

Richard Hanage

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Sent: 17 July 2018 10:39
To: richard@hanage.com
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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Events and Open Days:

Sat 21 July: Open Day (Festival of Archaeology)

Fri/Sat 10/11 August: York Walls Festival

Sun 26 Aug: Open Day (August Bank Holiday weekend)

Committee: Tues 7 August; Tues 4 Sept

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FoYW Newsletter - July 2018

York Walls Festival (Martin Hetherington)



Festival Logo - Created by Leo O'Brien

The planning for the first ever York Walls Festival on Aug 10/11 is well under way, in co-operation with Red Tower, the Jorvik Group and York Explore.

Please keep up-to-date on social media, and help us spread the word via:

www.twitter.com/WallsYork

www.facebook.com/YorkWallsFestival

There will be a special issue of this e-News soon with details of the programme, which will be fairly modest this year as we are trying out the idea. However, there appears to be strong support for the idea, so we expect it to grow in future years.

See [PRESS RELEASE](#)

FPT Openings (Martin Hetherington)

At our opening on the 16th June, we had 261 visitors. Our next opening is on Sat 21st July, with the one after that (Sat 11th August) forming part of the first York Walls Festival.

I have added a space next to the August 11th sign-up sheet for 'general helpers' - this could be help with walks, displays, leaflets, anything! Please come to help out if you can, letting us know at friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com or by using the [Sign-up Sheet](#)

UPDATE on '5-minute Graffiti Patrol (Simon Mattam)

In the last issue I mentioned plans for a pop-up display of primary school children's work on the Walls close to Fishergate Postern. A display went up on the first of

this month as you can see from the photo [and might have seen on That'sYork, our local FREEVIEW tv channel]. Sadly, it came down only five day's later when the scaffolding had to go back to the depot. CYC will let us soon use something like it at New Tower [by Jewbury/Sainsbury's].



Fishergate Primary School art at Tower 39 - Photo: Simon Mattam

Probably more important, the headteacher of Fishergate Primary has sent an enthusiastic thank you email and promised a mention of our need for volunteers in their next school newsletter for parents.

CYC would only give permission for the display if FoYW promised to inspect the boards each day for unwelcome additions [and tried to remove any] they may well ask the same at New Tower so we'd welcome volunteers. If you are willing to do any date[s] [to mid-August, possibly longer] I'd be grateful. Please just email me with your offer ps.mattam@outlook.com

Of course my '5 minutes' is based on thinking that CYC are wrong in their belief that one sort of display will encourage the other, but even if CYC is right there would be no need for volunteers to remove graffiti from the board - you could just report the problem to me and I'd try to do the removal while chewing on my humble pie.

By the way, on the bright side, this means that the repair to the roof-vaulting at Tower 39 was quickly finished by CYC, we have been told the work on Monk Bar steps is complete too.

Bootham Bar and BID (Granville Heptonstall)

As part of our remit to lobby for improvements to the walls as a whole, we contacted the York 'Business Improvement District' (BID) about the state of

Bootham Bar, where there is pigeon mess, cigarette ends and weeds growing round the base of the Bar. As the Bar is the first point at which many visitors encounter the historic centre we were concerned that it does not offer a positive experience. Their response (edited) was very positive and invited us to report further issues:

You will hopefully have seen our Deep Cleaning and Rapid Response Cleaning teams who are operational 7 days a week, working to tackle some of these issues i.e. jet washing pavements, cleaning street furniture and bins, cleaning up bio-waste, removing gum, graffiti and fly posters. As it happens we do regularly clean this area as well as others of both pigeon muck and cigarette ends. However, the problems do seem to persist and return quite quickly.

If you are happy to be our eyes and ears on the ground, let us know when the area gets bad and we can get a team out to deal with it.

It is worth noting that the cleanliness of the city is the primarily the responsibility of City of York Council. The services York BID provides are intended to be in addition this, not a replacement for them. I would encourage you to equally report these incidents to York Council.

Bootham Bar Treasure Trail (FoYW re-tweeted)

Bootham Bar is on the site of the NW gateway of the Roman fortress in York. The archway dates to Norman times, and the section of wall towards Museum Gardens was removed in the 1800s. It still has a portcullis. As part of York Walls Festival, there will be a Treasure Trail there on Sat 11th August.

A Cultural Strategy for York (ArtReach)

The York Cultural Leaders Group, chaired by Reyahn King (Chief Executive, York Museums Trust), is currently creating a long-term Cultural Strategy for York. The Group has commissioned ArtReach (www.artreach.biz) to oversee the consultation process and development of this Strategy with the aim to complete the work by the end of 2018. ArtReach is a not-for-profit, contemporary arts development agency and its work on this project will be led by its Director, David Hill (david@artreach.biz).

