

# NEWS

Slough Fort has been exceptionally busy over the winter period and there have been many discoveries and advancements made. Now that Spring is around the corner and the days are getting longer, there is a sense of anticipation in the air and plans being made for the year ahead! Slough Fort has an exciting few months ahead of us with a number of events on the horizon.



Please make a note in your diaries of our upcoming event dates:

- Tours will resume mid-March until the end of October on Wednesdays and Sundays at 11am— please see website or Ticketsource
- Heritage Walk on Monday 10th April from 10.30am – the cost is £8 and will include a hot drink after the event
- Pirate weekend over Sunday 28th and Monday 29th May
- Open Days will be held on Sunday 25th June and Sunday 20th August from 10am to 4pm
- Ghost Story Evening on Saturday 30th September — details to follow

Please do come to visit us in 2023 and help us to be able to continue the valuable work that we do.

Our first tour of the year starts on Wednesday 15 March! Adult tickets are £5, children's tickets are £3 and children under 5 go free! You can also make a donation to the fort when you book your tickets! Book your tickets in advance by using the link: [Ticketsource.co.uk/slough-fort-preservation-trust](https://ticketsource.co.uk/slough-fort-preservation-trust) Please note all tours start prompt at 11am and please arrive 15 minutes beforehand. Entrance for the tours is via the Haven Park entrance. Please report to the gatehouse for directions.



January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

April							May							June						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30																				

July							August							September						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																			

October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6							1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# NEWS

## 6-inch gun emplacement update

Slough Fort has undergone many updates over the years.

In 1888, it was recommended that the casemates be closed at their front and the fort used as a base for moveable armament. The guns at the fort were thereby deemed obsolete and four new concrete emplacements were built with a 9-inch and a 6-inch gun to the East and West in 1891.

The 6-inch guns were then later deemed obsolete and around 1906, the eastern guns were stripped of their carriages. A new 9-inch gun position was built and the 6-inch gun position removed/buried. Two 9-inch guns were positioned now to the east and in 1907, the western positions were closed down.

In our quest to find more information about the buried aspects of the fort, a scaled drawing was superimposed over a drone picture of the eastern position. Using the scale of the drawing and known common points that still remain of the centre of the 9-inch gun position and set of steps, the buried location was determined to be found underneath the caravans on the other side of our boundary fence with Haven!

During the winter closure of the park, our landlords Haven generously supplied us with a new fence which was moved deeper into their land so the complete buried position is now on our side of the fence allowing complete access.



On discovering the site of the buried 6-inch eastern gun position, it looked like the capping had been broken off the top of the canopy.



# NEWS

## 6-inch gun emplacement update continued

Thanks to Mortly Landscaping for their generous donation of a man and digger, we were further able to access more of the gun position.



Original stencilling in good condition along with two ring bolts used to hold the gun in place were then discovered and the shell storage recesses were found to be only one shell deep with no doors attached.

The framework used to hold the telephone in place for communications was located along with timber recovered from the area on our drawings labelled as TR (now thought to represent the Telephone Recess). The timber was found to have stencilling on it which appears to spell Fuze Recess.



In addition, green pieces of concrete were found that were part of the camouflaged paintwork found on the gun canopy.



# NEWS

## Grants update



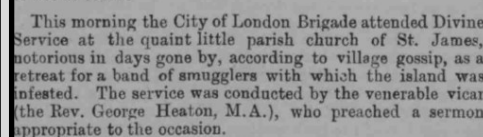
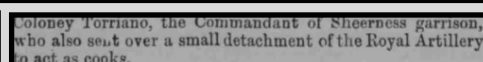
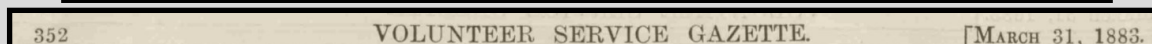
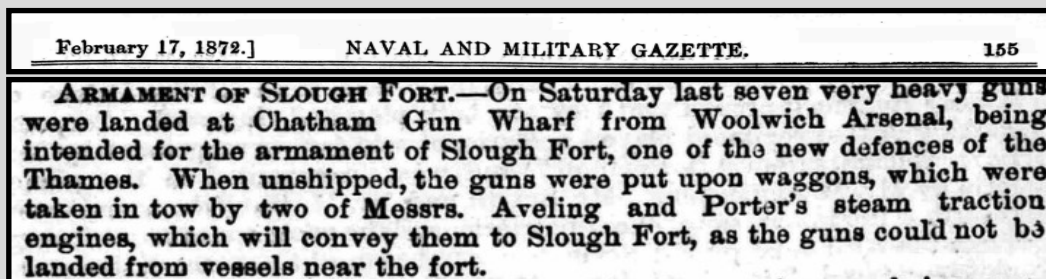
Slough Fort were very lucky to receive funding via three new grants just before the Christmas break from:

