



January 2019

**Welcome to the January
Castle Transformation Newsletter**

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Scaffold and outlaws
- **Jade's Column** - Advent look back
- **Timelapse** - A glimpse of life on site
- **Scott's Column** - New cave at the Castle
- **Object of the Month** - Model Lace Machine
- **Lucy Hutchinson** - born over 390 years ago



This image of the Castle is from a postcard dated 1910

January 2019 – Project Update

Welcome to our project news for January 2019

Scaffolding explained - If you've been in Nottingham over the past few weeks you may have noticed the extensive scaffolding going up around the Castle. We have had a few enquiries as to the purpose of the scaffolding over the roof, so much so that it's even been in the press.

[Read about the scaffolding in the Nottingham Post](#)

Repairs to the fabric of the building, including the roof, are central to the integrity of the scheme, and creating a safe, waterproof structure in which to work is therefore essential. Check out our time lapse links (see below) for footage of some of the scaffolding being erected!

Robin Hood programme - The Castle featured on 'Digging up Britain's Past' on Channel 5 on Saturday (26 Jan). Helen Skelton and Alex Langlands visited Sherwood Forest to learn more about the legend of Robin Hood - and King John. They visited several of Robin Hood's supposed hideouts, including Nottingham Castle, where he was reputed to have been imprisoned before escaping via a secret tunnel. You can watch the [programme at the Radio Times website](#) - it is also being repeated on February 6.

Forest visit - The Project Team headed out to Sherwood Forest this month to visit staff at the new Visitor Centre. It is a very special site and we thought the new building was stunning. We look forward to working with their team more closely in the future and spreading the word about our obvious mutual interest – Robin Hood! (Image courtesy of Visit Nottinghamshire)

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Jade's Column - Look back to advent

Another Christmas gone means another successful Castle Project Advent Calendar with all doors opened! Thank you to everyone who took a minute out of each day to read a festive fact about Nottingham or the Castle and to everyone who entered the competitions.

Thank you to Scott Lomax, Nottingham Playhouse and Cave City: Underground Festival for providing us with prizes for our advent calendar.

Congratulations to all of our winners:

Carly Wright – Winner of the Caves Festival prize

Mandy Gough – Winner of the Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood family ticket

Clive Boaden – Winner of the behind the scenes hard hat tour

John Randall – Winner of a Peel Street tour with Scott Lomax

If you have any Christmas themed facts relating to Nottingham or Nottingham Castle that you think we should use in next year's Advent Calendar then drop us an email at nottinghamcastleproject@nottinghamcity.gov.uk and let us know.

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Timelapse - A glimpse of life on site

Work on site is now progressing rapidly and we would love you to see what's been happening!

In partnership with G F Tomlinson, three time-lapse cameras have been installed on site. These are recording activity on the site of the new Visitor Centre, the Service Courtyard (soon to be the new Robin Hood gallery), and also the construction of the scaffold.

The current videos show the Christmas period – thus explaining a week or so where not much happens. Bear with us and you'll see some great progress over the coming months.

We are pleased to say that these links are now up on our website [on the construction page](#) and will be updated monthly. Enjoy!

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Scott's column

This month, Scott - our City Archaeologist updates us on new developments in the Service Courtyard...

"It has been a busy month for archaeology in Nottingham, with a number of excavations taking place including works at the Castle, and these have continued to reveal interesting new information about the city. One of the key discoveries to take place this month is actually within the Service Courtyard.

There were suspicions that caves could exist beneath this area of the site, cut into the sandstone bedrock and accessible from the inner ditch. The edge of the inner ditch was partially exposed during archaeological excavation late last year and it is known that King David's Dungeon was accessible from the ditch during the medieval period. In order to test the stability of the rock, so that construction works can take place, a number of probes were drilled.

One of these probe holes revealed a void in the sandstone, 2.2m below the ground level, indicating the presence of a cave. It would appear the cave has a height (from floor to ceiling) of 1.9m but there will not be the opportunity to learn more about it at this time.

It is likely that this is the cave referred to in a book written in the 1740s by a local antiquarian named Dr Charles Deering. In his book, Deering described a cave as having been partially accessible (though filled with rubbish) 18 or 20 years previously. From Deering's description, the cave, which was known at that time as James Scot's Hole, is likely to have been in order immediately near the Service Courtyard.

Historic England and I are working with the project team to enable the cave to be fully protected within the new development works, to comply with the city council's planning policy.

This new discovery brings the total of known caves in the city to approximately 860. This figure has risen by approximately 200 in the past 2 years, largely through research I have carried out of 18th and 19th century property records, but several have been found through development works. Perhaps there are others at the Castle which are as yet unknown."

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Work on the excavations on the Service Courtyard which took place last year



Object of the Month

Our first selection of 2019 is a model of John Heathcoat's patent lace machine 'Old Loughborough'

What is it? - This machine was created for use during a lawsuit. The model was made in Nottingham and was transported to London on top of the Express Coach for the trial.

Why is it significant?- Mechanisation of the lace industry changed life in Nottingham dramatically. Handmade lace had been very expensive, so the market for luxury lace goods was restricted. Mechanisation reduced prices and opened up mass markets at home and abroad. As demand grew so did employment in the Nottingham lace industry, census returns show a rise from approximately 8,000 employees in 1841 to approximately 25,000 in 1901.

This is the only surviving example of the famed 'Old Loughborough' lace machine, the first to be successfully commercial. It made a simple net called bobbin net which could be hand embroidered, replacing the earlier knitted laces produced on adapted stocking frames.

Tell me more - As lace machinery was developed, patents were disputed. Our model was created for the Bovill v Moore legal case in 1816. The jury decided a machine developed by Browne and Freeman could not be awarded a patent in its own right because it was merely a development of John Heathcoat's earlier "Old Loughborough" which had already been patented in 1809.

Sergeant-at-Law Copley, acting for the defence, had been trained to use the model and explain the parts of both machines very competently. His "masterly handling of the case" boosted his legal career, he went on to become Lord Lyndhurst and serve as Lord Chancellor of Great Britain three times.

In our opinion - "It was the development of this machine, that inspired John Levers to take lace machines to the next level, through the development of the twist net Leavers lace machine, just a few years later in 1813/14. The adaption of steam power and the addition of patterning Jacquard machine in 1839 brought full mass production to the lace industry and made both Nottingham's lace and machines that made it, the envy of the world." -

Ann Inscker, Curator of Archaeology, Industry and Communities

The Model Lace Machine will feature in the new Nottingham Lace Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

[Read more at the BBC's History of the World website](#)

[Read about Heathcoat of Tiverton in the National Archives](#)

[Read about lace making on the Nottingham Industrial Museum website](#)

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Celebrating Lucy Hutchinson

This January marked 399 years since the birth of Lucy Hutchinson - Wife of Colonel John Hutchinson and his biographer via her journal.

The picture to the left shows [A Touch of History](#) recreating the couple for our [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) visit in 2016

John Hutchinson was governor of Nottingham Castle during the Civil War and one of the men

who signed Charles I's death warrant.

Lucy was the daughter of Sir Allen Apsley, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, and Lady Lucy St. John, Lucy Hutchinson (née Apsley) was born on 29 January 1620 in the Tower of London. She was the second of ten children. She was married on 3 July 1638.

Lucy's journal will be on display when the Castle reopens. [You can read more about it on the project website.](#)

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