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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 Jan; Sun 27 Jan (Residents Weekend)

Committee: Tues 4 Dec; Tues 8 Jan (tbc)

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FoYW Newsletter - December 2018

November & December Newsletters (Richard Hanage)

This is the combined November and December issue. Normal service will resumed in January – in the lead-up to our openings for Residents Weekend.

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 published in the January e-News.

FPT Electricity Connection Progress (Alan Fleming)



So what is going on at the FPT?

During the months of December & January The Friends of York Walls, together

with the City of York Council, York Archaeological Trust and Northern PowerGrid, are doing an "archaeological dig" in and around this 500 year old tower, followed by laying a duct and cable to install electricity within the tower.

We have been waiting years for the electricity connection to happen, but we now have a clear plan. There are a large number of consecutive activities to be completed and involving over eight different organisations / departments / skills. After a very successful on-site planning meeting at the FPT in mid November, between FOYW, YAT, & CYC, plans are now falling into place to get electricity into FPT, hopefully by "Residents Weekend 2019" - 26/27th January.



FPT Entrance - Photo: Alan Fleming

Preparation

Work starts the first week of December when CYC will "prepare the site" and lift internal and external flags by Friday 7th December. This will involve the closure of the walkway past the tower's main entrance door. This pathway will remain closed for several weeks. During all the following work access to the tower area will be restricted for H&S reasons, but you may be able to observe from outside the barriers.

The 'YAT Dig'.

YAT will start their "archaeological dig" on Monday 10th December for two weeks (from 10th-21st Dec. 9:00 to 15:00 daily). They plan to dig the internal and external cable trenches plus as much of the surrounding area as time will allow. FOYW have identified a number of volunteers interested in taking part in the dig, including training, participation, generating FOYW publicity, etc. FOYW hope to make as much media publicity as we can during the exercise.

The site will be closed and left safe and secure from finish on 21st Dec to re-start

on 2nd Jan.

Excavation

Various CYC departments will work from Wednesday 2nd Jan to Friday 11th Jan to drill the door sill, and then install a 38mm plastic duct + drawstring + warning tile tape over + 'hockey stick' + meter back board + meter cabinet - all to the approved Northern PowerGrid specifications. All excavations will then be reinstated together with re-laying internal and external flags, etc. NPG may require some of the trench to remain open to confirm the correct duct/tape installations.

NPG are booked to arrive on site on Tuesday 15th January to excavate their part of the trench located in the "flats garden area", and to find the existing passing three phase cable. Wednesday 16th is set aside by NPG as a "contingency digging day".

Connecting Up

On Thursday 17th January NPG will draw the single phase cable through the pre-installed cable duct and connect the two ends. This will provide power to the internal service fuse ONLY.

In the week 18th - 25th January FOYW's chosen electrical contractor will install a consumer unit + 2 x switches + 4 x sockets next to the new meter box location. They will then install a (Smart)Meter, a 100A switch and connect to the pre-installed consumer unit. Only at this point will we get a working and usable electricity supply inside the tower.

There is then just enough time to connect the existing LED 12V lighting strips to the new sockets via 240/12V 6A transformers. Further internal electrical work will follow at a later date.

Residents Weekend Power

Fishergate Postern Tower will open for "Residents Weekend 2019" and the FOYW volunteers "spring clean and setting things up session" on 19th January should be OK to go ahead.

Permanent Installation

During 2019 we will be looking at what permanent electrical installation is required throughout the four floors of the tower, including multiple sockets and fixed lighting per floor. This will all require professional design and implementation - which requires significant funding.

Paying for it All!

Our 'Just Giving' appeal is still open, so please help us to raise funds for the next phase of the FPT full electrical installation by visiting :-

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fishergateposterntowerelectrics>

Digging in December (Emily Greenaway)

Exciting news in December as the Friends will be working with York Archaeological Trust (YAT) to excavate in and around the Tower, in preparation for the installation of electricity cabling by the Council (as described in detail by Alan, above)

YAT will be excavating the route along which a new electricity cable will run. Areas will be excavated externally across the path outside the tower, and also internally along the south end of the ground floor. YAT's role is to investigate and record any archaeology which may be situated along the route. With the historical significance of the site, and the many layers of history in central York, there is the potential that YAT may uncover some interesting finds and add to our knowledge of the Tower.

