

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Issue 3

Newsletter

August 2007

Open Day 2007: Our 2 day event this year is well advanced in its planning. We are following the same format as last year but with added attractions of which I hope you will approve. There are more 'Rural' crafts as well as domestic historical events. The Guided Walks around the Furnace will be expanded this year so come along and learn more about our unique site. We really do need your help in many different ways – please call Carla or Robin on 01428 654088 or email Barnes@haslemere.com.

AGM: Our first AGM was held on 24th April when all our five Directors were re-appointed. Following the short official part of the meeting Jeremy Hodgkinson who is now Vice Chairman of the Wealden Iron Research Group gave an excellent talk on the Wealden Iron Industry entitled "Furnaces and Firebacks". Jeremy was Chairman of WIRG for more years than he wishes to remember and has a huge knowledge of our industry. Jeremy would be most interested in anyone with a fireback, he only needs to take details of the fireback, please contact Robin on 01428 654088

Charity Commission: Having altered our Articles of Memorandum for the company – Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group Limited – we have at last attained Charitable Status. Our number is 1119894 which means we can recover 'Gift Aid' apart from many other ways in which being a charity is of benefit.

WIRG AGM: This year WIRG held its AGM at Fernhurst. They last came here about 22 years ago so we were delighted to welcome about 40 members to Fernhurst. Before the formal meeting Carla gave a talk about Fernhurst Furnace aka North Park Furnace with slides going back 20 years or more. After an excellent lunch we went down to the site – this was only about 30 hours after the heavy rains of July 20th. Much interest was shown by those who had not been here before and thankfully no-one got stuck in the field!!

The Site: The vegetation is being kept under control and the oak tree which fell into the stream has now been removed. More damage has occurred over the winter through high volumes of water passing over the site. Ann Clark from English Heritage paid us a visit in July and was most complimentary and encouraging at the work we are doing and are planning to do despite the lack of urgency felt by other organisations.

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. Owing to changes in grant applications to HLF owing to the demands of the Olympic funding requirements we have a deadline to meet of November to have our application at HLF.

Subscriptions: Another subject from the feedback forms was about Standing Orders for subscriptions, this has been taken on board as has Grant Aid following our charitable status achievement. This you will see on your Membership Renewal Forms which should not be too onerous to complete.

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 8th and 9th: Earlier in this newsletter I have asked for help on Open Days. Please can you spare just an hour or two either as a car park marshal or helping on the display/sales table or several other little places where we need help. We are looking for volunteers on a more regular basis such as Group Publicity and Group Treasurer – it doesn't take much time but Carla and I can't do it all so please offer a little time. Talk to Carla or Robin 01428 654088

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 and further research at 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. To join WIRG or find out more either visit their excellent web site or contact the Hon Sec, David Brown at Wirghonsec@hotmail.com.

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