



DRY STONE WALLING

ASSOCIATION
OF GREAT
BRITAIN

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Heritage Lottery Fund Success for the Dry Stone Walling Association (UK-wide reach) – £183,800

Eight people will train as dry stone wallers to address an ongoing skills shortage. Trainees with no previous experience will be targeted including ex-servicemen and ex-offenders.

Following the success of the Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA) Training Bursary Project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, in the North West, we are thrilled that our application to Skills for The Future for a UK wide training project has been successful. This means that we now enter a six month development phase to prepare the project which will deliver 8 training bursary places for young people throughout the UK. The project will launch the trainees on a career as professional dry stone wallers, as there is an acute shortage of qualified wallers. This is wonderful news as it will give aspiring young people who have no previous experience of dry stone walling, the prospect of a new career in this traditional craft.



We will be particularly looking to offer ex servicemen and ex offenders, together with people from minority cultures from all over the UK the opportunity for full time training with a professional dry stone waller, together with additional formal training to prepare them for a career in dry stone walling.

Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), said:

“There is no quick fix to this problem. The heritage sector has been slow in widening the profile of its work force and as a consequence is on a long-term learning curve. “We wanted to build on the legacy of our existing targeted skills funding – £47m to date – and make a further financial commitment of just over £10m. Why? Because we know the *Skills for the Future* programme can drive successful and lasting change. It’s simple yet highly effective: trainees paired with experts gain access to knowledge plus practical, paid, on-the-job experience.”

More information on the heritage craft of dry stone walling and the work of the Dry Stone Walling Association is available from **Linda Clarkson, DSWA Training & Education Coordinator**, Tel: 015395 67953 / 07989 848167 Email: training@dswa.org.uk