

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD

England & Wales · Charity number 1202251

Details

Other names YDSWG

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-03-08

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Website www.ydswg.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE CRAFT AND HERITAGE OF DRY STONE WALLING FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Activities: The Yorkshire Dry Stone Walling Guild main activity is the preservation and promotion of the craft of dry stone walling. It is a member organisation offering training courses, practice days and levels of accreditation. It is also involved in promoting the craft at country shows

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£17,073	£18,660	-	-
2024-09-30	£19,261	£18,091	-	-
2023-09-30	£10,131	£14,075	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Norman John Pridmore	Chair	2023-03-08
Andrew Leslie Gudgeon		2023-06-29
Edgar David Hopkin		2023-06-29
James Garwell		2023-03-08
Mary Caroline Dalton		2023-06-29
Peter Targett		2024-10-26
Sarah Wright		2023-03-08
Stephen Alastair Crane		2025-10-25

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD

England & Wales - Charity number 1202251

Accounts



YDSWG AGM

Trustees Report

Saturday 25th October 2025

1. Attendees and absentees

Present. J Pridmore, S Wright, E Hopkins, , Steve Bostock, B Cowling, A Gudgeon, M Dalton, A Bailey M Jeffery, D Purvis

Apologies. J Garwell, D Garbutt, P Maynard, S Crane, P Targett, M Booth, D Leedale, S Grainger

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

These were reviewed by the Chairman. Steve Bostock proposed and Andy Gudgeon seconded these were accurate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matter arising and the minutes were unanimously passed.

4. PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Bill Cowling congratulated the Guild on their continued progress. He thanked them for the work they do in supporting farming communities commenting on the sustainability and longevity of walls and their benefit to farms. He noted how the Guild still continued to be a driving force in the preservation of the craft

5. COURSE COORDINATORS REPORT

It was a good start to the season with the practice session at Castle Hill Huddersfield in April with a good number of members attending. The venue offers easy access for us West Yorkshire dwellers. This was followed throughout the year with some of the practice sessions attracting many more attendees than perhaps was expected. Let us hope a similar turnout takes place next year.

Courses have been extremely variable in numbers, our first of the year, and the first at Padside Cattery attracted only four participants. My reason for putting them first was to see if it would help increase attendance, and to replace Fountains Abbey, just down the road.

In contrast to Padside, places had to be increased for the last course of the year at Cropper Fold Farm at the end of September. They went up in two's and ended with 23 on the day. This pushed the completed wall length to 22m. At that rate, if we had kept going, we could probably have completed all walls at Jim & Megan's by 2136 (and no that is not the 24hour clock time either).

At the GYS we had several enquiries about our courses. The attraction was probably our new marquee. I thought that as with previous years I have managed courses, there would be little follow-up, but I was wrong. We had at least four who attended directly from the show.

The 2026 courses have been on the website since the 21st September. Within one day of posting, we had one taker for Winsbury House on Sept 22nd. A second order on the 18th October for Castle Bolton has also been booked. Let's hope Christmas is a time for gift orders and the order momentum keeps up.

John and I viewed a location near Cowling, Keighley to give us access to a fresh site and into an area we have no presence. There is quite an amount of walling to repair and have arranged to hold a course there in June...hopefully when the weather is fair to fine. Other courses are in the usual locations and run about one per month until October.

Practice sessions are presently being arranged and will be notified soon. I asked Craig at Low Belford if they were able to support our attendance there this year. Unfortunately they cannot.

We have had interest from schools and organisations, and one GP practice to wall for them and also train some of their volunteers, with some offering to pay. One request, and the most recent, is to train a number of volunteers to help rebuild the walls across areas of the North Yorkshire Moors. We need to look into the legality of all of these before putting it out to our members. One I have already excluded ourselves from after a site visit is the GP practice as there appears to be potential for rights of access issues.

As with previous years, your practice session attendance will be much appreciated. We expect at least three courses per year to be attended by each instructor, and your action to arrange a stand-in if you are unable to attend would be appreciated. Thank you.

6. CHAIR/SECRETARY REPORT

The 2025 has been another successful year with the Guild maintaining its strength

We are now a fully fledged Charity with everything now bedded in and working nicely. There are some suggestions regarding this status that we can pick up in AOB

Looking back over the year its been a busy and successful one. Financially we are slightly down on last years figures however we have significantly invested in the Guild which Gudge has covered off.

