

LWRG NEWS

Issue 84: July 2018



Editor's Note:

It may look as if we have a stutter but we will in fact be going to the Lichfield and the Cotswolds twice. A site for the Reunion has been found on the Lichfield and the Christmas party where we join up with KESCRG for much merriment and some canal restoration is on the Cotswolds a week after our dig there. The theme for the party is 'Food and Drink' so get your thinking caps on for fancy dress and Martin will be doing his quiz – we've been promised there may be an edible round so practice telling your Gorgonzola from your Cheddar. It will also give us the chance to use our new Tirfor winch. What new Tirfor I hear you say. Well, unfortunately the saga continued from Bungle's assessment at our joint dig with KESCRG at Inglesham in June (see dig report) as it spectacularly failed its assessment and we need a new one. We are therefore blowing the budget on a new Tirfor, although Martin has some plans for replenishment by his fiendish quiz at the Festival of Water.



Tirfor in action on the Chesterfield. Photo: Martin Ludgate

Date	Site	Leader
30th June/1st July	Wilts & Berks	Tim Lewis
1/2nd September	Wey & Arun	Paul Ireson
22/23rd September	Buckingham	Fran Burrell
13/14th October	Lichfield	Pete Fleming
3/4th November	Reunion - Lichfield	Centrally organised
17/18th November	Cotswolds	David Miller
1/2nd December	LWRG/KESCRG Christmas Party - Cotswolds	Tim Lewis
12/13th or 19/20th January	Chelmer & Blackwater	Helen Dobbie

Not the C&B but the Cotswolds 13- 14th January Or Old Ship to Ship Inn

Leader: Paul Ireson

The joys of being the weekend dig organiser is that I am starting to feel like a Jonah. The original weekend was due on the Chelmer & Blackwater, but as the Haybay barge was out for renovation and attempts by the Essex Waterway to find us other accommodation including a Thames Barge was thwarted, so a quick phone call to Jon P of the Cotswolds Canal Trust and the dig was moved to Gloucestershire. So we exchanged the Old Ship at Heybridge for the Ship Inn in Brimscombe.

The job was to continue the clearance of the vegetation behind the industrial estate west of Bonds Mill Bridge after both the Xmas party dig as well as the Xmas camp. Therefore for several of the people this was the third time on this site within a month. The next time Clive Field asks where we all come from, we could all say we're local!!!

A slow trickle of volunteers arrived at the accommodation until the van arrived and we unloaded the kit and

then departed to the Ship for several drinks.

Saturday morning after breakfast we all went to the Gun Turret to start the clearance of the trees besides the canal. There were only three fire sites allowed on existing locations, so one group went to the far bonfire site closest to the Newtown Bridge where the previous digs had not reached. While a small group worked at the first bonfire site closest to the Bond's Mill Bridge. A team of three went off to Pike Lock to obtain the work boat to assist in work from the canal. This meant that they had to operate two locks before they returned to site. Both bonfires were soon roaring especially the far one who had a Christmas tree to burn. This went up very rapidly.



Preparing the end bonfire. Photo Ian Stewart

The work boat returned just before tea break and Nick Farr announced that he would not have to bring his boat up the canal as he has done most of the Stroudwater section in a work boat. Being a scrub bash the same work was continued for the rest of the day with the result that most of the brash near the first fire was cleared up. The furthest fire was starting to show gaps in the trees for their aggressive cutting

down. We all returned to the accommodation where Sophie had produced another wonderful meal for all of us (Carnivores, Vegetarians and Vegans). An additional visitor MKP had arrived and over the meal an open brainstorm was held for a title of an article dealing with benefits of restoration both full and partial as well as examples of restorations that could be included in the article. The discussion & group continued in the pub with much flowing of alcoholic liquid.

Sunday, we started at 9:15 on site and continued the same procedure as Saturday but moved the first fire group to the middle fire. Nigel arrived to help and drifted from one group to another over the course of the day. Larger gaps were now appearing in the vista of the canal side which now meant that some of the units in the industrial estate now had a clear view over the canal to the opposite towpath. Just before lunch, members of the public advised us that a swan was stuck in Newtown lock, so Nick who had a windlass in his car was deployed to try and release the bird. This he achieved very quickly by managing to fill the lock and the swan just jumped onto the upper gates and dropped into the pound above.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the weekend despite some suffering from viruses and colds (Yes, thanks for sharing, ed.). Once again everyone pulled out the stops and achieved so much.

