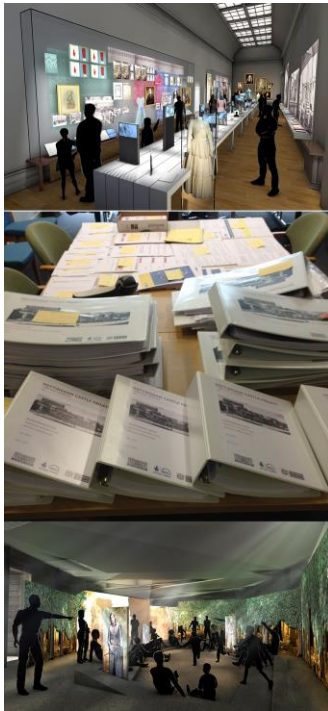




July 2016



Welcome to July news Nottingham Castle Transformation newsletter

This month, we feature:

- Nottingham in Parliament
- Object of the month - Memoirs
- Scott on excavations
- We Dig the Castle
- Leonardo exhibition and events
- News on Viewfinder project

Here's what the project team has been up to in the past month:

HLF bid submission - The Project team has been hard at work this month pulling together the Round 2 application for Heritage Lottery Funding. This has been a massive task but hugely rewarding as the fruits of our labours (not just ours it has to be said) have transformed before our eyes into clear, comprehensive and very exciting designs, plans and reports.

Finally, the piles of paper have cleared and we are proud to be submitting an application consisting of 21 separate documents, squeezed into 4 very full folders. The HLF monitors will certainly have a lot of reading to do but here's hoping the scope and detail of our plans for the Castle leave them thoroughly captivated.

Fingers crossed everyone!

Nottingham in Parliament Day launch



Nottingham in Parliament Day will take place on **Tuesday 25 October 2016** when over 60 Nottingham institutions and businesses, led by The University of Nottingham, will come together to shout about their city. The Castle Transformation project will be featuring.

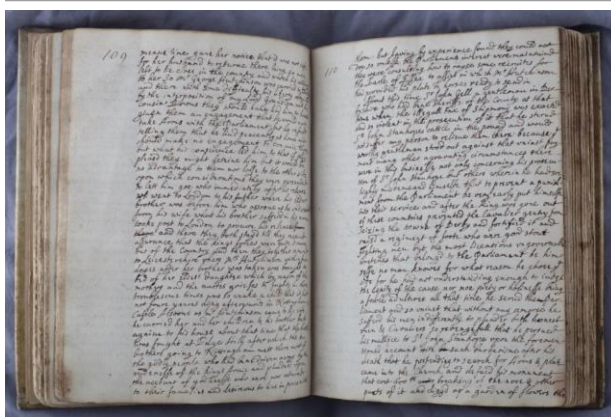
Nottinghamshire has long been making its mark on affairs of state and carries a legacy that has helped to shape the Britain we know today.

Early monarchs established bases in Nottingham and during the English Civil War and the city and county both played an important role in the turbulent collapse and reformation of UK Parliament.

This year marks the 370th anniversary of the end of the Civil War – which began when Charles I raised the Royal Standard outside Nottingham Castle. In a nod to this important heritage, key business leaders, politicians and well-known faces, gathered together at the launch event to raise a flag to start the countdown to Nottingham in Parliament Day.

The event was launched at the Castle on 26 July with representatives from local business, tourism, hospitality and sporting backgrounds.

It's early days yet but more information on the projects and local businesses featured will be added to the website www.nottinghaminparliamentday.uk as plans are confirmed.



Object feature

What is it? - Our selection for this month is "Lucy Hutchinson's Memoirs". This significant book dates from 1664 with the first copies being published in 1806. It will be a key object in our new Rebellion Gallery.

Why is it significant? - Lucy Hutchinson was the wife of John Hutchinson, the Parliamentary Governor of Nottingham Castle and Town during the English Civil War. Her memoirs give us a detailed description of life here during those turbulent times.

Tell me more - Lucy and John married in 1638 and lived at [Owthorpe in Nottinghamshire](#). They spent the duration of the Civil War at Nottingham Castle with their family. Lucy treated the wounds of both Parliamentary soldiers and Royalist prisoners. John was a signatory of the death warrant of King Charles I and died imprisoned in Sandown Castle in 1664. Lucy died in 1674. They are buried in St Margaret's Church Owthorpe where Lucy's monument to John can also be found.

In our opinion - "Lucy's work was designed as a private memorial to her husband and a defence against many of the criticisms which had been levelled against him in his lifetime. Lucy provides a detailed picture of the years 1642–8 and comments on social and political issues (including the origin of the term 'Roundhead'). Lucy's dedication to religion, family and her husband shine through the work – for example, in describing herself as - '*a pale shadow of him*'." **Dr Richard A Gaunt, Curator of Rebellion**

Lucy Hutchinson's Memoirs will feature in the new Rebellion gallery displays currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.



Scott's facts and findings

Welcome to Scott's seventh column. In this edition, he is going to give an insight into some of the key discoveries from recent excavations which have taken place at the Castle.

"Since April, there has been an almost continuous presence of archaeologists at the Castle. The team from Trent & Peak Archaeology has been carrying out a series of excavations. In conjunction with previous work, these build up a clearer understanding of this important site.

