



SOUTH WALES BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Hi all

Well we are six months into the year and time for me to update you on what the branch has been doing.

DEC 15TH: a management meeting was held at Brecon RFC where we set dates for 2011 for training weekends and shows and also discussed purchasing a gazebo for our training weekends and having a stand at the Smallholder Show at Builth Wells in May.

March 5th: a management meeting was held at Brecon RFC where I informed the committee that I had been in contact with the Royal Welsh Show about the Smallholders Show and they were very keen for us to attend and had confirmed our place at the show to me in writing ideas were now discussed about a display and demonstration it was decided to build a small demonstration wall raised flower bed and a wildlife habitat which Martyn Jones had designed and sketched. Our display was to be in exhibition hall 1.

I also informed the committee that I had found an organisation, which could maybe provide a grant for our gazebo the brecon beacons trust I had received an application pack and was almost ready to send it back the gazebo was going to cost [£977](#).

April: In early April I received confirmation that our grant application had been successful and we were awarded the full amount of [£977](#) the gazebo was ordered and it was going to be printed on all panels with the SOUTH WALES DSWA and BRECON BEACONS TRUST logos and writing with delivery to take about one month.

On the 16/17 we held a training day at Libanus five people attended and approximately 7.5 meters of wall was taken down and rebuilt in glorious sunshine with £300 going into the branch.

In early May the gazebo was delivered it weighed 43kg looked like a coffin and was kept in my hall way for two weeks, **Deborah was not happy!!!!**

May 11th we had approximately 16 tons of stone delivered to the Royal Welsh showground for use on our displays (Ken Young arranged the donation). On the 15th three members went up to the showground to grade the stone for the following week and on the 20th five members were at the showground to set up the stand and build the wildlife feature raised bed and most of the wall.

May 21st & 22nd SHOWTIME from early Saturday morning we finished off building the cheek end of the wall and put about one metre of coping stones on the wall the raised bed and wildlife feature was finished on Friday so we continued with the building demonstration on Saturday pm & Sunday am-pm the interest and questions were overwhelming with the wildlife feature taking centre stage and the biggest talking point. We were wiped out of some leaflets and over 50 training forms were given out and a number of work enquiries are to be followed up. In the five years that I have been involved with the South Wales branch this was one of the best shows we have done we really took the craft and showed it off to the public in it's true light so well done to every one involved.

We have also had new polo shirts, sweatshirts and jackets that are embroidered with the DSWA logo and South Wales branch name that are available while stocks last, but more will be ordered in due course.

JUNE TRAINING WEEKEND

Eight people attended our training course plus seven members, the weather was awful, so the gazebo proved it's worth. It was the first time for us to use it and everyone commented on what a great asset it is to the branch and how much more professional it makes the branch look. We took down and rebuilt about 12 metres of wall, all of the trainees stated they had really enjoyed the course and would like to do another, others showed an interest in becoming members, we have recently had two new members join our Branch, so that is good news!! All trainees purchased an assortment of leaflets, books & hammers etc to the value of over £70.

VAYNOR SHOW WALLING COMPETITION

The Vaynor show will be held on August 13th we need members to enter the competition and to support the show because the show organizers have always supported the south Wales branch there are two classes professional & amateur with £420 in prize money plus £20 for every competitor that completes their stint I ask you all please try and support this show if you enjoy walling you will enjoy this day It would also be nice to meet members who's names I only see on a branch head count sheet the competition will be judged by a DSWA Master Craftsman so please contact me if you wish to enter as I need to know to set the stints.

On the 25TH SEPT: Alan Jones DSWA Master Craftsman has offered to give members a day of training and tuition at a site near Newbridge in Gwent, Alan is from North Wales but spends a lot of time in South Wales carrying out some of the most prestige's and biggest walling contracts in the area there are not many if any Waller who has put up more metres of walling than Alan in the U.K. so this is a real chance to learn from one of the best so get in touch with me.

In a conversation with founder member Phillip Clark I was informed that the branch would be 20 years old this year, so if anyone has any ideas how we can celebrate this milestone.

We are currently trying to organize a certification week for early spring 2012 with a view of holding tests at level 1 (initial) level 2 (intermediate) and level 3 (advanced) We are hoping to find funding for instructors as to try and keep the costs down for the candidates.

If anyone would like to be more involved with the branch, please do not hesitate to contact me, we need people to help at the Royal Welsh Show, the Pembrokeshire show, and Vaynor show.

Best regards; Brian Lock (Branch secretary) 07966 761172-email brianlock19@aol.com

