

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Issue 12

Newsletter

October 2014

Open Weekend 2014 — We are very sorry that Open weekend did not take place again in 2014.

The main reason for this was the weather. No, not the weather forecast for this year but the flooding which happened around Christmas 2013.



Southern Spillway – stone removed by storm water

Considerable amount of damage was done to both of the spillways to such an extent that it was felt that we could not clear up enough to display the site in the usual way. There were also safety issues with a landslip of part of the dam. The winter's damage was so severe that the archaeology has now been put on the official "At Risk" register

Following our rejection for a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund we have been talking with the **South Downs National Park** about funding for another feasibility study.

I hear you say – not another study. All our figures for conservation works are out of date and so are some of the proposed works. But unfortunately the SDNP have been unable to fund any of our requests.

A few weeks ago we began discussions with **English Heritage 'At Risk' Team**. Although they do not have any grants

available for 2014 financial year they are very optimistic that 2015 will be fruitful. One of the principal changes which have taken place is the agreement that the Southern Spillway wall, **the Leaning Wall of Fernhurst**, should now be rebuilt and not just stabilised in situ.

We need to do our best to avoid damage to the site if there are as heavy rains as last winter.



Proposed siting of temporary pipes at Northern Sluice

It has been agreed in principle with EH that we use the large pipes which will be used in the main project as a temporary measure to carry most of the water over the archaeology.



Southern Spillway from underneath showing the proposed pipes

We are applying to EH for a Scheduled Monument Consent but are unsure when that will be signed.

As soon as we get permission we must have two or maybe three 'Work Days' to install these pipes and do other repairs.

There are enough funds in the FFPG account to buy 16 sections of pipe at a cost of about £4,500. There will be additional costs for timber, professional help etc We hope to do this work later in October.

If you would like to help and get a bit dirty I will make a list and choose a date nearer the time. Or perhaps you know someone who would.

If you would like to help please e-mail me – Barnes@haslemere.com – or call me – 01428 654088. **THANK YOU.**

Presumably as you are **Friends of Fernhurst Furnace** you hope its future is secure so please help us to secure it! Contact Carla & Robin Barnes 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, last year we received over £450 from HMRC which should make us all feel good.

Open Weekend 2015. It is sincerely hoped that Open Weekend will take place. This involves a considerable amount of

work but there is a pattern so we know what to do but more help is needed. If planned early it is quite easy but more hands are needed – can you spare a little time from April to September?

And finally ... continuing the theme, the years are moving on and your committee is finding that some of the physical side of running FFPG is becoming rather onerous. We could do with a little new blood, it doesn't take much time but enthusiasm is always good. Please offer to volunteer a little time for a worthy charity. For instance we need a Membership Secretary and an events organiser.



Please see separate notice for the **AGM** on Wednesday 15th October at 2.30 in the Hardman Hoyle Hall at Hammer, Haslemere.

Robin & Carla Barnes

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