

The Western Heights Preservation Society

The Western Heights Preservation Society (WHPS) is once again pleased to be able to offer a brief update on its activities.

Open days

Once again the Western Heights Preservation Society will be taking an active role in the White Cliffs Countryside Project's annual Western Heights Open Day. As suggested in the last Newsletter update this year's event will be on 5th June. There will be a number of stalls for all the family, as in the past, and the First Foot Guards will once again be on site recreating an aspect of life once commonplace on the Western Heights. Activities will be centred on the site of the former Grand Shaft Barracks.

It is also hoped that the Drop Redoubt will once again be opened. This has always proved very popular. Further details will be available on the Society website when confirmed.

Volunteers are always needed to help at this and other events so if you wish to be part of this day, which is always enjoyable, please contact the Society by any of the means below.

Publicity and promotions

Filming is currently taking place at the Heights for a series for Channel 4, taking in sites unique to Britain. Western Heights will feature along with Dover Castle. Dr. Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, will present the programme. Dr. Thurley has shown good support for the WHPS and recently commented that he was very grateful for the work the WHPS has been putting into the site.

Project days

The regular WHPS project days will continue throughout the year and as we near the Open Day focus will of course turn towards preparations for it. The exact activities for each day will be decided by the weather on the day but are likely to involve either clearance in some of the ditches,

work at North Entrance, clearing of the Grand Shaft or work inside the Drop Redoubt. All volunteers will meet on the Drop Redoubt road at the top of the Grand Shaft Barracks site at 10 o'clock for a 10.30 start. Dates for 2005 are: 20th February, 20th March, 17th April, 22nd May. All are subject to change or last minute cancellation, so do please contact the WHPS to check before travelling. All are welcome, members and nonmembers - there is always plenty to do.

Your comments

The WHPS is always keen to hear from people and learn from their opinions. If you have any comments on this update or the Society generally we would be delighted to hear from you at the address below or by email to

Publicity@dover-western-heights.org

We equally welcome questions from any one wishing to know more about the Heights or the WHPS and we will always do our best to provide an answer.

We need you!

We wish to create a skills database for future projects. If you are a surveyor, brick layer, architect, researcher etc. and are willing to lend your support we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at the address below.

Membership

The Western Heights Preservation Society is not all about getting your hands dirty clearing trees, it is also about supporting and moving the Society forwards in promoting the Western Heights and help is needed at all levels. For more information or to join please contact the Hon. Secretary at 66 Union Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AR or visit the website www.dover-westernheights.org and please remember to say where you read about the WHPS.