



November 2018

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## Welcome to the November Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Award, find, and decant
- **Jade's Column** - Review of new Robin Hood film
- **Scott's Column** - Slaughterhouse caves visit
- **Advent calendar** - 'tis the season
- **Caves festival** - Dates announced
- **Groundbreaking** - On site with G F Tomlinson
- **Object of the Month** - After the Rain Vase
- **Pantomime** - Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood
- **Lottery Thank you** - free site tours on Saturday 1 Dec



## Project update – November 2018

### Welcome to our project news for November

**Award won for project** - We were delighted to hear that our very own Curator of Rebellion, Dr Richard A Gaunt, won the Faculty of Arts Award for his work on the Castle Project at the University of Nottingham's Knowledge Exchange and Impact Awards. The awards ceremony was held this month and members of our Content Development Team went along to show their support. We would like to congratulate Dr Gaunt on this fantastic achievement.

**Archaeology - Further finds** - This month yet another archaeological discovery has taken place on site, this time in the form of a medieval refuse pit containing fragments of Midlands Purple Ware. This may not be the most glamorous of finds, but anything we can learn about past uses of the site all helps to build a richer picture of the Medieval Nottingham Castle.

**Decant is complete** - At this stage in the project, entering the Ducal Palace is an unusual experience, not least due to the fact that all of the museum collections have now been removed! The team at Nottingham City Museums and Galleries have now completed their decant of the Castle and all collections are now safely in their bespoke storage accommodation for the duration of construction works. This has been an enormous task for everyone involved and the skill and care that has been employed during this process is exemplary.

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### Jade's Column – Robin Hood

This month, Jade reviews the eagerly awaited [Robin Hood film](#) starring Taron Egerton and Jamie Foxx. See what she thought...

"Take away everything you know about Robin Hood, any tale you've ever heard or read and any films you've seen (even the classic Kevin Costner Prince of Thieves) anyway, forget it all and then you might just love this film because it isn't what you expect it to be.

Robin or 'Rob' as he is known in the film is a young lord, Marian is no longer a damsel in distress, Friar Tuck is a lot more knowledgeable, The Sheriff lets us into his deep dark past life which seemingly has made him so evil and Will Scarlet; well if you do go and see it just wait for the ending, I'm not going to spoil it for you.

It's hard to understand when it's supposed to be set as almost nothing about the settings or landscaping is historically accurate. A grim fantasy mining village with a giant church in the distance (no Castle) which has ironically been named Nottingham.

But as I said; take away any historical accuracy of Nottingham or any knowledge of Robin Hood you may have and you'll love this film. Full of action with a bit of humour and cheesiness there isn't even a moment for you to get bored."

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## Scott's Column

This month, City Archaeologist Scott Lomax talks about a visit to a new cave near the Castle site...

"As part of the ongoing research into the Castle site, visits have been made to caves nearby. During one of the recent visits, a cave which connects with the Service Courtyard of the Ducal Palace was explored.

This cave was created in 1720 and is known as the Slaughterhouse Cave. Its function is evident from its name, with the killing of animals in a large chamber at the base of the system, with steps leading through the castle rock up to the Service Courtyard, very close to where the palace's kitchens were located.

A number of other caves were visited, including a large wine cellar dating to the Victorian period, which may be one of the 'rock cellars' mentioned in a 19th century auction

advertisement and, arguably most interesting of all, a small chamber of much earlier date located close to the Western Passage.

The Western Passage led from the foot of the castle rock up to the castle and is of medieval origins, with later modifications. It is my belief that this chamber once formed part of the Western Passage but major rock falls have destroyed large parts of that cave system and severed it from any connecting passages.

We know major rock falls took place in the 1930s and 1960s, and undoubtedly they would have happened earlier in history. Amazingly until the recent visit no one had ever noted the existence of this cave and it just shows how our knowledge continues to develop as the project progresses."

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## 'Tis the Season! The advent calendar is back

From December 1 - the advent calendar will be waiting for you on the project website. Each day will bring either a new fact or picture and some days will have the chance to win great prizes so make sure you look every day!

[Check out the advent calendar](#)

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## Cave City 2019 - dates announced

With new caves such as Peel Street and the incredibly popular cave cinema at Brewhouse Yard, this year's Caves Festival was an enormous success.

There will be another 'underground festival' event in 2019 which will run from **Friday 5 to Wednesday 10 April**.

We're still working on the details and exploring exciting new caves and opportunities for events. If you have a cave space and would like to be involved (either with a new event, or promoting one you run already) then please [get in touch with the project](#)

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## History in the making – transformation works start at Nottingham Castle

Works officially began this month to transform Nottingham Castle into a world-class heritage destination, as Midlands contractor G F Tomlinson broke ground on the £30m Castle Transformation Project.

G F Tomlinson was appointed by project lead Nottingham City Council due to its established history of delivering heritage sector projects across the region. The first stage will see the contractor create a new state-of-the-art visitor centre and a new extension to the Ducal Palace, where brand-new Robin Hood and Rebellion galleries will be created to celebrate Nottingham's most famous outlaw.

The image above shows all the project partners at the official ceremony

[Read more about the groundbreaking](#)



## Object of the Month

**What is it?** - A vase entitled "After the Rain" created by Peter Dreiser is October's object of the month.

**Why is it significant?** - Peter Dreiser (1936 – 2006) has been called Britain's greatest wheel engraver on glass; his work is in the collections of the V&A, the Fitzwilliam Museum & the Corning Museum of Glass in New York.

**Tell me more** - As well as producing his own works, Dreiser taught glass engraving at Morley College in Lambeth for 25 years. In 1982 he produced a book "Techniques of Glass Engraving" with author Jonathan Matcham. An updated issue followed later by Dreiser and Katherine Coleman a leading contemporary glass artist he

had taught at Morley College.

Morley Memorial College for Working Men and Women opened in 1889 and was the first of its kind to admit men and women on an equal footing. Their new premises had been acquired with a bequest from the will of Nottingham born philanthropist Samuel Morley who had also donated money to the Midland Counties Museum at Nottingham Castle.

The After the Rain Vase will feature in the new Art as Inspiration Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

[Read more about glass engraving](#)

[Read more about Samuel Morley](#)

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Keep checking the advent calendar for your chance to win tickets to see the Robin Hood Pantomime



## Nottingham Castle takes part in National Lottery #ThanksToYou Saturday

### December fun thanks to The National Lottery

National Lottery players have a chance to enter the Castle site for free\* on Saturday 01 December 20

The Castle is one of hundreds of participating Nat Lottery-funded visitor attractions across the UK as 'thanks' to people who have raised money for good by buying a lottery ticket. A map of all the participating locations can be found

at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/thankyou/map>

The idea is simple: any visitor who presents a National Lottery ticket or scratchcard on Saturday gets a sneak peek at what's been happening since the site's transformation in the summer.

Members of the Nottingham Castle Transformation Project Team will lead free tours of the grounds to show changes on site and hear about the next stages of the project\*. Also included is an optional journey down Mortimer's Hole cave route (this will add 30 minutes to the tour time).

Tours will run from 10am and then on the half hour with the last tour at 11.30. The tour is limited to 20 people and spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Those waiting will have a chance to meet outlaw Robin Hood at the gates as well as the real-life Sheriff of Nottingham, Cllr Cat Arnold.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/latest-updates>

\*Terms and conditions apply

