Bywell, Northumberland.

The three windows by Wailles in his series on the south side of Saint Editha's chancel commemorate, from the east, (*or left to right below*) Bishop Rawle of Trinidad, formerly Video of Tamworth 1869-72. This window shows Melchisedec, King of Salem meeting Abraham.

The middle window, in memory of Waldyve Henry Willington (1831-1850) of Tamworth, who died of fever in Saint John's College, Cambridge, represents Abraham offering his son Isaac in sacrifice.

The third and westernmost window in memory of Joseph Gray of Maids Moreton, Buckinghamshire, who died in 1846, is buried in the north porch of the Church. This window has the inscription "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up"

The Three lower Clerestory Windows on the South side of the Chancel. Mentioned in the article. In St Edithas there is a book available "The Windows of St Editha's Parish Church Tamworth compiled by Stan T Parry. Well worth picking up if you go to the church.



# Tamworth Castle Clamber! (a tour of Tamworth Castle Repairs)

By Brian Schindler



Tamworth Castle Summer 2023  
( © Brian Schindler)

**Tamworth Castle has this year, 2023, commissioned a project to carry out repair work to the exterior curtain wall on the south side of the Castle during the summer and autumn.**

The project has been undertaken in association with Heritage England in order to ensure that the work is carried out with due reference to the importance of this historic structure.

The Friends of Tamworth Castle (FoTC) have a particular interest in conservation of both the Castle and the Museum Collections so were keen to see the latest phase of repair work. Donations have recently been made from FoTC to enable the purchase of a gold Medieval Posy Ring discovered locally and also to enable the expert restoration of one of the clocks in the museum collection. Money has also been donated to fund the work of an intern for the Castle Museum.

The FoTC Committee were invited to undertake a climb of the scaffolding by Lara Rowe the Manager of the castle, to take a closer look at the work being carried out. We were joined staff from Lichfield Cathedral, Tamworth Borough Council and The Project Manager from Midland Conservation Limited, the Heritage Contractor. The tour was led by their Director Andy Cornwell. He kindly answered the many questions poised during the climb which the Author has affectionately referred to since as the '*Castle Clamber*'.

After kitting out with the necessary hard hats and high visibility vests, we ascended the many ladders from the ground level near the gatehouse up to the very top of the castle wall viewing the work being carried out at close quarters.



The curtain wall had been bulging and in a potentially unsafe condition. Indeed damage had been caused when an object fell from the wall and broke some other brickwork

The full scope of these essential conservation repairs included the external curtain wall, west rampart (including iron railings), part of the south elevation of the north range, part of the north and west elevations of the south range and re-roofing



Above and above right cracks in the curtain wall

Left New stone repair to the wall

(© Brian Schindler)

the passageway to the staff room inside the main wall.

In addition to the curtain wall repair FoTC noticed that work on the Gatehouse shop at the bottom of the castle entrance, is also taking place. The project will repair and improve the condition of the roof and masonry of the Gatehouse and provide an attractive reception to the castle site and ticket office. This work is in addition to internal improvements to fixtures and fittings.

The main curtain wall work has involved the filling of some very large cracks in the wall and also rectification of some previous non-standard infill probably carried out in the 1960's. The Project Manager is confident that the work carried out this time will last for another 300 years which is a very positive result. The work started in March and was intended to be completed at the end of October, but ran into November partly thanks to the British weather.

Scaffolding had been erected on the motte, from the lower lodge to the base of the curtain atop the motte to create a conveyor for the stone which was used to repair the



walls. This caused some discussion on social media as people speculated about a new "ride" an aerial rope-way and other amusing possibilities as to its use.

The FoTC, took in some excellent views from the very top of the curtain wall and, enjoying the warm weather, descended carefully back to the gatehouse to complete the trip. Thanks go to Lara Rowe and Andy Cornwell for the opportunity to sample this very special experience. The scaffolding has



Curtain wall looking North East  
(© Brian Schindler)



Curtain wall looking south west  
(© Brian Schindler)



now started to come down and the final stages of work are inside the Castle.

The work on the Castle is expected to cost £440,367 and took a little over the planned six months to complete.

Anna Miller, Assistant Director of Growth and Regeneration at Tamworth Borough Council, said: *"Our ancient monument is undergoing this essential repair work to ensure that this historic building continues to stand proud and remain a part of Tamworth's rich history. We are very lucky to have such an amazing building and while the conservation*

*work is on on-going, the castle remains open to visitors to come and explore our museum."*

The TBC full press release is here

<https://www.visittamworth.co.uk/essential-conservation-repair-work-taking-place-tamworth-castle>

Tamworth Castle Website,

<https://www.tamworthcastle.co.uk/>

The Friends of Tamworth Castle website

<http://www.tamworthcastle.org.uk/>

# Book Review

## Tamworth: A History

by Richard Stone

Published by Butler and Tanner, 2003

ISBN: 1860772781

This is a comparatively slim book for a history spanning 40,000 years! Indeed there are books larger than this one that cover only part of a chapter in this book. This history opens with fossils of mammoths over 35,000 years ago and moves on to axe heads from 4,500 BC before getting into recorded history. This is Tamworth's curse. It has a very long and full history at both a local and a national level.

