

Richard Hanage

From: Friends of York Walls <richard=hanage.com@mail13.us4.mcsv.net> on behalf of Friends of York Walls <richard@hanage.com>
Sent: 13 April 2018 08:58
To: richard@hanage.com
Subject: Friends of York Walls Newsletter - April 2018

Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Open days:

Sat 21 Apr: York Open Studios and Sheriff's Army

Sat 5 May: May Bank Holiday

Mon 7 May: May Bank Holiday

Committee: Tues 1 May: Tues 5 June

[Click here to sponsor a stone](#)

FoYW Newsletter - April 2018

Sheriff's Army Annual Friends Meeting Heritage Angel From the Committee Fact Check Service

Sheriff's Army 2018

We understand that the Sheriff's Army should be at the FPT between 14:30 and 15:00 on Saturday 21st April - subject to the length of John Oxley's talks *en route*. For the full invitation please [click here](#)



The Sheriff's Army - Photo: Lewis Outing

Annual Friends Meeting (AFM): Sat 7th April 2018

This newsletter is devoted mainly to a very interesting AFM last Saturday



Annual Friend's 2018 Meeting - Photo Martin Hetherington

AFM Introduction (Glen McGowan)

Glen opened the meeting with a brief welcome and introduction. He first thanked all the volunteers that had enabled the FoYW to operate and open the tower to the

public. Our main income comes from donations, which are given in gratitude for the efforts of the volunteers. The Tower was open for 28 days, welcoming over 8,000 visitors and raising over £3,000 of income.

Formed 7 years ago by just 5 people, we are now a charity with hundreds of members and dozens of volunteers, and open up parts of the walls not previously accessible to the public.

The FoYW has had a successful year which had started just after we signed a lease on the Tower with the City of York Council. We have now carried out our first repair to the Tower (the door) and half the cost of this essential first item was paid by York Civic Trust, to whom we are most grateful. We are now planning further renovations and developments, starting with electrical supply sometime this summer.

We have invited the main speaker, Carolyn Lloyd Brown - 'The Heritage Angel' - to join us today as we need guidance on the best ways to develop the Tower for our visitors and to obtain grants towards the costs.

AFM Treasurer's Report (Richard Hanage)

In presenting the accounts for 2017 Richard (standing in for Treasurer Penny Heptonstall) briefly covered four key points, as shown in the slide below.

2017 Summary

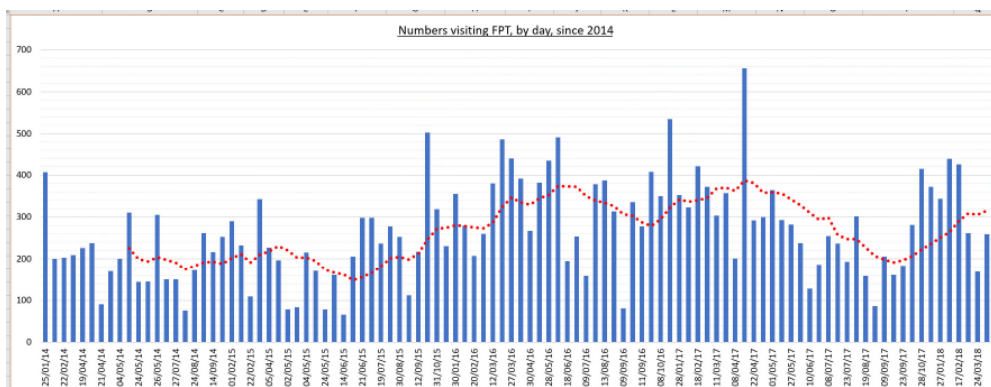


- '2017' covers 11 months
 - Brings the financial year in line with operational year.
- Surplus: £2,280
 - Mostly 'Open Day' income (£2,541) and 'Sponsored Stones' (£486)
 - 2015 was similar, but 2016 was much higher due to Illuminating York income (extra £1,736).
- Assets: £14,121 (up £2,280)
 - Very useful reserve.
- Now starting to spend on development projects
 - Using reserve and (hopefully) grants.

For the full report [please click here](#). Glen added that the CYC was holding £20,000 of their funds in reserve to help pay for renovations the roof of the FPT.

