

Richard Hanage

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Sent: 17 January 2018 19:53
To: richard@hanage.com
Subject: Friends of York Walls Newsletter - Jan 2018

Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Open days:

Sat/Sun 27/28 Jan (Residents Weekend)

Sat 17 Feb (Viking Festival)

Committee: Tues 6 Feb; Tues 6 Mar

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FoYW Newsletter - January 2018

Happy New Year to all our readers!

Volunteers Meeting 2018 Map & Guide Croque Monsieur ... New Ideas? Twitter Committee Room Projects Update Wall Closure Notices Mystery Painting.... Red Tower Vikings in Fishergate

Volunteer (and others) Meet-up (Martin Hetherington)

Ahead of our first opening of the Tower on 27/28 Jan (Residents Weekend) we are holding a meet-up for volunteers at 2pm on Saturday 20th January at Fishergate Postern Tower.

Readers who would like to meet the volunteers (and help clear away a few cobwebs) would be most welcome. We would love to extend the number of people willing to help at the Tower on open days. So. just turn up!

We'll spruce things up (all brooms and dustpan & brush sets welcome), and think over ideas for the New Year. We'll then head on to the Phoenix pub by Fishergate

Bar to slake our thirst, with the first round of drinks on the Committee!

'FOYW Map & Open Days Guide 2018' (Alan Fleming)

The 2018 version of our annual FOYW information leaflet has now been finalised, and has been sent off to the printers. It is also available on the [FOYW website](#)

The list of Fishergate Postern Tower "2018 Open Days" is available [here](#) .

Croque Monsieur Sponsorship (Alan Fleming)

This year we are pleased to announce that our friends at [Croque Monsieur](#) "the Coffee Shop in the Walls" have agreed to sponsor the printing of the 2018 leaflet.



Croque Monsieur - Bootham

From their Facebook Pages

If you are near to one of their establishments then give their drinks and food menu a go! At Bootham Bar you can even look through the glass floor to the Roman remains below.



Chris Hartley (Croque Monsieur) and the Wall Photo: York Press website

Ideas for New Events (Martin Hetherington)

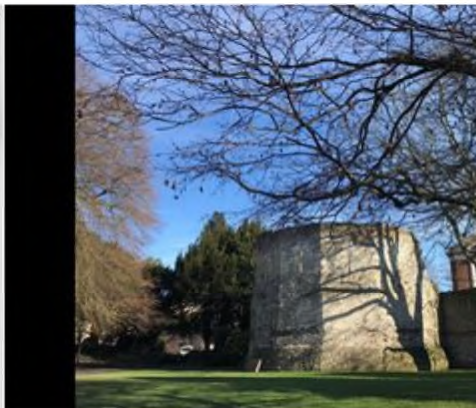
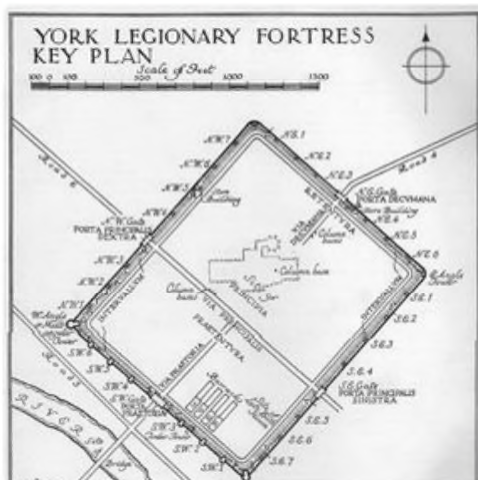
We hope that 2018 will see some new events on and around York Walls, and we would welcome any ideas for things we could try to host, or be involved in. Please email me your ideas to friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com

Twitter Update (Martin Hetherington)

Our Twitter page went from strength-to-strength last year, and begins 2018 with nearly 1,000 followers. Alan has added an '80 tweets' section to the resources on the FOYW website: http://www.yorkwalls.org.uk/?page_id=6620

YorkWallsFriend @YorkWallsFriend · May 20

#80tweets 9. Multangular Tower has the clearest #Roman remains in #York. Corner of fort (1,590 x 1,370ft, see RCHME map) with 5,000 soldiers



Hannah Rogers @HannahRogers9 · Mar 7
One of the highlights of my job is visiting places like this! #York #Heritage #BestJob #pic.twitter.com/V18EoLLas5

From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)

- We are delighted that Emily Greenaway has joined the Committee formally, to lead our fundraising.
- The next 'Annual Friends Meeting' will be in early April, date to be confirmed.
- We will pay for a round of drinks to kick-start the volunteers get together (The Phoenix Inn) on Saturday 20th January.
- We are very happy with our new venue for Committee meetings, and would like to recommend Me & Mrs Fisher to all the Friends.

