

# London WRG News



Gilly learning rollers (Basingstoke Canal, Tim Lewis)

**Issue 58 March 2004**

# From The Editor

Spring again, the AGM has been and gone and we are looking at the fully loaded working boat that is Canalway Cavalcade fast approaching us. (I would say juggernaut but this is a canal magazine!) If it is possible, London WRG are even more involved this year than last, not content with helping with site services, running waterspace, decorating a boat and running two stalls and the WRG information stand, we have ~~been~~ volunteered to help run the WOW (Wild Over Waterways) activities over the course of the weekend. So if anyone feels like helping out Izzy Gascoigne and Richard "Cool" Worthington with the events then turn to page 4.

Apart from Cavalcade planning this is quite a packed issue, we have the minutes of the AGM and three dig reports inside. It's good to see that we are still turning out large numbers of people for the digs; I believe there were almost 25 people on the Basingstoke dig three weeks ago! Which brings me to the WRG Barn Dance, which was supported by us as well, one WRG stalwart said to me "I don't recognise those people but they must be members of London WRG as the bar is five deep!" Seriously it was a great evening, many thanks to Bushbaby for organising the event.

I think that's about it for me for a few more months, I'd better get back to organising Cavalcade and doing my PhD.

**Ed Walker**

London WRG website:  
[www.london.wrg.org.uk](http://www.london.wrg.org.uk)

## **London WRG Curry Trip**

The traditional London WRG Cavalcade curry trip will be happening on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May, at present it is planned that we will hit the same curry house that served us so well last year, assuming it passes the site visit. There will be a tight limit on the numbers the restaurant can accommodate, so can people please contact me (contact details on page 14) if they would like to attend.

## **E-mail List**

To reiterate what was said at the London WRG AGM, please can people be **very** careful when replying to e-mails from the London WRG e-mail list, just hitting reply will cause your (possibly personal) e-mail to be sent to the 90 odd people on the list! Unless you are sure you want to send it to the list please compose an off-list message to the sender.

## **WRG Training Weekend**

Once again British Waterways Heritage Skills Centre at Hatton has provided a site for our training weekend and once again Ali Bottomley has volunteered to be the WRG leader for the weekend, which will be held on 8-9<sup>th</sup> May.

Requests for booking forms and other enquiries should go to Ali Bottomley at 53 Redgrave Close, St James's Village, Gateshead NE8 3JD.

Phone: 07719 643870

e-mail: [a.bottomley1@gateshead.org](mailto:a.bottomley1@gateshead.org)

## **WRG Driver Authorisation Scheme**

As you may have seen from "Navvies" there is a large shake up in the WRG driver authorisation scheme in progress and we all need to reapply for our authorisations. To go with this we need to submit a counter-signed copy of our driver's license, both Tim Lewis and Martin Ludgate are authorised to counter-sign these. Further details of the changes and a downloadable form can be found at:

<http://www.wrg.org.uk/driverauth.htm>

# Cavalcade Needs You!

As you may or may not know Canalway Cavalcade at Little Venice is swiftly approaching. With the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> May not that far away it is time for me to appeal for volunteers for the weekend.

As usual we will be entering the Pageant of Decorated Boats on Saturday afternoon. This year's theme is **Steaming Ahead** so get your thinking caps on.

In addition to the usual fabulous Canals Tombola that London WRG run we are also running the popular "Splat-the-wrgie" game again. As last year we will be splitting the profits between London WRG and the WRG "Right Tool for the Right Job Appeal", lets see if we can beat last years £850 total!

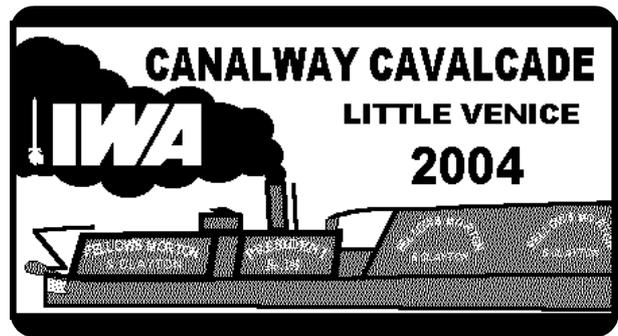
More details are on the website <http://www.wrg.org.uk/appeal.htm>

The stall will be pretty similar to last years with the two games and lots of information and leaflets so we can persuade the public into donating. We will be running both stalls on the Sunday and Monday of the weekend and at least the Canals Tombola on the Saturday, subject to finding volunteers to run it!

So I am therefore looking for volunteers for the following.

- Saturday from about 9am to help decorate our boat
- Saturday, Sunday and Monday to help man (or woman) both of the stalls.

All volunteers for any or all of this time are extremely welcome. I would be very grateful if you can either drop me an email or give me a ring to let me know what time you can offer to these fabulous causes, so I can ensure a tea and biscuits supply!



