



## THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 Held at the Annexe Thirsk Town Hall at 3.00pm

#### **1 Present/Apologies**

Present were: Brian Wood, Judith Wood, Roy Ellis, Anna Bryer, Sarah Pridmore, John Pridmore, Michael Booth, Lawrence Tucker, Bill Cowling, Dave Purvis, Euan Raffel, Dennis Garbutt, Keith Ledger, Les Maxwell, Megan and Jim Jeffery, John Knox, Dave Leedale, Ray Ellis.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dick Laidler, Hazel Purvis, Clifford Bailey, Dave Edwards, Colin Short

#### **2 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting (12th November 2011) were read. They were proposed by Dave Purvis and seconded by Dave Leedale; JP signed.

#### **3 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

#### **4 President's Report**

Despite the challenging circumstances it seems to have been a good year this year for the YDSWG, some good walling has been done. Bill thanked the Guild for supporting the Yorkshire Agricultural Society at the Countryside events at the GYS ground, particularly for the seat at the showground that we built last year but was opened this year on the Tuesday of the GYS. The family of the late Richard Howard-Vyse were delighted with the memorial and thought it was very appropriate and a wonderful tribute. Bill thanked the Guild for continuing to keep him as our president.

Chair responded with thanks to Bill.

#### **5 Chairman's Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

A warm welcome to everyone, and thanks for taking the time out to come along.

Another busy year for the Guild with plenty of activity. Membership is still healthy along with the Guild finances, which Woody will run through in more detail later.



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Training courses continue to be successful and offer great value compared to other schemes currently available. I just had a call this week from a Gentleman who attended Fountains in the spring and he said it offered brilliant value for money and he really enjoyed his weekend. The feedback has again been very complimentary so thanks once again to all the instructors that have made this such a success for the guild. I would also point out that Les and Henry have matched the chairman in managing to put a hole in the water pipe at Beckwithshaw.

Our attendance at shows this year had mixed results. We attended a new venue at Bishop Burton College and had a very enjoyable day (it must have been the only day of this summer with clear blue skies). Although not walling country it still generated plenty of interest and we have just been invited back next year. This was followed by Duncombe where a small load of rough stone was supplied however the team managed to put up something decent. The Great Yorkshire Show this year was virtually a wash out. We had planned to use up some of the old grit stone around the pond area but the monsoon peaked around July resulting in the show having to be cancelled (the first time in the shows history). Dave Purvis did suggest dumping the stone in the pond but I'm afraid we are stuck with it for another year. Masham followed the GYS and was only just 'playable' in cricket terms. Again we suffered from a limited supply of stone however the teams put up a nice length of limestone wall. We attended Countryside Live again in October and had a good weekend with lots of interest being shown.

For the walling competition we managed to gather enough entries to hold both the amateur and open classes. The weather was a stark contrast to the previous year and plenty of layers were needed. Many thanks again to Keith who kindly agreed to judge the competition, to Sarah for providing sausage butties and to Shirley (mother in law) for the cakes. Many thanks to all those who took part, the final result was as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> - John Pridmore  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Johnny Clasper  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Dave Edwards

1<sup>st</sup> - Colin Short  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Alex Macey

We again held several practice meets throughout the year which was nothing short of a miracle with the awful summer. We added a couple of additional meets to the itinerary following the floods in Swaledale, helping out local farmer Paul Brown by repairing a shelter wall near the river, the first of those dates being in late March when we had a glorious spring day. This was closely followed by our first visit to Carperby then onto a sponsored build at Cropper Fold Farm near Bingley where we managed to raise £180. Next was a new venue at The Bivouac near Masham where a good squad turned up and were well looked after by Steve with bacon butties, tea and coffee (we struggled to get Dick out of the café and back to work). A good section of wall



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was rebuilt along with a curved wall end. We look forward to returning next year. The next meet was at Long Liberty Farm near Harrogate where we continued with the section of wall started a couple of years earlier (I think we are over half way now) The sponsored build was as usual held at West Bolton Farm, Carperby where we repaired a section taken out by a quad bike (not sure if it was the same guy that ran over Dick but must have been on the same training course) and again many thanks to all those attending and to our hosts Mr & Mrs Langhorn for their generous support and hospitality. The post build teas were excellent and very much appreciated by all. We returned to Bingley late September and were well looked after by Meggan again with more bacon butties and were there again on 4th November as a trial late autumn meet to extend the season. We had a great day albeit freezing fog in the morning. I wouldn't say it was thick but I didn't realise Michael was there until we stopped for our morning break. More bacon butties kept the team going through the day. You may have notice a food theme and most of our practice meets which is very much appreciated by all (albeit not good for the waistline) As usual there are loads of new pictures on the website so if you haven't had a look recently please go and do so

I would like to thanks all our sponsors this year, Mr & Mrs Langhorn, Meggan, The Ryder Family, Paul Brown and those who advertised in our Autumn booklet. Looking ahead to next year we have an additional sponsored meet organised by Keith (thanks) where we will be attending in March and later in the year.

