



Welcome to February's Nottingham Castle Transformation newsletter

Here's what the project team has been up to this month:



Bygones visit - This month, members of the project team hosted a behind the scenes visit for Nottingham Bygones magazine. Writers Dave and Andy came with us on a tour of the site, learning about the less well known stories of the Castle, uncovering secrets of intrigue, adventure and even murder! Look out for the April edition of Bygones for a good read.



Location of proposed new Visitor Centre

Visitor centre progress - Our architect Purcell is progressing detailed designs for an attractive, multi-purpose visitor centre within the Castle grounds. This building will house a small café and a shop, alongside ticket points for entry to the rest of the site.



Existing site entrance / view towards location of new Visitor Centre

Activity plan draft completion - Our activity planner DBA has been working hard alongside the project team to bring together a first draft of the activity plan for Nottingham Castle. This document will be submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund in July along with the rest of the plans for the Castle, and will outline everything that will happen on site, from the day to day visitor experience to school's activities and large public events.

Online survey - This month, the city council has shared a survey with members of its Citizen Panel - a group of people who have volunteered to get involved and share their views to help the council deliver great services. Thanks if you were involved in this. The responses will be vital in aiding our understanding of perceptions of the Castle and developing thoughts on our plans for the future.

There is another survey for those not in the Citizen Panel but still wishing to contribute. This is regarding potential activities which may be on offer at the Castle. Please see below for details.



What do you think should happen at Nottingham Castle?

Feed back on our suggestions and you could win a prize

Could you spare 5 minutes to tell us what you think should happen at Nottingham Castle? You could win a £50 shopping voucher or one of 15 season tickets for the Castle.

[Access the survey](#)

Survey closes March 21 2016

You can also print off a copy to send. Copies are available at the [Nottingham Castle Transformation website](#)



A reminder of the timeline for the project

Student Volunteer Week - social media project



To mark National Student Volunteer Week 2016, we invited students from Nottingham Trent University and the University of Nottingham to spend a day with us at the Castle.

They were able to explore the site and to capture parts of the site that the public doesn't see, or that made the experience unique to them.

The students got to meet Robin Hood and visit the caves, as well as experiencing some of the art collection not currently on display.

This included some beautiful Dame Laura Knight and Harold Knight drawings where students were able to compare the two styles and see how artists of the time learned to draw and what their influences were.

The images from the day will be available on our social media feeds and we will gradually add them to our website.

[@Nottm_Castle](#) (Twitter), [@Nottm_Bid](#) (Twitter)

www.facebook.com/nottinghamcastle

www.nottinghamcastle.org.uk/transformation



Student volunteers meet Robin Hood



Call for volunteers at Mercian Regiment Museum in Nottingham Castle

The Museum of the Mercian Regiments tells the story of the regiments of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (45th and 95th Regiments of Foot, The Sherwood Foresters, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the Mercian Regiment) from 1741, up to the present day.

Work began in November last year to move the artefacts from the previous space to its new gallery in the Castle, 30 volunteers are needed to help when this exciting project is once again open to the public.

When the museum is up and running, volunteers will welcome visitors and offer assistance to anyone researching a member of their family who served in the regiment. Alongside customer service duties, there may be opportunity to work with the collection and help out with any basic conservation work that may be

required.

To find out more, please contact the Nottingham City Museums and Galleries (NCMG) Volunteer office at: volunteer.programme@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or telephone on 0115 8762205.



L-R: Mortimer's Hole drawing, David II of Scotland and King David's Dungeon



Scott's facts and findings

Welcome to Scott's second column. In this edition, he explores legends of the caves and theories on their use in the past.

"With legends such as the capture of Roger Mortimer and the imprisonment of King David of Scotland, The caves at Nottingham Castle have fascinated generations of residents and visitors alike.

These and the other 600+ known caves in Nottingham are evidence of the city's past but are amongst only a small number that are accessible. Whilst little of the medieval castle is visible, some of the caves beneath the Castle allow people to enter a medieval hidden world, literally walking through history.

Due to the Castle's function as a military structure following the Civil War, and the castle's destruction in 1651, some of the caves fell out of use and became partly filled and some of them were forgotten about.

Archaeology enthusiasts working in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s were the first to try and establish how old the castle's caves are, and the many functions for which

they have been used."

Not everyone has been so keen to explore the caves, however. The writer Daniel Defoe visited Nottingham Castle as part of a tour of the country in the 1720s.

After hearing the stories of King David being held in the caves and the capture of Roger Mortimer he was invited to venture into David's Dungeon but he dare not, later writing...

'We did not like the Aspect of it, so we ventur'd rather to take their words.'



Daniel Defoe - Portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller, National Maritime Museum, London