

## ANNUAL REPORT AND SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2022 - 2023



Certificate of Merit

Teasses Estate Doocot. Photo by Martin Tyler

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DSWA, Lane Farm, Crooklands,  
Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7NH  
[www.dswa.org.uk](http://www.dswa.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 289678

## Office Bearers

<b>PATRON</b>	HRH The Prince of Wales 2006 -  Her Grace, The Dowager Duchess of Devonshire 1990 - 2005
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	The Lord Cavendish of Furness DL 2008 -  Bryan Hough LCG 2005 – 2008  Ken France 2002 - 2005  Bryan Hough, LCG 1999 - 2002  Terry Eggleshaw, MBE 1994 - 1999  Ramsay Rainsford Hannay 1989 - 1994  Mrs E Murray Usher of Cally, OBE 1968 - 1989 (part as convenor)
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	Brian Jones Bill Noble Tom Norris Chris Stephens (resigned 2023)
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Paul Clayton 2020 - Ray Stockall 2013 - 2020 Alan Devonport 2010 - 2013 Richard Love 2004 - 2010 Paul Webley 1994 - 2004 Terry Eggleshaw MBE 1983 - 1994 Eric Boyes 1982 - 1983 Peter Wilson Retired 1982
<b>DEPUTY CHAIRMAN</b>	Tracey Blackwell
<b>CRAFT SKILLS CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Andrew Loudon
<b>TREASURER</b>	Linda Clarkson

## **Current Honorary Life Members**

J R Bown, I K Dewar,  
J Riddick, Ms A Shaw, F E Shields OBE, FRAGS,  
Mrs J Simpkins, P Webley, T Wragg

## **DSWA Trustee Board Members (Sept 2022- Aug 2023)**

Paul Clayton (Chairman) (appointed March 2023)	Andrew Loudon
Tracey Blackwell (appointed 2023)	Cuthbert Noble (co-opted 2023)
Brian Hartley (appointed 2023)	Lydia Noble (co-opted 2023)
Peter Isherwood	Jack Taylor
Pamela Kirkup	Martin Tyler (co opted 2023)

Four Trustee Board meeting are held during the period covered  
by this report

### **Banks**

HSBC Bank plc,  
331 Lord Street, Southport, PR8 1NJ

### **Solicitors**

Milne Moser, Solicitors,  
Westmorland House, The Square,  
Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7QJ

### **Insurers**

NFU Mutual Insurance Society Limited,  
Prospect House, Meadow Bank Business Park,  
Shap Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 6NY

# **Annual Report 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023**

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the latest annual report for the Dry Stone Walling Association, covering the period mentioned above.

After twenty years working tirelessly for the Dry Stone Walling Association, Alison Shaw moved on to pastures new in June. We extend our thanks again to Alison for all her years of dedicated services to the DSWA and wish her all the best for the future.

We welcomed Helen Lewis as our new Office Administrator, who joined us in the latter part of the year and complement her in the wonderful job she is doing. Kate Dymock is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as our Training & Education Coordinator and along with Helen Robinson, this new team are doing a brilliant job, the office is a hive of activity, with a new lease of life.

We believe the DSWA has rode the wave of the recent pandemic, and we are now on the other side, and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

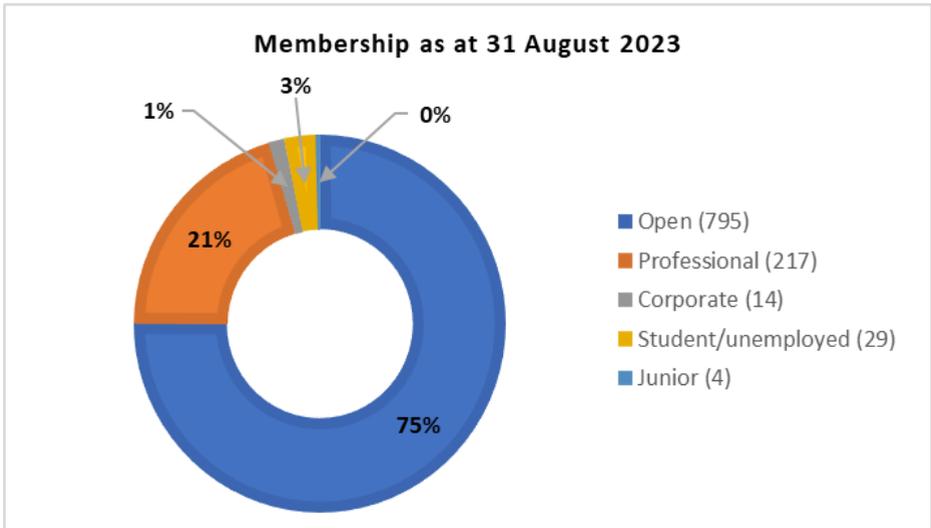
## **Governance**

The Trustee Board has remined strong this year and we were pleased to welcome Tracey Blackwell and Brian Hartley back in to the Trustee Board for a further term of office. Meetings of the Trustee Board have continued as a mixture of in-person and online links, which works well and means that the opportunity of becoming a Trustee opens up to those members not close enough to drive to meetings at Crooklands. We hope this will encourage members to consider putting themselves forward as Trustees in the future.

