

NEWS

Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022



Slough Fort were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September and offer our sympathies to the Royal Family. This sad news may affect us in different ways. You may feel grief, feelings of your own mortality, uncertainty, change or it may bring up old feelings of grief. Unprocessed emotions can surface when confronted with a trigger like the death of a public figure. It may feel strange to be mourning someone you didn't know personally, but it's completely normal. If you are struggling, there is plenty of support and guidance:

[Mind - Bereavement website](#)

[Cruse Bereavement Support website](#)

[Mental Health Foundation - Change, Loss and Bereavement](#)

The Union Jack was flown at half mast as a mark of respect to the Queen. God save the King!



Last chance for Fort Tours

Our fort tours will shortly be finishing for winter. Tours will take place every Wednesday and Sunday until the end of October. Why not take this last opportunity to visit the fort to witness the wonderful progress that has been made? Please visit our website: www.sloughfort.org.uk/guided-tours or www.ticketsource.co.uk/slough-fort-preservation-trust to book tickets.



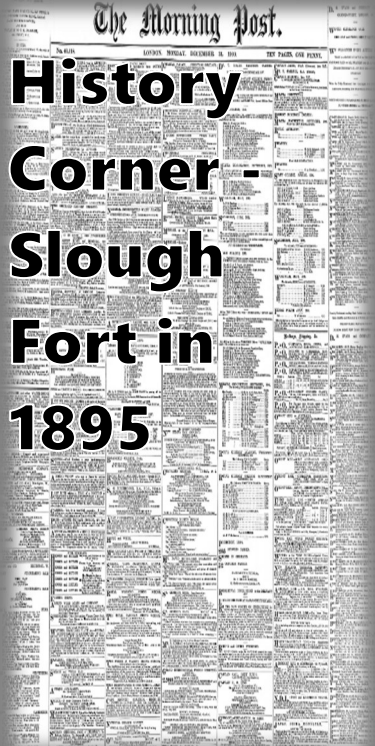
Allhallows Fete

Slough Fort was represented at the Allhallows Fete by Keith and Feo on 9th July where we had a pitch to promote the Fort and recruit new volunteers. It was a great day with many children and young adults interested in our local heritage. Here's to 'Connecting communities to the past, present and future!'



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History Corner - Slough Fort in 1895



A newspaper article dating back to November 27, 1895 has come to light from archives which mentions the unfortunate drowning of two artillerymen in the Thames on their return to Hoo Fort from Slough Fort. Image courtesy of the British Library Board.

'THE MORNING POST,' WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1895.

THE DROWNING OF TWO ARTILLERYMEN.—An official inquiry was held by the military authorities at Chatham yesterday into the circumstances under which Corporal Clarke and Gunner Haycock were drowned in the Thames during the gale on Saturday night. The Artillerymen were stationed at Hoo Fort, some miles from Chatham, and in company with Gunner Clarke left in a boat to fetch their master gunner, Owen, from Slough Fort. The night was very dark and rough, and on the return journey the boat suddenly foundered and precipitated the four men into the water. Owen and Gunner Clarke swam ashore and landed in a very exhausted condition. Haycock's body was recovered on Monday night. On Sunday Mr. W. L. Wylie, the artist, endeavoured to find the bodies by dragging, but his boat was capsized, and he was rescued by a barge boat.

Summer facelift



More renovations have been completed over the Summer with another set of windows with their Victorian brass fittings added to the Officers' Kitchen. In addition, another beautiful bespoke door from Faversham Joinery has been installed in the female toilet, purchased with money from Allhallows Parish Council, completing the face of the Fort. Now the door has been fitted, we are on the lookout for another Victorian toilet and cistern to complete the finish.



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Open Day 21 August



Slough Fort once again opened its doors to the public for its last open day of the year. The event was once again a great success and was enjoyed by all. All the reenactors were on great form including those from the 79th Cameron Highlanders and the 42nd Black Watch. There was the usual live musket and cannon firing demonstrations along with pirate sword fighting by the Sheppey Pirates! Along with our guided tours and our pop up café with ice-creams a plenty, were the classic and military vehicles! Photo credits to Ben Gwolf.



Grand opening by Kelly Tolhurst MP

Our newly renovated guard room was officially opened by MP Kelly Tolhurst on our Summer Open Day. The guard room now has two fully functional cells including facilities for the guards on duty including beds and a desk. Kelly was also shown around the fort including the recently restored pantry, officers toilet and kitchen.



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Beehives



Slough Fort currently have three hives on-site as part of our orchard project. One hive alone recently yielded 20lbs of honey in total! The fort is hoping to set up arrangements soon for selling Slough Fort honey. Watch this space!



Benefactor plea



Slough Fort has been very fortunate over the years in being donated various artefacts. Most recently, we have been lucky to have been gifted a Victorian butler sink that will be used in our officers' kitchen along with some wonderful pottery that will be used to bring the Fort to life. As we have recently restored the Officer's toilet, we are now looking for a further Victorian toilet in order to continue the renovations in the female toilet, now that we have a new door in situ. If you are interested in becoming a benefactor, please do email us at info@sloughfort.org.uk



Ghost Tours



Halloween is fast approaching and there are a wide variety of paranormal nights being held around this time at Slough Fort. Are you looking to do something different with your friends? Our paranormal events have been a popular mainstay for a number of years now and with the wealth of history at the fort, you are sure to experience the ghosts of Slough Fort. Do you have what it takes to stay the night in our cells? Please see our Facebook page for booking information with the various paranormal groups.