Courses were successful again and a major source of income. The cost was maintained at £130 per course and still seems to offer good value for money according to the feedback. The venues we all our usual ones however Fountains and Yate House were dropped mainly because we have now repaired all the derelict walls. On the courses I attended I had great fun instructing and the groups attending all seemed to enjoy themselves

Practice meets were on the whole very well attended again this year. We started the year with our collaboration with The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at a venue near Huddersfield. Members from both organisations repaired various sections using flat, thin sandstone which is common to that area. Our meet at Healaugh included YouTuber Jack, the Northern Introvert filming all day to create a video on how walls are constructed (and promote what we do at the same time). Eds facial hair has now had 10M views and apparently, he now gets stopped in the street for selfies at home. Meets at Cloughton and Winsbury followed then our visit to Knab Farm where we completed a gap and a long run to a gatepost. The team had to crack on in the afternoon to get finished but the end result was a nice repair. Pete Maynard also managed to drive from Ravenscar mostly off road with some dodgy directions provided by Derrick. He made it eventually.

We then moved onto Steves at Gammersgill where we tackled a wall that had been covered by trees and Brambles for many years. We all had a fun day playing with Steves cobbles!!!

We'll finish off next weekend at Cropper Fold then the Guild will go into its winter hibernation.

We attended our usual show at Duncomber, GYS and Ripley along with a new addition of the Ryedale Show. At the GYS we finished off the length we started last year reaching the road and topping off by Friday. It's a wall with seats cut into the length. Each section has been topped off in a different style to showcase the variety on methods available. Unlike last year this years show was in the middle of a heatwave with the temperatures peaking on Friday. Luckily we had our new snazzy gazebo to shelter from the sun. It's a great asset to the Guild and raises our profile at shows. Many thanks to all the attended to help out.

Id finally like to thank the trustees for helping to run The Guild this year. Special thanks go to Euan for looking after all the tech stuff, Ed who has run the courses with military precision and efficiency and to Andy who has got all the financial reporting into a good place since taking over with monthly updates and a real good handle on whats going on. Also to Sarah mainly for putting up with me for another year

Membership currently stands at 539 which is up from the previous year at 428. This figure will come down when we purge members that have not renewed for more than 2 years. The 539 is made up of 16 honorary, 33 life and 196 (217) paid members and 294 that have not renewed. 149 of those not renewing will now be purged from the database as they have not renewed for 2 years.

The website is our main portal into the wider world providing details of all our activity. Pictures from our events are uploaded along with all other important Guild information. We are lucky to have the services of Euan who maintains the website and sorts out any techie issues we have.

We are also active on Facebook and Instagram so please subscribe and follow our posts.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

Objectives and activities

The Guild's main activity is the preservation and promotion of the craft of dry-stone walling. It is a member organisation offering training courses, practice days and levels of accreditation. It is also involved in promoting the craft at country shows.

Policy on Reserves

Under the requirements of charity law, the Trustees are obliged to define the charity's policy for holding reserves. The policy will enable the charity to meet its legal obligations, provide confidence to donors seeking to give support to a prudently controlled charity and to ensure that the reserves are at a level sufficient to discharge all the charity's obligations in the event that it should cease its operations.

The Guild's principal financial assets are bank balances. In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing and future requirements the Guild maintains a reasonable level of funds in an instant access account with Lloyds Bank. Any surplus funds not required for short-term working capital are invested in an instant access deposit account with Lloyds Bank and a Fixed Rate Bond with United Trust Bank. The bond earns 4.6%pa interest and matures on 31st December 2025. Consequently, the amount of interest earned on the bond investment is not shown in these accounts but will be declared in the accounts for 2025-26.

The Guild does not aim to make a profit on activities but to ensure that all costs are met and an adequate surplus is maintained to invest in future activities and new equipment required.

2025 Financial Review

For the year ended 30th September 2025 the Guild's expenditure (£18,660) exceeded the income (£17,073) by £1,587. Consequently, the cash balances held at year-end were £20,863 compared with £22,450 at the start of the financial year.

Income from Training Courses and Gift Certificates (which are effectively pre-payments for training courses) were £12,470, down from £16,200 the previous year. On the flip side, course costs totalled £9,500, down from £12,770 the previous year. Therefore, training courses contributed a net income of £4,530, compared with £3,430 in the previous year.

There were some significant one-off costs in the year which contributed towards the reduction in funds. Namely, a new printed marquee (£2,313), a First Aid course (£770), jackets for instructors (£767), new feather flags (£684) and a storyboard (£174). These exceptional one-off costs total £4,708.

