



It's been a very busy year at Slough fort so we decided to do a Christmas review with our advent calendar showing some of the achievements from 2019. The Trust would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all, we look forward to seeing you in 2020!

Slough Fort Advent Calendar

1st



Caravan Relocation

2nd



Fort Signs

3rd



Well Glacis

4th



Community Day

5th



Pride Of Medway

6th



Flag Flying

7th



Fort Security

8th



Easter Open Day

9th



Range Finder

10th



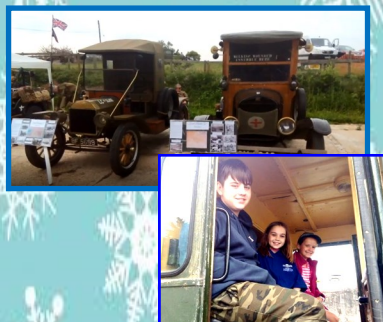
Brimp Repair

11th



Fly Past

12th



June Open Day

13th



12pdr Gun

14th



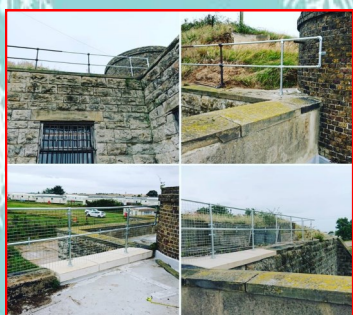
Windows & Doors

15th



Community Day

16th



Hand Rails

17th



August Open Day

18th

GrainLNG



Community Day

19th



Chimney's

20th



Paranormal Investigations

21st



Ghost Stories

22nd

nationalgrid



Community Day

23rd



Fort Glacis

24th



Volunteers

25th



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Slough Fort Trust



Excavation of Glacis



A major excavation has been completed to dig through the bank in front of the Fort known as a glacis to expose the original granite face of the Fort and to try to uncover one of the original gun ports. The work has been funded as part of a grant from the Veolia Trust which will help to open up the grounds of the Fort and make them more accessible. This was successful but it resulted in the discovery that the original Fort had been cut down in height far more drastically than we ever previously thought, as we found the remains of a gun port but only less than half survived. Our estimation is that around two thirds of the original Fort was removed in the 1890s and then turned into barracks for the new wing batteries being installed. So what does this now tell us? It is believed that the original gun casemates were at a first-floor level and have been completely removed. What we thought were the gun casemates are in fact the magazine level which was almost completely gutted and it means that there is nothing below the current ground floor level as we previously believed. This is confirmed by the fact that the wall and arch at the back of the middle 'casemate' is resting on the rubble used to partly backfill the magazine showing that it is part of the rebuild. The rubble was placed at the back of the new casemates to improve its protection, which is why the glacis was also constructed. As a result of these exciting discoveries, the very history of the Fort as we know it will have to be rewritten!



International Fort Visit

As we all prepare for spending time with friends and family over the festive period, it's worth sparing a thought for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Friends of Slough Fort, Noel & Dana recently visited us from their home in America.



On 22nd June 2019, Slough Fort Trustee Keith Gulin displayed some of the Fort's artefacts at an event held to unveil a new memorial near the Allhallows Yacht Club. The memorial was established to commemorate the American airmen who had died on 19th June 1944 whilst returning from a bombing run to eliminate a launch site of V1 flying bombs that were terrorizing England. One of the American B17 planes crashed just off the shore from Allhallows and took the lives of 8 of its 9 crewman including Top Turret Gunner Staff Sergeant Cecil Tognazzini from Santa Maria, California whose remains have never been recovered and are likely still in the crashed B17 in the Thames River off Allhallows.

The unveiling of the memorial was also attended by Cecil Tognazzini's nephew, Noel Tognazzini, from Portland, Oregon, on his third trip to Allhallows. During the event, Noel visited the Slough Fort display and met Keith who showed Noel the Fort's display of a piece of the crashed B17, and the Fort's detailed mapping of all the locations where V1 bombs fell in Kent. Having noted Noel's interest in this map, Keith surprised Noel several weeks after his trip when a copy of the map arrived at his Portland home by post from Keith.

On 17th September 2019, Noel returned to Allhallows – this time with his partner Dana DeYoung on her first ever trip to the area and made a point of visiting Keith to thank him for the map. During the visit, Dana and Noel were able to get a full tour of the Fort by Keith and fellow trustee Stuart Clack.

At this festive time, please hold a toast to not only Noel's uncle but all those who will not be coming home to their families this Christmas.



Free Heritage Walks

We will be introducing heritage walks over the coming months. Our first date is fully booked but please keep look out for more dates via our Facebook page.

Martin's Story

Martin joined Slough Fort over 3 years ago after visiting one of Slough Fort's open days and has been a valued Trustee for 2 years before recently deciding to step down. He has an avid interest in historic fortifications especially those from mid 1800s to those from World War 2 and he enjoys taking part in research trips to different countries exploring new historical places. Recently, Martin travelled to explore the Maginot line situated between France, Belgium and Germany and he has also successfully sourced a Tett Turret from Cambridgeshire that will soon take pride of place at the fort. He has been a well respected and liked Trustee and Slough Fort is very grateful for his time and commitment. Luckily, Martin will still be involved with the fort as a volunteer helping with tours and work days. Thankyou for all your efforts Martin!



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



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