



## Fort Burgoyne Update Newsletter

November 2018



Welcome to the first edition of a regular newsletter on the activity of the Land Trust and partners at Fort Burgoyne.

Since acquiring the site in 2014 the Land Trust has sought to develop a better understanding of the condition of the Fort and the opportunities for its future development.

While this has been taking place we have developed opportunities for the residents of Dover and beyond to engage with the site through guided walks, volunteer work parties (who have

transformed the appearance of the site and re-opened long lost views) and events including ghost hunts and theatrical performances.

The proximity of Guston Primary School to the Fort's gates has not gone unnoticed and pupils have made exploratory visits in a relationship we hope to grow. Other student activity on site includes a post graduate study of bats and a short film made by students from the University of Kent.

In the wider estate we have invested in re-fencing Coombe Hole local wildlife site including the installation of 12 kissing gates to improve access to this space between the Fort and Connaught Park.

All of this work has led us to a point where we can start to deliver projects of greater impact both in terms of the site condition and its redevelopment.

### **Condition of the Fort**

Reports have highlighted a number of key threats to the Fort and in response to this the Trustees have agreed to a three year programme of conservation work which will address issues including:

- Failing structural integrity of the bridge into the site
- Failure of ditch retaining wall
- Damp and wet rot
- Caponier face drainage

Tenders have been issued for the appointment of consultants with the goal being to have year one works on site following receipt of Scheduled Monument Consent by June 2019.





## **Artsmark and Arts Award**

Utilising funding provided by Artsworld, and the South East Bridge, we will be working with Animate Arts to support three schools on a journey to achieve Artsmark status. Alongside this we are aiming to support 90 pupils to achieve Arts Award explore. Building on a generic education pack for habitats on Fort sites we aim to have a Fort Burgoyne education pack and Arts Award activity pack in place by summer 2019.

## **West Wing Battery**



The Trustees have agreed to invest in a project which will conserve and seek to provide managed public access to the West Wing Battery of the Fort.

This action has been proposed as a positive response to progress made on the regeneration of Connaught Barracks with plans for 64 houses on the Officer's Mess.

Tenders are presently out for the appointment of architects to deliver the project in the West Wing which we hope to complete by June 2020.

In order to build community ownership of a space which has largely been out of bounds since its construction the Trust is allocating a proportion of the secured Pioneering Places: East Kent grant to this space. Tenders have been issued to seek appointment of artists to work with communities to inform access and potential future uses of the space to feed into final design proposals which will

need Scheduled Monument Consent prior to delivery. We hope to commence the consultation in December 2018.

### **Fort Burgoyne – Year of Engagement 2019**

Pioneering Places: East Kent funding is being utilised to engage a partner to deliver a year of engagement in the future use of Fort Burgoyne with communities and stakeholders. Whilst the economic viability of any future use proposals needs confirming, there is a real need to build community support for proposals and discover how people want to interact with the site in future.

Whilst the year of engagement is being delivered, the Trust will be seeking to resolve some major challenges including potential future car parking and service provision to internal spaces together with undertaking economic viability assessments.

We are also looking to extend the Land Trust's Green Angels training programme to the Fort. This scheme was funded initially by Big Lottery Fund in Everton Park but has since been extended to sites we manage in Yorkshire and Warrington. The project aims to support individuals in developing knowledge and skills either with a view to gaining employment or to help them in volunteering. We hope to run a first course based around the sites grassland habitat in Spring 2019 with further opportunities in hard landscaping and historic building conservation following over time.

### **Pioneering Places: East Kent**

Part of the national Great Place Scheme, Pioneering Places is an ambitious project that will make East Kent an even better place to live, work and visit by exploring heritage, developing civic pride and connecting artists and communities. Four exemplar heritage and arts projects in Folkestone, Ramsgate, Canterbury and Dover will be led by local cultural organisations to influence policy makers, and encourage diverse people to bring in change and become great place-makers.

Pioneering places: East Kent is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, with Historic England and Artswork, the South East Bridge.

### **Upcoming events**

#### **Guided walks**

13 January 2019. 10am. Guided walk with a family friendly edge – our children's passport book will be available together with the completion award.

13 January 2019. 2pm. Guided walk

10 February 2019. 10am. Guided walk with a family friendly edge – our children's passport book will be available together with the completion award.

10 February 2019. 2pm. Guided walk

**Booking essential** please email: [mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk](mailto:mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk)

## **Volunteering sessions**

Friday volunteering sessions will be led by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership. Details of tasks can be found at:

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

Or call:

(01304) 241806

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## **Feedback**

Did you find this newsletter interesting and useful?

We would welcome your feedback on content and format to help improve future editions. Please email [chrisvaldus@thelandtrust.org.uk](mailto:chrisvaldus@thelandtrust.org.uk) with any comments.

## **Contact:**

Chris Valdus

Fort Burgoyne Heritage Project Manager

07825901358

[chrisvaldus@thelandtrust.org.uk](mailto:chrisvaldus@thelandtrust.org.uk)

[enquiries@thelandtrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thelandtrust.org.uk)