

Although snow has fallen, Spring is definitely on its way. As the spring flowers start to emerge from the cold earth, so too do new features of the Fort. The walls of the Guardroom cells rise as does the new palisade fencing around the boundary of the Fort. With each brick that is placed back into its rightful place, the buried memories of the Fort are awakened from their long slumber.

## Guardroom comes to life

The Guardroom floor has really come on leaps and bounds in an extremely short amount of time, courtesy of Trustee Colin who has been working very hard day and night on his solo project in his spare time. A true labour of love and dedication. Previously the Guardroom was dug out to reveal buried capping stones, the fire hearth, and the foundations of the original cell walls. Now the cell division and supporting walls have been rebuilt and the timber floor re-laid. Many thanks to Mark Boakes for his excellent brick-laying skills and to Clive, Martin, Julie & Mark for assisting Colin on workdays.



Previous images of the Guardroom being dug out above



Supporting wall for joists built, base for cell walls built to floor level, both with air flow gaps. Single wall at the edges being rebuilt so floor can be laid



Floor starting to take shape now and a large area ready for boards



Flooring nearly completed



The beautiful new flooring laid throughout the Guardroom as it once would have looked, now waiting for the cell wall



The frames for where the cell doors will be located are in situ and the brick wall between the two cells is starting to take shape.



New step has been cast for the door

## AmazonSmile

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and limited funds, we have decided to enrol Slough Fort onto AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of the net purchase price of your eligible purchases to a charity of your choice at no extra cost to you. All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and select Slough Fort as your charity of choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon that you know with the same products, same prices and same service. We would be really grateful if you could please support Slough Fort when you buy from Amazon by using our link below:

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

Support Slough Fort Preservation Trust

Shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and we'll donate to your favourite charitable organisation, at no cost to you.

## Fort break in and vandalism

Thankyou to all of Slough Fort's friends for their words of encouragement and offers of support in response to the recent break-in at the Fort. It was extremely disappointing to find that Slough Fort had been vandalised and burgled on the evening of 2nd February. Recently obtained equipment for the irrigation of our fruit trees (secured from a successful grant) had been stolen. The metal bars of the magazine windows that had been previously restored were bent and misshapen where access to the magazine was attempted. A handrail had also been prised from the wall amongst other damage. As you know, volunteers and trustees work extremely hard and give up their valued time for free to progress the fort. As a charity, we have extremely limited funds and we rely on grants, events and donations in order to survive. Any act against the Fort is devastating and sets the fort back in time, especially during the pandemic where we are unable to hold any events and have no way of securing this equipment again. The police have been informed but if anybody has any information about this crime or about any irrigation equipment being sold, then please do let us or the police know.

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1179652-0>



## Colin's Story

**Colin is one of our original Trustees, having been involved in the Fort since 2012 when it was initially a community led project run by the Parish Council. He has since seen the Fort evolve into a Trust and a Charity. Having lived in the Allhallows area for over 40 years, he is a valued pillar of the community. Not only is he Vice Chairman of the Slough Fort Preservation Trust but he is actively involved in the Friends of All Saints Church, where he has helped to manage a successful lottery bid to refurbish the church. Colin has always had an interest in local history and enjoys researching the history of the peninsula. He works professionally in property and grounds maintenance serving the local area and beyond. A valued and respected member of the Trustee team, Colin can always be found at Slough Fort in his spare time, working extremely hard physically to maintain and restore Slough Fort. From installing the new windows and doors in the Main Fort to creating the Volunteers café, restoring the ceilings in the Main Fort and taking on a recent project to bring the Guardroom back to its former glory, Colin flourishes in its atmosphere and has a passion for uncovering its past and recreating the Fort as it once was. His hopes and dreams for the Fort in the future includes for it to become a successful tourist attraction, providing employment via a café and an educational hub for school children. With Colin's determination, he is sure to succeed! Colin, we salute you! Thank you for all that you do!**



## Slough Fort featured on Channel 5

Did you manage to catch the episode of 'The Secret Life of the Thames' with Tony Robinson where Slough Fort made an appearance? If you didn't see our feature on Channel 5 on 20th January, then why not watch on catchup? We were extremely lucky that Tony Robinson was able to visit Slough Fort late last year to highlight the importance of the Fort as a defence structure for the Thames and we were thrilled that we had coverage on mainstream television. Thanks Tony! Come back soon!

## New Gates!



Slough Fort is now the proud owner of new main gates and fencing to add an additional layer of protection to the fort.

This replaces the Heras fencing that was previously added back in early 2019.



## Coming Home

Slough Fort bought a number of reclaimed bricks in order to rebuild the guardroom walls. Discovered amongst these were bricks originally made at



Hoo brickyard that closed in the mid 1900s. South and North of the River Medway was a massive brick building industry. Men would be on the saltings loading barges with clay mud which was used

in the cement works. Each brick would be hand made and stamped with the name of the brickfield. Thousands of bricks would be stacked into a clamp and then set on fire. The clamp would burn for weeks until all the bricks had been fired. Now these bricks will have pride of place at SF!

## AGM

Annual General Meeting

We are still hoping that we will be able to hold our AGM in person at Allhallows Village Hall on 27th March. However, if this is still not possible due to the ongoing lockdown, then we will look to hold the AGM online instead and will let you know via email and Facebook nearer the time.

The meeting will cover reports from our chairman Keith, and from our Treasurer Daune. It will also cover appointments of existing and new trustees.

The meeting will also allow the Trust to listen to any feedback and to answer any questions that you may have.

If you would like to attend, please contact:

**[secretary@sloughfort.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sloughfort.org.uk)**

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 Preservation Trust** and on our website **[www.sloughfort.org.uk](http://www.sloughfort.org.uk)**

