



**April 2018**

We really value your subscription to the Castle Transformation newsletter and would love you to keep receiving it.

**GDPR update** - Don't forget! If you haven't subscribed to our mailing lists yet, [you can do so here](#)

We need you to re-subscribe to some of our mailing lists because of GDPR legislation but why not take this opportunity to check your preferences for all our lists? It would also be a good idea to reply to any emails from the city council asking you to update subscriptions too.

We will not pass your details on to external parties and your email address will only be used for the topics you have subscribed to.



## **Welcome to the April Castle Transformation Newsletter**

This month, we feature:

- Project update
- Cave City - Nottingham Underground Festival - grab your tickets
- Object of the month - Pineapple Teapot
- Jade's Column - Illuminate
- Lace Unravalled - a review
- Hoodwinked - A Twist on the Tale

(Featured image is from our collections- [John Rawson Walker \(1796–1873\) Nottingham City Museums and Galleries](#))



## Project update – April 2018

Welcome to our April project news...

**Thanks to our volunteers** - We were pleased to attend the volunteer thank you event at Brewhouse Yard on 7 April. This was an event organised by staff at Nottingham City Museums and Galleries to express their appreciation for the hard work and dedication shown by the volunteers at Brewhouse Yard, whose support has enabled the site to remain open over the past few years. With the temporary closure of Brewhouse Yard Museum at the end of March, this was not goodbye but a 'please don't go', as we were able to talk to the volunteers about up and coming volunteer opportunities as part of our Activity Plan. Thanks to those of you who signed up – we can't wait to start working with you!

**Site developments** - You may have noticed that things are starting to happen on site at the Castle. Over the past few weeks, a section of the grounds has been the subject of archaeological investigation as teams led by our structural engineer conducted sleeved core borehole sampling on the site of our new Visitor Centre. Core samples from the boreholes will be analysed by Trent & Peak Archaeology, giving us possible indications of any buried archaeology. Further boreholes will be undertaken to detect any voids - we know that there are caves under the Outer Bailey of the Castle and this activity provides us with detailed information of the below ground conditions before commencing work.

**Caves Festival** - It's all about caves this month! We have been very busy working with our partners across the city to ensure that our much anticipated Cave City Festival is as exciting and action packed as possible. With 22 different events across Nottingham from 11-13 May there'll be something for everyone. See below for more details.

**Thank you** to everybody who responded to our message and volunteered to help with the festival - the response has been amazing. We'll be in touch.

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## Object of the Month

### What is it?

Our object selection for April is a small eighteenth century creamware teapot made in the shape of a pineapple (NCM 1882-535). It is light in weight and measures just over 5" (13cm) in height.

The teapot was made in Staffordshire between 1760 and 1765, most probably by the potter Josiah Wedgwood.

### Why is it significant?

Tablewares and teawares moulded in the form of fruits and vegetables were very fashionable in the 1760s. The earthenware potters of Staffordshire, including Wedgwood, were quick to respond to the fashion, making teapots, coffee pots, jugs, sugar dishes and tea canisters.

The brilliant green glaze, developed by Josiah Wedgwood in 1759, was perfect for colouring these wares, which were moulded to look like cauliflowers and cabbages, melons and pineapples. There was a strong export market to Europe for these goods too, particularly 'pineapple' and 'Colleflower' pots made 'in setts'.

### Tell me more

Pineapples were first imported into Europe in the sixteenth century, there was great demand for them but they were extremely expensive. Due to the cost, they were hired out for table displays at dinner parties rather than being eaten and were soon regarded as symbols of wealthy hospitality. The Wedgwood Factory targeted people who could afford pineapples with wares designed to complement their real pineapple table decorations. Demand was high in the US colonies and archaeologists have found shards of pineapple ware at sites in Williamsburg.

### In our opinion

"This pineapple teapot was a highly fashionable object in its time. It is a stunning survival, treasured enough by a past owner, to have the spout repaired with a metal tip. It was given to the Castle Museum in 1882 along with a pineapple coffee pot."

**Pamela Wood, Curator of Fine and Decorative Art**

The Wedgwood Pineapple Teapot will feature in the new Art as Inspiration Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

[Read about the pineapple as a status symbol](#)

[Read about pineapple cultivation in Britain](#)

[Read about a similar teapot in the Fitzwilliam Museum - Cambridge](#)

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## Jade's Column -

In last month's newsletter we spoke to the young and inspiring team of Illuminate to find out all about the amazing work they had done as part of their Rebellious Retail project.

Their task was to create some designs and prototypes of products which related to the future Rebellion Gallery and could be sold in the Castle gift shop once the transformation is complete.

This month we would like to ask for your opinion on the prototypes they

created! We want to know:

- Which of these would you buy?
- Do you think the designs fit in with the brand of the Castle?
- Do you think the designs fit well on the products shown?

We would love it if you could email [nottinghamcastleproject@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:nottinghamcastleproject@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) with your answers to these questions to let us know what you think - can't wait to see your responses!

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1. Sketchbooks



2. Tote bags



3. Mugs



## Lace Unravelled - Project update

Last month's [Lace Unravelled Symposium](#) was the culmination of an 18 month project to champion and research lace and the lace industry in the city. Nottingham City Museums and Galleries' lace and lace machinery collection has been 'Designated' by Arts Council England as being of international significance and they funded the Lace Unravelled programme.

The symposium took place on 15/16 March with public programme extending to 22 April. It reflected on lace as a product, the industry it created and how it is being referenced today to inspire new work. Attendees took part in talks, tours, panel discussions and an overwhelming amount of

sharing of knowledge and passion.

[Watch some of the films based on the project.](#)

This also included 3 artist commissions.

Artist **Shane Waltner** created two new 'woven' works at Newstead Abbey: one above a bed inside the Abbey and one outdoors, linking trees either side of a footpath in the Abbey grounds. Films of the artist making the works were created (the latter necessitated wearing stilts).

Shane Waltner's fabulous 'Score for Newstead Abbey (Pictured)' will remain on site until July.

Artist **Joy Buttress** and designer **Manolis Papastavrou** programmed a machine to make a drawing inspired by a piece of lace from the collection and including the names of every Nottingham lace manufacturer.

Designer and historian **Chris Matthews** researched and devised a city centre 'lace walk', with accompanying printed map and film.

The symposium event was very successful with speakers and delegates from across the UK, Calais, Paris, Antwerp and Sydney. Participant evaluation forms suggest very high satisfaction levels with the event and a network of contacts for future collaborations has been established.

The event also achieved its aim of raising the profile of NCMG's Designated collection and was reviewed by Visit Nottinghamshire and Selvedge magazine.

**Watch the Lace Unravelled films below:**



*The Castle Transformation Project is going to be a part of this - we'll let you know when we have some more information*