

From: Friends of York Walls <richard@hanage.com>
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To: richard@hanage.com
Subject: Friends of York Walls Newsletter - July 2019

Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Open Days:

Sat 10 and 11 Aug: York Walls Festival

Sat 14 and 21 Sept: Heritage Open Days

Committee: Tues 3 Sept; Tues 1 Oct

York Walls Festival 2019: Sat 10 & Sun 11 August

[Click here to sponsor a stone](#)

FoYW Newsletter - July 2019

York Walls Festival (Martin Hetherington)

Festival plans are now almost complete. Please come and join us at the many events over the weekend. See the <http://yorkwallsfestival.org/planned-events> for more details of all the activities.

Programme and Walls Map (Martin Hetherington)



The Festival Map of the Walls - [Download pdf](#)

This year's festival programme is bigger and more varied than in 2018, thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and the dedication of Bill Hill and our two festival assistants Holly Graham and Rebecca Spencer from York St John University. The last six months (longer in the case of York Explore) have seen many people contribute ideas, and highlights include:

- a new display case at FPT to show off finds from the YAT dig last winter
- a BBQ at Red Tower with the Lord Mayor coming at 3:30pm. Free food for all.
- the development of a mobile phone app. This can be downloaded now ahead of the festival: see <http://yorkwallsfestival.org/mobile-phone-app> for guidance
- involvement with Found Fiction (story-writing activities), Fox Lane Books (bookstalls), the River Foss Society (boards on Foss Islands Road about the history and nature of the area) and Good Organisation (supporting homeless people in York)
- a charity challenge. York Mind fundraiser Brian Mullins is walking the on or near the walls for 24 hours, starting at 11am on the Saturday.
- a new York Walls Activity Booklet, with 8 pages of fun-filled activities. The Explorer Trails for stamping are back too.
- new videos thanks to Sharpstick Productions, which will be shown at Red Tower.

<p>Sat 10th Aug</p> <p>Fishergate Postern Tower 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open day, 10am - 4pm. - Fishergate Postern Tower is a 500-year-old watch tower that is usually closed to the public. Come and climb the spiral staircase and learn about the history of the tower and of York! - Display of 2018 Archaeological Dig with physical findings and a digital 3D photographic model of the dig. - Bookstall by Fox Lane Books with books for everyone (Including Horrible Histories) - There's even a medieval loo, come and see for yourself! <p>Red Tower 2</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open day, 11am - 6pm. - 'Barbecue Plus' event, 3pm - 6pm. Barbecue Plus is a festival Barbecue open to all in the local community and visitors walking the wall! It is a barbecue, but with a difference. There are healthy options as well as traditional fare, plus a goat stew from Sierra Leone! - Tea, coffee and cake - Walls video on big screen. Want a rest from all of the walking? Come and sit down in the Red Tower with a cuppa and watch our two videos: the walls in 60 seconds, and Richard III clips filmed at Fishergate Postern Tower. <p>Explore York 3</p> <p>Make-a-Tile Workshop, 10am - 4pm. Ages 6-12. Free drop in session - no need to book. All equipment provided! Come and create a tile at the library. Be inspired by the walls and get creative with clay.</p> <p>Found Fiction presents (9-4 Sat and 11-3.30 Sun)</p> <p>Writing Desk: Having toured literary festivals across the UK, the Found Fiction Writing Desk comes to York Explore. Visit the desk and add to a short story one line at a time. Can you help co-write a masterpiece?</p> <p>Writing's on the Wall: If these walls could talk, they'd be full of stories. And during the festival they will be. There will be an incomplete sentence on the wall on York Explore's library lawn. Finish it your way by filling in the blanks.</p> <p>Walk: Red Brick York 4</p> <p>Meet at King's Manor at 2pm. Ian Tempest will lead a free 'Red Brick York' walk through the city streets and onto the walls, ending at the Red Tower.</p>	<p>Sun 11th Aug</p> <p>Fishergate Postern Tower 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open day, 10am - 4pm. - Fishergate Postern Tower is a 500-year-old watch tower that is usually closed to the public. Come and climb the spiral staircase and learn about the history of the tower and of York! - Display of 2018 Archaeological Dig with physical findings and a digital 3D photographic model of the dig. - Bookstall by Fox Lane Books with books for everyone (Including Horrible Histories) - There's even a medieval loo, come and see for yourself!  <p>Red Tower 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open day, 11am - 4pm. - Live music and performance art in the tower, 5.30pm - 6.15pm. See festival website for details. - Tea, coffee and cake - Walls video on big screen. Want a rest from all of the walking? Come and sit down in the Red Tower with a cuppa and watch our two videos: the walls in 60 seconds, and Richard III clips filmed at Fishergate Postern Tower. <p>Explore York 3</p>  <p>Make-a-Tile Workshop 11am - 2pm. Ages 8-12. Free drop in session no need to book. All equipment provided! Come and create a tile at the library. Be inspired by the walls and get creative with clay.</p> <p>Look out for: 4</p>  <p>Pre-festival talks: King's Manor, July 27th. Barry Crump will talk about what the walls meant to medieval York.</p> <p>A Medieval Computer Game in 2020: Developed by www.yorkgame.co.uk who have designed our Festival App.</p> <p>Postcards from the Edge: A photography project featuring photos taken by people affected by homelessness.</p> <p>More events at: FPT: www.yorkwalls.org.uk Red Tower: www.redtower.org.uk Explore York: www.explore-york.org.uk</p>	<p>Festival Information Point 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Festival Volunteers will be in Museum Gardens, 9:30am - 4:30pm each day. - If you have any enquiries our stand will be near Multangular Tower - don't be shy! <p>York Walls Activity Booklet</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 pages of fun-filled activities! - Explore the walls with i-Spy, a word hunt, a maze and dot-to-dot. - Pick up your copy at any of our venues: Fishergate Postern Tower, Red Tower, York Explore or Visit York. <p>The Million Step Man</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brian Mullins is walking 1,000,000 steps a month to raise money for York Mind. - He will be doing a 24-hour walking challenge around the walls, starting at 11am on the Saturday from in front of York Art Gallery. - At any of our venues, you can make a donation to guess how many steps Brian will walk - the closest will win a prize. - Grab a 'Hole in the Wall' activity sheet and walk the walls with Brian to get a certificate! - Make sure to donate to his Just Giving to show your support! www.justgiving.com/fundraising/remember-breathe <p>The River Foss Society</p> <p>There will be a display of photos along the railings on Foss Islands Road, and a chance to help the team check how clean the river is.</p> <p>Mobile Phone App</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Download our mobile phone App 'York Walls Festival'! - The App will help walkers of all ages to explore the walls. Developed by Yorkgame, there will be a medieval quest for children and an audio-guide for adults each taking about one hour. - Audio-guide starts from Fishergate Postern Tower on Piccadilly. - Children's Quest starting from Museum Gardens. - Take a step back in time through the App and see how the towers used to look! 
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The Festival Programme - [Download pdf](#)

