

Summer Workcamp 2020

Although the summer workcamp could not take place in its usual form due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it was still possible for a small group to spend some time at Pardshaw in August. Once again a remarkable amount was achieved, meaning that we are still on target with our plans – many thanks to all who contributed to the work in so many ways. Time spent ranged from half a day to 10 days. All participants worked under Covid-19 restrictions and sanitiser points were set up with other precautions in toilets, washing areas (in stable) and the main room. As last year, works were both maintenance and preparation works for realising the various visions which emerged following the threshing meeting back in 2018.

- The meeting house normally continues to be used each month for Meeting for Worship, (although not since March owing to Covid-19), and a substantial part of the works were to improve the comfort of those attending the Meeting and continue the war of attrition against damp, an ever-present foe in buildings used intermittently. As a result the small meeting room now has a thermostat-controlled electric heating system, engineered to give quick enough warm-up to bring the meeting room to an acceptable temperature in the hour before the Meeting starts, and at all other times prevent the building from suffering damp accumulation and frost damage.
- The Schoolroom lighting and power circuits have been repaired and fuse boxes replaced with those to current standards.
- The roof space has been cleared of rubble left from past roof repairs, ready for rot- and woodworm-preventative treatments to the timbers, and the gable end has been repaired, before new insulation is installed to make the schoolroom warm enough for use again.
- There are now small (instant) hot water heaters in the two toilets, enabling visitors to wash hands in warm water!
- The large meeting room now has a Positive Pressure background ventilation system, taking fresh air from the roof space where it is likely

to be less damp than outside, filtering it and letting it percolate at ceiling level to drive out stale air through the chimney cracks round doors and windows and the like.

- The external walls were cleaned with a pressure washer, as were the steps and floors of both lobbies.
- The window frames are to be repaired and repainted.
- All gutters were checked and cleaned out, along with downpipes and drains. The roadside shutters have been repaired and repainted.
- The collapsing compost area was taken apart and reformed using boards found in the stables. These have been treated to help prevent them from rotting.
- One of the more major jobs was cutting down the overgrown shrubbery/trees in the corner of the stables (to the right of the steps leading down to the main building). This has meant we now have a good supply of wood! The area looks much brighter and more open. See the photo below right.
- Overgrowth on the roadside terrace of the burial ground has been cut down.
- Some of the loose flaky paintwork was removed from the walls of the Meeting room and the community room.

