

NEWS



Christmas comes but once a year but when it comes it brings good cheer! Slough Fort recently held a Christmas celebration event for our wonderful volunteers to thank them for all their hard work over the year. Our volunteers enjoyed a hot Christmas baguette with all the trimmings, a selection of delicious nibbles and some festive music to get into the Christmas spirit! It was particularly welcome on such a cold and frosty final volunteer day of 2022! Our younger volunteers and those young at heart also enjoyed games of laser tag in the magazine. Thankyou to all our volunteers who tirelessly turn up every month without fail from far and wide, working hard to support the fort's progress!



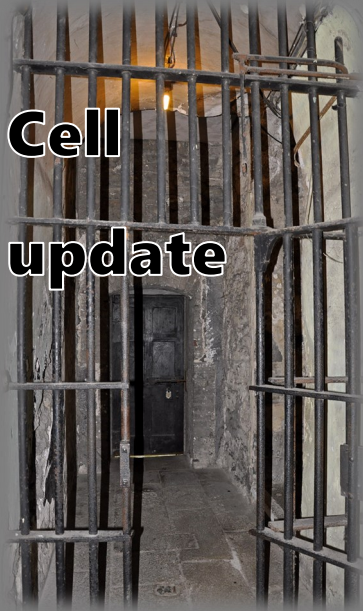
Christmas Volunteer Party



NEWS



Cell update



After being tutored by our friends from Fort Amherst, Molly has successfully pointed much of the brickwork in the cells herself. Well done Molly! Now that this has been done, the brickwork is now in the process of being lime washed and the cells are one step closer to becoming finished.



Essential upkeep of the grounds

Although the Fort is now closed to visitors, the maintenance of the fort must still continue and the volunteers have been busier than ever! New fences have been erected, repairs made and shrubbery cut back. Whatever the weather, our regular volunteers always turn up to help!



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Volunteer Café upgrade

Our Volunteer Café has had a little makeover with some much needed modern table and chairs, upgrading the feel of the area where the volunteers have their hot drinks and bacon sandwiches at break time.



Many thanks indeed to Haven for their kind donation of furniture to our café project. Part of the floor within the café has also been lowered, by removing concrete previously added in the fort's previous incarnation of stables, restoring the level of the casemate to how it should be. Our community payback team worked hard to achieve this particularly hard and messy task!

Renovation work

Renovation work continues in the main fort with newly installed cast iron rain water pipes and hoppers with attractive lead work. The Pantry is now finished with new shelves erected and all our donated pottery cleaned and attractively arranged. Limewashing continues in the magazine and the Ladies WC has had fresh coats of paint.



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Community Payback scheme



Community Payback is a scheme where offenders are required to do unpaid work to pay back the community for the crimes they committed, working on a range of community projects. Slough Fort is very grateful for the work that the Community Payback team do at the Fort every weekend without fail. Those involved perform a wide range of manual tasks including regular mowing and maintenance of our extensive grounds, freeing up our volunteers time so they are able to get on with more complex and essential duties.

The leader of the Community Payback scheme at Slough Fort, Nick, commented 'Every Saturday for the last 4 years, a group from Community Payback have been lending their skills and assisting the renovations at Slough Fort. I have been supervising the groups and have seen first hand how countless numbers of individuals have benefitted from their time spent paying back to the community. Ordered by the courts to complete the work can sometimes be a barrier to motivation but after some coaxing, most will realise the value of the work and soon develop a sense of enthusiasm. For the most part, they will bring with them a range of skills but there are occasions individuals have no experience of work and no obvious skills. Motivating these individuals is a challenge but with help from the group and fort volunteers, they soon realise their potential and start to develop work related skills which in turn raises their self worth and self esteem which benefits everyone in the long term. I am often told how working at the Fort gives a sense of pride and achievement and individuals comment on how good they feel

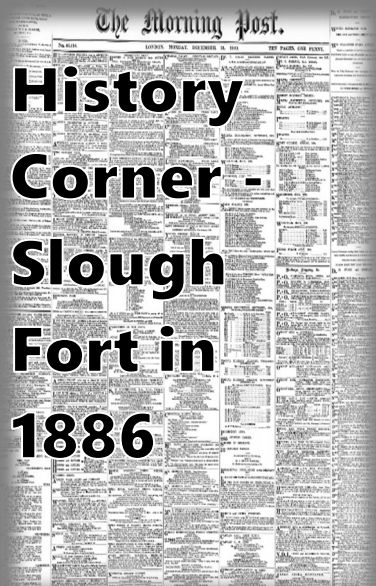
being part of the history of Slough Fort'.



