

# Slough Fort News

Looking back at 2020, it's hard to believe what a year it has been. However, with our dedicated trustees and volunteers, the Fort has seen much progress in its restoration. Not even a pandemic can stop the Fort from being brought back to life! In this edition of Slough Fort News, we take a look back at some of our achievements over the past year! Merry Christmas to you all and best wishes for the New Year 2021!

## Spring

Back in January, the Trust agreed on a new mission & vision statement for Slough Fort

### Mission Statement

"Connecting communities to the past, present and future"

### Our Vision

'With Slough Fort's unique history and location, we aim to renovate, educate, celebrate and demonstrate history by becoming a premier tourist destination utilising the Fort's maximum potential as a venue for all to explore.'

VISION



In March, the 12 pdr. gun took pride of place in its original position



Last of our heritage walks



Positioning of Tett turret



During Lockdown 1.0, we introduced Throwback Thursday & Flashback Friday #TBT #FBF

THROWBACK THURSDAY!

FLASHBACK FRIDAYS



Start of community orchard

## It's SUMMER Time

STAY ALERT  
CONTROL THE VIRUS  
SAVE LIVES

To enable us to open the Fort doors for our volunteers and visitors, we had to make Slough Fort Covid-19 safe by implementing new measures for our workdays



Finally out of lockdown our regular work days could begin again

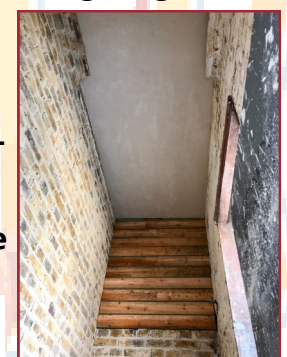


To help us cover a short fall in the purchase of new windows and doors, a crowd funding page was setup

### TICKET SOURCE



Our Sunday Tours restarted as ticket-only events for Track and Trace and to ensure our guests' safety



Lime plaster ceilings were applied to the lathes in the rooms in the main fort

## Autumn



Painting the windows

Electric Medway (an online festival) recorded at the Fort to make use of its unusual acoustics

electric MEDWAY



Lock and military pickle jar found



Excavation of the guard room floor begins



Unbelievable transformation of the windows and doors

## IT'S WINTER

Further excavation of guard room revealing 2 separate cells



Guard room windows had 48 panes of glass added



Conversion of casemates to volunteer area for future use

104 mixed fruit trees now in situ



Repair of magazine roof to stop leakage



Preparing the fruit trees for planting





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## Christmas Workday

Our last workday of the year was a great success! Our fireplace was lit to create a festive feel and a few of our volunteers even dressed for the occasion! Unfortunately, we were unable to host our usual Christmas celebrations this year for our volunteers due to the Covid-19 restrictions. However, the Christmas spirit was still very much alive and our volunteers worked very hard this workday. Hopefully, we will be able to host a Christmas extravaganza for our amazing volunteers next year to make it up to them. Fingers crossed!



## COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

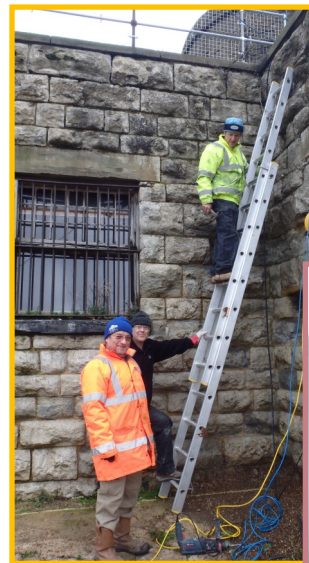
This workday, 60 mixed fruit trees were planted in our community orchard by our volunteers, in addition to 14 recently planted by Trustee Neil, making a total of 104 trees now in situ.



The trees are a mixture of cherry, apricot, quince, apple, plum and pear, gained from grants from Postcode Lottery and KCF. In addition, we have started to reinstate a traditional

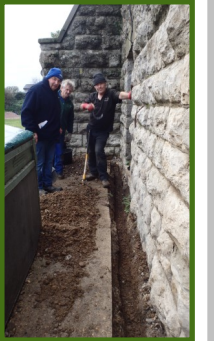


hedgerow made up of hazel, blackthorn, rowan, crab apple and dog rose, that would have been around all of the fields in the area at one time. It acts as a wildlife corridor as well as a shelter for local wildlife.



## Power to the People!

Our volunteers have also started to introduce cables in order to bring utilities to the fort for future use.



## Magazine Roof

The roof of the magazine has leaked substantially in the past, making the inside of the



magazine damp and wet. Over the last few workdays, the roof has been accessed and repaired. When the soil was dug away, it revealed a layer of sand over 4 ft deep underneath the 2 inches of soil and grass. The sand layer was originally placed in situ in order to protect the magazine and absorb any impacts from incoming attack.



The magazine is now drying nicely!



We hope that you found this Newsletter informative. Please do contact us if you are able to provide any support to us in the form of tools/materials or time so that we may continue with our vital work to get Slough Fort back to its former glory.

Please find us on our Facebook Page—**Slough Fort Volunteers Group** and on our website [www.sloughfort.org.uk](http://www.sloughfort.org.uk)



The Trustees of Slough Fort would like to wish all of our volunteers and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021. We would like to thank you all for your unwavering support during this unsettling year. Lets hope that 2021 will be a much better year for all of us. Please stay safe and have a wonderful Christmas! Best wishes from Keith, Daune, Colin, Michael, Neil, Stuart, Justine and Kian