



May 2019

## Welcome to the May Castle Transformation Newsletter

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Caves work, operator news, talks and site visits
- **Jade's Column** - Viewfinder
- **Meet the team** - Sideburn Panda
- **Object of the Month** - Diploma of Honour
- **Top Trumps** - No. 1: King William the Conqueror
- **G F Tomlinson** - Charity work with Framework



This image is from the latest time lapse of the construction of the new visitor centre on the Castle site - [Watch this time lapse on our website](#)



## May 2019 – Project Update

Welcome to our project news for May 2019

**Caves works update** - This month has seen a step forward for the construction project, as works in the Castle caves have now commenced. Those of you who came on our reverse Mortimer's Hole tours during the Cave City festival, will be aware of the current health and safety considerations in this particular passage, and will be pleased to hear

that works include the provision of beautiful new handrails along the length of the passage. The handrails will be lit internally creating a perfect atmosphere within these historic spaces. Works in the caves are intended to improve access and set the scene for some truly wonderful guided tours on opening.

**Operator news** - We are pleased to announce that on 3 May 2019 Nottingham Castle Trust was appointed the Concession Holder that will operate the Castle site once the transformation project is completed. The Council remains responsible for the site as landlord and is responsible for completing the transformation project. This is a major milestone in the transformation of Nottingham Castle and we look forward to working closely with the Trust in the run up to opening. Please visit the [Nottingham Castle Trust website](#) to find out more.

**Talks and presentations** - Cal Warren, our Programme Manager has been busy this month

delivering presentations on the project to Nottingham Tangent and the Nottingham Civic Society. Both talks were very well attended and the enthusiasm and support for the project was great to see.

**Site visits** - We must thank our contractor G F Tomlinson for accommodating so many site visits this month. It was a particularly busy month for stakeholder engagement as we hosted visits from students, journalists, tourism delegates all the way from Brazil, and also our major funders the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). We were delighted to be able to show project progress to the NLHF Midlands and East Area Chairs - the tour highlights included a visit to the roof to admire the amazing scaffolding structure and roof repairs, and of course a trip down Mortimer's Hole.

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## Jade's Column - Viewfinder

You might remember our Viewfinder project? We wanted the public to send us photos of how the Castle looked and was used in the past.

We had a piece on the Viewfinder project in Nottingham Post's 'Bygones' supplement and put in a picture of what we thought was a weather balloon from our archives (Below). It turned out it wasn't a weather balloon at all... but it did start a discussion about how the site looked in the past and what events happened there.

We thought we'd change the idea of Viewfinder a little - While the Castle is closed for redevelopment, we would love to reminisce on any good times or events that you guys have attended at the Castle in the past such as the beer festival, pageant, closing weekend or even just fun family days out in general.

We would love for you to share any pictures that you have taken with friends and family or just enjoying a lunch break in the Castle grounds and we will be sharing them on our Instagram account [@nottingham\\_castle](#)

If you wish to take part in this, please send your photos in [via the form on our website](#)

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## Meet the team - Sideburn Panda

This new section is a chance to meet some of the team that are working on the project. This month, Jade interviews **Joseph Bell of Sideburn Panda** – Digital Producer

**What does it mean to you to be working on such a significant project?** "It is a huge privilege to be able to be a part of this project, the scale of the challenge and opportunity is so exciting because whatever we do here is what the next years and years of visitors are going to experience. We can be ambitious with it and it is very exciting."

**What is the role of a digital producer?** "In the most basic sense, my job is to simply get the digital aspects of the project produced and to be a creative project manager who is able to reassure the stakeholders. In this case I will be helping to produce lots of interactive games, touch screens, video audio and just so many different types of digital media which is where the challenge is."

**How did you get in to this job role?** "I was always interested in online content and culture and then a job came up with the BBC and I worked my way up from there. Now I'm a freelance digital producer. I just had to tender for this role within the Castle Project because it looked so interesting."

