

Allhallows Parish Council Update

Update 25/1/17 – by Daune Ashdown

Firstly, sincere apologies for the length of time since my last update, it has been a very busy but successful year.

In October 2016, a public meeting was held in Allhallows, to set up a charitable Trust to preserve and maintain Slough Fort. Slough Fort Preservation Trust was born from the initial Volunteer group. We were finally granted Charitable Trust status, in September 2017, this will help us significantly when applying for future funding.

Bourne Leisure has continued to support the group both financially and with the work on the site.

One of our Trustees, Colin Davis, has been very busy developing and posting on our Facebook page, Slough Fort Volunteers Group. He has also set up our own web site www.sloughfort.org.uk. Please visit both sites for what is happening and what is planned at Slough Fort.

During the last 2 summers we have attended the Allhallows Village Fete and have undertaken very successful Fort Open Days, with reenactors present on all days. Following on from the last Open Day in August we started weekly Sunday tours of the Fort. Our last one, before winter was **Sunday 29th October**. If anyone is interested in a tour, please just turn up at the Fort gates in the Leisure Park, at **11am**. They start again this year 2018 on **1st April 2018** and will run weekly through until the end of **September 2018**.

We have continued with our monthly workdays. The beginning of the year, saw our brilliant team of volunteers dismantling the very large water tank that was sat on top of the Fort. It took weeks of painstaking work to dismantle this tank. They continue to clean, clear and restore the magazines and Fort. Since the beginning of 2018 we have now moved to 2 workdays a month.

Please see below a list of the Workdays.

We also applied for planning permission to carry out some exploratory work in the casemates, which was granted. The reason behind this is we believe there is a further level below the ones we can see. Also we would like to open up the back of one of the casemates to show what it would have looked like when it was first built.

Work has also been carried out to re-brick up some of the windows in the main fort, that had been removed, this will enable us to put the windows back in and restore the rooms to show their former use.

We have received some very generous donations this year. One of them was from Allhallows Parish Council, who gave us some money to produce a Guide Book for the Fort, to sell at our Open days and tours to generate further funds. Cllr Freshwater also donated some money from his ward fund, which enabled us to purchase a Laptop. This has been invaluable in communicating with our volunteers and preparing paperwork, applying for grants, storing important documents and photographs, etc. Following a telephone call by one of our Trustees, Keith Gulvin to NTL at Grain, they became interested in our project and have donated a large quantity of tools and equipment. Total Ship Services very kindly donated a container workshop for us to store all our tools and equipment in. We thank all parties for their generous donations.

The Trustees have all been busy applying for various grants from various sources and we were lucky enough to receive a small grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will be used for research costs, such as plans and drawings copying and travel costs as well as marketing materials, such as signage, gazebos, etc.

Also we are in Tesco's in Strood at the moment, under their Bags of Help scheme, so if you are in there and buy a bag ask for a blue token and pop it in our box. As you can see it has been a really busy year. We had our Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 25th November 2017, 7pm at Allhallows Village Hall**. It was a very successful evening with around 25 volunteers and Trustees coming together to discuss the past year and plan for the forthcoming year.

If this has whet your appetite and you are interested in joining our friendly team to help restore and maintain this important local historic site, please contact the Trust by emailing secretary@sloughfort.org.uk or calling 01634 270970.

Future Workday dates

2018 DATES			
<u>Month</u>	<u>Extra Workdays</u>	<u>Workdays - Saturday</u>	Extra Activities
January	13th	27th	
February	10th	24th	
March	10th	24th	
April	14th	28th	
May	12th	26th	
June	9th	23rd	
July	14th	28th	Sunday 22nd Open Day
August	11th	25th	Sunday 19th Open Day
September	15th	29th	
October	13th	27th	
November	10th	24th	AGM 24th November
December	1st	15th	
Sunday Tours 1/4/18-30/09/18			