

Welcome to the first edition of Slough Fort News which we hope will keep you up to date with the fort progress. Within the newsletter, we will also keep you posted with events and key activities happening over the coming months. The ambition of the newsletter is to build awareness and advertise the fort, so if you would like to add anything or have any feedback on how things are going, please contact either Stuart.Clack@sloughfort.org.uk or Justine@sloughfort.org.uk

Priorities for 2019

At the beginning of the year, the trust held a strategy meeting to decide what areas and tasks were the most important to be finished first. It was decided that the Magazine was a priority so that it can be used as a venue to generate vital revenue which will aid progress in other areas. Apart from applying for vital grants to fund windows and doors to be supplied and fitted, there are many other necessary jobs to do which include completing the electrical system, white washing, repairing leaks and painting. The trust also want to repair and install a recently purchased gun.



12Pdr Gun to be restored

New Trustees

At last years AGM, two new trustees joined the trust, bringing the total number of trustees to 8. Many of you may have seen them at the regular work days. Stuart Clack initially became involved with the fort after organising for National Grid Grain LNG to hold a family day there. Stuart is carrying out the electrical work at the fort and over the last year has completed the electrical system for half of the magazine. Also joining the Trust is Justine O'Neill, who amongst other things has taken on the grass cutting!. If you haven't met either yet, then come and say hello and introduce yourself.

Have you seen our Website or Facebook page recently? If not, it's worth taking a look as there are regular updates. At the end of last year, Spencer King came down and took some amazing pictures of the fort with his drone.

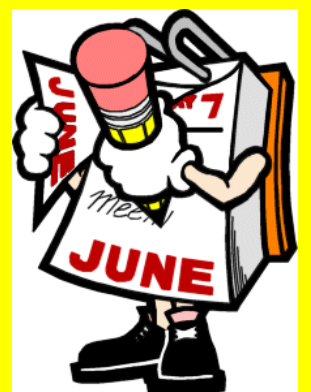


These high level pictures show another aspect to the fort.

Events Calendar

This is our events calendar for 2019. Please come along with your friends and family to view our progress on a Sunday Tour or Open Day. Perhaps you would like to join us as a volunteer on one of our work days as detailed below:

- **12th & 26th Jan** -Work days
- **9th & 23rd Feb** - Work days
- **9th & 23rd Mar** - Work days
- **7th Apr** - Sunday Tours start @ 11am (every Sunday)
- **13th & 27th Apr** - Work days
- **21st Apr** - Easter Open Day TBC
- **11th & 25th May** - Work days
- **8th & 22nd Jun** - Work days
- **23rd Jun** - Open Day
- **13th & 27th Jul** - Work days
- **10th & 24th Aug** - Work days
- **18th Aug** - Open Day
- **14th & 28th Sep** - Work days
- **12th & 26th Oct** - Work days
- **27th Oct** - Last Sunday Tour of year
- **9th & 23rd Nov** - Work days
- **23rd TBC date for AGM**
- **14th Dec** - Work day



Paranormal Nights



Ever been interested in things that go bump in the night? Recently Ghost Hunter Tours held a paranormal investigation at the Fort.

This turned out to be a very interesting occasion - our spookiest moment was hearing a woman's laugh in the Magazine. There will be more nights like these to come so look out for upcoming events via our Facebook page.

Button Found



Sometimes it can be a while between finds with all the other work going on at the fort. However, whilst digging, a Uniform button was found in the spoil from the Range Finder position. It shows the King's Crown and was issued 1902-1952

Volunteers Needed

Tasks for any skill level..

- Painting
- Tidying
- Weeding
- Electrical
- Digging
- Gardening
- Events
- Tours
- Restoration

Get Involved

Do you know anyone who wishes to help out at the fort? We are always after volunteers on work days, its great for learning new skills

2 work days a month
You choose the day and hours you can help out.
Ask for more details

Ground Work; on the Well

Imminent groundworks for the Well Glacis in February. This will involve reshaping the current landscape around the Well Glacis to its original format. Wild flower seeds and grass seed will be spread a meadow in this area will eventually be established. A wind pump will be on the Well.



