



September 2018



Welcome to the September Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Contracts and showing our progress
- **Jade's Column** - Karlsruhe exchange
- **Scott's Column** - Archaeology update
- **Object of the Month** - Raising the Standard
- **Hoodwinked** - Cheerio! Sheriff Robin



Project update – September 2018

Welcome to our project news for September.

Further archaeology contracts - We are delighted to announce that the contract for the remainder of the archaeological services has been awarded to Trent and Peak Archaeology. Having just completed their work on the Service Courtyard archaeology, they have already started work on the site of the new Visitor Centre, with ground being broken just last week. Those who attended our really popular Archaeology Open Days were lucky enough to see this early work in progress, and also hear first-hand about the findings from the excavation in the Service Courtyard.



Visit from Heritage Lottery Fund - We were happy to host the team from the HLF East Midlands office on a tour of the site during September. It was great to give them an update on the project and also for them to be able to see the progress of the collections decant and enabling works which have been taking place on site over the last few months. The brave amongst them even took a walk on the roof in the bracing winds – a rare opportunity to take in the most spectacular views across the city, finishing with the obligatory photo by the Robin Hood statue.



Learning for the future - The development of the future schools offer was brought a step closer this month as we hosted three visits from Sir Jonathan North Community College, enabling them to use the site as a case study for their GCSE history course. New resources have been developed in partnership with the school as part of the HLF Activity Plan, and this was a chance to put them to the test. With some of the site being out of bounds due to enabling works, these visits were slightly different, however the pupils were able to study the medieval remains in the grounds, go on a tour of the caves and also step onto an archaeological



dig!

Talks and updates - Cal Warren, our Programme Manager was much in demand this month as a speaker at various events around the region. Amongst these were invitations from the Burton Joyce and District U3A, and the Southwell Rotary Club. It's always great to be able to update people on the work we've been doing and the level of support shown to the project has been incredible.

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Jade's Column - Welcoming visitors from Germany

This year was the 25th Anniversary of the Karlsruhe exchange.

Karlsruhe is our twin city and every year colleagues come over to visit us at Nottingham City Council. Over the time that they were here they got the chance to see lots of the exciting things going on in Nottingham including the Castle redevelopment project.

They came to the Castle to learn more about the project and how the Castle will look after the transformation. Our Programme Manager, Cal Warren led them around and showed them a brilliant presentation which explains everything very well with visuals of what the new galleries will look like.

They even enjoyed a trip down Mortimer's Hole and were amazed by the views over the city while looking out from the terrace. We hope they had a great time on their trip and look forward to seeing them in the future.

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Scott's Column

This month, City Archaeologist Scott Lomax summarises progress on the archaeological investigation on the site...

"Archaeological work at the Castle has continued this month, with work in the Service Courtyard nearing its end.

The excavation here has revealed more stone walls interpreted as parts of a ramp shown on John Smythson's 1617 plan of the Castle.

Later (18th/19th century) walls, brick drains, a mortar floor surface and remnants of paved surfaces have also been exposed.

A small amount of the edge of the rock-cut ditch, first created in 1068 and later modified, has also been revealed.

I have been working with the project team, the structural engineer and Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England to ensure these important remains are protected within the foundations of the new Robin Hood Gallery.

Further archaeological work will be needed in this area of the site when the construction work begins.

Archaeological excavation close to the Gatehouse and curtain wall, in advance of the Visitor Centre's construction, is also now underway.

This will involve excavation of a small area to a depth of up to 5m below ground level. Earlier investigations have suggested that the remains of medieval stone buildings could be present at depths of between 3.8m and 4.8m below the current ground surface. Watch this space for further updates over the coming months.

The images below are finds from the last week of the courtyard excavation courtesy of Dr Gareth Davies - Head Of Operations at [Trent & Peak Archaeology](#) (L-R) They are: Bone whistle, Blackware, Bone handle, Ivory handle

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Did you know?

There is a section on our website about the archaeology of the project - It has a great interactive map...why don't you check out the key areas of the site?

[Castle website archaeology](#)

Object of the Month

What is it?

September's object is an oil painting by Henry Dawson entitled 'Nottingham Castle King Charles I Raising His Standard 24th August 1642'.

Why is it significant?

The painting illustrates a key event in the history of the Castle when King Charles I attempted to rally troops to the Royalist cause by raising the Royal standard here.



Tell me more

Dawson created his work as an entry for a competition to decorate the walls of the newly built Houses of Parliament in 1847. He was unsuccessful in the competition, but another of his works, 'Painting of the New Palace of Westminster', is now in the Palace of Westminster's official art

collection.

Dawson spent his childhood in Nottingham, starting his working life in a lace factory here. He moved elsewhere to pursue his art career, but was awarded a retrospective exhibition of 57 paintings at the opening of the Midland Counties Art Museum in 1878. He declared himself delighted with his exhibition and met the Prince and Princess of Wales when they performed the official opening of the museum on July 3rd 1878.

In our opinion

"Dawson's painting represents an iconic moment in the history of the Castle, which is truly impressive in size and scale. It illustrates the Victorian fashion for using large-scale history paintings as a means of illuminating seminal moments from the past'. - **Dr Richard Gaunt, Academic lead, Rebellion Gallery.**

'Nottingham Castle King Charles Raising His Standard 24th August 1642' will feature in the new Rebellion Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

[A short history of Nottingham Castle](#)
[Henry Dawson](#)

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Hoodwinked 2018 - Cheerio! Sheriff Robin!

30 September was the last day to see Sheriff Robin (Pictured here with Robin Hood Robin) standing guard outside the Castle - we've loved having him. There is one last chance to see him alongside all his robin pals though...

From **12 -14 October**, You can visit the whole flock of 33 robins at Fernleigh House - and Gardens - Home of Nottinghamshire Hospice. Alongside this there will be two NEW robins, never seen before. The Farewell to the Flock event really is a date for the diary!

Get your tickets now and see all 35 robins illuminated at dusk! <https://goo.gl/evV38k>