

Press release

Under embargo until: 19 September 2021

**Hoist the pirate flag aloft!
Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust announces partnership with
Bloomsbury Children's Books on 'Talk Like a Pirate' day**

Ahoy, me hearties! In celebration of 'Talk Like a Pirate' day, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust AARRRRR pleased to announce a partnership with Bloomsbury Children's Books to celebrate the paperback publication of the bestselling piratical adventure **Pirate Stew**, written by award-winning storyteller Neil Gaiman and illustrated by Chris Riddell.

Aimed at 4 to 7 year olds **Pirate Stew** tells the tale of Long John and his crew pirates, two intrepid children, flying ships, donut feasts and some rather magical stew.

Launching on Saturday, October 2 and running until to Sunday, October 31, families can join Long John McRon, Ship's Cook, on a new discovery trail around The Historic Dockyard Chatham, to locate his missing pirate crew and their unusual stew ingredients.

Pirate Stew! Pirate Stew!
Pirate Stew for me and you!
Pirate Stew, Pirate Stew
Eat it and you won't be blue
You can be a pirate too!

With the help of a special recipe booklet and treasure map, search for the motley pirate crew hidden around the 400-year-old site and amongst the historic collections, complete the Pirate Stew ingredients list and receive a special prize on completion of the search.

Lynnette Crisp, Director of Communication and Public Engagement, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, said: *“We are hugely excited to working with Bloomsbury Children’s Books and **Pirate Stew** for the first time this October. Tales of pirates and maritime adventures flow throughout history so The Historic Dockyard Chatham provides the perfect backdrop to bring Neil Gaiman and Chris Ridell’s wonderful book to life. We’ve had a lot of fun linking Long John’s stew ingredients to parts of our collections and can’t wait to see children searching for them across our historic site during the October school holidays.”*

Beatrice Cross, Head of Publicity at Bloomsbury Children’s Books, added: *“We can’t wait to see Neil and Chris’ marvellously silly and gloriously entertaining story come to life at The Historic Dockyard Chatham, the perfect day out for anyone of any age who likes pirates, cooking, swashbuckling and/or doughnuts! Your half-term trip to the Dockyard has all of the ingredients to be a riotous adventure beneath a pirate moon!”*

Participation in the **Pirate Stew** Discovery Trail is free as part of an entry ticket to The Historic Dockyard Chatham. **Pirate Stew** resources are limited and it is recommended that families book early to avoid disappointment.

To book a visit: <https://thedockyard.co.uk/>

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MORE PRESS INFORMATION

Please contact Lynnette Crisp on 01634 823800 or email lcristp@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).

About Bloomsbury Children's Books

Bloomsbury is a leading independent publishing house. The children's division publishes books for children and young adults in print, eBook and audio. It publishes across preschool, picture books, fiction and non-fiction. Its award-winning, diverse list includes authors such as J.K. Rowling, Benjamin Zephaniah, Katherine Rundell, Neil Gaiman, Renée Watson and Sarah J. Maas, and illustrators such as Chris Riddell, Emily Gravett, Rikin Parekh, Kate Pankhurst, Jim Kay and Tom Percival. For more information go to www.bloomsbury.com