

DEVONPORT FIELD GUN MUSEUM-ON THE MOVE

Many Association Members will remember the memorable day a number of years ago when the Lord Mayor of Plymouth opened the new Devonport Field Gun heritage exhibition in the great Tarred Yard Store in the South Yard of the Devonport Naval Base. This most impressive presentation of the history of the Devonport Command Field Gun resulted from the hard work of Tom Luther, Fred Pearce and Linda James and formed part of what was then the Plymouth Naval Base Museum project. Fred and Linda welcomed many thousands of visitors over the coming years.

The Plymouth Naval Base Museum project was replaced by what is now known as the Devonport Naval Heritage Centre based on a reduced use of historic buildings in South Yard. Sadly, this entailed the removal of the Field Gun exhibition from the Tarred Yarn store and it was at this stage that the Association assumed responsibility and developed a new Devonport Field Gun Museum at Crownhill Fort, renting space in the lime store and the gatehouse. Later, a larger space in the old officers' quarters was rented and an excellent new museum put together by Admiral Mike Thomas and Fred Pearce. Fred continued to take responsibility for the museum, recently retiring from the job after many years having handed over the responsibility to Vic "Barney" Barnett.

In October 2015 the Board endorsed a Corporate Plan 2015-2018. This included a longer-term objective to seek new premises capable of sustaining an expansion of the Heritage Centre (Museum), provide office space for administration, new workshops and allow regular public access. There is now an additional and urgent requirement to press ahead with this objective due to the unsustainable high rental and running costs at Crownhill Fort. The Board at its' meeting on 11 April decided that the facilities at Crownhill Fort will be vacated in June this year and that appropriate notice will be given to the Landmark Trust the owner of the Fort.

Options for taking on new premises are now being actively pursued with owners of a building that is closely situated to Crownhill Fort. The Museum displays, historic artefacts and equipment presently at Crownhill Fort will be carefully packed and placed into storage until new premises become available at which time the museum will be faithfully re-installed using the existing display order & presentation material.

Cdr Charles Crichton OBE RN
Director
Management Planner.
2017

23 April