

**From:** Friends of York Walls <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 27 Oct (last one of 2018)

**Committee:** Tues 6 Nov ; Tues 4 Dec

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## FoYW Newsletter - October 2018

### November & December Newsletters (Richard Hanage)

As things get a bit quiet at this end of the year (for the FoYW, at least) I have delayed this October e-News a week or so, and will combine the November and December issues into a single issue very early December. Normal service will resumed in January – in the lead-up to our openings for Residents Weekend.

### The York Walls Festival (Martin Hetherington)

You should have received the special issue of FoYW e-News all about the very successful 'York Walls Festival' held in August. You can download a pdf file of the newsletter [here](#). It prints very well as an 8-page A5 booklet.

The Festival next year will be over the weekend August 10/11th. Planning starts in January.

### 30,000 Visitors! (Martin Hetherington)

Since we commenced using our clicker to record visitor numbers with some degree of accuracy in 2014, we have had 112 open days at Fishergate Postern Tower. The visitors on our last opening have taken us over the 30,000 mark! That's an incredible achievement.

The total on Saturday 13th Oct takes us over 5,500 for 2018 (from 18 openings). This is more than in the whole of 2015, when we had 25 openings.

## 2019 Openings (Martin Hetherington)

In 2019 our openings will start with Residents Weekend on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th January. There will be a tidy-up meeting on the Saturday before (19th Jan), as in previous years. The schedule of openings for the remainder of the year will be discussed at our next committee meeting.

## Fishergate Postern Tower Electricity (Alan Fleming)



We have been hoping to get an electricity supply into Fishergate Postern Tower for several years. Having had a number of failed promises over the past year the recent 'shocking' news was that the project had stopped, and our original Northern PowerGrid application from 2017 was no longer valid. However a new application to NPG has now been submitted. Lead times indicate that it could be January/February 2019 before we have a working electricity supply into FPT.

**Trench Digging:** The cable trench digs, associated archaeological watching briefs, and cable duct laying (inside the tower and across the walkway) can still go ahead, hopefully in November/December 2018. John Oxley would like to carry out an archaeological investigation, so the plan is to dig up half the floor. It is anticipated that all this ground work can be completed before the 2019 Residents Weekend at the end of January, with Northern PowerGrid doing their cable work whenever possible in early 2019. We plan to link the archaeological dig activities to a "Special FPT Open Day" with some new displays and any find materials.

**Volunteer Watchers:** In Autumn of 2017 we asked if any volunteers were interested in being part of the trench dig "archaeological watching briefs", and having training by York Archaeological Trust. We still have two interested names from 2017, but if any other FOYW Volunteers (max of two more) would like to be involved, then please send an email to [friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com) with the subject line "FPT archaeological digs".

## City Walls Liaison Group (Simon Mattam)

Brief notes from the 'City Walls Liaison Group' quarterly meeting (26th September 2018).

1. John Oxley started to invite more to the meeting: York Civic Trust, York Conservation Trust, Gatehouse Coffee, Jorvik, Red Tower, York Museum

Trust, York Minster and Keith Myers [York Heritage Group & long interested Councillor] as well as the usual [Historic England, us & CYC workers]. The aim was to share information, ideas and criticism. Some came.

2. There was praise and general enthusiasm for making the Walls Festival an annual event, with a bigger festival in 2022.
3. Civic Trust work in progress: repairing inscription at Victoria Bar, repairing gates to the ramparts; work being considered: landscaping the problematic top of Baile Hill, a working portcullis at Monk Bar; work to be requested: action on oddly angled benches by Lendal Bridge. Other requests: permission to plant fruit trees by Dewberry Terrace; other aspirations: disabled access to the Walls SE of Micklegate Bar.
4. CYC work: Tower 28 [New Tower] scaffolding blocking the wall-walk will be down in 6-8 weeks. Then there's just re-pointing work [needing no closures] till next year when the 'Anglian Tower' will be resecured and lit - and Roman walls beside it will be experimentally capped with earth. Cracks by tower 2 & 3 [Bitchdaughter] seem serious and are being monitored but similar problems north of Bootham Bar will probably be tackled before these.
5. Some parts of the 2004 'Walls Conservation Management Plan' need updating; John is close to completing a draft of the brief for this update, which he will circulate to the group for comments [tell us if you want to be involved]. The draft brief will include the need for an ecological/environmental review and an updated interpretation plan.
6. Pigeons are a problem again in Bootham Bar, possibly a health problem.

## Baile Hill Problems (Martin Hetherington)

There were issues with rough sleepers on Baile Hill earlier this year.



*Rubbish from Rough Sleepers on Baile Hill - Photo: Unknown*


Local councillor Jonny Crawshaw (@jonnypolitic or [cllr.jcrawshaw@york.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jcrawshaw@york.gov.uk)) has held a meeting about this recently, and we also understand that the CYC plans

to improve public access and possibly add a viewing platform.

