

Spring has definitely sprung over the fort with many milestones reached. The range finder has been installed along with a flag pole, the 1902 museum has been updated with more artefacts, the Trust has been awarded a number of grants to help with our restoration efforts and our first open day of the year on Easter Sunday was a roaring success. It has been also been lovely to see the return of our resident Swallows to the Fort, spring is most definitely here!

Day Aggregates Donation



DAY
AGGREGATES

After reaching out to Day Aggregates who are based on the Isle of Grain, they kindly donated 20 tonnes of Type 1 road stone needed to repair the Brimp access road. The access road has always been a major concern to the Trust and our visitors, so this donation has been gratefully received. Once groundworks are completed on the Brimp, the Type 1 will be laid to repair the road.

Representatives from Day Aggregates were given a personal tour of the Fort and were impressed with our ongoing restoration project. If your company would like to donate any materials to the Fort, please contact us as they will always be appreciated.



Fort Flag Pole



Recently the Fort had a new addition of a flag pole situated at the top of the Fort. You can now see the flag flying from miles away, the first time in over 70 years.



Trustee Award

During our recent Easter open day, one of the trustees, Colin Davis received an award. It was presented to Colin by Chairman of the Parish Council

Chris Draper for continued work in the community.

Well done Colin!



Artefact of the month

The first British troops to land in Normandy during D-Day were the men of D Company, 2nd Oxfordshire and



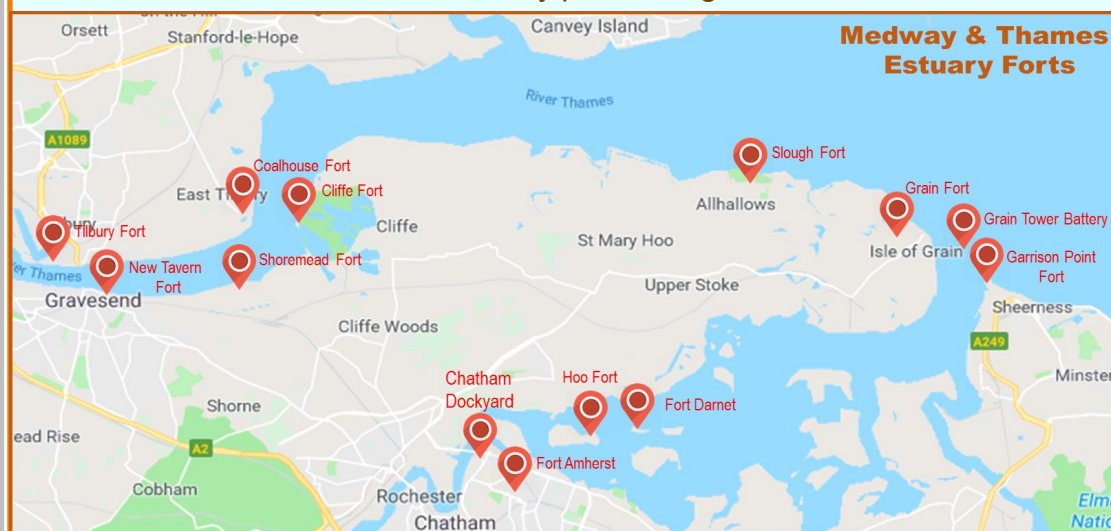
The signal lamp as used by Major John Howard.

Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (part of the 6th British Airborne Division) who landed at Ranville-Benouville in the early hours of June 6th. Troops were led by Major John Howard, landing by Horsa glider. They captured the Caen Canal Bridge, later renamed Pegasus Bridge in honour of the cap badge of the 6th Airborne Division. The actual signalling lamp used by Major Howard to indicate that the bridge was in allied hands, has been donated to the Slough Fort collection and now takes pride of place in our showcase.

We are looking for people to lend or donate suitable items of historical and military history so that we can build up the collection.

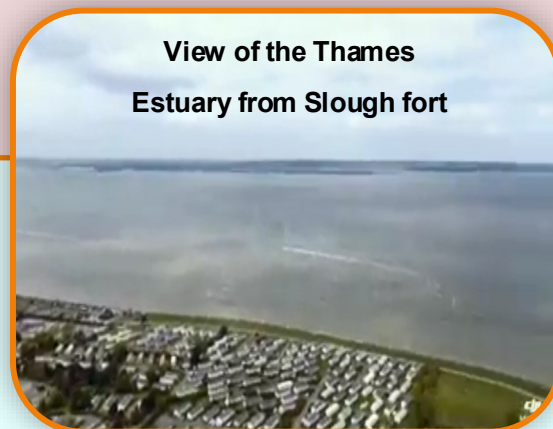
Fort Fact

The position of Slough Fort (which took its name from the now-disappeared farmsteads of Upper and Lower Slough, just west of the fort) was dictated by its position on a ridge overlooking a slope leading down to the riverside. It was the only point along a fourteen-mile stretch of the river between Cliffe to



