



Landguard Fort Felixstowe



Landguard Fort is a grade 1 listed building situated on the Landguard Peninsula, sharing space with Felixstowe Museum, the nature reserve, View Point café and Felixstowe port. We are an historical visitor attraction owned by English Heritage and run by Landguard Fort Trust. The Trust is a registered charity. We are proud to report that Landguard

Fort is continuing to develop into one of Felixstowe's main tourist attractions. Last year (2018) we welcomed over 22,000 visitors.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES.

The aim of the Landguard Fort Trust is to enhance public knowledge on the role of Landguard Fort as a building of great historical and educational interest. We open the fort to the public 7 days a week, 10am to 5pm from April through to October. Our objectives are not only to increase the public's understanding of how the fort was used over its long military history and how it has also become a major attraction for special events and activities for the local community. In recent years, we have held open-air theatre productions, exhibitions, Halloween nights, Christmas events, pirate days, car rallies and major events such as the Armed Forces/Darell's Day in 2017, featuring the Battle of Landguard re-enactment. This was a huge success for the fort and the local community.

The Trust continues to promote its role as a Suffolk tourist attraction, using radio advertising and interviews to reach out to local audiences. We encourage visits from younger audiences with a policy of providing free visits for school groups. For adults we provide special tours of the fort's outer defences by our knowledgeable tour guides. We participate in the National Heritage Day event allowing free entry to the public. This gives the opportunity for people who wouldn't otherwise be able to visit the fort, to do so.

FUTURE EVENTS

In 2019 we are looking forward to another exciting year of events. On the 5th May we are delighted to welcome the Mayor and councillors to open our 'Landguard Voices' display and to 'show-off' the changes we have made recently to our rooms and exhibits. We will be holding our Darell's weekend on the 6th/7th July, which is our annual commemoration of the Dutch invasion in 1667. This year, for the first time, Landguard Fort will be entering a float into Felixstowe's carnival. Other events include the Heritage Open Day, military rifle displays, a Smuggler's weekend and this year we are planning a two day (14-15 Dec) Christmas event.

These events are for all the local residents to come along and enjoy are specifically aimed at families. Such events would not be possible without the generous support from our Town Council.

LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT.

The Landguard Fort Trustees are immensely grateful to the Town Council, not only for its financial grants but also for the 'hands-on' support provided by Paul Grant and Stephen Rampley. The Trustees continue to liaise with English Heritage, Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, the Landguard Partnership and the Port of Felixstowe. Without these organisations, together with the dedication of the Landguard Fort volunteers, the fort would be unable to operate as a tourist attraction.

The grants donated by the Town Council to Landguard Fort Trust are used specifically to fund the development of the fort's exhibits and interpretations in order to enhance the visitor's experience. Last year we received a grant from the Town Council to develop our 'Landguard Voices' presentation. The grant was used to purchase audio technology and signage to play oral history recordings of soldiers who once served at Landguard. When visitors enter the Guardroom a period telephone to rings. When answered an announcement invites the listener to dial from a menu of numbers to listen to particular recollections. These stories are delivered simultaneously to the telephone handset and to a 1940's era wireless set so that a wider audience in the room can hear them.

In 2017 the fort management team established a 'Fort Forward' group. This dedicated team of volunteers is the driving force behind improving interpretation and creating new areas of interest and learning for visitors to the fort and the local community.

The funds provided by the Town Council have allowed the Fort Forward team to upgrade our TV/Film room with new technology and to develop the WWII Barack Room with a working radio playing period announcements and music. More recently we have completely replaced the lanterns in one of the magazine lighting passage tunnels and developed one of the magazine storage rooms so that we can show the Landguard Fort films. These projects would not have been possible without local funding.

This year the Fort Forward team are working on developing the Cold War Seaward Defence Headquarters (a huge project) to include interactive displays for our visitors. Another major project, currently being researched, is the interpretation of the Submarine Mining Establishment. Although our highly skilled and dedicated band of volunteers can do most of the practical work, funding is essential to pay for equipment and displays etc.

We are working with English Heritage to provide 'flushable' toilets at the fort. Presently we have no waste plumbing which means we have temporary 'portable' loos. Mains water and flushing toilets for the public (and staff!) would allow a greater range of events including hospitality events, weddings parties, business conferences etc. Such amenities would offer the local people and wider community a very unique event and hospitality venue in Felixstowe.

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