



## THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

### YDSWG Newsletter – Spring 2010 Some notes from the Secretary 2010

At the AGM 2009 I announced my intention to stand down as Secretary at the end of this year. John has already mentioned this in his newsletter; after taking up the job on a temporary basis in 2004 I feel it is now high time for another pair of hands on the wheel.

With nearly 200 members in the Guild there must be a volunteer to take on this uniquely rewarding task; I will help as much as necessary to get you launched and operational. So please get in touch.

#### Car sharing scheme

As last year, Anna Bryer has again kindly offered to put those of you living in nearby areas in touch with each other to reduce the travel costs to our various functions. She can be reached by email [paul@anna34wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:paul@anna34wanadoo.co.uk) or phone 07949 822926

#### Volunteers

1. The Guild gets involved in a number of school and educational events organised by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society in an effort to keep our craft alive in young minds. This year we are able to offer expenses at 40p per mile for those willing to give a little of their time to these worthy causes. It is always a lot of fun and very rewarding so do come along. Please get in touch with me directly to make the arrangements.
2. We have offered to demonstrate dry stone walling at Askham Bryan College York during their open day on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. 2 volunteers living nearby would be very welcome; the aim here is to generate some enthusiasm amongst the visitors that day and promote the Askham Bryan training course at Thirsk in July. Their record at filling the courses we run on their behalf is poor with many cancellations in the past. Again, please get in touch directly with me.

#### Skills Tests

The Guild has three levels of skills tests for members wishing to have their abilities assessed by wallers with long experience. **All are by pre-arrangement only.**

The **Basic** test can often be taken at one of the Practice meets; it involves pulling down a 2 metre section of wall and rebuilding it under exam conditions to a specified quality level within 7 hours. Successful candidates are issued with a certificate together with a verbal assessment of their work, drawing attention to areas of improvement or any weakness in technique.

The **Advanced** test is to a more stringent quality level; the build includes the construction of a wall head and the candidate is expected to be able to answer a question aimed at exploring his/her understanding of the history and knowledge of the craft. Examination will be by a Master waller and there is a fee for the test.

The **Master** test involves the assessment by two Master wallers of past work by the candidate as well as an observed build with a special feature of choice; it is



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particularly directed at assessing wallers aiming at the Professional level to ensure a satisfactory and consistent standard of workmanship is being used in the industry. A fee applies, and the Basic qualification is a pre-requisite.

### **Membership renewal**

It helps the Guild a great deal if you renew your membership with a standing order by making a big difference to the cash flow at a critical time. We urge you to use it.

Have a good year walling.

Kind regards,  
Woody