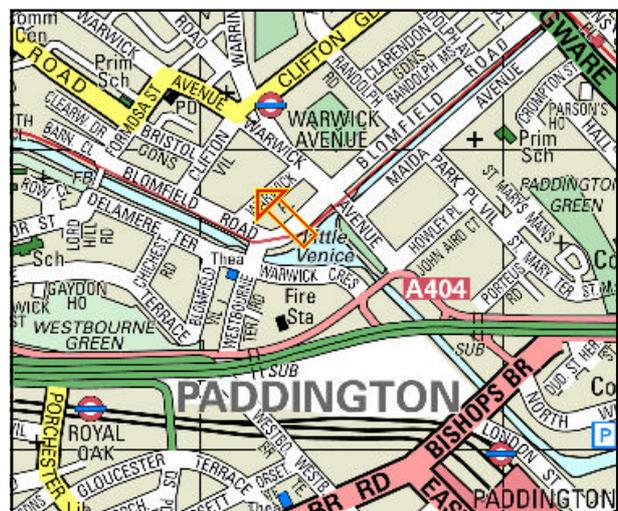
Additionally we have TWO **extra socials** to plan our boat entry, these will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, in the Star Tavern, Belgrave Mews West and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, in the Warwick Castle Pub on Warwick Place (map below), both starting at 19.30. Finally there will also be the usual London WRG curry house trip on the Saturday night, contact Ed Walker to book your (very limited) place.

I look forward to the offers flooding in! Also any suggestions or questions let me know.

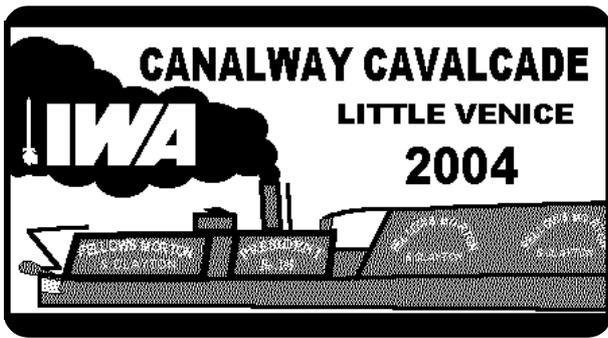
Thanks

Sal

[sallynutt@hotmail.com](mailto:sallynutt@hotmail.com)  
07764 902863



Warwick Castle pub and Little Venice



## WOW needs YOU!

Yes, this is a begging message! While Kirsten is on maternity leave, I am the WOW events co-ordinator and I need your help. I am looking for volunteers to help out with WOW kids' activities at Canalway Cavalcade and would love it if some of you could give me a couple of hours of your time during the weekend.

You don't have to commit to the whole weekend, or even a full morning or afternoon (although I certainly won't turn down anyone that wants to!), and I promise not to make you staple things constantly for several hours at once. There's a variety of things to do – including non-arty activities - and if you'd rather not actually do an activity I could also do with a hand just making sure things are running smoothly and that everyone's got enough squash, glitter etc!

If you would like to help out, I'd really really appreciate it and you never know, you might actually enjoy it! We can even reimburse expenses, so you won't be out of pocket. Please let me know if you can come along – my contact details are

**Izzy Gascoigne**

Email –

*isabelle.gascoigne@britishwaterways.co.uk*

Phone – 01606 723829

Mobile – 07919 332295

## The Right Hog for the Right Roast

Hog Roast in aid of The Right Tool for the Right Job

Vegetarian Barbeque

Real Ale Cash Bar

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2004

Aiming to eat between 4 & 8 pm (very ish) but turn up any time from midday.

To be held at:

10 Reading Road, Woodley, Reading  
RG5 3DB

Open house from Friday pm at:

33 Bulmershe Road, Reading RG1 5RH

Tickets £7.50 “and it's all for charity, nice” (well the appeal anyway)

For tickets or directions contact:

Nic Bennett 0118 926 7266 / 07977 397 841  
*njb@ntlworld.com*

Or send an SAE to:

WRG Hog Roast, Dr & Mr Williamson, 79 Oakley Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4HR

If there is enough interest a minibus may be run from London - Ed.

## Wilts & Berks Canal, Pewsham, 17-18<sup>th</sup> January 2004

### Friday

As usual I had to catch a train at 6:15, and at 6:00 I was still packing. A final scrabble for stuff and I was off to Waterloo. A standard bus journey down: surreal conversations (gophers? Natalie?), and lots of radio station searching for tracks to sing along to and then argue about the artist and title (Don't go by Yazoo I think)

Once there we set out on a search for a pub for our type of people- fill in your own punch line here- and succeeded by getting Andi to interrogate a group of locals. We soon found the pub we had been directed to and it had the added bonus of a video wall showing a music channel, not only was there the chance for some of us to embarrass ourselves with our knowledge of early nineties music but you could sent text messages to the station on the off chance that they would show them. I don't know if any of our messages appeared but we did start rather near to the point we left.

