



Media Release

15 July 2020

Dockyard raises the anchor and sets sail for summer

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is excited to announce it will be reopening The Historic Dockyard Chatham to visitors on Saturday, July 25th.

The visitor attraction has been closed to the public since March as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst the government took the decision to allow tourism businesses to reopen from the start of July, the Trust has taken careful steps to ensure the multi-use site can be operated within the current safety guidelines not just for visitors but its resident population and commercial tenants.

With safety the utmost priority, a number of new interventions have been implemented across the site, including the requirement for all visitors to book advance tickets and arrival times online. Some experiences, including *HMS Cavalier* and *HM Submarine Ocelot* will not open at this time.

Call the Midwife Official Location Tours recommence on Saturday, August 1st.

Reduced ticket prices

To celebrate reopening to visitors after four months of closure, the Trust is pleased to offer a special reduced ticket prices for a limited period. An adult annual ticket is £18.70 (a saving of £6) and a family ticket £49.50 (a saving of £16.50).

Salute to the 40's

The Trust has needed to carefully review its operations, including future programming and events. Salute to the 40's, due to take place in September, is a busy, vibrant event that brings people together from all over the country. At this time the Trust feels that, within the current government guidelines, it would not be able to operate the event safely for visitors,

performers, traders and staff. The difficult decision has been taken to postpone the event this year. Ticket holders have the option to roll their ticket forward to 2021, make a charitable donation to the Trust or receive a full refund.

For further information about visits to The Historic Dockyard Chatham please see:

thedockyard.co.uk

MORE PRESS INFORMATION

Please contact Lynnette Crisp on 01634 823800 or email lcrisp@chdt.org.uk for further information.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Historic Dockyard Chatham

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is the only place in the world that lets you explore a complete dockyard from the age of sail and beyond. It's a unique destination that celebrates Great Britain's magnificent maritime past and unmatched contribution to the Royal Navy's shipbuilding excellence that led to worldwide command of the oceans.

Chatham offers unrivalled access to the ships that shaped the world, from a Victorian anti-slavery sailing ship, to a Second World War Destroyer or a Cold War submarine and the stories of the people who made them. From Chatham's historic buildings, from the Commissioner's House and officers' quarters to the remarkable Victorian ropery, where the rigging for HMS Victory was made, to its collection of maritime archaeology, the Dockyard forms an indispensable part of Britain's naval history and its national heritage.

As a fully accredited museum, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust collects, preserves, researches and exhibits objects and materials connected with the history of the dockyard and its people. It studies the development of Royal Navy warship design, construction and the use of the River Medway by the Royal Navy.

Visitors to and users of The Historic Dockyard Chatham are fundamental to its purpose and the economic reuse of the site and its buildings. Its staff and volunteers play a vital role in providing a high level of service and customer care. The Trust is also involved in the ongoing regeneration of Medway and The Thames Gateway, with Culture and Heritage at its heart.

As part of the Trust's strategy of "Preservation through re-use" recent projects have secured the long-term financial sustainability (on a revenue basis) of the wider Historic Dockyard site. The economic outputs from the new uses of the recently opened Fitted Rigging House as well as other activities across the site will bring the total annual contribution made to Medway's economy to £26.3m in 2019, building on the 2012 estimate of £16m (64% growth).