In addition, the Guild purchased books for re-sale (£957) and safety glasses (£487) for course participants. The stock of books and glasses are held by the instructors.

In summary, taking into consideration the exceptional one-off costs, the Guild had a satisfactory financial year and is well placed to continue the good work going forward.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN- John Pridmore was elected as Chairman

SECRETARY- Sarah Wright was elected as secretary.

TREASURER- Andrew Gudgeon was elected as Treasurer

COURSE COORDINATOR- Ed Hopkin

The above were proposed by Steve Bostock and seconded by A Bailey. All attending voted in favour.

ELECTION OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

Stuart Grainger has stood down as a trustee

JP proposed Steve Crane as trustee. This were seconded by Andy Gudgeon and unanimously confirmed by all attending.

The following were elected as trustees of the Charity and voted in unanimously by all attending

Ed Hopkin

Sarah Wright

Andrew Gudgeon

John Pridmore

James Garwell

Mary Dalton

All members were voted in 'in block' unanimously by all attending

9. AOB

AG asked if we needed to audit the accounts he produces. JP mentioned he reviews every month so probably not needed.

EH Suggested using survey monkey to get stats from those attending courses so web can make improvements. The view was around 5 questions max. These questions have been submitted previously so EH to progress

SB asked about advertising in National Parks. JP advised that we already do however were going to miss a year as we have no way of knowing how successful the advert is.

DP suggested hooking up with the National Parks to advertise. Also to provide further contacts about providing more charitable work

MD suggested donating money to charity. The charity could be agreed at the AGM based on the previous years accounts. JP suggested donating half the surplus for the year & making an event of the donation if it is sufficient.

AG suggested maybe linking up with the mens shed to see if the Guild can do anything.

MD asked if the Guild could fund a portaloos as they have to provide one at their location. MD to get a quote then it can be picked up at the first trustees meeting

JP suggested doing Specialist courses at the GYS in the wood where the stone is stored. If needed we could get an additional delivery of stone. JP to check with Joe Leahy

JP mentioned there had been an enquiry from NY Moors National Park to provide some instruction to around 8 members. JP/EH to progress and communicate further

JP mentioned that Pete Targett and James Tittering Coleman will be coming on board as instructors.

JP suggested increasing instructors fees to £200 per day along with increasing the cost of courses to 135. All attending were in agreement.

Meeting Closed at 16.30PM

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD
Income and Expenditure YTD 1st Oct 24 to 30th September 2025

Account Balances at 30th September 2024	
Savings Account HSBC	19,161.77
Current Account Lloyds	3,289.07
	22,450.84

Income for the period	Month-12	
	Sep'25	YTD £
Book Sales	185.00	881.50
Clothing		126.00
Donations		18.00
Bank Interest	2.79	42.58
Membership/Taster Sessions	10.00	1,975.00
Gift Certificates		1,560.00
Training Courses (net of refunds)	1,170.00	12,470.00
	1,367.79	17,073.08
		39,523.92
Expenditure for the period		
AGM Refreshments		83.45
Accident Books		65.89
Advert in The Visitor magazine		324.00
Books		957.00
Breakfast Meet		223.00
Certification of documents		12.75
Clothing		135.00
Emergency First Aid Course (Watson Training Services)		770.00
Euan website Digital Newsletters		135.00
Euan website & Admin	33.60	353.95
Euan printing course attendance certificates		50.79
Examiners Costs		380.00
Feather Flags		684.00
Hire of Thirsk Town Hall		45.00
Insurance		235.20
Jackets for instructors - Foxstitch Ltd		766.80
New Printed Marquee		2,313.79
Postage		13.92
Printing & Stationery		10.00
Promotional Postcards		50.44
Safety Glasses		486.82
Squarespace Website (12-months to Dec 2025)		331.20
Storyboard (Signhub)		174.00
Striking-off fee for Limited Company		33.00
Stripe Fees	19.34	277.85
Training Course Costs	2,660.00	9,500.00
Travel Expenses	18.00	91.80
Zoom Licence 12 months		155.88
	2,730.94	18,660.53
Closing Balance for the period		20,863.39

Account Balances at 30 September 2025	
Current Account Lloyds	820.81
Commercial Instant Access Account Lloyds	5,042.58
United Trust Bank - One Year Fixed Rate Bond *	15,000.00
	20,863.39

NB - Payments are only recognised in the period they are received into the bank.