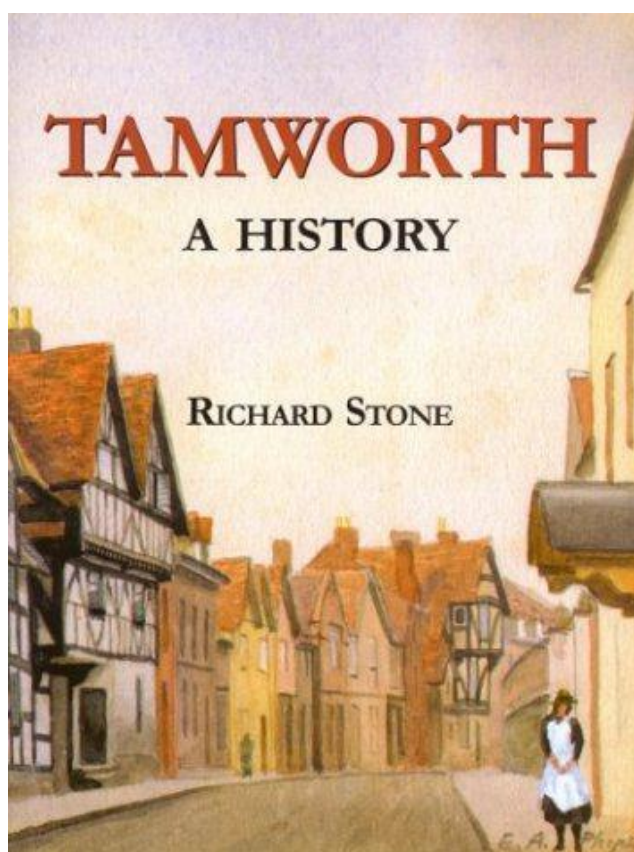
Looking at the chapter list, it's all there. All the major points in Tamworth's history starting with the photo of the skull of the Woolly Mammoth. It was discovered locally in 2002 in case you were wondering how there was photography thirty odd thousand years ago.

Of immediate interest are the two detailed maps on the pages inside the front and back covers. They are dated 1902 and 1906 but vary greatly in detail. This shows that up until the mid 1900s Tamworth was a small town bordered by the two railway lines and the river. Many who only know the town in its current form will find these maps fascinating.

Tamworth was south of what is now the West Coast Main Line and east of the line from Birmingham to Nottingham. Whilst the south was bordered by the river and to the west it stopped at Park Street. Though Moor Street and Lud Lane formed most of the western boundary, with nothing west of the Moathouse south of Lichfield Street.

Despite being a small town, there are some villages that were larger than Tamworth, a lot happened in, and around, Tamworth apart from the Anglo Saxons and the Peels. Everyone seems to know about.

This book was published in 2003 so with all the new re-development going on now (2024) and is set to happen in the next year or so it puts



Tamworth into context in both the historic and geographical.

The final chapter covers "*Over-spill, Expansion and Tamworth Now*". Which is to say Tamworth as it was 20 years ago and provides an fascinating look at where Tamworth might be going looking back at its history. That is the 2,000 year recorded history. You can judge how right the author got it.

However, with history of a town, you have to start somewhere and this book is a fantastic introduction to Tamworth in all its facets.

Written by a historian and published by a company specialising in history it is reliable. As it is well-illustrated and an easy read it will make an excellent present for friends and family who want to know about Tamworth. Actually it is a good place for most Tamworthians to start too if they want to learn about Tamworth. It is the essential overview.

The book is available from various book shops including Amazon, Waterstones and the local library. I would venture to suggest all local schoolchildren should get a copy as they enter year 7.

# Tamworth and Glen cottage, A family history 1880-1914

A time of change and  
growth in Britain and the  
town

by Rebecca Jewkes BA MA

Tamworth was once a small market town, but with increasing industrialisation in the late 18th and 19th century, it began to grow steadily with this growth. It is likely that this expansion was stimulated by the opening of the Coventry Canal in 1789 and this led to the building of housing for workers of the town's mills, factories and mines.

