



Press Release
16 August 2021

It's time to meet again ... The D-Day Darlings headline at The Historic Dockyard's 1940s festival

The UK's premier wartime ensemble, [The D-Day Darlings](#), is set for 'sweet' sessions at The Historic Dockyard Chatham's must-visit vintage weekend, Salute to the '40s this September.

Plans for the festival on 18 and 19 September are in full 'swing' and joining the Britain's Got Talent finalists will be popular wartime musical and entertainment acts, including harmony vocal trios [The Dolly Girls](#) and [The Nightingales](#) and 'Pearly' suited and booted variety artist [Mickie Driver](#).

As well as a jam-packed programme of showstopping performances and dance workshops, the war time spirit will be very much alive around the Dockyard's 80-acre site. Step back in time at the Military and Home Front displays, brought to life by dedicated re-enactors and set against the magnificent backdrop of Second World War Destroyer, HMS *Cavalier*.

Take shelter in a bunker as part of a real-life air raid evacuation, complete with bomb alert and 'all clear' sirens or take a break from black out conditions and treat yourself to ride on the Ferris wheel and Swingboats at the traditional fairground.

Browse the buzzing vintage street market and shop for everything 40s, from genuine collectibles and housewares to reproduction clothing and accessories. Fashion played a huge part in the mid-war era, with a generation of Brits getting creative to copy coveted Paris couture, by 'making do and mending'. Classic clothing collections are proudly paraded by enthusiasts, with visitors often choosing to don 40s inspired outfits too.

Embrace the sights and sounds of the war years while relaxing on The Mess Deck restaurant terrace, which serves the Dockyard's signature locally sourced fish and chips, or rest a while at one of the many seated refreshment stations, nearby the entertainment stages.

[Book online](#) with confidence – in these unprecedented times Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust appreciates it is difficult to commit to an event in the future. With this in mind, the Trust is making a promise to everyone purchasing a ticket that, should the festival need to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions, all ticket holders will receive an automatic refund.

Salute to the '40s is an important fundraising event in aid of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust.

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MORE PRESS INFORMATION

Please contact Nina Carr on 01634 823800 or email ncarr@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).