

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Issue 5

Newsletter

August 2008

Open Weekend 2008. Plans are almost complete for this year, Hallelujah. What a lot we have to fit in. We have new stalls and displays including the Butser Ancient Farm who will be putting up a small Iron Age roundhouse – a rather tenuous connection but it will be good. The Sealed Knot – as I write this I am hearing that more than one regiment may be coming – keep your heads down there may be a skirmish and they are demonstrating long bows. It will all be great fun. Please tell your friends.

Open Weekend. There are at least two ways in which we need help –
your help, please.

We need “Plastic Dustbins”. I know it sounds odd but if you have any redundant plastic dustbins we need them for rubbish and recycling collection points. If you have one locally please call Robin on 01428 654088.

We are having a ‘Tombola’ to help raise funds. Could you please give us a prize or two or even three. Almost anything would be gratefully received but, thank you, present days rules say no alcohol – isn’t it sad!!

My important plea is for volunteer help over Open Weekend. An hour will do, two is better. Please call me to say when you could spare an hour – it won’t be onerous.

By being a Friend of Fernhurst Furnace we hope you are keen to help us raise funds so that conservation and maintenance can take place. **PLEASE HELP US!**

Costs. Putting on a weekend such as this needs considerable funding and of course this is in addition to the £2,268 we need to find for the Conservation Management Plan. The loos alone cost over £200!! We enjoy the Sealed Knot – gunpowder is expensive, it costs us at least £175. Hopefully you see all our roadside advertising placards, they don’t grow on trees and cost more each year!!! We need help and/or sponsorship!!

Project Planning Application: Our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant to fund a Conservation Management Plan has been successful – Thank Goodness – and we were given what we asked for which was a total of £22,680 of which we have to find 10% - YES – we have to provide £2,268! Two firms of consultants have been for a site visit and will hand in a tender shortly. Then, when the work has been carried out, we will know what is suggested we should do with our unique site.

AGM 2008. Mark Taylor who is the Senior Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council was our speaker at the AGM. His talk on “Tintern, a Forest of Dean charcoal blast furnace” was most interesting and the connections with Fernhurst Furnace were fascinating. Those who were unable to come missed a great talk.

Outside Activities. The FFPG was present at the Fernhurst Revels and at the Tilford Rural Life Museum event titled *Earth, Wind, Fire and Water: Industries in the Elements* on June 14th and 15th – and we were at Rustic Sunday on July 27th. A great deal of interest was shown in our furnace and we hope that many more people will come to Open Weekend.

Roman Villa. If you are interested generally in archaeology, not just from your armchair you have an opportunity to excavate Iron Age and Roman remains. This will be an enormous dig – the ‘trench’ will be 125 x 75 metres!! This is a month-long dig lead by George Anelay and will be spread over 4 years. There is a complex of settlements between Long Down and Halnaker Hill which is late prehistoric and Roman in period. As well as excavating, finds will be washed and displayed and experts will demonstrate ancient technologies. For further details contact Angela Reeve-Hurndall on 01243 534799 or e-mail: areeve-hurndall@chichester.gov.uk

Web Site: Visit our web site, either Google Fernhurst Furnace or go to the excellent Fernhurst Society site www.Fernhurstsociety.org.uk and follow the link.

Anyone able to help on Open Weekend or with the general works for our Furnace Project please call Robin or Carla on **01428 654088**

We really thank all those who help us particularly, Fernhurst and Lynchmere Parish Councils, South Downs Joint Committee, Chichester District Council and Heritage Lottery Fund.