Any payments received in Stripe but not yet transferred are recognised in the next month's accounts.

* The Fixed Rate Bond earns 4.6%pa interest and matures on 30/12/25

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD

England & Wales - Charity number 1202251

Accounts



YDSWG AGM

Trustees Report

Saturday 26th October 2024

1. Attendees and absentees

Present. J Pridmore, S Wright, E Hopkins, , Steve Bostock, B Wood, D Leedale, B Cowling, A Gudgeon, M Dalton, P Targett, D Garbutt, S Crane,

Apologies. K Ledger, G Selby, G Brown, Megan Jefferey, J Garwell, M Booth, A Bailey

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

These were reviewed by the Chairman. Steve Bostock proposed and Andy Gudgeon seconded these were accurate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matter arising and the minutes were unanimously passed.

4. PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Bill Cowling congratulated the Guild on their continued progress. He thanked them for the work they do in supporting farming communities commenting on the sustainability and longevity of walls and their benefit to farms. He also mentioned the importance of recruiting younger wallers to keep the craft alive

5. COURSE COORDINATORS REPORT

I would first like to thank instructors for the short notice changes I had to make. This was due to the unfortunate withdrawal for the season, of Dave and Geoff. We hope to see them back with us in 2025.

The nine courses held all ran smoothly. Though only two were filled, Fountains with 20 and Burniston with 17, feed back was very good. Steve hosted two American visitors from Kentucky, and I think he has plans to take his walling skills across there. Of a potential 156 places, I have 119 recorded.

There were a number of transfers across courses due to last minute family bereavements and illnesses, including COVID. That meant some courses were severely depleted and instructors had to be stood down. I thank those who were for understanding the need.

Burniston has already confirmed their agreement to run next year and I am waiting mostly now for returns from practice meeting hosts

Fountains Abbey and Yate House may not go ahead, or if they do, only as practice meetings – walls are mostly complete and taking down good wall for the sake of

practice is not what we do.

I understand that Cloughton attendances were into double figures and that is pleasing, suggesting that we may have an untapped audience on the east coast. It may also be that it allowed people to spend the weekend in Scarborough and Surrounding areas. Perhaps another course location is on the cards as there is plenty of walling to fix.

Three young men who attended Yates House course went on to complete their basic certificate with Steve at Holmefields. They wanted to take the intermediate certificate at Meggans on the 6th, but a master waller is not available. They will take it next year.

There were no courses in October, and that is something I will try to correct. If it can be planned perhaps around half-term, then Cloughton might be possible to maximise east coast holiday visits.

Practice meetings generally were well attended, many attendees not giving notice. Where they did, I tried to make sure they were aware of accurate locations. W3W is still the best identifier of sites and liked by most....I think.

Over the quiet period of courses I will be bringing together the risk assessments needed for our charitable status and may ask our instructors to review these. Honest comments will be expected.

6. CHAIR/SECRETARY REPORT

The 2024 has been successful albeit challenging in one area (more about that later)

We are now fully functional as a charity so are free of the risks of corporation tax. Administering the charity is similar to that of the limited company although it has made us look at some operational functions such as policies and procedures. These are being developed and will be refined over the next few years

Looking back over the year it's been a busy and successful one.

Courses were successful again and a major source of income. We increased the cost slightly to 130 per course and even with the recent cost of living crisis demand has still been strong. The venues we all our usual ones however Fountains and Yate House are now struggling to find walls that need repairing and the Guild has repaired most of their walls over the last few years. On the courses I attended I was really pleased with the quality of the walls that were constructed (and also the amount of wall that was rebuilt). I know build quality is something we always talk about so it's great to see things improving. Something that may have helped there is instructors making an effort to wall less and teach more on courses

Practice meets were on the whole very well attended this year. We started the year with a new venue and collaboration. This was with The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at a venue near Huddersfield. Members from both organisations repaired various sections using flat, thin sandstone which is common to that area. The next venue was Cropper Fold where we rebuilt and slightly moved a corner curve. Further meets followed at Daggerstones and Winsbury House however the meet after that had to be cancelled. Luckily now we have bulk email so communicating with members is much easier now. Knab Farm was next, a beautiful day with superb views over the vale of York. Another new venue at Cloughton on the east coast was well attended. Early October saw us visit Steves farm at Homefields. Very well attended again with a nice section where a Hawthorn tree had been repaired. Also congratulations to Oliver Kitching, James Titterington Colman & Tom Lodge who all passed their basic certification at the meet. As usual there is one more meet remaining at Cropper Fold on Sunday 3rd November

