

Richard Hanage

From: Friends of York Walls <richard@hanage.com>
Sent: 21 February 2020 13:32
To: richard@hanage.com
Subject: Friends of York Walls Newsletter - Feb 2020

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Friends of York Walls Newsletter

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Open Days: Sat 22 Feb: Viking weekend
Sat 14 March: Normal opening
Sat 28 March: Literary Festival

Committee: Tues 3 Mar, Tues 7 Apr

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York Walls Festival 2020 (Martin Hetherington)



The 2020 York Walls Festival logo

Planning has begun for the third York Walls Festival, which takes place in August. A January meeting, hosted at York Explore, established a seven-strong committee to help bring plans together. The festival logo for 2020 is above.

York Walls Festival 2020 – helping out are:						
						
Bill – for all practical solutions needing crates of bottled water	Simon – very good at evading cameras	Sally – NOT a middle-aged white man. Source of positivity	Baz (centre) – artistic director. Does whizzy things with video and performers.	Mike – ensures gazebos don't fly away. Likes giving young people a chance	Ian – soldiers on through the rain, leading walks	Martin – organiser. Sender of too many emails. Does enjoy chats on the radio and encouraging batty ideas

The 2020 York Walls Festival team - Martin Hetherington

Ideas discussed at the meeting included the following:

- **York Explore** could either run the tile-decorating workshop (as in 2019) or Map Attack with Lego (as in 2018)
- Possibility of an archery event at **Baile Hill** – Bill is to discuss with the Jorvik Group
- The **River Foss Society** will again have their display boards along Foss Islands Road
- **Talks** by Barry Crump (Centre for Lifelong Learning) and Louisa Hood (CYC).
- **Walk** led by Ian Tempest
- **English Heritage** attended, and are keen that Clifford's Tower has a role to play in the festival.
- There is also interest from **York Liberal Jewish Community** in having an event linked to the site
- **York Museums Trust** are hosting our Festival Information Point in Museum Gardens, and there will also be a festival stall during the Roman Festival in May
- **Riding Lights Theatre Company** are working on a number of projects with FOYW and Red Tower. It is hoped there will be a promenade piece in July, ahead of the main festival
- **Baz Jones** will again look to show video pieces during the festival
- **Red Tower and Fishergate Postern Tower** will have open days over the festival weekend
- The **activity booklet**, explorer trail and map will return
- **York St John** will again assist with their summer internship programme

The website www.yorkwallsfestival.org will carry updates, but please check our Twitter ([@wallsyork](https://twitter.com/wallsyork)) and Instagram ([YorkWallsFestival](https://www.instagram.com/YorkWallsFestival/)) pages for the latest news.

Join us as a Volunteer? (Richard Hanage)

Why not pop in during one of our Open Days and spend some time chatting with our volunteers about joining us? Volunteers typically do 3-5 hours a month, so its not a big commitment, and its great fun meeting visitors and chatting to them about the Postern Tower and the Walls.

Just drop in, or contact me to find out more. richard@hanage.com

FPT Roof Survey (Glen McGowan)

To facilitate the re-roofing works to Fishergate Postern Tower a photographic survey was carried out by a drone, flying above and around the tower. This has provided information on the condition and construction of the roof, including key details of the leadwork and hip junctions are formed. These elements of the roof have proved difficult if not impossible to view from ground level.

The survey will help us to plan the re-roofing works with more certainty, ensuring the work we carry out is in keeping with the historic fabric of the tower. Hopefully, we can also anticipate the costs of the re-roofing work more accurately now that the survey has shed more light on the construction of the roof.

More below

Drone Survey Pictures (Alan Fleming)

The 400 year old roof and tiles at Fishergate Postern Tower are in need of some maintenance and TLC. In preparation and planning for any roof repairs which may be necessary a detailed aerial survey of the roof has just been commissioned and completed.

On Thursday 23rd January Jonathan Malory of [Sky Filming York](#) was on site using a drone and a camera on a pole to capture detailed high resolution images and videos of the state of the roof.



Fishergate Postern Tower - Photo: Sky Filming, York



Fishergate Postern Tower - Photo: Sky Filming, York



Detail of the roof - - Photo: Sky Filming, York

A short aerial video is also available [here](#).

A 3-D model has also been produced from the images recorded and can be seen on the [Sky Filming website](#).