Paul Ireson

Buckingham

Arm 10-11th

February

Leader: Fran Burrell

Inka found some wet lubricant on the seat of the van precipitating a slippery slope as a bus tried to hit us before we had even left London and Emma G. who had thankfully done the shopping somehow mislaid the brown bread. So after stopping briefly at Brent Cross we eventually got to Stoke Bruerne Cricket club where the locals were keeping the bar open for us. The accommodation was described as 'compact and bijou' but we all found a space in the end.

The lack of curtains meant that we were all out of bed remarkably early. It was only half past seven when I allocated Nigel the job of organising us hot drinks in bed. Using a cafetiere confused Adrian though and we realised he did not have a ticket for its use so Nigel had to take over. So we woke up to a pink sunrise and a cup of coffee before Paul served us a delicious breakfast which was all very warm and pleasant.

We then headed to site where the temperature was noticeably chilly. We met Terry in the car park next to Cosgrove lock. The Buckingham Canal Society has been given permission to work on the site by CRT and this means that after a thorough

briefing on the health and safety, we also received a task sheet each. Inside was an impression of what the finished bridge should look like. It looks very nice. We just need to build it now!



What Bridge 1 on the Buckingham Arm is expected to look like. Credit Buckingham Canal Society (copied from the task sheet)

The original bridge 1 had been demolished as it was not wide enough to drive farm machinery over. This means that we need to build the new bridge slightly wider and the plan is to build it in brick rather than stone as the difference in cost is several millions and it is felt that building a brick arch is an achievable feat for voluntary labour. The BCS (Buckingham Canal Society) are currently in the preparation phase and our job for the weekend was to extend the excavation for the sleeper raft to support the centring for the arch.



Moving sleepers onto the raft in the excavation beneath the remains of the bridge. Credit Tim Lewis

Of course, Adrian Sturgess was the first in Blue to make a start on that but before we could do this we needed to remove some safety fencing to access the site. Moose and Maria started on this task with gusto. Mainly as it was so cold and the canal had frozen. There is a mooring on the offside and another of our main jobs was to move their access path and fence. The towpath has temporarily been diverted around the site and so some steps needed to be cut to make this safe. Nigel, Paul, Ian R started on this with some of the BCS volunteers who had joined us on site.



Nigel and Paul working on the temporary steps. Martin sent me this picture to include though I'm not sure that Nigel needs any encouragement in terms of his recent cover-girl status (we had a copy of Canal Boat to fully appreciate over the weekend) Photo credit Martin Ludgate

We started excavating using hand tools as this seemed a good idea to keep everyone warm. A team of Inka, Penny, Martin, Helen, Moose, Maria, Ian S. and Marion with some breaking up of the compacted bund with mattocks then others took away the spoil to make a pile that would be needed later to give support to the new steps. After tea break the excavator 'Blue' was fired up though so Adrian and Pete could continue digging out

the sticky mud from beneath to extend the excavation. I should probably mention tea breaks were very full of cake on this dig as Helen had made a boiled fruit cake (so much fruit I wistfully wondered if I ate 5 portions whether this would make up my 5-a-day but in the interest of sharing only made up 2 of these on Saturday), Ian S made a lemon drizzle cake and on Sunday Emma G had made us a fruit cake too. So, we were well fed and worked hard and went back to the cricket club in the evening to find Emma G in a steamy kitchen making a delicious pork and apple stew with dumplings and vegetarian equivalent followed by sticky toffee pudding. The cricket club also opened its bar to provide us with delicious Northamptonshire ciders and beers to wash down dinner. A group of us then went to the Boat Inn where surprisingly there was space in the bar at the front, though I wonder that this may have been because it smelt rather strongly of drains, but the beer was good and I'm sure the walk did those of us that had crammed seconds in after the cake fest of the day some much needed exercise.



Remains of bridge 1. Photo credit Tim Lewis

The next day we were joined by Steve Morley on site and we concentrated upon finishing up our tasks; laying the path, completing the steps and tidying

the compound and site. We had very little milk left; I think tea consumption may have been higher than expected due to the cold so I went to the only local shop in the area which is based in Cosgrove's caravan park. It was due to re-open in March so we decided to knock off early, which was sensible as we had completed our tasks for the weekend anyway. This turned out to be even more sensible as the snow storms started as we drove away.



Walking past the moorings in the first part of the Buckingham canal which is still in water as it joins the Grand Union canal at Cosgrove. Photo credit Tim Lewis

S&N

This dig was cancelled due to snow so everyone had to frolic at home instead.