## Improving Baile Hill

A community meeting with Councillor Jonny Crawshaw

In recent weeks I have been speaking with Council Officers, York Civic Trust, Friends of York Walls and members of the public to think about how we might improve the appearance of – and access to – Baile Hill. I have secured funding to support us so if you would be interested in contributing ideas - or time - please join me for a discussion about the next steps.

 **The Golden Ball (Garden Room),  
2 Cromwell Rd, YO1 6DU**

 **Monday 8th October at 6pm**



*Recent Public Meeting about Baile Hill - Tweet by Jonny Crawshaw*

## Our New Postcode (Alan Fleming)

We discovered that we cannot have an electricity supply without having a post-code! Our official postal address is now: Friends of York Walls, Fishergate Postern Tower, Piccadilly, York, **YO1 9AF**. It should also help to identify the FPT for any current and future applications for services, grants, etc.

Please do NOT use it for mail, as any items will have to be pushed under our newly renovated door (medieval doors did not have letterboxes) and will join the leaves and dust that blow under there already. We do not expect a flood of letters, but there may be the occasional junk mail under the door as Royal Mail are paid to deliver them.

## FoYW Guided Tour (Linda Drakeford)

Tony May and Simon Mattam led a walking tour recently which was very well received by Linda Drakeford, who sent us a very nice review of the walk.



*Guided Tour by Simon & Tony - Photo: Simon Mattam*

"For a recent group visit to York I contacted a Friends of the Walls about the possibility of organising a short talk and walk on the Walls. Many of our group had been to York before and I wanted something more than the usual overview of the city, which we have had in other places.

We had prompt replies to our queries and a talk of just over an hour was tailored to our needs. We had two guides, Tony and Simon, and I can honestly say that, in all the years of doing this I have never met two such enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides who had us completely enthralled in learning what the Walls can tell us about York over the centuries. They advised us to focus on a specific section (Museum Gardens to Monk Bar) but then provided an informative map for those who wanted to continue the walk individually.

We paid a small donation. The whole experience was very memorable, and we would recommend it."

*Linda, September 2018*

## **The Future FPT Interpretation and Displays (Martin Hetherington)**

We are pleased to announce that we will be working with York-based Qualia (<http://www.qualia.website/> ) & The Heritage Angel (<http://heritage-consultant.co.uk/#about>) to develop ideas for the future displays and interpretation in the Fishergate Postern Tower.

They will help us to develop our vision and forward plan to:

- Use the tower to tell the story of York's city walls and create a focal point / destination for visitors walking the walls
- Interpret the tower and its fascinating social history in an accessible, coherent, appealing way
- Explore options for flexible, interpretative media and content, including support materials for volunteer led guided tours and visitor interaction

Their plans will follow in early 2019, all being well.

## **From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)**

- The Committee examined the proposals received from heritage professionals, and chose one of them – Qualia. [See article above]
- We also discussed Alan Fleming's detailed plan for the electrical installation and associated archaeological dig at Fishergate Postern Tower. Things are moving finally... [See article above].
- Martin confirmed that the Festival of the Walls will return in 2019. A working group will be set up ready to start planning in January. Watch this space!
- Our Annual Friends Meeting (AFM) will be on Saturday 4th May 2019. John Shaw, Chairman of the [Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society \(YAYAS\)](#) has kindly agreed to give a talk. Further details will be revealed later; do save the date if you can.

## **The New 1850 York Map (Philippa Morris - Little Apple Bookshop)**

There was a review by the Little Apple Bookshop, in the York Press, of the new 'York 1850' map, Copies are available in the shop, and also available at Fishergate Postern Tower on our open days.