Helping out at the Festival (Martin Hetherington)

We now have a **supply of festival posters**. If you need a few to display on noticeboards let me know, but note that anywhere within the walls (or on the roads directly outside the walls) will be covered by the festival assistants.

There will be a **meet-up for volunteers** at 5pm on Thurs 8th August at FPT. We will tidy the tower and walls for an hour, then head to the Mason's Arms.

If you can help at FPT over festival weekend please sign-up here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SPk4crTXO32q4l6-s6qJ9Av46fSUQVWNPzX45-S7WmQ/edit#gid=190472904>

I may move some of you around to cover the Festival Information Point in Museum Gardens, which runs 9.30am to 4.30pm both Saturday and Sunday.

If you are free on Thurs 8th, Fri 9th or Mon 12th do let Martin know, via yorkwallsfestival@gmail.com, and there may be extra tasks you can help with.

Thanks for all your support.

Further contact details :-

Twitter: www.twitter.com/WallsYork

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yorkwallsfestival>

Email: yorkwallsfestival@gmail.com

Fox Lane Books (Martin Hetherington)

I am pleased to say that Fox Lane Books (<https://www.foxlanebooks.co.uk/gallery>) have agreed to have a stall at the Postern Tower over York Walls Festival weekend.

It is an independent outfit, and owner Kirstie will be at the FPT for the whole weekend, with a wide range of books. She is on Twitter and Instagram:

<https://twitter.com/foxlanebooks> https://www.instagram.com/fox_lane_books/

The stall photo, below, is from the Hospitium where I bumped into her at the Roman Festival. She was also at the Festival of Ideas.



Fox Lane Books at the Roman Festival - Photo: Martin Hetherington

FPT Development Project (Richard Hanage)

Work on this project has gone a bit quiet as we are concentrating on the Festival. More news in September.

However, in the meantime, Alan Fleming is installing extra lighting in the Tower for the Festival, and even a telephone system from the ground floor to the top floor - mainly for emergencies, and perhaps to order coffee supplies!

The Ivory Comb (Bill Hill/Arran Johnson)

Arran Johnson, Project Officer from YAT (York Archaeological Trust), has sent us an update on the ivory comb found during our dig. The photogrammetry* of the comb is now live on <https://skfb.ly/6LIHY> . The detail of the grain of the ivory has come out very nicely, as have the craftsperson's tool marks.

YAT are also looking at producing a 3D print of the comb for us to display in the Tower.

