



Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain Lancashire Branch



Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

Winter Newsletter 2009

It seems quite a while since I wrote the last newsletter in the summer and this newsletter is going out earlier than usual. Due to the postal dispute that could be ongoing between now and Christmas I thought it best to get this in the post now particularly because it will contain the details of the branch Christmas Meat and Potato Pie Supper. The members who attended the AGM in October have already informed me who will be coming but there are members who were not at the meeting who may like to come. Try and come, it is a lovely evening and you would be so welcome.

The Meat and Potato Pie supper will be held at the Cross Keys, off Running Hill Gate, Uppermill, Saddleworth on Monday evening 7th December 7.30pm for 8pm. Cost is approx £5-6 per head. Husbands, wives, partners and friends are all welcome to join us at this lovely, friendly venue with a meat and potato pie which is second to none! (and there is pud for 'afters' as well) If you would like to join us for this very pleasant and relaxing evening please let the Secretary know by 3rd December. Oldham and Tameside Countryside Rangers have been invited. There will be a raffle so bring along a gift to raffle if you like. Proceeds go into branch funds.

The October Practice Meet at Burnedge Bent Farm, Grasscroft went very well. Thanks go to Brenda, Michael, Chris, Gill, Paul (Clayton) and Howard who turned up and made the day so enjoyable. For once we had good weather and achieved a good stretch of wall which we hope Bryan will be pleased with.

It is appropriate at this point to thank Mr Bryan Hough for allowing us to hold our Practice Meets on his farm and contribute to branch funds for walls that are built. The Tuesday Group (Howard, Chris and Gill) are also thanked for their efforts and over the year contribute a great deal to the branch funds.

The AGM in October proceeded swiftly with the same officers being re-elected for another year. Thank you all for your time and effort keeping the branch ticking over.

The International Dry Stone Walling Conference will be held in Ambleside, Cumbria in September 2010. More information about that will be in the spring newsletter and the Waller and Dyker in 2010. Look out for this event as it will have some fascinating events and speakers from all over the world right here virtually on our door step. Andy Goldsworthy will be one of the speakers.

The 2010 Events Programme is enclosed. You may notice that there is no Denshaw Training Weekend in June. If the Watershed Project goes ahead then



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Training Weekends will be held at Castleshaw. We will just have to wait and see what happens. I have suggested an extra Practice Meet in June if there is interest.

You may also notice that we will no longer be attending **The Great Ecclestone Show**. The organisers would like us to build walls at the 2 day event in future and having spoken with the committee it has been decided not to attend for a number of reasons. Brenda and Michael have been doing this event for 9 years and mentioned at the AGM that they were finding it a bit much now, especially since Michael comes up from Surrey to help! Also, we simply do not have the man or woman power to build walls which involves trucking in tons of stone, paying for it, (the organisers wont pay) building a wall, taking it down, taking the stone away. There are also no stone suppliers in that area nearby. It is not financially viable for the branch. It has been decided therefore that we no longer attend.

We have not yet received an invitation to be present at **Wigan Green Fayre** but once again, Michael and Brenda would like to cut their attendance down to just one day. It is also more financially viable to do one day.

The Branch website (which has been a huge success!) will be updated in the New Year. We are still waiting to see if the **Watershed Project** bid has been successful but as soon as I hear anything I will let you know.

Thanks for all your support this year and all the very best for 2010.

Brenda Koo
Secretary, DSWA Lancashire Branch