

Hi folks,

I have just realized it is some time since I sent out an update (I think the last one was April). So, as the weather is a bit grim I thought I'd catch up today.

Since the last update we have run 2 courses – 12 trainees at Spyway, we went and finished that section of wall a couple of weeks later; 10 trainees at Goulds Hill in July. Pete Curtis has done his instructor's course and he led the training at Goulds Hill under the watchful eye of Shaun. The requirements for becoming an instructor have changed now so that he has to teach 3 assessed courses (rather than 2 previously). Kari came over from Finland as he wants to build a wall around his property although I suspect from how he described it that he might have profited from experience with the granite boulders you get in Scotland. He stocked up on lots of books and leaflets so I hope he didn't go over his weight limit for the flight back. Giacomo is Italian but currently working in Eastbourne so Goulds Hill was a rather international affair. From each course we have gained a new member and several more have expressed interest.

At the end of June we returned to one of our most picturesque sites at Waddon. We have re-built the top corner, up by the stile. There was a huge stone there that was lying on the wrong side so we dug out a hole below it, took a deep breath and pulled out the post that was all that was holding it in place and it plopped down into place. We then built the cheek-end over it. There was also a very tricky stone on the corner – it was bed-rock but sloping out in both planes. That took a bit of building round but it is stable now though perhaps not the most elegant corner.





We have another session at Waddon on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug.  
We have started the next big gap towards the bottom of the wall.



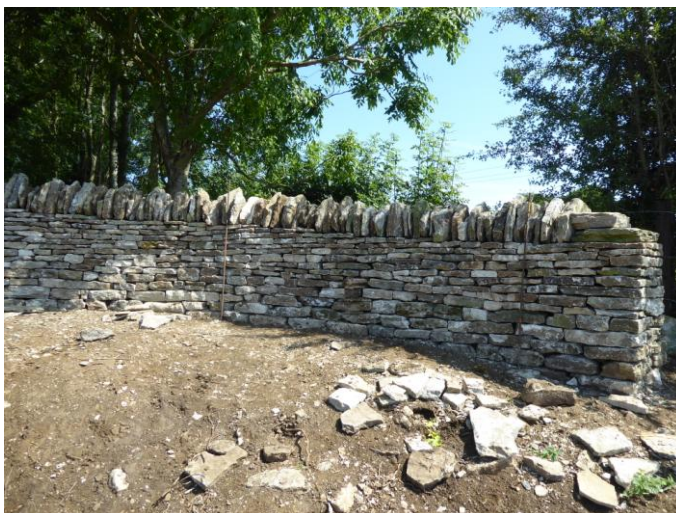
It is a challenging site and fairly constricted. We will assess how we are getting on and will send out an e-mail that evening as to whether we will be at Waddon or Goulds Hill on Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> so watch this space.

We are heading into exam season and Dave will be working with the candidates on a practice session and a mock exam before the real thing on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. We wish them all luck.

Meanwhile I have decided to try and gain level 3 and have been working all the hours I can to complete a curved wall – at Joe foot’s farm (farmer who owns Goulds Hill). It was a lovely site to work on, particularly as I was there during the heatwave and it is in the shade until about 2.30. It was a bit difficult getting the stone – it had all been bulldozed into a big pile with soil, cow muck and grass all mixed in. I had to dig it out and barrow it across to the wall and up on to the bank. I have finished it now and am quite pleased with the result.



The bank was also on a bit of a slope so I had to build horizontal courses and the cheek-end under cope height was about 40 cms lower than the other end.





I am now starting on the lunky. This has been a bit traumatic. I had identified, with Joe, a site where they wanted to put a slurry pumping pipe through to the pump. Dave, from Eucan (conservation group), had kindly strimmed it all for me but when I went up on Tuesday last week to do some preparation I discovered the hole in front of the wall and the foundations were full of slurry where it had been dripping slowly for several days!



A hole full of slurry!

By this weekend it still hadn't dried out and the farmer is too busy with harvest to be able to spare anyone to clear it out. So, I have had to move along to the standard Goulds Hill wall. They don't need a lunky there but at least the stone is available. I was there yesterday though and the tractors and trailers were hurtling up and down the track smothering me with dust every 5-10 minutes. I hope today's rain will damp it down a bit.

Also, the quarry had delivered some stone for a wall we are doing with Eucan and had been asked for some suitable for lintels. They had sent a couple of lovely stones but they weren't quite long enough to bridge the 50cms gap for the lunky. So, I have had to root around to find some lintels – one at my curved site and another I dragged along the track from where it was resting in the grass by another wall. Fingers crossed I'll get it all done by 7th Sept.