Are you an artist (any art form) or individual practitioner, maker or creative technician working in the York creative or heritage sector, and would you like to have a chance to contribute to the development of a Cultural Strategy for York? If so, please follow the link below to complete a short online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YorkArtists>

From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)

- **Door studs:** the missing studs will be fitted to the new door shortly. Our thanks to the Civic Trust for arranging this.

STOP PRESS: the new studs are now fitted. See picture below. We are also promised a new door-handle!

- **Electricity and roof:** we are working on the plans and technical drawings for the electricity supply and roof. Then we can seek CYC and YAT approval and apply for scheduled ancient monument consent. The CYC envisions that the trench and new electricity supply into the FPT will be finished by September.
- **New displays:** We have a brief for re-design of the displays in the FPT and will shortly be sending it to a selection of heritage professionals. They will also be sent additional ideas from our members.
- **Wall gates:** We understand that the gates surrounding the Walls will be completely reset and all the emblems will be renovated and repainted.
- **Civic Trust walk:** Simon led a free walk (at Keith Myer's request) about the Walls on 27th June, as part of the Civic Trust's two days of Walks from a tented base in St Sampson's Square.



The New Door - Complete with Studs - Photo: Sam McDermott

Interview on 'That's York TV' (Simon Mattam)

Simon's second TV interview went ahead on 26th June and was broadcast the same day. Rebecca Quarmby did research and put together some good FoYW-friendly filming but, unfortunately, did not include in the clip with our email address and request for ideas and volunteers. [See it on Youtube](#)

York Walls Liaison Group (Granville Heptonstall)

- Dismantling of scaffolding at Monk Bar steps is in progress, and Tower 39 work is ongoing.

- Work on Tower 32 is to commence, and the Anglian Tower behind library to be enhanced this year by screening and lighting..
- In 2019, there will be a survey of the stretch of walls from Robin Hood Tower to Bootham Bar.
- There is a possibility of providing access to the walls from the Dean's Park, from the garden behind St Anthony's Hall, and from the soon to be exposed arches opposite the railway station.
- There are ideas for a major festival in 2022 as part of a series of York-related commemorations and anniversaries. It will, for instance, be the 50th anniversary of the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments (RCHM) publication "The Defences - Vol 2", which is still regarded as the definitive work on the walls.
- The Ice House suffered significant damage last winter and a structural survey is planned.
- The possibility of a rack-and-pinion leverage for Monk Bar portcullis is being investigated. There are special H&S considerations regarding portcullises, apparently.
- All emblems on gates round the walls, by Dearlove of Fetter Lane, will be renovated.
- There is no legal recourse to address the situation of dogs on the walls. It is assumed that the warning notices will cover any insurance liability if there is an accident.

'CardIndex' Post Cards (retweeted by FoYW)



The Card Index York

@CardIndexYork

Follow



One of my favourite "touristy" things to do in York...walk the City Walls! #york #yorkshire #tourism #citywalls



York Walls - Source: Thecardindex

The [TheCardIndex](#) site enables you to search for postcards. They originally made the website to show off a personal collection of postcards of York, but have since added a lot more cards, which you can buy through the website.

Here Come the Girls! (John & Chris Dowell).

A friend of ours who lives in Gilligate has concocted this little article about her bee keeping in Gilligate next to the walls:

This week my beekeeping buddy and I welcomed our first colony of bees to their new luxury accommodation in the shadow of the city walls.



Gillygate Beehive - Photo: unknown

My Gillygate garden is an oasis of calm thanks to my Mum Lina's imagination and Tony Walsh's hard work. No formal garden here - but a wonderful mixture of scent and colour. Roses, geraniums, abundant rosemary a pineapple tree and so much more surrounded by tall trees and the magnificent wall.

While I am desperately sad my Mum is not here to welcome the bees I know she would have loved them and been thrilled to see them foraging from her wildlife friendly plants. She like us would have been eagerly anticipating a new strain of York honey to complement that of Buff Reid, Roger Wools and Julia Smith and the other city beekeepers.

To the uninformed Gillygate is a just a busy street with too much traffic, crocodiles of tourists clogging up the pavements and the frequent wails of ambulances rushing to and from the hospital.

But Gillygate is as much residential as commercial and anyone walking the walls from Bootham Bar will see the beautifully manicured Minster Gardens in one side and the eclectic mix of those of the Gillygate houses, flats and cafes on the other.



The beehive from the Walls - Photo: Richard Hanage

NB. When I took the above picture, I turned round and there were two more hives inside the walls!



Beehives in the Minster Gardens - Photo: Richard Hanage

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

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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