*Photogrammetry is the science of making measurements from photographs. The output is typically a map, a drawing, a measurement, or a 3D model of some real-world object or scene (www.photogrammetry.com)



Post -medieval comb found at the Fishergate Postern Tower - Photo: YAT



YAT Dig Report (Arran Johnson)

YAT have now also completed their report on the FPT excavations last December. A summary article is on the York Walls Festival website here: <http://yorkwallsfestival.org/walls-weekly-2> (co-authored with Arran Johnson of YAT) and the full report is [available here](#). The report is an impressive 60 pages long and illustrates the very professional approach that YAT takes. Their summary is below:

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY (Arran Johnson)

Between the 10th and the 21st December 2018, York Archaeological Trust (YAT) led a community excavation at Fishergate Postern Tower, Piccadilly, York (SE 60680 51320).

The work was undertaken for City of York Council (CYC) who are working with the Friends of York Walls (FOYW) and Northern Powergrid (NPG) to install an electricity supply into the tower. The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YAT and involved the excavation and recording of a trench measuring 8.50m in length and 0.50m to 1.50m in width. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.60m BGL.

Outside of the tower, a series of surfaces, make-up deposits and cut features dating to the 19th century were excavated. Two small sections of stone footings relating to the tower were also exposed. Within the tower, evidence of previous brick floors and the footings of an 18th/19th century timber staircase were found to overlie a series of make-up layers and cut features. In addition, the footings of the original internal south tower wall and a layer of dumping that pre-dates the construction of the tower were also investigated.

TCV Community Network (Richard Hanage)



The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) community network <https://community.tcv.org.uk/> has "developed our Community Network to support the thousands of groups across the UK who are passionate about the creation and protection of local green spaces". They highlighted our heritage grant in a recent newsletter:



Walk the walls

The Friends of York Walls have received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £10,000 to share the heritage of York Walls this year...

TCV newsletter item about the Heritage grant - source: TCV newsletter.

From Our Tweets (Martin Hetherington)

Many of the current tweets are inspired by the coming Festival.

↻ YorkWallsFriend Retweeted



York Walls Festival @WallsYork · 6h

4/5 New for 2019 is a phone [#app](#) with 3D models and images that give a feel of [#medieval](#) [#York](#).

Bring [#history](#) alive for [#free](#) with two hour-long [#tours](#).

Android: [play.google.com/store/apps/det...](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.yorkwallsfestival)

iPhone: apps.apple.com/gb/app/york-wa...

Needs android 6.0+ (2015 onwards) or iPhone 5S and up.



Tweet about the new Festival APP - Source Twitter

NB: Accessing the APP:

- Download the APP 'York Walls Festival' from either the App Store (iPhone) or the Google Play Store (Android)
- Open the APP and enter your email (your email may go to your 'junk' inbox so don't forget to check in there).
- You will receive an email, click the link in the email to confirm your email address.

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

Rampart Flower of the Month (Simon Mattam)



The 'larger bindweed' on the Walls near Fishergate corner tower - Photo: Simon Mattam

July's flower is the bindweed, AKA 'Devil's guts', 'bearbind' [=barley-tie] 'or 'granny hop out of bed'.

With close mowing of flattish land by the ramparts, the start of annual[?] mowing of the rampart slopes and the threat of CYC-financed poisoning still hanging over all plants on the Walls it seemed wise to have this really resilient beauty as July's flower. I think there are the introduced 'larger bindweed' and the very similar, but native, 'hedge bindweed' and much smaller, partly pink petalled 'field bindweed' around the Walls and ramparts this month. Part of their resilience is their ability to regenerate from the smallest bit of root.

It is an aggressive climber twisting itself to the left around other plants as it grows. This led to the neat and charming Flanders and Swann song:

"Said the right-handed honeysuckle to the left-handed bindweed:

"Oh let us get married, if our parents don't mind we'd

be loving and inseparable, inextricably entwined, we'd

Live happily ever after", said the honeysuckle to the bindweed"

- but the love affair ends badly.

Their twining is also commonly described as 'anticlockwise' -which is strange as it only seems anticlockwise if you are looking down at it and the larger bindweeds climb to 4 metres or more. It is rather like describing Fishergate Posterns staircase as climbing 'clockwise' -you seem to be moving like a clock's hands if you look down at your feet as you climb but if you could look up at people far above you then you'd see them going anticlockwise.

The last of the old popular names is because the beautiful white trumpet flower is like a voluminous night-gown and if you firmly squeeze the greenish complex cup it sits in around the middle [or lower, you may have to experiment] then the whole white 'corolla' pops free and granny-in-her-gown may take a rough tumble or may fall gently, parachuting, to land on her feet so as to speak.

Now I am wondering about August's flower. Should it be another showy, super-common flower? something more difficult to find? or something less showily beautiful like a grass?

Suggestions on this – or offers of help with increasing people's enjoyment of nature on the ramparts – are very welcome. Simon Mattam ps.mattam@outlook.com

Richard Hanage (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

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



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