Congratulations to Dave Leedale who judged at The Nidderdale Show (you must be getting on if you're judging instead of competing) and to Les Maxwell who passed his Advanced Level for the other lot (DSWA). Also well done to Chris Morgan for getting through his basic test.

I would like to thank all those who have helped out throughout the year at shows and practice meets and especially to Woody for running the courses and counting the beans, and Sarah (with along with her 2 assistants) for doing the Secretarial stuff whilst looking after me at the same time, not easy I know.

On a final note we are still looking for someone to take over the roles of course co-ordinator and treasurer and despite several requests and near misses we still don't have anyone to fulfil these roles. If we are unable to get someone in place the risk is that we will have to cancel courses and lose an important source of income and new membership within the guild. Please have a think if you know of anyone, if not yourself, who might like to take this role on. They will be full support and training to ensure they are fully up to speed. If you would like know more about what is involved please speak to either me or Woody.



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### **6 Secretary's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

This is now my second year in the role and I am fully up and running. Hopefully Woody's inbox has seen less activity over the last year. I'll let Woody cover off all the information about courses along with the financial details of the Guild.

Membership is slightly down on last year at this point, currently standing at 182 against 190 last year. It is difficult to retain members, especially those from courses so this is another reason why it is important we keep the courses running as some of the attendees do renew the following year.

The sponsored builds were well attended this year and we raised just over £450 for the Guild at Carperby and £180 at Bingley. Once again thank you to Mr & Mrs Langhorne and Meggan Jefferies for their kindness and generosity. We also received some additional income from Paul Brown for the Swaledale Flood Build and The Ryder family for their kind sponsorship of the competition. I hope that as many members as possible can attend these next year as they are an important source of income.

The Guild website continues to be a success with new pictures being added and news and events being publicised to the wider world. We have added new pages here with the certification specifications and competition. Many thanks to Euan for his efforts in keeping this up to date and relevant. We are always open to the suggestions from members on how to improve the web site so do please bring them to our attention. We also have a Facebook page which is slowly growing and again another great way of promoting the guild. If you haven't already signed onto it please do as you can also click a link to join the Facebook group where you will receive updates and reminders straight into your email account. You can access Facebook through the website or by searching on Facebook for YDSWG.

John has covered most of the activity of the year in his report so I would just like to re iterate his thanks to all those who have attended shows and events on behalf of the guild. The days do prove beneficial to the guild in promoting our craft, courses and sometime gaining work for our full time walling members. There are some new venues and events next year which John has mentioned and will be publicised in the spring newsletter but should be on the website much sooner. I do hope you are able to attend some of them.

I hope you all enjoyed the new booklet newsletter. I think it is a great improvement on our previous communication. Thanks to Euan for the excellent production along with Dave Purvis and John Redican for their



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articles. Also thanks to all those who have advertised in the booklet which has helped making the production commercially viable.

Thanks to all the committee members for their contributions and especially to Anna for trying to make sense out of the discussions and turn them into minutes.

Finally I would like to thank Woody again for the support he has provided throughout the year albeit a bit less than the year before. I would also like to thank my assistant secretaries John, who has helped out with many aspects of the job and to Molly for the stuffing of envelopes with member information twice over the last year (although she does charge a good rate and is more expensive than last year).

### **7 Treasurer's/Course coordinator's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

Thank you all for coming, it's good to see so many of you here. First of all, you will have all seen a copy of the accounts for the year; I must point out a small mistake. The item headed 'surplus cash from completion 2010' should read 'surplus cash from competition 2011'. The appearance charges relate to our attendance at Bishop Burton College this year, they cover the mileage claims involved.

We have again done well in another difficult year despite the marked reduction in training and the lost income resulting from that. Those of you who take an interest in these things will note the expenditure on stone at Fountains Abbey; I am sure it will be a useful investment for the future. Despite the reduced cash holding from that purchase, we still had a positive year when the Guild assets are taken into consideration.