The Association continues to receive, and act upon, regular free advice and guidance issued by the Charity Commission and strives to adopt best practice wherever possible.

## Membership

Membership during 2022 remained almost the same with a slight increase in open and professional memberships, which is encouraging given the economic predictions. 2023 is showing a similar pattern:



As with all membership organisations, although we lose some members each year, it is encouraging to see the number of new members joining increase during 2022. Thank you to all members, whether or not affiliated to a Branch, who have encouraged someone to join us and take up this wonderful art.

Corporate members are important to the Association and we have tried hard to offer opportunities for them to promote their businesses, and for Branches to establish links with corporate members in their area.

The Dry Stone Walling Association is registered with the HMRC Gift Aid Scheme and is able to claim 25p per £1 of membership and/or donations if members sign up to the scheme. This generates a significant sum of money each year, at no extra cost to the members. For the tax year ended 5 April 2023 the Association received was approximately £9,000 which is from subscriptions of just over 600 members who are registered with the Gift Aid scheme. Members are encouraged to join if possible if they are eligible to do so.

Quarterly Zoom meetings between Branches have continued as a way of networking, sharing ideas and best practice, so that we an Association, can continue to improve. Topics for discussion are submitted by Branches and the meetings are hosted by one of the Trustees. Ideas and suggestions are then followed up and reviewed.

The DSWA website continues to be a valuable tool for members and others, seeking advice and guidance on all matters dry stone walling related. There is a wealth of information available for educational purposes and the online shop offers books, tools and merchandise. The Association also has Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, all of which help spread the word about the work we do, which in turn fits with our charitable purpose “*to advance education in the craft and heritage of dry stone walling for the public benefit*”.

### **Training & Education**

This year has seen demand for the four-day training courses at Crooklands rocket, with additional courses having to be organised to accommodate the ever-growing waiting list of eager candidates. At Branch Level, demand was similar with two-day beginner courses and taster days being fully booked across many of the Branches.



Those undertaking qualifications remained high with an increasing number of candidates continuing from their Level 1 to undertake their Level 2. We welcomed two groups of wallers from Japan who undertook their Level 1 and Level 2 assessments with a 100% pass rate. Several candidates this year have been looking at progressing onto the higher Levels of 3 and Master Craftsman and we look forward to seeing their progress. Assessments took place at a range of locations including several overseas sites where candidates saw high levels of success.

This year saw the conclusion of the very successful Rural Skills Hub project which was run in partnership with the National Hedgelaying Association. The project, funded by the Green Recovery Fund ran for 21 months in total with the aim to promote the value of traditional boundaries, ensuring that traditional skills and knowledge were shared. The project delivered a range of actions including:

- Five training placements including three for dry stone walling who all achieved their Level 1 during their placements and have since continued to achieve their Level 2.
- 22 training grants were offered which saw 12 individuals gain their Level 1 qualifications.
- 12 community groups took part in 16 days of activity with approximately 115 participants.
- Other elements included school visits, creation of professional videos on both walling and hedge laying, online impact through social media and website.

Thank you to all involved with the Rural Skills Hub project including all the Branches who hosted community walling days.

This year's External Quality Assurance visit from Lantra took place at Crooklands and was overwhelmingly positive on all fronts, which is thanks to all involved with the visit itself and behind the scenes.

The Ernest Cook Trust apprenticeship scheme was launched this year with the first of three apprenticeships. David Da Costa was our first apprenticeship and throughout his years placement went from strength to strength, achieving both his Level 1 and 2 qualifications. We look forward to seeing how David continues with his dry stone walling career now his placement has concluded. We will be looking for the next two apprentices in April 2024 for their years placement to begin in October 2024. Keep an eye on the DSWA social media pages for when applications go live.



## **Publicity**

This year the Branches been busy at various shows up and down the country, engaging with the wider public to increase awareness of the craft. Some highlights of the year are below.

Cheshire Branch linked up with the National Trust at Lyme Park to organise 3 'Walling Walks' for the public to learn about how dry stone walls are built and highlighting some features that have been built at the property.

