



The Southsea Yarnscape

New Yarnscape exhibition is open!

The Southsea Seaside Yarnscape is now on display for all to see free of charge in the Cabin Area in the Victory Gallery at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. The exhibition was opened to a crowd of 120 people by Chief Petty Officer Ricky Nelson who also took part in the project.

Patterns from the Yarnscape along with 1940's clothes patterns can be downloaded from the resources section on the HMS website.

www.nmrn.org.uk/hms



Visitors admiring the Yarnscape on display

National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- 1 HMS Victory
- 2,3,4 National Museum of the Royal Navy
- 5 Entrance and tickets

Visit us:

National Museum of the Royal Navy & HMS Victory, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth, PO1 3NH.



MYSTERY OBJECT!

Who is this famous fella?

Send your answer's to community@nmrn.org.uk and the winner's name will be published with the answer in the next issue.

Last edition's mystery object was Admiral Sir Stuart Bonham-Carter's cap – given to him after he lost everything during the sinking of HMS Edinburgh, torpedoed in 1942 in the Barents Sea. The gold laurel leaves on the peak were hand painted by his men as there were no proper admiral's hats available at sea.

HMS Events July – December 2013

Monday 23rd September, 21st October, 18th November, 1.30pm – 4.30pm, Make and Mend Crafts at the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

Following on from the naval tradition of 'Make and Mend', join us for FREE knitting, crochet and embroidery craft sessions. *Free, drop-in event.*

Saturday 12th October, 1pm – 4pm, HMS Modeltastic Day! at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Our free autumn event has gone mad! Get a sneak preview of some of our models for our new exhibition. *Free, drop-in event.*

Thursday 31st October, 11am – 3pm, Sea Life Community Roadshow, at Paulsgrove Community Centre.

Join us as we take the Museum on the road! We'll be bringing a whole range of family activities, artefacts and fun. *Free, drop-in event.*

Thursday 31st October, 6pm – 7.30pm, HMS: Twilight Tour of the Photography Collection, at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Be one of the first to see some of the historical photographs that will be included in the new HMS exhibition. *Free event, booking is essential as spaces are limited.*

For events booking and more information contact **02392 727595** or email community@nmrn.org.uk

Keep upto date or get involved!

T: 02392 727567 | E: community@nmrn.org.uk | W: nmrn.org.uk/hms

The Royal Naval Museum, a registered charity 1126283 is a component part of the National Museum of the Royal Navy.



HMS

Hear My Story

5 generations, 1000 stories, 1 Royal Navy

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM



ISSUE TWO

June 2013



Craning the Lance Gun into position



Close up of the fire control at the breech end of the Lance gun



Trosnant Junior School pupils with their blueys and Walter's love letters.

When I dream... I dream of home...

Leigh Park children have used naval love letters to inspire their own amazing art exhibition. Year 3 and 4 pupils from Sharps Copse Primary and Trosnant Juniors worked with artist Debbie Dodsworth to discover how sailors kept in touch with their loved ones through 'blueys' – a sheet of blue paper folded to make an envelope and sent home.

On visits to the Museum, the students explored embroidered postcards and the beautifully illustrated love letters sent by Chief Stoker Walter Grainger. Walter wrote over 150 love letters to his fiancée Edith whilst he spent 3½ years serving on the China station.

The children created their own 'blueys' with illustrated messages. These were then turned into blankets which became part of a poignant bunk installation, encouraging visitors not only to enjoy the letters written by the children, but to reflect on the importance of keeping in touch with family and friends. The exhibition was displayed in St Francis Church, Leigh Park. ●

The gun which started it all

Matthew Sheldon, Project Director said, *It was very exciting to be installing the Lance Gun, a truly iconic object. This will be the first thing that our visitors see as they enter our new 'HMS' exhibition and is a powerful way to start telling the story of the Royal Navy's last 100 years.*



On 27 March, the first artefact for the new exhibition, **HMS – Hear My Story**, the '4 inch' gun from the destroyer HMS Lance which fired the very first shot of the war at sea in WW1, was lifted into place. When the War started on 4th August 1914, HMS Lance and her sister ship Landrail were performing a 'sweep' of the North Sea. The next day the two destroyers encountered the German minelayer Konigin Louise as she was setting mines off the Dutch coast. Lance fired a shell, eventually sinking her, and making the Konigin Louise the first naval casualty of WW1. This semi-automatic quick firing gun – which weighs 3.6 tonnes, measures 5 metres and could fire over 5 miles – has been loaned by the Imperial War Museum to be a key object in the new exhibition.

As the concrete and mud of the early stages of the building work become a memory, the Project Team are now in the final stages of creating the exhibition space. Details of this progress and upcoming events can be found at www.nmrn.org.uk/hms ●

JACKSPEAK WORDSEARCH

R	B	E	E	T	L	E	B
S	E	O	L	S	H	J	A
C	E	S	B	J	B	F	I
R	W	G	E	P	E	M	T
O	Q	Y	V	W	E	P	G
N	G	D	V	R	G	L	V
K	N	R	Y	F	G	O	S
Y	U	O	G	G	I	N	L

Sailors use a slang called Jackspeak. Can you find their words...

