

Media Release

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**Published curator to lead Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust's
Ropery renovation**

Published Naval Curator Nick Ball has joined Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust as Collections, Galleries and Interpretation Manager, ahead of renovations to its Ropery gallery.

Joining the team from the National Museum of the Royal Navy and National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, Nick is responsible for the care of the Trust's museum collections and interpretive galleries, ensuring they are available to The Historic Dockyard Chatham's visitors in relevant and high quality virtual and actual presentations.

Aligned with the Trust's charitable purposes of preservation and learning, the new role will also see Nick lead on developing knowledge and understanding of collections and of Chatham's naval role and significance. He will also support the development of both on-site and digital exhibition and interpretation projects and programmes through provision of content, collections and expertise.

Commenting on his appointment, Nick said: *"I am thrilled to be joining the Trust at such a pivotal time – the Dockyard continues to provide outstanding collections and galleries to visitors, while building on its digital interpretations."*

"My first gallery renovation project is a fantastic opportunity to delve into the collections and display some of the wonderful rope related artefacts that tell the story of the Historic Dockyard's working ropery."

“The collections team will also be installing the new Diving Deep exhibition, this immersive exhibition showcases objects and findings from the Invincible 1744 archaeological excavation. It aims to tell the story of the amazing Invincible, her capture, the contribution she made to the Royal Navy and ship design and her subsequent sinking and rediscovery nearly 200 years later.”

A graduate in MA Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southern Denmark, Nick’s publications include ‘Navy Board Ship Models’, Seaforth, (2018); ‘Digital Modelling in the Evaluation of the Sinking of HMS Victory’, (2016) and he contributed to the ‘Treasures of Royal Museums Greenwich’, National Maritime Museum, (2018).

Nick’s career as a former Archaeological Data Manager and Curator has seen him accomplish professional and personal goals through continued learning. On winning a national Curatorial award, he was awarded an Art Fund grant to travel to Australia to give a research paper at the Western Australian Maritime Museum and conduct research on the history of the Royal Navy and Australia.

In recent years, Nick was responsible for curating the National Museum of the Royal Navy’s new £1.2m HMS *Victory* Gallery and developing the *Victory* Information Model (VIM) 3D digital model to manage archaeological data.

As an active member of the Society for Nautical Research, and a former member of the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, Nick has helped develop strategies for preserving underwater cultural heritage.

Nick splits his time between Chatham and his home in Portsmouth and is a keen sailor, having recently sailed with the replica Swedish East Indiaman the ‘Gotheborg’.

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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).