YAT will be on site Monday to Friday, from the 10th to the 21st December. Do pop down to the Tower between 10am and 3pm) and take a look at how things are progressing over the 10 days.

Thank you to all the Friends who have signed up to volunteer on the dig.

There will be an update in the next newsletter on how the dig went and what was found, with exciting photos, and hopefully some even more exciting discoveries...

Watch this space!

'Shared Heritage' Funding (Bill Hill)



A sub-group of the Committee is preparing a bid for grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund "Sharing Heritage" programme to help fund the 2019 Festival of the Walls and associated activities. It is possible to bid for between £3,000 and £10,000 from this fund, to be spent over a 12-month period.

The focus of the bid as it has taken shape thus far includes:

- Providing an enhanced budget for the Festival itself, enabling it to be spread over two days and given higher profile promotion.
- Engaging with a wider range of groups so as to be able to provide additional events over the two days.
- Undertaking surveys of visitors to help target activities and improve the visitor experience.
- Generating an improved map and other materials to help families and school-children to engage with the walls.

- Providing resources to display materials.
- Creating a Festival dedicated website.
- Taking on a temporary administrative assistant to help with the organisational demands of the enhanced Festival.

Funds will also be sought to provide a 12-month programme of related events and opportunities for the public to take part in and learn about the walls, including:

- Public lectures
- Training sessions for volunteers
- Workshops on archives
- Actions to enhance biodiversity

If anyone would like to get involved, please contact Bill Hill on 07810 833625 or billhill.torfaen@gmail.com . We are aiming to submit the bid by early January.

Our First Mail! (Sam McDermott/ Alan Fleming)

One month after obtaining a postcode for Fishergate Postern Tower, we received our first item of 'post under the door' from TV Licensing!

Quick and efficient as ever, Alan has now made the necessary declaration that no licence is needed at FPT. Apparently, these notices are sent automatically to all non-registered addresses, but the thought of a TV set in a medieval tower made us chuckle. Of course, once we have electricity in there, it certainly would be a possibility!

Inspired by the Walls? (Simon Mattam)

My guidebook ("A Walking Guide to York's City Walls") makes a passing suggestion that, beneath its grime, Layerthorpe Bridge has a look of being inspired by the Walls. Walls and bridge are both in my photo here but with my lack of camera skill I couldn't capture the way your eye can go straight from the bridge to the Walls and to the towers winding their way up from the Foss towards the Minster.



Layerthorpe - A 'grimy bridge', inspired by the walls?' - Photo: Simon Mattam

A little along Peaseholme Green from the bridge –and also in concrete but far from grimy– is the grand staircase in the new Hiscox building. This was put up in 2016 and the architects say that it too was inspired by the City Walls. I wonder if their thinking linked our showy ancient defences to their most striking acquisition for the building: a symbol of dangerous defence by deterrence... in the form of a Soviet missile [visible to the left of the staircase in the architects' photo here].

Speaking of their building, 'Make Architects' said, "One of our main design influences was heritage-rich York itself. The interior centrepiece – the ribbon-like concrete staircase – is inspired by the undulating city walls".



Hiscox Building - A 'grand staircase', inspired by the walls?' - Photo: Make Architects

The newish pub, the 'Postern Gate', between Fishergate Postern Tower and the castle walls also clearly echoes the round towers in the castle's curtain wall.



The Postern Gate - Photo: Richard Hanage

Do readers know of other examples of where York's old defences have influenced architecture? We'd like them to share their knowledge. I wonder about the flats immediately outside the corner tower in the Walls at Fishergate, and the York St John University buildings close to Robin Hood Tower. Please contact me with ideas on friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com or ps.mattam@outlook.com

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
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. 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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