

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: UNUSUAL & QUIRKY

Andrew Beardmore

Nottinghamshire, Robin Hood's county, is full of pleasant countryside, historic buildings and thriving cities, towns and villages. But lurking not far beneath its surface is a host of oddities and peculiarities that turn the apparently staid and conventional into something much more intriguing.

Nevertheless, although most definitely unusual and quirky, this book still has plenty to offer in terms of conventional reference – albeit delivered in an original and humorous format. And despite the fact that it is divided into two sections called *Conventional Nottinghamshire* and *Quirky Nottinghamshire*, even the Conventional half is riddled with quiriness. So although you get key facts and figures along with a detailed history from the Stone Age to present day, the whole section is interspersed with the book's idiosyncratic "Quirk Alerts"; like an anecdote called "George's Grill" showing up in prehistoric times, along with an eighteenth century nod to *Game of Thrones* and a lateral nineteenth century reference to *Vampire Diaries!*

However, understandably it is the *Quirky Nottinghamshire* section where things turn really strange, and where a seemingly random almanac of 55 Nottinghamshire places have their quirkiest facts laid bare: like which Nottinghamshire villages are home to a lethal Roman curse, an 8 foot trumpet and the Black Pig Dancers, which one swapped sides of the Trent in the sixteenth century and which one saw the capture of the evil Black Panther in 1975; or how about Harry Potter's gravestone, an oven made of gravestones, the Flying Bedstead, Britain's Festival Village of 1951 and Britain's "hardest pub"; and not forgetting a pub chair that increases fertility, a house haunted by an inebriated butler and an evil bishop, plus a village which puts cows on thatched roofs to keep them topped up on straw! If you think you know Nottinghamshire, read this fascinating and profusely illustrated book and think again...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

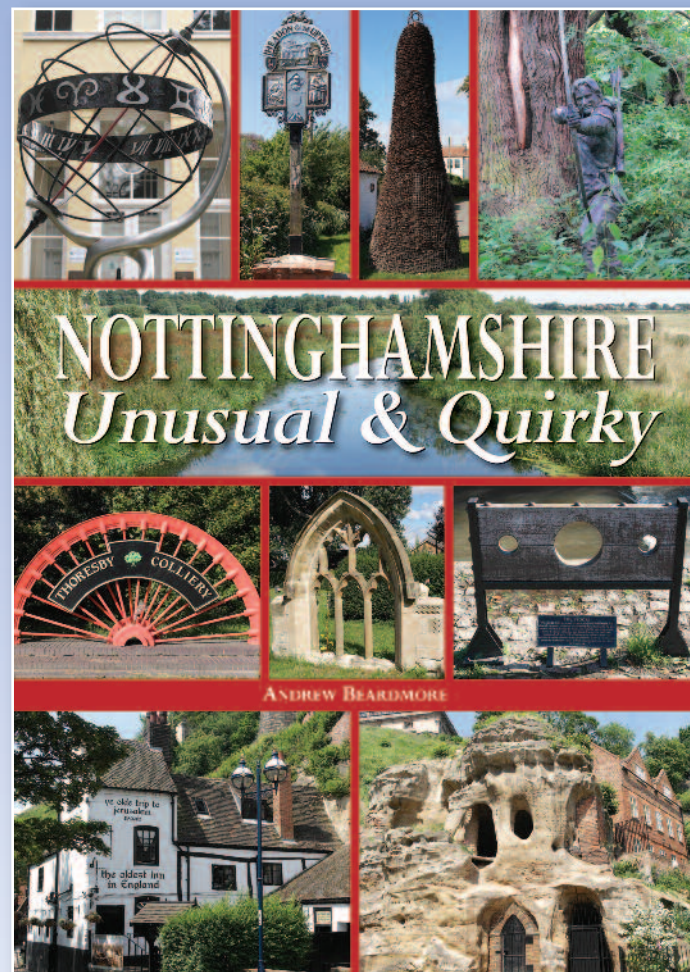
Although born in Derby, Andrew Beardmore has spent most of his working life in Nottingham, and currently works at Phoenix Park. However, his first introduction to Nottingham was courtesy of Brian Clough, whilst sitting in the back of the great man's Mercedes as he cruised along the Victoria Embankment towards the City Ground. As well as numerous Cloughie anecdotes, subsequent journeys to away matches on the team train also introduced Andrew to the "guess a correct word" competition when listening into three-way card games between Archie Gemmill, John Robertson and Kenny Burns!

Andrew embarked on a 28-year career in I.T. However, although still a full-time I.T. Capacity Manager, he has returned to his childhood loves of history and geography. He writes in his spare time and this has resulted in the publication of *Derbyshire: Unusual & Quirky* in 2014. It was only natural that Nottinghamshire should appear next.

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The Major Oak, Sherwood Forest. The plaque alongside it suggests that it may be as old as 1,150 years.



Above: Warm-down after the 15:45 at Colwick Park on Sunday 1 June, 2014.



Left: Statue of Brian Clough at the top of the Old Market Square, Nottingham.



Gotham Legends – including the cuckoo bush crew!



Left: The D. H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum on Victoria Street, Eastwood.



Below: Lenton Recreation Ground.



Example of a double-page spread.