### Saturday

As has become tradition for this site we started the day with a lovely stroll from where we parked all the way to where we were working carrying the tools, it's probably character building but I still think it's a long way. The area we were working on had previously had contractors in to build a cycle path and they had left a load of trees lying in the canal bed along with some that may have been blown down previously.

Within minutes of Bob getting on site we had a fire going and the addition of nice dry wood turned it into a large fire followed quickly by a raging inferno.

I managed to continue my tradition of injuring myself on this site by slashing open my fingers on a large bramble bush, luckily Dr. Moose was on call to administer plasters and threats.

The first fire spawned several others but also managed to continue in its attempts to be seen from space, all the trees around it were starting to smoulder and it was toasty anywhere within about twenty feet.

# Working Party Reports

Lunch was declared so we trekked back to the locks for the usual chat and photos. Moose outlined some of his plans for the National and the idea of a large map board for planning attacks and ambushes was met with approval.

After lunch it was decided that we really had to cut down some of the large vertical branches from the fallen trees that were starting to burn, something about us cutting them down being more controlled, well that was the theory. The combination of very tall leaning branches and only being able to saw for a few seconds before becoming too hot mad for slow going at the start along with some interesting balancing acts provided entertainment for the rest of us. Soon the area was ringing to the sound of people shouting Timber; occasionally early enough to be of some warning, and even more fuel went on the fire.



OK, this one next? (Tim Lewis)

# Working Party Reports

Many bonus points were given to Claire over the course of the day in recognition of her blondeness, far outdoing the pervious holder of the title, Natalie.

Back to hall to clean up and relax before food and pub, Natalie shocks us even more with the suggestion that she wouldn't be going out unless she finished her homework first; this is probably grounds for her becoming brunette.

Tea courtesy of Maria and a crumble that was something to do with Andi, enough crumble that there would be plenty for snacking later. We headed back to the pub from the previous night, more up to date music on the video wall, not necessarily to everyone's taste but those who could remember when music had proper word were quite content to watch the scantily clad dancers who populate most modern videos.

## Sunday

Sunday morning's brought stunning weather, sunny and crisp, perfect for more destruction and work continued in the same sort of way as normal up until an earlier than usual lunch to enable some people to leave at a better time for them.

After eating some kind of unspoken agreement seemed to lead to previously unseen levels of work as we all descended on one area and turned it into tiny burning pieces. In an effort to reduce wear and tear on tools Ed resorted to pushing entire trees over with his bare hands while those around him also managed to give the clichéd 110%.

In order to get back to London at a reasonable time we packed up earlier and went back to the hall for the usual ritual of packing and tidying.

We all sorted ourselves into our various forms of transport and set off for our respective homes secure in the knowledge that we had done a good weekends work.

All the usual cheering and thanks to Moose for being in charge very successfully without resorting to homicide, and to Maria for feeding us all. Also thanks to Bob's blowtorch as firelighting would be so dull without it.

**Richard "Cool" Worthington**



The latest London WRG kit purchase, an industrial bottle opener! (Aileen Butler)

## Hereford & Gloucestershire Canal, 7-8th February 2004

Our weekend started at the toasty Yarkhill Village Hall complete with wood stove, which was enough to keep the pyros among us busy all evening. As the nearest pub was a bit of a trek away in an unknown direction, the Lwrgies had the perfect excuse to bring more beer than usual. How do you do it guys? You must be substituting clothes or something!

The added appeal of the accommodation was the ‘two-door’ challenge. It is a law of the universe that if two doors are hung next to each other, wrgies will try to fit in the gap between them. The loud ‘crack’ and scream ‘Ow my ribs’ did not deter the next challenger. And I am sure that the lack of success on the part of everyone will not stop us trying again next time. . .

What with the stove and the food and the beer during the evening, we were all soon melting and I know that by the next morning I was looking forward to some fresh air. And fresh it was. In fact it was *very* fresh, at least, outside in the car park it was; the site was a different matter. By the time we got there, nobody was using the word ‘fresh’ anymore (more like fookin’ freezin’) as we scrambled to put on every item of clothing we had brought to try and keep out the bitter wind. It was really windy, and pretty unrelenting at that. On the plus side, it gave lots of opportunity for puerile ‘wind’ related jokes such as “Ooh err, isn’t it windy”, “Oops sorry, rather too much Butcombe Gold last night” – you get the idea. . .

