

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

www.fernhurstfurnace.co.uk

Issue 21

Newsletter

January 2022



Open Weekend 2021 was a great success. With all the uncertainties that were current at the time we welcomed many visitors. Several of our usual suppliers had increased their prices considerably so our profit at the end of the day was not as much as we had hope for. Nonetheless a good weekend was had by all with grateful thanks to the weather and the many visitors, contributors and volunteers.

Open Weekend 2022 will be on September 10th & 11th. See below for further info and comment.

The Repair Project is making steady progress. It is difficult to explain where this piece of newly rebuilt wall is. Tom, on the right is crouched inside the spillway and the new wall is part of the outflow wing walls. The concrete wall is the backing for the original stonework to support.



Unfortunately there have been delays. Firstly, many more ecology surveys were required which revealed that there was nothing unexpected or unknown! We had not expected that planning permission would be required so this was a further delay. The contractors arrived on May 15th so did 120mm of rain that week!!

There have been various unexpected ‘mishaps’ and problems with obtaining the 150 tons of concrete required. Now we are in the cold and wet winter season the mortar takes longer to ‘go off’ which will delay matters further so the completion date is now somewhere towards the end of February.

It is hoped that there will be sufficient pieces of stone around the site to replace those missing blocks.

At the northern (tail-race) end, all the archaeology has been capped with the closest match possible to the original mortar. A new water cascade made of stone filled gabions has been installed and water is now flowing freely and safely. We are awaiting new water controls which will arrive any day.



Open Weekend 2022/23.

The purpose of holding our event is to raise awareness of the Furnace and to raise funds.

The first objective has been pretty successful and so has the second. We have funding for the Repair Project from Historic England and Natural England with assistance from a charitable trust. So, basically, the purpose for which Open Weekend was engaged has been successful **BUT** funds to maintain the site will continue to be required.

I believe it was 2004 that we began holding the event and many of our helpers are not getting any younger and that includes Carla and I. There are many people who wish the event to continue and we are among those but we need a new organising team. All the 'old lags' will continue to support but more energy is required.

If a new direction is wanted HELP is needed. We, who have been actively involved in the site since 1989, will carry on for this year but 2023 will need a new team or the event will lapse. Already we have an offer for acquiring demonstrators, the Sealed Knot are keen to continue so is the beer tent and most of the usual stall holders. Offers of help, please, can come to Robin initially until a new committee is formed. With many helping hands this is not an onerous task so please get in touch with me at FFPG@mail.com Thank you

Hands-on help, please!

Another request; physical effort is needed in the spring, again nothing too difficult but, again, younger hands make light work!

In essence, in order to recoup some of the projects costs it has been agreed that FFPG should complete the landscaping along both sides of the tail race. Part has already been completed by the contractors so it would probably take 2 X Saturday morning to complete the rest. The work involves moving soil filled sandbags by wheel barrow and creating a 2 or 3 bag high wall along the tail race. All offers please to Robin at FFPG@mail.com

Thank you very much.

And Finally Could all those who receive this Newsletter by post please supply an email address as the postal costs are an unwelcomed drain on our meagre reserves of cash.