BCN Clean Up 24-25th March

**Leader: Chris Morgan/Moose
Hearnden with assistance from
Nigel Lee**

It was a small contingent from London with only myself and Martin in the van and David who has been on some

camps before but was being introduced to weekend digs by coming on the annual trip to Birmingham for alternative fishing. We made good time and found everyone making practical use of the barrels of beer brought by Chris and we gratefully joined in.



Malthouse Stables Credit Tim Lewis

Everyone was very optimistic about the weekend ahead. Karen did something that looked suspiciously sensible on her laptop but that didn't last long.



Paul and Darren playing cats cradle. Credit Tim Lewis

Maria has said I should not knit when drinking but I am not sure that is entirely the reason for the knotted wool as it was tangled before I started.

The next morning we set out in vans – we were not sure to where and Pete ignored the sat nav preferring to navigate by railway lines. We got there eventually. We picked up PPE and hooks from Minerva Wharf in Wolverhampton. It was then back in the vans to be taken to Sneyd Junction in Walsall where there was a small section of canal with a disused narrow lock that we followed from the road to get to the navigable section to start grappling.



Grappling along the Wryley and Essington Canal. Credit Tim Lewis

We set off along the Wryley and Essington canal through Walsall. This led to Tim being able to recycle the jokes about whether Inka would see her family (in Warsaw). I'm sure Moose promised a prize to whoever found the first shopping trolley and tyre. I wanted a pony, which in usual Birmingham fashion, there were a few of scattered about roundabouts and on small patches of greenery between the built up environments. However, I think they were talking about a different kind of pony.



It was most of a trolley anyway. Alex is allegedly working - that is a clean high vis! Credit Tim Lewis

The canal was remarkably clean and I think the most prolific catches were actually lots of vegetation with frequent silty branches being disposed of in the hedges. However, someone did find an old safe with a packet of passports inside it which were deposited at the local police station. Someone also hooked an old engine block. There were a few bicycles, trolleys, tyres and usual detritus.

There was even a brave boater who braved the line of grappling hooks to go boating. We tried to act normal. I think we carried it off.



Ian peering into the Wyrley and Essington



Rachel and her hat. Credit Tim Lewis

Some people worked harder than others. Nick was caught sitting down on the job for example, but he found numerous chairs so it is unsurprising.



Photo credit Tim Lewis

The BCNS and other organisations came by boat to collect all of the rubbish. We then packed up to go back to the Malthouse Stables in Tipton with just enough time for a pint in Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory before dinner.



Barry, Darren, Alan, James, Karen, Nigel, someone who didn't say much and wasn't drinking behind, Paul, Nick, Ian, Inka, Alex, me and Martin with the photo taken by Tim Lewis (in case you thought it odd we left him behind to go to the pub)

Dinner was deliciously cooked by Maria and George and was a deconstructed shepherd's pie followed by what was meant to be a choice of strudel and custard or cheesecake but some people found enough room to not make a choice and have seconds. It was then time to try and finish the beer and engage in a late night cheese and port party which seems to be becoming a BCN tradition. Long may it continue.

Another good breakfast and then we headed back to the canal to continue the elusive search. The pickings were slim though it was a beautiful spring day and we had much positive feedback from local residents who were intrigued by our Sunday

grappling activity.



Nb Swallow in the background of the cheese and port party. Credit Tim Lewis

Luckily Martin avoided driving over any grappling hooks and we set off for the sunny trip back home after lunch at the Stables and packing up.

Buckingham

Arm 21-22nd

April

Leader: Fran Burrell

We changed accommodation for this dig as the cricket club were playing cricket so we transferred to the village hall. On arrival we thought to follow the early arrivals to the pub so a group of 7-8 of us headed to the Boat Inn. "Oh, they have a door on this side!" exclaimed Martin having only ever visited the pub by boat before having never realised there was a large entrance facing the car park as well. Unfortunately the early arrivals had gone to the Navigation but we felt we were too big a group to sneak in and sneak out so decided to stay. A lot of

people seemed to be rather nonplussed that David S would rather stay in and sort his screws into the correct boxes but personally this seemed entirely rational, though I would have probably done it at the pub and ended up muddling them up again.



