

Ronnie Ball Award Recipients

The first Ronnie Ball Award was presented to Matthew Berry in 2001 by Lizzie Ball, widow of the late Ronnie Ball. The presentation of a Silver Award was made at the Brockhole Visitor Centre at Winderemere. Award judges Brian Jones, Ted Ellwood and Stephen Harrison praised the project and Matthew's "business-like" approach to his work, his rapid improvement in the craft and his eagerness to learn.



Matthew lives at Audlands Farm, Old Hutton, Cumbria where he began his walling experience. Since leaving school, he set up his own walling business and continues to work on the family farm.



In 2002 a Silver Award was presented to Robert Goodwin, aged 14, at the Association's Members' Weekend in South Wales. The panel that judged his portfolio presentation were impressed with his enthusiastic attitude to the craft and his potential to take his skills further. Robert had successfully gained his Initial DSWA Craftsman Certification Scheme certificate earlier in the year.

Robert hopes to become a gamekeeper and saw the craft of dry stone walling as a component part of his career, together with shooting and fishing. He lives with his parents at Chadderton near Oldham in Lancashire.

Thomas Skill from Derbyshire was the recipient of a Silver Award, presented to him in 2006 at the Members' Weekend in Cumbria. Thomas had demonstrated an enthusiastic attitude to the craft of dry stone walling by taking part in a number of local events and training courses and had successfully gained his Initial Craftsman Certification Scheme certificate earlier in the year. He was keen to continue his training and work towards the next level of certification in due course.