Thankyou to Nick and the team for all their hard work over the years! We are so very glad to have you all on board! Without your help, Slough Fort wouldn't be where we are today!



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History Corner - Slough Fort in 1886

The Gravesend Journal, Dartford Observer, and County Intelligencer, Saturday, May 22, 1886.

Holsomer" and "Since by Man."

ROCHESTER CYCLING CLUB.—On Saturday a large muster of members of this Club had a very enjoyable run into the Hundred of Hoo and the Isle of Grain, visiting Slough Fort and other places of interest. They were afterwards entertained at the Vicarage by the Rev. E. W. Wesley, vicar of All-hallows, who is himself a cyclist.

NEW AND LATTER HOUSE OF LEASE.—A few

It appears that back in May 1886, Slough Fort was visited by a large gathering of cyclists from the Rochester Cycling Club who were taking in the beauty of the local area. The Vicar of Allhallows then invited the cyclists to the Vicarage due to his own passion for cycling!

Slough Fort Preservation Trust would like to thank our landlords Haven for kindly working alongside us. Together we have plotted out the position of the buried 6 inch gun position on the eastern side of the fort and have found the bullnose edge of the gun pit and vertical wall. The caravans which were sited over it have been removed allowing us to uncover the gun position further in the Spring. A new boundary fence will be positioned deeper into the Haven site enabling us access to the gun position on our side of the fence. The fence will continue around the glacis with enough room to create a footpath around it enabling visitors to have an entirely new panoramic view of the fort in 2023!



Fort Grounds update



Support Slough Fort Preservation Trust
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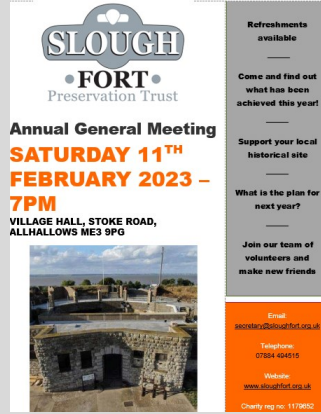




NEWS



**11th
February
2023
GET INVOLVED**



Annual General Meeting
SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2023 – 7PM
VILLAGE HALL, STOKE ROAD, ALLHALLOWS ME3 9PG

Refreshments available
Come and find out what has been achieved this year!
Support your local historical site
What is the plan for next year?
Join our team of volunteers and make new friends

Email: secretary@sloughfort.org.uk
Phone: 01293 462515
Website: www.sloughfort.org.uk
Charity reg no: 117952

Slough Fort’s AGM will be held on Saturday 11th February 2023 at 7pm at the Village Hall in Allhallows. Please come along to hear of the fort’s achievements over the last year and for our future plans. Meet the trustees and ask questions with drinks and a bite to eat afterwards. For further information regarding the AGM, please do contact secretary@sloughfort.org.uk

**Paranormal
bookings
open!**

Our Paranormal nights will resume in 2023 and bookings are open now! If you are a Paranormal organisation and would like to make a booking to host a paranormal night at Slough Fort or if you would simply like to attend as a guest to witness the paranormal activities, please do contact our Events Co-ordinator at events@sloughfort.org.uk for further information.

**Merry
Christmas!**

Slough Fort would like to wish all of our valued volunteers and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023! Thank you each and every one of you for your support over the years, whether you have volunteered at the fort, read our newsletter or attended one of our tours or Open Days. Without our supporters, Slough Fort would not be where it is today. The fort is now closed to visitors for the winter but our volunteers will still be working hard behind the scenes, renovating the Fort! You can keep up to date with our progress by visiting our Facebook page which has regular updates! Please do come to visit us in 2023 and help us to be able to continue the valuable work that we do.

Merry Christmas from Slough Fort



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<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/117952-0>

