

**Open Day 22nd of
August 2021
A Great Family Day
Out!**

Well, what can we say? Another fantastic Open Day, even though the weather was not that kind. We had a record number of re-enactors and visitors this time, meaning record takings, which will help with the restoration of Slough. We would like to thank everyone that came along to help make the day so successful.



The atmosphere was great and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and were impressed with our latest earthworks project. Please follow us on our Facebook page and our web site www.sloughfort.org.uk, to find out about our future events.

The Fort is looking for New Trustees

With our expanding plans and workloads the Trust is looking to recruit additional Trustees to our management board.

We are looking for people who may have particular skills and experiences that they can bring to the project or will enhance those we already have.

The role of the Trustees is to ensure that the Trust operates within its permitted legal powers and parameters and carries out the objectives as set out in its founding document. The Trustees main purpose is to manage the project strategically, make management decisions and ensure that they are carried through. Due to being a small organisation, our Trustees are also very hands on, running workdays and public events on the Fort.

However, there is a great deal that also goes on behind the scenes that can on occasions be time-consuming such as applying for grants, meeting outside bodies and attending meetings. We hold monthly Trustee meetings usually at the Fort. All Trustees and volunteers are unpaid for their duties to the Trust.


If you feel that this is something you may be interested in or know somebody else who might, please get in touch via secretary@sloughfort.org.uk

Further details of what is expected of a Trustee can be found on the Charity Commission website via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Original access roadway to the Wing Battery has been revealed



Come and see what we have uncovered in recent works!

by Keith Gulvin

During July extensive excavations were carried out at the Fort using contractors. The aim of the work was to reveal features that had been lost behind the East-Wing Battery buried since the 1980s as a result of illegal dumping and bulldozing of the original earthworks. The original access roadway to the Wing Battery has been revealed along with the true levels behind the gun emplacements. The soil removed has allowed for a substantial section of the missing earth ramparts to be rebuilt behind the Wing Battery and around the well, linking the two glacises.



Also achieved was the removal of all the tree stumps from the West side of the main Fort Glacis allowing for future landscaping work to be done. The impact of this work is spectacular when viewed for the first time. The excavation work had to be monitored at all times as part of the Scheduled Monument Consent, however no significant archaeological finds were made.

Make acquaintance with MR Fix-it – Michael Ashdown

Mr Michael Ashdown (one of the members of the Group right from its start in 2015) is not only a Trustee, in love with history, but is also responsible for maintenance of the Fort, grounds and takes care of all the equipment, so it is safe and ready for the volunteers to use. Aka MR Fix-it is constantly fixing things that get broken and helps with supplies for moving on with the restoration works. His last project was the installation of the irrigation system for the community orchard within the Fort. Meet him on our guided tours on Sundays, at Open Days and on our volunteer workdays!

When and how did you start your collaboration with Slough Fort?

I started back in 2015, when it was a Parish led project. I had been a volunteer at Fort Amherst in Chatham and was asked by a couple of their Trustees who live in Allhallows to come and give them hand at Slough, the rest is history as they say.

Can you tell us about a time when the restoration work has been challenging?

There was a large water tank called a Braithwaite tank, on top of the Glacis. We had to remove it when we cleared the Glacis. It was made up of approx. 120 steel panels, which were 3ftx3ft and had 16 bolts on each side of each panel.



We dismantled it, and it was shipped to a Heritage Railway in Wales, but it took many hours and people and was difficult as you were working at the top of the Glacis and every bolt was seized, but it was good to see it going somewhere else to be used.



What would you recommend for people who are wishing to visit Slough Fort?

There is so much to see at Slough, as it covers many different time periods, my favourite area is as you walk through the main doors of the Fort, which are original, it almost feels like you are stepping back in time. Also the grounds and the varied fauna and flora we have there, including our new community orchard.

What is your goal for Slough Fort for the future?

To see it restored and being used by future generations for different activities.

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