The actual canal did not feature very highly over the weekend as the work was concentrated in the adjoining field. There had been concerns that the field might be too flooded to work in, but apart from a few puddles there was nothing to worry about. . . so we set to work building a compound for use by the local canal group. As I understood it, the fencing and hardcore for the compound was funded by the local council, with the agreement that the local canal group would find volunteers to put it all together. The canal group could then use the compound for their own plant/tools/materials during renovation of the canal, after which the council would use it for themselves. The field will eventually house a playground/recreation area; which should hopefully increase the use and appreciation of the canal.

**London WRG News**

# Working Party Reports

Over the two days we had umpteen truckloads of hardcore delivered to the site that was shifted by Martin in the dumper (who was driving like a man on a mission). Meanwhile, Marcus in an excavator removed the topsoil between the compound and the gates to allow for a more solid drive to be made. A white geotextile was then laid (which I think looks a lot like snow in the pictures) with hardcore to top it off. Sally did the same inside the area of the compound, with Nigel dumpering the excess topsoil away.

This left the rest of us the job of putting together the giant mechano set that was to become the security fencing for the compound. The fencing was brand new, so there weren’t even any panels; just bits of metal and lots of bolts. The bolts were quite nifty (it don’t take much to impress me!) in the way the nuts tightened up and the end twisted off to make it more secure. And what with the cold wind, we were quite literally ‘freezing our nuts off’.

The nature of the fence meant that the four sides of the compound had to meet up exactly so precise measurement techniques were employed (left a bit, right a bit) and the fact that it was a semi-permanent structure also made us a bit more diligent (cue Moose and his magnetic level). The end result was something to be proud of – it’s not often that we get the chance to build something this visible. The fence didn’t exactly ‘blend in’ to the field either so it would have looked pretty naff if it had been wonky.

In between jumping up and down to keep warm, we huddled round the burco to drink tea and get out of the wind, but without much success – have you ever tried to shelter 10 people behind a burco? Claire’s personal solution to combat cold was to borrow as many clothes from as many people as possible. Her wardrobe tally at one point was: Taz’s t-shirt, Leslie’s t-shirt, James’ jeans, my fleece, my gloves and her brother’s jacket. She was a bona-fide Michelin man.

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# Working Party Reports

By Sunday afternoon, the last few loads of hardcore were being shifted into place so a group of us wandered over to the canal to inspect the work on the outfall that lwrwg completed back in April 2003. The new brickwork culvert had blended wonderfully into its surroundings – so much in fact that we walked right passed it and ended up walking the towpath twice. Having not seen it before, I was very impressed with how it looked – almost like it had been there 100 years (100 years in the good way).

All in all, a successful and enjoyable weekend. It's just left to say thanks to Tim for organising, to Sal for driving the bus on the scenic route around London, and to Moose and Maria for feeding us all.

**Liz Wilson**



“Right, where do you want it going then?” (Tim Lewis)

## Basingstoke Canal, 28-29<sup>th</sup> February 2004

With the barn dance, the pub quiz, snow and the fire brigade visit, those who were expecting big things from Dig Deep on the Basingstoke, were definitely not disappointed. Aply led by Andi Kewley - who by the way managed to recruit an unsuspecting jogger who stumbled across the WRG in progress - the weekend was a winner for all involved. But we all know the real winner was the old lady herself - the Basingstoke Canal. See below for some interesting historical facts on the old gal.

The weekend's highlights (for me) were the Friday night pub quiz with London WRG teams picking up first and second prizes. Twenty pounds went to the anoraks... I mean 'South of the River', while 'The Three Andy(i)s and a Gilly' scored a bottle of red wine. Sadly the 'Ambidextrous Twitchers' (including me) finished in the middle of the field – not really knowing who was the first James Bond or which hand to use to twitch down the answers.

The excitement continued into the night with some spontaneous rounds of explosive farting to liven things up, in between the snoring and burping (sorry all - must have been the excitement of identifying the logos of those financial institutions).

On Saturday, after a delicious breakfast, we headed to site working mainly around Lock 8 on St John's Flight, pipe laying, concrete polishing and scrub bashing. Ah yes, scrub bashing... the sound of machete on blackberry bush chiming in the delicate afternoon air, the armfuls of undergrowth feeding those hungry flames... Saturday's highlights (for me) also included discovering my real calling in life. Which is devising a universal colour co-ordinated system for crisp packets - a bit like bringing the concept of the Euro to snack foods. Where I'm from a salt and vinegar packet is purple, plain is blue and chicken is green. Over here it's like a different language. A co-ordinated system would definitely avert any more near misses with - heaven forbid - prawn cocktail! Other highlights included watching some very hard work being done indeed.

For example one team Andy, John, Richard and Sal were concrete polishing the inlet chamber for a back pump. It was then painted later on with waterproof paint to protect the concrete.

We also bashed the scrub clearing away brambles, weeds, dead trees, some blossom trees and vines. Moose and Maria's German Shepherd's Bess and Major also lent a hand with that.

