

A GATHERING OF STONES

DAVE GOULDER
AND FRIENDS



WORDS & MUSIC OF DRY STONE WALLING



DAVE GOULDER
MASTER CRAFTSMAN

A GATHERING OF STONES

DAVE GOULDER & FRIENDS
WHO ARE;

READERS:

FRANK BECHHOFFER
JEAN BECHHOFFER
IRVINE HUNT
GORDON BOK
BRIAN MILLER
MARY GOULDER
THE LATE NORMAN NICHOLSON

SINGERS:

PETE CÔE
DEREK GIFFORD
GORDON BOK
ALAN BROWN

MUSICIANS:

ALASDAIR MACRAE
ZOE RENOUF
JOHN MACDONALD
DONALD McNEILL

DRYSTONE 5

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

Contents

Section 1: Building The Wall

1. **Dave Goulder, Master Craftsman** (Sinclair) Composed by Ian Sinclair of Caithness for my 65th birthday. It became the theme for a dance project of the same name created by my wife, Mary. (Drystone 02) Played by the Rosehall Ceilidh Band (John MacDonald, button accordion; Zoe Renouf, fiddle; Dave Goulder, guitar and Jew's Harp.
2. **Building the Wall** (Blake) Reader: Frank Bechhofer. Poet Ian Blake lives in Wester Ross, and wrote this whilst looking out on a wall I'd built for him in 1999.
3. **Lay a Stone aside a Stone**. A traditional ode. Reader: Jean Bechhofer.
4. **The Wallers** (Hunt) Irvine Hunt reads his own poem. He lives in the North Lake District, and has produced several books on old Lakeland life and work.
5. **Stone Winter** (Walker) Reader: Dave Goulder. Pete Walker of Todmorden is a DSWA Master Craftsman.
6. **Stone on Stone** (Goulder) The craft of walling has no steady rhythmic movement to stimulate the song maker, so it would be unreasonable to expect a song on this subject to have any bounce in it. This is it! Singer: Dave Goulder, voice and Spanish guitar, from 'Stone, Steam & Starlings', courtesy of Harbourn Records, HARB 017.
7. **The Dry Stone Dyke** (Murray) Reader: Brian Miller. James Murray (1903-1971). Forester and poet. Contributed by his daughter.
8. **The Waller** (for Billy Kelby) (Inglis) Reader: Jean Bechhofer. Jim Inglis of Dingwall, Ross-shire, wrote this for his pal, Billy, who did his early training with me; now he's an old pro.
9. **Strathovkel** (Goulder) Reader: Dave Goulder. Written after one of those days when you wonder why on earth you chose this profession.
10. **The 1914 Dyke** (McMurray) Reader: Brian Miller. David McMurray's moving poem written in 1992. The brothers work and chat as they build a dyke in Galloway, but the poem changes scene in verse eight. Suddenly they are in the trenches, and yards gained have an entirely different meaning.
11. **The Walling Song** (Scowcroft/Gifford) Keith Scowcroft wrote this poem in 1987 and it was set to music by his friend, and mine, Derek Gifford. Recording taken from the CD, 'When All Men Sing' by Derek Gifford. Cock Robin Music, CRMCD 206.

Section 2: Living With Walls

12. **Wall** (Nicholson) Norman Nicholson (1914-1987) was born in Millom in the Lake District and it was his home region that influenced his writing throughout his life. I am indebted to the Hunt family for their permission to use this vintage recording of the poet himself.
13. **Sun on Stone** (Goodenough) Reader: Gordon Bok. Judy Goodenough (1942-1990) was a much admired New England poet, with several books to her name, who also provided lyrics to help create some fine songs.
14. **Dry Stone Wall** (Abbott) Reader: Frank Bechhofer. Dickon Abbott (1962-2004) was another poet residing in the Lake District. Originally from Sussex, he moved to Ulverston where he worked as a social work supervisor for people with learning difficulties. He has one published book, 'The Mark We Make'. Thanks to Haze! Dole for permission to use it.
15. **None So Steady** (Coe) Pete Coe, singer, writer, dancer, multi-instrumentalist, offered this song in response to my appeal for 'dry stone' songs. It is taken from his CD 'Long Company' on Backshift BASHCD45.
16. **Walls of Mourne** (Peirce) Reader: Mary Goulder. Belfast born Maggie Peirce has lived in the USA since 1964. She is a well-known poet, singer and storyteller on the American music circuit.
17. **Summit Ridge of Sulven** (Goulder) Reader: Dave Goulder. I ran a hostel and climbing centre in Torrion in the '60s and '70s. Even now, climbers unearth me from my home in Sutherland saying, "We've just been up Sulven. Do you know what we found at the top?"
18. **Stone** (MacLean) Reader: Brian Miller. In my work as a dry stone instructor I visited Ardnamurchan frequently. Alasdair MacLean (1926-1994) was brought up there and this word picture always takes me back.

