

Preparing for the first unveiling - 16 April 2013

We have had a long period with little to report. That is now changing. The last major obstacle to the installation of the 13 Interpretation Boards is the need to get Planning Permission.

We were advised it would be helpful if the Friends got the Permissions and we duly applied for Boards at Balkerne Gate, Duncan's Gate and East Gate (East Hill).

When this was considered, the advice changed. We have now withdrawn our Application and Colchester & Ipswich Museum Services will submit a very similar application shortly.

The good news is that, because the issues have been considered by planners, the new application should be approved quickly.

The Friends have therefore booked the Mayor to unveil the Board at Balkerne Gate on **Tuesday, 16 April at 10.00am**. You will get confirmation nearer the date but please put it in your diary now. With the first Board in place the others, starting with that at Duncan's Gate should follow later in 2013 and into 2014. From a period in which little was happening, we are now moving into an exciting time which we have looked forward to for so long.



Choosing our words carefully

The text and graphics for the boards at Balkerne Gate and Duncan's Gate have been drafted. Only 11 more to go!

They will follow a common format but the

actual wording will reflect the history of the Wall in that area. If you have any knowledge of the history of any of the sites which Museum Services might not

have, please let us know. We cannot guarantee that what you supply will be used but you could be aware of bits of interest that are worth sharing with the public.

Clearing the site

A group of Friends, acting as individuals, did an excellent clean up job at Duncan's Gate. Eight bags of vegetation were removed. It's now possible to get a much better view of the Gate. Even better, the brickwork that was once the top of the Gate, but is now lying on the ground, has become visible. If you do not know Duncan's Gate it is worth having a look. It is on the path between the upper and lower Castle Park. Turn east as you meet the path from (or leads to) the cafe in the Park.



Clearance work at Duncan's Gate will be needed from time to time. There will also be a need for tidying up around around Balkerne Gate before the Interpretation Board is unveiled. If you would like to help with this sort of job, please let us know.

Finance...

With several interpretation Boards springing up during the course of the year we hope the work of the Friends will generate plenty of local interest and that that will translate into more support. We were very successful with our initial fundraising and the early Boards will be paid for thanks to the support of the Friends collectively and of sponsors individually.

The danger is that we might run out of money part way through the project. Anything you can do to recruit more Friends, solicit donations or get sponsors for the few Boards not already earmarked would be much appreciated.

We have submitted an application to English Heritage for a grant of £3,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Our bid was supported by the Colchester Tourist Guide Association, Colchester Civic Society and the Colchester & North East Essex Building Preservation Trust. Many thanks to all of them.

We have stressed that the work is a partnership and these letters of support demonstrate that is the case. There is no indication at this early stage whether or not we might be successful.

The critical factor in these matters is the total money bid for as against the size of the cake. This clearly we do not know.

Membership form

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Email:

Please return to our Treasurer: Barry Donovan, 2 Rudd Court, Colchester CO4 3EL