Homes were often terraced and likely built speculatively<sup>1</sup>. Areas of the town such as Glascote and Bolehall were mainly fields and allotments for a while before the building of homes for workers. This is shown in the 1801 census where there were only 16 houses in



Glascote which housed 67 people. By a decade later, the population of the area had grown 17 percent to 18 homes housing 80 people. At the next census in 1821, Glascote and Bolehall had been amalgamated for the data collection and there were now 82 houses, home to 414 people. There were 121 children under the age of 10, 90 people under 20 and 65 under 30. This suggests that by 1821, the area had expanded to house families, and with this, workers for the local area.

**The Amington Inn in the 1930s**  
**Note all the open fields around it**  
(Tamworth Digital Archive)





**Tamworth 1834**

OS Map Crown Copyright

This population growth had slowed to just a two percent increase in 1831 to 92 houses, home to 421 people. The census of 1841 provides an interesting insight into the movement of people within the area, and the county as a whole as it showed that in Bolehall and Glascote, there were 112 houses that were home to 495 people: 312 people were born in the county and 183 were born elsewhere<sup>2</sup>. This suggests that people may have been moving into the town for work. In fact, this is exactly what Joseph Baxter, the first occupant of Glen Cottage did, although he was born in 1852 in Castle Bytham.

The Ordnance Survey maps from the 1880s are the earliest maps to show a detailed picture of Tamworth. Small industrial settlements had grown in Amington, Glascote, Dosthill and

Wilnecote, although Glascote may have medieval origins suggested by the finding of the 'Glascote Torc' in 1943. The majority of the industry in this area was clay and brick works such as Gibbs and Canning. Gibbs and Canning Ltd, established in 1847 in Glascote, had its origins in the coal-mining industry. This company played a pivotal role in pioneering the production of architectural terracotta for large-scale projects. With a workforce numbering in the hundreds, it stood as one of the four major terracotta manufacturers in the United Kingdom. Their product range encompassed various items, including tiles employed in architectural applications (as exemplified by their work on the 1936 Lloyds bank in Tamworth), as well as statues, urns, planters, gravestones, and chimney pots. The close proximity to routes such as the railways and canals enabled the transportation



**Tamworth 1949**

OS Map Crown Copyright



of goods to larger hubs such as Birmingham, aiding the growth of the company. By the 1950s, as the factory closed, Gibbs and Canning Ltd was known primarily for its utilitarian products like sinks, tiles, drainage pipes, and jars.<sup>3</sup>

By the late 19th century, a sixth canal bridge was built to carry the Glascoate Works Railway over the canal and a canal wharf and rail interchange was constructed adjacent to the bridge. Further north along the canal, a boat works had been established by the early 1920s.

From 1880 to 1914, an era of profound transformation unfolded in the lives of British labourers. This period marked the pinnacle of change driven by factors such as population growth, industrialisation, and urban expansion. Conventional rural lifestyles were upended, giving way to urban jobs and city and town living. Between 1901 and 1910, a striking eighty percent of children were born in urban areas, signifying the shift towards urban or semi-urban life as the new standard for most ordinary citizens<sup>4</sup>. In an estimated distribution of the British Labour force between 1881-1911, as shown in the British Economic Growth, while those employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing declined by 10,000, industries such as mining and quarrying and manufacturing rose by 600,000 and 2 million respectfully; two industries particularly relevant to our town. Employment in building and trade also increased steadily.

Another significant transformation occurred during the period with the improvement of living standards. In the early nineteenth century, standards of living had only seen gradual progress whereby by the mid-nineteenth century conditions began to improve. By the 1870s, real wages began to rise substantially, with the real earnings increasing by approximately twenty-five to thirty percent. Although this would differ depending on industry and locality. For example, a real wage increase for coal mining was eighty-six percent but for women working in clothing manufacturing it was less than one percent.<sup>5</sup>

In the 1881 census of the Borough there were 4891 people living in the town which grew to 7271 at the turn of the twentieth century in 1901<sup>6</sup>. Even though the Public Health Act 1875, ensured that Local Authorities had a duty to provide clean water and dispose of all sewage, and forbade the building of new houses without connection to the main sewage system, this increase in population inevitably overwhelmed the town's simpler waste management systems, leading to the contamination of the rivers and water sources. For example, in 1879, most wells in the town were contaminated by human waste. By 1908 the town's sewerage system was constructed, with a treatment works at Coton. This would have improved the living conditions of many within the town as it would have reduced the risk of diseases spreading.



George Baxter & builders  
Circa 1915 **Family Archive**

## Glen Cottage built in 1912

In the first decade of the 20th century, the land where Thomas Street would be built was farmers' fields and allotment gardens, as shown in the map from 1902. With the population increase and the growth of industry in the town, T.H Clifford Builders built a two small rows of terraced houses on Thomas Street. Number 13 was named Glen Cottage. The houses are of a typical terracotta, red brick construction of the time and Glen Cottage was the end terrace. T.H Clifford Builders were a fairly large employer within the town and George Baxter was one of

the bricklayers who worked on the site. It is this house which was home to the same family for around 108 years, before the family sold the house when the last occupier had to move into a care home. George Baxter also worked on other housing developments around the town such as on Clifford Street and a row of bungalows on Belgrave Lane, just before the railway bridge.

