

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group

Issue 1

Newsletter

May 2006

Village Voices: An ITV-1 production company is making a programme about Fernhurst, its culture and heritage. Filming is taking place on Revels Day and there will be a piece about Fernhurst Furnace filmed on site. The programme is scheduled to be shown sometime in July. Keep a watch out for “Village Voices – Fernhurst”.

Fernhurst Furnace Preservation Group Ltd (FFPG): This company has been formed so that the furnace site can be leased to the company. This is a condition for applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) that the site is not in private hands – this is reasonable as all HLF funds are looked upon as being public funds or rather money given by the public. The next stage is to apply to become a charity – this helps to open other funding doors.

At present there is not much to see “on the ground” – it is all paperwork at which we have been struggling for around 2 years. Much of the site was back filled for protection following the 1989 excavation. The vegetation around the spillways at the site is kept under control and general maintenance takes place when and if to ensure that no more damage is done by excess water than is absolutely unavoidable.

Open Day 2006: Plans are well under way. This year the Open day will be a 2 day event on September 16th and 17th. See flyer – **entry is FREE**. On the Saturday evening there will be a banquet – ticket prices are still being discussed but will be around £20 – call 01428 654088 for bookings.

Open Day will be similar to last year for those who came. There will be more Sealed Knot participants as they like to camp out on a 2 day event – remember that dogs can be upset by the muskets and cannon fire. The blacksmith and charcoal burners will be here as will the delicious South Downs Lamb roast, a veggie option and other refreshments. This year we will need some helpers. If you could spare an hour or two we would be most grateful – call Carla or Robin on 01428 654088.

HLF Pre-planning Application: We have considerable help from Chichester District Council for which we are most grateful as Alison James, Heritage Development Officer is putting together the pre-planning application. This means obtaining quotes for the innumerable surveys and assessments which are required when making a full application of the size which we envisage will be necessary for the first phase of the protecting of Fernhurst Furnace. Any restoration etc, I am afraid, is some way down the line.

Anyone able to help on Open Day or with the general works for our furnace project please call **01428 654088**