Northumbria Branch completed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Memorial Seat at the Blanchland Show, after finishing the bottom half the previous year.

Wales Branch have been helping with The Lost Peatlands Project – a Heritage Lottery funded landscape-scale partnership project, aiming to restore the landscape of the Upper Afan Vally in Neath Port Talbot and the Upper Rhondda Fawr in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Branch members have been instructing a group of volunteers to begin repairs to some of the walls which are integral to the landscape and if funding permits it, Wales Branch will continue to support it.

Derbyshire Branch had actor, television personality and motor racing driver Kelvin Fletcher visit them at the Bakewell Country Festival where they returned for a second year. They attracted many visitors with their building of a right-angled wall.

Dorset Branch had the most enjoyable time at the Oak Fair which was a new show for them. They had lots of children trying children's wall and gaining a walling certificate. There were lots of rural heritage crafts and as dry stone walling was there for the first time, they were interviewed by a local radio station reporter.

They also completed the community wall at Portesham with members working alongside community volunteers, which being in the heart of the village means it will be seen by all villagers and those passing through.

Lastly, we awarded a prestigious Certificate of Merit for the Doocot on the Teasses Estate in Fife this year. Commissioned by Sir Fraser and Lady Morrison, and designed by James Parker of James Parker Sculpture, to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. Working alongside James was Martin Tyler, Stevie Gordon and Findlay Reade of Drystone Walling Perthshire. Teasses Estate and Gardens is open to the public during the summer for all to see this amazing structure, which stands at over 4 metres high and required over forty tonnes of stone.



*All in all, a broad range of publicity over the year; there are no doubt opportunities that have not been reported on or that the Association is not aware of. We do rely on members sending in details of activities or events so as to try and gain as wide a perspective on the craft as possible.*

## **Finance**

The Dry Stone Walling Association continues to develop the delivery of training and education in the craft of dry stone walling by the provision of training and Lantra accredited qualifications.

This year has seen a full programme of training courses delivered both at National and Branch level. Demand for training courses and Craftsman Certification Scheme qualifications has been extremely high with increases in the number of people trained at the national training centre and people taking the Craftsman Certification Scheme qualifications. DSWA has continued its links with dry stone walling training delivery in Canada, USA and Australia. A contingent of Japanese Wallers travelled to the UK to take their Craftsman Certification Qualifications at the DSWA National Training Site. Branch activity has also seen an upsurge in the numbers of people attending beginner training courses. This has all led to an increase in revenue from course delivery and Test fees.

Following the success of the online booking portal for national training courses,

an online booking system now exists for booking qualification tests. This new system, together with other administration changes has led to a streamlining of administration processes.

A number of Branches had reported a shortage of Instructors for their beginner courses, so an Instructor Training Course was successfully delivered in early 2023, to provide further Instructor resources for DSWA Branches. Branch funds remain strong, with some Branches transferring residual funds to central finances.

These funds have been allocated as per Branch requests with general transfers facilitating the recruitment of a full time Training & Education Coordinator in October 2022.

The Trustee Board holds quarterly meetings throughout the year. Trustees strive to minimise expenditure by embracing technology and reducing travel costs.

Membership has plateaued with revenue from subscriptions generating a good return in the amount claimed through Gift Aid. Merchandise sales have increased from the previous the year.

DSWA continues to work with external organisations to deliver projects that reflect the Associations ethos.

October 2022 saw the successful conclusion of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, which DSWA had been heavily involved with for the previous 4 years.

The Rural Skills Hub Project, funded by the Defra Green Recovery Challenge Fund also came to an end this year after proving a very successful initiative, between DSWA and the National Hedgelaying Society, offering a central point for advice, support, funded training and signposting to information sources on traditional boundary skills.

Thanks to a grant from The Earnest Cook Trust, DSWA has been able to offer an apprenticeship to a young person to work alongside a Master Craftsman for 12 months. This has resulted in the young person achieving Craftsman Certification qualifications at Levels 1 and 2. A further recruit is sought for a second apprenticeship to start in late 2023.

The Association receives numerous requests for advice and guidance on all aspects of the craft of dry stone walling and will strive to maintain the quality of information available on this traditional craft.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have agreed again that, in the light of price increases over the last few years, a minor increase in the reserves would be prudent. The major risks which the charity might face have been reviewed and the Trustees believes that regular reviews of the controls over key financial systems, combined with the small increase in reserves will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational business risks faced by the charity and continue to establish systems to mitigate significant risk.

### **Conclusion**

On behalf of the Trustee Board I would like to thank everyone for their continued support for our craft and hope to meet some of you during the year.