The first members of the Baxter family to live at Glen Cottage were Joseph and Annie Baxter. In the 1921 census, Joseph was 68 and Annie was 67. Glen Cottage was recorded as having 6

rooms, which would have included two living rooms, the kitchen and three bedrooms. Annie sadly passed away in 1924 and by the 1939 Register, George and his family: his wife, May, daughters Margaret and Connie and son, George Norman Baxter had moved into Glen Cottage with Joseph. According to this document, George Baxter was employed as a bricklayer, heavy worker. His daughter, Margaret, was 19 and worked as a clerk at the Electric Company. This was the Tamworth and District Electric Supply Company (TADESCO) showroom and offices which



Tamworth 1902  
**OS Map Crown Copyright**

**TADESCO showroom with original tower**  
(Tamworth Digital Archive)



were erected in 1936 in Church Street by Colonel D'Arey-Chaytor, the owner of Pooley Hall Colliery. D'Arey-Chaytor was largely responsible for bringing electricity to the town in 1924 when he made a deal with the Council. Connie Baxter was 17 and worked as a tailoress. Their younger brother, George Norman Baxter was 13 and was still at school. In the coming years, he would be employed by the Tamworth Industrial Co-operative Society and would then join the Royal Navy during WW2 in 1944.

The 1939 register was collected just three weeks after the outbreak of the second world war. The town and many of its residents, like many around the world had their lives changed by the conflict. Connie recounted the start of the war to the Tamworth Herald where she stated:

*"I can remember the start of the war. My father switched the wireless on and said, 'they've declared war'. My mother said thank God my brother was still in school. Then my grandfather came in; he didn't like radios, so he switched it off. My father said, 'can you switch it back on Dad, they've declared war' and he did. Unfortunately, he lost two*



**George Norman Baxter 1944**

**Family Archive**

*grandsons; my brother, George Norman and my cousin, Arthur Day so I can't forget that Sunday".*

There were many changes made to the town including the town's air-raid siren being located on the top of the TADESCO showrooms. It was sounded 138 times and bombs were dropped on the town on four occasions. By 1940, the Local Volunteer Defence Force (Home Guards) was formed in the town which George Baxter eagerly joined, keen to once again, play his part in keeping the country safe. In the same year, 6 high explosive bombs were dropped in the Fazeley Road area, 25 incendiary bombs were dropped near to the railway station and 50 dropped near to Alders Mill. In 1941, 3 high explosive bombs were dropped on the Corporation housing estate at Manor Road. 98 houses were slightly damaged, but no one was killed or injured. In a conversation with Anthony Hastilow, who recalled his father, Ernest Hastilow talking about when the bombs hit Manor Road, *"They reckon when they dropped that bomb in Manor Road, the Germans...saw that nursery and then there was one in Summerfield Road as well, Nailor's. And they reckoned they were factories. So they dropped the bomb and it went in Manor Road. Old Jack, my Dad's mate, old Jack Gadsby. He'd got up to go to the toilet, which was out in the yard in them days and a block of concrete, because Manor Road was a concrete road... a great big block of concrete come*

*through the ceiling like that and straight through his bed. My Dad used to tell us like... "it's a good job I went for that drink Ernie down the Anchor".* The town would go on to become home to 893 evacuees from places such as Broadstairs, London and Liverpool.

Even though the world was at war, life still went on in the town and families grew. Margaret got married to Ernest Hastilow in 1940 and moved to Jonkel Avenue in Hockley where they would welcome their first son, Anthony. This branch of the family would move into Thomas Street at a later date where they would raise their children: Anthony, Brian, Geoffrey, David, and Jayne.

Glen Cottage would then be passed down to Connie and her husband, Douglas Hastilow where they would then raise their own family. Connie and Douglas got married in January 1943 at St. George's Church in Glascote by the Vicar of Tamworth, the Rev. A. M. Coxon with Mr. E. J. Hampton at the organ.

**Ernest Hastilow and Margaret Baxter wedding 1940**  
**Family Archive**



**Douglas Hastilow and  
Connie Baxter  
Wedding 1943**  
**Family Archive**



**George Norman  
Baxter and  
George Baxter**



children of Margaret and Connie Baxter, both sets of Grandparents lived in the Bolehall and Glascote area with the Baxters living in Thomas Street and the Hastilows living in Manor Road. This would have been a five-minute walk between houses. George Baxter unfortunately passed away in 1949. He was remembered in the Tamworth Herald fondly. (April 1949) His obituary read...