the west and Grain to the east where a landing could be effected, due to the marshes along the rest of the shoreline. A fort situated at that point could thus provide an effective defence against an enemy attempting to land here. It also served to fill the gap between the upriver forts (Cliffe, Coalhouse and Shornemead) and those at the mouth of the Medway (Grain and Garrison Point). As an 1869 report noted, the fort was constructed "to prevent an enemy landing at the only accessible point for the purpose of attacking Chatham Dockyard from the north".

View of the Thames Estuary from Slough fort



Easter Open Day

Our Easter Fun Day involved tours of the Fort all day, a pop up Café with ice creams and delicious home made cakes provided by our wonderful volunteers and a variety of fun games tailored for children such as our Easter Bunny Raffle along with many Easter themed prizes. After each tour, our visitors experienced the firing of a Brown Bess musket by Glen. Great fun was had by all whilst raising much need funds for the fort.



Games to keep the children entertained

Our next two open days are on June 23 and August 18.
Please come to visit us and support Slough Fort.



Glen firing the Brown Bess

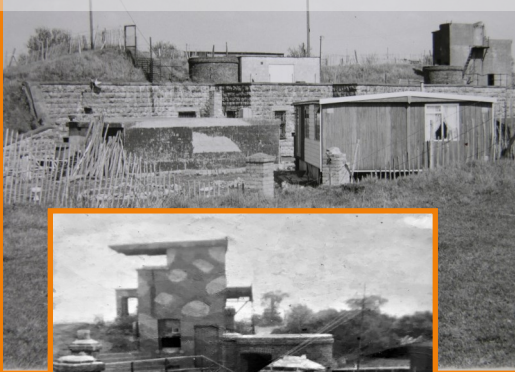


Winner of the Fort raffle Toni Weeks

Pictures

Not all donations to the fort are restoration pieces or historic artefacts. Old pictures can be just as useful to the project as it helps the Trust understand history not only when it was active but after the soldiers left.

Date unknown but accommodation is seen



Picture from 1970's where you can still see the firing position intact which indicates it was demolished much later than previously thought



Date unknown but it gives the Trust virtual information about the firing position

If you have any old pictures please send them to

secretary@sloughfort.org.uk

Range Finder Position



The Trust has recently acquired a Range Finder which now has pride of place overlooking the Thames Estuary. It is a brass representation of a positional range finder which allows for the calculation of how far away the target is and also the difference between the height of the gun and the water level allowing for the accurate aiming of the shell onto the target ship below.

Events Calendar

Over the next 2 months, we have a number of events for you to get involved in

- **1st June** - An Evening of Ghost Stories (Tickets Required)
- **8th & 22nd June** - Work days
- **23rd June** - Open Day 10am—4pm
- **29th June** - Paranormal night—Essex Ghost Hunters
- **13th & 27th July** - Work days
- **6th July** - Paranormal night—KC & Co (Private Hire)
- **20th July** - Paranormal night - Fright Night
- **27th July** - Paranormal night - Ghost Hunter Tours Pro Night

Please note all Paranormal nights are not run by the trust who only supply the venue for the investigations, all bookings should be made via the relevant groups websites

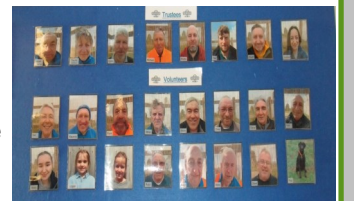
Volunteer Story

Ralph joined Slough Fort as a volunteer in December 2018 looking for a fresh challenge and to meet new people in different/unique surroundings. He enjoys Victorian history particularly Victorian engineering and railway engines and his hobby is making model railways. Ralph previously worked for the Royal Engineers and so naturally identified with the Fort as the ideal place to volunteer due to his passion for all things military. He enjoys the company that the Fort provides and has been involved in restoring the 12 pdr gun, painting, grass mowing and preservation of the Fort's graffiti.



Volunteer wall

The Trust are always grateful to and proud of our volunteers so a recent addition to the 1902 was a volunteers wall. This helps our visitors identify our Trustees and volunteers involved in the project.



Fort Family

The fort really is a family affair, two of our youngest volunteers recently helped not only with the Easter open day but also painted a wall next to the 1902



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