Playing Northants skittles at The Boat. Photo Martin Ludgate

Emma cooked breakfast in a very tardy oven the next morning and we headed off to site to meet Terry. The jobs for the weekend were a mix of machinery, skilled and manual labour and we soon got started sorting the rubble pile to find stones for starting the bridge preparation for it's eventual re-build. Since our last visit, the plans had changed to try and save as much of the old bridge that has been uncovered as possible. The plan for a brick arch will now probably be replaced by a flat deck so the foundations of the old stone bridge need to be restored. Marion has done this before and Penny agreed to help with essentially a three dimensional jigsaw project. There is a huge pile of spoil just off the canal and so volunteers had to start by trying to make a stone pile, a scrap brick pile

and then the soil would be shifted about by Adrian who promptly took the 13 tonne excavator keys in hand.

One day I intend to trick him by having the biggest digger on a nasty sewage project or something, but he always gets disappointed when asked to go digging and being offered a shovel.....



Shifting stuff by hand. Photo Martin Ludgate

Pete took the keys for the smaller excavator and Steve and David M got the dumpers fired up for dry dredging the canal and shifting the spoil to add to the pile.

There were a few other additional jobs so David S headed up the canal to do something with a pipe, Duncan, Ian R and Ian S were shifting materials and erecting scaffolding and Alex and Inka were moving the selected stones to the opposite side of the canal.



Pete shifting stuff by dumper. Photo Martin Ludgate

By the afternoon the stone team were ready to make their first lime mortar mix to begin building essentially a wall that curves inwards in both directions. No mean feat. By the end of the day the site looked much tidier and we felt very satisfied that the restoration had begun!



Shifting stuff by digger. Photo Martin L udgate

While all this was going on, Emma had been hard at work also back at the hall. We also had two new arrivals as Paul who had been detained by a systems upgrade at work found they had completed the task rather speedily so was able to join us for one day on site and Sue had joined us for dinner so was helping make a potato salad. Not only did we have an amazing dinner but it was served early to allow us to do the AGM, London WRG awards and maintain maximum

drinking time at the pub. So after eating a burgers of meat or halloumi and aubergine with spicey toppings, salad, salsa and chips we had the AGM and agreed some provisional dates and leaders for the second half of the year. We then almost practically democratically decided the awards. As always, some winners were not present to receive their awards so they are now in safe keeping to be issued opportunistically. We also awarded the leadership award to a baby, but we will probably need to give it to someone else before she's old enough to come on site so maybe I could just keep hold of the riding crop as a guardian (hopefully)? Anyway please see award nominations and winners below.



Stonework by Marion, Emma, Martin and Penny at Bridge 1. Photo credit Ian Stewart

And then, we had a double chocolate cheesecake and finished the washing up as it really was necessary to go to the pub as Terry had given us money from the Buckingham Canal Society to buy the first round which was gratefully consumed.

The next day we actually arrived on site a minute early (though technically I'm not sure whether arriving in the car

park counts as arriving on site so am thinking of docking the time the brickies took for having tea break a minute early). We then continued with much of the same including more materials moving to be ready for when the formwork can be put in. Amazingly after our last dig had been cancelled by snow, it was a beautifully warm weekend so it while waiting for the machinery to be put away so that we could go back to the hall, it was actually rather pleasant.

London WRG Awards 2017

The London WRG awards are a collection of prizes handed out for the following categories: Leadership, Catering, Bricklaying, New recruit, Lame excuses (for not coming digging) and a brand new doughnut award for general silliness. Fortunately the whinging award has met its demise at some point in the past so personally I have never received this one, though am sure I could never be nominated. So if something happens on a dig that you feel would make a good nomination, please write it down and save it up as nominations for the 2018 awards are now open. You can send your nominations to the editor using the directory at the back of this issue.

Leadership

Nominations: Pete Fleming for leading a dig where we can sleep in the bar

We appear to have completely failed to organise a dig in August on the Basingstoke AGAIN this year – the only problem is I'm not sure who to nominate for this one (note to elf, maybe that was the problem) Paul for leading from the bottom down Wallbridge upper lock in waders – a little boy asked his Dad if he was having a bath But overwhelming the votes were cast to award Maryla for chairing the AGM in Womersley in 2017. I remember she was using the award as a novel teething device but am sure her training is coming along and if we could only get steelies small enough.....Award to be given to Helena at an opportune moment please

Driving

David Miller for having the track falling off the excavator at the Lichfield – awarded unopposed. Unfortunately we don't know where the award actually is as Martin put it in an overhead locker and goodness knows what van that was in. If you find a hub cap in your van's overhead locker this camp season let us know!