The announcement in the Tamworth Herald (23rd January 1943) detailed the hymns sung and what Connie wore. It stated how she was given away by George Baxter and her bridesmaid was her sister-in-law, Barbara Hastilow. Her brother, George Norman was the best man. Her nephew, Anthony Hastilow (Margaret's eldest son), presented Connie with a silver horseshoe. The wedding reception was held at her home, Glen Cottage and was attended by about twenty-five guests. She honeymooned in Buxton.

During this period, it was commonplace for families to live close together and remain within the same community. The children would often play with their cousins and would visit their grandparents on a Sunday. For example, for the

## DEATH OF MR. G. BAXTER Former Trades Union Secretary

Mr. George Baxter, a former district secretary of the Tamworth branch of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trades Workers for 16 years, died at his home, Glen Cottage, Thomas Street, Tamworth, on March 22.

Born at Glascote, Mr. Baxter was the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baxter. He was a member of the Apprentices and Unemployment Committee of the Trades Council.

During the 1914-18 war, Mr. Baxter served in the Royal Engineers and was a volunteer in the L.D.V. and Home Guard in the last war.

The funeral service at Tamworth Parish Church on Friday, which included the hymns "Jesu, Lover of my soul" and "Abide with me," was conducted by the Vicar of Tamworth (Preb. A. M. Coxon), followed by cremation at Perry Barr.

**Above and below: St Georges Church**  
(Tamworth Digital Archive)



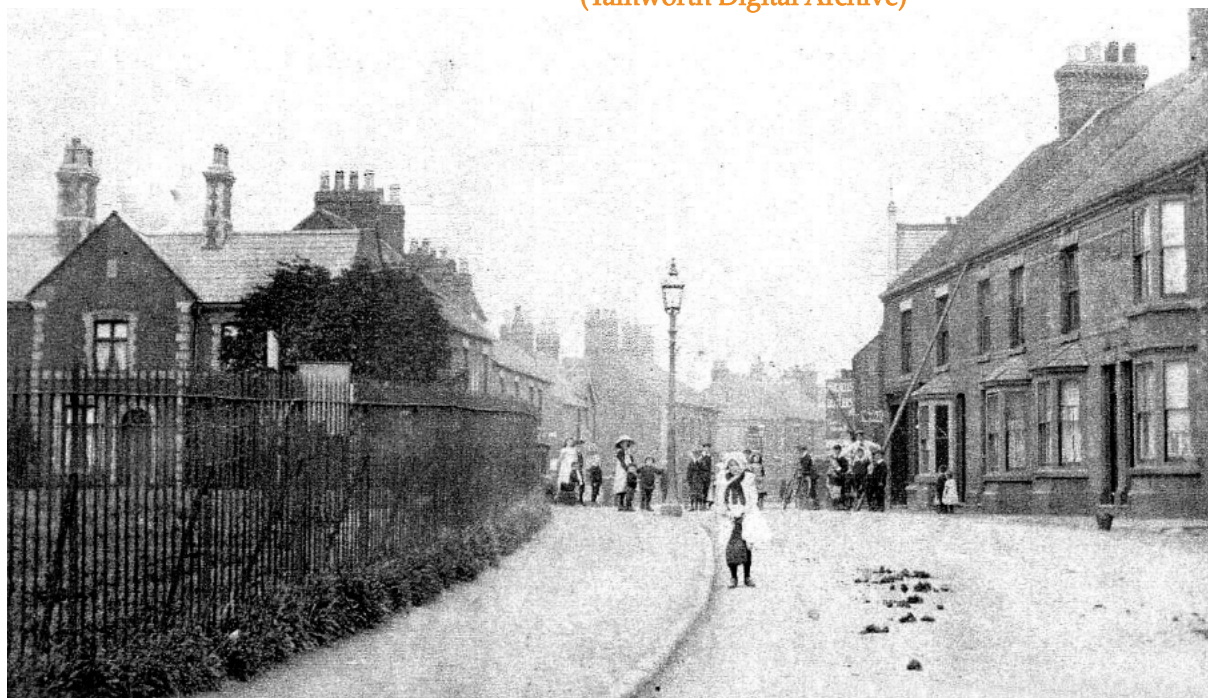
Glen Cottage would be passed down to Connie and Douglas where they raised their own children, and Connie would continue to live at the address until she became too unwell to meet her needs at home a few years ago. Connie passed away in early 2020.