Projects Progress (Richard Hanage)

FPT Door: We are hoping to get the door repaired in time for Resident's Weekend. This will involve removing the present door and fitting a rough temporary door in its place. The repaired door would then be returned and refitted with new lock(s) and keys.

Electrical Supply: The electrical supply into Fishergate Postern Tower is (slowly) moving forward, with trench digging and cable laying planned for early 2018, including a site open day, and communication of project progress to the public through Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Even what seems like a fairly simple project is not at all straightforward. The archaeological brief mentioned last month is available [here](#), and the Northern Powergrid process for installation is shown in this [video](#).

Internal Electrics: The 'internal electrics' sub-group met last week to start specifying the internal wiring in the Tower. The next step is to discuss our ideas with a specialist in designing electrics for heritage buildings, and get outline designs done. These designs are necessary for approvals by Historic England and City of York Council.

Update on Wall Closure Notices (Simon Mattam)

Last month's newsletter mentioned FoYW's quiet campaign to get a new notice put on the gates up to the Walls. The aim was to help would-be-Walls-walkers understand closures - mainly by telling them how to get information by phone, Twitter or face-to-face enquiry. The newsletter mentioned a CYC draft notice and said that there was soon to be a 'meeting of the Walls Liaison Group and we hope to get improvements to the wording and approval of the notices'. We got both and the notices were up within a few days.



Effective, but Ugly?

Photo: Simon Mattam

In my opinion they are ugly but effective. One sunny frosty day I watched a small group find themselves barred from the Walls at Bootham Bar then read the notice and phone CYC and ask if the closure was complete and for the whole day. For a while last month there was a possibility of reassessment of slipperiness and a midday opening but CYC don't think they have the manpower to continue this. Opening the two sections of wall-walk people couldn't fall off is something I'd like, but it seems scarcely worth asking for when this winter has already had someone get hospital treatment after a slip just south of Monk Bar [this was not on a frosty day and it isn't clear if they plan to claim damages].

Mystery Painting (Malcolm Jones/ Simon Mattam)

Simon has been in correspondence with Malcolm Jones, who sent us the query below. If any readers can shed more light on the painting please contact richard@hanage.com and I will pass it on to Simon and Malcolm.

"We have a watercolour picture of the Fishergate (photo below), by Edwin Tate dated 1907, which was left to us by a recently deceased friend. We know nothing of the painting or Tate's history except from what we have gleaned from Google, which is fascinating.

As someone who has worked in architecture for many years until my retirement, I wish I had had Tate's talent. I found no reference to our painting on Google Images, so wonder if it is known to your group? Any comments or information would be appreciated" [Malcolm Jones]



Fishergate Postern Tower

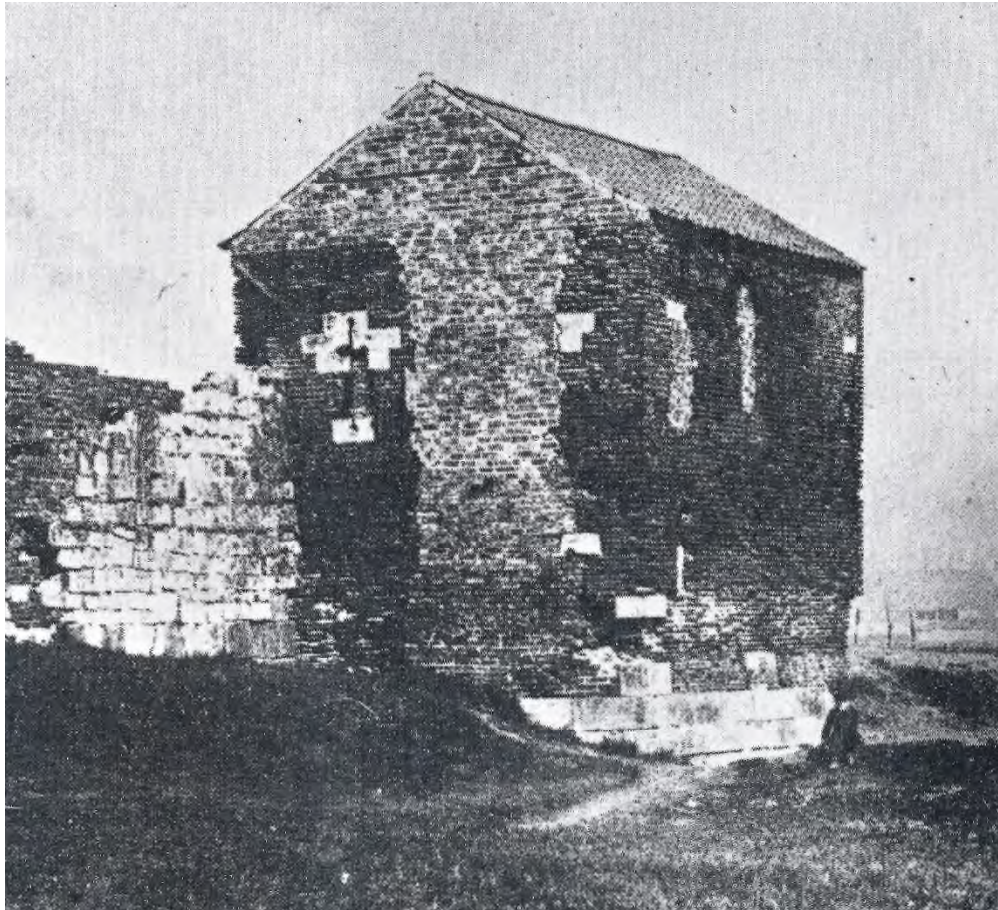
Ridsdale Tate (1907)

