



Friends of Colchester Roman Wall

A plan for the Wall...

It's a year since we were formed. Now is the time to take stock and to move ahead. Our AGM will be held on **Wednesday, 5th October at 7.30pm in Colchester Town Hall**. It will also be a chance for the group to have direct input into the Borough Council's plan for the management of the Wall.

AGM – what will happen?

There will be two strands to the meeting.

Firstly the official AGM business. This will consist of a Report from the Chairman, Accounts for the past year and a Budget for the year ahead. We also need to formally adopt a Constitution and elect the officers and committee.

We have come a long way in a year but have much further to go. Our Chairman promises to thrill and inspire us with the details of what's been going on. Edited highlights can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Only members of the Friends will be able to vote in the AGM. They will be sent an official Agenda and draft Constitution separately.

Secondly, and just as importantly, the meeting will also be a chance to hear about and contribute towards the Borough Council's draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on the Management Plan for the Roman Wall.

This is a crucial part of the process which will make this a statutory document, binding on both the Council and owners of property which includes the Wall. In all the Wall's near-2000 year history it has never had anything like this before and it needs to be right. It will set the agenda for the future conservation and care of the Wall. So please come and take part. It is easier to get it right now than change it later.

Shake for the wall

Colchester United have agreed to allow us to hold a collection at a home match in the Weston Homes Community Stadium.

The date we have been allocated is 21 January, 2012 when the U's are playing host to Chesterfield.

Can you help? We need volunteers to shake buckets and tell fans what we're collecting for. Please get in touch with our chair, Henry Spyvee.

Interpretation Boards

One of the priorities for the Friends is the installation of boards around the Wall to guide visitors around its length. The Boards will integrate with new signage being organised by the Museums Service. This was delayed while the Museum staff prepared their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We were very pleased to learn that the bid was successful and £3.25 million is heading towards the Castle redevelopment.

Planning of the Boards has now begun. It will be linked with the Castle upgrade and indeed will be the first part of that you will see.

We have had a brilliant response from Colchester with eight partners signed up so far. They include the Colchester Archaeological Group, the Civic Society, residents' associations and the Tourist Guides. We are very grateful for their support.

There's more information on our website: romanwall.org

Hoardings in Middleborough

As you may have seen in the papers or our previous newsletter the Borough Council has issued what's called a Discontinuance Notice to JC Decaux, the advertising company which owns the hoardings and a thin strip of land on top of the Wall at Middleborough.

The Council believes the posts on which the hoardings are mounted and which are sunk into the wall are causing damage to the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Decaux have appealed to the Secretary of State and at the time of writing there is no news yet of the result of the appeal. We will let you know the outcome when it happens.

Fundraising

Could you hold a fund-raising or a profile-raising event for the Wall?

Progress by the Council

It is good to see the conservation work in Priory Street is now going on. The much bigger job in Middleborough and Balcerne Hill is out for tender.

Wall Walks

Thanks to Barbara Butler and other Town Guides the Wall was 'open' for the Heritage Weekend with a well supported walk on the Sunday.

A comment from many walkers is surprise that we have so much. That is a challenge to us to see that the Wall is better displayed and better known.

Wall Walks

There are two themed walks coming up, which might interest members; both organised by the Town Guides.

- Sunday, 16 October there will be a Halloween(ish) Witch and Ghoul Walk
- 6 November there'll be a 'Gunpowder, Treason and Stone' walk.

Both start from the War Memorial at 3.00pm. Tickets are available from the Visitors Information Centre 01206 282920. Proceeds will go towards the Wall interpretation boards.

Feedback

To the Chair: Henry Spyvee, 16 Wakefield Close, Colchester CO1 2SD email chair@romanwall.org

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

The longest and oldest town wall in the country needs more Friends like you. Please help us to recruit more Friends. Join us and help to preserve and enhance our town's most prominent ancient monument. To inquire about membership or to make a donation 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

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