The story of this region is a testament to the enduring spirit of its people, who weathered challenges and embraced progress, leaving a rich and storied legacy for future generations to explore and cherish. Just as the community's history unfolded within these streets and homes, one particular house, nestled in the heart of this community, reveals a remarkable tale of its own. This humble abode, like many others, serves as a microcosm of the broader historical context, where the bricks and beams bear witness to the ebbs and flows of a community's journey. It echoes the aspirations, struggles, and resilience of generations gone by, silently narrating the story of an ever-changing world. In examining the past through the prism of a single home and the family it sheltered, we gain a profound appreciation for the enduring legacy of these remarkable communities. This house, with its local surroundings and the family it embraced, tells us not only about their lives but also about the times they lived in, offering a unique and insightful perspective into a bygone era.



**Douglas Hastilow and Connie Baxter**  
**Family Archive**

**Glascote Road late 1800s**  
**(Tamworth Digital Archive)**





Glascote Road late 1800s  
(Tamworth Digital Archive)

#### Authors Note:

I've left this article at the start of WW2 so that it leaves room for my Granddad to write a piece about his memories of his childhood in Tamworth between 1940s-1950s before doing his National service in 1960 after completing his apprenticeship at the Herald. He is busy writing his memories down but at his age he is taking his time so please bear with us.

#### Editor's Note:

*We look forward to the next instalment from Granddad. We are also hoping to get him to talk on video. This sort of contemporary history, both written and oral (spoken on video), is of great importance to Tamworth. Not only now but in the decades to come when those who record it, and this Editor, are long gone. Imagine seeing those living in the Mud Houses along Lichfield Street talking about daily life in the 1850s on video. Family life is as important to History as the Kings, Prime Ministers and dates of battles.*

## References

<sup>1</sup> & 7 Shaw, M., Langley, D. (2011) Tamworth Historic Character Assessment. Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey [Online] Available from: [https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning\\_docs/LPautumn2014/K8\\_Tamworth\\_%20EUS.pdf](https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/planning_docs/LPautumn2014/K8_Tamworth_%20EUS.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Palmer, C.F.R. (1845) The History of the Town and Castle of Tamworth: In the Counties of Stafford and Warwick. J. Thompson.

<sup>3</sup> Visit Tamworth (2020) Industrial Past. Visit Tamworth. Available from: <https://www.visittamworth.co.uk/industrial-past> (Accessed 29th October 2023)

<sup>4</sup> Harris, J (1994) Private Lives, Public Spirit: Britain 1870-1914. London: Penguin

<sup>5</sup> Daunton, M (2007) Wealth and Welfare: An Economic and Social History of Britain 1851-1951. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<sup>6</sup> Friends of Tamworth Castle (2013) Significant Dates in the History of Tamworth. Available from: <http://www.tamworthcastlefriends.org/page7.html> (Accessed 29th October 2023).

# Online Exhibition: Keeping the Lights On

## A History of Rugeley Power Station



**This on line and physical “pop-up” touring exhibition tells the story of Rugeley Power Station and the people who worked there. ‘Keeping the Lights On: A History of Rugeley Power Station’ marks the end of a twelve-month project researching the history of this local landmark.**

The web site covers all aspects of both the A and B power stations from an aerial picture taken in May 1948 before any construction started though the construction phases to videos of the demolition and a section on the future. In Rugeley’s hey day it was part of 14 power stations in the Trent valley.

The web site covers the broad context of Rugeley’s place in power generation and the changing power generation landscape and the impact on the local community. There are some fascinating nuggets of information that reflect the social conditions of the time. Learn why the security staff rotas had to be changed in the 1970s... (And you wonder what the real story behind it was)!

Apart from the usual text and pictures there is a British Library video interview with one of the station managers giving a

management overview and a personal history. [Click Here or on picture for video](#)

There are also several audio recordings from a range of staff telling their stories. Something that is invaluable. (it is also something Tamworth Heritage Magazine wants to do for Tamworth)

The power station may be gone but the legacy and history lives on. One of the notes is that the Power Station’s band lives on as [Lea Hall Brass Band](#).

It is worth a look at both the Lea Hall Band website and the Rugeley Power station website and if you can catch the touring pop up physical exhibition. Teachers should certainly pay a visit to <https://keepingthelightson.org.uk/>



# Letters to the Editor

*Dear Editor*

Can you please delve into details of **a cinema that was in Wilnecote**. I am told it was close to present Working Men's Club in Hockley Road.



Watling Street, Wilnecote 1800s  
(Tamworth Digital Archive)

Regards, *Jean Timms*

**Editor:** That is news to me! Do any readers have any information or pictures of **a cinema in Wilnecote**? Or even where it was? When did it close? I assume it was demolished? Any information would be gratefully received!

*Dear Editor,*

I've just read your article on John Rawlett [THM V1 Issue4](#) after being directed to your magazine from the Tamworth Heritage Facebook page. I was born and grew up in or around the town until I went to university in 1967 and subsequently moved away (I am now retired and live in Church Stretton, Shropshire). On obtaining a University place I was awarded a grant of £25 to be spent on books for my course (with which I actually bought an Austin A35 car).

