



April 2019

Welcome to the April Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Cave City, Digital Producer, Scaffold
- **Jade's Column** - Caves Festival wrap up and survey
- **Rock Cemetery** - New tour dates announced
- **Object of the Month** - Portrait of Lady Catherine Carey
- **Cricket World Cup** - Photos with the trophy tour
- **School Visit** - Dunkirk Primary School sees changes on site
- **Robin Hood Statue** - Robin repaired (update)



This image is of the construction of the new visitor centre on the Castle site



April 2019 – Project Update

Welcome to our project news for April 2019

Cave City - Looking back on April, we have to start with the Cave City Festival. It was amazing! A massive thank you to all of the participating organisations, volunteers and those of you who attended the fantastic events across the city. Hope you all enjoyed it

as much as we did. Read on for more details in Jade's column below.

Digital Producer - We are very excited to announce that we have appointed Sideburn Panda for the project's Digital Production. Sideburn Panda is run by Joseph Bell – a Bristol-based creative who has worked on a range of innovative and award-winning digital projects.

Throughout his career he has successfully developed and produced video and audio content, apps, websites, social media campaigns, marketing materials, games and digital-first experiences which embrace the best of new platforms and technologies including 360 Video and Virtual Reality.

Director Joseph Bell has worked with a range of organisations throughout his career including the BBC, BBC Studios, BBC i-wonder, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and HMV. He has worked with Dan Snow for the Royal British Legion's Passchendaele 100 and other history programmes.

In the build up to re-opening Joseph will be developing and co-ordinating all digital aspects of the site interpretation – including video, audio and gaming experiences.

Keep your eyes peeled for an interview with Joseph in a forthcoming newsletter.

Scaffolding inside and out - By this point in time, most Nottingham residents will have caught a glimpse of the impressive scaffolding surrounding the Ducal Palace – but did you know that the interior of the Castle is full of scaffolding also? The first floor galleries are now a labyrinth of poles and walkways as they are home to scaffolding structures supporting a crash deck during roof repairs, also enabling restoration works to the high ceilings.

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Jade's Column - Looking back at the Caves Festival

At the beginning of this month we successfully delivered yet another Cave City: Nottingham Underground Festival with many of the events completely selling out within 24 hours of being made available, such as the ever successful Peel Street tours and the brand new tours of the catacombs at Rock Cemetery. These proved to be highly successful events for which some amazing reviews have been received so if you bought tickets and had the chance to go, then thank you all!

The reverse Mortimer's Hole tour was also brilliant, Cara and Andy from A Touch of History made the fact that you'd walked both up and down the cave almost unnoticeable with their fantastic and slightly spooky stories.

It was lovely to experience children and families enjoying the caves hub having a play in the dig pits, trying out the Caves VR, and creating their very own caves out of paper bags.

Lastly, the artist installation by Aja Ireland and Annie Tadne at Brewhouse Yard ([watch the installation fly through film on our Vimeo channel](#)) proved to be a massive hit with over 600 people visiting it over the two days!

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the businesses involved in the festival, all of our fantastic volunteers and to everyone who attended any of the events during the festival.

If you attended any of the events for Cave City: Nottingham Underground Festival and would like to give some feedback then [please click and follow the link to our cave city feedback form](#)

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Images below (L-R)

Top - Build a cave, Aja Ireland, Lamar Francois photos

Middle: Reverse cave tour begins, VR, Mortimer's Hole, a fab paper bag cave

Bottom: Archaeological finds, Brewhouse Yard installation, VR info





Rock Cemetery Tours - New dates announced

If you missed out on the Rock Cemetery Tours - there will be further chances to visit the site in July, August and September

Here's some lovely feedback from one of our visitors: "Very informative and inspiring tour which left me hungry for more. Thank you and really really well done."

Please [visit the Gigantic website](#) to book a place.