We attended our usual show at Duncomber, GYS and Ripley. At the GYS we have an ongoing project that we started this year. It's a wall with seats cut into the length. Each section will be topped off in a different style to showcase the variety on methods available. Unfortunately, the first day was lost to rain however we did get in the remaining 3 days. Many thanks to all the attended to help out. I'd finally like to thank the trustees for helping to run The Guild this year. Special thanks go to Euan for looking after all the tech stuff, Ed who has picked up the course coordinator role really well from a standing start and to Andy who has got all the financial reporting into a good place since taking over

Membership currently stands at 428 which is up from the previous year at 423 so quite stable year on year. We are now back to purging the list removing all members that don't renew. The 428 is made up of 17 honorary, 26 life and 217 paid members and 167 that have not renewed. We have also purged all members that have not renewed for 2 years as part of our GDPR rules. We wouldn't be able to operate or survive without our website so a big thank you to Euan who looks after that and all our technical requirements. He also administers our bulk emails which is a great help in communicating to our members. All of our charitable submissions can be done online so managing the charity admin is not too onerous. We also welcome anyone looking to get involved and become a trustee

7. TREASURERS REPORT

This is the Treasurers Report for the 12-months ending 30 th September 2024, the first full year under Charitable status.

Objectives and activities

The Guild's main activity is the preservation and promotion of the craft of dry stone walling. It is a member organisation offering training courses, practice days and levels of accreditation. It is also involved in promoting the craft at country shows.

Policy on Reserves

Under the requirements of charity law, the Trustees are obliged to define the charity's policy for holding reserves. The policy will enable the charity to meet its legal obligations, provide confidence to donors seeking to give support to a prudently controlled charity and to ensure that the reserves are at a level sufficient to discharge all the charity's obligations in the event that it should cease its operations.

The Guild's principal financial assets are bank balances. In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing and future requirements the Guild maintains a reasonable level of funds in an instant access account with Lloyds Bank. Any surplus funds not required for short-term working capital are (or will be) invested in a deposit account with Lloyds Bank to earn interest.

The Guild does not aim to make a profit on activities but to ensure that all costs are met and an adequate surplus is maintained to invest in future activities and any new equipment required.

2024 Financial Review

For the year ended 30 th September 2024 the Guild's income was down slightly from £21,970 in 2023

to £19,261 in 2024. Income (net of refunds) from Training courses and Gift Vouchers totalled £16,200 which was down from £17,580 in 2023. Income from Membership Subscriptions and Taster Courses totalled £1,310, down from £1,480 in 2023. Income from book sales was £880 which was an increase on the £740 in 2023. The Guild purchased books totalling £797 in the year.

Course costs totalled £12,770, which was slightly lower than £12,934 in 2023. Payments to Euan for website admin and electronic newsletters totalled £1,120, higher than the £912 paid in 2023. The Guild purchased some new equipment in 2024 – Flags & Pavement Signs, Gazebo Bag and new clothing totalling £1,200.

The Guild also incurred some one-off costs relating to the court case to recover funds from Bona Vacantia and reinstatement of the Limited Company for this purpose. These costs totalling £624 will not be repeated going forward. In addition, the Guild suffered from a loss of interest on the money held by Bona Vacantia. It is impossible to put an exact figure on this but is probably in the region of £600-£700.

Despite the additional one-off costs I am pleased to report that the Guild did make a surplus of £1,170 in the year. At 30 th September 2024 the Guild had net funds of £22,451, represented by £3,289 held in the Lloyds current bank account, and £19,162 held by Bona Vacantia which we expect to recover soon.

In summary, the Guild had a satisfactory financial year and is well placed to continue the good work going forward.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN- John Pridmore was elected as Chairman

SECRETARY- Sarah Wright was elected as secretary.

TREASURER- Andrew Gudgeon was elected as Treasurer

COURSE COORDINATOR- Ed Hopkin

The above were proposed by Steve Bostock and seconded by Brian Wood. All attending voted in favour.

ELECTION OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

Paula Gittings has stood down as a trustee

JP proposed Stuart Grainger and Peter Targett as trustees. These were seconded by Andy Gudgeon and unanimously confirmed by all attending.