**LittleApple Bookshop**

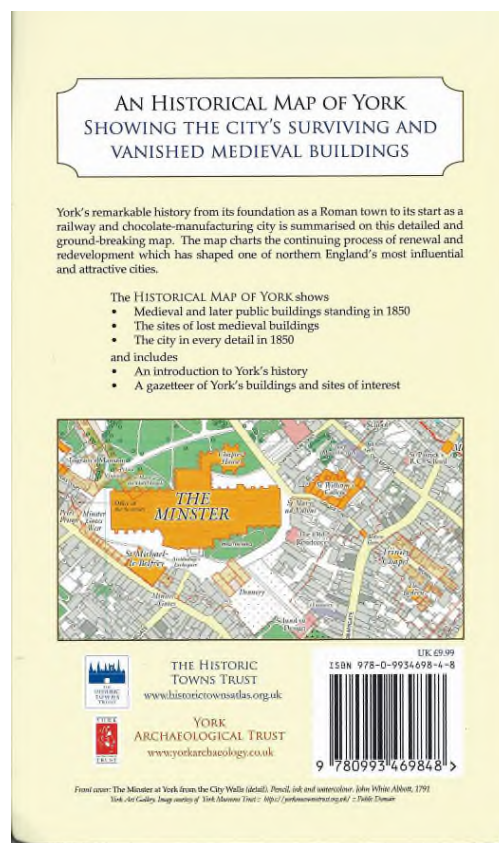
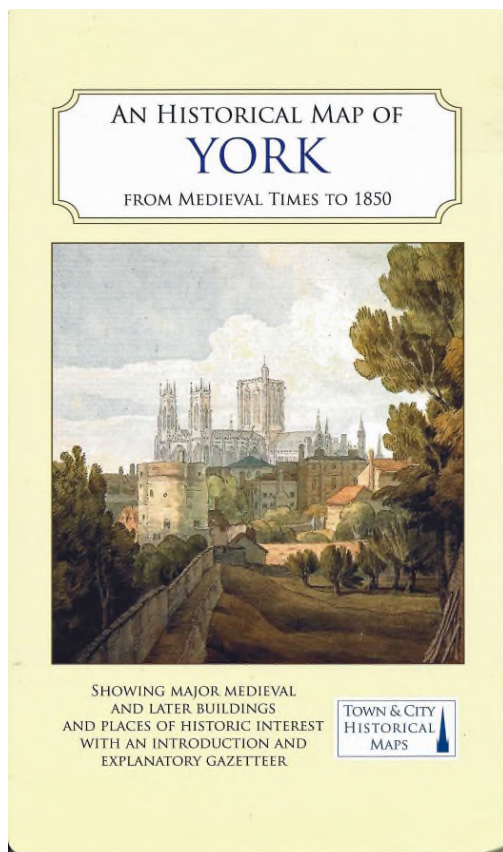
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Independent bookshop in the heart of York. A stone's throw from York Minster, but please don't try it!

"Last year the Historic Towns Trust published the 'Historical Atlas of York'. It is a huge, beautiful £70 volume which distils years of research into the history and archaeology of York and brings it all together in the form of beautifully-drawn maps and concise, well-researched articles.

It may be beautiful, but it is also expensive. Now, however, the Historic Towns Trust have brought out a much more affordable, folded map version of the most popular of the historical maps of York, which covers medieval times to 1850. And a real treat it is.



*The New 1850 Map of York - Town and City Historical Maps*

In the introduction by Peter Addyman, he explains the different periods of York history from its early founding by the Roman IXth legion (Hispana) in about AD 71, up to the terraced suburbs of 1850.

We love pouring over the map and spotting all the things that we can still find in York today and all those that are gone: for instance, there was once a tobacco pipe factory just outside the walls at the bottom of Gillygate, and a wool market at Peasholme Green. Peasholme Green incidentally derives its name from being the area for Pea growers.

On the back of the map is a Gazetteer of York's historic buildings and sites plus a list of parish churches and chapels in York and some definitions of old street names, for instance Lendal comes from the old Norse "lending" as it was the nearby landing place.

York has such a rich history, so it is very useful to have a visual guide such as this to the context and development of our beautiful city". *Reviewed in the York Press by Philippa Morris, little Apple bookshop, High Petergate.*

### **'Wallsflowers' (Simon Mattam)**

CYC's promised new 'Walls Management Plan' will probably include consideration of the botany of the Walls. A survey I read some time ago mentioned wallflowers on the Walls and bee orchids below them, but I've never spotted either. The delightful diversity [see second photo] I saw recently on a small, sunny patch of St Mary's Abbey's defensive walls surprised me.

The stand-out [literally and figuratively] rarity is the deadly nightshade so I've shown a close up that reminds us of its other name, Belladonna.



*Deadly Nightshade (Belladonna) on the Walls - Photo: Simon Mattam*

The luscious-looking glossy black berry reminds us of the lusciously-large-and-lovely eye pupils that would make a donna bella if she risked using its juice as an eye-drop. At the end of some branches there was also its subdued, purplish, bell-shaped flower.





*Wallsflowers - Photo: Simon Mattam*

Most of the other flowers, shown above, weren't, in late September, looking their best but also in the photo are the Wall's commonest three residents: wall rue, yellow corydallis and ivy-leaved toadflax ['Tiny ivy in the wall, you are the fairest of them all'].

On the top left is some sort of slightly dwarfed ragwort in brassy yellow flower but goodness knows what the plant is above the deadly nightshade at the very top of the wall -it was out of reach and half out of sight, perhaps it was practising for a role in the experimental 'soft capping' that is promised for the Roman walls behind the York Explore Library as part of the next major work on the Walls planned by CYC.

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
Emily Greenaway	Fund-raising
Granville Heptonstall	
Martin Hetherington	Volunteers
Simon Mattam	

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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