

# London WRG News



Over Basin, finished at last! (Tim Lewis)

**Issue 47 October 2000**

# From The Editor

Well after three months and nine canal camps I am back at the computer again putting another issue of London WRG News together. Apologies for not editing the last edition but with a three day gap between canal camps, no dig reports (hint, hint) and not having been on any London WRG digs myself in the previous months I was unable to put an issue together. Many thanks to Martin for stepping in at the last minute to produce the magazine and I hope that normal service will be resumed.

It has been an eventful summer, we have finally finished the basin at Over after a huge effort, a lot of which has been carried out by members of London WRG. Martin's joke at the opening about London WRG taking the wall away with us is very close to the truth! After such a hectic summer at Over, you will be glad to know that the winters digs are nowhere near Gloucester, indeed most of them are being run jointly with KESCRG! In this issue we have the details of the two Christmas parties and the booking form for the bonfire bash at Droitwich next month and also dig reports from the last two London WRG digs.

**Ed Walker**

## **London WRG / KESCRG Christmas Party**

If we weren't doing enough joint digs with KESCRG we also have the traditional Christmas Party on the Wilts & Berks Canal on the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2000. The work is scrub bashing / root pulling around Foxham and Dauntsey. The weekend will include the usual Christmas dinner, London WRG bar and the fancy dress side of the party will have a gypsy theme. To book send a cheque for £12 made payable to KESCRG to Maureen and Brian Amos at 13 Trosley Avenue, Gravesend, Kent. DA11 7QN.

## **New Social Venue**

After extensive research recently, we have made a unanimous decision to try as our next venue for LWRG Socials, the Spread Eagle on Grosvenor Road. For those used to the Mad Hatter, it may take some getting used to, as:

- a) the staff speak English;
- b) the staff are friendly;
- c) you don't have to queue for 10 minutes to be served;
- d) change comes in units bigger than 10p;
- e) it doesn't show football or cater for drunk executives.

## The Spread Eagle

200 yards west of Vauxhall Bridge, on the north bank (Grosvenor Road).

By tube:

Pimlico is nearest. Take the Bessborough Street South exit from the ticket hall. At street level, turn right at the top of the flight of four stairs, heading for The Gallery PH. At the Gallery, turn left in to Aylesford Street. Follow Aylesford Street to its junction with Grosvenor Road. Turn left at the T-junction, and the pub is on the left after 100 yards.

From Vauxhall BR / Tube. Cross Vauxhall Bridge. On reaching the north bank, take the Thames Path West. Follow this past a set of offices, and when it turns sharp right to join Grosvenor Road, the pub is opposite.

By bus:

The 24 and C10 passes near to Pimlico Station. Loads of buses run along Vauxhall Bridge Road.

Parking:

After 6.30pm in surrounding streets.

Food:

The imaginatively named "Top Curry Restaurant" or any of the others around Pimlico Tube.

Happy drinking. Hic.

**Marcus Jones**

## **Basingstoke Canal, London WRG/ KESCRG Joint Dig: 9-10<sup>th</sup> September 2000**

Meeting up in the Bleak House pub on Friday night it was obvious that it was going to be a large dig, with twelve Londoners and an equivalent number of KESCRG'ites. The work was to be doing the final landscaping and fence replacement on lock three of the Woodham flight after the two canal camps had repaired the bywash pipe and to determine the cause of a leak on the lock ten bywash.

Saturday morning arrived and the work was split approximately along group lines with KESCRG drawing the landscaping while London took on the task of finding the leak at lock ten. Not actually being on site on the Saturday I can't report exactly on what went on but a leak on the upper wing wall was found and fixed by digging out the washed out ground and puddling clay into the resulting hole. Digging round the bywash inspection chamber also showed up a major leak which was to be Sunday's main task.

Saturday's evening meal proved to be one of Maureen's brilliant roasts and on retiring to the Bleak House we found that as the landlord was leaving the next day he had secured an extended license for the evening, this was well received by all concerned and we proceeded to wipe out all the real ale in the bar!

Sunday proved to be more of the same work as Saturday, on draining the pound above lock ten it was found that a large hole at the base of the wing wall was probably the cause of the leak and probing with a wrecking bar behind the wall showed that a five foot hole would be needed before puddling could be started. So while the hole in the wing wall was clayed up by Clive, the rest of the motley team took shifts at digging out the hole and getting the clay we would need to seal it up again. The afternoon was spent puddling and filling in the test holes left over from Saturday, once we had finished it was hard to see that a weekends work had been done on site, typical! Seriously though it looked as if the work had

# **Working Party Reports**

stopped the leak, as there was no sign of water upon refilling the pound.