For more pictures and information please go to the dedicated pages on our [FOYW website](#)

'Visit York' Membership (Alan Fleming)

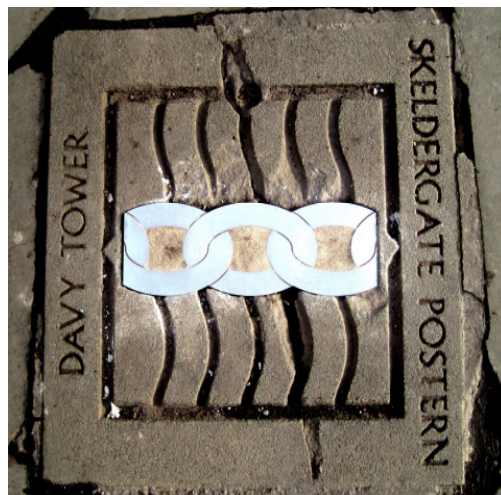
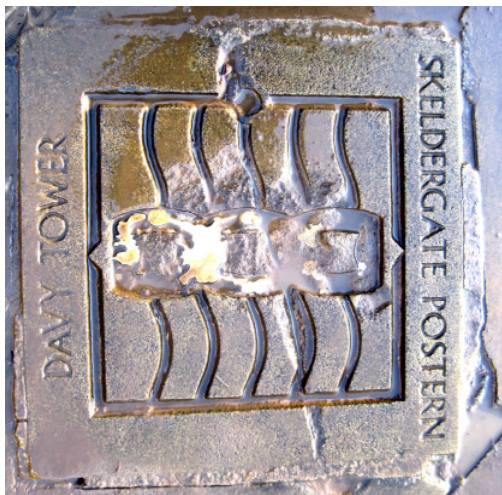
We are now members of 'Visit York' and have our own dedicated [web page](#) on their site.

Reminder: 2020 Open Days and Brochure

The list of planned open days for 2020 is available [here](#). Volunteers (and friends) please sign up to help [here](#)

The **2020 brochure** is available to download [here](#). If you would like one or more hard copies of the final version, please email your postal address, and how many you would like, to me at richard@hanage.com

Pointing Paving-plaques (Simon Mattam)



Paving plaque by Davy Tower (old, and renovated) - Photo Simon Mattam

There are nine of these plaques around the City Walls Trail and one has just been fitted with a new shiny, stainless steel insert. This one points two ways, to Davy Tower [which it is next to] and to the site of Skelderdate Postern, on the other side of the Ouse. Back in 1807 this postern was the first bit of the Walls to be peacefully demolished, well, perhaps not entirely peacefully as there were protests that eventually resulted in the preservation of most of the walls.

It is not this story that the plaque commemorates, the steel insert represents the chain that hung between the two towers in medieval times. I think that little is known about the chain except that it was there in 1380 and ordered to be sold in 1553, but, presumably, it was to seal off the city from attack by river and to help force those in boats to pay 'murage' if they were going to sell goods in York. It is believed that the chain could be raised and lowered, presumably lowered to let boats in over it.

My two photos show the plaque before and after the new fitting. The plaques mostly had a metal inset. Several inserts went missing but in this case what was missing left the plaque looking puzzling. John Oxley, the newly retired City Archaeologist, ordered the replacement piece some

time ago [I think this e-news letter noted this in late 2017!] but Louisa Hood, Bar Walls Manager, has just had it fitted.



Puzzling plaque by the Multangular Tower - Photo: Simon Mattam

Just one of the plaques has a pattern of tiles as an insert - this is photographed above and, though it is in good condition, it is still a complete puzzle to me. Has anyone out there any ideas on how the pattern connects to the Multangular Tower? In case there are clues in the other pairings of image with view they are:

- Crossed keys [Minster]
- Frost crystal [ice house]
- Star of David [Jewbury]
- Rampant lion [Clifford's Tower]
- Map [Baile Hill]
- Cross [St Mary's church]
- Railway engine wheel [old signal box].

Spring Comes to the Wall's Moss (Simon Mattam).

I think Richard would welcome occasional pieces from any of you who are willing to help people enjoy nature on the Walls and ramparts [YES, PLEASE!]. Here is a piece that is little more than a comment to go with a couple of photos.

The photos here were taken last week on the wall-walk just north of Bootham Bar. The first seems to show that only an occasional stone, with the mortar near it, plays host to moss -while others near it are mainly covered with lichens [-cue for anyone prepared to tell us about lichens next in March's e-news!].



Moss on walls stone - Photo: Simon Mattam

The second picture is a close-up of an edge of the same stone and I think it identifies this moss as Wall Screw Moss, *Tortula Murialis* -and shows it is busy reproducing on St Valentine's day.



'Wall Screw Moss' - Photo: Simon Mattam

The screw in its name may be from the way its little leaves are said to twist tightly to stems in dry weather to trap moisture there or, more likely, from what is inside those elegant little pointy-capped spore pods on top of their 1-2cm. of slender stem. When these spore pods mature, their cap falls off and you can see (with a strong lens) a set of tightly twisted threads inside; these, I think release the spores to grow into more moss. Last year's cap-less but now empty pods can be seen in the photo too.

This a very common, lime-loving moss; neither photo shows the neat little cushions the moss often forms but you can see a few of the whitish hairs coming from the ends of the leaves. These hairs can lie much more neatly than they do here and can make the moss look quite silvery.

Richard Hanage (richard@hanage.com)

Editor, on behalf of the FoYW committee.

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

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

Postern Tower location: YO1 9AF (please do not send mail here - no letterbox!)



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