

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Issue 13

Newsletter

July 2105

Open Weekend 2015 – We are back in business.

September 12th and 13th are the dates, so please come and learn more about the Furnace Project and the iron industry.

We will be following the familiar format with **Sir Marmaduke Rawdon's Regiment of Foote** re-enacting a skirmish as well as the full process of loading and firing a musket.

Target archery is a new activity as will be several stalls & activities including **Weald and Downland Museum** at Singleton, **Sparsholt College** etc.

Opening hours will be **10.30 – 5.00** along with **free parking and free entrance** BUT don't forget that donations are gratefully received.

Following our rejection for a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund on two occasions we think that the 'public benefits' which the HLF demand along with any grant of public money is not within our remit. We will need to find charitable trusts who can help us.

So, in the meantime Historic England has suggested that they may be able to help but they need an Engineers Report on the site with up-to-date schedule and costings, in other words a feasibility study.

To receive public funds FFPG needs to lease the scheduled part of the pond from Cowdray Estate and the working site from the Barnes family but that should be preceded by a Management Plan – more necessary plans and reports.

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

By the time you read this at least one of the temporary water relief pipes – all paid for by FFPG - will have been installed. This will be the higher one in the picture and requires digging a trench through the dam. This in itself requires an archaeologist to be on site to record what we see and we may discover the construction method of the dam.



Proposed siting of temporary pipes at Northern Sluice

If you are members of **WIRG – Wealden Iron Research Group** - and attend the AGM in mid July we will be in Northchapel and subsequently visiting Frith Furnace which was one of the 15 or so furnaces in the Western Weald group of furnaces. It will be an interesting day.

FFPG AGM

The date of our AGM has not yet been fixed but as soon as we have a date and speaker we will put it on our **website**.

Any comments, suggestions or offers of help please contact me 01428654088

Barnes@haslemere.com **THANK YOU.**

Please remember to **update** FFPG with your **contact details** to our membership secretary David Bleach at

DavidBleach1@sky.com