



January 2020

Welcome to the January Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Focus group, tender news and Visitor Centre update
- **Nottingham Castle Trust News** - Meet Pippa and Joshua
- **Top Trumps** - No. 9: Roger Mortimer
- **Object of the Month** - booklet about King George V & Queen Mary's visit
- **The latest from G F Tomlinson** - Magazine interviews



January 2020 – Project Update

It's the first newsletter of 2020 and we're already asking for help!

We want you!

We're currently working with our text writers to develop names / titles for the new galleries and we would love to test our ideas with you. If you are **interested in participating in a Focus Group** on this topic please email:

NottinghamCastleProject@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

The Focus Group will take place in either February or March (date to be determined) and will be held on a weekday evening, lasting approximately one hour. We would love to know your thoughts!

Let's get digital

We are pleased to announce that the tender for Digital Screen Games has been awarded to Jam Creative. Over the next few months, they will work with our Digital Producer, Exhibition Designers and the Castle Team to create some amazing digital games to feature in our Robin Hood and Rebellion Galleries. These games will enable visitors to access and engage with in-depth historical content in a fun and inventive way.



Visitor Centre update

We are very excited with the progress of our new Visitor Centre – it's nearly finished! The interior is complete including services and finishes, and the oak cladding just needs some final touches. The next stage of work is the external landscaping, including the café terrace area. We plan to release some images soon, so keep an eye out!

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Nottingham Castle Trust News

Two new faces join the growing Nottingham Castle Trust team this month!

Nottingham Castle Trust is delighted to welcome two new staff members to its team, as we come ever closer to the Castle's historic re-opening.

Pippa Vidal Davies, who has 15 years of experience in volunteering and volunteer management, takes up the role of **Volunteering Co-ordinator**. Pippa has been an ambassador for volunteering since an early age, volunteering at the age of 12 at the Isla Hospital del Rey, an 18th Century British Naval Hospital in Menorca where she grew up. Pippa's experiences there inspired her to pursue a career focusing on the vital role volunteers play in heritage sites workforces.

Joshua Pickering, whose career so far has seen him gain substantial understanding of both heritage and educational sectors, has been appointed as **Engagement and Participation Officer**. Josh's early experiences in the heritage sector included time at the National Maritime Museum. However, he says, "it wasn't until my time as an educational consultant, working with tribal communities in Kenya, that I realised I wanted to combine the spheres of community and art in my work".

Below, the new starters discuss what excites them about their respective roles, and what they're hoping to bring to them:

Josh: *"What excites me about this role is the opportunity to enable people from different backgrounds to be in positions where they can shape our project, not just visit it."*

Pippa: *"I'm excited about having the opportunity to create mutually beneficial, outside-the-box volunteering opportunities to give people a sense of pride in Nottingham."*

The team are excited to welcome both Josh and Pippa to the team and wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

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Top Trumps #9

Welcome to the ninth character in the series of Castle stories, turned into a game of Top Trumps. Top Trumps #9 is **Roger Mortimer** , a rebellious English nobleman.
Castle 1287 -1330

Find out more at:

www.nottshistory.org.uk/whatnall1928/mortimers_hole.htm
www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/plantagenet_50.html

Please [email us](#) to let us know whether you agree or disagree with our scores

Roger Mortimer, 1st Earl
of March, a rebellious English nobleman.

1287– 1330

Roger conspired with King Edward II's wife, Queen Isabella, & deposed him. They ruled as regents for the young Edward III until October 1330 when Edward III & some supporters entered Nottingham Castle via the caves to arrest Mortimer. One of the cave routes they could have used is still called Mortimer's Hole.



Roger Mortimer, 1st Earl
of March, a rebellious English nobleman.

1287– 1330

Scores

Style - 87

Claim to Fame - 60

Rebel Rating - 94

Dreadful Deeds - 88

Popularity - 39



References

- www.nottshistory.org.uk/whatnall1928/mortimers_hole.htm
 - www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/plantagenet_50.html
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Object of the month

What is it?

Our chosen object is a promotional booklet about King George V & Queen Mary's visit to three Nottingham Lace factories in June 1914.

Why is it significant?

In the early twentieth century the Nottingham lace trade was booming with £5 million worth of lace being exported in 1910. Thousands of local people were employed in 245 local factories making them an obvious focus for a royal visit to the city. The photographs capture this high point in a trade which would be in decline by the end of WWI due to shortages of yarn, coal & manpower.

Tell me more

Our album, which bears the royal coat of arms, contains a complete collection of souvenir photographs of the royal visit. An additional photograph is believed to be of the box of Nottingham lace presented to Queen Mary.

Nottingham Castle played its own small part in the royal visit. When a flag was raised on the tower of Nottingham Railway Station a 21 gun salute was fired from Castle Rock. Very sensibly precautions were taken to remove the glass from the lamps in the castle grounds first to avoid breakages!

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

More information can be found at:

[Mark Rowes' blog](#) and [Our Nottinghamshire - Nottingham in 1914](#)

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Contractor update - The latest from G F Tomlinson

In a recent interview with Premier Construction Magazine, our Project Manager, Richard Oldfield discussed how he got involved in the Nottingham Castle Transformation...



"G F Tomlinson have a long standing relationship with Nottingham City Council and as the project is in the heart of our region, the entire team were all keen to make sure we were involved in the restoration of this world renowned site with a history dating back a thousand years. As a Nottingham resident, I was very keen to be a part of the development. This is a great opportunity and in many ways a once in a lifetime opportunity to investigate and record the history of the site."

Read Richard Oldfield's and Nottingham City Council's Project Director, Richard Hamblin's full interviews [here](#) (page 56)
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Robin Hood Live! Saturday 4 – Sunday 5 April
Newstead Abbey 