Changing hats now to course organising; the new stone at Fountains has already been used for one course this year and the new venue at Ilton near Masham was also successful, although it was only a small course there this time. The bacon butties and coffee supplies were very welcome and the views from up there are something else. Once again I must praise the tutors for their unfailing support and input; they do a first class job in all weathers, always attracting very positive comment and feedback. Two items of note perhaps are that the water pipe at Beckwithshaw Cricket Club was ravaged, again, even though everyone knew it was there!

No-one admitted responsibility this time though. We also had to administer 1st aid, for the first time on any course, when a flying stone chip produced a spectacular bleed on the arm of one of the ladies attending. She had to be patched up at the Hospital but there was no trouble with accident reports and so on.



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Sadly, this has been my final year as course coordinator. In the 7 years from launch in 2006 the Guild has trained about 330 beginners and we have even attracted interest from as far away as Canada, John Redican has written about his experience in the newsletter. I'm not sure how training will proceed from now on, but a new broom will do whatever it does.

Our Chairman has touched on my retirement plans for the future; it is my hope now that one of you will feel the urge to take on the Treasurer's job and let me spend a little more time in my workshop. It is not very demanding, you do not need a financial background to do the job and I'll help you get a grip on it anyway. So, come on, have a go and be part of the team guiding the future of the Guild.

All reports proposed by Keith Ledger and seconded by Michael Booth.

### **8 Election of Officers and Committee**

Chair – John Pridmore

Secretary – Sarah Pridmore

Course coordinator – John and Sarah Pridmore

Treasurer – Brian Wood

Committee members – Dave Purvis, Dave Edwards, Dave Leedale, Dick Laidler, Anna Bryer, Dennis Garbutt, Chris Morgan.

All proposed by Michael Booth, and seconded by Judith Wood.

### **9 Website update**

Statistics for the period November 12th 2011 to November 10th 2012

Total hits (the number of pages, documents, pictures that have been viewed) - 19833

Total visits (the number of visitors, excluding search engines) - 9706

Top 6 pages:

Courses minisite

Training Courses home

Contact us

Events

Training Courses diary

News

Within the Gallery, the top features were:

This year's photos

Walls in the landscape

Unusual walling



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Chamber of horrors

Most common search terms leading to the website:

Yorkshire dry stone walling guild  
Dry stone walling  
Dry stone walling courses Yorkshire  
Dry stone walling  
Ydswg

Visitors from:

UK  
US  
Canada  
Germany  
Australia  
Ireland

There is now also a promotional film showing a course weekend filmed at Masham available to view on the website.

It was agreed that the new newsletter booklet should be added to the website.

Please keep sending photos and interest to add to the website.

DP – is there anything else that should be added to the website?

ER – working on a hints and tips page

BW – suggested a 'for sale and wanted' page (walling related items only) he can mend hammers!

### **10 Any other business**

New membership fees- A suggestion to raise the fees from adult £7.50/child £2.50 to adult £10/child £5. All agreed, proposed by Keith Ledger and seconded by Dave Leedale.

Health and Safety- LM discussed an incident that happened at a training course that Les was teaching on when a piece of stone hit a lady's arm, it cut an artery and she required hospital treatment. This was a nasty accident but it could have been far worse if it had gone in someone's eye. A discussion followed as to the necessity to wear the correct PPE. Decent safety glasses should be worn at all times by the staff and students on all courses. A pair of these betafit safety glasses were handed round for inspection and it was agreed that PPE was important and should be worn, a suggestion was made that each student should be given a pair as part of their course pack and the price included in the course fees. To be discussed at the next committee meeting.



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### **Betafit Geneva Safety Glasses**

[E50.2101]

Betafit Geneva Safety Glasses This eye protector satisfies the requirements of the European Directive for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 89/686/EEC. It is marked to identify its fields of use and performance as required under EN 166. IF

**£2.95**

(all prices exclude VAT)



Courses - In the past by trying to be fair, Woody has given new members who attend courses late in the year, a free membership for the following year, so that they are able to benefit from the programme that the guild run through the year. This does however cause huge complications when renewals come round and there are often refunds to make due to double payments. Could this be dropped? All agreed.

Courses link with National Parks One of the farmers approached the National Parks who in turn asked us to run a course in order for the water damaged walls to be repaired. DP suggested writing to David Butterworth to try and push this link with the Parks in order to find extra courses. All agreed.

Meeting closed at 4.05pm. Thanks were given to Molly for providing the refreshments.