Paul Clayton  
DSWA Chairman

## **Financial Report for Year Ended 31 August 2023**

The charity's income increased from £241,042 in 2022 to £345,346 in 2023, most of the increase relates to restricted funds which were used in the current year. Expenditure increased from £226,607 in 2022 to £296,725 reflecting these restricted projects. Overall charity funds increased by £48,621 in the year of which £41,693 related to unrestricted funds increasing reserves to £561,211.

In accordance with Charity SORP guidelines, Branch activities and monies held have been integrated into the full accounts. Branch bank accounts are held independently and are not readily available to the National Association.

### **Reserves Policy**

Under the requirements of charity law, the Trustees are obliged to define the charity's policy for holding reserves. The intention in establishing this Reserves Policy is to ensure the continuation of the charity's activities. The policy will enable the charity to meet its legal objectives, provide confidence to donors seeking to give financial support to a prudently controlled charity and to ensure that the reserves are at a level sufficient to discharge all the charity's obligations in the event that it should cease its operations.

This is not considered to be likely in the foreseeable future, and therefore the reserves which the charity is required to maintain are those needed to fund ongoing monthly costs and future development. To this end, the Trustees have decided that the charity should seek to have reserves which are not invested in fixed assets of a sum equal to no more than 12 months general running costs and £80,000 has been designated for this purpose. A large proportion of the charity's reserves are held as bank accounts.

The financial statements detail the movement in reserves during the year.

Linda Clarkson  
Treasurer

**Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31 August 2023**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Branch funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	72,459	25,000	7,716	105,175	78,923
Charitable activities	70,068	53,424	99,657	223,149	150,731
Other trading activities	10,880	-	2,642	13,522	9,764
Investment income	-	-	332	332	36
Other income	-	-	3,168	3,168	1,588
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>153,407</b>	<b>78,424</b>	<b>113,515</b>	<b>345,346</b>	<b>241,042</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	(143,844)	(76,790)	(76,091)	(296,725)	(226,607)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(143,844)</b>	<b>(76,790)</b>	<b>(76,091)</b>	<b>(296,725)</b>	<b>(226,607)</b>
Net income/(expenditure)	9,563	1,634	37,424	48,621	14,435
Gross transfer between funds	32,130	-	(32,130)	-	-
Net movement in funds	41,693	1,634	5,294	48,621	14,435
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward	274,872	63,200	174,518	512,590	498,155
Total funds carried forward	316,565	64,834	179,812	561,211	512,590

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

The above figures are taken from the full Charity Commission accounts. Please contact the DSWA Office if you would like a copy.

**Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	12,590	14,812
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stocks	13,473	16,045
Debtors	3,330	1,047
Branch bank accounts **	180,555	174,075
Cash at bank and in hand	367,883	321,088
	565,241	512,255
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	(16,620)	(14,477)
<b>Net current assets</b>	548,621	497,778
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>561,211</b>	<b>512,590</b>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>		
Branch funds	179,812	174,518
Restricted funds	64,834	63,200
Unrestricted funds	316,565	274,872
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>561,211</b>	<b>512,590</b>

\*\* Money held in Branch bank accounts is held independently by the Branches and cannot be readily accessed by Head Office.

The above figures are taken from the full Charity Commission accounts. Please contact the DSWA Office if you would like a copy.

## Summary of Branch Annual Returns to DSWA For Year 2021-2022

The information provided below is intended as a brief synopsis of the returns made by Branches to DSWA. If the annual return has not been submitted, the financial figures have been extracted from the Branch accounts, which are submitted separately.

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>M/ship 01/01/22</b>	<b>M/ship 31/12/22</b>	<b>New Recruits</b>	<b>Opening bank bal £ 1/09/21</b>	<b>Closing bank bal £ 31/08/22</b>
Central Scotland	52	58	6	7,860	10,157
Cheshire	35	53	18	10,943	9,552
Cotswold					
Cumbria	105	130	25	15,252	10,978
Derbyshire	104	146	42	23,425	24,408
Dorset	35	44	9	14,904	19,230
Ellwood	12	18	3	1,133	1,133
Isle of Skye					
Lancashire	61	69	10	9,397	12,032
Mid-Lancs	3	6	0	8,552	8,587
Northumbria	27	32	6	4,682	5,697
Otley & Yorkshire Dales	134	141	13	12,660	20,014
Pennine	12	12	2	2,187	2,404
South East Scotland	34	38	4	2,001	3,021
South West England	80	99	19	13,106	15,368
South West Scotland					
South Yorkshire	30	32	2	3,433	3,202
Wales (North & South)	68	75	12	9,865	11,182
West Yorkshire	40	34	0	7,878	8,189

