

Richard Hanage

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Sent: 11 May 2018 13:05
To: richard@hanage.com
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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Open days:

Sat 26 May: Late Spring Holiday

Mon 28 May: Late Spring Bank Holiday

Sat 16 June: Fathers Day weekend

Committee: Tues 5 June; Tues 3 July

[Click here to sponsor a stone](#)

FoYW Newsletter - May 2018

Sheriff's Visit Committee Room ... New Door Walls Liaison Walls Festival? Publicity Supremo ... Daffs are 'Out' ... Off the Walls

Sheriff's Visit (Martin Hetherington)

What a superb day on Sat 21 April! The sun shone, the sheriff came, and the public came in their droves.

The result was 388 visitors, £120 in donations (including one taker for a piece of wooden door), and some excellent photos by Lewis Outing



Martin Hetherington addressing the Sheriff's party - Photo: Lewis Outing



The Sheriff's party in the FPT - Photo: Lewis Outing



The Sheriff's guards - Photo: Lewis Outing

From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)

- There was discussion about GDPR. ### Hopefully we'll have an agreed data protection policy before the newsletter goes out, because it would be good to say that it's done.
- We also discussed the feature (and mistakes!) on [BBC Look North Breakfast on 12th April](#) and the need for a volunteer to take charge of social media, who can then help us to react quickly on occasions like this one (see later item).
- We are working through the brief to underpin our fundraising and vision for FPT.

The New Door (Richard Hanage)

The new door is now in place and we would like to thank the Civic Trust for funding half of the cost of the £2,800 cost of repairs. (Repairing historical buildings is not cheap, so help is much appreciated!)



The New Door (on a wet day) - Photo: Richard Hanage

Note that it was raining on the day I took this picture, and it is clear that the bottom part of the door gets very wet – which is presumably why it rotted so badly. I understand that we plan to apply some preservative when the wood has darkened a little. There are several studs missing, and we are planning to replace these shortly, with help from the Civic Trust.

'Simon Mattam has cut some of the old part of the door into small pieces, which are now available at the FPT as a souvenir, for a small donation; currently they are cut into labels, key fobs, door wedges, post-card stands and just pieces, but suggestions are welcome.'

Walls Liaison Meeting (Simon Mattam/Granville Heptonstall)

An important part of the role of FoYW is to attend the 'Walls Liaison Meeting' run quarterly by CYC. There we learn about plans for the walls and lobby for improvements to them. Some issues/news from the March meeting:

- CYC has spent £300k in 2017/18 and the big projects were Micklegate Bar renovation and Monk Bar steps. Monk Bar has three more months to run.
- Tower 39 near the FPT will be repaired starting in July. It will take 2 months and there will be a temporary roof and bypass for the wall walk, with a public observation access.
- This winter there was a total of 34 days of closure due to weather conditions.
- There are no specific by laws prohibiting dogs on the walls, so is impossible to take legal action. There have been no reported incidents involving dogs.
- FoYW:
 - John Oxley hopes that the trench and electricity cable to the Tower will be laid by this summer.
 - Concern was expressed by FoYW about the FPT roof, and this was a priority.
 - FOYW were pushing forward on a redevelopment of the use of the tower, the displays etc.
 - The buddleia growing out of the wall walk between FPT and the top of the steps was expressed as a worry [I understand that it has now been dealt with]
- Repair to the roof at Monk Bar, possibly incorporating a viewing platform, is the next major project to be undertaken by the City Council.
- Thanks were expressed on behalf of FOYW for the clean-up of the ramparts behind West Offices. This is in the foreground of a view which people associate with the city and is world famous. It would be a pity to let it languish.

A 'Festival of the Walls'? (Martin Hetherington).

We are discussing the possibility of a 'Festival of the Walls', along with other organisations that operate on the walls – e.g. at Red Tower, Micklegate Bar, and Monk Bar. The electrics dig (above) at FPT could form part of this. Rough ideas for things to do:

- Walls trail - perhaps if we get rubber stamps for all participating locations, for (young) people to collect en-route.
- Walls quiz / treasure hunt - clues leading to a certain place?
- guided walks (perhaps in the evening)

Can readers please give us more suggestions to things to include in the Festival? This could usefully raise our profile ahead of the possible 'Lighting up the Tower' fundraising campaign, which may be better suited to the autumn months.

PRM? PS? MMM? – Anyone out there? – Help! (Simon Mattam)

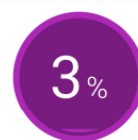
FoYW were on TV a few times in April –in a sense. In another sense it seemed as if an alternative reality was on screen. 'Breakfast Look North' briefly mentioned a

FoYW that was recruiting volunteers to repair York's Roman-built walls – we don't know where they got this 'news' from.

We know more about what 'That's York TV' put about FPT on their repeating loop of local news stories, though the introduction they added to the interview had us renamed 'Friends of FP Tower' – a slip rather than a satirical comment about our current preoccupations, I think!

I did the interview with That's York TV because no-one else on the committee was available for the short notice Monday morning slot they offered and the slip I made was more serious. It was the rather basic one of not asking what their aim was, nor thinking what we most wanted to say. I assumed they wanted a feature about the tower and I assumed I should just go along with that. It was only during the interview that I realised they wanted to give news of an appeal for money – probably because they'd noticed the internet based appeal Alan had just set up at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fishergateposterntowerelectrics>

NB: This fundraising is still open, so please donate if you can.



£150

raised of £5,000 target by 6 supporters

Donate



Share



Share

We're raising £5,000 to improve York's Fishergate Postern Tower visitor experience - including installing electrical sockets, lighting and better displays.

What is crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding is a new type of fundraising where you can raise funds for your own personal cause, even if you're not a registered charity.

The page owner is responsible for the distribution of funds raised.

Interview questions and helpful editing did create an item that made it reasonably clear why we needed money but there was no mention of how to give. Both of these brushes with televised news reminded me what we have long known: we'd get more and better publicity if we had someone in FoYW, who was in charge of getting and managing publicity. This would preferably be someone willing to join the committee. I'm sure they could choose their role-title if they wished: Public Relations Manager, Publicity Supremo, Mass Media Muggins... ! Volunteers please email Richard at richard@hanage.com

Daffodils are so 'Yesterday'.... (Richard Hanage)

As usual.... Lewis Outing has captured the daffodils near the FPT brilliantly.



Daffodils near the FPT - Photo: Lewis Outing

Unfortunately they are now past their best, but he has tweeted a great picture of bluebells at Clifford's Tower....though it's a pity that they are the Spanish variety!



Lewis Outing
@LewisOuting

Bluebells Clifford's Tower York @EnglishHeritage @VisitYork
@Britanniacomms #spring #bluebells #York #cliffordstower



Bluebells at Clifford's Tower - Photo by Lewis Outing

And he has a rival who has captured the stunning blossom by the station ... what an excellent welcome for visitors by train.



Photo: Michael Cheung (@yorksakuraexplorer) in York Press

"Michael Cheung, a York-based 33-year-old software engineer, has been taking photographs of the city's cherry blossom over the past few weeks and sharing the images on his Facebook and Instagram social media accounts under the name York Sakura Explorer.

Sakura is the Japanese word for cherry blossom – but you don't have to head to the land of the rising sun to see this wonder of spring". ([York Press](#))

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	
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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