DRY STONE WALLING ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

WONDERFUL WALLS

Have you ever been for a walk in the countryside and seen the patterns made by walls and fields?

If you look closely you will see that the walls are made of stone. They are called Dry Stone Walls.

Dry Stone Walling Association
Lane Farm, Crooklands, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7NH
Telephone: 015395 67953
Email: information@dswa.org.uk www.dswa.org.uk

There is nothing holding the stones together.

◊ No glue
◊ No cement
◊ No wood
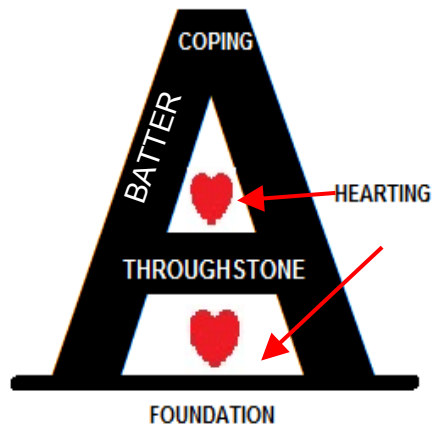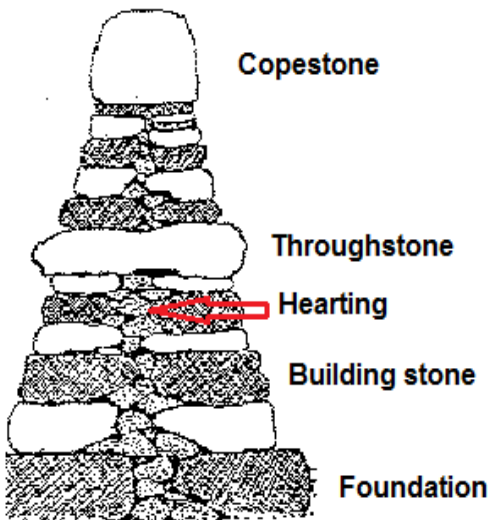◊ No steel
◊ **Just Stone**

That's why they are called

DRY STONE WALLS

How do they stand up on their own?

A dry stone wall is actually made of two walls leaning against each other like a big letter A.

Copestone

Throughstone

Hearting

Building stone

Foundation

COPING

BATTER

HEARTING

THROUGHSTONE

FOUNDATION

How are they built?

Big stones are put at the bottom of the wall and then layers added using smaller stones as the wall gets higher and slopes inwards.
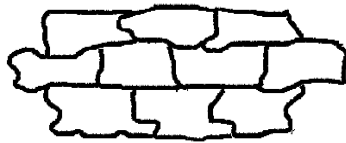This slope is called BATTER.
Building the wall is like doing a jigsaw, each stone fits into place with one stone sitting over 2 stones below.

One on two
Two on one
That's how to build
Tough and strong

The gap between the walls is filled with little stones called HEARTINGS.
Half way up the wall there is a stone that goes all the way across both walls. This is called a THROUGHSTONE.
This gives the wall strength and stability.

Have you noticed that not all walls look the same?

It depends on where you are in the country. Walls are usually built with stone that is available locally . The type of stone depends on the GEOLOGY (study of rocks) of the area.

Dry Stone Wall with turf top — Isle of Skye

You can find walls made of thin slate or even huge boulders because the rock has formed under different conditions and at different times.

Slate—Lake District Dry Stone Wall

Sandstone splits easily into flat chunks like bricks and is good to build with.
Have a look at the walls near you and find out what stone they are made with.

Sandstone—Cheshire coursed Dry Stone Wall