Others like Nigel and Marcus dug and filled a trench with excavators (except when Marcus would stop to tell other people to do some work). Apparently over the weekend they laid four pipes in total after first clawing out a 2.5 metre crevasse below canal level. In the meantime, the road gang put gravel on the towpath and packed it down with a roller. I must say driving a roller really suited Aileen who did a grand job flattening out the gravel. Martin also supervised a few others including myself on the roller. I was pleased I managed not to roll it into the canal, and was very mindful of switching off the special compacting function when it was not in use so it did not shake itself into a hole.

And no one realised let alone mentioned they'd missed a tea break that afternoon...

Better still on Saturday night a minibus full of us went to the Dances for Tools, barn dance, while some stayed back at the ranch. At the barn we stripped the willows, slapped our thighs, upped our knees and rolled pound coins at bottles of hooch like there was no tomorrow. And who said barn dancing was not a contact sport.

Thankfully, Andi drove the minivan there and back and then was actually awake enough to make breakfast the next morning. But those eggs did look a bit scrambled to me – maybe they'd been left hand cracked, right hand cracked, both hands cracked, slap your knees. But I didn't say anything, I was just so grateful to be provided with tea after the whole 'missed tea break fiasco' the previous afternoon.

# Working Party Reports

Sunday also brought another gruelling day of shovelling gravel into the dumper for the towpath, chopping black berry bushes, pipe laying and concrete polishing. We were even treated to some snow. Then a few of us went to another site – called 'site two' where not that long ago I was told loads and loads of bracken and scrub had been bashed right down to size by WRG. There, we set to, chopping and burning saplings that threatened a fence near some large fishing ponds. I soon realised the need for the fence. One of the fishermen was very friendly towards Leslie and said he was so lucky to see us clearing the site - at least once every TEN years! Well I hope the fish are lucky enough to see him that often too. Unfortunately while there Aileen's chin was also injured by some nasty undergrowth.

Back at 'site one' for lunch, which also included tea, things were hotting up.

That afternoon while we were scrub bashing a freak ember from the bonfire must have been blown by the wind and lodged itself in the ivy high up in a dead tree beside the canal. It was only a little blaze and it kept looking as though it was about to go out, but then it would flare up, smoke a bit, then die back until the next gust. The fire brigade was called, interrupting John G's dumper training, and caused a much appreciated distraction, unfurling their hose to put out the fire with canal water. Although, I can't say the same for a few hearts.

So then once all the jobs had been done, it was time to roll out the wagon train back to London, for more snow and some much needed tea.

A fun and productive dig.

# Working Party Reports

## Some information on the Basingstoke Canal

The Basingstoke Canal links Greywell in Hampshire and Woodham in Surrey. It was built between 1787 and 1794 - at a cost of £154,463 almost twice what was estimated. It was officially re-opened in May 1991 by the Duke of Kent.

It's 32 miles and 29 locks are fully navigable and connects to the River Wey Navigation, which in turn joins the River Thames. Major engineering features are the mile-long cutting at Deepcut, the 1,000 yard long Ash Embankment, crossing the Blackwater Valley on the Surrey/ Hampshire border and Greywell Tunnel at 1,230 yards long.

Built to take agricultural produce from North East Hampshire to the London markets it proved its worth during the Napoleonic wars providing a transport alternative to coastal and Channel shipping craft when the French navy created havoc for ships in the Channel.

However, Woking did not exist before the arrival of canal in 1791 and it developed as an agricultural centre for tanning and brewing.

Further growth in the area came when the South Western Railway, opened to Woking in 1838. Residential development flourished in 1852 when the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company bought 2,000 acres of the surrounding land.

**St John's had a thriving brick industry in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and in 1878 England's oldest crematorium opened there before cremation became legal.**

However, competition from the railways in the 1840s threatened the livelihood of the canal and despite the building of Aldershot Camp in the late 1850s, in 1866 the company was bankrupt.

After that it was operated by a series of entrepreneurs, until WWI (1914-18) when it was run by the Royal Engineers and used to ferry materials and military stores to the Aldershot, Crookham and Deepcut Camps.

By the 1960s it had been so poorly maintained it was an eyesore and earmarked for development. However, campaigning residents formed the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society and for seven years fought for its restoration. If nothing else it provided a useful drainage facility. Ownership is now split 50/50 between Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council.

About 25 of Britain's 39 species of dragonflies and damselflies inhabit the canal with 92 species of aquatic plants.

## Sources

Basingstoke Canal Authority

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk/>

Rushmoor Borough Council

[http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/  
index.cfm?articleid=442](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=442)

**Jean Sims**



The pipelaying is starting to get seriously deep!  
(Tim Lewis)

## Minutes for the London WRG AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004

Present: Aileen, Allan, Andi, Andy Richardson, Andy Roberts, Bob, Ed, Gilly, Helen, Lesley, Marcus, Maria, Martin, Moose, Nigel, Sal, Suzie, Tim, Tunji.

