

# Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

---

Issue 2

Newsletter

March 2007

---

**Open Day 2006:** Our 2 day event last year was a huge success thanks to all of you and everyone else who visited the site. The Sealed Knot turned out in greater numbers than last year and had a great time helped by them all camping in the next field and the Ballards bar being open on Saturday night!! The new exhibitors were a great success as were the blacksmiths, charcoal maker, roast lamb and refreshments. I think the lamb sold out early on each day which we try to address next year – oops that means we will have to do it all again – well actually when the tiredness had worn off we did have quite good fun. But we will need more helper this year, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> - so please spare a couple hours to help as well as time to visit our other attractions. We really do need your help– call Carla or Robin on 01428 654088 or email [Barnes@haslemere.com](mailto:Barnes@haslemere.com).

---

**AGM.** We will be holding our first AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April when we will re-appoint our five Directors. Following this, one of our Directors, Jeremy Hodgkinson who is now Vice Chairman of the Wealden Iron Research Group will give a talk on the Wealden Iron Industry entitled “Furnaces and Firebacks”. Jeremy was Chairman of WIRG for more years than he wishes to remember and having been a teacher is an excellent speaker with a huge knowledge of our industry.

---

**Charity Commission:** We are in the middle of applying for charitable status which takes some time but we only have a few alterations to make, - see AGM papers - then the paperwork will be accepted, which is good news.

---

**The Site.** At present there is not much to see “on the ground” – it is all paperwork at which we have been struggling for around 2 years. The vegetation around the spillways at the site is kept under control but one of the feedback forms on Open Day was critical of the amount of vegetation so that will be addressed. Otherwise general maintenance takes place when and if to ensure that no more damage is done by excess water than is absolutely unavoidable. In January a large oak tree fell into the stream on top of the wheel pits and tail race. This will be removed in due course and English Heritage will check to see if there has been any damage to the archaeology.

---

**HLF Pre-planning Application:** Alison James from Chichester District Council Heritage Development Department is putting together a Conservation Management Plan, for which we thank her, which is part of the pre-planning application with guidance from her manager at CDC. This means finding consultants who are able to carry out the numerous assessments and surveys we require as well as decided which of those assessments we need to have carried out.

---

**Subscriptions.** Another subject from the feedback forms was about Standing Orders for subscriptions, this has been taken on board as will Grant Aid when we have a treasurer – any offer gratefully received – actually it would take very little time and we are quite friendly!!

---

**Past Matters.** This is a publication produced by the Chichester District Council about archaeology across our District. There are fascinating articles and reports of recent activity which I am sure you will find of great interest. It is available from all CDC offices, libraries and the Fernhurst Centre or by post from the Arts, Heritage and Cultural Services at East Pallant House, Chichester PO19 1TY.

---

**Open Day 2007 Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.** Plans are well under way for this year's Open Days. The format will be similar to last year's but we will have more exhibits and demonstrations. We need HELP with volunteers on the day. Please spare us an hour or two on September 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> and make the day brilliant for everyone. What would be fantastic if someone could organise our publicity and various other small parts of the day. Please contact Robin or Carla or see us at the AGM.

---

**Wealden Iron Research Group – WIRG** – is made up of an amazing range of incredibly knowledgeable people. Many publications are originated by WIRG and many of their past Bulletins are available. There are regular winter forays to investigate possible new sites or further research known sites. An experimental bloomery has been built and a 'bloom' produced. Annually, at their AGM, there is a visit to the site of a furnace or hammer. This year Fernhurst Furnace is very lucky in that the WIRG AGM is being held in Fernhurst with a talk from Carla then a visit to the site. To join WIRG or find out more either visit their excellent web site or contact the Hon Sec, David Brown at [Wirghonsec@hotmail.com](mailto:Wirghonsec@hotmail.com).

---

For any information please call Carla and Robin on **01428 654088** or **Barnes@haslemere.com**