- Orchard Community Energy — £3,000 to help with the landscaping at the front of the fort including new footpaths and hedgerows
- Swire Charitable Trust— £2,000 which is match funding for our HLF grant
- Revi-VE via Kent Community Foundation—£6,900 to help with core costs

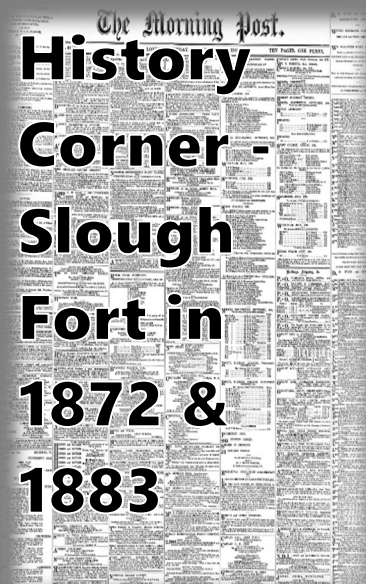
We are extremely grateful to receive these monies as we wouldn't be able to progress the restoration project without this invaluable help. We are also now at the consultancy stage of our HLF grant.



Back in 1872, as part of the new line of defence along the River Thames, Slough Fort received seven guns for its armament!



A report from 140 years ago on 31 March 1883, also details how Colonel Hope, a rigid disciplinarian, marched 50 of his men from Grain Fort to Slough Fort on Good Friday evening. It also describes Slough Fort as a massive stone structure.



# NEWS

The Guard rooms have now had a full makeover with painting, lime plastering on the ceiling, lime washing on the walls and the floors now stained throughout ready for the new tourist season.

## Guard room update



While looking for the road, we discovered on the track to the fort, a cobbled area with evidence of curved metal runners that would have taken the wheel of a gate, possibly for a guarded vehicle. A drawing has also revealed that there could be a third gateway to the left which may be a pedestrian entrance but at present it is still buried a few feet down.

## New discoveries



A hidden wall was also found near the Western battery.

These two areas have been covered back up and we have sought Scheduled Monument Consent to excavate the 2 areas more.

# NEWS

## AGM news



Slough Fort's AGM was held on Saturday 11th February 2023 which was very successful, whereby the achievements of the past year were discussed and new ideas for the year ahead put forward. Thankyou to all those who attended.

Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to two of our valued trustees— Kian and Catharina but luckily, they will remain with us as volunteers.

We would also like to warmly welcome our new trustee Carol Cook who has joined our trustee team and will be an asset to the team.

Colin continues as Chair of the Trust, with Keith and Daune respectively continuing in their roles of Deputy Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

Updates included the news that Slough Fort is now at Stage 2 of the HLF grant application. Drawings have been made for the project including a café within two casemates, the installation of male and female toilets, returning the eastern magazine to its formal status and a heritage museum. Much work going on behind the scenes during the year to obtain the various permissions required and get everything ready for a submission in March 2024.

Alex Dunne from Bourne Leisure kindly gave a presentation on the developments at the holiday park and ways in which Haven were supporting the fort including the new fences and movement of the boundary, hosting of Laser Tag in the magazine 4 times a week, promotion of the fort on new screens in the entertainment area and the provision of first aid training for trustees and volunteers.

## Website



You can keep up to date with our progress by visiting our website at <https://sloughfort.org.uk/> which has lots of information and pictures. We have recently added some family activities for you to complete under our Educational Activities page. We hope you enjoy completing these until you are able to join us in person again on one of our tours or Open Days

<https://sloughfort.org.uk/wheels-of-time/>

Please also subscribe to our Facebook page which has regular updates!