

THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

YDSWG Newsletter - October 2008

This Newsletter is being sent out with the Notice for our AGM to be held at Sowerby Parochial Hall on 15th November, starting at 3.00pm.

We are following last year's successful format of having the AGM on a Saturday afternoon and again there will be a fish and chip supper at the end of the formal business, to which wives and partners are very welcome. This should give us time to mix and socialise.

Please do make an effort to attend!

Welcome to all those new members who have joined us during the past several months. Our membership now totals 168.

This has been my sixth year as Chairman of the Guild and I am delighted to report that once again the Guild has had a successful and active year.

I would like to thank the Committee again for their sterling work over the past year. Once again we need to thank Woody for his dedication and hard work as both Treasurer and Secretary. He is truly the engine room of the Guild and its increasing success, activity and public face are due to him. I would also like to thank our web designer, Euan Raffel, for his continued support and guidance in keeping our very successful website fresh and up to date.

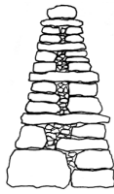
Our grateful thanks need to be expressed to Anna Bryer, who took on the new post of Committee Minute Secretary at last year's AGM. This is an important and critical role which further strengthens the work of your Committee.

The Guild needs to be looking at some sort of succession planning for its Committee as some of us have been involved for several years now. Myself, if re-elected as Chairman, would like to make 2009 my swansong so we could do with a couple of new faces to come forward and help to take the Guild forward.

During the past year we have most successfully demonstrated and promoted the craft of dry stone walling at: Pickering Game and Country Fair; Duncombe Park Country Fair; Countryside Live Days at the Great Yorkshire Showground; The Great Yorkshire Show; Masham Steam Rally and Careers Day at the GYS. We also attended Scorton Show for the first time and had a most enjoyable weekend.

The permanent walls at Masham Showground and the Great Yorkshire Showground are now almost complete and look magnificent. We wait with anticipation as to where we will build next year!

Thanks to all you who have assisted at these events. I am sure that you will have enjoyed the experience of walling 'in public' so to speak, and I do hope



THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

that you have also enjoyed the fellowship of your fellow wallers, as well as having an opportunity to look round the event when 'off duty'.

Practice meets have been held at Nab Farm, Kepwick; Stay Farm, Kepwick; West Bolton Farm, Carperby; Medds Farm, Rosedale; Hollin Bower Farm, Chopgate and West Grove Farm Carperby. Support for these has generally been good and again thank you for supporting these events when we try and mix experienced wallers with those with less mileage under their belts. It is also an opportunity for Basic and Advanced skills tests to be taken when appropriate.

The attendance at our annual sponsored build at Daggerstones, Healaugh was good. Please remember that this is an important fund raising event in the year which provides monies to tide us over the winter months and to provide some financial insurance for future unpredicted expenditure.

The Guild is once again greatly appreciative of the generous sponsorship which has been provided by Mr and Mrs Morrogh-Ryan over the past three years.

Our Annual Walling Competition was held in early October at Stay Farm, Kepwick and was much better attended than in the recent past, with the welcome appearance of some new faces on the day. Thank you to Judge Clifford Bailey.

The results were:

Open 1 - John Pridmore, 2 - Dave Leedale, 3 - Michael Booth.
Amateur 1 - Brian Edmunds, 2 - James Bailey, 3 - Andy Summers.

The Open Competition was again very close with the first two positions a swop from the 2007 results so next year should be the decider between John and Dave. In the Amateur Competition Brian was also awarded the prize for 'The most Improved Waller' (a print of a wall being repaired), generously donated by Dave Purvis

During the year our excellent instructors have trained a further 50 individuals to their usual high standard at three locations: Thirsk Auction Mart, Fountains Abbey and Braithwaite near Keighley. We have now given basic training to more than 125 over the past 3 years which is a magnificent achievement. As last year, we held another useful Instructors Evaluation Day at Masham at the start of the year to discuss how things had gone the previous year, plan the manning for the courses, enrol new instructors and generally strengthen the training procedures.

Thank you all for your support during the past year. The continued success of the Guild is solely dependent on the support from its membership.

Michael Booth
Chairman