



Hon. Secretary: Sean Adcock  
2 Bryn Eithin, Waen, Penisarwaun, Caernarfon,  
Gwynedd. LL55 3PW. Tel: 01286 871275  
Sean@stonewaller.freemove.co.uk

# HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU

## BRANCH NEWS MAY 2015

Well I guess you might have been wondering where we'd got to. 2014 was a very quiet year and we decided not to charge subs. At the AGM it was decided that subs would be charged for 2015 whatever the state of play with events/Stonechat (the draft minutes can be found on the website) and would continue to run from April. The cost has been reduced to £10 (in addition to national subs) to reflect the probable lack of Stonechat. As national subs will be reverting to January-January rather than the current 12 months rolling membership, it is best that members renew this separately, but we can still forward it if necessary. Paperwork is included unless you have already paid for Branch and National Membership. This News-sheet is being sent to all current/recent DSWA members in North Wales regardless of when they last belonged to the Branch, plus everyone who has been a recent member/supporter.



More later...©BBC

## SO WHAT'S HAPPENING

### BRANCH MEETING

**1<sup>st</sup> July Pensychnant Conservation Centre Conwy**

Open to members and non members

7.30pm committee meeting/questions to committee.

8pm talk "Stone Forts and Beehive Huts"... a look at some of the 1000 year old stone buildings of western Ireland, plus a brief visit to the walls of the Aran islands

8.45 Branch meeting.

9.00 tea coffee cake and chatting

To find Pensychnant SH752770 (OS Landranger Map 115)....

Travelling **WEST** on A55 take the Conwy turn (Junction 18) and follow signs for Conwy. Go past the castle and follow the sign for town centre. Go past Conwy Visitors Centre on the left, take the 2nd left into Upper Gate Street and proceed up the hill for about 2.5 miles towards the Sychnant Pass. Pensychnant entrance is on the right after Sychnant Pass House Hotel. If you go over the brow of the pass, between high walls, you have gone too far.



7th Century beehive Huts, Skellig Michael © Sean Adcock

Travelling **EAST** on A55 take the sign for Penmaenmawr (Junction 16). Go into Penmaenmawr and take the right fork by the Mountain View pub opposite the main terrace of shops towards the Sychnant Pass. Follow the road for about 2.5 miles. As you come over the brow of the pass between the walls pass a National Park car park on your right and then take the next turning on the left into Pensychnant. If you get to the Sychnant Pass House Hotel you have gone too far.

Travelling from the South you can take back roads from Gyffin to the Sychnant pass, the entrance to Pensychnant is on the right just after the Sychnant Pass Hotel

### **ROYAL WELSH SHOW**

**20-23<sup>rd</sup> July, Builth Wells**

We will be helping the South Wales Branch at the Show this year, and being a little more pro-active than in recent years. If you can help out for a day or two either practically or manning the stand please let me know.

This year the project is to build a small semi-circular tiered seating area/amphitheatre overlooking the lake/pond. I will be supervising on the Wednesday/Thursday and it is hoped that North Wales Branch Members will provide the bulk of the workforce on these days.

**SO I NEED A COUPLE OF VOLUNTEERS FOR ONE OR BOTH DAYS PLEASE.**

### **PRACTICE WEEKEND SINGLE WALLS**

**18-19<sup>th</sup> July, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon**

The Cheshire Branch will be joining us again this year and we hope to complete the renovation of the milking pen at Blaen y Nant.