The following were elected as trustees of the Charity and voted in unanimously by all attending

Ed Hopkin

Sarah Wright

Andrew Gudgeon

John Pridmore

James Garwell

Mary Dalton

All members were voted in 'in block' unanimously by all attending

9. AOB

EH suggested allowing U18 and U16 a free charity place on courses. A discussion too place around the challenges of CRB checking. The conclusion was that we would have no objection to this however the minor would need to be accompanied by an adult.

EH also requested that the lead instructors confirm all attendees as they are sometimes different to the bookings. To be emphasised at the breakfast meet.

SB suggested maybe finding another historical site if we lose Fountains (such as English Heritage or the Woodland Trust)

PT to approach Yorks Water for potential venues in the future

SG asked about getting another gazebo and base it in the N Dales.

SG suggested putting time capsules in the wall. EH to add to his attendee information

SW mentioned instructors missing the first aid course should refund the Guild unless they have a valid excuse

AG requested an up to date list of trustee emails

JP mentioned the lack of master wallers. To bring up at breakfast meet. Suggested entry is free to encourage more people taking the test

JP mentioned about a clothing order. To email out to all instructors with price list

JP mentioned tasters & that they should be increased. It was agreed to increase the cost to £50

Saturday 1st Feb agreed for the breakfast meet & Sat 18th Jan for first aid training

SG suggested that we maybe produce trifold flyers. This is something that could be progressed in next years trustee meeting

Meeting Closed at 16.30PM

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD
Income and Expenditure YTD 1st Oct 23 to 30th September 2024

Balances at 1st October 2023	£
Current Account	1,188.38
Savings Account	19,964.01
Stripe	29.15
Uncleared cheques	100.00
	21,281.54

<u>Income for the period</u>	<u>YTD £</u>
Bank Interest	71.68
Book Sales	880.00
Clothing sales	80.00
Donations	20.00
Compensation from HSBC	50.00
Stone Sales	300.00
English Heritage contribution to Training Course	349.45
Membership/Taster Sessions	1,310.00
Training Courses (net of refunds)	16,200.00
	19,261.13
	40,542.67

<u>Expenditure for the period</u>	
Refreshments AGM	102.77
Advertising	309.60
Bank Charges	5.00
Book Purchase	797.50
Breakfast Meet	168.00
Clothing Purchase	550.70
Companies House	44.00
Course Costs	12,770.00
Court Fee to reinstate Limited Company	580.00
Euan website Digital Newsletters	150.00
Euan website & Admin	969.73
Flags and Pavement Signs	601.20
Gazebo bag	46.80
Insurance	235.20
Hire Charges	105.00
Instructor Travel Expenses	34.80
Postage	42.60
Refunds	90.00
Stationery	19.05
Zoom Licence	155.88
Stripe Fees	314.00
	18,091.83
Closing Balance for the period	22,450.84

<u>Account Balances at 30th September 2024</u>	
Savings Account HSBC *	19,161.77
Current Account Lloyds	3,289.07
	22,450.84

**unable to verify HSBC Account balance as money moved. Balance take from last available statement*

NB - Payments are only recognised in the period they are received into the bank.
 Any payments received in Stripe but not yet transferred are recognised in the next month's accounts.

The following transactions occurred towards the end of the financial year but are not reflected in these accounts as the money received/paid was after the year-end -
Books sold £30.00
Course Fee refunded (£130.00)

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD

England & Wales - Charity number 1202251

Accounts



YDSWG AGM

Trustees Report

Saturday 28th October 2022

1. Attendees and absentees

Present. J Pridmore, S Wright, E Hopkins, Meggan Jefferey, Steve Bostock, Paula Gittings, M Booth, J Garwell, A Bailey, C Bailey, B Wood, D Leedale, B Cowling, A Gudgeon

Apologies. K Ledger, Derrick Garbutt, S Crane, Brain Wood, G Selby, G Brown, M Dalton

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

These were reviewed by the Chairman. Steve Bostock proposed and Andy Gudgeon seconded these were accurate.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matter arising and the minutes were unanimously passed.

4. PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Bill Cowling congratulated the Guild on their continued progress. He congratulated the Guild on their successful Charity application and thanked them for the continued work in promoting the craft and improving the countryside.

5. COURSE COORDINATORS REPORT

You will all know by now that Graham resigned from the Guild in the middle of the year.

Graham was both Chairperson and course co-ordinator.

We must thank John, who took over as the acting chairperson, and Sarah who between them managed the courses also. I considered that without their exceptional input, the guild might fold without more help, and not wanting that, responded to the plea for a course co-ordinator. I have worked blindly since and apologise if you find me speaking in braille.

