

**From:** Friends of York Walls <richard@hanage.com>  
**Sent:** 15 March 2019 17:21  
**To:** richard@hanage.com  
**Subject:** Friends of York Walls Newsletter - March 2019

Friends of York Walls Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Friends of York Walls Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

**Open Days:** Sat 23 Mar; Sat 6 Apr; Sat 20 April

**Committee:** Tues 2 Apr; Tues 7 May

**Annual Friends Meeting:** Sat 4 May

[Click here to sponsor a stone](#)

## FoYW Newsletter - March 2019

### Open Days (Martin Hetherington)

Thanks to all who helped on Saturday 23rd February, when the amazing tally of **500 visitors** was reached. Takings were healthy too. There were some lovely comments in our visitors book, and Julian proved a hit with some of our afternoon influx. On Saturday 9th March numbers were lower - but still good - at 226.

#### The next Open days are

Sat 23 Mar; Literary Festival. Author visit (see Tweet, below)

Sat 6 April: Sheriffs Visit

Sat 20 April: Easter Saturday

### Development of the FPT (Martin Hetherington)

The committee and the newly formed 'steering group' are presently formulating ideas for the development of the FPT based, in part, on the Qualia report. We hope to have a roadmap, plus three potential options, to present in the April e-news for discussion at the 'Friends Annual Meeting' in May.

### Annual Friends Meeting (Sam Mcdermott)

The Annual Friends Meeting will be held on Saturday 4th May, at 2pm in Clements Hall. Nunthorpe Rd, York YO23 1BW. Everyone is welcome! More details next month.

## York Walls Festival 2019 (Martin Hetherington/Bill Hill)

Please spread the word... the York Walls Festival now has a website:

<http://yorkwallsfestival.org/>



### Welcome

The second York Walls Festival takes place on Sat 10th & Sun 11th August 2019.  
See how things are shaping up [here](#).

RECENT POSTS

*The new Festival web-site*

You can see some of the planned events, and a review of the first festival.

Planning and publicity for the Festival on Aug 10/11th are well under way:

## York Walls Festival 2019

Heritage Event

City Wide - Walls, Bars and Towers, York,  
Yorkshire

Email



Website



'Visit York' publicity for the Festival - [VisitYork website](#).

Any enquiries about the festival can be sent to our dedicated email address:  
[yorkwallsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:yorkwallsfestival@gmail.com)

## Peacocks in the Tower (Simon/Bill/Alan)

A recent email conversation about butterflies ....

**Simon:** Looking like dark, intricately shaped shadows high in the stairway by door to 2nd floor [and probably elsewhere] we seem to have hibernating butterflies in FPT [though perhaps they are dead?]. We need to be extremely cautious in any spring cleaning for 3 months. I think I saw a small tortoiseshell flying on the ramparts, at the start of the recent warm period but I don't think ours should wake yet.

**Bill:** They are Peacocks and aren't dead. When I was prowling around during the dig in December there must have been 20 of them.



*Peacock Butterfly - from the UK Butterflies [website](#)*

**Alan:** I hope that they can remember how to get out of the building. From reading the following and similar articles ... when they start to awake in March/April they start to "mate and reproduce" so they need to get out of the building to find the right habitat to lay hundreds of eggs on nettles, and then for the caterpillars to eat - definitely not inside FPT.

Some information on Peacock Butterflies [here](#) .

When the wings are folded, as for hibernation, they look very different:



## From the Committee Room (Sam McDermott)

Items not reported elsewhere

- We have had our first electricity bill (already). It was for £0!
- We plan a practice 'fire evacuation drill' at the FPT.
- Some of the ceiling blocks above the steps are flaking. The steps below now need sweeping before each opening.
- We have raised £168 through the 'JustGiving' website - towards the electrical installation.
- Guy Newton, who has lots of experience of museum interpretation and public events, has joined the committee and will also become a Trustee.

## Baile Hill Clean-up & News (Jonny Crawshaw)

As part of this year's Great British Spring Clean I have organised a litter pick and general tidy up of Baile Hill and the surrounding area following on from the contractors' work clearing the undergrowth and self-seeded saplings. If you are free to join us on Sunday 24 March at 1pm that would be great.

I will have green waste bags and some litter pickers. If you have your own litter-pickers and/or gardening gloves it may be useful to bring them too.

Discussions are on going between Council Officers and York Civic Trust about how to take the next steps towards formalising access to the top of Baile Hill and how best to protect the slopes from erosion/wear. This includes investigating whether some well thought out planting could be beneficial both in terms of reducing unwanted growth and protecting the integrity of the mound.

## Castlegate Development (Richard Hanage)

Most of you will be aware of a series of consultations that have been taking place about the future of the Castlegate area (Piccadilly, St Georges Field, and Castle Mills). A design brief has been developed for the Piccadilly area, which may be very relevant to the Fishergate Postern Tower. From my perspective, as a local resident, the ideas look very promising.



**St George's Field Car  
Park, Castle Mills  
Apartments and the new  
bridge: Explore the  
proposals**

***Plans for St Georges Field and Castle Mills - from the ' My Castle Gateway' website***

You can read to full brief [here](#).