Restored entranceway to pen © S.Adcock



Building stone, topstone or hearting... who knows? © S.Adcock

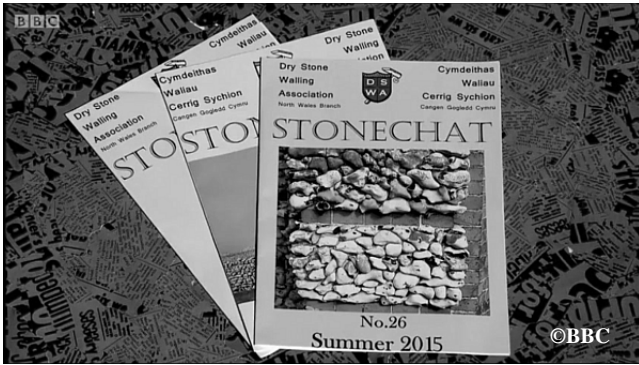
This project was started in 2012, continued in 2013, and was rained off last year. We're hoping for better luck this year and hope to complete it. Much of the wall is only one stone thick, and whilst not as high and challenging as the single wall at Pen y Pass it is none the less a valuable example of this type of structure, and provides a rare opportunity for Branch members to have a go and get an insight into what is involved. Colin has described the walling method as "a liberating experience. Most of the rules of normal walling are put to one side and imagination, trial and error and downright cheating come to the fore." A chance to cheat... what more can one ask for?

You can pop in for the whole weekend or a couple of hours... although beware we normally pack in around lunch time in the Sunday. There will be some sort of social activity probably on the Saturday and Probably involving the Bryn Tyrch PH in Capel Curig. Contact me for more details.

### **OTHER PRACTICE DAYS**

Don't forget branch members can attend any taster day or training course as a practice event free of charge as long as it is arranged in advance. If the course is full you might have to have a section to yourself and take pot luck with the attention you receive, - but we haven't had a full course in ages- otherwise you just join in as part of the course. Dates are in the Diary

# HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU



You might have noticed that the dire warnings about the future of Stonechat have come to pass and we've not had an edition since No.29 (Summer 2013). There are no immediate plans to produce another edition, although it is not entirely dead and buried, you might be lucky. It did get its 15 minutes (4 minutes 15 seconds to be a little more precise... depending on how you count) of fame when featured as the guest publication on BBC TV's "Have I Got News for You" on 15 May.

Anyway here's the blanks for you... as is the format not all are from Stonechat, can you guess which are...

The thought of \*\*\*\*\* hanging over Alan Titchmarsh's head gave me a few anxious moments.  
Dogs will become too expensive in future so we will have to \*\*\*\*\*

The most tedious job in Britain:  
\*\*\*\*\*

If I could have only one \*\*\* it would be \*\*\*\*\*  
Nicola Sturgeon asked Sean Connery for advice on \*\*\*\*\*  
Stonechats meetings this year have attracted \*\*\*\*\*



Paul Merton and Roisin Conaty have a giggle over mash hammers  
©BBC

or what the witticisms were. To find out more you will have to go to BBC iplayer (23 minutes into <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b05vr7yq/have-i-got-news-for-you-series-49-episode-6>). This is available for the next couple of weeks, after that you'll have to search for videos of season/series 49 episode 6. On the back of this new found fame who knows what might happen.

The longer version of the programme includes one additional clip....  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b05wgpq4/have-i-got-a-bit-more-news-for-you-series-49-episode-6>  
Thea Alvin's Stonework isn't always \*\*\*\*\*

I have managed to rip the Stonechat section from the standard programme as a video which you can temporarily download (68Mb) from for your own personal use as we do not have copyright on this (<https://app.box.com/s/94yhxpseljv515c7pbk0jrv6fcbpb47>). If I can find a video of the longer version in a format I can download I shall try to add it to the Stonechat cloud.

**One year free membership of Branch and DSWA to first person to contact me and tell me the two liberties (mistakes/ lies) in the information above that the Beeb used. A year's membership of the Branch for the first submission pointing out the one glaring liberty in a picture.**

## TRAINING

Dates are in the diary below. Our first taster of the season on Moel Famau has been and gone, 3 hardy souls attended. Colin reports it went well after a very soggy start, with a decent piece of wall being rebuilt in time to be able to replace some copings nearby.

We have also had some reasonable press coverage of our programme and the DSWA/Princes Countryside Fund Voucher scheme. I have copies of articles from Denbigh Free Press and



Coping with the weather. taster Day Moel Famau, May.  
© Colin Brown

the Daily Post (see <http://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/local-news/dry-stone-walling-courses-target-9180459>) and have heard rumours of other articles, but as ever I am reliant on members sending anything they might see and sadly unless I specifically ask nothing arrives... please keep your eyes open and send a copy of anything you see – or at least let me know. The training vouchers can be used by anyone under 40 years of age working or studying agriculture or in a related rural sector, and reduce the cost of a weekend course or craftsman certification test by £50. We have only one course available before the scheme runs out on Moel Famau 25-26 July. We had considered running others but with only one concrete enquiry from the coverage there's not much chance of that. If you know anyone who might benefit get them to contact me.