Simon replied that he could find no mention of the painting in 'The City Walls and Castles of York: the Pictorial Evidence' [Barbara Wilson & Frances Mee] or 'York through the Eyes of the Artist' [Hugh Murray et al.]. Ridsdale Tate's work is used in both books, and each has a brief note about his life and work towards the end. The only relevant thought is that it could have been done for Tate's 'Quaint and Historic York' [1906]?

Red Tower Developments (Chris Rainger)

Our friends at Red Tower have recently appointed builders to make the building suitable for use as a community café, with meeting room above. Electricity, water and drainage have been installed and a staircase will give safe access into the upper level.

Excavations to install the services, gave an opportunity to look at the building below the current ground level, where the thin medieval bricks could be seen. Some of us were expecting to see masonry below the brickwork, but it seems the builders did not quite dig deep enough for this to be exposed.



Red Tower in 1853

Photo: William Pumphrey

The masonry can be seen on the 1853 photograph by William Pumphrey, from the Evelyn Collection held by YAYAS. But looking carefully at this picture, it is clear that the stonework is further down than the recent excavations. What a shame!

Vikings in Fishergate (Chris Rainger)

Looking south from the window on the top floor of Fishergate Tower, the Novotel marks the spot where some of York's last victims to the Vikings are buried. As we all know, in 1066, there was an attempt to expand Harald Hardrada's Norwegian empire when he joined Tostig Godwinson to invade England.



Novotel Hotel at Fishergate

Photo: ex despegar.com

A fleet of some 300 ships landed at Riccall and the invaders slaughtered an army of York men at the Battle of Fulford. Some of the dead were brought back to York and buried at St Andrews church, which stood close to Fewster way, the Novotel approach road. The skeletons were discovered in 1985, during archaeological investigations by York Archaeological Trust between demolition of the huge Glassworks and construction of the hotel and the adjacent housing estate.



The Novotel Site

Photo: ex Google Maps

The site of the Battle of Fulford has been strongly contested during planning applications to build houses and road works in the area. For better or worse, construction is now under way, but one useful result is the extensive archaeological investigations which have preceded construction.

Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society is holding a meeting on the discoveries at the site on Saturday 20th January, 10am to noon, at St Oswald's

Church Hall, Fulford, where the archaeologists will display some of the finds. More information at www.ffhyork.weebly.com



Welcome to the website of the Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society (FFH for short).
We are a group of people interested in the history and heritage of the south eastern quarter of the city of York, including the Fishergate and Fulford Road area and the adjacent villages of Fulford and Heslington.



Richard Hanage (richard@hanage.com)
(Editor, on behalf of the Committee).

The FoYW Committee

The committee may be contacted at friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com

Glen McGowan	Chair
Penny Heptonstall	Treasurer
Sam McDermott	Secretary
Alan Fleming	Website
Richard Hanage	e-News/Accounts
Granville Heptonstall	
Martin Hetherington	Volunteers
Simon Mattam	
Tom Bethell	Events
Emily Greenaway	Fund-raising

If you would like to attend a committee meeting, please contact Sam McDermott friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com. They are normally on the first Tuesday of the month.

The 'Friends of York Walls' is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation representing York's walls & defences. Registered Charity: No. 1159300 www.yorkwalls.org.uk



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