



Man locks himself inside Solent fort

A MAN has barricaded himself inside one of the so-called Palmerston's follies in the Solent.

Harmesh Pooni, 42, bought the 150-year-old No Man's Land Fort in the Solent for £5m in 2004.

However his financial backers have since gone bust and administrators KPMG assumed ownership of the Grade II listed building and instructed estate agents to put it on the market for £4m.

Mr Pooni objects though, and has locked himself inside the fort, and placed upturned tables on the helipads to prevent anyone from landing on the fort, which was built to repel any possible French invasion in the middle of the 19th century.

The Birmingham businessman, said: "The fort is mine and no-one else has the right to sell it. Even if they got an order to evict me I shall carry on fighting it in the courts.

I have been staying in the fort to protect it an ensure no-one boards it and changes the lock."

The fort was converted into a five-star hotel, but discovery of the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' Disease meant the venue had to be shut down.

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By Dan Kerins

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