

## **South Wales Branch**

Well the Walling season is now full swing and our little Branch is ticking over quite nicely, we held a training day in April that saw five trainees turn up for two days of training, approx 7.5 metres of wall was taken down and rebuilt in glorious sunshine on the beautiful Brecon Beacons.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> committee member Martin Rathbone held a test day for initial and four people past the test.

The Branch would like to thank Ken Young for arranging the donation of 16 tons of stone to the Royal Welsh Showground, in preparation for our displays at the May's Smallholder Show and the Royal Welsh Show in July, which is the biggest agricultural show in the U.K. attracting well over 200,000 visitors each year, so it is a big shop window for us and one we have got to get right. Just prior to the show we received new clothing, polo shirts, sweatshirts and jackets with embroidered DSWA logo and South Wales Branch name, so even if the walling was no good we still look the part.

Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May five members went up to the Royal Welsh Showground and set up our display, built a wildlife habitat, raised bed and a demonstration wall ready for when the show opened on Saturday. Our stand proved a big attraction for the visitors with the wildlife feature being a big talking point, our stand was completely wiped out of some leaflets and there was a great demand for training courses there were also a number of work inquiries, which were to be followed up. This was the first time for us to attend this show and it proved to be one of the most successful, showing off the craft at it's best and was evident by the attention our stand had from the public.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> a training and members weekend was held with eight trainees and a couple of members turning up. 12 metres of wall was taken down and rebuilt in very windy & wet conditions our new Gazebo proved it's worth with everyone saying what an asset it is to the branch.

We have also had some new members join the branch, which is very good news, so we are now looking forward to our next shows at the Royal Welsh and Pembrokeshire and a walling competition at the Vaynor show on August 13<sup>th</sup>, with classes for professionals & amateurs with a total of £420 in prize money plus a £20 payment to everyone who completes their stint, so if you would like to come down to our competition please contact me you will be made most welcome in South Wales.

Brian Lock