

FAMOUS CHARACTERS

ROBIN HOOD

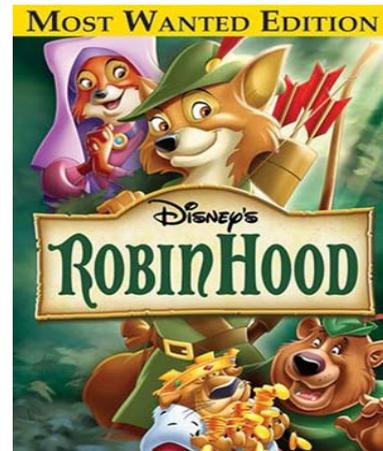
Who was Robin Hood? Did he really exist? If he did, when did he live? These questions have exercised minds of different people around the world for many years and the legend about him provokes debates and arguments even today.

The stories which have been told and retold for over 700 years, portray him as a fearless outlaw leading his band of 'merry men' against tyranny of Prince John, the Sheriff of Nottingham and Sir Guy Gisbourne. The names of Little John, Friar Tuck, Allan a Dale or Marion are as much a part of the legend as Robin Hood himself.



Robin was a brilliant archer, famous for his gallantry. He took from the rich and gave to the poor. Sherwood Forest was a place of safety from the Sheriff's men, and the famous Major Oak was the 'council tree' for Robin and his band. It was also the setting of the great romance with Marion.

While the story of Robin Hood lives on in books, comics, films and cartoons, historians and researchers have a range of different views and still can't find strong evidence about his true identity. To a certain extent, that's what keeps the legend so alive and makes the story so special.



But the most wonderful thing about Robin Hood legend is that different people see different things in it. The triumph of good over evil. The friendship of the outlaw band. The mediaeval atmosphere of bows and arrows, castles and kings. The magic landscape and places that bring the tales to life.

That's why around a million people a year flock to see the Major Oak and the Robin Hood Festival where enthusiasts try to recapture the spirit of Robin Hood in the beautiful surroundings of Nottingham and Sherwood Forest.

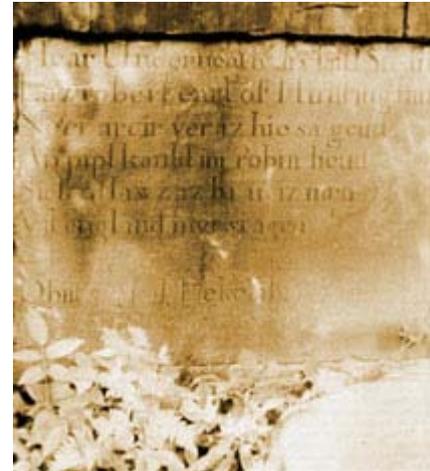


And there are some who even visit Kirkless Priory where the supposed grave of Robin Hood can be seen. On a mediaeval gravestone there is a partial inscription “here lies Rubard Hude“.

*"Syr Roger of Donkestere
by the pryoresse he lay
and there they betrayed good Robyn Hode
through theyr false playe*

*Cryst have mercy on his soule
That dyed on the rode!
For he was a good outlawe
And did poor men much good"*

*Final verses of
"A gest of Robyn Hode"*



*Robin Hood's Gravestone
at Kirkless*