

## Richard Hanage

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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## Friends of York Walls Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

#### Open days:

**Sat 24 Mar: York Literary Festival**

**Sat 31 Mar: Easter Saturday**

**Sat 21 Apr: York Open Studios**

**Committee: Tues 3 Apr; Tues 1 May**

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## FoYW Newsletter - March 2018

**Annual Friends Meeting .... Committee .... Tweets ..... Spring Clean .... Open Days .... St Denys Church ..... 2018 Leaflet .... Haslehust Painting**

### REMINDER: Annual Friends Meeting (Sam McDermott)

The 2018 Annual Friends Meeting will be on Saturday 7th April at 2pm in the Priory Street Centre, Priory Street, York, YO1 6ET.

Carolyn Lloyd Brown of the [Heritage Angel](#) company will give a presentation on heritage interpretation and visitor experience. Carolyn has been active nationally, but is based locally and worked on the recent revamp of the interpretation of Fountains Abbey for visitors. We hope that she may give us useful advice on Fishergate Postern Tower.

In addition, Glen and the Committee will give a brief review of the FoYW's activity over the last year.

### From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)

**Door repairs:** The repair work was delayed due to the weather, but has now

started and will be finished by 23rd March. The temporary door is in place. Not elegant or weather-tight, but a very good thing to see real progress.



*The Temporary Door*

*Photo: Sam McDermott*

**Electrical Installation:** The next step for the internal electrics is to arrange a meeting with consultants who specialise in installation in historic buildings.

**Fund-raising:** We are starting work on a fund raising strategy.

**Patron:** We have approached Lucy Worsley to see if she will become our Patron. We thought she might appreciate the 2014 'Curiouser' performance.



LATEST NEWS

## HOW CURIOUS!

🕒 MAY 15, 2014   👤 ADMIN

Music and Dance returns to Fishergate Postern Tower.

*Curiouser at the FPT*

*Source: FoYW Website*

### **From our Tweets (Martin Hetherington)**

York Walls (@yorkwalls) tweeted at 10:17 pm on Fri, Mar 02, 2018:

#### THE QUEEN OF ENGLISH CITIES

A fabulous film showing York in the 70's - interesting to see all the cars in the city centre :(

<http://www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com/film/queen-english-cities>



*1970 York Documentary*

*Source: Film Title Screen*

*Made in 1970, this is a documentary presenting the sites and monuments of York. Included is footage of the Mystery Plays, the historic city walls and bars,*



*market stalls, and scenes in and around the city centre. The film is accompanied by a commentary explaining the historical importance of the sites included in the documentary (Yorkshire Film Archive)*

### **Spring Clean Event (Martin Hetherington)**

The Great British Spring Clean event on Sat 3 March was postponed due to the snowy weather. We had intended to work together with Red Tower volunteers to tackle the walls from Fishergate Postern Tower to Red Tower. Hopefully a new date will be arranged soon. We believe that the the official cleaning period is something like 3-24th March

The need is certainly there (see photo), and Granville will be raising it again at the next Walls Liaison Group meeting.



*Litter inside the wall (near War Memorial) Photo: Granville Heptonstall*

### **Open Days (Martin Hetherington)**

The first open day of March (on the 10<sup>th</sup>) had a total of 262 visitors . A good number, given the horrible weather - special thanks to the volunteers who braved the rain to make this happen.

We are also open in March on Sat 24th and Sat 31st (Easter Saturday), as well as Sat 21st April (York Open Studios). It was Easter Saturday last year we had our busiest ever day.

## 'Off the Wall': St Denys Church (Richard Hanage/ Simon Mattam)

St Denys Church gets a very brief mention in Simon Mattam's guide to the Walls because its tower is part of the excellent view from the Walls tower just south of Walmgate Bar.

At the moment they are renewing the north aisle.

### **The North Aisle Renewal Project**

*Beginning in late 2015 we have been working to save our north aisle, which had started to come away from the main body of the church. Thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and our own fundraising efforts we have managed to secure enough money to complete the building works that will keep our aisle standing for centuries to come. This will ensure that the important heritage it holds, including some of York's oldest stained glass, survives too and is available to all our visitors. (from their website <http://stdenysyork.org.uk/>)*

What caught my eye, as I walked from our flat in Dixons Yard to the Postern Tower, was the wonderful paintings on the hoardings. The nearest and furthest paintings show Robert de Skelton who is thought to have given the window portraying him at the exact time that the Walls close by, near Fishergate Postern, were being built. The contract for the build is dated 1345.



St Denys Church Hoarding

Photo: Richard Hanage

**'Colouring the Works'**: *An inspired team of volunteer painters worked through the recent cold weather to decorate the rather grim hoardings protecting the contractors' scaffolding with bright heraldry and other images from the church's rich past (from St Denys Church Spring Newsletter)*

**REMINDER: 'FOYW Map & Open Days Guide 2018' (Alan**

## **Fleming)**

The 2018 version of our annual FOYW information leaflet has now been printed and is being distributed across York. It is also available on the [FOYW website](#) and in the Tower, and includes a list of 2018 Open Days.

## **Haslehurst Painting of the FPT (Richard Hanage)**

For some reason, I recently came across painter Ernest Haslehurst.

*He was a prolific painter of British landscapes in watercolour and is perhaps best remembered for illustrating 36 volumes of the well-known "[Beautiful England](#)" series of travel books published by [Blackie and Son Limited](#). (Wikipedia).*

I bought an old copy of the book about York: by George Benson (Dana Estes & Co Boston). 1911. <https://archive.org/details/yorkgeorge00bens> , as it had a painting of the Fishergate Postern Tower.

This is a comparison with the current view:





FISHERGATE POSTERN FROM THE WALLS

*Ernest Haslehust painting of the FPT Source 'York', p17*



*Current view.*

*Photo: Richard Hanage*

Much as I value Wetherspoons as a source of coffee and comfort breaks while on duty at the FPT, I feel that the loss of this spectacular view of the Minster is a high price to pay. The tiny grey top of a building just visible top left of the tower is not (unfortunately) a tantalising glimpse of the Minster. It is the utilities building on top of Ryedale House!

Despite the picture, the author says rather little about the FPT:

*The walls from [Fishergate Bar] to Fishergate Tower commanded the narrow approach to the castle ..... Fishergate Tower is provided with a garderobe and, when built, adjoined a wide water area. Adjoining, on the land side, was a postern under a pointed archway, which has the jambs grooved evidently to accommodate a portcullis.*

### **Previous 'Off the Walls' (Richard Hanage)**

[Croque Monsieur](#) at Bootham ("The Coffee Shop in the Walls"). They are sponsors



of our 2018 leaflet.

[Me and Mrs Fisher](#), (now re-named 'True Story') at 18 Lord Mayor's Walk (by the 'Bile Beans' advert). They host our committee meetings [Lion and the Lamb](#), at Bootham, which was the subject of an article by Julian Crabb [St Marys Tower](#), corner of Marygate and Bootham. A reminder of an often forgotten tower, by Alan Fleming

Hoping to see you at the Fishergate Postern Tower and the Annual Friends Meeting soon.

Richard Hanage ([richard@hanage.com](mailto:richard@hanage.com))

(Editor, on behalf of the Committee).

The FoYW Committee

The committee may be contacted at [friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.yorkwalls.org.uk)



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