I'm glad to hear the Rawlett Trust still survives and found the article most

interesting. I look forward to reading the rest of the magazine.

Regards, *Richard Cooper*

**Editor:** Shock! Horror! A 1960's Uni student spending a grant on something other than books! I suspect there is more to this story and hopefully Richard will fill in the details of what he studied, where, and if he had a successful career. Grants for Students are still available from the Rawlett Trust.



Austin A35  
(© Billopp)

One of our Authors, Michael Green, writes:-

*Dear Editor*

From your collections, do you have any pictures of the following?

*The Old Moorgate Primary School* at the end of Moorgate the site of which is now occupied by Moorgate Primary Academy. Moorgate is a cul-de-sac in the area known as The Leys. and the school was at the end of it. It was built in the 1950s and was single storied basically around 3 sides of a rectangle.

*The Old Perrycroft Girls' School* Croft Street the site of which is now a residential housing development. Perry Croft Girls' School occupied the north side of Croft Street and was E shaped. I suspect it was built in the 1930s as well.

I am trying to write an article but I am drawing a blank on pictures.

Regards *Michael Green*

**Editor:** hopefully our readers will rally to the call. Does anyone have any pictures and information on these two schools? If you do please contact the Editor, we can pass it on. [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk) Otherwise these memories and indeed the pictures get lost. Often if the pictures are found later no one knows where and what they are.

For example we have no idea where or when this picture, on the right, was taken, let alone who is in it. So if you can help Michael with images, and any information please email the editor. Also if you can help with identifying when, where and who in this photo!!

*Dear Editor*

I wonder if you can help me, *William Genders* early 1900's and *Percy Edwin Ball* 1940's were market gardeners in the Comberford and I think Coton. Percy had to sell to Tamworth Borough Council as they wanted his land for the building of houses for the Birmingham over-spill, much to his disgust. Percy's Uncle was my Great Grandfather Thomas Henry Ball, who owned Perrycrofts Farm and was also a market Gardener.

T H Ball and William Genders bought property from the Peel Land Auctions in 1918 and both owned property and land to continue with market gardening at Cliff Gardens and Manor Farm Kingsbury.

T H Balls son Hoace married William Genders daughter Frances Norah Ball and owned Bodymore Heath Farm [my grandparents], so that they all worked together on the land all vegetables were then transported to Birmingham Market.

I think that the Genders owned a farm at Weeford, Hints called Blackberry farm. [I think]

I am looking for clarification of their land that they owned and any maps or photos of the areas. My mother died in 1985 and at the time I was not interested but now that I have retired and was a researcher in health studies I am now trying to compile my family tree for my cousins etc all offspring of TH Ball.



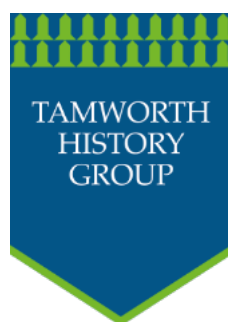
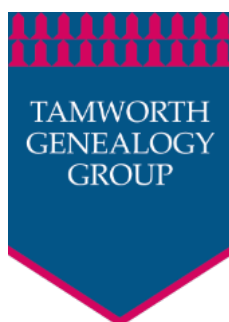
I hope that you can help me with any photos, maps or tit bits of info to support what I have been able to get.

Regards *Helen Jenner*

**Can anyone help Helen?** Please email the Editor and we can pass it on.  
[editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)

For Helen and anyone else doing similar research there are a range of resources. Sadly whilst some (most?) let you search for free they charge for supplying anything.

There is a **Tamworth Genealogy Group** <http://www.tamworthgenealogy.org.uk/> run by Jill and a **Tamworth [local] History Group** <https://www.tamworthhistory.org.uk/> run by Diane who can help and point you in the right direction. These groups also have access to several useful databases.



Their initial thoughts, which will be useful to anyone doing this sort of research, were the following links:

**Staffordshire Archives** have a searchable database she could try searching by surname or address of property. <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk/CalmView/> and

<https://staffordshirehistorycentre.blog/remote-research/> NOTE The archives are due to reopen to visitor in mid-late 2024 if all goes to plan.

**Staffordshire Past Track** <https://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/> is good to search for pictures but they charge for them. You may be better asking in relevant groups on Facebook.

Bodymoor Heath would possibly be Warwickshire Archives, again they have a searchable database. <https://archives.unlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/CalmView/>

Obviously, the newspapers may have something and there is a searchable archive for this. <https://www.newspaperwomen.co.uk/>

The best source for the old maps of the UK is the National Library of Scotland! <https://maps.nls.uk/guide/>



Hints , post the invention of telephones and pre the road being tarmacked.

