



Sgwrsio Cerrig #1

January 2012

Happy new year and welcome everyone to the first edition of what will be an occasional news-sheet update of what's going on in the DSWA on a Wales wide basis, sent to all DSWA members living in Wales, or registered as belonging to either of the Welsh Branches if farther flung. 'Sgwrsio Cerrig' is only a working title paying homage to the somewhat more detailed 'Stonechat' Magazine produced by the North Wales Branch. Other ideas/suggestions/improvements welcomed.

Most of the information here-in can be found on the Branches' website www.dswales.org.uk in the News section, where a .pdf version of this news-sheet can be found. It would be useful if you could email sean@stonewaller.freemove.co.uk if you are willing to receive the news-sheet as a pdf in future and save us the postage. Similarly if you'd rather not receive copies let Sean know. The main purpose of this is to announce our first Welsh Branch Get Together, planned for Aberystwyth on or around 16/17/18 March... more later.

Branch Committees

Both Branches recently held AGMs with new officers elected:

SOUTH

Chairman Ceri Jenkins 07984 514601
jedhedging_walling@hotmail.com

Vice Chairman

Hon. Secretary Brian Lock 07966 761172
Brianlock19@aol.com

Hon. Treasurer Nigel Spiers 07790 443740

Other Officers

Martin Jones

Martin Rathbone

Toby Small

Dennis Phillips

Many Thanks to retiring members Helen Jenkins and

Michael Dowman

NORTH

Geraint Evans 07519 505295

Iolo Jones 01286 870762

Sean Adcock 01286 871275
sean@stonewaller.freemove.co.uk

Colin Brown 07738 853794

Paul Smyth (Training) 01766 513213

Craig Evans (General) 01824 750650

Many thanks to retiring member Richard Jones

North Wales Branch Publications

In 2010 the North Wales Branch applied to CCW for funding for amongst other things a booklet outlining walling Standards and what to look for and another on the principles of Clawdd construction. Unfortunately funding was withdrawn at an advanced stage due to problems meeting production deadlines. Limited funding for scaled down print runs has now been offered by Gwynedd Council and these booklets should be out around Easter time. At present the final consultative drafts are available on the website in the standards section, if you'd like a sneak preview or would like to shove in your ha'penny worth. Contact the usual suspect (Sean).

DSWA Trustee Elections

Thanks to everyone who voted in the election following our appeal, Sean was one of four trustees elected to serve the full 3 year term – in fact he headed the poll with around 15% more votes than anyone else. This will hopefully prove a good thing for Wales and other small branches ensuring that whilst small our voices will be heard. Following the election branches were assigned to individual trustees (“buddies”) with specific responsibility to represent their interests, with Sean given responsibility for Wales, so feel free to contact him (or any of the other trustees (details via HQ) if you have a gripe, or constructive idea even...).

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UK Branch Forum

As part of the DSWA-GB reorganisation and reduction in the number of trustees and direct representation of Branches as well as the ‘Buddies’ there will be 2 (at least) Branch forums each year. Exactly how these will work is not set in stone. The first will be held at Crooklands HQ on Saturday 24th March. It will be an all day affair and whilst the format is not yet fixed, with talks/workshops or similar, a chance to sit on a trustee board meeting, and opportunity to put forward and discuss local/national concerns. It is likely that this first one will look at training (the DSWA having appointed a part-time member of staff to develop its training role) as well as how it should develop in future, i.e. format, location (it is likely to move around), frequency. In order for it to work and be taken seriously it is important that each branch sends a number of representatives. Whilst we would hope that both Welsh branches send a couple (Sean and Ceri at least will be attending) of representatives – probably from the committees – non-committee members would be more than welcome if you feel you might be available to offer moral support. The more that attend the more seriously the event will have to be taken. Let Sean or Ceri know if you’re in the slightest interested!

Welsh Branch Get Together

Not to be outdone (actually we’ve been discussing it for a couple of years behind the scenes), we’re going to be having a Welsh Branch get together. This in fact is the main reason for this brief new-sheet... Advance warning. We’re still planning, but rather than leave it until all details are sorted and spring it on you at the last second we thought this was the best way to get your walling year started... Our event will be an all weekend one on 17th/18th March near Aberystwyth. Some of us might even be travelling down up around or across a day before hand...

The basic idea is for the Saturday to include some form of walling, preferably a training event or taster day so we can involve the public as well as members. It is hoped this will be alongside Aberystwyth Conservation Volunteers, and provide a rare opportunity for us to actually build walls as branches (although we anticipate it being social rather than hard labour). The Saturday evening should include food and alcohol and a presentation by Sean on some of his experiences from the 4 or 5 events he’s attended in USA/Canada over the last 2 and a bit years. Sunday morning would include a very informal discussion of where we should be going as Branches, what we can give to, expect from DSWA-GB, how we can work together more, and the like. Lunch and home.

At the moment we’re hoping to centre the event at Plas Dolau Country Estate (www.plasdolau.co.uk) where there is accommodation from guest house to bunk house and a variety of prices from £18-£35 ppn. We have yet to book anything with them but expect to have some arrangements in place by the end of January, if you are likely to be interested contact Sean by email only at the moment, or phone Ceri/Brian who’ll let Sean know electronically, so we can have a vague idea of numbers when negotiating with Plas Dolau. Full details will be sent out separately as a booking form sometime in February. People will be more than welcome for part or full days, staying or visiting.

Following the forum(s) the second edition of this publication will be forthcoming, with a review of events and an update of both Branches programmes (currently available in outline form on the website).