



Media Release

29 July 2021

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust strengthens Heritage team with new appointment

Engineering expert James Morgan, has joined Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust as Heritage Engineering and Historic Ships Manager.

James, 27, is responsible for ensuring the Trust's three historic warships, heritage railway and working ropewalk are operationally sound for The Historic Dockyard Chatham's visitors, aligned with its charitable purposes of preservation and learning.

As well as delivering conservation solutions, James will work closely with the Trusts' volunteer body, as part of an ongoing development of the site's heritage assets to enhance visitor experience.

Commenting on his appointment, James said: *"Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the organisation. Their experience, expert knowledge and commitment are testament to the success of the Dockyard."*

"I am excited to be working alongside a team whose passion for heritage engineering is as strong as mine. My appointment is the culmination of a lifetime of fascination with the mechanics of ships and trains, coupled with a rewarding career in engineering."

A former engineer, optimizing water infrastructure assets across the region, James joins the Dockyard from Anglian Water. He began his marine engineering profession as an apprentice at shipwright service supplier, Heritage Marine in Essex, where he worked on various heritage projects including the Cutty Sark.

“History oozes from every structure, ship and corner of the 80-acre site but its people are its best asset and I am keen to continue providing excellence through innovative reuses of such impressive heritage assets”

Working with the wider Trust team, James will be supporting the development of a new major ships interpretation project and associated bids to potential funders.

James, who lives in Maidstone with his family, is a regular visitor to the Dockyard and aims to build on the Trust’s commitment to enabling young people to choose STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) based career choices. He has a wealth of experience working with children and young adults as a long-time volunteer with national youth charity, Sea Cadets.

In his spare time, James enjoys all things historical. His proudest project to date is his 1989 Citroen 2CV6, which he lovingly restored himself and has driven to Croatia on an enthusiasts’ rally.

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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).