AFM Membership Report (Martin Hetherington)

Martin described several key aspects of volunteer activities in 2017. Visitor numbers continue to be very strong, as shown below:

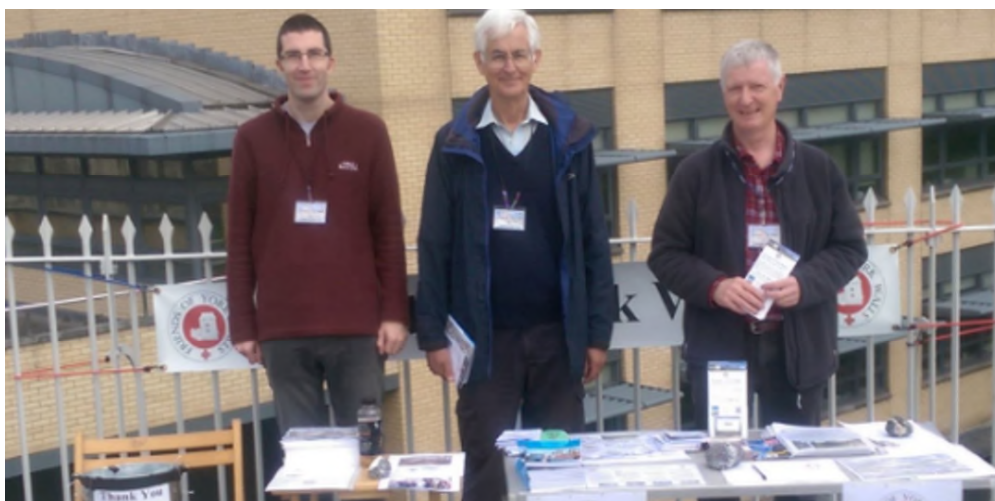


Visitor numbers (2104 - 2017) - Author: Martin Hetherington

NB. The dotted red line is a 10-year moving average.

As the Tower can get over-crowded we recently have been restricting numbers a little to give visitors a better experience.

Some highlights from 2017 include a FoYW presence on the walls to publicise our activities.



On the Walls

In spring 2017 we received around 50 entries to our York Walls photo competition. The winners, as judged by the Mayor, as well as a selection of the runners-up, were exhibited at Tower in the second half of 2017.

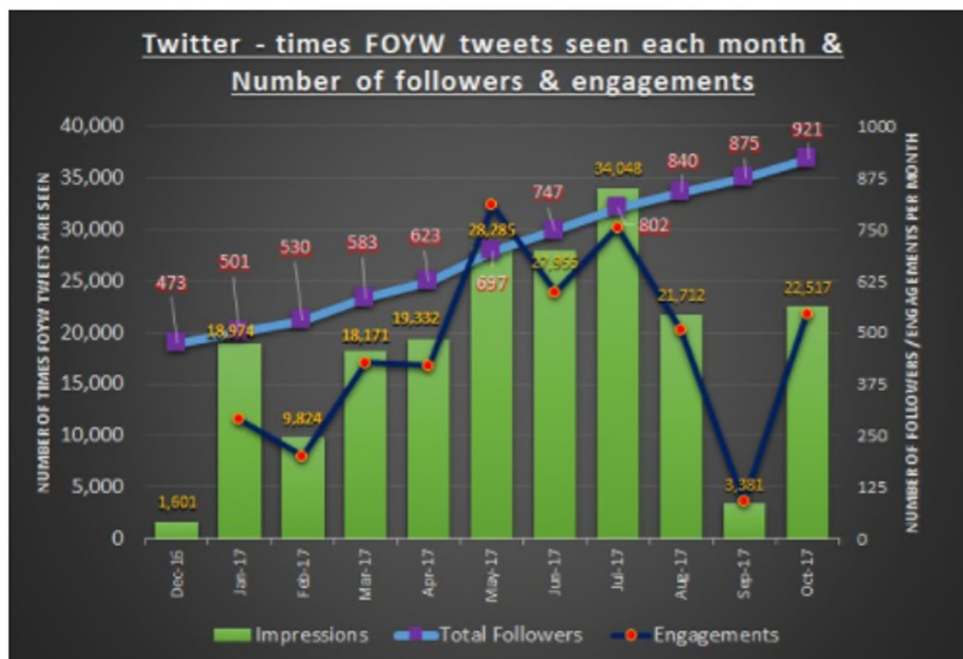
Photo competition

Some entries found their way onto our new Twitter page header



Photo Competition - Author: Martin Hetherington

Our twitter page (www.twitter.com/yorkwallsfriend) had a very successful year, with the number of followers climbing from under 500 to over 1,000