- Beetle Bait [Jam or Treacle]
- Bevvy [Drink]
- Oggin [The sea]
- Scronk [Person with an untidy or grubby appearance]

Supported by **The National Lottery** through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

PROJECT TIMELINE



5 generations, 1000 stories, 1 Royal Navy

HMS for our community



Veterans' Focus Group meeting at our Museum



Ray Metcalfe serving in the Falklands Conflict 1982

Each newsletter we will be asking one of our Focus Groups to write about their experiences in helping us to create HMS. This edition is by Ray Metcalfe from our Veterans' Focus Group.

"To have been asked to be involved and have an input in such a historically ground breaking project is both extremely exciting and a privilege. It's been fascinating to meet up with fellow naval veterans of all ages and to hear their stories and comments on how things were when they were serving.

Although **Hear My Story** is about service in the Navy, we have also linked

up with the local community and school groups involved in this project so it's an all-round team participation. So far we in the veterans' group have been looking at types of font, colours for background, handling various artefacts, considering the type of "hands-on" exhibits to be available to the visitors, and how the bunk space exhibit can come alive through special audio effects.

We still have much to do and on completion this new exhibition is going to be a fabulous addition to the Museum." ●

Ray Metcalfe

Lynda Howe from Brune Park Community College, is part of our HMS School Focus Group, she recently brought her pupils to see the new galleries being built.



Lynda Howe

This is a unique opportunity for a group of local young people to learn about the skills required to plan and construct a new museum. We know that they will be inspired by the work and commitment of the professionals involved. As our students track the progress of this project over the next 12 months we believe that the experience will have a lasting impact as they consider their own future careers.

Lynda Howe,
Brune Park
Community College

HMS Dragon - film stars in the making



HMS Dragon

A unique film is being made by the crew and families of HMS Dragon. The aim of the film is to show the realities of how families and sailors feel when they have been sent on a deployment.

The final cut of the film will be shown in the new exhibition **HMS – Hear My Story**. Executive Warrant Officer, Dai Charles from HMS Dragon said "The ship's company of HMS Dragon was asked by Second Sea Lord if the ship would be willing to participate in a project that showed how families coped with separation while we were deployed. I made contact with Deborah Hodson the Learning Manager at National Museum and we met up. After 20 minutes I was convinced the idea would not only be achievable, but an example to the civilian population that it not only

takes a professional and dedicated ship's company to go to sea, but they must have the family support at home so as to keep their minds focused on the job at hand."

Alongside the film, a special 'Welcome Home Banner' art project will be undertaken by the families. They are creating their own group art work to welcome home their loved ones from the Round Tower in Portsmouth. The final group banner will be put on display alongside the film in the HMS exhibition. ●



Crew of HMS Dragon Images kindly supplied by the ship's Leading Photographer Dave Jenkins

The families were contacted and a mixture of volunteers are to be interviewed. Dads with sons or daughters at sea, husbands with wives at sea and traditional RN wives with husbands at sea; all who have had nothing but praise for the sensitivity shown to them by the staff at the Museum.

Executive Warrant Officer Dai Charles

Volunteer's Voice

I became a volunteer for the National Museum of the Royal Navy in April last year. My role is to assist the Learning team with the workshops for the families with young children. I help to set up the venue, assist children with craft-making, writing their names in Chinese and many other fun activities designed to entertain families and visitors.

I really enjoy volunteering and being part of the project as all the staff and volunteers that I have met are very friendly and enthusiastic. I have had so much fun working with them.

Xin Han,
Learning Volunteer



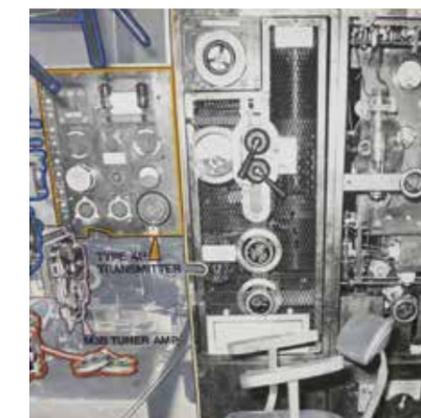
Xin Han

Sparks across the sea

Curator Richard Noyce has a difficult job on his hands as he rebuilds the W/T (Wireless Telegraphy) office from HMS Resource (1923) for the new exhibition.

After years being well maintained by volunteers at HMS Collingwood, Richard and his team painstakingly dismantled the office to transport it for display at the Museum. "It's like a jigsaw" said Richard, "I am really looking forward to getting more people to see it, but also pleased that I don't have to try and get it working again!"

The W/T office was where it all happened – with a constant flow of messages coming in and being sent out. An operator – known as a Sparker – operated the office day and night. They could send messages up to 350 miles. They also used a smaller transmitter to communicate with ships up to 10 miles away. It was all designed to be used by one man and so everything is within easy reach of the operator. Radio operators had to be highly-trained and cautious too, working near such high-voltage equipment. ●



A close up of the W/T (Wireless Telegraphy) Office

In June, follow on facebook and twitter our month of memories from the men and women of the Royal Navy.

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