## *Diary*

- June 8      Talk "Clawdd Construction, DSWA & The North Wales Branch, and a taste of North Wales Stonework". European Dry Stone Walling Work Shop Kamptal/ Langenlois. Austria  
[http://api.ning.com/files/3A8rUyA9jKMpcEyZ49xzzz2q\\*AES7HxLUhXI-EfhhlFkgYt1Vi00FB4yE1tv2yYJR0NnbIXFT321K3fC9bxvxFLjcP63wL7l/SteinundWein\\_Program\\_engl\\_WEB.pdf](http://api.ning.com/files/3A8rUyA9jKMpcEyZ49xzzz2q*AES7HxLUhXI-EfhhlFkgYt1Vi00FB4yE1tv2yYJR0NnbIXFT321K3fC9bxvxFLjcP63wL7l/SteinundWein_Program_engl_WEB.pdf)
- June 13      Taster day Pensychnant, Conwy.
- June 27      Taster day Moel Famau, Mold.
- July 1        **8pm BRANCH MEETING Pensychnant Conservation Centre Conwy**  
Talk "Stone Forts and Beehive Huts"
- July 11      Taster day Blaen y Nant, Bethesda.
- July 18-19   Cheshire Branch on Tour, single wall practice. Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon
- July 20-23   ROYAL WELSH SHOW Builth Wells. Stand and demonstration **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- July 25-26   Weekend training course Moel Famau, Mold.
- Aug16       Taster day Pensychnant, Conwy.
- Sept 5-6     Weekend training course Pensychnant, Conwy.
- November AGM date tbc

## **Committee**

### **Chairman/Hon.Secretary**

Sean Adcock

2 Bryn Eithin, Waen, Penisarwaun, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. LL55 3PW.

**Tel:** 01286 871275

[sean@stonewaller.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sean@stonewaller.freemove.co.uk)

### **Hon.Treasurer**

Colin Brown

[cvbrown@fsmail.net](mailto:cvbrown@fsmail.net)

### **Vice Chair/Hon.Training Officer**

Paul Smyth

01766 513213/ 07554245667

[pasmyth@btinternet.com](mailto:pasmyth@btinternet.com)

**2015-16 BRANCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**FOR THOSE WHO ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS ARE ALREADY PAID UP MEMBERS OF DSWA OF GB**

Please return to : Sean Adcock. 2 Bryn Eithin, Waen, Penisarwaun, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. L55 3PW

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

3r33ssss

.....

.....POST CODE .....

TELEPHONE .....E MAIL .....

I ENCLOSE CHEQUE FOR .....(Payable to North Wales Branch of GB DSWA)

**2015-16 BRANCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**FOR THOSE WHO ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS ARE NOT CURRENT MEMBERS OF DSWA OF GB**

Please return to : Sean Adcock. 2 Bryn Eithin, Waen, Penisarwaun, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. L55 3PW

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....POST CODE .....

TELEPHONE .....E MAIL .....

PLEASE TICK WHICH APPLY

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION (£10) ☐

NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION (£30) ☐ WILL PAY NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION MYSELF ☐

I understand that if I undertake to pay DSWA of GB directly and do not do so during current membership year my Branch subscription will be treated as a donation and I will only be a supporter not a branch member

PLEASE NOTE THE BRANCH CANNOT COLLECT GIFT AID ON YOUR NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION YOU NEED TO CONTACT CROOKLANDS (015395 67953 [information@dswa.org.uk](mailto:information@dswa.org.uk)) DIRECTLY TO DO THIS

THE MOST CONVENIENT METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR YOUR NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION IS TO SET UP A DIRECT DEBIT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT CROOKLANDS

IF YOU THINK YOUR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE PLEASE PHONE SEAN (01286871275)

I ENCLOSE CHEQUE FOR .....(Payable to North Wales Branch of GB DSWA)