

THE CASTLE QUARTER TRAIL

This is a short walk around Nottingham's historic **Castle Quarter**, and focuses on the **3 R's** - not the ones we remember from schooldays but: **Royalty, Religion & Radicalism**. The power struggles between these three fluctuated in importance over the centuries in Nottingham and this area proved to be a battleground in more ways than one. For more information refer to the brief history of Nottingham on the [Lace Market Trail page](#).

The Castle Quarter Trail walk starts at the Castle Gatehouse, [1] on the map.



Note: This Trail document is under development. If you have any interesting facts about any of the buildings shown please contact one of the Local History Group or the Webmaster so that the page can be updated.

1. Nottingham Castle Gatehouse

The upper towers and gatehouse were renovated in Victorian times. However parts of the medieval castle remain in the bridge and lower towers that can be viewed from adjacent to the Robin Hood statue (see 5 below).



2. Standard Hill

Royalty is symbolised by **Nottingham Castle** itself, of strategic importance in the Middle Ages and a favourite of medieval kings. From the castle we walk up Standard Hill to where King Charles I set up his Royal Standard to proclaim the start of the Civil War.



Royal Standard Place is dominated by the **Roundhouse**. Now a pub, it was originally part of Nottingham's Old General Hospital Jubilee wing.



3. Byron plaque

A plaque on the wall of 76 St. James's Street tells us that Lord Byron, one of Britain's greatest poets, lived there from 1798 to 1799.



4. Mortimer House

Returning back past the castle entrance, on the left of Castle Road stretching between Hounds Gate and Castle Gate is Mortimer House which was designed by the renowned Nottingham architect Watson Fothergill. Originally a terrace of six houses and shops with a complex roof line it has had a varied life and currently houses the Castle pub and The Watson Fothergill restaurant.



5. Robin Hood Statue

Across the road from Fothergills is the statue of Robin Hood, It was unveiled by the Duchess of Portland in 1952. Cast in eight pieces of half-inch thick bronze (made to last 6,000 years) and weighing half a ton, the 7ft effigy of Nottingham's legendary outlaw proudly stands on a two-and-a-half ton block of white Clipsham stone. It is surrounded by small studies of Little John, Friar Tuck, Alan A Dale and Will Scarlett, whilst wall plaques illustrate scenes from the tales of Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

The sculptor had meticulously researched the details for his subject and created a stocky-built figure that depicted how the historians believed medieval foresters from the period would look. However, the public were expecting an Errol Flynn-type interpretation, sporting a pointed cap with a jaunty feather. So a controversial debate was born that continues even to this day, with complaints also being made about Robin's headgear being an authentic leather skull cap rather than the triangular felted hat that Flynn wore.

Over the years the statue became a target for souvenir hunters and there have been times when Robin has looked particularly forlorn with no arrow, no bowstring and sometimes only half a bow. In the 50's and 60's, replacement arrows were costing the City Council £55 a time and they frequently

placed orders with the South Lambeth foundry that supplied them. Ironically, it was a former Sheriff of Nottingham, Alderman Frank Dennett who came to Robin's aid and enlisted the services of the engineers at the Royal Ordnance Factory, who made the arrow from a particularly strong material fixed with a specialised welding process to deter the vandals.

The statue has become an iconic image of Robin Hood that has graced the covers of hundreds of newspapers and magazines around the world – all giving valuable free publicity for the city. Apart from the millions of visitors who have taken their traditional souvenir photo at the statue, it has also provided the ideal location for numerous celebrity photo shoots and television links.



Returning to the 3 R's - **Radicalism**, which showed itself in the tales of our folk hero Robin Hood, soon prevailed and Nottingham declared itself for Parliament.

The British Civil Wars are often seen as religious: Catholic against Protestant. **Religion** held a prominent place in people's lives but beliefs had been evolving through time. An early map shows the location of the thirteenth century Friaries. The Greyfriars (Franciscans) established themselves in Broadmarsh - look for the remnants of Greyfriars Gate - and the Whitefriars (Carmelites) between Whitefriars Lane and St James's Street. But local tales of immoral friars in the 1500's meant that these were closed down with little fuss after Henry VIII's power struggles with religion led to the dissolution of the monasteries.

If Robin Hood demonstrated the local spirit of rebellion against royal power, the mid 1700's to mid-1800's showed Nottingham at its most radical. Low wages and squalid living conditions led to intense poverty and food riots. Nottingham became a garrison town and soldiers were often despatched to quell the riots of the framework knitters and later the frame-breaking Luddites.

Nottingham people developed a reputation as a 'combustible mob'. The rallying cry of *To the Castle* led to the burning of the ducal palace of the Duke of Newcastle after he refused to support the reform Bill.

6. Castle Walls

Continue alongside the Castle Walls towards the Trip to Jerusalem.



7. The Trip to Jerusalem

Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem claims to be the oldest pub in England, dating from 1179 when legend has it that the knights would gather there before going off to the Crusades. There is no documentation to verify this date; the earliest parts of the current building date from around 1650. The pub is attached to several caves carved out of the soft sandstone of Castle Rock, which were originally used as a brewhouse for the castle, and which appear to date from around the time of the construction of the castle in 1068 AD. The earliest record of a pub is in 1751, when the building was being used as an inn with the name ***The Pilgrim***.