Graham used to say that the job did not take long to do...I presume it doesn't when you have done the job for a long time. I will try my best to get things done but please understand I may make the odd mistake to please be patient.

Most of the courses this year have been a sell-out. Analytics show 217 places were sold which is 25% up on last year. The website showed this but as people cancelled or requested transfers to 2024, it was necessary to add places and this happened almost up to the last minute on occasion. John bailed me out more than once.

A number of people dropped stating injury or changes to their availability. Refunds were made and Paula told John and me off for that.

Perhaps the course of most concern was Hadrian's Wall managed by Dick and Keith. With a

small number of attendees set for this, drop-outs ended up halving this. As the wall was not easily accessible, with no spare stone and only about two-feet tall, it is one that will be re-considered as a location for 2024.

Andrew and Mary have offered a second course at Winsbury House and this needs to be arranged with them.

Courses for 2024 are now being confirmed. There are some hosts who have not yet responded, and two how have asked for date changes. These changes of course dates will overlap presently on practice meet dates which will most likely need changing.

Course number ratio will remain 1:4 (instructor/student) with some courses increasing attendee numbers where possible. I ask that if you advise of your commitment to a course, and cannot make it, we expect you to make arrangements for a replacement, not John and me. This is something we can discuss more at the breakfast meeting

As before, we expect instructors to attend at least 3 practice meetings or shows in a season. It is important we attend shows as this is where we can promote the Guild and generate interest in our courses.

6. SECRETARY REPORT

Well 2023 has been quite an eventful year.

Firstly the reason I'm sat here is Graham had to withdraw from all duties on 10th June. He was planning to hand over at the end of the year but for personal reasons had to withdraw earlier. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Graham for all his hard work as Course Coordinator and Chair. He has developed our courses into the successful offering we are able to provide today. Also as chair was the driving force behind converting the Guild into a charity. I know it was quite an onerous task but Graham worked through it and delivered the end result. He is not ill and does hope to return to walling in the future.

Whilst I'm talking about changes to key positions Paula has decided to hand over the role of treasurer after many years crunching the numbers. She has also done a brilliant job over the years producing monthly and annual accounts along with keeping me in check usually when I have forgotten to tell her something I should have. She has kindly offered to support the transition over the next 12 months to ensure a new hand over. I'll cover off other trustee matters later in the report. Looking back over the year it's been a busy and successful one. We started the year in March when we were finally granted Charitable status and transferred over from operating under the limited company. The limited company has since been dissolved as part of the transition requirements. This now eliminates the risk of the revenue claiming corporation tax on our profits. We have also had another benefit on the PL insurance which has gone from £600 to £250 which also includes a level of injury loss of earnings which we haven't had before.

Courses were successful again and a major source of income. We tried out a new venue in conjunction with English Heritage near Hadrians Wall. The weekend went well although the conclusion was that the site is probably not the best location for courses. We will check with English Heritage to see if they have any other locations that might be suitable. We had a new location at East Hauxwell courtesy of Andrew which was successful and a nice wall built with challenging stone. Practice meets had varying levels of success. We started at Full Sutton on the boundary wall with a decent turn out including some of the stone masons having a go. There are plans to turn this site into a stone heritage centre so hopefully some future collaborations may come up. From there we visited Meggans for our usual spring meet and were well looked after as usual. Back to Daggerstons next, a venue resurrected from the past. Unfortunately, not a great turn out. Winsbury House followed with Andrew taking the mantle over from Cliff. Keeping it in the family. Low Belford next where Gordon Milne completed his basic walling test (thanks to Steve for judging). Nab Farm in

Kepwick followed. This was another return to a venue from the past where we repaired 3 sections of derelict walls although the afternoon session was a bit slow following a generous supply of scotch eggs. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our visit to West Bolton Farm due to a lack of instructors. This was disappointing as the dates are agreed at the breakfast meeting. Over to Steves at Homefield next where we had an amazing turnout with 16 people walling. Steve managed to repair a gap that had been down since he was a lad.....so quite some time.. We have one more meet at Meggans next Sunday which will complete this year's activity.

