

May's lunch took place on one of the hottest days of the year so far and we were extremely grateful for the high ceilings and air conditioning.

I was delighted to see old friends, Jonathan Dinnewell, who had attended the very first lunch over two years ago, Andrew Postlethwaite with whom we are about to embark on a major project on Park Lane, and Edward Griffiths with whom we have just completed a small Royal Household project.

Joining us for the first time were Liz Hirst, Lucy Spencer and Tim Gosling who all added greatly to the very convivial atmosphere. Completing the group was Jo Jo Steveney, Jasper's PA and an old friend of Tim's.



L to R. Jonathan Dinnewell - Christopher Smallwood Architects, Neil Stevenson - NEJ Stevenson, Liz Hirst - Hirst Conservation, Jasper Weldon - Weldon Contracts.



L to R. Andrew Postlethwaite - Walter Lilly, Jo Jo Steveney - Weldon Contracts, Lucy Spencer - Keech Green Design.

Not pictured. Tim Gosling - Gosling, Edward Griffiths - Roval Household.

It was clear from the conversations that enquiries for residential work are very strong but the actual commissioning of the work was slow to come to fruition. This was put down to the clients waiting for what they perceived to be the correct point to re-enter the market. This was having an impact on the architectural companies now but would start to affect the contractors and supply chain into 2010.

Heritage work is progressing as normal but all clients are expecting prices to be lower and whilst we all are realistic about market forces; trying to buy a quality product for a bargain price is not possible and can only back fire on the client in the long run.

The food was again excellent as was the Chablis and a very nice Medoc.