Catering

Nominees included Martin for volunteering to cook but delegated everything apart from the pudding due to a bad cold (the pudding was so full of alcohol and caffeine we figured the chances of germs surviving to infect everyone else were slim) Sarah for cooking three different meals and feeding us flowers at the Lichfield The Shrewsbury and Newport Canal Society for their awesomely gluttonous

cake stall

Honourable mention to Rachel Petrie for being an experienced Wergie but completely unable to work the toaster on the summer camp

But the award goes to Penny for offering to cook breakfast on her first time out with LWRG for a selfless performance of catering duty

Doughnut

We all agreed this goes to Tim for losing the dig report we made notes for in the pub in Womersley – hence empty column in the last LWRG news (big frown from the editor)



Alex's new recruit award. Photo Martin Ludgate

Lame excuse

Nominations: Inka for watching tennis instead of coming on a dig
Tim for being optimistic and going to a boat show instead of actually restoring the canal for boats to travel upon

(among all the other excuses for only being part time nowadays)
But the award was won by Nigel for buying a boat (this is not something to stop you going on digs says Fran)

New recruit

Nominations: Tim Lewis – we think it is important to nominate him here so members are able to recognise our chairman now he is never on a dig.
Awarded overwhelmingly to Alex – he dropped out of first dig – but we thought as he is struggling to grow a beard and might need some help we should really give the award to him

Bricklaying

We only laid bricks on one dig in 2017 so the nominees were Nigel, Mick, Martin and Janet for managing to actually lay SOME bricks during a brick free year of digs and as Martin was the only one here we gave him the brick to take home
And an honorary mention to Martin for laying six bricks before the site was promptly flooded at Geddleston lock

Shrewsbury and Newport 12-13th May

Leader: Sophie Smith

When the van arrived from London it was raining heavily so we wore our waterproofs before even getting to site just to unload the van. We had been looking forward to good weather after

the March dig being cancelled due to snow and thankfully were not disappointed.



View of work site from top of tunnel. Photo Martin Ludgate

Bernie had gone on holiday – we suspect that this may have been cheaper than keeping London WRG in drinks behind the bar, but found site was well led by Alistair instead.

Nothing good really happened until Tim got his drone out. He then promptly drove it into a tree. It's still there. We think.



The work site in action showing the lengthsman's hut. Photo Martin Ludgate

You may be surprised to hear that the toy sized digger did not encourage childish behaviour and it was shared appropriately between Adrian, David and Martin D. We also had a toy sized

dumper (petrol driven wheelbarrow) and a toy sized boat (it didn't even have a tiller). Despite this we did a grown up sized amount of work.

There was a honking of horns and Sophie enquiringly went to see what the matter was. It turned out that the local leader's wife had baked a variety of muffins for us which we managed to squeeze those in while eating 2 of the 3 iced chocolate and stout cakes made by Sophie.

Luckily we did not find any remains of prams, see the bats or find any impaled ravens this dig which made it a lot less creepy. The building by the tunnel portal despite being considered to be a lengthsman's hut has now been considered to be stabling for donkeys but we don't know how well these asses inspected the canal. However, this hut was a residence for a man in the 1960s and whoever is telling these stories must be a skilful raconteur. We are unsure if it was shared use.

Despite arriving at 2pm in the afternoon, Paul managed to get muddier and wetter than the rest of us who had been grappling fallen branches out of the canal all day. Concerned that a number of people on site looked rather clean we decided to pull a tree out of the canal and enlisted the unsullied reinforcements. Soon we all smelt silty. It smells organic said Sophie encouragingly. David M. arrived even later than Paul and equally dry (initially) was just in time for dinner. Not wanting to be left out

promptly threw a bottle of cider over himself. He smelt appley.



Grappling for submerged branches. Photo Martin Ludgate

Though even worse than the smell of the bottom of the canal was a tractor pulling a muck spreader which to be honest made me glad to live in London.

Martin and Inka went for a walk to find Berwick Wharf. They found it eventually and a canal bridge in good condition, but in the end we had to go and pick them up as they were late.

Dinner was Spanish chicken with vegetables (Helena! We ate vegetables) with Martin's leeks and spicy cous cous or halloumi for vegetarians. This was followed by pies and ice cream which due to a lack

of a freezer, Tim had to dash out for to the shop, wrap in wet tea towels and put in the fridge. We then had to finish the whole 2 tubs due to the lack of a freezer.



Sophie and Sue getting delivery of cake. Photo: Martin Ludgate

Sunday was much the same, but we only had one chocolate and stout cake left.

The local group seems to be dynamic and ambitious and the work we have done so far has supported the trust to build a work compound, open the towpath and this is preparing to open this stretch of the canal by the Berwick tunnel to be opened up as a self contained section of the canal to be enjoyed by all.

