



August 2018



Welcome to the August Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update**
- GFT - Contractors appointed
- **Jade's Column** - We Dig the Castle
- **Hoodwinked** - Vote for Sheriff Robin
- **Scott's Column** - Peel Street - open again for a limited period
- **Object of the Month** - Ceremonial lock and key
- **Look back** - Paul Sandby exhibition

(Image courtesy of [Trent and Peake Archaeology](#))



Project update – August 2018

Welcome to our August project news...

A Touch of History - Visitors to the Castle Quarter this month may well have seen some colourful characters from the Castle's history in position outside the Gatehouse.

Recognising the need for public engagement during the first weeks of site closure we decided to recruit some [fabulous explainers](#) to be a point of contact for tourists to the city, telling them of the Castle's history and informing them about plans for the Castle.

Check out our social media channels for updates on their shenanigans and to find out who you could meet at the Castle gates for the remainder of the school summer holidays.

Decant news - The decant at the Castle is now nearing completion with some of the galleries looking eerily bare. The team from Nottingham City Museums and Galleries have been working flat out for several weeks now and have done an amazing job co-ordinating this massive piece of work.

Specialist art handlers are also on site taking care of our wonderful collections of fine art and transporting them to their temporary home. We can't wait to welcome these treasures back when we re-open!

Thanks to Tris Aver ([Twitter](#) for this picture of the team securing a very heavy painting)

Contractors appointed - It was great to be able to announce the appointment of [G F Tomlinson](#) as our main contractor for construction earlier in the month. This was a real milestone and marks the beginning of the construction phase of the project. Enabling works have been underway on site for some time, ensuring that GFT will be able to get to work straight away on handover of the site. See below for more details on this exciting announcement!

[Back to top](#)



Top image centre - Cllr Dave Trimble shaking hands with Chris Flint; Director, Rob Sharman (left) Head of Business Development, next to Gemma Thorpe; Marketing Coordinator, Nigel Hawkins (back left) Head of Culture, next to Director of Leisure and Culture; Hugh White (in van) On the right in the van is Project Director; Richard Hamblin and Project Officer; Faye Sadler is next to him and Friar Tuck

G F Tomlinson appointed as construction partners for Castle Transformation Project

Local company, G F Tomlinson (GFT) has been appointed by Nottingham City Council as the main contractor for construction of the £30m Castle Transformation Project.

The site will be closed for the next two years to become a world-class visitor destination, with improvements funded by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), D2N2, Nottingham Castle Trust and Nottingham City Council.

The redeveloped site will include a new visitors centre and remodelling of the grounds, as well as new Robin Hood and Rebellion galleries to tell the stories of the city's legendary outlaw and history of rebellion. The Castle's wonderful collections of fine and decorative arts will be thoughtfully re-displayed and access to the caves within the Castle Rock will be improved.

GFT will bring new employment opportunities and training for local people throughout the project, along with work experience placements and apprenticeships, creating a unique working environment.

The company will be involved in all the works on the Castle site, which will include the contemporary visitors centre, building the extension to the Ducal Palace that creates the new Robin Hood Gallery, the refurbishment of the Ducal Palace itself, and landscaping the grounds.

[Back to top](#)



Jade's Column - We Dig the Castle

Our project apprentice Jade went to Brewhouse yard to talk to some of the volunteers and trainees taking part in We Dig the Castle 2018.

She first spoke to Katherine who said she had been on site for a week and a half, this was her last day and she'd enjoyed it a lot.

What is the best thing you have learnt on this dig?

"I already knew a lot about the history of Brewhouse Yard as I've volunteered here before but the best part of my whole time here has to be the finds."

What is the best thing you have found?

"My favourite finds are the clay pipe bowls which were made for smoking tobacco. Some of them have people's initials engraved on them which are the initials of the person who made them so it's really interesting as you can find out who made them and the time period they are from. Some of them even have cool decorations on like a lizard or crocodile."