The investigations are to evaluate the nature, extent and condition of archaeological remains which are to be potentially affected by the proposed works for the Castle Transformation Project. The work provides us with knowledge of where archaeological remains survive and helps us create a construction strategy to minimise the effect of the building works upon these traces of the site's past.

Two small trenches in the Outer Bailey, close to the gatehouse, revealed extensive landscaping deposits dating to between the 17th and early 20th centuries. The landscaping was largely associated with the construction of the Ducal Palace in the 1670s and preparation of the grounds when the building became a museum in the late 19th century. A crushed sandstone deposit was interpreted as a possible rough surface of uncertain, but likely late 17th century date.

A medieval ditch was found in the Service Courtyard, where it is intended that the Rebellion Gallery will be constructed.

The ditch, which acted as a defence of the Inner Bailey where the Castle's Keep and key buildings were located, was shown to have fallen out of use during the 17th century.

Some probable medieval masonry, of uncertain function, was found within the ditch. The area was later covered with a cobbled surface (probably when the Ducal Palace was built) with two later paved surfaces.

Also associated with the Ducal Palace was a ramp or bridge which allowed carriages to be driven on to the Middle Bailey (The Green). A trench in the slope close to the circular flower beds revealed stone foundations.

*And of course, there was the excavation in June that recovered the lower half of a human skeleton in the Middle Bailey (The Green). This has long been believed to be associated with the Civil War. **Further details of this burial, including the radiocarbon dating results, will be revealed in next month's article.***





We Dig the Castle!

This is the project that is helping to undertake many of the excavations at the Castle. These involve the partnership of the City Council, Trent & Peak Archaeology, and Historic England.

On 16 July, the community excavation in the Outer Bailey, close to the bandstand, began with a family fun day.

Each week day, professional archaeologists are teaching some of the archaeological skills to groups of volunteers.

The excavation will continue until 19 August and is a continuation of the community excavation which took place last summer.



Last year 18th century garden features were revealed and this year it is hoped medieval layers will be reached.

Early discoveries include more garden features dating to the 18th century when much of the Outer Bailey was used to grow vegetables including potatoes.

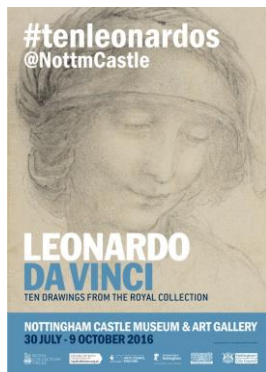
Finds include fragments of pottery and even a musket ball: a remnant of the the Castle's important links to the Civil War.

The musket ball could even date to September 1643 when Royalist soldiers seized St Nicholas' Church and from the church tower bombarded the Outer Bailey, firing muskets, killing a man and causing unknown damage.

For further information regarding the excavations and to check availability (places are very limited) please telephone: 0115 8967400 or email: nottinghamcastle@yorkat.co.uk

To find out more about last year's excavations and the latest updates from this year's dig, please visit the project [Facebook page](#) or follow [@wedigthecastle](#) on Twitter

Get involved with the Leonardo exhibition



This summer Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery is excited to host **Leonardo da Vinci: 10 Drawings from the Royal Collection**.

To help spread the word about this exhibition that aims to attract 120,000 new visitors to Nottingham, we are working with a team of students from the University of Nottingham on a fun and accessible way of marketing the show - targeting businesses, companies, public services and individuals who may have a connection to one or more of the 10 drawings.

There are specially designed posters, each showing a drawing from the exhibition. Choose your favourite.

It would be great if you share these images on social media using the campaign hashtag. We will, of course 'retweet' you to our followers.

[Use this link to download your poster](#)

#tenleonardos
@NottmCastle



Leonardo events

Leonardo da Vinci: 10 Drawings from the Royal Collection opened on 30 July and runs until 9 October.

An exciting programme of events, talks and drawing activities for all ages - including a feline life drawing workshop at the Kitty Cafe! - will accompany the exhibition right through until October. Demand is

high so booking is essential.

A range of talks and lectures will also take place that cover not only the artist and his work but more diverse topics such as lute music of the time, Leonardo's drawings in the context of hydraulics, and his many inventions.

More information on the programme can be found at www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/leonardo-events for details and how to book.



Viewfinder Project - A photo is identified

We had a piece on the Viewfinder project in Nottingham Post's recent 'Bygones' supplement and put in this picture from our archives. It turns out it isn't a weather balloon at all...

Here is the message we received from local hot air balloon enthusiast, **Robin Macey**

"I have seen the photo of the gas balloon that was included in Bygones on page 25 of Tuesdays Nottm Post.

The photo is NOT a weather balloon as stated but of the famous orange coloured gas balloon Jambo that launched from the Castle Green on 25 May 1963 with pilot Anthony Smith and 3 other passengers aboard.

You may recall that I wrote a piece for the Post 3 years ago to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this flight. The flight attracted national publicity at the time and was the first balloon launch in Nottingham for about 40 years. It was arranged as part of the centenary celebrations of Nottingham Co-op. Anthony Smith visited Nottingham again in late 2013 and was guest speaker at a dinner by local balloonists celebrating his 1963 flight. Sadly he passed away just under a year later in 2014.

I have a several photos given to me by people of this 1963 balloon launch although have not seen the particular shot used in Tuesdays paper before."

You can read Robin's article at the [Nottingham Post website](http://www.nottinghampost.com)

Please [check the Viewfinder page on our website](#) for further details on the project and on how to submit your images.