(Tamworth Digital Archive)

# Next Edition

## SPRING 2024

**Publication Date: 1<sup>st</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.

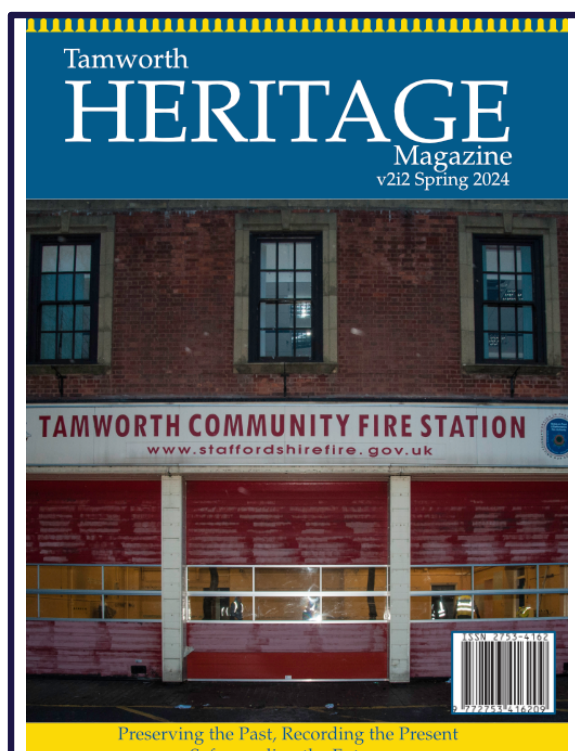
Please send in article/letters in text, RTF, MS doc or docx, we can even accept odt format.

***Any images to be sent separately NOT embedded in the text but please indicate in text approximate placement for each image.*** Images as high quality as you can manage in PNG, tiff or JPG. We can scan or convert most other formats. **Also any video. We can link in Video**

**The Editorial Team can help with research,** finding documents, scanning items, finding images (we have a photo library of over 20,000 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 THT books. Contact the [Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk](mailto:Editor@TamworthHeritage.org.uk)



## In the Next issue

**The Next Issue is Volume 2 Issue 2 and we hope to be a little more organised with what is in these issues than we were for volume 1.**

Several articles we hoped to have in this (and a previous issue) are proving longer to research and complete than anticipated. The History of the Tamworth Branch of the Royal British Legion for one! As we progress we should get a better process and schedule in place. As long as we get the input from the readers!

### **Volume 2 Issue x A Fascinating Article!**

Written by YOU! If no one contributes there will be nothing to read.

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

Tamworth

# HERITAGE

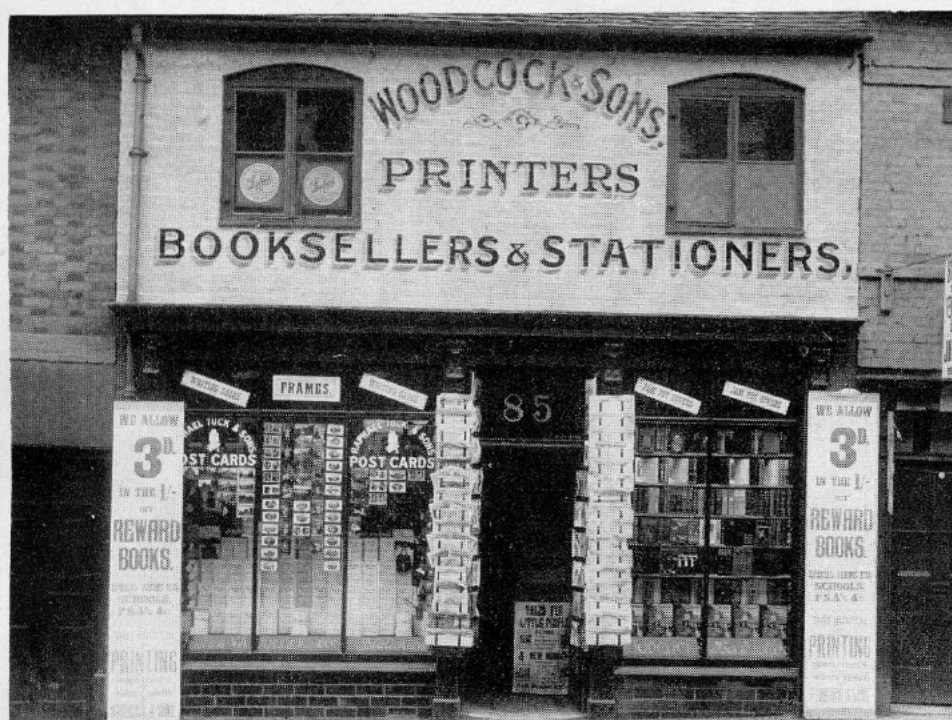
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