

THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

Spring Newsletter – February 2012

We are now coming out of another long, although not too harsh a winter and are getting ready for another season of activity in the Guild. We have a full programme of activity this year with some new venues and meets earlier and later than usual (please see the enclosed 2012 Programme listing)

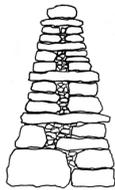
You will notice that we are starting early in the year with a visit to Grinton on March 11th. This is to offer some support to the flood victims in Swaledale where flooding last year caused great devastation to the walls near the river. We have also contacted the local press and hope to get some positive coverage whilst offering a little bit of help to the affected area (Google 'Grinton Floods' for more information) and will return again on 29th July to continue the work. There is also another new venue at High Knowle Farm, Ilton Nr Masham. This site has undergone some dramatic development over the last 6 months with various sorts of accommodation being built from bunkhouse through to Yurts and Woodland shacks. There is also a café and visitor centre on the site. We will be holding a practice meet there on Saturday 2nd June along with a training course in September. If you are interested in making a full weekend trip to incorporate the meet along with some wonderful walks then you are welcome to book accommodation by contacting Steve Hardwick on mashamhouse@btinternet.com. If you state that you are a Guild member coming for the practice meet Steve is offering a special rate over that weekend. If you would like to know more about the location please use the following link www.thebivouac.co.uk.

As usual we aim to have at least 2 experienced wallers at every practice meet so if you need any help or advice the instructors can pass on their tips in a 'hands on' environment There is no charge and the events offer a great opportunity to brush up your skills. The atmosphere is very friendly and open to all, including any non-members who may want to try out Dry Stone Walling as a 'taster'. Even if you don't have time to attend for a full day you are still welcome to come along even for a few hours.

We now have a sponsored build on 13th May at Cropper Fold Farm near Bingley which should be more suitable for our members on that side of the county along with our regular sponsored build at West Bolton Farm on 8th and 9th September. These meets are vital income sources for the guild and go in some way to help keeping the membership costs down. The Guild is again most appreciative of Mr and Mrs Langhorne and to Meggan Jeffery and her family for their generous sponsorship.

You will notice there are no maps enclosed this year to cut down on printing costs. If you need a map for any venue please either download from the website ydswwg.co.uk or contact the Secretary, Sarah on 01423 560948 to arrange for a printed copy to be posted to you. We will again be attending agricultural shows throughout the year, the first being at Duncombe Park, Helmsley on Monday 4th June. The 2012 build for the GYS is still in the ideas gathering stage so please contact the Secretary for details nearer the event and the Masham Steam Rally this year will be a continuation of the wall we started last year. Please keep yourself up to date by visiting the website www.ydswwg.co.uk. These shows are open to all members although the complimentary ticket places on our stand are limited. If you are interested in attending and demonstrating the craft of walling please lodge your interest with one of the committee (all you will need is a Guild polo shirt which can be purchased from Foxstitch, Unit A, Lumley Close, Thirsk Industrial Park, Thirsk, YO7 3TD Tel 01845 526297).

Just a quick reminder that subscriptions are now due, they do form a vital part of the Guild income. You can now do this online at epayments.ydswwg.co.uk or by cheque/standing order using the enclosed renewal form. Membership is still only £7.50, for adults and £2.50 for under 18s.



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The competition venue is at Long Liberty Farm near Harrogate on 29th September. Those who entered last year had a very enjoyable day with complimentary sausage butties and home made cake being provided. It also helped that the weather was glorious There are two categories, open and amateur and it gives you a chance to test your skills and also learn how to improve from impartial and critical appraisal by the judge.

At the AGM in November 2011 there was a change to the committee with Clifford Bailey stepping down from the committee and Chris Morgan joining. Woody will be stepping down as course co-ordinator at the end of this year and Treasurer at the end of next so this is a call to any Guild member who would like to take up one or both of these roles. Ideally we would like someone in place during the spring this year for the Course Co-ordinator role so they could learn the ropes with Woody in 2012, then fully taking on the role in 2013. Whilst there is a bit more time for the Treasurers' role, if anyone is interested then please get in touch. If you feel you would like to take on either or even both of these roles or need to know a bit more about what is involved please contact me by email or telephone (contactus@ydswwg.co.uk or 01423 560948)

We really do need someone to come forward!!!

The current committee is as follows

Chair	John Pridmore		
Company Secretary	Judith Wood	Course Co-ordinator and Treasurer	Brian Wood
Secretary	Sarah Pridmore	Committee Secretary	Anna Bryer
Committee	Dave Leedale	Dennis Garbutt	
	Dave Purvis	Dick Laidler	
	Dave Edwards	Chris Morgan	

We are running a slightly smaller programme of training courses this year and just a reminder to all instructors that the instructors meet is on Saturday 17th March at Masham

All the key events in 2012 can also be found on the Guild web site, www.ydswwg.co.uk along with a great library of pictures. If you have any ideas on how we can further improve or enhance our web site please let us know. We do try and keep it fresh and up to date so please do keep dipping in. Also if you would prefer future correspondence via email please advise the Secretary by emailing contactus@ydswwg.co.uk

We do hope you will renew your membership for 2012/13 and we look forward to seeing some of you at one of the events this year.

John Pridmore
CHAIRMAN YDSWWG
February 2012