The Brimp

'The Brimp' is the name given to the access road to the Fort. Access to the fort by visitors and volunteers has been hampered by the abundance of potholes and general deterioration of the road due to weather over time. However, we are now anticipating the forthcoming repair of 'The Brimp' in March in a joint venture with the Parish Council which will make Slough Fort a much more easier venue to safely access.



Volunteers

The fort is always grateful for it's volunteers, without this dedicated team, the fort would undoubtedly fall into disrepair. We asked one of them to give us a brief interview.

Sue Pawley got involved at



the fort two and a half years ago when she attended the first ever Open Day. Sue, who is retired, likes the fact that the fort keeps her occupied and satisfies her keen interest in history along with the social side it brings to the volunteers. It also keeps her physically and mentally active and she enjoys many varied tasks to be done from digging, clearing rubbish, painting and helping out at the Sunday tours. Look out next time when we catch up with another volunteers story..



Just some of our regular volunteers



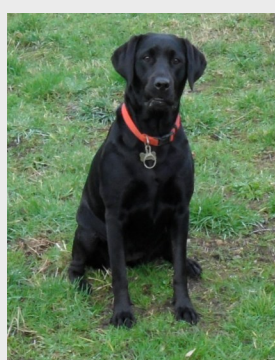
Lunch Time is a Chance to catch up



We hope that you found this Newsletter informative. Please do contact us if you are able to provide any support to us in the form of tools/materials or time so that we may continue with our vital work to get Slough Fort back to its former glory.

Please find us on our Facebook Page—**Slough Fort Volunteers Group** and on our website www.sloughfort.org.uk

However not all our volunteers have two legs



bacon sandwich at lunch time with the rest of the team

You will often find Feo at the fort helping out in her own way, whether its' her ball being thrown (which is pretty much all the time) or having a well earned

Fort Never Been As Easy to Find

The Fort recently purchased and erected signs near to Slough Fort to enable visitors to locate us, in the hope that this will bring vital attention to the Fort. In addition, our volunteers have now erected the main signage to the Fort entrance.



Slough Fort 12 Pounder Gun

During late 1940 an emergency anti invasion battery was established at Slough Fort manned by a detachment of 913 Home Defence Battery Royal Artillery. The purpose of the battery of two guns was prevent a beach landing near Slough Fort, in much the same way as had been the original purpose of the Fort in 1867. The war diary for 'Thames & Medway Fixed Defences' gives the standing orders for the Battery and states its purpose as too prevent a landing by small craft or via seaplanes or flying boats. The War Diary further identifies the guns emplaced as 12 pdr guns.



On a research visit to Gosport in the summer of 2018 a small group of trustees noticed a rusting 12 pdr QF gun behind a fence at the Naval Ordnance Museum. Enquiries established that it belonged to an antiques dealer based in Portsmouth Dockyard. The decision was made to try and purchase the gun. Negotiations were undertaken on the trusts behalf by Nick Hewitt Head of collections at the Naval Ordnance Museum.

Once back at the Fort a small band of volunteers started the daunting task of trying to clean up and repair a gun that as far as we could tell, had been underwater for many years, possibly recovered from a sunken warship. The seller of the gun was not able to provide much information about it other than he had purchased it from a museum in Staffordshire. An early discovery was made inside the pedestal which was badly rusted and full of rubbish. A crisp packet was found to have a date on it of 1982, so it had been out of the water at least since then? However, the most remarkable find was a hidden brass plate on the top of the pedestal, painted over and hidden by the barrel. Once cleaned up it revealed a wealth of information. It stated that the gun was a 12 pdr Mk11 made by the Royal Carriage Department at Portsmouth in 1897 and issued in 1898. It had an Admiralty number of 408 which made it an early example of this type of gun. It is highly likely that t came from a sunken WW1 naval craft possible a Destroyer, for which this gun was the secondary armament?

Work is now continuing with the restoration of the gun, which when completed will eventually be mounted on the roof of the Fort.



Slough Fort has been nominated for a Pride in Medway Award and have been invited to the Certificate Presentation Evening in February where judges will pick the finalists. **Wish us luck!**

