



New Researchers in Maritime History Conference

Chatham Historic Dockyard 8-9 April 2022



The British Commission for Maritime History (BCMh), in association with the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, invites you to join them for the twenty-seventh conference for new researchers. For 400 years Chatham dockyard provided new ships and repair facilities for the Royal Navy, from sailing warships, steam warships to submarines.

It is a wonderful location in which to hold this annual conference, which is supported by the Society for Nautical Research. The conference provides a unique opportunity to hear from new scholars presenting their work in a historic setting.

To book your place go to **Eventbrite**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bcmh-new-researchers-in-maritime-history-conference-tickets-86511571439>

Friday 8th April : From 14:00 there will be opportunities for delegates to join guided tours of The Historic Dockyard Chatham.

17:30 registration

18:00 Welcome & Keynote Lecture

‘Fit for Purpose: Merchant Shipbuilders and the Naval Dockyards during the Napoleonic Wars’

Dr Helen Doe.

As the Navy Board expanded warship building from 1801 it was forced to use a wider network of merchant shipbuilders across England. Many had never built on this scale before.

This talk examines the challenges both for the Navy Board and for the small businesses. Appropriately for Chatham Dockyard, it features Mrs Mary Ross of Rochester, a redoubtable businesswoman who deserves to be celebrated.

This will be followed by a buffet and the opportunity to explore the Award-Winning Command of the Oceans Galleries. This Gallery features two internationally significant maritime archaeological discoveries – the timbers of the *Namur* (1756), intriguingly laid to rest beneath the floor of the old Wheelwrights’ workshop, and an incredible treasure trove of archaeological objects recovered from the sea bed, from the *Invincible* (1758

Saturday 9 April

9:00 Welcome

9:30 – 10:45 Session One Philanthropy and Innovation

Paul Merish, (University of Greenwich) *Charles Gordon's work among boys in Gravesend –*
Samantha Jones (University of Exeter) *'We have fairly started a very valuable institution':
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Board of Trade – state aid at a time of
laissez-faire -*
Joao Simoes, (University of Lisbon) *Royal Yacht Amelia IV - An innovative ship of its time*

10.45-11.15 Coffee

11.15 -12.30 Session Two:- Social Worlds of the Navy

Lee-Jane Giles, (University of Plymouth) *"These Strictly Honest Guards": Theft and the
Marine Corps, 1755-1779*
Andrew Venn, (Independent) *Duty, Devis and the Doctor: The Legend of the Death of Lord
Nelson*
Manon Williams, (University of St Andrews) *Discipline and Addiction: The Medical
Treatment of Drunkenness in the British Royal Navy during the French Revolutionary and
Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815)*

12.30-13:30 Lunch

14.00 to 15.15 Session Three: Maritime Communities

Ben Weddell, (Goldsmiths, University of London) *Shared Identities in the Maritime
Communities of the Thames, the Medway, and the Downs, 1650-1685*
Michael Powell-Davies, (University of Kent), *Middling Culture and the Authorship of People
and Place in Early Modern Maritime London*
Andrew Lyter (Lewes Historical Society, Delaware), *Navigating the Channels of Freedom:
Black Pilots and the HMS Poictiers, 1812-1813*

15.15 to 15.45 Tea

15.45 to 17.00 Session Four: Maritime Protest and Piracy

Robin Plant, (University of Liverpool) *The Age of Atlantic Revolution: Mutiny and Maritime
Radicalism in the Political Thought of Thomas Spence and Robert Wedderburn*
David Isserman, (Edge Hill University) *Red Jack Tar: Syndicalism and Industrial Unionism
among maritime workers in Liverpool, 1911-1925*
Nathan Jopling, (University of Birmingham) *The Jamaica Discipline and the Epochial
Nature of Anglo-American Caribbean Piracy (1660-1730)*