Comment from the dig, overheard from the puddling team "Can we have a small hippo as a pet, it would be ideal for this job"

**Ed Walker**



Our very own Martin Ludgate receiving the IWA Richard Bird medal from Richard Drake at the Over opening (Tim Lewis).

# Working Party Reports

## Wey & Arun Canal: 7-8<sup>th</sup> October 2000.

(Editors note: Written by Marcus at the last social, amazing what offering a few chips will do!)

Our third attempt of the year at a dig on the Wey & Arun finally came off... sort of! Martin started the weekend in style, with a record late departure from Waterloo – even phoning to say he was going to be late. A “quick” trip down to Aileen’s in Kent, meant Rick had plenty of time to buy burgers while waiting to be collected at Guildford. Arrival at the Foresters was at a nerve-racking 10.59, only just behind Dave “Break-down” Miller.

After a very poncy breakfast, including congealed fried blood, cooked by the W&A campreunionites whom we were sharing accommodation with, we set off for the first trip round the countryside to Tickners. Having picked up the land rover and trailer, we set off in heavy rain for Rowner lock. The farmer decided the field was too soggy to allow us to drive to site, so Martin got to display his reversing for the first of several occasions during the weekend.

Our hopes for 11 o’clock on site became noon, but walking across fields we managed to gain a volunteer, Bob, who had spent the morning trying to find us!

With the rain continuing, we were unable to do the pointing, painting of the bollards or racking of the submerged stop-planks. Instead, we had a game of Kerplunk on a huge scale, demolishing the sides of the old shed while leaving the roof to

provide shelter. After lunch we went to collect a work flat from Drungewick with the land rover, as it was going to be the only way of removing materials from that site. We launched the boat at Newbridge and then set off for Rowner, clearing all the fallen trees on the way, using some interesting underwater sawing techniques. Very soggy and smelling of duckweed, we retired to the Foresters.

Sunday actually turned out to be dry and sunny, so we did a spot of boating, it being Bring-a-Boat weekend albeit on a different canal. We finally removed the roof from the shed and burnt it. More scrub and scrap clearance filled the day, with Martin boating everything off to Tickners.

Leaving site was inevitably complicated, first boating everything back to Newbridge, then recovering the boat and dropping it off at Drungewick, dropping the land rover off at Tickners, dropping the keys to the hall off at an unknown house in Kirdford, collecting the trainers Martin had dropped off by mistake at Tickners, dropping Rick off at Guildford and dropping everyone else off at Waterloo very late. All in all, a bit off a drop off! Not really! Very productive, considering the weather and that it was the Wey & Arun!

**Marcus Jones**

Several London WRGies and their KESCRG friends are likely to be going on the Canal Camp on the Basingstoke Canal over Christmas and New Year. If you fancy joining them for part or all of the festive season, contact Clive Alderman on 07973-877380 for details and to see if there is any space left on the camp.

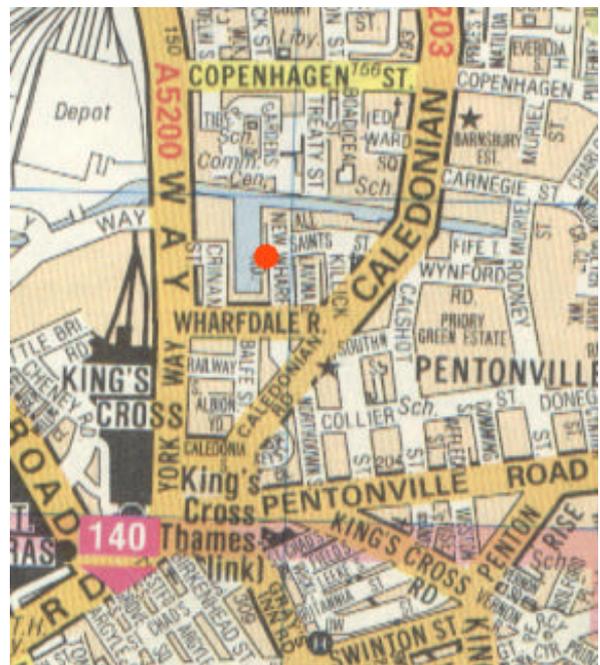
# London WRG Christmas Party



As this is quite likely to be the last London WRG News of the year I have to mention the dreaded “C” word... Again. Yep, the London WRG Christmas party is almost on us again. This year we have decided to hold party at the London Canal Museum and it will be on the evening of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, starting at about 7.30pm. All the usual events will happen like the London WRG awards ceremony (Who’s going to get the “beard” award this year?), a slide show, good food, lots of beer and a raffle. All this and much, much more! It should be a brilliant night so add the date to your diaries now!

