



Jo Valentine and Katrina Henderson, Art Stop Café

Southsea Yarnscape and the Department of Knitted Goods for the Royal Navy!

We've been working with the Art Stop Café to create a brand new community art piece to raise awareness of knitting and embroidery in the Navy!

As part of the project we reinstated the "Department of Knitted Goods" for the Royal Navy and asked the public to knit for us! We decided to create a knitted, sewn and felted landscape picture of Southsea seafront. So far over 1,900 knitted sea creatures have been sent in. These arrived from 39 places in the UK as well as Florida, Queensland, Netherlands and Abu-Dhabi. Sailors on-board HMS Victory also learnt how to knit and created pieces for the Southsea

Yarnscape. To see photos of the public's contribution visit our Facebook page.

Naval knitting patterns from the 1940s were also sent to the public who are knitting balaclavas, arctic mittens and even woolly long johns for people to try on in the new exhibition!

The unveiling of the final Seaside Yarnscape will be at the Museum in February. ●

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!

There is something unusual about this hat. Can you tell us what it is?

Send your answers to community@nmrn.org.uk and the winners name will be published with the issue.

Well done **Mark Brady** for guessing correctly that our last mystery object was indeed the Beira Bucket! Thank you to everyone who wrote in with the right answer.

HMS Events Feb - June 2013

Saturday 23rd February, 2pm - 4pm, Storehouse 10 Hard Hat Day

Join the architects and project team to learn more about the history and conservation of Storehouse 10 - a grade 1 listed building dating from 1777. *Free event, booking essential as spaces are limited.*

Wednesday 10th April, 6pm - 7.30pm, HMS-Hear My Story Twilight Tour of the Artefact Collections

Take a sneaky peak before anyone else at some of the new acquisitions and previously

unseen objects and artefacts that we will be displaying in HMS. *Free event, booking essential as spaces are limited.*

Saturday 18th May, 1pm - 4pm, HMS-Hear My Story Community Day

See first hand some of the artefacts, archives and photographs that will go on display. Then have a go at playing our naval inspired games and learn how to research your naval ancestors. *Free, drop-in event.*

Please contact **02392 727595** or email community@nmrn.org.uk for more details.

JACKSPEAK WORDSEARCH

T	O	T	R	S	D	A	S
E	I	F	A	P	I	A	E
R	S	E	G	G	W	J	G
L	A	R	Y	E	O	A	G
O	K	M	L	E	I	E	I
V	R	P	O	S	D	Y	E
K	I	L	L	I	C	K	S
E	S	O	P	E	J	D	I

- Sailors use a slang called Jackspeak. Can you find their words...
- **Volret** [Voluntary retirement]
 - **Tot** [tissue of rum]
 - **Killick** [smaller anchor and name for a leading rate]
 - **Plew** [old lower deck word for tea]
 - **Seggies** [Tinned grapefruit segments, Submariners Sunday breakfast starter]



HMS

Hear My Story

5 generations, 1000 stories, 1 Royal Navy

Is a major exhibition opening in 2014, telling the undiscovered stories from the men and women who have made the Royal Navy's history over the last century and impacted on all our lives. Come face to face with these people of the Royal Navy through their stories and share in their triumphs and disasters.



Building the new link between the "Sailing Navy Gallery and HMS"



Clearance of Storehouse 10 to create new gallery space



Pupils from Stamshaw Junior School showing off their 'Nelly' awards at the intergenerational film premiere

Work starts on Hear My Story

Matthew Sheldon, Project Director said, *Away from the mud, the Museum team and our wonderful volunteers are busy with the conservation, research and hard choices of selecting the objects, images, archive film and oral history, which are essential for the exhibition.*



Concrete, mud, paint, bricks and mortar; these have all pre-occupied the project team since last October when work started converting Storehouse 10 to build the Babcock Galleries. These were all expected, less routine and less welcome, were the additional hidden patches of asbestos and the pools of mercury, which had leaked from equipment stored on the first floor and required specialist removal.

The building work is just the visible sign that the National Museum of the Royal Navy Portsmouth's new **HMS - Hear My Story** exhibition is underway. At the same time an exciting range of community projects and events that will run throughout 2013 have also begun. Details of some of these events can be found in this newsletter, but much more information is available on www.nmrn.org.uk/hms ●

Rolling out the red carpet for our special Film Premiere!

The Museum played host to 20 star film-makers as children from Stamshaw Junior School joined other VIPs for the gala premiere of the films they helped to create. The children worked with a professional film maker to interview and film eight veterans about their experiences of conflict over the summer term. The films will be used in the galleries and form part of an interactive. As well as a chance to view highlights from the films, the Premiere offered an opportunity for the press and public to meet with and talk to the children and veterans about their experiences during The Story Exchange project.

You can watch parts of the films on the news section of the website www.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.



