

Welcome to the 8th Edition of Slough Fort News! Spring has officially started, the days are longer and the sunshine is glorious! Even though our upcoming events and workdays have now been suspended at the Fort due to the Coronavirus pandemic, there are still lots of recent activities to report upon in this edition. At this uncertain time, we hope that you are all staying safe and we cannot wait to welcome you back to the Fort soon!

Welcome to our Newest Trustee

Slough Fort is pleased to announce that we have appointed our newest and youngest Trustee to join the Slough Fort Preservation Trust. Kian Davis has been volunteering at the Fort for the last 5 years since he was 13 years of age. He has been involved in a number of milestones at the Fort, including helping to uncover the buried underground magazine and being one of the first volunteers to access it after many years of laying hidden. Kian hopes to be able to bring



a new, younger point of view and will be of great help to the Trust with his valuable IT and customer service background. Welcome Kian to the Trust and congratulations on your successful appointment!

Tett Turret Update

The Tett Turret has now been reinstated at the Fort entrance, ready to welcome visitors when the Fort reopens.



Thanks go to A C Goathams for delivering and unloading the concrete tube which was kindly manufactured and supplied for free by Marshalls CPM. The ring and the cone of the Tett Turret was then placed on top of the tube. A wooden entrance way at the rear has also been added to hold the dirt back and a tunnel has been created which will be covered completely with earth, as it was designed to be used. The earth will then be seeded and in time, anti tank concrete cylinders will be placed in front of it to recreate a defensive position. Well done Colin for all your hard work!

12 Pounder Gun

Over the weekend of 21st and 22nd March, the newly restored QF 12 pounder 12 cwt gun was dismantled into its 3 main constituent parts, the base, barrel and shield. The parts were lifted into position separately and reassembled on the main fort roof. The gun now sits on its original metal base plate and the next step is to get the exact shade of grey paint mixed and the final coat applied. This gun has had quite the transformation from when it was first acquired and is now in pride of place at the top of the main fort overlooking the River Thames and Essex.



Glacis Regrading

The glacis around the main fort has been regraded and tidied up. Grass and wild flower seed has been sown onto it so this should look lovely as the summer approaches!



Lewis Gun Back In Operation

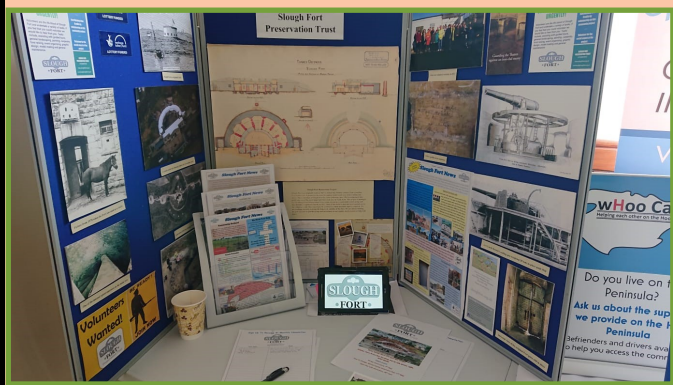


The Lewis gun has now been repaired and is ready to be used at our next Open Day by our visitors.

It is a non-firing gun that uses a propane/butane gas mix to replicate the firing sound. The gun will also be used as an educational aid for our visiting schools.

Social Prescribing Event

Slough Fort was pleased to be able to support RBLI in celebrating the National Social Prescribing day on 12 March at a community connection event at Lower Stoke Methodist Church. Social prescribing aims to support individuals to take greater control of their own health. RBLI brought together a range of local service providers to support the community in accessing support and information to help improve their lives in a range of ways. Our aim was to showcase Slough Fort's ability to provide our volunteers with social connections ultimately leading to the 5 ways to wellbeing.



Heritage Walks 1st March and 15th March



Our last 2 walks led by Keith proved to be very successful once again, with many guests and their canine friends attending. The 2nd of the 3 heritage walks took in the sights of the Isle of

Grain whilst the 3rd walk followed the foreshore of the river upstream, comprising of a tour of the American bomber memorial, pill boxes, Dagenham Farm and the R.O.C nuclear bunker.



Lathe Ceilings in Main Fort

Great strides have been achieved in the ceilings of the Main Fort. Lathe ceilings and stud work have so far been added to the Pantry, Officers WC and the Female WC. Further



rooms will be modified in due course.

These lathe ceilings will in time be plastered with 2 coats of coarse lime plaster with the first coat only having an addition of horse hair. Then a final coat of fine lime plaster will be added.

Many thanks indeed to Steve and Dave for their consistent hard work! It looks fabulous!



Community Payback

Slough Fort would like to thank the Community Service participants who attend Slough Fort on a weekly basis to perform their payback to the community. The offenders perform a variety of tasks as requested by Slough Fort. Recently, one such participant has been consistently repairing the brickwork around the windows of the magazine and has been also repairing the chimneys in the main fort.

Well done guys, your efforts are very much appreciated!



Fort Website

Have you missed a newsletter? Do you have an enquiry about volunteering?

Please take a look at our website which is regularly updated with items regarding the Fort.

<http://www.sloughfort.org.uk>

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

Events Calendar

As you are aware, all events at Slough Fort have been suspended until further notice in line with the UK Government lockdown.

All volunteer workdays, Open Days, Sunday Tours and all other events and hires are postponed.

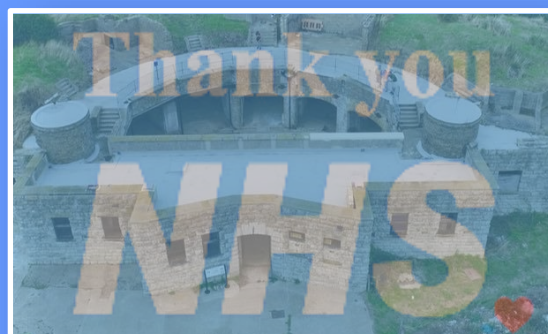
As soon as we are able to reopen, we will update you accordingly via our website and social media accounts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers and visitors for their continued support and our thoughts are with everyone in these worrying uncertain times.

Protect Our NHS, Stay Home

Slough Fort would like to say thank you to all the heroes working for the NHS. We would also like to thank all the community groups helping in our local area.

Thank You All!



Social Media Platforms

Slough Fort can be found on Instagram, Facebook & YouTube.

Search for Slough Fort Preservation Trust



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