

Dave Hannaford

Cutting granite using the feather and tare process.

[sound effects of drilling granite]

What are you doing here Dave?

Well I've selected a piece of granite and I'm going to split it out and make two gate posts, I'm going to use feathers and tares and split the stone and hopefully he'll come out in two pieces.

Can you explain to me what feathers and tares are?

The feathers and tares are like metal wedges if you like, there's two pieces of soft metal each side, and we call that the feathers, and the tare, like the chisel, is hardened steel, that's driven down between the two to force the granite apart. Each hole is drilled in the granite somewhere about six inches apart, about three inches deep and the feathers and tares are put in the holes and they're knocked down tight to start with and then the idea is to drive them home so they start to sing, alright, and as they get tight they should all end up in the same note, and then once the tension's been taken they'll start to sing; you hit each one with a lump hammer and keep the same note until he actually goes 'thud' and if one goes 'thud' just follow through the rest of them and your stone's actually split, ok, so I'm just about to drive these feathers and tares in, or the tares in.

[sound effects of hammering the tares into the granite]

The stone's started to crackle now, its just started, its just gone.

So we're getting the crack there aren't we?

That's right, he's split now, I shall have to prise him apart and see what he looks like.