

Hi Folks,

Just to bring you up to date on some of our current and future projects. Also the proposed programme for next year.

a) Waddon – I have completed the section where the tree had caused problems – I had a lovely day up there last Wed. (the sun was out and the view was brilliant, it wasn't even cold). I finished about 4.00 but by the time I'd tidied up the stone and put the fence back it was dark and I didn't half scare the sheep as I walked back over the field.

b) Goulds Hill – Phyllis and I were up there on 6th. It was EXTREMELY muddy but we had a good day – the foundations are complete to fill in the gap up to what was built on the last course and Phyllis got nearly up to the top on the bit that was already started. We plan to complete the gap before the April course next year.

c) Tyneham – a few people have re-set the gatepost and finished the adjoining wall in the farmyard.



We have some exciting projects coming up at Tyneham. Lynda has persuaded the army to buy 18 ton of stone for us which will be used over a couple of years: to build a picnic table and benches in the farmyard and to build a curved wall at the entrance to finish off the bit that goes over the bridge. Dave has designed a way of incorporating stones to spell out Tyneham Farmyard. The top of the picnic table might be finished off with massive stone slabs which would look very impressive – but only if we can get a grant that we have applied for, otherwise we'll have to think again.

Other projects in the pipe-line for next year are to finish Goulds Hill, to re-build some of the wall around the car park at Renscombe (Worth Matravers, above Chapman's pool) and to complete the wall at Upwey where I built my curve this year. There is also another section at Waddon which I think will come down over the Winter – so there is plenty to do.

I am attaching the calendar of proposed dates for next year but the actual venues haven't been finalised yet. We will probably tend to be at Tyneham in the early part of the year when the weather isn't so good. Waddon, of course, is better in the sunshine. So, keep the dates free and we'll fill them in as and when things become clearer.

There are 2 possible weekends ear-marked in January – 11th/12th or 18th/19th but we will only do one – play it by ear depending on the weather so I'll let you know nearer the time. Our next activity will be the social – on 1st Feb. This is lunch (off the menu but choices in advance) followed by skittles at the Royal Oak in Bere Regis. Again, more details in the New Year but save the date for now.

Courses are: 25th/26th April at Goulds Hill
4th/5th July at Spyway
19th/20th Sept at Spyway

For those who want to take exams – there is training at Tyneham – 1st/2nd Aug
Mock exam – 22nd Aug
Exam – 5th Sept

Anyone who is interested in this please let me know.

The Reeth Wallathon (see flier) is planned for 23rd/24th May. Phyllis and I had a great time there this Oct. and we are planning to go again. If anyone else fancies it please let me know asap so that we can sort out accommodation – it is Bank Hol. Weekend so needs to be booked sooner rather than later.

Looks as if there are plenty of opportunities for 2020.

In the meanwhile we hope you all have a lovely and relaxing Christmas. See you next year.