**What are you looking forward to the most within your role?**

"My favourite thing on any project like this is always picking the different creative partners and of course the most exciting part is the first time where all the digital stuff is in place and we can do soft testing."

**Finally, I have to ask, 'Sideburn Panda'? How did the name come about?** "This is probably the question I get asked the most. I was setting up a domain for a blog and at the time I had very noticeable sideburns and black rings around my eyes - it's just stuck ever since."

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## Object of the month

**What is it?** - Our chosen object this month is a Diploma of Honour awarded to Nottingham by the International Jury for the Manufacture of Lace & Hosiery at the Universal Exhibition of Paris held in 1878.

**Why is it significant?** - The diploma highlights the international status Nottingham lace once had and the importance of lace and hosiery manufacture to the economy and development of the city.

The exhibition provided an ideal opportunity to acquire international art and crafts objects for the collection of the newly opened Nottingham

Castle Museum and Art Gallery. Ornate Indian weapons, bottles and textiles and Viennese glassware from the exhibition still sit in our collection.

**Tell me more** - Significant local figures were involved in the exhibition, including Nottingham lace manufacturers A.J. Mundella and Thomas Isaac Birkin who both served as jurors of textiles.

The exhibition ran from May 1 to November 10 1878 and attracted 16,156,626 visitors to the 75 acres site. The head of the Statue of Liberty, a gift to America from France to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American independence in 1876, was on display to raise funds for its completion. Another now iconic item on display was Alexander Graham Bell's telephone.

The Diploma of Honour will feature in the new Creative City: Creative Castle Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

### [Third Paris International Exposition of 1878](#)

### [More about the Creative City space in the transformed Castle](#)

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## Top Trumps#1

There are so many amazing and colourful characters that have been involved with the Castle and its history that the team thought it would be great to turn their stories into a game of Top Trumps. We had lots of fun debating the strengths and qualities of these people and we'd love to hear what you think. Please [email us](#) or we'll also get these tales up on social media. Top Trumps #1 is **William the Conqueror**...

Read more about William the Conqueror at:

[BBC.com](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[English Monarchs.com](#)

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## Top Trumps #1

**King William the Conqueror**  
**Builder of the first Nottingham Castle**  
**c1028 – 9/9/1087**

William defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and became England's first Norman king. The Domesday Book records his survey of landholdings in England. A strong monarch who built many castles to subdue his subjects, he had a reputation for greed & cruelty but was also religious.



## Top Trumps #1



**Style** – 35/100

**Claim to Fame** – 89/100

**Rebel rating** – 82/100

**Dreadful Deeds** – 76/100

**Popularity** – 34/100

### References

- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_the\\_Conqueror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_the_Conqueror)
  - [www.bbc.com/timelines/zp88wmn](https://www.bbc.com/timelines/zp88wmn)
  - [www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/normans.htm](https://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/normans.htm)
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## Contractor update



This month, **Gemma Thorpe**, Bid and Marketing Coordinator updates us on fundraising for G F Tomlinson's chosen charity - Framework...

"The G F Tomlinson team is proud to be supporting Nottingham based charity 'Framework' through the Nottingham Castle Redevelopment project. Framework deliver

housing, health, employment, support and care services to people with a diverse range of needs.

To date, G F Tomlinson has sponsored the New Albion Unit's Christmas dinner and gift appeal and raised funds through breakfast cob mornings. We also attended the first ever Framework Careers Fair, where our team advised centre users of the different roles in construction, with work experience placements offered as a step into the industry.

Throughout the duration of the project, G F Tomlinson has a variety of activities planned to support Framework, such as work experience placements and mock interview sessions at the Castle, to support their users joining or returning to the workplace. DIY sessions are also being arranged with the Charity's Training Centre, where our Customer Care Team will deliver basic DIY sessions to prepare Centre Users for independent living."

G F Tomlinson is delighted to be supporting this local worthy charity throughout the Transformation works. If you would like to find out how you can support Framework, [please visit the Framework website](#)

[Read about GFT's work on the project in Construction Magazine](#)

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