

# NEWSLETTER

## Visit to Berwick-upon-Tweed

*A September excursion north with an expert guide*



A group from the Friends of York Walls travelled to Berwick-upon-Tweed in September to see the walls there. Local guide Derek Sharman MBE, a member of Cittaslow\* Berwick, showed the group around. Berwick's walls date from 1313, and saw frequent action as the town changed hands 13 times in the long struggle between the English and the Scots.

Did you know that FoYW is an associate member of the European Walled Towns Association? See the website <http://walledtowns.com> for a full list of members. There is also a guide to British and Irish walled cities on Wikipedia.

\* See [www.cittaslow.org.uk](http://www.cittaslow.org.uk) for an explanation.

### We are now a charity

As of November 2014 the group has become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity number 1159300.

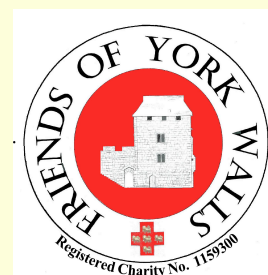
See

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission)

for our listing.

The first group of trustees will serve for three years. They are:

- John Dowell
- Chris Dowell
- Alan Fleming
- Granville Heptonstall
- Simon Mattam
- Chris Rainger
- Glen McGowan



### TALK ON HOWSHAM MILL



Howsham Mill, near Malton, has been transformed over the past ten years from a ruin into a working watermill, producing electricity from the River

Derwent. Two staff, Jen Wakefield (Education Officer) and Chris Fawdington (Treasurer) came to the Black Swan, York in November and gave an informative talk on how they managed to complete the project.

They were successful at applying for many grants, and their educational outreach is a path FoYW may seek to follow. We hope to have a trip to the mill in spring 2015 - watch this space!

2014 - A RECORD YEAR FOR VISITOR NUMBERS



**Fishergate Postern Tower (You can now sponsor stones on the north wall - see website)**

We opened Fishergate Postern Tower (FPT) to the public on 36 days during 2014, including for the York Curiouser arts festival. We had over 3,800 visitors on the 19 ordinary open days, and almost 1,000 during the York Curiouser arts festival.

The group opened Red Tower on both Residents' Weekend in January and Heritage Open Weekend in September. FoYW had almost 1100 visitors over the two weekends. A special mention must go to Chris Rainger whose display on the Tower's history was well received.

Illuminating York – the walls between Bootham Bar and Monk Bar were open to the public on the Wednesday and Thursday evening of this annual October event. Volunteers helped light the way, and children received glowsticks at Bootham Bar. Around 550 enjoyed their stroll in the dark.

All told there were almost 6,500 visitors, from all over Britain and the World. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped, and to all the visitors who filled our donation bucket.

LOOKING AHEAD

There is a list of our upcoming events on the right. In addition to seeking new volunteers we would love to hear from those who could help with publicity, events or fundraising. This would help us meet our objectives as stated in our CIO listing:

1. To educate the public in the history, natural history and architecture of York
2. To secure the preservation, protection and improvement of features of historic public interest in York, particularly the walls and historic defences.

CONTACT US

We now have a new email address: [friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com)

Our website remains: [www.yorkwalls.org.uk](http://www.yorkwalls.org.uk) and there are links to our Flickr group, Twitter and Facebook accounts on there.



**Red Tower - Opened twice in 2014, the first ever occasions when the public could see inside.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all Friends**

\*\*\*\*\*

Calendar

**Mid-January 2015**

Publicity event to mark signing of lease for Fishergate Postern Tower, and upcoming open days - see our website for updates

**Sat 31st Jan & Sun 1st Feb**

Fishergate Postern Tower and Red Tower open - Resident's Weekend

**Sat 21st & Sun 22nd February**

Fishergate Postern Tower open for Viking Festival (also school half-term)

**Sat 28th March, 2pm**

Annual General Meeting. Details will be emailed to all Friends.

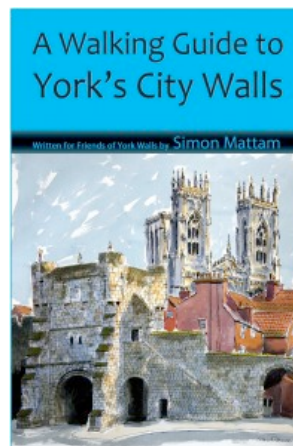
**Sat 4th, Sun 5th, Mon 6th Apr**

Easter opening - Fishergate Postern

**Weds 22nd April**

Lord Mayor of York Ian Gillies will lead local schoolchildren on a ceremonial inspection of York's walls.

Have you got Simon's book yet?



Committee member Simon Mattam, who is also a voluntary guide in York, published a guide to the walls.

£ 5.99 – available from Amazon, Oxfam shops in York, Visit York and Waterstones

ISBN: 9780992900205