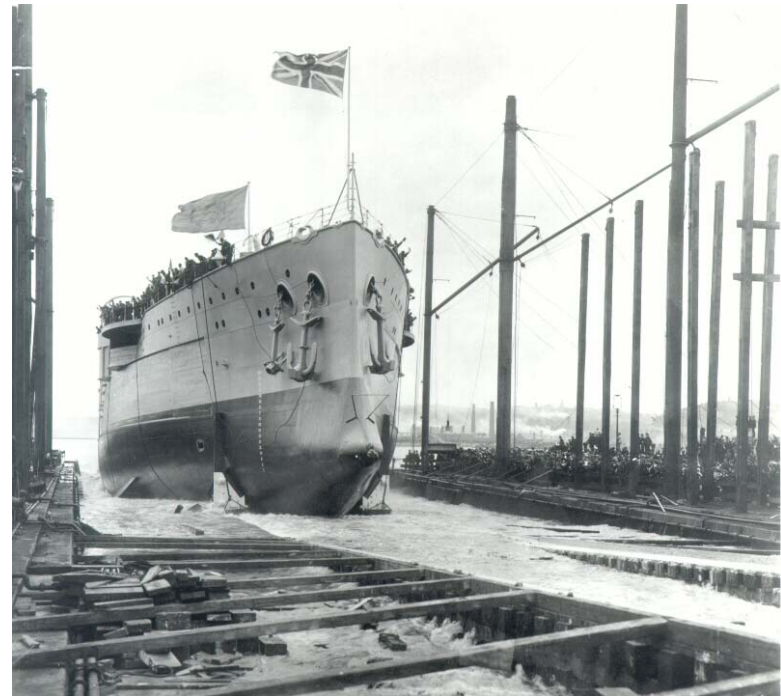


'Closing the Circle'

Social regeneration through
learning at The Historic Dockyard
Chatham

A Rich History

- Early beginnings of naval activity at Chatham – 1547.
- The fleet that faced the Armada was prepared at Chatham.
- Francis Drake spent his early years here.
- Samuel Pepys held office as ‘Clerk of the Acts’ to the Navy in the 17th century.
- Horatio Nelson’s illustrious career began at Chatham.
- HMS Victory was built here in 1765.
- 496 Surface ships built.
- 58 Submarines built.



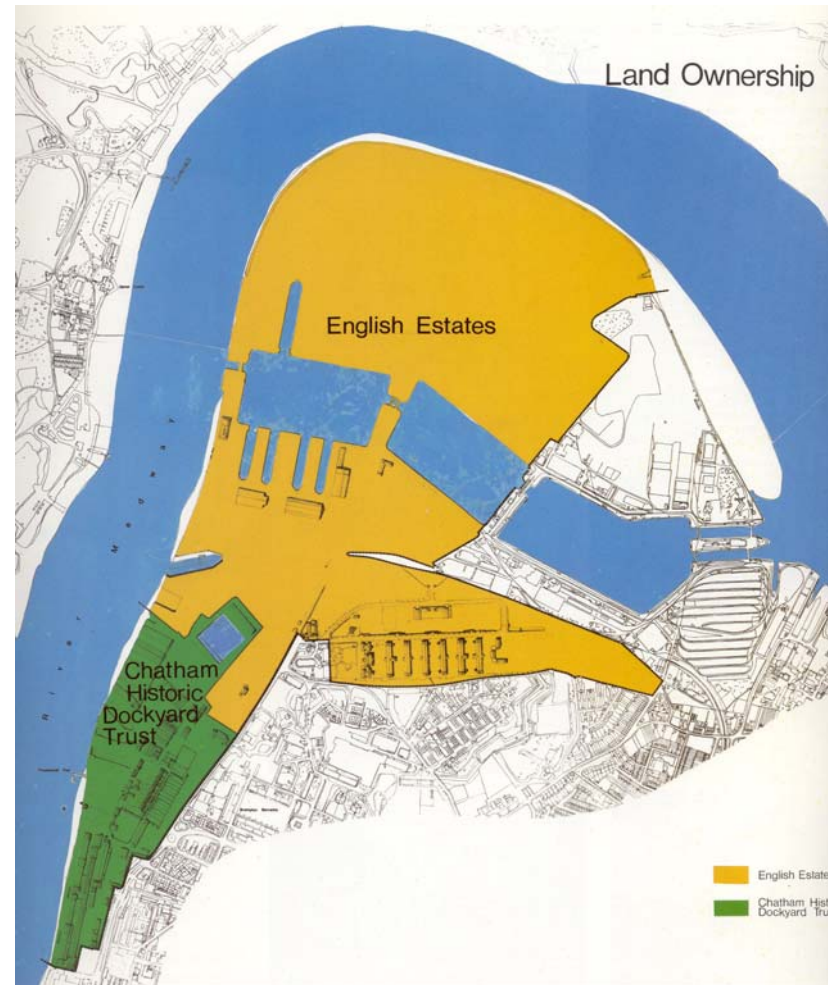
The Curtain Falls...

