

Museum attracts plenty of interest on its opening day



Pictured with one of the exhibits is operations director George Gear
PICTURE: Martin Cavaney



Chapel Bay Fort and Museum opened its doors for the first time on Good Friday PIC: Martin Cavaney



Visitors attend in huge crowds to the opening
PICTURE: Martin Cavaney

AN ANGLE museum and 19th century fort opened its doors to the public for the first time on Good Friday, attracting hundreds of visitors over the weekend.

The historic Chapel Bay Fort and Museum 'unofficially opened' on Good Friday, after years of painstaking restoration by operations directors George and Emma Gear and a team of volunteers, with occasional help from the Royal Engineers and local TA units.

The coast artillery fort, a scheduled ancient monument, was completed in 1891.

Guided tours took in the museum of military technology - a memorial to the men who served and trained there - underground works and tunnels, gun emplacements and magazines.

The display included the big-

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gest gun and shell in Wales - a 25 pounder gun howitzer, a 5.5 inch gun and a 10 inch 18 ton rifled muzzle loading gun, as well as an impressive collection of historic weaponry.

There were also special displays on the First World War, bomb disposal, artillery, small arms, the telephone exchange and the Royal Artillery forge and workshop.

The fort is now open from 10am to 4pm every week from Wednesdays to Sundays.

Speaking after the first weekend opening, Chapel Bay Fort Museum operations director George Gear told the *Western Telegraph*: "It really was very

well attended - it has been pretty crowded.

"We've been doing four guided tours a day with up to 20 people in each one, and we are only open to walkers off the footpath at the moment.

"It is a very 'soft' opening and we are finding our way in easy.

"We're doing this gradually and carefully."

Chapel Bay will 'officially' open when the museum car park is built.

• The fort is also looking for volunteers.

They will be required to help with its operations and maintenance.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the project as a volunteer should call then on 07437 568654 or alternatively you can e-mail them on the address: cbf@inbox.com