



# BRANCH NEWS

*October 2014*

Just in case you were wondering what had happened to us I thought you should get an update. 2014 has been a quiet year, following last year's AGM it was decided to run only our training programme, and I have more or less been taking a sabbatical. This partly explains my inability to produce any Stonechats. The lack of reading material and activities means I have arbitrarily delayed collecting subscriptions and so as the AGM approaches it has been decided to invite all current DSWA members (who will be receiving relevant AGM paperwork in this mailing – if there is no AGM paperwork there is a good chance you aren't currently a member of DSWA) in addition to those who were paid up members for 2013 and extend an invitation to others who have been recent Branch members or supporters, so.....

## BRANCH SOCIAL AND AGM 2014

**TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
FOELAS ARMS HOTEL, PENTREFOELAS

7PM MEET FOR FOOD AND/OR SOCIALISING

7.30PM SHORT PRESENTATION BY SEAN ADCOCK  
THE ONGOING RESTORATION OF OPUS 40, NEW YORK STATE

8PM AGM

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM USUAL WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY  
YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND ALL OR PART**

## THE YEAR IN BRIEF

Having decided to have a fairly fallow year concentrating solely on our training programme, that was in itself very disappointing. Only 1 out of 4 taster days went ahead (5 trainees), and both weekend courses were cancelled. Despite a number of online enquiries there were very few bookings, some of these subsequently cancelled and numbers were too low to make the courses viable. We do not know if anything much appeared in the press as no-one sent us any clippings. No 'members' showed any interest in attending the dates as training days, although it has to be said the dates were not widely advertised! Whilst there were no newsletters the website was maintained and this remains the best place to keep yourself abreast of current dates.

Once again we ran a weekend course for the Snowdonia Society at Pensychnant with 8 attendees. It remains a shame that after 3 years of these courses the trainees have shown little interest in following up their experiences through the branch.

The Cheshire Branch visited Blaen y Nant again. Bernard Hannett who normally heads up the Cheshire contingent was absent as he was in the process of moving to Islay... now that's what I call retirement. He did send me a small sample of his new local produce in his stead. TY BERNARD ☺ Following last year's midge fest there was no BBQ this year, with the Friday evening meal shifted to the Sunday. 5 hardy souls turned up, inclement weather meant we were unable to continue repairing the milking pen, instead a gap in the competition wall was repaired. Hopefully we'll finish the pen next year, it would be good if a member or two turned up, it is an interesting, largely single wall. Keep an eye open.

### **SADNESS**

It is with regret that I inform readers that Arwel Huws passed away during the summer following a long battle with cancer. A master craftsman and acclaimed tutor Arwel had been a staunch supporter of the Branch since the 1980s, and one time Chairman. His contribution to walling, personality and presence will be missed. His popularity was attested to by the presence of over 200 at his funeral, with the walling community well represented.

### **HAPPINESS**

At last, back in May, Craig and Gwennan got hitched. For some reason eggs were smashed during the photographs, but I missed the photo op so this will have to do.



### **. CALENDARS**

DSWA calendars for 2015 are available from Sean @ £5, collect at AGM or phone/email for postage details  
01286 871275 [sean@stonewaller.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:sean@stonewaller.freeserve.co.uk)