



Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain

DRY STONE WALLING – CAREERS FOR THE FUTURE

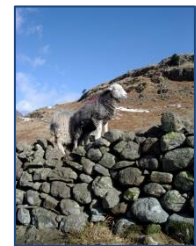
The Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA) is keen to encourage young people to train in dry stone walling. A great advantage of the craft is the wide range of career opportunities available. Far from being a "dying craft" dry stone walling is thriving and it is possible to make a good living, whilst also helping to maintain the landscape for future generations to enjoy. No longer are dry stone wallers limited to maintaining field



boundaries, there is now a growing demand for landscape wallers working with garden designers and artists. Many of the award winning gardens at major events like Chelsea Flower Show feature dry stone walls built by our Master Craftsmen. Architects are looking for dry stone walling to be included as 'statement pieces' in their designs for inner city living and many artists like Andy Goldsworthy value the aesthetic natural beauty of sculpture in dry stone.



Dry stone walling also has a vital role to play in heritage projects, restoring dry stone structures and features. Organisations like the National Trust, Forestry Commission, wildlife trusts etc are keen to employ people with qualifications in rural skills. Whichever branch of the craft, there is opportunity to earn a good living from dry stone walling. It is particularly useful if combined with other countryside skills e.g. hedgelaying, arboriculture, fencing etc , to provide year round income.



The Dry Stone Walling Association has secured substantial funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver five training bursaries in the North West together with a Landscape Heritage project to enhance awareness of the practical and aesthetic value of dry stone walls in our countryside. We have 5 dynamic young bursary trainees in the north west, including one young lady, all of whom have already gained their intermediate qualifications and will go on to work up to Advanced Level to prepare them for a career in dry stone walling.

We want to encourage more young people to achieve the sort of success that a couple of exceptionally talented young dry stone wallers, Lydia Noble and Adam Clarke have recently enjoyed . Both Lydia and Adam have been nominated as "Young Ambassadors" for the craft of dry stone walling and the Dry Stone Walling Association was honoured that our Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales presented their awards during a recent visit to the Dry Stone Walling Association Head quarters in Cumbria.

Lydia and Adam are shining examples of young people who have carved out a successful career in dry stone walling. Adam Clarke is based in Lancashire, although over the last 12 months he has worked on dry stone walling projects in Switzerland, Canada and Spain. Together with Lydia, Adam worked on the Alan Titchmarsh garden at Chelsea last year. Adam was bitten by the dry stone walling bug about 8 years ago, having been a labourer and had a spell as part of a rock band. Now his sights are firmly fixed on his passion for dry stone walling as he works towards his Master Craftsman qualification.

Lydia Noble comes from just across the Pennines and belongs to a family of dry stone wallers. Her passion started at an early age, having featured on a children's TV programme for her walling prowess at the age of three! Now, at 20, she is the youngest dry stone waller to qualify at Advanced Level and one of the very few lady wallers to attain this qualification. It won't be long before Lydia achieves her ultimate goal of Master Craftsman.



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