When Jade met Alice

Katherine then introduced Jade to Alice who was organising all of the finds into bags of the same

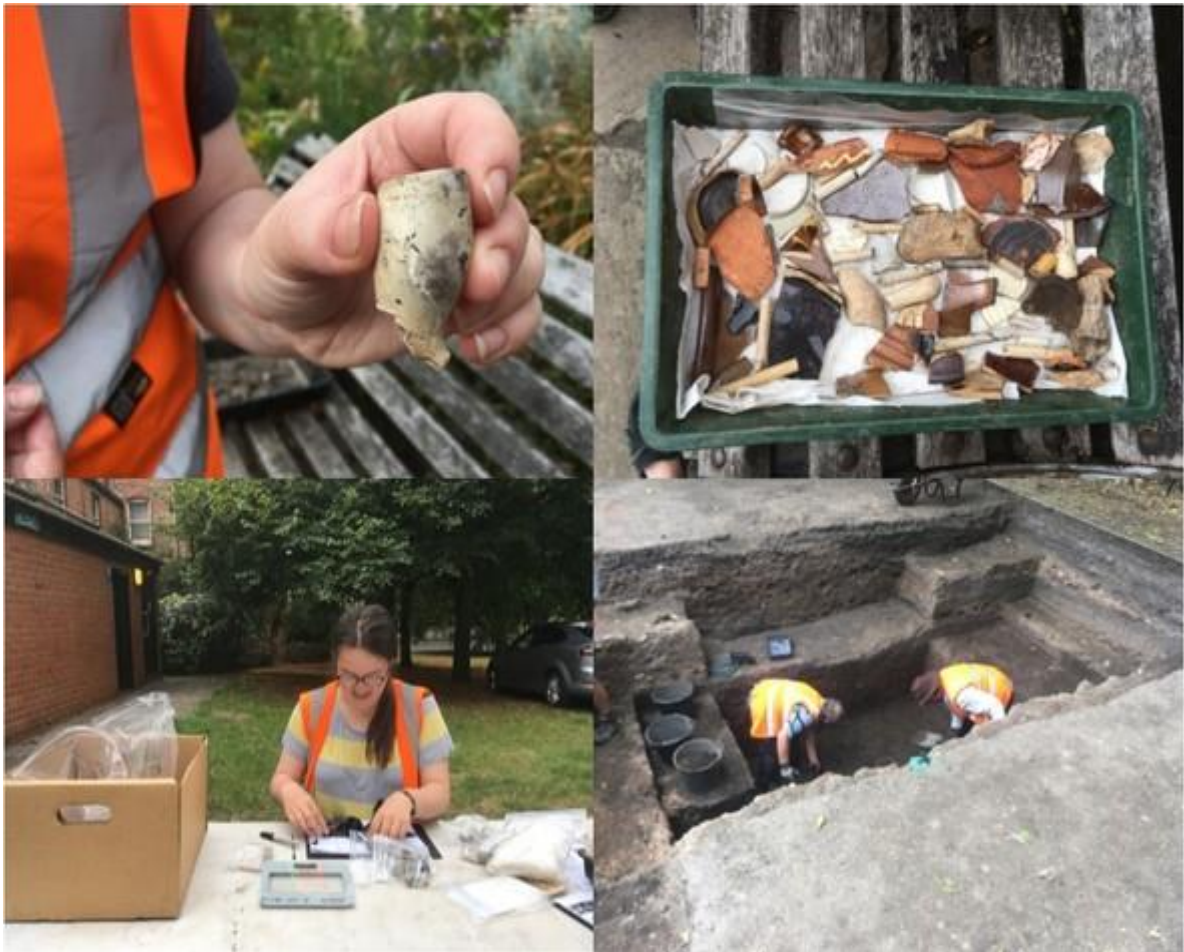
item. They are then categorised by where on the site they came from and what time period they come from.

Alice explained about how she was digging in what she thought was a modern pit but there was stripes in the earth which means there was a structure in there, possibly a post in the Victorian times which had been taken out.

It was great to hear about the dig from the perspective of the trainees and we hope they enjoyed it and continue on their future archaeology journey.

Watch Jade's interview with Alice at our [Facebook page](#)

[Back to top](#)



Hoodwinked - Vote for Sheriff Robin!

Psst! Did you know that the project has sponsored a Robin and are part of the [Hoodwinked 2018 trail](#)? We featured Sheriff Robin in July's news. Hurry to go and visit, because he'll have flown off by Sept 30.

We'd love for you to make friends with him by following these three simple steps:

1. [Download the Hoodwinked app](#) - it's only 99p
2. Take a walk up to the Castle where you will find our fabulous Sheriff Robin. Type its code into the app to redeem 10% off food at the trip to Jerusalem (There are rewards to unlock other robins too)
3. Hit the 'vote' button on the app to vote for Sheriff Robin, he would really appreciate it!

