

**Press Release
23 July 2021**

Are you ready for a sensational summer day out?

With the Great British summer you never know whether it's going to rain or shine but what better way to cool off or shelter from a shower than aboard a historic warship or inside a vast, ¼ mile long working ropery – all part of The Historic Dockyard Chatham's sensational summer adventures.

Ready for fun with Doc Yard's Summer Show?

A day at the Dockyard lets younger visitors get hands on with history with free activities running throughout the school holidays.

In an all-new interactive performance complete with live science experiments, scientist Doc. Yard, along with able assistant Bunsen, investigate how forces shaped the Dockyard (31 July – 30 August). After taking part, young visitors will leave being able to answer questions like *'How can a ship weighing thousands of tonnes float on water?'* and *'Which falls faster a feather or a hammer?'*

Mission Explore: Climb the Ranks (available daily), is a new and exciting challenge-based programme inviting children of all ages to join the Chatham crew as a Cadet and progress through the ranks to Admiral. At the end of the season, one lucky family will win an exclusive tour with real-life Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Trevor Soar's on warship HM Submarine *Oce/ot*.

Get set to discover fascinating history ...

Visitors of all ages can savour the bygone age of steam when beautiful historic locomotives run through the 'yard on special Railway Days (24 – 25 July & 28 – 30 August). Visitors can get up close to demonstration freight trains including steam locomotive 'Ajax' and diesel locomotives 'Rochester Castle' and 'Overlord' for the perfect photo opportunity.

Hidden Heroines: the untold stories of the women of the Dockyard, brings together a fascinating collection of stories, objects and photographs for the first time. The temporary exhibition celebrates extraordinary women in Chatham Dockyard's history who campaigned for change, fought against the odds and whose impact left a lasting legacy (open daily until 31 October).

A visit to the 400-year-old Ropery, described as 'breathtaking' by a recent guest, is a must. Learn about the ancient art of ropemaking on the ¼ mile long double ropewalk on a 30-minute Ropery Experience (bookable on arrival) and watch the skilled Master Ropemakers demonstrate their craft (select days only).

Go on a voyage of discovery onboard three historic warships ...

After closures due to COVID restrictions, the Dockyard's three magnificent historic warships, HMS *Ocelot*, a Cold War Submarine; Second World War Destroyer HMS *Cavalier* and HMS *Gannet*, a Victorian Sloop, are now fully open.

Pay once, free for a year

With 80 acres to explore, the Dockyard provides a safe and fun environment for all visitors and as tickets are valid for a whole year, there's no need to tackle everything in one visit.

Whilst England has reached Stage 4 of the Government's COVID recovery plan and many rules have been relaxed, the threat of the virus remains high. Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust has a duty of care to keep all users of the Historic Dockyard safe. There are several safety measures that the Trust has chosen to keep in place to help mitigate risk and ensure everyone has a safe but enjoyable visit to the Historic Dockyard. Visitors are advised to read the 'know before you go' information on thedockyard.co.uk for the latest updates.

For more information and to book a visit see: thedockyard.co.uk

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MORE PRESS INFORMATION

Please contact Lynnette Crisp on 07816 296387 or email lcrisp@chdt.org.uk for further information

Notes to Editors

About Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust

The Historic Dockyard Chatham has over 100 buildings and structures, including 47 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The site is in the stewardship of the independent charity, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust (No. 292101).

The Trust's dual objectives of education and preservation are achieved by a strategy of preservation through reuse. Some of the buildings are open to visitors; others are occupied by residential tenants, businesses, and faculties of the University of Kent.

As a fully accredited museum, the 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. The Historic Dockyard Chatham presents unrivalled status as the most complete and best-preserved dockyard of the Age of Sail anywhere in the world. It immerses audiences in a mighty feat of preservation, innovation education and heritage. It offers access to the ships that shaped the world, from a Victorian antislavery sailing ship, to a Second World War Destroyer and a Cold War submarine as well as the stories of the people who made them. From historic buildings, including 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.

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).