IN NOTTS WE LOVE TO MAKE HISTORY
33 MONTHS OF TURMOIL. 1 TURNING POINT IN HISTORY.

Early August 1642
Charles I reaches Nottingham

25th August 1642
Charles I’s second attempt to raise the Royal Standard in Nottingham Castle. The Royalists initially held the town but after Charles left to gather supporters, the Parliamentarians took control of the Castle.

1643

Nottingham was a Royalist stronghold and as the town’s population grew with the King’s troops, fierce battles were fought at the Castle and other key sites. Newark came under siege from the Parliamentarians in 1643, 1644 and 1645-46 and as the fighting raged, the population suffered disease and famine. Today visitors can see landmarks associated with the conflict, as well as the National Civil War Centre.

The Civil War Timeline

September 1643
Royalist forces establish control of St Nicholas Church before it is destroyed by Parliamentarians five days later

21st March 1644
Prince Rupert relieves Newark

December 1645
Third siege of Newark

5th May 1645
Charles I surrenders to the Scottish forces in Southwell. He is taken to nearby Kelham Hall where he is held prisoner for several days before being held in other parts of the country and his eventual beheading in January 1649.
1. Nottingham Castle
   The castle was occupied by both the Royalists and Parliamentarians during the Civil War. It held a strong strategic position on top of Castle Rock. The Royal standard was initially raised here before being raised again on Standard Hill. Today there is a plaque commemorating Charles I raising the royal standard at the castle. Standard Hill. Today there is a plaque commemorating Charles I raising the royal standard.

2. Standard Hill
   It was here that the Royal Standard was raised by Charles I, marking the start of the Civil War. Today there is a plaque on Standard Hill to remember this historic event.

3. St Nicholas Church
   In September 1643, the church was held for five days by the Royalists, who used the church spire as a lookout point during their sieges on the castle. However, the church was destroyed during the sieges and the current church was later erected on the same site.

4. Ye Olde Salutation Inn
   Used as a base to recruit soldiers for both sides in the war. It briefly became known as the Salter and Citizen in the war at the order of Oliver Cromwell but was restored to its original name in 1640 upon the return of the monarchy.

5. Nottingham Contemporary
   The site of the Nottingham Contemporary would have been the city’s commercial centre and site of the old town hall during the Civil War. At this time, the town hall was used as a store for munitions and supplies.

6. Newark Castle
   The castle houses the best preserved Norman Gatehouse in Britain. Under the archways, the basement is still blackened from gunpowder used by the Parliamentarians in 1645 when attempting to destroy the castle.

7. Captain Wall, Riverside
   Walk along the sides of the Gatehouse to the riverside. Here you will see circular depressions in the wall caused by Parliamentarian cannons known as Rottelettes. These would have been fired to strip people unloading boats from the rear.

8. Millgate Otter Park
   This would have been the site of many of the mills on the banks of the River Trent. The river generated power for the mills to help with production. This area was inhabited by the poorer classes and they would have lived in severe poverty, with disease and plague rampant.

9. The Prince Rupert
   Originally a merchant’s house which provided accommodation for soldiers during the civil war. It would have been roughly 200 years old at the time of the conflict.

10. Governor’s House (Greggs the bakers)
    Originally a merchant’s house, but used as the Governor’s House in the Civil War. Its location was perfect, close to the military headquarters and also the church, which was used not only for worship but also as a lookout point.

11. Plaque on Natwest Bank
    Used as a lookout point and place of worship in the Civil War, this was a key location in the town. The plaque in the church spire is said to originate from a cannon shot by Parliamentarian forces in 1644. Inside the church, you will find a plaque dedicated to Alderman Hercules Clay as well as a crypt which houses church silver. In the church yard, a monument tells the names of officers killed in various sieges of Newark.

12. The Old White Hart
    The oldest surviving pub in Newark, it was used as a billet for soldiers in the Civil War. The building dates back to the 17th century and its colourful timber frame makes it instantly recognisable and unique in the town.

13. National Civil War Centre
    The National Civil War Centre, new for 2015, houses exhibitions and tells the story of the Civil War and Newark’s role within the conflict with interactive exhibits and artefacts donated by local people.

14. St Mary Magdalene Church
    Used as a lookout point and place of worship in the Civil War, this was a key location in the town. The building shows evidence of 15th and 16th century architecture in its construction.

15. Charles I Coffee House
    Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, stayed here when visiting Newark. The building shows evidence of 15th and 16th century architecture in its construction.

16. Cafe Amore
    This building was also used as a merchant’s house and a billet for soldiers during the Civil War conflicts. The building’s history dates as far back as 1337.

17. The Wharf
    The curved stone wall in place today, follows the same line as the original town wall towards the castle. This wall would have formed a key part of Newark’s outer defences in the Civil War.

18. The Queen’s Sconce
    One of a pair of earthen ramparts erected to defend the town’s northern and southern approaches from parliamentary forces.

19. Saracen’s Head
    Named after the sword used to behead Charles I, this is the building where he stayed after he fled Newark disguised as a clergyman.

20. Southwell Minster
    The Minster suffered terrible damage in the Civil War and was plundered for valuable materials. It was used as a place to store horses and military supplies.

21. Archbishop’s Palace
    The Palace was used as a base for the Scottish Army in 1645. Charles I was taken to the Archbishop’s Palace after he gave himself up to the Scots in Southwell to strike a deal with the Scottish Commissioners. However, they later handed him over to the Parliamentarians for a substantial fee.