To see photos of the cellars from the Local History group's visit in May 2016, click [Local History 2016](#)

8. Brewhouse Yard



In the 17th century the Brewhouse Yard was a thriving community consisting of 20 houses and having 127 inhabitants at its peak. It now houses the Brewhouse Yard Museum which was also visited by the Local History group in May 2016 – for more information click [Local History 2016](#)

9. Severns Building

Return back up Castle Road to the corner with Castle Gate. The Severns Building which once housed the Nottingham Lace Centre was transported from Drury Hill when the Broadmarsh centre was built.



10. Marshall Tallard

In 1704 the Duke of Marlborough defeated the French forces under Marshal Tallard at Blenheim and captured their illustrious general. Marshal Tallard was sent to live in Nottingham under parole at Newdigate House in Castle Gate.

He eventually settled down to live a happy and useful life amid his erstwhile enemies. His courtesy and innate goodness soon made him popular, and to him our forefathers owed many novel and useful innovations.

He taught their wives how to make white bread and how to prepare salads, and he taught the men how to grow roses.

The greatest gift we owe to him is celery. He had known the plant in France, and sadly missed it in England, where its use was unknown. He found it growing wild in the marshes at Lenton, and cultivated it in his garden.



11. St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas church was rebuilt in 1671 after it was destroyed by the Parliamentarians because the Royalists used the tower to fire on the castle yard, killing and injuring several soldiers.



12. The Royal Children

The Royal Children pub gets its name from the children of Princess Anne. In 1688, when King James II.'s throne was tottering to its fall, Anne, his daughter, fled away from his court and refuted herself in Nottingham. There she was very hospitably entertained at the Castle, and her popularity was such that she became the great toast of the whole neighbourhood. There is a tradition that her children were accommodated in this inn, but whether that is true or not it is impossible to say.

Until fairly recently a large whale bone used to hang outside the pub. At one time whale oil was used as a fuel for heating and the whale fisheries of Whitby and the other north-east ports were very prosperous. Whaling skippers would distribute portions of the skeletons of their gigantic prey as advertisements.



13. The Salutation Inn

Another old pub that vies with the Trip and the Bell to claim the title of oldest pub in Nottingham. The current building was constructed as a workshop for a tanner with living accommodation above in 1240 on the site of an old alehouse known as ***The Archangel Gabriel Salutes the Virgin Mary***. The name led local historian J. Holland Walker to speculate a connection with the local Carmelite monastery but no documentary has been found to support this.

During the English Civil War both factions established recruiting rooms in the Inn. Following the Puritan victory the authorities objected to the religious implications of the sign and the Inn was renamed ***Soldier and Citizen***. The original name was restored along with the Monarchy in 1660.

An investigation by the Thoroton Excavation Society in 1937 dated the caves to the 9th century and concluded that they were part of a Saxon farm later used for servants' accommodation and brewing. Extensions to the pub in 1966 included the hanging of a wrought iron hand outside that was stolen that same night.



14. Truswell Yard

Running between Hounds Gate and Castle Gate, Truswell Yard is probably the narrowest thoroughfare in Nottingham



15. Castle Gate

The walk continues along Castle Gate, halfway down what used to be the main thoroughfare from the Norman castle to the Saxon part of the town, which later became the Lace Market.

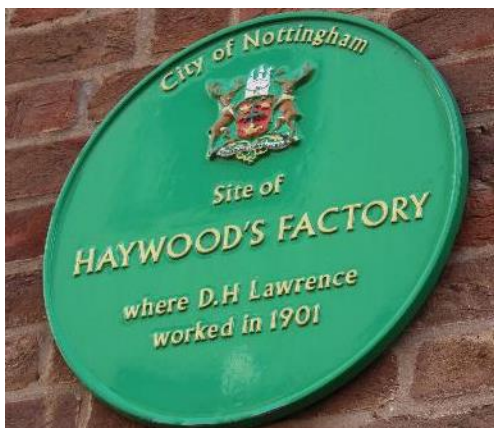
The roots of **Castle Gate Church** lay in an Independent congregation which met in Nottingham in the 1650's. The minister was ejected under the Stuart Restoration in 1662-1663. A meeting house on Castle Gate in Nottingham was registered in 1689 when the Act of Toleration allowed for dissenting Protestant congregations to worship. By the 19th century the church was Congregational in denomination. The old chapel was replaced by the present building in 1863 to designs by the architect Richard Charles Sutton and it opened for worship in 1864.

In 1972 the congregation joined the United Reformed Church and three years later merged with St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Goldsmiths Street. In 1980 the congregational federation purchased the buildings back again. In 2010, the El Shaddai International Christian Centre took out a lease on the building.



16. D H Lawrence

The walk finishes at the site of the former Haywood's factory (now *New Look*, next to *Weavers*) where D. H. Lawrence started work as a factory clerk for the surgical appliances manufacturer.



Thanks go to Jann Kirke and Graeme Bunting for researching the details of the trail and to Graham Palmer, Nick Clark and Graeme Bunting for the photos.