Friends of Sheffield Castle – Chair's Annual Report - April 2024

It's exciting to be able to say that work has finally started on the Castle site and the largest excavations for c70 years are now well under way! The works will uncover what remains of the Castle gatehouse and we hope much more, to become a main feature of the proposed urban landscaped park on the Castle site.

Around the time that news broke about works starting, there was considerable media attention, and I was delighted to be asked to go on the Radio 4 'World at One' programme and also Radio Sheffield which gave the Castle a much wider audience. We hope there will be much more of this as the Castle remains are revealed and work progresses on site.

I do hope that those who wanted to get involved with the archaeological dig have managed to do so and equally those wanting to go on tours of the works have booked a place. There will be more opportunities over the coming months to book on these events.

The works on site will take a good 18-24 months to complete, but in the meantime, we are working with the Council, University and other Community groups to see how we can best activate the site in the future. You might recall from the Blueprint we put together in 2018 that we were keen to make sure the site didn't just become a park with a few of the Castle remains dotted about in it and that it needed ongoing events, tours, café, artwork, markets etc as well as a plan for ongoing archaeological work. Regular meetings are taking place on this, and we will advise you of any progress. A permanent base for FoSC on the site is one of our key aims.

On top of this, we have our more ambitious plans for a visitor experience on or next to the site and we have had several positive conversations with the Council, Sheffield Museums and other key local groups/individuals. This will require much more work and whilst at the early stages, we are keen to progress this idea. The recently demolished Market Tavern area would provide an ideal location for the visitor centre, right next to the gateway into the site and we have put this idea to the Council, for consideration.

I am sure you will understand that all our efforts in the past year have been focused on all the above activities but notwithstanding that, we were delighted to be involved in helping curate the display at Weston Park which features artefacts from the Castle's history with a focus on women associated with the Castle right from the earliest times to present day. Go and see it if you get chance, it will be there for a couple of years.

Membership numbers are around the 200 mark and with ever growing social media followers, we hope this will increase the profile of the group, as interest in the Castle builds over the next couple of years. Thank you as ever for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

Martin Gorman
Chair

April 2024

Friends of Sheffield Castle

AGM 18th April 2024

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Membership Fees	£883.21	£913.75
Donations	£44.80	£494.30
Sales	£21.00	£117.00
Talks/Workshops	£50.00	£300.00
Total Receipts	**£999.01**	**£1,825.05**
Car Parking	£134.10	£16.90
Caretaking & Table Fees	£5.00	£0.00
Catering	£25.55	£7.00
Equipment	£100.00	£81.38
Flyers & Leaflets	£144.99	£0.00
Insurance	£129.10	£99.31
Merchandise	£0.00	£75.00
Printing & Postage	£51.59	£32.75
Stationery	£0.00	£3.49
Subscriptions	£85.00	£0.00
Website	£186.90	£0.00
Total Payments	**£862.23**	**£315.83**
Net Receipts / (Payments) for the Year	**£136.78**	**£1,509.22**
Funds Brought Forward	**£6,111.16**	**£4,601.94**
Net Receipts / (Payments) for the Year	£136.78	£1,509.22
Funds Carried Forward	**£6,247.94**	**£6,111.16**
Represented by		
Balance at bank	£6,157.51	£6,060.53
Balance in cash	£90.43	£50.63
Total Funds	**£6,247.94**	**£6,111.16**

Signed: **Date:** **12/04/2024**

Craig Housley, Treasurer