

# Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

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Issue 6

Newsletter

April 2009

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**Open Weekend 2008.** What a weekend that was, and it nearly didn't take place at all – remember the rain and mud in August!! But the sun came out and shone all weekend.

Many thanks to all those who came and thanks to those who helped us with tending the FFPG stall, car parking and those on the gate welcoming our visitors not forgetting all other contributors.

It was a great success and despite the preceding bad weather we had more visitors than in 2007.

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**AGM 2009.** The AGM will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Fernhurst Village Hall. Following the business part we will have an intriguing talk entitled “The Other Gunpowder Plots” by Ian Friel. Ian recently retired from being the Curator at the Chichester District Museum.

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**Open Weekend 2009 – September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

Yes, those are the dates for 2009 – I have put in a request for sunny weather so hopefully someone will listen to me!!!

Feedback has been most helpful.

This will follow the successful format as previous years with added attractions. There will be music and plans are evolving enthusiastically so please expect much more.

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!**

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**Costs.** 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!! Usually we have funding to pay for the lambs to be roasted but this year the usual funding is not available. We need to obtain sponsorship for each lamb we cook – that is 8 lambs. We need 8 sponsors who will pay £80 per lamb. All offers or ideas for sponsorship please contact Carla or Robin on 654088

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**Project Planning Application: Conservation Management Plan.** As you will remember, last year we successfully applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant for a Conservation Management plan to be written. This will give us a useful document to take forward for our main application to HLF, it will also tell us how much the essential work to conserve the furnace and its surrounding area will cost and it will hopefully give us a document which will be useful in many ways. The consultants – Gifford of Southampton – have produced a draft to which WSCC, CDC, English Heritage, Wealden Iron Research Group and others have commented so the finished document should be really excellent.

We have also been promised a grant from Lynchmere Parish Council to have some timbers dated by dendrochronology.

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**Outside Events.** The FFPG will be present at the Fernhurst Revels on May 17<sup>th</sup>, “Weeds and Wild Flower Festival” at Bignor on July 4<sup>th</sup> and at the Tilford Rural Life Museum Rustic Sunday Event on July 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a fantastic day for anyone with an interest in anything rural over the past 100 plus years. Please try to come along there will be something to interest everyone – I promise.

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**Volunteer Work Day:** We are planning a work day for volunteers to prepare the site for Open Weekend. August 9<sup>th</sup> seems a good day. We will be cutting and burning or chipping scrub and ‘lop and top’. The day will be either under the guidance of the Lynchmere Society or the South Downs Joint Committee.

Could anyone who would like to help for a few hours either phone me or email me – [Barnes@haslemere.com](mailto:Barnes@haslemere.com) in case the date has to change. Thank you

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**Web Site:** Visit our web site, either Google “Fernhurst Furnace” or go to the excellent Fernhurst Society site [www.Fernhurstsociety.org.uk](http://www.Fernhurstsociety.org.uk) and follow the link.

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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 as well as all of you who are “Friends”.**