19. **Wall** (Winskill) Reader: Frank Bechhofer. Heather Winskill wrote this in 1987 and gave it to me sometime in the 25 years I've been collecting 'stone' poetry and song.
20. **These Dry Stone Walls** (Goulder) Singer: Gordon Bok. Lamenting the dearth of stone walling songs I wrote this one for me to perform at gigs and festivals etc, thus giving me the opportunity to bore the audiences with a long preamble on the life and times of a professional dyker.
21. **The Kingswells Consumption Dyke** (Anon) Reader: Irvine Hunt. A consumption dyke is a wall designed to 'consume' the tons of loose stones picked from the fields after ploughing and harrowing. This piece can be found in the book, 'Dry Stone Walling' by F. Rainsford-Hannay, published by the DSWA.
22. **Wall** (Shakespeare) Readers: Frank & Jean Bechhofer. From 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', act 5 scene 1, by the Man Himself. A troupe of village players re-enact the drama of Pyramus and Thisby. One of the actors, 'Snout by name' plays the part of the wall, through which the lovers plight their troth (whatever that may mean).
23. Verse: **Humpty Dumpty** (Trad) Reader: Dave Goulder. Well, he fell off a wall....
24. Tune: **Humpty Dumpty** (or Off She Goes) Jew's harp: Dave Goulder.
25. **The Dyke at Croick** (Goulder) Reader: Mary Goulder. Croick church, near Ardgay Sutherland, became the refuge of the crofters who were forcibly cleared from the glens by the landowners of the time (1845). They left their records scratched into the windows of the church. They are still there. For a few years I was the official re-builder of the church wall.
26. **The Seamstress and The Dyker** (Brown) Singer: Alan Brown. Alan won the Scottish Folk Directory competition with this song. Taken from his CD.

Section 3: Broken and Remade

27. **The Old Waller** (North) Reader: Dave Goulder. I don't know where Gordon Allen North met his 'Old Waller' but the character bears no resemblance to me (apart from the hat).
28. **Whaur Hae A' The Dykers Gane** (Caims) Reader: Brian Miller. Robert Caims (1887-1949), (great name for a stone worker) was born in Lamancha, south of Edinburgh, from a long line of dykers. In later years his health deteriorated, probably due to his wounds and gassing in the Great War, so he devoted some time to writing a small book, 'Dry Stone Dyking' is published by the Biggar Museum Trust. Highly recommended.
29. **Mending Wall** (Frost) Robert Frost (1874-1963) was a respected New England poet who spent three years of his life in rural Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire. 'Mending Wall' was conceived there and is read by another highly respected New Englander, singer and storyteller Gordon Bok.
30. **Pictish Broch** (Stephen) Reader: Mary Goulder. Stormoway poet Ian Stephen has been a pal for many years - since we shared a floor and a half bottle in a Wick curtain factory during one of the early festivals there.
31. **The Resurrection** (Robb) Reader: Jean Bechhofer. Written in 1987 by William Robb, a great supporter of the DSWA; sadly he died in 1996.
32. **Dancers** (Goulder) Reader: Dave Goulder. All over Europe there are legends of sabbath dancers turned to stone. Here the poor fiddler doesn't escape either.
33. **Stone Dance....** Alasdair Macrae (fiddle)
34. **Dave the Dyker (Just for Fun/Dave the Dyker** (McNeill) Composed by Donald McNeill of Caithness for my 70th birthday, and played here by him, and him, and him.
35. **Epilogue** (Goulder) Just that.

For any further information on any of the contents, please contact me.
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