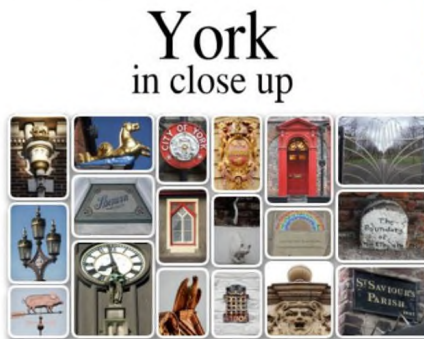


## From Our Tweets (Martin Hetherington)

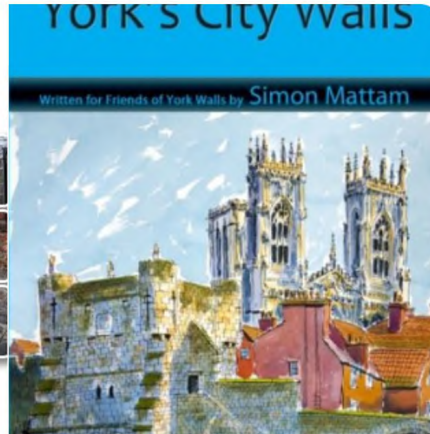


**YorkWallsFriend** @YorkWallsFriend · Mar 11

We'll have double the number of [#books](#) available on our next open day. Catherine Sotheran, author of [#York](#) in close up, will have copies of her book for sale at Fishergate Postern Tower on Piccadilly, while the [@YorkWallsFriend](#) guide to the walls, just £6, will be on sale too. 📖



Catherine Sotheran



See more of our tweets at <http://www.twitter.com/yorkwallsfriend>

## Rampart Flower of the Month (Simon Mattam)



*Daffodils on the Ramparts - Photo: Simon Mattam*

**Daffodils:** In spite of my asking, no-one spoke against the obvious and specially planted choice for March's flower so a small display about it will be at Fishergate Postern Tower open days this month. The daffodil is also the 'Daffydowndilly' or 'Lent Lily'. The last name loosely ties the flower to this month - this year Lent lasts its 40 days from the sixth of March. A tighter tie is its use by the Welsh on St David's Day [March 1st]. Its timing and the way its six petal ruff can resemble a Star of David has led to its being planted on Clifford's Tower's hill in commemoration of the 16th March killing of York's Jewish Community there in 1189.

The rampart's daffodils are of many garden varieties [eg. look at the variety of colour immediately south of Walmgate Bar] but they all share the botanical generic name 'narcissus' with the Wordsworth's wild daffodils - 'beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze'.

My research for the display has led me to think that I should really write it "Wordsworths' wild daffodils" because the ultra-famous poem, learned by heart by generations of school children, seems to have been a family production: William was living with sister Dorothy and wife Mary when an entry mentioning dancing daffodils in Dorothy's diary about a walk he and she'd shared two years before led to the writing of the poem, then, in notes written much later, William said words to the effect 'the best two lines in the poem are Mary's ['they flash upon my inward eye...']].

Perhaps sadly, none of the rampart's daffodils are by the water of a wet moat -though such a moat probably once ran outside the Walls from Fishergate to Red Tower - the Wordsworths' daffodils were by water, as are many of those in Yorkshire's centre for wild daffodils, Farndale. The legend of Narcissus [some said the flower grew from his body] led to ancient Romans picturing him staring into still water. He was a young hunter who fell in love with his own beautiful image reflected in water. Unsurprisingly the love affair ended badly.

I am told that Cllr Keith Myer, an ex-chair of FoYW, is currently interested in a survey of the ramparts' daffodils - we have, thanks to Alan Fleming, quite an archive of photos of their distribution. This interest might be linked to the City's ecologist's view [as reported by Bill Hill] that we should not extend the areas occupied by them - for fear of reducing ecological diversity.

I suspect that April's flower will be cow parsley but comments, suggestions and offers of help with surveying the ramparts' flowers are all very welcome. Simon Mattam [[ps.mattam@outlook.com](mailto:ps.mattam@outlook.com)]

For more about Wordsworth and the daffodils [click here](#).

**Richard Hanage ([richard@hanage.com](mailto:richard@hanage.com))**  
**Editor, on behalf of the FoYW Committee.**

Glen McGowan	Chair
Penny Heptonstall	Treasurer
Sam McDermott	Secretary
Alan Fleming	Website
Emily Greenaway	Fund-raising
Bill Hill	Fund-raising
Martin Hetherington	Volunteers
Simon Mattam	
Guy Newton	

The committee may be contacted at [friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com)  
If you would like to attend a committee meeting, please contact Sam McDermott.  
The meetings 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)



---

*Copyright © 2019 Friends of York Wall, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you are a supporter of the 'Friends of York Walls'

**Our mailing address is:**

Friends of York Wall  
50 Grey Towers Drive  
Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 0LT  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

We send you this newsletter because you signed up with us and are on our mailing list. We keep your data secure, do not share it with any other organisations and only use it for our newsletters and relevant mailings.

To opt out just email '[friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofyorkwalls@gmail.com)' or unsubscribe by clicking below.

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

