

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Issue 11

Newsletter

July 2013

Open Weekend 2012 — Was it me or did last year's Open Weekend go better than ever! We had new demonstrators in addition to the regulars, a huge number of Sealed Knot and a very happy atmosphere. Numbers were down slightly on previous years but thanks to the constant hard work and pleasant 'hassling' by our committee members there were a large number of new members and a fantastic number of Gift Aid forms completed. The result was a healthier bank balance.



Our Blacksmiths 2012

Open Weekend 2013

Unfortunately we have been obliged to **cancel** this year's event. It is nothing to do with the Furnace or the project. Sadly the field used for camping by the Sealed Knot and volunteers is not available this year.

We will be back next year with a reinvigorated event with plenty of fun, games and entertainment and a few new contributions for all the families who enjoy coming to the event.

Heritage Lottery Fund Grant –

Following our failure to be given a grant in November 2011 we took on board the comments which meant revisiting the application figures and seeing where we could produce greater benefit to the public for the amount of money we were requesting.

This was all submitted and we awaited September 21st when we heard that we had now asked for too much and that the



Overflow spillway in full flood

sustainability of the project was, in their minds, in question!

The grant rules have now changed so yet again, back to the drawing board. All engineering quotes are now out of date etc. But the South Downs National Park are keen that the project goes ahead so we are in discussions with them about obtaining a considerable grant and basically going into 'partnership' with them. You have noticed the very welcome amount of help we get from their volunteers. We additionally

receive a tremendous amount of help from their officers with all this paperwork. More grants need to be sought from other bodies. If anyone could help with this, we already have a shortlist of potential grantors, we could really do with help, again contact Robin.

Community Archaeology. There is every hope that either before any project gets underway or even before that we will be having some Community Archaeology days which could be learning about Geo-Phys or recording. We want to evaluate the workshop area at the furnace where there may be great opportunities for working with an archaeologist and for learning.

Working Group/Committee - We have a Working Group/Committee which looks after the more day to day maintenance and operating of the FPPG. This does not take up much time but we need some new ideas. If you are interested in the Iron Industry or in archaeology or in the history of the site and its social impact we would be most welcoming. We need to be able to prove the sustainability of our project and that is difficult if all the



The site following winter 2012

committee members are over retirement age! Presumably as you are Friends of Fernhurst Furnace you hope its future is

secure so please help us to secure it! Contact Carla, Robin or Iain Brown. Barnes@haslemere.com or Browniain@btinternet.com Look at our website – learn more www.fernhurstfurnace.co.uk

Also look at the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG) website, loads of fantastic information www.wealdeniron.org.uk

Membership. Membership of the Friends of Fernhurst Furnace is a very important part of the Group. Although relatively small your subscriptions make a considerable boost to our funds. When Gift Aid is taken into account the benefit is increased considerably, this year we received over £450 from HMRC which should make us all feel good.

AGM 2013. This year's AGM will be held soon but a date cannot be fixed at present. It will be held at the end of September or early in October. For those on our e-mail list you will receive details when they are available. For those not on e-mail, please contact our Membership Secretary or look on our website at the beginning of September. If anyone has ideas for future speakers and/or topics please contact us.

And finally. It is with sadness that we record the sad death of Chris Wall-Palmer. He demonstrated charcoal making at the event for many years until his illness. He will be sadly missed by all of us and most of all by his family.

Robin & Carla Barnes

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