Written by the dig before they were allowed to go to the pub

Ammendum: Disaster hit on Sunday when Ian S. couldn't get the Burco to light. The provisional diagnosis was the thermocouple as the thing would light but not stay lit. I nearly cried. This necessitated Sophie making an emergency hot water and tea run to the village hall so we could have hot

drinks to go with our cake. Darren and Ian G. popped in on their way home from Leader's training and after having a look and wiggling said thermocouple the Burco stayed lit for long enough to boil. As it was quite a long time until lunch I decided to switch it off. This may not have been advisable as apparently it would not stay lit when an attempt was made to get it to re-boil for lunch. I suggested we dissolve LWRG as unsustainable without a Burco, but Martin who had gone to the committee meeting decided to ask Bungle if he could fix it and he agreed to bring some spares to the next dig so there is a possibility that someone may write a further dig report for this publication.....

Inglesham

with KESCRG

9-10th June Leader:

Stephen Davies. This was a well attended dig with 27 attendees in the hall with the smallest hand basins in the Cotswolds. Unfortunately Sophie forgot her clothes and toiletries. Mark2 had forgotten his trousers. Ian S. offered some sunscreen for general protection. Luckily some pyjama substitute was found and when Mark2 went to buy some trousers he also found a toothbrush so all was well to get to site in the morning.

The first job of the morning was to pump out the lock so Ed could inspect the scaffolding which Tim swept of

green slime. Paul, Sophie, Ian R, Darren and Nick went to Alex farm to perform the traditional task of moving something from one place to another. They brought back some bags of lime for mortar later. Ian W had gone to Travis Perkins for essential supplies and the rest of us were waiting for the water to go down to get into the lock.



At the start of Saturday. Photo: Tim Lewis

The main jobs were exposing and cleaning some stone paving behind the brickwork to which blocks will be keyed into. Vee was in her element brick cleaning in the horizontal plane, and Inka, Kirsty and others joined her to do this. Rick marked the damaged masonry to be removed. David S started to demolish the brickwork for the paddle recess. Pete removed the spoil and we essentially carried this cycle on all day with lengthy breaks from the sun for tea and cake. Alan was his banksman. Paul R was haunching. Gary and Stephen were adding in to some broken stones using shuttering and filling in the gaps. Bobby removed a nest of bees who were in the way of our workers on a folding shovel – luckily they weren't feeling as aggravated as the horseflies who were a general nuisance. Perhaps

they were attracted by the squashed fly biscuits which were part of a generally fantastic selection and to which Martin D felt very partial to.



Starting to expose the stone paving. Photo: David Miller

After a lengthy discussion when Martin thought he had seen a heron and we decided we were not ornithologists we realised we had seen a kite. I'm not sure what it was hunting but I felt quite worried about Paul being out in the open.

The most important thing to happen was that Bungle came and fixed the LWRG Burco by putting a new thermocouple into it. He then made some rather acid comments about how rusty it was which we ignored. Though

he really really wants us to get a new handle for the tirfor (see editors note – aaargh!).



Stone paving. Photo: Tim Lewis

We had a selection of campervans. Vee had a fully formed campervan, Ian R had brought his converted van and Martin D was in a van called Stanley that has some carpet in the back. Tim left on Saturday to stay in a hotel for a 'pleasant evening' with Sarah.



Pete helping to demolish the rather shaky wing wall. Photo: Tim Lewis

We were woken on Sunday by Penny testing the hall's fire alarms which wasn't particularly noisy but led to a thick smog in the air and the sensation we had a bonfire. After another filling breakfast we headed for site where Mick and Alan started bricklaying around the paddle recess. Stephen and Gary distressed their stone repairs by dimpling the concrete and generally we did much of the same.



Stone repairs. Photo: Tim Lewis

Pete, Paul and David completed the demolition of the old lock head wall and David S. cut out a ladder recess. We then had to photograph our wonderful stone paving that we exposed through our until now unknown archaeological skills as soon it will be covered in mortar and blocks but I think it is fair to say we have prepared the site for a full and productive season of summer camps.

Written by the dig

Caption Competition



Photo credit Martin L.

Let me know your captions using the contacts below!

Who to contact:

London WRG Chairman:

Tim Lewis

London@wrg.org

07802 518 094

Enquiries:

Martin Ludgate & Lesley McFayden

Martin.ludgate@wrg.org.uk

London WRG News Editor:

Fran Burrell

katburrell@doctors.org.uk

07765 793 474