



THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

YDSWG Newsletter – Spring 2009: Some notes from the Secretary

1. Alpujarra Project in Spain

This is a call for volunteers to spend any time they can spare in the La Taha region of the Alpujarra in the mountains of the Spanish Sierra Nevada, about 1 hour from Granada. The local inhabitants need help with the repair/maintenance of slate walls in the area, some are used for water courses to guide snow melt for irrigation and others are retaining walls for the fields.

The whole area has been allowed to decline; it was once very productive and is in a beautiful part of the world. The locals are ageing, but friendly and keen to make the area productive again. There are also some enthusiastic ex-pat Brits helping but more assistance would be very welcome.

If you are free to join them for an unpaid, uninsured, but rewarding and greatly appreciated working holiday in the sun; well fortified by good local food and wine, please do get in touch with the UK organiser.

Her name is Deborah Lewis-Green - phone 01347 868234 or e-mail thegreenzoo@btinternet.com

2. Car sharing scheme

It has always struck me as somewhat incongruous that the Guild is formed of a membership keen on the environmental aspects of our lovely countryside; they will willingly give up their time to build or repair walls to improve the landscape, **BUT**, everyone drives there individually to do these good deeds!

Anna Bryer has kindly volunteered to act as co-ordinator to try and reduce the effects of this by putting people living near each other in touch for coming to practice meets for example. It would be infringing member's data protection rights to just publish an address list, so this seems the best way of proceeding. If you are of like mind and willing to participate, please get in touch with her - phone 07949 822926 e-mail paul@anna34wanadoo.co.uk

3. Membership card

Sadly, the time involved in producing membership cards for all members is just too demanding; we hope you will accept the car stickers as an alternative for the adults and leave a more manageable print run of cards for the Junior members to whom they are important

4. Dick Laidler's build April 4th and 5th

You will have read about Dick's accident last year in the Chairman's newsletter. Tom Orde-Powlett, the son of Lord Bolton, has very generously



THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

agreed to sponsor a wall build around the wood to the west of Bolton Castle in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance in recognition of the part they played in getting Dick to hospital that day. The Guild will also put £100 into the pot. So, if you can spare time on either or both days, the more the total fund will become for this very worthwhile charity. Meet up initially at the Castle car park at 9am

5. Membership renewal

Membership rates remain as they are at £7.50 for adults, £2.50 for juniors and £100 for life members. We urge you to use the Standing Order method of payment for regular automatic payment; it helps a lot with Guild cash flow. Above all, **PLEASE** renew before 31st May, later than this runs the risk of losing your membership. Please correct any errors in the membership records we have for you, and include an e-mail address, so much easier than using phone or post to contact you.

You can alternatively renew your membership online using your credit or debit card through ePayments – go to epayments.ydswg.co.uk and follow the link for Membership renewals.

6. Skills tests

For those of you wishing to have a go at Basic, Advanced or Master level tests; there is no charge for a Basic test if it can be conducted at a regular practice meet, not all sites are suitable though. Please get in touch individually to make the necessary arrangements and for a copy of the test specification involved.

Thank you. Practice meets this year are ALL on Sundays - have a good year.

Woody