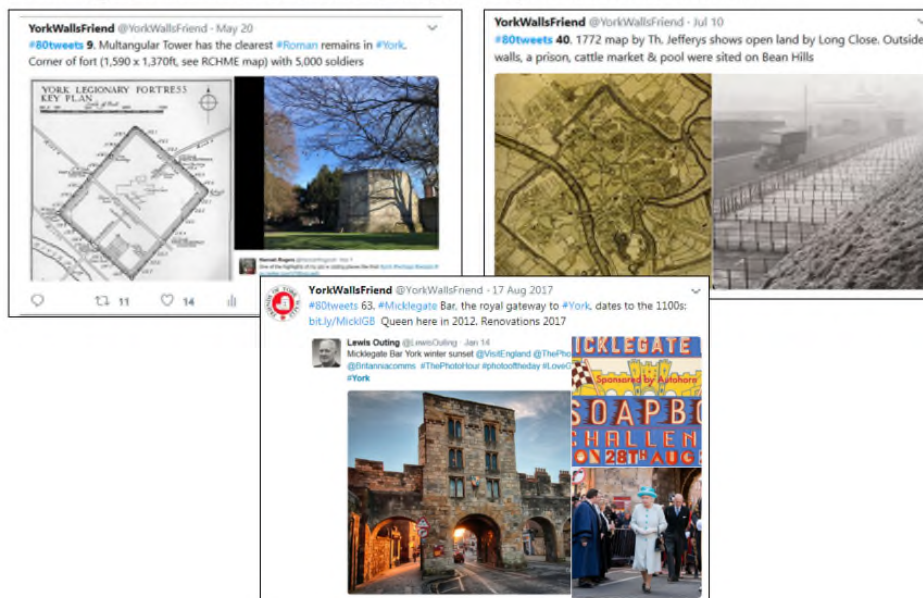


Twitter Statistics - Author: Martin Hetherington

The series of tweets 'Round the Wall in 80 Tweets' was especially popular.

Around the Walls in 80 Tweets

One factor behind the growth was a series of tweets taking people around the walls. A good number of stories, maps and photos were shared.



Around the Walls in 80 Tweets - Author Martin Hetherington

We have around 30 active volunteers, who help open FPT to visitors, keep the committee going, and support our other activities. Many thanks to all who have helped, and continue to keep FoYW going and furnish us with new ideas.

Now we have our newly repaired door, we continue to look for opportunities to improve the inside of FPT – see our draft vision statement, below. We are also looking to work with other like-minded groups.

York has an amazing story to share with the wider world, let's ensure Friends of York Walls is part of that! This is the draft vision statement for the Tower:

Fishergate Postern Tower

*The vision for Fishergate Postern Tower is to provide an interpretation centre for York's City Walls.
The Tower will become the focus point for those visiting the Walls and want to learn more about the Walls and their story.*

For the full presentation [please click here](#)

AFM Keynote Presentation – Carolyn Lloyd Brown

Carol started by confirming that the vision statement (above) was very compelling and would make a good basis for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid. She then

gave us the benefit of her experience of developing projects and obtaining HLF funding. These are a few of the slides.

Today..

My work

HLF case study - lessons learnt

HLF challenges and success factors

Fishergate Postern Tower and York's City Walls



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The Presentation Content - Author: Carolyn Lloyd Brown

Your project

Interpretation Centre for the Walls

Strategic approach – Postern & Walls (context and partnership)

Think about target audiences and their needs / motivations

Family friendly / active / engaging

Consult! Consult! Consult!

Align with HLF outcomes for heritage, people and communities



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Our FPT Project - Author: Carolyn Lloyd Brown

Good interpretation..