**NB Events, etc shown below cover the period January to December 2022**

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>No of events held</b>	<b>No of Courses held</b>	<b>No of Course Particip'ts</b>	<b>No of Branch Competition Particip'ts</b>	<b>No of Demos held</b>
Central Scotland	16	5	41	0	2
Cheshire	8	3	46	0	1
Cotswold					
Cumbria	15	5	60	11	1
Derbyshire	18	8	130	0	6
Dorset	145	6	89	0	2
Ellwood	1	0	0	17	0
Isle of Skye					
Lancashire	15	7	83	0	3
Mid-Lancs	3	3	5	0	2
Northumbria	30	17	90	4	7
Otley & Yorkshire Dales	121	6	118	0	5
Pennine	19	1	5	0	0
South East Scotland	15	3	18	0	2
South West England	15	7	89	0	3
South West Scotland					
South Yorkshire	11	5	20	0	0
Wales (North & South)	7	10	76	0	0
West Yorkshire	2	4	45	0	2

### DSWA Branch Honorary Officers 2022—2023

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Hon Secretary</b>	<b>Hon Treasurer</b>
Central Scotland	Kate Armstrong	Bob Pawson	Sandie Murphy
Cheshire	John McClean	Jack Taylor	Jack Taylor
Cotswold	Chris Ingles	Bo Bark	Kelly Wools
Cumbria		Patrick Lacey	Joe Bowman
Derbyshire	Carl Hardman	Jon Earnshaw	Alan Malia
Dorset		Carole Reeves	Iain Pullen
Ellwood	Lydia Noble	Luke Powell	Cuthbert Noble
Isle of Skye	Hector Nicolson	Hector Nicolson	
Lancashire	Chris Bolshaw	Paul Clayton	Gill Bolshaw
Mid-Lancs	Neil Kerr	Neil Kerr	Brenda Hayman
Northumbria	Paul Foster	Pam Kirkup	Neil Weddell
Otley & Yorkshire Dales	Peter Bull	Colin Alexander	Rona Dailey
Pennine	John Harper	Peter Walker	Pamela Smithies
South East Scotland	Richard Love	Dave Taylor	Donald McInnes
South West England	Barry Angell	Simon Watts	James Orme
South West Scotland	Nic Coombey	Linda Wilson	Jak Kane
South Yorkshire	David Jenkins	Paul Clegg	Mick Booth
Wales	David Cope		Jamie Gwilliam
West Yorkshire	Trevor Womack	Shared duties	Chris Hanwell

## DSWA Membership Records - Overall View

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total All Members</b>	<b><i>New Members include d in totals</i></b>	<b>Total Open</b>	<b>Total Prof</b>	<b>Total Junior/student</b>	<b>Total Corporate</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>55</b>						
<b>2000</b>	<b>1326</b>	335	1039	237	7	28	6
<b>2001</b>	<b>1122</b>	144	845	233	12	21	11
<b>2002</b>	<b>1233</b>	331	945	248	12	20	8
<b>2003</b>	<b>1317</b>	335	1004	267	7	25	14
<b>2004</b>	<b>1468</b>	422	1151	267	11	23	16
<b>2005</b>	<b>1470</b>	407	1177	234	22	24	13
<b>2006</b>	<b>1484</b>	408	1179	248	17	28	12
<b>2007</b>	<b>1456</b>	426	1156	256	12	25	7
<b>2008</b>	<b>1416</b>	387	1117	263	12	24	7
<b>2009</b>	<b>1301</b>	309	1000	256	18	21	6
<b>2010</b>	<b>1204</b>	215	909	242	12	20	6
<b>2011</b>	<b>1194</b>	163	894	261	10	23	6
<b>2012</b>	<b>1209</b>	147	903	269	12	25	6
<b>2013</b>	<b>1100</b>	164	780	282	8	24	6
<b>2014</b>	<b>1054</b>	141	774	249	7	18	6
<b>2015</b>	<b>1084</b>	185	808	240	12	18	6
<b>2016</b>	<b>1040</b>	151	780	230	7	17	6
<b>2017</b>	<b>1042</b>	178	787	228	6	15	6
<b>2018</b>	<b>1045</b>	171	785	220	20	14	6
<b>2019</b>	<b>1154</b>	194	869	239	28	13	5
<b>2020</b>	<b>1047</b>	88	774	233	22	14	4
<b>2021</b>	<b>1128</b>	139	853	232	22	17	4
<b>2022</b>	<b>1172</b>	217	895	237	23	13	4
<b>2023**</b>	<b>1059</b>		795	217	29	14	4

\*\* Current year figures are to end of August only.