While you're there, why don't you [send us your Sheriff Robin selfies](#) (Some of ours are below) and we'll put them in next month's news, or even on the website



Centre - Sheriff in position, top left - The HLF team meet the Sheriff and an outlaw, top right - Donna and Faye from the project, bottom left - Robin and Sheriff come face to face

Scott's Column

This month, City Archaeologist Scott Lomax will be opening up the Peel Street caves once again...

You may remember the popular Caves Festival in May and that Scott's Peel Street Tours sold out almost immediately.

He will be running more tours in September and November - don't miss out. Here's a recap in case you missed it...

This is an exciting opportunity to explore Nottingham's largest cave system.



Rouse's sandmine off Mansfield Road was created between around 1780 and 1810 and has many fascinating original features created by James Rouse, as well as its later uses as a Victorian and early 20th century tourist attraction, and Second World War air raid shelter.

Nicknamed the Mammoth Cave because of its vast size and winding passages, which make this cave system a labyrinth, this is a unique experience unlike any other cave tour in the city.

Tours cost £10 and last about 1hr - book a space using the link below

[Friday 14 September - 2pm](#)

[Friday 28 September 2pm](#)

[Friday 9 November - 2pm](#)

[Friday 30 November - 2pm](#)

[Back to top](#)

Object(s) of the Month

This month, we have two objects...although they do go together

What are they?

Our highlighted objects for this month are the lock & key created for use at the ceremonial opening of the Midland Counties Art Museum at Nottingham Castle on 3 July 1878.

Why are they significant?

This was the first municipal museum & art gallery to open outside of London. Its creation was encouraged by the South Kensington Museum, now the V&A, which Prince Albert had been a supporter of. The prestigious opening ceremony was attended by the Prince & Princess of Wales, later to become King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, and the Prince used the key to ceremonially unlock the museum door.

Tell me more

Chubb of London created both items. The steel lock is decorated with the national emblems of the shamrock, rose and thistle and also depicts the town arms of Nottingham surmounted by a crown and the initials VR for Queen Victoria.

The gilded steel decorative key is inscribed "Nottingham Castle Museum July III 1878" and is again decorated with a shamrock, rose and thistle. It also features the heraldic feather badge of the Prince of Wales.

The Commemorative Museum Lock and Key will feature in the new Creative City – Creative Castle Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

[Back to top](#)



Looking back - Paul Sandby RA at Nottingham Castle

Picturing Britain: Paul Sandby: A Bicentenary Exhibition 25 July – 18 October 2009

This major exhibition was initiated and organised by Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, with the support of the University of Nottingham and the Paul Mellon Centre. It toured from Nottingham to the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Academy.



Paul Sandby (1731-1809) was born in Nottingham. This exhibition was to celebrate his bicentenary. The exhibition included the collection of Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, supplemented by key loans from other major Sandby collections, notably those in the British Museum, the Royal Collection, the National Gallery of Scotland and the Yale Center for British Art.

Sandby pioneered the artistic portrayal of landscape in Scotland and Wales, searched out new sites throughout England and portrayed familiar ones with a fresh eye. His art is unrivalled among his contemporaries in his portrayal of the appearance and meaning of a range of subjects, rural and urban, modern and historical, in a country experiencing rapid social and commercial development.



See the Paul Sandby Exhibition at Newstead Abbey

Harmonising Landscapes Exhibition - Paul Sandby RA

Saturday 16 June - Sunday 06 January 2019

Explore Paul Sandby's drawings, prints and paintings of estates and ancient ruins within the atmospheric setting of [Newstead Abbey](#); its gardens, parkland and ruins.



See the significant number of works from the Nottingham City Museums and Galleries collection. The atmospheric setting of Newstead Abbey is used to celebrate his drawings, prints and paintings of estates and ancient ruins, including his views of Newstead and Nottingham Castle. [There is also a programme of lectures](#)



The exhibition is Newstead Abbey's contribution to [RA250: the Royal Academy's 250th anniversary celebrations](#) and is supported by 'RA250 with Art Fund'

This exhibition starts an exciting 4 year programme of Arts Council-funded temporary exhibitions staged exclusively in, and uniquely for, Newstead Abbey, spilling out into the many rooms and corridors of the house, including the beautiful grounds and

gardens.

[For more information and opening times, please visit the event website](#)