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Cricket World Cup - Trophy visits restored statue

On 23 April, the Cricket World Cup Trophy Tour visited Nottingham ahead of the five fixtures that will be played at the iconic Trent Bridge Cricket Ground. The first Cricket World Cup match in Nottingham is 31 May. [Check all the fixtures for Nottingham](#)

Organisers wanted a venue that would promote the city across the world so it's no wonder this iconic site was chosen. Hundreds of people came to visit the cup and have their picture taken alongside the trophy and our famous (newly restored) outlaw. Here are Programme Manager Cal Warren and Project Apprentice Jade Everatt with two Robin Hoods! This was before they took a school visit around the Castle site (see below). Our contractor colleagues from [G F Tomlinson](#) also came down to have their pictures taken.

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Dunkirk students take site tour

The team thought it was fitting to invite students from Dunkirk School to come back to site almost one year on to see how the transformation is progressing. The school kindly came to help us out last year with our close down activities and building the huge [Lego model of the medieval castle](#)

The pupils were able to double up and visit the Cricket World Cup trophy along the way (pictured).

After posing with the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Nottingham as well as our project teams, the school made its way around site, firstly looking at the foundations of the new visitor centre, then the Robin Hood and Rebellion galleries. They also got to see into the old ducal wine cellar before looking over the works on the main galleries. They then went back outside for a good look at the complex scaffolding. Lastly, they took a cave tour through Mortimer's Hole and out through Brewhouse Yard. We hope to be taking more site tours in the near future and we were pleased to be able to show Dunkirk School how well we are getting along.

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Object of the month

This month, we are looking at one of the wonderful portraits in our collection...

What is it? - A portrait of Lady Catherine Carey Countess of Nottingham attributed to John de Critz the Elder.

Why is it significant? -Catherine Carey (c.1547 – 25/2/1603) was a cousin and close confidante of Queen Elizabeth I, attending on her at court for 44 years. Her husband, Charles Howard 1st Earl of Nottingham, was Commander-in-Chief of the English fleet in the battle against the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Tell me more - Catherine's father, Henry Carey 1st Baron Hunsdon, was the son of William Carey and Mary Boleyn, sister of Anne Boleyn and a mistress of King Henry VIII. There has always been speculation that he was the king's illegitimate son and Queen Elizabeth's half-brother.

Catherine held significant court roles including being responsible for the queen's wardrobe and jewellery. An unproven claim persists of her deathbed confession implicating herself in the execution of the Earl of Essex.

Our portrait depicts her wearing a silk gown and bodice, an elaborate lace ruff and pearl jewellery. These highly expensive items mark her out as an Elizabethan woman of rank and demonstrate the high status of lace at the time.

The portrait will feature in the new Lace Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers [Casson Mann](#).

[Oxford University Press blog - Grief and Queen Elizabeth](#)
[BBC - Shakespeare's powerful Hertfordshire patron](#)

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Robin Repaired (update)

In the last edition of the newsletter, we featured a story on the restoration of the Robin Hood statue and how the bow, arrow and string would be repaired or replaced.

Within days of the work being completed, the statue was vandalised with the arrow being badly bent. The arrow has now been replaced with a much sturdier alternative. The police is investigating the incident.

Nigel Hawkins, Head of Culture and Libraries at Nottingham City Council, said: "It was really disappointing that the statue was damaged so soon after being repaired. However, our contractors quickly remedied the situation, fitting a spare arrow.

We're pleased this restores Robin to his former glory, with a stronger, more resilient steel arrow, and ultimately we would hope

that people will treat the iconic statue with the respect it deserves.”

Jeff Allen, Chairman of Nottingham Business Improvement (BID), said: “The statue is now covered by CCTV which should help to deter further damage. The next stage is to improve lighting and the area around the statue. We are setting up a group comprised of Nottingham BID, the Castle Trust, Historic England and Nottingham City Council to look at this.”

Stephen Jackson, Interim Director of Visit Nottinghamshire, added: “The Robin Hood statue is a major focal point for tourists when visiting Nottingham so I’m pleased Nottingham City Council has acted so promptly in having it repaired. Robin Hood is synonymous with our city and county, and known all over the world, so when visitors come to Nottingham, they want to visit the statue and have their picture taken with it.”

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