



**Media Release**

**19 August 2021**

**Dockyard wins Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award for  
10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year**

The Historic Dockyard Chatham has won the 2021 Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award, which recognises outstanding visitor experiences, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year running.

Tripadvisor is the world's largest travel platform and its yearly accolades celebrate travellers' favourite places to visit.

The Historic Dockyard Chatham has again received consistently high reviews on the Tripadvisor site and app, which allow users to browse more than 878 million reviews and opinions of 8.8 million accommodations, restaurants, experiences, airlines and cruises.

Comments from recent 5\* Tripadvisor reviews include:

- Our 8-year-old son gave it 20,000 out of 10. Enough said!;
- A fun, informative, eye-opening day out. We enjoyed each and every part of the day, the guides/staff are professional and informative; foot outlet is good quality and priced reasonably. It is spotless and COVID safe, we felt;
- I felt immersed in the history of Britain's shipbuilding through the centuries. Information is presented in a varied and interesting way and there are loads of knowledgeable guides to take you through different parts of the museum.

Richard Morsley, Chief Executive, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust said: “As a team, we pride ourselves on achieving excellence in everything that we do. We are thrilled and proud to receive the international award for a 10<sup>th</sup> year, which is testament to the Dockyard’s ongoing dedication and commitment to providing amazing experiences for all who visit our outstanding heritage site.”

“This has been a challenging year for everybody and the travel and tourism industry has had to adapt to ever-changing guidelines to keep visitors safe. To be acknowledged for delivering exceptional visitor experiences makes this year’s Tripadvisor honour all the more meaningful.”

**ENDS**

#### **MORE PRESS INFORMATION**

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#### **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).