



THE YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD®

YDSWG Newsletter - September 2007

Welcome to you all, and in particular to those new members who have joined us during the past few months.

Most of you will have joined from the Training Courses that we have run either at Thirsk Auction Mart or Fountains Abbey. It has been most encouraging to see some of you new wallers at our Practice Meets. I do hope that you found them enjoyable. It is also pleasing to see direct entry from the website, an encouraging future trend I hope.

So far this year our excellent Instructors have trained approximately 40 individuals to a pretty high standard. Some of the courses planned by Askham Bryan College did not get off the ground because of shortage of numbers and this was probably due to the College being over-optimistic as to the take up. However we have developed a very good working relationship with the College and it is certainly an excellent venue. We have accepted the invitation to again provide the tutors for the College in 2008, on a rather less ambitious programme.

Coming up shortly are some important events in our calendar:

Revenue Meet at Daggerstones at Healaugh in beautiful Swaledale on Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd September

This is our one annual fundraising activity for the Guild so to quote Woody 'the more we build; the more for the Guild!' Please do join us for a day or two and whether you are experienced or still a novice does not matter, as there is plenty of work to do!

[Click here for a map of the location](#)

Annual Walling Competition

This is being held at Kewick (just north of Thirsk) on Saturday 29th September. In an attempt to make this event more interesting it is going to be an Open Competition and as such will hopefully attract non-Guild Wallers. This is meant to challenge you experienced Guild Wallers who recently have not been tempted to participate. Let us see how good you really are!! As usual there will be two classes to cater for both the "professional" and "amateur" waller.

[Click here for more information](#)

Annual General Meeting

This is at the Parochial Hall in Sowerby, Thirsk on Saturday 17th November. After the meeting proper, we will be having a fish and chip supper for attendees and their partners. This is to be paid for in advance please, cost likely to be between £3 and £4; definitely NOT a Guild treat! The usual pre-meeting mailing will be sent to Guild members



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During the summer many members have taken part at our Practice Meets and helped at several shows. Thank you everyone for your support. Some of the highlights were as follows:

The Practice Meet at Sutton Bank was again very well supported, as were those at Rosedale and Kepwick. The latter is a new venue on the western edge of the North York Moors and we were faced with the challenge of repairing a moor edge wall on a pretty steep slope. The farmer must have been pleased with the result as he disappeared before the end of the afternoon, only to return with a generous selection of cans to enable us to quench our thirst! The attendance at Aysgarth was a little disappointing, in spite of decent weather which was a complete contrast to last year's washout!

Mention must be made of the Countryside Live Days at the Great Yorkshire Showground in June. This is a countywide initiative for primary school children to experience the activities and crafts taking place in the countryside, including the rearing of stock and the cultivation of the land. The guild has supported this event for several years now and the sight of lots of children building mini walls is very gratifying. The weather was not very kind but the brilliant idea to purchase some gazebos made it possible to wall under cover.

The Great Yorkshire Show was a successful event as we were able to extend the permanent wall that we are building round the wildlife pond. This year we were able to include features such as a gate, seat and a stile with the result that the wall is becoming a real attraction and receives much positive comment. Grateful thanks to the Honorary Show Director, Bill Cowling, for ensuring we had plenty of stone. Bill is of course our President, which I'm sure helps! We also filled a training course of 8 places as a result of the splendid efforts by those 'manning' the stand over the three days of the event.

The Masham Steam Rally just went ahead in spite of very wet weather the week before. We were able to complete the circular wall around a young oak tree and incorporate a gated arch to provide access to the enclosed area. The wall now looks most impressive and is a credit to all those who have helped build it over the years, both at the Rally and on training weekends. The show ground got very muddy and churned up as the weekend progressed and we were very lucky to be able to extract our caravan before the exits became passable only with the assistance of a tractor or two.

If you have some interesting pictures or information on walls, or examples of dreadful walling, why not send them in for posting on the website. Who knows, you might just win 'worst wall of the year' or something!

Enjoy the rest of the year!

Michael Booth
Chairman