



Fort Burgoyne Update Newsletter

Issue no. 2

February 2019

We are excited to announce the appointment of a world-class team of consultants from the local area. Together we will work on the creation of an inspirational vision for the future of the Fort and address significant issues facing the site.



In addition to the Land Trust's own resources, funding is being provided by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, with Historic England, and Artswork, the South East Bridge as part of **Pioneering Places East Kent**.

Works will include the stabilization and conservation of this hidden Victorian masterpiece, allowing the Fort and its West Wing Battery to be regularly opened to the public for the first time in its history. Alongside this, an artist-led community engagement programme will look at how to raise the Fort's profile and make it attractive to the local community, visitors and businesses. The team has been specifically selected for their track record in delivering successful, high impact schemes around the UK.

Heritage design specialists, **Lee Evans Partnership LLP**, have been appointed to lead the conservation works, alongside **Betteridge & Milsom**, quantity surveyors, having been chosen for their experience in dealing with historic buildings and sensitive heritage sites.

Dover Arts Development (DAD), with their highly-respected reputation for delivering quality art projects in the local community have been chosen to work with **Charles Holland Architects (CHA)**, an architecture, design and research studio based in Deal, east Kent. **DAD** and **CHA** have developed a programme of 'Explorers' walks to re-imagine the West Wing Battery through a public engagement programme that will draw on the skills, knowledge and ideas of Dover people. For more information on the programme visit: www.dadonline.eu.



Canterbury Archaeological Trust have been engaged to plan and deliver a community archaeological investigation of the West Wing Battery in Spring 2019 to help inform plans further for this space.

Albion is a newly formed company whose members have wide and varied experience in regeneration projects around the UK. **Albion** have been appointed to run an initial '*Year of Engagement*' talking to local people about a new creative community which could include Artists' studios and unique business space alongside shops and cafes.

The award winning **Animate Arts Company** will be working with local schools in conjunction with the Fort delivering participatory Artsmark and Arts Award projects. They will create education and activity packs for use by schools visiting the site. Plans have been made with Guston Primary School who has signed up for the programme and we hope to confirm another two schools before the end of February.

Karen Pamplin Browne, with over twenty years' experience in arts education, curation and project management in places such as Turner Contemporary has been appointed as project evaluator.

Dover Tales has long been a friend of the Fort and supported delivery of memory cafes in the Charlton Centre in November 2018. We are exploring opportunities to arrange a small youth football tournament at the Fort in summer 2019, together with broadening our awareness of the human past of the Fort through working with the Dover and White Cliffs Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Whilst the project team are busy planning works and future events, the annual programme of removal of vegetation from ditch walls and structures to aid assessment of condition has been ongoing.



Sadly a combination of honey fungus and Dutch Elm Disease led to the loss of the spectacular elm tree on the edge of the parade ground. Remaining standing wood is both a habitat for invertebrate, potential nesting site for woodpeckers but also possible base for future play structures.



Ranger Update



In December 2018, Paul Sampson became the Ranger for Fort Burgoyne. Paul has worked on Dover sites for over 10 years for the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and we are very excited to be gaining his skills, experience and enthusiasm for community engagement, habitat management and the historic environment.

Regular tours of the Fort have enabled the general public to see and appreciate the heritage at Fort Burgoyne. As we look to develop the site, feedback from visitors on tours will have an increasingly important part to play in supporting plans and funding applications. The January tour date had nearly 80 people of all ages come on a cold and dreary day to see and experience Fort Burgoyne. Paul is also keen to increase community use of Coombe Hole and to encourage this has added walks in the wider Fort estate to future programme of events. For details on upcoming walks keep an eye on the Fort Facebook Page or download latest White Cliffs Countryside Partnership event/Green Gang activity booklet from: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk.

Monthly volunteer tasks have taken place over the winter with an average of 15 people attending from all walks of life. Tools and basic training are provided and we are always delighted to see new people joining the team

The winter vegetation and regrowth clearing season started with the Fort having its last general tidy up and a check over before the start of winter. During November we started on clearing the scrub and regrowth from the southern end of Coombe Hole Field. This is the grazing land on the western side of the Guston Road. There has been a programme of scrub clearing by contractors but there are still plenty of tasks for the volunteers to get stuck into. We are aiming to get the chalk grassland which has been lost to the growth of scrub back to grazing suitable standard for the livestock and wildlife to benefit from.



Looking ahead to the Spring and Summer, the volunteers will be maintaining the infrastructure on site, checking the fencing, conducting regular litter patrols and keeping the Ragwort and invasive species under control. Another task is to reduce the Cotoneaster which is growing on a side of the coombe. Here the grass is short and is a warm place for butterflies and small reptiles.

For details on upcoming tasks visit: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk/



The Trust is delighted to be working with the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to extend its successful Green Angels programme. **Green Angels** is an exciting training opportunity with an environmental focus, giving you the chance to learn new skills, change your future prospects and make a difference in your community.

Courses are FREE to join and have in other parts of the country covered subjects such as countryside management, landscaping, environmental education, and horticulture. The built fabric of the Fort provides an exciting opportunity to potentially extend these courses into woodwork and brickwork repair as part of the conservation of the site.

Training programmes usually last around six weeks, with regular sessions that combine learning with hands-on experience.

We are hoping to run a taster day in the Spring with an Environmental Education course following in the Summer and Countryside Management in Autumn 2019.

For up to date information, find us with the details below:



@FortBurgoyne FortBurgoyne The Land Trust @FortBurgoyne or visit thelandtrust.org.uk/spaces

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 with any comments.

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