Apologies: Bushbaby, Jean, Nat girl, Nerina.

Chair: Tim,

Minutes: Andi

### **Matters Arising:**

Baking trays 1 or 2 more needed, Moose and Maria have had difficulty buying them. Martin said a Grundy tin has been donated so no probs.

Knife roll – Sal -THANKS!!! Queries re a machete roll??

Storage boxes- trial with transparent ones / turquoise ones – not v strong, weighty when filled. Blue one – great. Hold off on buying any extra until we know about future vehicle- but if anyone comes across freebie ones like the blue one!

High vis vests – ok

1<sup>st</sup> aid kit Lesley has been monitoring – THANKS!!!

To buy new gloves

Waders – 2 sets via Moose and Marcus, no more needed.

Brick kit – Lesley to get pencil cases, brick hammer – not got not needed.

Loppers – got

Sandwich board – see AOB

### **Future Dig Dates:**

See page 13 - Ed.

### **Kit / Purchasing Actions**

Tim reports that LWRG finances are in the black.

### **Catering**

Burco -£200 decision not to purchase a new one until we have an idea of the size of the new minibus should we get it. Decision to make storage boxes for the Burco if we buy a new one to lengthen its life span. Bouncing around in the back of the van is not doing it any good.

Teapot –lost! Lesley to find

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Heritage painting tools- MKP, Martin to liaise and get them

Pointing trowels – Sal to look out for smaller ones and buy some if she sees them.

Pencil cases – Lesley to buy x3 for the brick kits

Blade protectors – (axe x2, machete x2) Sal and Lesley to liaise

Machete- Ed to buy 2

Potato peeler – Aileen to buy

### **Safety Equipment**

Goggles – Marcus to check and replace

Gloves - consideration for a bulk buy to take place as we all need them and it will be cheaper than buying them individually -Sal to look into.

First aid kit - thanks to Lesley for keeping track of items.

### **Publicity**

Congratulations to the whole of LWRG- we have recruited from friends and camps over the last year and our numbers are so good that we are able to do a sizeable amount of work on weekends, and have even agreed an extra dig this year!

One issue may be having too many people for sites, and weekend organizers need to be aware of this when discussing work with local societies. General consensus that LWRG do not want to limit numbers on digs so we need to make sure we get enough 'jobs on the list' for weekends, or overspill jobs / sites.

Other options maybe to do more training (plant, bricklaying etc) or tool painting on weekends where no additional work is possible.

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## **Sandwich Board**

Moose and Maria have got them painted and ready for wording, once wording has been agreed. Also need to agree leaflet / cards pouch etc.

Plan draughts on email – proof reading at the next dig

Writing to be put on the board –

Appeal for ‘artistic’ person to offer to do lettering!

Ready, available, great advertisement and already in use

- the new and improved LWRG T-shirt!! – well done Sal, Ed and MK 2 (orders to Sal)
- the LWRG card – Well done Ed (obtainable from Ed)

## **Use of Volunteer Bureau’s**

Andi has not been very successful – Un-expected obstacle LWRG and WRG is unique and doesn’t fit easily into Volunteer Bureaus’s categories. As recruitment has not been an issue recently not given a high priority. Andi to continue to look into.

Some suggestions of Press releases / publicity via canal societies if articles are forthcoming.

## **Fundraising**

Thanks to Paula for her work as LWRG treasurer

Main source of income via the Little Venice festival – special thanks in advance to Ed’s parents who have agreed to man the stall when LWRGies will be elsewhere, maximizing possible profits!

## **AOB 1.**

Following discussions at the tool painting weekend, proposal to review LWRG health and safety support measures:

## **Proposal Summary:**

To find ways of ensuring that each LWRG weekend organizer has the following information available relating to the volunteers on their weekend:

- Emergency contact details
- Medical info relevant to LWRG activities (allergies, relevant medical conditions, etc)
- Additional ‘helpful’ info, medical or otherwise if individuals wish to have the opportunity for it to be recorded
- Useful local info – directions to A&E, nearest hospital etc.

Thanks to Sal for her work giving possible examples of forms / procedures to promote discussion and help us visualize how we achieve this.

Lots of discussion re the above: How LWRG procedures fit in with WRG Central procedures. General consensus that in principal it would be good to review our current practices and that there is not enough time at the AGM to come to a conclusion given the range of different views. To use the LWRG email as a forum for discussion to move this process on.

## **AOB 2.**

Reviewing WRG price of a weekend it has been £6 for 10years. On a breakdown of £1 for breakfast and lunch and £2 for the Sat evening meal.

