

Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain

CENTRAL SCOTLAND BRANCH – SC25282 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1ST NOVEMBER 2015

Lunch was provided by members of the Committee. Our thanks to them

Prior to the Meeting Kate Armstrong introduced David F Wilson, Landscape Artist who gave a very interesting talk and slide show of his work throughout the country using many different types of stone and artistic walling. A very talented artist.

A.G.M.

PRESENT: CHAIR Kate Armstrong + 13 members attended; also past members Joyce Anderson, Graeme Millar and Ros Irving

APOLOGIES: 10 branch members and Richard Love

1. MATTERS ARISING - Minutes 2014 – Minutes approved by Jim Grant and seconded by Sue Moody
2. CHAIR'S REPORT - Kate thanked all on Committee for their help during the year and reported that we would be losing Syd and Irena Mitchell from the branch as they had now relocated to Macduff.
Mentioning Syd, she highlighted the many events and posts held with the branch and DSWA over the past 22 years and wished him well for the future.

Syd was then presented with a bottle of whisky and a Quaich from the members with many thanks. Syd then thanked everyone present and reflected on his time with the branch. He said he had held every post on the committee except that of treasurer.

Publicity - Kate reported that we had very good publicity in local press and the Scots Magazine following our event at the Dundee Women's Festival and hoped that this would be continued in 2016 with Jim Grant and Norman Haddow instructing.

Most trainees on courses find these through the website. DSWA is hoping to set up a website for each branch, linked to the National one.

Possible joint project with West of Scotland Branch at Inverary which would be over two days.

It is the 100th anniversary of Erskine Hospital and it is hoped to build a garden at the Gardening Scotland Event which would then be rebuilt at Erskine Hospital gardens.

Craftsman Scheme – advised by DSWA that removing and stripping out at Level 2 (Intermediate) before a build may no longer be required.

Kate reported that finance was not in great shape this year; it was in deficit for the year but further discussion would take place after the Treasurer's Report.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

15 successful events were held, including Dundee Women's Festival which produced excellent publicity with an article in the Scots Magazine. 3 new members resulted. For various reasons, we had 5 cancelled events which were covered elsewhere in the programme.

The Game Fair was not attended this year.

Training Courses – 6 courses were held this year: Cambo 1 & 2; Slade Farm; Blackruthven; Abernethy; Stonehaven

Total number of trainees attending was 39.

Membership stands at 70 which includes 6 new members this year

Attendance – 21 members attended events this year

Stock in Hand – Secretary holds a stock of hammers, books, etc. Total value £519.50

Thanks to all who attended events, to all our instructors/supervisors for maintaining our high standard of work and to Kate for dealing with all HQ matters.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Irena distributed accounts and talked us through the expenditure. She explained that all members subscriptions go to DSWA Headquarters.

We are also required to pay a £5 levy to DSWA HQ for each trainee who attends a Training Course.

Irena explained that the majority of the expense over the past year was taken up by our donation to DSWA HQ, the Gazette, the cost of instructor/ supervisory fees and travelling expenses.

Training Fees – this branch decided at a previous meeting that Instructors/Supervisors should be paid per day when attending events. We are one of the few branches who do this, many rely on volunteers.

As previously mentioned in the Secretary's Report, 5 events were cancelled and this also had a detrimental effect on funds as donations would probably have been received.

Irena had enjoyed her year as Treasurer and announced that she would be standing down from the post.

Branch bank balance at this date is £3398.34

Discussion followed. It was agreed that we cannot continue with a deficit. Sue Moody enquired re the donation to DSWA of £ 500 during the year - this had been agreed by members on the figures of the previous year. We would not be making a donation to DSWA this year.

There followed discussion on the amount of Instructor/Supervisory fees and travelling expenses paid and it was suggested by Jim Grant that the Management Committee should set the rate for these fees. This was agreed by members present.

The cost of the Gazette was discussed and the members present felt that a hard copy was of benefit to the Branch as it kept those members, who could not attend, in touch with events throughout the year. Ann Gammack then spoke about the proposed publication for this coming year with a view to reducing costs. It was proposed that a single sheet newsletter would be sent out by post and e mail along with the Programme of Events for the coming year at the beginning of 2016. Thereafter in May/June a full Gazette would be posted out and again in September another Gazette would be sent out.

In discussion, it was indicated clearly that instructors on a training course cannot safely supervise practising members. John Dobson suggested that on members' projects where the stone was relatively easy such as Cambo and Blackruthven, formal supervision was optional.

Peter Thomson pointed out that in a good year (i.e. one with no donation-earning events cancelled) there would be less cause for concern.

Adoption of accounts: proposed by Stewart Hutt, seconded by Jim Grant

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE – Syd and Irena Mitchell are resigning from Committee and members were asked for volunteers to help. Trish Waite was co-opted on to Committee to assist as Membership Secretary.

The other members of Committee were prepared to continue and this was proposed by Ron McGill and seconded by Trish Waite.

6. Presentation of Trophies

John Richardson Trophy (most improved) – was presented to Malcolm Collins (not present)

The Loyalty Trophy (member attending most events) was presented to John Dobson

The Meeting closed at 3.50 with Kate thanking members for attending.