Is *not* information! It's insight

Key principles:

- Provoke
- Relate
- Reveal

Build on significance and values

Think about access and accessibility

Sensory appeal & exploration

Make learning FUN (for everyone)



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The Art of Interpretation - Author: Carolyn Lloyd Brown

Is it easy? No way!



More applicants chasing fewer funds

Clear vision

Align with HLF outcomes for heritage, people and communities

Achievable outputs / deliverables

Sustainable for future operation

Be realistic – do less REALLY well

Known delivery costs (get advice)

Partner support IF they align



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Guidance for the Project Team - Author: Carolyn Lloyd Brown

It was evident from the presentation that the FoYW committee have a viable project, but that the road to successful HLF funding was not an easy one. However, with guidance given by Carolyn, the committee have the definite possibility of success if they decide to go ahead.

Glen thanked Carolyn for a very interesting and motivating presentation.

For the full presentation [please click here](#)

From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)

The bulk of the last Committee meeting was discussion about development plans for the Tower and the upcoming AFM.

In addition, Ron Kane from Yorkshire Archaeological Trust (YAT), who is now in charge of the Richard III & Henry VII Experiences, attended the meeting. He confirmed that our active volunteers get free entry to both Experiences and to Barley Hall on production of the Friends volunteer card.

Ron was very interested in the emerging plans for a 'Festival of the Walls' and would like to co-operate with us in developing it. We are looking for ideas for activities/events during the Festival, so please email suggestions to friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com.

We are waiting for the new wood in the door to age a bit before it is sealed and will also ask Historic England for permission to add more metal studs.

Walls Fact-check service? Simon Mattam

Late in February a new video guide to the Walls went on line ([click here to see it](#)). It told us 'the walls themselves were restored by the Vikings' and went on to tell us of the garderobe inside Red Tower [in fact there is none].

For me, this raised a very familiar question: 'should I correct them?'. Of course it is always safer to say nothing – I may be the one who is mistaken and even if I am right on the facts perhaps I am wrong when it comes to the rules of politeness – and from the vague mists of my past comes the warning: 'no-one likes a know-it-all'. But, I say to myself, **I** would want to know, though I might not enjoy being told], and surely to do nothing is to collude in others being misled. Facts matter.

I think the makers of the new video guide had been misled on the Vikings by the current Wikipedia entry on the Walls – as they also included Wikipedia's assertion that 'Monk Bar ... retains its portcullis in working order'. People are also slightly misled on the portcullis by the large information board [photographed below], it claims that the portcullis was 'raised and lowered until 1970' - which, if correct, would rather spoil the story that it has never worked since the time it was lowered for the present Queen's coronation and got stuck [a true story, I believe – but do correct me!].



Monk Bar Information Board - City of York Council

Wikipedia invites corrective editing but you'd expect information boards to be thoroughly checked and reliable [except when outdated].

The photograph below, supposedly of Red Tower, is from a board currently displayed in York District Hospital and originally part of a York800 display in YorkExplore. Red Tower has probably gone through a number of transformations before its current one, but the tower shown here atop its substantial earth mound is most probably Harlot Hill Tower just south of Monk Bar.



Supposed Red Tower Picture - York800

We all make mistakes, even the writers of the mainly excellent leaflet ['The Walls'] that the CYC webpage on the city walls sends you to for history. It says of an area overlooked by the Walls: '...Jewbury ... occupied in medieval times by the Jewish community after they were expelled from the city in 1290' when this was the date all Jews were expelled from England.

Should Friends of York Walls try to offer a free fact-check service to anyone who aims to tell people about the Walls? I think telling people of such a service might be a polite way of approaching those we think are spreading misinformation – and a way of avoiding telling people what they won't listen to or act on.

As such a service has not yet been agreed on by FoYW, I summoned up my courage and offered a personal fact-check to 'todoinyork' – and was surprised at their instant acceptance, even enthusiasm.

PS. Homework anyone? Check the numbers at historyofyork.org.uk/themes/the-york-city-walls

Previous 'Off the Walls' (Richard Hanage)

[Croque Monsieur](#) at Bootham ("The Coffee Shop in the Walls"). They are sponsors of our 2018 leaflet.

[True Story](#) (aka 'Me and Mrs Fisher', 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 soon.

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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Friends of York Wall

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