



Media Release

17 July 2020

Dockyard rewards NHS and Emergency Services with exclusive opening and free tickets

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is opening the gates to The Historic Dockyard Chatham for free, from Wednesday, July 22 until Friday, July 24 exclusively for Blue Light Card holders.

The Historic Dockyard and its buildings played a key role in defending the country throughout history with some of the world's most famous ships, including *HMS Victory*, starting life in Chatham. The Trust believes it is only fitting to show its appreciation to the modern day defenders and heroes that have supported the country through the current COVID-19 crisis.

The Historic Dockyard Chatham closed to visitors on Wednesday, March 18 and in the absence of being able to let visitors through the gates, the Trust lit its historic buildings blue and hung banners of support for the NHS. With restrictions now easing, the Trust is working towards a public re-opening of the visitor attraction on Saturday, July 25.

As a thank you to all Blue Light services, the Trust will be opening especially for Blue Light Card holders on three exclusive days prior to the public re-opening.

A limited number of free tickets will be available each day for Wednesday, July 22; Thursday, July 23; and Friday, July 24 2020. All tickets MUST be booked in advance via The Historic Dockyard's website.

To find out more and to apply for tickets, please see: thedockyard.co.uk

Image credit: Mast Houses & Mould Loft, The Historic Dockyard Chatham

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 on-going 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).