Agreement to adjust it accordingly:

Breakfast and lunch - £1:50

Dinner - £2

Total - £8 per full weekend

## **AOB 3.**

Use of the email list – particularly for non-wrg related chit chat – some complaints from members of the mailing list unhappy with the high volume of mail they have to sift through. Suggestion of not using the ‘reply to all’ when replying to personal emails. Also for the onus to be on the person using the list for personal stuff to remind readers to reply to them individually. Ed to investigate putting a line message reminding people that their email will be sent out to the whole list unless they reply individually. General support for this to happen.

## Other

Thanks to Ed for sterling work with LWRG News!!!  
Tim's Website – Thanks to Tim for this great archive!!

Minibus movements – group note that the assertions at the last AGM:

“That the minibus should be ready to leave Waterloo by 7pm (unless there is an adjustment by the weekend organizer - usually by only 15mins either side of 7pm.) that LWRG should aim to have the minibus back at Waterloo no later than 8pm. This will require the weekend organizer to take account of the journey time back into London and plan accordingly”

# London WRG AGM Minutes

Seems to be working on the whole - thanks to all who support making this work.

**Andi Kewley**

## Future Dig Dates:

| <b>2004</b>                               | <b>Where</b>   | <b>Organiser</b>                       |
|---|--|--|
| 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Feb                     | H&G – Aylesford  | Tim                                    |
| 28/29 <sup>th</sup> Feb                   | Basingstoke  | Andi,                                  |
| 20/21 <sup>st</sup> March                 | BCN Cleanup  | Aileen                                 |
| 17/18 <sup>th</sup> April                 | H&G  | Rick A                                 |
| 1-3 <sup>rd</sup> May                     | Little Venice  | Sal                                    |
| 15/16 <sup>th</sup> May                   | Wey & Arun   | Nigel                                  |
| 5/6 <sup>th</sup> June                    | Lichfield  | Andy Roberts                           |
| 3/4 <sup>th</sup> July                    | Wey & Arun   | Andy Richardson                        |
| <b>4 week gap for the summer</b>          |  |  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> July/1 <sup>st</sup> Aug | TBA poss' Cromford /<br>Chesterton / Grantham /<br>Melton & Oakham | Allan Scott<br>(Marcus to investigate) |
| 11/12 <sup>th</sup> Sept                  | Caldon   | Sal                                    |
| 2/3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct                     | H&G  | Marcus (Poss joint dig with NW)        |
| 23/24 <sup>th</sup> Oct                   | Wilts & Berks  | Tunji                                  |
| 6/7 <sup>th</sup> Nov                     | Bonfire Bash   | Central booking                        |
| 4/5 <sup>th</sup> Dec                     | Dauntsey<br>LWRG Xmas party  | KESCRG/LWRG Xmas dig                   |
| <b>2005</b>                               |  |  |
| 15/16 <sup>th</sup> Jan                   | TBA  | Moose and Maria                        |
| 5/6 <sup>th</sup> Feb                     | TBA  | Andi                                   |
| 26/27 <sup>th</sup> Feb                   | TBA  | Ed                                     |
| 12/13 <sup>th</sup> March                 | BCN Cleanup  | Aileen                                 |

# London WRG Dates List

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

[www.london.wrg.org.uk](http://www.london.wrg.org.uk)

**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        |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 17-18/4/04  | Hereford & Gloucester Canal         | Rick Ansell      |
| 15-16/5/04  | Dig Deep on the Wey & Arun          | Nigel Lee        |
| 5-6/6/04    | Lichfield Canal                     | Andy Roberts     |
| 3-4/7/04    | Dig Deep on the Wey & Arun          | Andy Richardson  |
| 31/7-1/8/04 | TBA                                 | Allan Scott      |
| 11-12/9/04  | TBA                                 | Sal Nutt         |
| 2-3/10/04   | Hereford & Gloucester Canal         | Marcus Jones     |
| 23-24/10/04 | Dig Deep on the Wilts & Berks Canal | Tunji Faleye     |
| 6-7/11/04   | WRG Bonfire Bash                    | Centrally Booked |
| 4-5/12/04   | KESCRG/LWRG Xmas Dig, Dauntsey      | -                |
| 15-16/1/05  | TBA                                 | Moose & Maria    |
| 5-6/2/05    | Caldon Canal                        | Andi Kewley      |

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

**Social Gatherings:** Tuesday night, normally 11 days before each dig i.e., 6<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May etc. at the **Star Tavern** (upstairs room) Belgrave Mews West, behind German Embassy on Chesham Place, from about 19.30 till 23.00. Extra Socials on 20<sup>th</sup> April (Star Tavern) and 28<sup>th</sup> April (Warwick Castle) to organise Cavalcade.

