

A brief guide to the fort

Fort Theatre

This fast moving 15 minute film presentation introduces you to the original designer of the fort, Major General Ardagh, who takes you through the creation of Newhaven Fort and its roles in two world wars, right up to the present day.

The Fort Collection

A room full of badges, uniforms, medals, photographs, models and other artefacts donated to the fort over recent years.



The Fort and Newhaven

Find out how the fort and harbour have developed together over the years; an interactive model of the fort depicts the fort as it was in 1873.

Life in the Fort

A display of soldiers' equipment including kit laid out on the bed for the dreaded kit inspection! Find out about life for the soldiers and families stationed and living in the fort, look at the original forge – but watch out for the Sergeant Major!

The School Room

This is where most educational visits start with an introductory and safety talk and, if required, a demonstration of Second World War Home Front artefacts. On the walls are many captioned photographs of life during the war and these are well worth closer study as there is a wealth of useful information here.

Sussex Land, sea and air

Sussex is a county rich in military history and here you will find some of this history on display, including parts from a V-1 flying bomb – the dreaded “doodlebug”, push the button to hear its fearful noise.

Sussex & Surrey Yeomanry

Yeomanry regiments were raised over two hundred years ago to counter the many invasion threats to this country and these regiments have continued to be part of the British Army and have served in major conflicts all over the world. An excellent

and fascinating display of uniforms, medals and artefacts follow the history of these Yeomanry regiments.

Royal Observer Corps

Life size displays depict the fascinating history of the corps during the Second World War and their more recent nuclear reporting role during the cold war. A World War Two observation post on the ramparts allows children to understand how aircraft were identified and plotted and the vital part that the corps played in the air defence of Britain.

Dieppe and D-Day

Whereas the D-Day invasion of France was successful and led to the end of the war, the Dieppe raid of 1942 was a disaster that resulted in heavy casualties, especially amongst the Canadians. Many of the troops for both of the Dieppe raid and D-day landings left from Newhaven. To describe these events there is a particularly poignant four-minute audio-visual presentation of the Dieppe raid and another of the D-Day landings as well as artefacts and models.

Home Front

This is the main focus for any school visit relating to the Second World War and a fascinating look at life for those left behind during the war.

The Blitz experience is not to be missed as explosions flash and crash around you as you walk through the effects of the blitz. Discover the ARP wardens on the scene at a wrecked and burning house. A Morrison shelter provides safe refuge for a young occupant and there is an Anderson shelter out in the yard and, at the end of the scene is an emergency first aid post set up in a bomb damaged shop to treat some of the casualties.

The arched brick shelter within the Home Front Exhibition gives a realistic feel of what it was like down in a street shelter or an underground tunnel during the blitz.

A warning siren announces the approach of the bomber 'planes; the anti-aircraft guns blast in reply, whilst the bombs can

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be heard-and felt!- exploding all around. The comforting narration reminds everyone that, in this instance, they are in fact quite safe.

Elsewhere you will find many home front related artefacts. There is a complete range of gas masks including the "Mickey Mouse" and a babies respirator. Discover the many wartime restrictions that made normal life so difficult. Listen to Wartime extracts of radio broadcasts by "Lord Haw Haw", Flanagan and Allen and Churchill. Look at the wartime kitchen and discover how little you really did get to eat! Stand by the evacuation scene and imagine what it must have been like to be sent away from home to face an uncertain future living with strangers in an alien environment.



First World War

The "Great War" - the war to end all wars, was the most destructive and costly war that the world had ever seen. The horrors of the trenches, the use of gas and the huge numbers of casualties, coupled with new technology weapons has ensured that this most terrible of wars will never be forgotten.

Situated in the old officers' quarters, the forts' First World War exhibition is a

poignant and moving experience. A short video introduces the causes, course and results of the battles, there is a trench scene and a particularly thought provoking audio poetry presentation alongside relics from the Somme battlefield. The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is explained, there is a trench model and other audio and visual displays along with many artefacts on display.

This exhibition provides a very useful basis for study of the First World War.

Parade Ground

The parade ground is in the centre of the fort. In the event of fire, the fire point is situated here between the searchlight café and the Romney Hut

Eastern Magazine, tank room and caponier

Situated below the Officers' Quarters, the eastern Magazine is the main area for the storage of explosives and shells. At present the tank room is not accessible but this is where the forts' water supply was kept. The caponier is accessed by over 70 steps that lead to this important fortification at the base of the cliffs from where defending troops could fire at any invaders attacking the fort from the beach.

Grand Magazine and Laboratory

At the western end of the fort, this was where gunpowder and shells were stored before being taken to the adjacent laboratory where the two components were made into live shells.

Ramparts

Please ensure that children are supervised in all of the rampart areas. The remaining gun emplacements can be found on the southern ramparts and there is still a 12 pounder QF and a 6 inch heavy gun in place. From these ramparts a good view of the port, sea, Seaford bay and surrounding areas can be had and it is clear why the fort was built in this position.