



March 2020

**Welcome to the March
Castle Transformation Newsletter**

This month, we feature:

- **Project update** - Stay safe, digital records, focus group
- **Nottingham Castle Trust News** - Keep busy at home
- **Nottingham Castle - A Year to Celebrate** - Periplum presents concepts
- **Object of the Month** - Nottingham Castle on Fire by Henry Dawson
- **Top Trumps** - No. 11 - John Crowshaw
- **Contractor update** - G F Tomlinson time-lapse
- **Badajoz Day** - Commemorations with the Mercian regiment



Image: A garden party takes place at Nottingham Castle, c1890's (Image: Picture Nottingham/Nottingham City Council)



March project update

Stay safe - Firstly, we hope all of our readers are well and staying safe in these worrying times. Although our methods of working have changed somewhat over the last few weeks, the Project Team is still developing aspects of the Castle project, and as such will continue to distribute this newsletter for as long as is practicable.

If you have unexpected time on your hands, perhaps you could [email in](#) with your favourite pictures of the Castle? We'd love to hear from you.

Digitally capturing Lucy Hutchinson's Diary -

We were so excited to be witness to the photography of Lucy Hutchinson's memoirs this month. They are currently housed at Nottinghamshire Archives where they have been well looked after for many years. On the

re-opening of the Castle, the memoirs will be on display in the Rebellion Gallery as a key object in our Civil War section. In order to ensure that the content of the memoirs is accessible to visitors (as the book itself will be in a bespoke case) we have decided to photograph every single page, which will be available digitally to visitors via a touch screen interactive. A digital copy will also be available to visitors to the Archives. This was a very long process, so thanks must go to our photographer Freddy, collections staff Eileen, and the conservation department at the Archives who offered invaluable advice throughout.

Focus group - We wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to those of you who attended our Focus Group earlier in the month. It was a really interesting evening with lots of thought provoking conversation and great ideas. The feedback on the gallery titles has now been analysed and passed to our script writers. We'll let you know when titles have been finalised, but it's safe to say that the team benefitted greatly from the Focus Group and the findings have already had a real impact. Thank you.

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Nottingham Castle Trust

Keep busy at home with the Nottingham Castle Trust Team

With schools and workplaces closed due to coronavirus, the Nottingham Castle Trust team is working together to create remote learning, community

and volunteering opportunities for people to get involved with at home. The team want to get you making, engaging and being part of fun! Join us on social media where we will be bringing you weekly activities and initiatives to be a part of.



Get involved now and start by sharing your photos of Nottingham Castle at: [The Viewfinder Project](#) Help us reach 200 photos, as we plan to create a Virtual Photo Tour to celebrate Microvolunteering day on 15 April.

Why not try some [Nottingham Castle creative learning ideas](#) and join our Nottingham Heritage Hunters?

Put your creative skills to the test and speak out through the [Voices Of Today project](#)

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Find the Castle Trust team and their weekly engagement projects at the following:

Twitter Nottingham Castle [@NottmCastle](#)

Gareth Morgan, Learning Development Officer
[@gm6016](#)

Pippa Vidal Davis, Volunteer Manager
[@pippapipspipe](#)

Josh Osoro Pickering, Engagement and Participation Officer
[@joshosoro](#)

Facebook [Nottingham Castle](#)

YouTube [Nottingham Castle](#)

Soundcloud [Nottingham Castle](#)

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Nottingham Castle - A Year to Celebrate

Our appointed artistic lead, Periplum, has been working hard to build fantastic partnerships across the city.

They have recently discussed their proposals with the Castle Reopening Celebrations Steering Group, which consists of a range of stakeholders across culture, business, and marketing.

They were hugely positive in their responses, delighted with the progress [Periplum](#) has made so far.

The proposal includes a strong community engagement programme starting in neighbourhoods, leading to large scale events in and around the Castle, with digital outputs which will be accessible internationally. The team is now working to fund raise the budget needed to realise the ambitions of this project.

Check out [Periplum's Glass Ceiling project](#) on Vimeo

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Top Trumps #11

Welcome to the eleventh character in the series of Castle stories, turned into a game of Top Trumps.

Top Trumps #11 is **John Crowshaw** - Controller and Supervisor of Works at Nottingham Castle 1387-1397

Find out more at:

[History of Parliament online - John Crowshaw](#)

[Wikipedia - Richard II](#)

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

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John Crowshaw - Controller & Supervisor of Works at Nottingham Castle 1387 – 1397

Wool trader & Nottingham MP
Crowshaw was Lord Mayor 4 times. He obtained a royal pardon for Nottingham 6 days before Richard III became king and bought pardons for himself too. A member of the "Merciless Parliament" presided upon by Richard II (pictured) which temporarily took control of England in 1388. Crowshaw left money to St Mary's Church.



John Crowshaw - Controller & Supervisor of Works at Nottingham Castle 1387 – 1397

Scores

Style - 55

Claim to Fame - 16

Rebel Rating - 85

Dreadful Deeds - 69

Popularity - 51

References

- www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/crowshaw-john-1399
- www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/richard_ii_king.shtml



**Object of the month -
Nottingham Castle on Fire**

What is it? - This month we return to the Rebellion Gallery for our selection. The oil painting “Nottingham Castle on Fire” by Henry Dawson depicts the Castle ablaze on the night of October 10, 1831 having been set alight by rioters. Silhouetted figures in the foreground are watching the spectacle.



Why is it significant? - The fire was a pivotal event in the history of Nottingham & the castle. It was a response to the castle’s then owner, the 4th Duke of Newcastle’s, opposition to extending the right to vote in England. By coincidence, it was the re-development of the castle following the fire that boosted Henry Dawson’s fortunes as an artist.

Tell me more - Dawson lived in Nottingham until his mid-thirties & worked in a lace factory until he was able to sustain himself financially as an artist. His attempts to gain recognition from the Royal Academy in London had limited success, but the opening of the Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery in 1878 significantly raised his profile & the prices his works fetched. The opening exhibition & its illustrated catalogue contained 57 of his works & the Prince of Wales shook his hand & congratulated him at the opening ceremony.

Sources of further information

[Nottinghamshire History - Artists](#)

[Art UK - Henry Dawson](#)

Nottingham Castle on Fire will feature in the new Rebellion Gallery currently being designed by exhibition designers Casson Mann.

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Contractor Update - G F Tomlinson

Watch the latest [time lapse images for March](#) on the Nottingham Castle Transformation website

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Badajoz Day **Monday 6 April**

On 6 April 1812, the 45th (Nottinghamshire) Regiment of Foot fought alongside the Duke of Wellington's Army in the fortress town of Badajoz.

The 45th, led by Lieutenant James MacPherson, scaled the Castle's walls and advanced through the castle tower.

Once there, MacPherson realised he did not have a British flag to hoist on the flag pole, instead he used his own red tunic to signal that the Castle had fallen.

Today, The [Mercian Regiment](#) recognises this day as Badajoz Day and every year a red tunic is hoisted up the flag pole in Nottingham Castle, Regimental HQ Nottingham, Regimental HQ at Lichfield and anywhere where Battalions of the Mercian Regiment are based.

This uniform which is in the Museum of the Mercian Regiment (WFR Collection) at Nottingham Castle, **and will be displayed when the Castle reopens** was worn at Badajoz by Ensign George MacDonell in 1812.

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A reconstruction of the raising of the red tunic, previously on the Castle site