### Other Events:

|            |  |                  |
|------------|--|------------------|
| 3/3/04     | Right Tool Hog Roast                         | Nic Bennett      |
| 1-3/5/04   | Canalway Cavalcade, Little Venice            | Sal Nutt         |
| 8-9/5/04   | WRG Training Weekend                         | Centrally Booked |
| 28-30/8/04 | National Waterways Festival, Burton-on-Trent | -                |

### Who to contact:

London WRG Co-ordinator: Tim Lewis, 5 Herongate Road, Wanstead, London E12 5EJ

Phone: 020-085300425 E-mail: [tim@timlewis.org.uk](mailto:tim@timlewis.org.uk)

Enquiries: Martin Ludgate or Lesley McFadyen, 35 Silvester Road, London SE22 9PB

Phone: 020-86933266 E-mail: [martin.ludgate@wrg.org.uk](mailto:martin.ludgate@wrg.org.uk)

London WRG News Editor: Ed Walker, 4 Westhorpe Road, Putney, London. SW15 1QH

Phone: 020-87859976 / 07887-568029 E-mail: [e.walker@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:e.walker@imperial.ac.uk)

# London WRG T-Shirts

The London WRG T-shirt range has expanded once again, hooded sweatshirts are now available! Get your order in soon to have yours by Cavalcade!

**T-Shirts (Front: Design) : £8**

**Sweatshirts (Front: Design) : £15**

**Long Sleeved T-Shirts (Front: Design) : £10**

**Polo Shirts (Back: Design, Front: Sm WRG logo) : £13**

**Hooded Sweatshirt (Bk: Design, Ft: Sm WRG logo) : £21**

**Colours: Red, Black, Navy, Green, Grey,  
Purple (T-Shirt or Sweatshirt Only). (Design White)**

**Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL**

| What?              | Size? | Colour? | No? | Cost? |
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| <b>Total Cost:</b> |       |         |     |       |

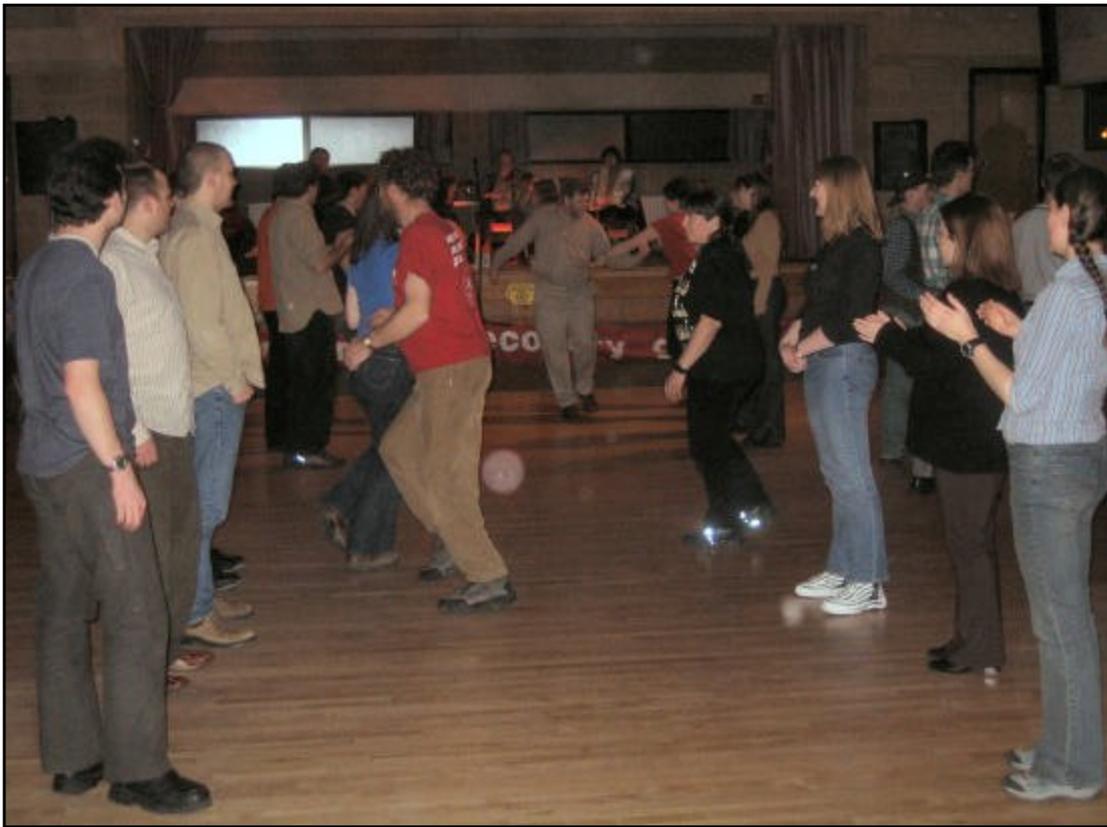
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Please send completed form to Sally Nutt, LWRG T-Shirts,  
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The versatility of London WRG, above barn dancing (dance for tools, Tim Lewis) and below hill walking (Scafell Pike, Ed Walker)