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heritage lottery fund



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

PROJECT TIMELINE



5 generations, 1000 stories, 1 Royal Navy

HMS for our community



Children who took part in the Dazzle artwork with artist Debbie Dodsworth



Jessica Wright



Focus Group member Rediet Beyene on Multi-cultural Day

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 Jessica Wright, 10 years old, from our Family Focus Group.

"When I first joined the Family Focus Group I was a bit nervous as I didn't know who would be there or what we would be doing. But when I got there I realised that everyone there was really kind. The group members are like one big family.

It's really cool knowing that what we do helps the designers know how things could look to be family friendly. I enjoyed looking at the different logos and cartoons we have been given to discuss. I really liked the cartoon of the dog and thought it would be a good mascot too! I'm genuinely looking forward to seeing our ideas put into action when it opens in 2014!

Because my mum and I have been to most of the Community Panel meetings too, I think it's safe to say that everyone's ideas really count; one boy from the Family Focus Group's idea was mentioned and followed through in the community panel meetings. Overall, my experience involving the Focus Group & Community Panel has been absolutely, positively brilliant!" ● Jessica Wright

I have really enjoyed being part of the HMS project. It has actually sparked my own interest in the museum – I have found it fascinating. It has been encouraging to know that you have wanted the input of the representative groups. This has been more effective than someone somewhere making remote decisions about what they think is the best thing to do on a design basis, rather than asking the people that know and experience difficulties. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be involved with the project and I am so looking forward to seeing the finished project!



Christy Evans,
Access Focus Group

Volunteer's Voice

HMS - Hear My Story is a simple statement, but the Veterans' stories that I am transcribing tell, without a hint of boasting, of the calm professionalism and heroism that was "Just part of the job".

Listening to the experiences of a Sick Berth Attendant who dealt with anything from a sprained wrist, tuberculosis and burst ulcers without a doctor's assistance and the sailor's "watch and watch" routine where four hours sleep lasted just until the alarm bells signalled another bombing attack. Then having to pull a dead friend out of

a Gunlayer's seat to take his place to repel another attack on the way to Malta, showed me how courageous these men were.

They didn't consider themselves heroes, but I think that most people hearing the stories would beg to differ.



Bill Walker,
Curatorial Volunteer



Bill Walker listening in the attic to veteran's accounts

Appeal for lost stories from Royal Navy colonial forces



Royal Indian Navy (IWM)



The Distinguished Services Medal (DSM) awarded to Leading Seaman Mohammed Rahim

An appeal for untold stories of the Royal Navy's colonial forces has been launched for HMS. One of the rare stories that has been discovered is that of Leading Seaman Mohammed Rahim who was awarded the Distinguished Services Medal (DSM) for Bravery during WW2 for risking his life to save a wounded seaman in a nighttime secret operations raid.

Leading Seaman Mohammed Rahim received his DSM 'for gallantry going to the rescue of a wounded seaman, regardless of heavy fire'. He received serious wounds in February 1944, when at night, he was steering a small motor launch from Chittagong (in modern day Bangladesh) down the coast of Burma to pick up a Secret Operations Executive (SOE) agent. In a close quarters encounter with Japanese forces he was wounded and strongly recommended for an award. Three other Indian crew men were also injured and one died, but received no official recognition.

Mohammed Rahim was awarded one of only 23 DSMs awarded to Royal Indian

Navy personnel during World War Two, all for operations off Burma 1942-45.

"Our new exhibition HMS will tell the undiscovered stories from the ordinary men, women and ships which have made the Navy's amazing history over the last 100 years. However this story will not be complete without knowing more about the naval volunteer forces from the Caribbean to the Straits of Singapore."

The National Museum of the Royal would like to hear from anyone who can help with the missing stories of the Royal Navy's colonial forces. If you have more information on HMS, contact the Museum on **02392 727588**.

The Royal Indian Navy existed from 1934 – 1950. At its height 28,000 men served, usually in unglamorous small ships. They suffered over 1000 casualties with many others wounded. However very little has been recorded about the lives and contributions of these and other colonial forces of the Royal Navy.



Matthew Sheldon,
HMS Project Director

The Eagle has Landed

One of the stars of HMS will be an impressive ship model of HMS Eagle, the fleet aircraft carrier, which is over 11 feet (3.5 metres) long.

Eagle, the sister ship to Ark Royal was launched in 1946 and only broken up 1978. The model is incredibly detailed, showing three different types of aircraft and has several working features including; a flight deck that lights up, radars that move and propellers that spin. Several original artefacts on display in the new gallery can be spotted on the model.

The model was built in a garden shed, almost completely from scratch, over 15 years by the talented model maker Mr. K Wells. Originally, it was made as a radio controlled model and was designed to float in water – there was even an option to have real smoke coming out of the funnels! Eventually the model was so big that Mr. Wells had to build an extension to his shed to accommodate her.

Visitors to HMS, will be able to see the model up close and have a go at working the mighty carrier! ●



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



facebook.com/NMRNPortsmouth



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