

Off The Wall

When we were first approached by Jeremy Huntingford with the question "Is there any chance of getting involved in the restoration of a section of dry stone wall in the Wild Garden?" our first reaction was "Why bother".

Back to the Wall

The reason for this response is based on the fact that there are over six million metres of dry stone walls in the 790 square miles that is the Cotswolds. Much of this is in poor condition and it is a fact that rebuilding one section will not make much difference to the total that needs restoration.

However in Shipton-under-Wychwood there have been several walling projects over the last five years and many metres have been rebuilt to the point that it is becoming noticeable. One of the key benefits of these activities has been the gradual acquisition of the necessary skills, by a team of volunteers that have the interest and commitment needed to make this sort of project possible. For this reason we said "Yes" to Jeremy and we are now well on our way to achieving a result. We are working on a 24 metre section between the Avenue of the Wild Garden and the Cricket ground and the importance of having a good team

of volunteers is best explained by the amount of stone involved.

Thirty Tons of Stone

Ignoring the clearance of the site which involves handling the stone once, there is



the construction where the skill is combined with the quantity. The section being worked on will involve 30 tons of stone which is an enormous amount. However there are 17 active volunteers working every Tuesday morning over approximately three months. So if we handle a couple of tons each during this time it does not

seem so daunting. As our skills improve we are achieving better results and we are working faster, alongside which we enjoy the challenge and the team-work. We also leave something behind that has the potential to last between one and two hundred years.

Come and Admire our Efforts

So, if in the summer you are watching one of the cricket matches, you might walk over and have a look at our work.

If not, we have already been approached with another project elsewhere in the village, so perhaps you will see us working on that.

The Walling Team