Shows were a bit hit and miss this year. We started at Duncombe as usual with the traditional pile of gnarly limestone. This was followed by the GYS where we built a mirrored seat on the opposite entrance to hall 2. We had a great turn out and could have probably built 3 or 4 seats in the time we had. At least everyone had chance to have a look around the show which was great. We had to cancel Ripley due to backwards which again is disappointing but sometimes unavoidable. The final show at Stokesley was cancelled on their request which was a little disappointing following the lovely seat we built them the previous year.

As I've mentioned we are now a charity and as such run by trustees. We welcomed some new trustees into the guild this year which was great bringing greater diversity and experience into the managing team. Ed joined the trustees as course coordinator. I can't thank Ed enough for stepping up to the role when Graham stepped down. He has taken thing up really well from a standing start and got the courses back onto an even keel. May and Andy have both joined the trustees which has been great as they offer a perspective from non-wallers (although Andy helps me and now claims he is a waller) so thanks to both for coming on board. Also, thanks to James for his input as I know it's been a challenging year for him with work commitments and finally thanks to Sarah for organising me to keep things going.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

This is the report for the 12 months ending September 30th 2023 which covers part of the time as a limited company and part as a charity. I am pleased to report that the Guild has strengthened its financial position from last year, here are some highlights.

Course sales were very strong again over the last year with over £15,000 of income plus £2800 from gift vouchers which is well up from last year along with £160 of re-booking fees. This is down to selling out all places and increasing the cost from £99 to £120 per course. Membership fees contributed over £1200 along with taster sessions which added 18 totalling £80 . These are slightly down on last year but still a reasonable income. Overall income was up over £5000 on last year driven by the strong course sales and price increase.

Bank interest increase from £10 to £256 reflecting the interest rate hikes we have all seen.

Costs were up on last year by over £1000. The increase in technical admin includes the new starter booklets that were refreshed this year and we are asking Euan to send out reminder emails to promote our events. (Emailing our comms has reduced our postage bill dramatically and we also don't have the print costs of the year end newsletter. As we didn't buy any TCV books this year all the book sales of £620 went straight to profit although we will need to restock next year.

Overall for the year we have made a profit of £3728 which is well up from last year and increasing the overall net worth of the Guild up to £21281.

We are looking to invest some of this money back in buying more flags and signs that can be distributed amongst instructors to help at events.

In summary the Guild has had another strong financial year and is well placed following the move to Charitable status.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN- John Pridmore was elected as Chairman

SECRETARY- Sarah Wright was elected as secretary.

TREASURER- Andrew Gudgeon was elected as Treasurer

COURSE COORDINATOR- Ed Hopkin

The above were proposed by Cliff Bailey and seconded by Dave Leedale . All attending voted in favour.

ELECTION OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

The following were elected as trustees of the Charity

Ed Hopkin

Sarah Wright

Paula Gittings

Andrew Gudgeon

John Pridmore

James Garwell

Mary Dalton

All members were voted in 'in block' unanimously by all attending

9. AOB

Andrew Bailey mentioned Stuart Grainger as a possible instructor. He will invite him along to the breakfast meet.

Breakfast meet scheduled for Saturday 3rd February at Andrew & Marys

John Pridmore mentioned an enquiry from The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as a possible venue for practice meets and courses. John & Ed to progress with YWT

Steve Bostock mentioned quality and maintaining standards. Suggested this can be discussed at the Breakfast meet.

Meeting Closed at 16.30PM

YORKSHIRE DRY STONE WALLING GUILD (CHARITY)
Six Month Accounts 1st April 2023 - 30th September 2023

Balances at 1st April 2023	
Current Account	1,079.47
Savings Account	23,880.82
Stripe	265.22
	25,225.51

Income for the period	£
Bank Interest	183.19
Book Sales	680.00
Clothing Sales	110.60
Donations	7.50
Mileage Paid by Customer	100.35
Re-booking fees	60.00
Subscriptions	820.00
Taster Sessions	130.00
Training Courses	7,200.00
Gift Vouchers	840.00
	10,131.64
	35,357.15

Expenditure for the period	£
Accommodation & Refreshments	261.55
Advertising	300.00
Bank Charges	30.00
Receiveables	60.00
Course Costs	11,227.58
Euan website & Admin	363.37
Corporate Costs	8.00
Mileage Claims on Guild	192.90
Postage	2.40
Refunds	1,485.00
Stripe Fees	144.81
	14,075.61
	21,281.54

Closing Balance for the period **-3,943.97**

Account Balances at 30th September 2023

Current Account	1,188.38
Savings Account	19,964.01
Stripe	29.15
Uncleared cheques	100.00
	21,281.54