Please inform either Martin or Lesley (contact details on page 6) if you are intending to turn up so that the amount of food required can be catered for. The cost of the evening will be a measly £6.00 (money collected on the night) to cover the delicious buffet, this does not include drink so please bring your own (or contact Martin if you are interested in a share of a polypin). Anyone interested in helping with the catering please contact Lesley.

The London Canal Museum is situated on New Wharf Road, just to the Northeast of King’s Cross Station (the spot marks the museum):



# London WRG Dates List

For up to date information check the London WRG web pages:

[www.danevans.co.uk/lwrg](http://www.danevans.co.uk/lwrg)

**Working Parties:** Transport available Friday evening in the London WRG minibus; meet by the post box outside Costa Coffee at Waterloo station; normally at 19:00 but may be earlier or later depending on distance. Contact Tim, Martin or Lesley for details.

Date	Location	Organiser
4-5/11/00	Droitwich Canal – Bonfire “do” with KESCRG	Eddie Jones
2-3/12/00	Xmas Party Dig with KESCRG, Wilts & Berks.	-
20-21/1/01	Dig Deep on the Basingstoke Canal	TBA
10-11/2/01	Dig Deep on the Wilts & Berks Canal	TBA
3-4/3/01	Dig Deep on the Thames & Severn Canal	TBA
24-25/3/01	Cleanup Weekend, (provisional date)	-
22-23/4/01	Dig Deep on the Basingstoke Canal	TBA

**Note:** Digs marked “Dig Deep” are on projects where work is being co-ordinated under the Dig Deep Initiative, a scheme involving ourselves and three other mobile groups (NWPG, KESCRG and WRG BITM).

**Social Gatherings:** Wednesday night, normally 10 days before each dig i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> October, 22<sup>nd</sup> November etc. at the **Spread Eagle** pub (note new venue) 200 yards west of Vauxhall Bridge, on the north bank (Grosvenor Road), from about 19.30 till 23.00.

## Other Events:

13/12/00	London WRG Christmas party, London Canal Museum.
12-18/2/01	Possible extra Mont weekend (TBC).
Mid 2/01	LWRG AGM, more details next time.

## Who to contact:

London WRG Co-ordinator: Tim Lewis, 6, Downs Road, Enfield EN1 1PA.

Phone: 020-83676227

E-mail: [wrgtim@netscapeonline.co.uk](mailto:wrgtim@netscapeonline.co.uk)

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# Droitwich Bonfire Bash

**4-5<sup>th</sup> November 2000**

**What?** A weekend working party spent restoring the Droitwich Canal, meeting up with a crowd of canal volunteers and celebrating Guy Fawkes' night in the traditional manner. It's being run by London WRG and KESCRG - they're the groups that most of the leaders and quite a few of the volunteers on this year's Droitwich and Basingstoke Canal Camps regularly go out 'canal digging' with.

**When?** The weekend of November 4th-5th 2000. (Meet up on the Friday evening)

**Where?** Droitwich. (No surprises there!) Working on the Droitwich Junction Canal, with bonfire and fireworks outside the Railway pub on Saturday evening. We don't have details of the accommodation yet, but everyone who books in (using the form linked below) will be sent joining instructions as soon as we have them.

**Who?** Volunteers from this summer's Canal Camps on the Droitwich Canal, Basingstoke Canal or anywhere else, regular 'old hands' from London WRG, KESCRG or any of the other regional groups, and absolutely anyone else who wants to come.

**How?** Send in the form (on back page) with your cheque.

**Why?** Because there's work to be done to finish the Droitwich Junction Canal locks. And because we enjoyed meeting some really top volunteers on this summer's camps and we'd like to see them all again. And we hope they'd like to see us again!

**waterway  
recovery  
group  
ltd**

**...in association with KESCRG**

## **DROITWICH BONFIRE BASH**

**I would like to attend the Bonfire Weekend working party on the Droitwich Canal on 4th-5th November 2000.**

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel No:

E-mail address:

Any special dietary requirements?

Do you suffer from any illness (such as epilepsy) or allergies about which we should know? **YES/NO** \* If **YES**, please give details.

Please state how you intend to travel to the weekend and if you would like /can offer a lift and where from?

In the unlikely event that you should injure yourself, whom should we contact?

Name

Phone no.

Signed (parent's signature required if aged under 18)

\* I am attending for **Saturday / Sunday / Both days** \*

\* I enclose payment of **£8** (Cheques to "KESCRG")

\* **Delete whatever is not applicable** \*

Please return this form to:

**Eddie Jones, KESCRG, Flat 2, 18 Lodge Road, Croydon CR0 2PB**

Phone: **020 8684 7741** Mobile phone: **07850 889249**

e-mail **eddie@jazzfm.com**

See <http://www.wrg.org.uk> for latest details