



March 2019

Welcome to the March Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Progress on site, journalist tours, exhibition fit out news
- **Jade's Column** - Cave City - selling out fast
- **Apprenticeship Week** - Feature on our apprentice
- **G F Tomlinson** - Construction update
- **Object of the Month** - Silver-gilt tea caddies
- **Robin Hood Statue** - Robin repaired



This image is a map from 1635

March 2019 – Project Update

Welcome to our project news for March 2019

This month has been the most exciting yet on site as some major milestones were reached in the construction programme.

Construction on site - G F Tomlinson elaborate in their first ever column below, but to summarise – we have a Visitor Centre (ok...it may be skeletal at this point), the Robin Hood Gallery has a floor, and the structure of the Robin Hood Gallery is taking shape with the insertion of the steels now complete! [Take a look at our new time lapse films](#) to see the action as it happened.



Hard hat tours - Earlier this month the Project Team conducted hard-hat tours of the site for representatives from the US tourism press. This was such an opportunity to reveal the plans for the Castle, and to showcase the level of investment that has gone into developing what will be a wonderful visitor experience.

Fit out procurement - As the construction programme progresses, plans are already underway for the next stage of the project – the exhibition fit out. The procurement for the exhibition fit out contractor is ongoing, and as part of this process, the Project Team conducted a site visit for interested parties, enabling them to see first-hand the building and site they may end up transforming.



Contractor update

Contractors G F Tomlinson give us an update in their first newsletter column...

Project manager Richard Oldfield sums up works for March.

"Over the last month, the redevelopment works have forged ahead with the foundations and steel frame structures now complete to the new Visitor Centre and Ducal Palace extension. This will provide a state-of-the-art Visitor Centre and brand-new Robin Hood Galleries for this historic site.

The refurbishment of the existing Ducal Palace is also progressing rapidly with the creation of service trenches for the

temporary exhibition space, along with improved access works.

You may have seen the vast scaffolding around the Ducal Palace. This is in place to undertake essential roof repairs to the Palace roof. The team have been working hard to restore the existing roof to its former glory!

Over the last month the G F Tomlinson team has made an important step and great progress towards the redevelopment."

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Jade's Column - #CaveCity tickets are selling fast

"Caves festival tickets are selling fast with events such as Peel Street and the Catacombs already completely sold out. Many lucky ticket holders are our newsletter subscribers who took the chance to book early through our Caves Festival special newsletter which went out before our media links.

The sales are amazing and we'd like to thank you all so much for buying tickets – we hope you have an amazing time.

There are still spaces left for other events such as the [reverse Mortimer's Hole tour](#) with the amazing opportunity to see over the Ducal Palace terrace overlooking one of the most beautiful views of Nottingham the city has to offer. You will also get a sneak peak of work on site such as scaffolding up close – this will be such a great one off opportunity whilst the site is closed for the transformation project.

Other events may also interest you such as [yoga in the park tunnel](#) and [BeatFeet African Drumming in the Park Tunnel](#).

Don't forget you can also come to the to the [Caves Festival Hub](#) which will be in the Urban Room on Carrington Street. Here, you can get **all the info on events** taking place across the city. There will be **stunning cave photography** by local photographer Lamar Francois on display, and there will even be a chance to enjoy a **virtual reality tour of the Nottingham Castle Caves**. This will



also be a great opportunity to **meet the team at Trent & Peak Archaeology** who will be on hand at points over the Festival to talk about their work. The hub is open **Saturday 6 April (12-4pm)** and **Sunday 7 - Tuesday 9 April 2019 (10am-4pm)**

Follow the links to book your [Cave City space](#) now before they sell out!"

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The Park Tunnel - for Yoga and African drumming

National Apprenticeship Week

4-8 March was National Apprenticeship Week and our very own Jade featured as part of the city council's celebrations... here are the highlights.

"Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, over £30m will be invested to convert the historic Nottingham Castle site into the region's leading tourist destination, where the diverse heritage of the last 1,000 years will be revealed once again. One of the key aims of the redevelopment is to create and support local jobs. Jade's apprenticeship is one of the first of these."

"Being an apprentice is very interesting, especially on this project. I definitely learn a lot and get a lot of great opportunities from working both on the project and from teaching and learning sessions with my Futures Apprenticeships Assessor. As part of my role I get to understand project management and learn about stakeholder management but I also get to help organise and assist at events and work closely with the Sports and Culture Marketing team especially since that is the area of work I am most interested to go in to in the future."

"My weekly tasks include responding to day to day enquiries through the project email and on social media, checking the Castle Project website and assisting with any updates it may need, writing articles for the monthly newsletter, attending events such as the closing weekend we had at the castle and press photo calls (of course these are made so much more fun when you get to walk around with Nottingham's very own Robin Hood and even sometimes have to wear a hard hat when on site.)"

"I would definitely encourage others to take up apprenticeships especially if you don't feel like



university is the right path for you - like me. Sometimes it can be just as, if not more beneficial to get hands on experience in an area of work you are interested in."

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Object of the month

This month, we look at a very British tradition - drinking tea...

What is it? - Our object this month is a pair of silver-gilt tea caddies with a mother-of-pearl case donated to the museum in 1968 by the daughters of Nottingham jeweller Richard Wagstaff Gibbs.

Why is it significant? - The tea caddies, made in 1763/64 by London silver maker Pierre

Gillois, carry the royal cipher of Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz who married King George III in 1761. Tea drinking was by then already established at the English court thanks to Catherine of Braganza, wife of King Charles II.

Tell me more - Tea was initially very expensive and only available to the upper classes, men could drink it in coffee houses but these were off limits to women who could only drink it in each other's homes. Domestic tea parties soon became popular creating a demand for silver teapots, trays, tea caddies and caddy spoons for use by wealthy women as they made the tea in front of their guests.

Decorative caddies came into use for storing tea securely in drawing rooms out of the reach of servants. The word "caddy" evolved from the Malay word "kati/catti", a commercial unit of weight for tea.

The tea caddies will feature in the new Creative City – Creative Castle Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

[Read about tea in the Royal Collection](#)

[UK Tea and Infusions Association - A social history of tea](#)



Robin gets a new string to his bow

Work started to repair the iconic statue of Nottingham's legendary outlaw this week so that it remains a fitting focal point for visitors outside a revamped Nottingham Castle.

(Pictured left - the opening ceremony programme) - The Robin Hood statue, sculpted by James Woodford and gifted to the city in 1952 by local businessman Philip E F Clay, suffered a broken bow last year which the City Council has appointed specialist public art restorer's [Lost Art Limited](#) to fix. The statue was recommended for listing by Historic England as part of Nottingham's Heritage Action Zone.

This is not the first time that repairs have had to take place on the sculpture – recently Grade II Listed – but the breaking and taking of the lower part of the bow presented a difficult challenge. Fortunately, the council has an original cast piece of the bow from 1952 which has enabled Lost Art to re-cast a replacement piece. The repair is estimated to cost just over £6,000 which will be paid for by the council.

Dominic Liptrot of Lost Art Limited said “We are delighted to have been invited to contribute to the restoration of an iconic memorial to a much-loved hero. Our staff will take as much pride in their work on the statue as the people of Nottingham do in what Robin Hood represents both locally and around the world.”

To complement this work, Nottingham Business Improvement District (BID) has also agreed to carry out further investment to make a number of other site improvements. [Read more about the works](#)

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(L-R) - NCC Director Hugh White, Dominic Liptrot from Lost Art and Jeff Allen from the BID with the statue