- The Chatham Royal Dockyard Closing Ceremony took place on 30th September 1983.
- Over 7,500 jobs were lost from the 'yard.
- A further 7,500 jobs were lost from the local supply chain.
- The community also suffered the devastating loss of the Dockyard Technical School.



New Beginnings

- The 'Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust' was set up in 1984.
- The Trust has two Core Charitable Objectives:
 - To preserve the historic buildings
 - To educate the public about the significance of the dockyard.
- A Key regeneration aim is to re-engage the disenfranchised local community.



Back on Shift...

- There are currently 130 staff across the Trust...
- ...40 are costumed guides.
- Many of those guides are ex-dockyard workers.
- Ex-workers have proved a vital interpretive resource by adding an informed perspective.



The Education Service

- Most formal education visits to The Historic Dockyard are made by KS2 pupils.
- The Education Service has a 'Themed Day' approach to taught sessions.
- The 'recruitment' of Visitor Hosts for delivering themed days was first trialled in 2005.
- Supporting ex-dockyard workers in the delivery of formal education programmes for local school pupils has helped to 'close the regeneration circle'.



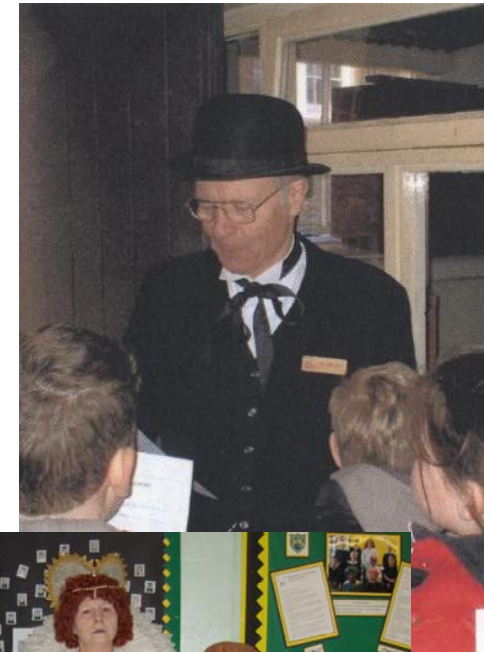
A Sample Programme: 'Living Literacy Day' –

- Medway pupils at KS2 performing below the national average in all 3 core subjects (with particular concerns about underachieving boys).
- How could we use the 'masculine' / industrial collections and the knowledge of ex-dockyard workers to help raise achievement?
- Living Literacy Days - a totally immersive creative writing experience on board the warships.
- Some significant outcomes have been achieved.



Advantages of Involving Non-Education Specialists

- Positive male role models.
- An ex-shipwright or submariner has greater credibility for some of the more technical programmes.
- Presentational variety is a real bonus – not everyone sounds like a teacher!
- It helps to achieve strategic ‘flex’ – we can grow capacity without having to grow the numbers of full-time staff.
- Front of House / Education Department synergy has been achieved (visitor hosts now better understand schools’ visits).
- The non-specialists have achieved personal development / fulfilment from their new roles.



Challenges

- Lack of confidence – classroom control has sometimes proved a problem.
- Child Protection has been awkward at times. Many feel that they are ‘grandparents themselves’ and need not be CRB checked.
- Despite much training, there is still a lack of understanding of the role of learning objectives / plenary sessions.
- Wandering ‘off script’ is common for some individuals – but is it a cause for major concern?
- Sustainability is an issue – many ex-dockyard workers are now finding the growth in education work too physically demanding.



Looking Ahead

- Greater creativity may be required in the setting of learning objectives.
- Longer-term evaluation is required to consider the Generic Social Outcomes.
- Recruiting Education Assistants from other disenfranchised areas of the community may be an option.

