



# Friends of Colchester Roman Wall

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## How are we doing?

Things are moving on and we want to report to you where have got to with the support of our Friends.

### Interpretation Boards

Our vision is to produce 13 Interpretation Boards at key points around the Wall. These will cost £1,000 each. We have enough in the bank to fund the first and are moving on with the second. Because of your support we have a reliable source of income but we still need more Friends to achieve our target in reasonable time.

In addition we are looking for help with individual Boards. We can report:

- The Sixth Form College will be doing fundraising with its students in the academic year starting in September. This will be for 'their' Board at the corner of the Wall between Balkerne Hill and Middleborough. We have said we would welcome input from students on the wording of this Board.
- Colchester United will do a collection for us at a home match in August or September. We have challenged them to raise £500 so the Club name can feature on a Board.

- There will be a new Hotel in Queen Street where the former 'Keddies' building is. We have asked the Council to include provision of the Board in Priory Street as an obligation on the hotelier. With their logo on it, it should be a good investment for them. We expect development of that area to include an upgrade of the setting of the Wall and access to it on the inside.

We have put our thoughts in to the Council Museum Services on the wording of the first Board – that at Balkerne Gate. At present they are understandably fully involved in the submission of the multi-million pound bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for repair and re-display at the Castle. After that happens in mid-April they will be able to concentrate on other matters.

Success in this Bid is central to what happens to our Roman heritage in Colchester for years to come

### Management Plan

This sounds like a dull subject but is crucial to the treatment of the Wall. At present there is an obligation upon developers to respect the Wall but something tougher is needed. A formal Management Plan would do the job. It would apply to Museum Services and other Council divisions such Street Services and Parks and Leisure and to owners and potential developers through the Planning process. To have the force needed to do this, it must be consulted on and be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The process to produce this is under way. Expect a public consultation meeting, probably in June. That is when you can have your say.

### Feedback

We will be approaching other potential sponsors. Suggestions, please!

### Fundraising

Can you hold a fundraising/ profile- raising event? Let us know.

## Hoardings

As you may have seen in the press, the Borough Council served what's known as a 'Discontinuance Notice' on the advertising company JC Decaux - ordering them to remove the four hoardings on the Wall in Middleborough.

JC Decaux have now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. We would like to think this is just delaying the inevitable removal of the boards but, for now, the issue is out of our hands.

We hope the Planning Inspectorate will reach the right decision!

## Constitution

Your Committee has now adopted a Constitution. This means our financial year will end on 30 June. Expect an AGM in September. Then Friends can adopt/change the Constitution, receive reports and accounts and elect officers.

## Website

Our new website is running at [www.romanwall.org](http://www.romanwall.org) but it needs content: pictures of the wall, articles about its history and news of the present day are all welcome. Please get in touch if you have something to offer.

## Wall Walks

FoCRW Committee Member and official Town Guide Barbara Butler has planned a Wall Walk on 19 June at 6.00pm called Midsummer Mystery. It is designed for families.

The cost is £6 for adults and £2.50 for children. Tickets are on sale from the Visitor Information Centre opposite the Castle. All proceeds will be donated to the Friends.

There will also be wall walks on Sunday, 11 September as part of Heritage Weekend. Look out for details.

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## Feedback

To the Chair

Henry Spyvee, 16 Wakefield Close, Colchester CO1 2SD email [chair@romanwall.org](mailto:chair@romanwall.org)

## TELL YOUR FRIENDS

The longest and oldest town wall in the country needs more Friends like you. Help us to recruit more Friends from among your friends. Join us and help to preserve and enhance our town's most prominent ancient monument.

We need donations and help with fund raising too. To inquire about membership please get in touch:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Please return to our Treasurer: Barry Donovan, 2 Rudd Court, Colchester CO4 3EL  
email: [treasurer@romanwall.org](mailto:treasurer@romanwall.org)

# Newsletter 2 - March 2011