



December 1860

The West Kent Yeomanry Christmas Dinner



The West Kent Yeomanry Cavalry often met for exercises on Chislehurst Common, under the command of Lord Sydney. On Dec 19th, 1860, they had a dinner at the White Swan Inn, Deptford.

The Kentish Mercury reported that ***“when the guests (about 40 in number) were seated at the festive board, what with the brilliancy of the table, and the uniforms of the various corps, the tout ensemble was very imposing.”***

The dinner was interspersed with frequent toasts to, for example, “The Queen”, “Prince Albert”, “The Army and Navy” and “The Press”, some drunk multiple times, and there were ***“songs and constant allusions to the joyousness of the evening.”***

A watch and chain were presented to Sergeant Major Smith, and it was described as ***“an evening quite in keeping with the festival of Christmas.”***

Chislehurst Commons has responsibility for managing the 180 acres of local common land under an Act of Parliament.

The Act made no provision for funding.

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