

Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust (Support Group)

Layout Guide to Apprentice Exhibition See descriptive graphics panels on most exhibits

Outside the brick 'Dockyard Wall entrance'

(RH) Right hand Shipwrights hand drawn carts. Honours Boards of 'NAVY WORKS Dept' of Senior officers of the Dept 1839 – 1964

RH side of entrance on front of wall is Board describing 'Benthams Book of Blockbusters'. Many 'World firsts' achieved with introduction of machinery & plant into Dockyard. Numerous facts Power Steam, Worlds Deepest Basin, largest dry dock, Locks, Timber Mill, Caisson, Block Mills, Steam factory, Fire ring main,

Moving through 'Dockyard Wall' archway

RH side employees 'Portable Clocking -in' clock

LH side Truck & panels on & Boathouse Building facts

Through arch into 1st Aisle

RH side employees Box Shed with tool boxes, clothing, tools, tea cans for brewing warm drinks. Sheds were open sided built between dry docks with large steps for tool box stowage rising 12 feet high. Open to weather elements & were cold, wet with little protection overhead for changing into work overalls etc.

Talking '**touch screens**' (**choose language**) in front of the box shed exhibit, describe the work of the Dockyard over the centuries.

LH side is notice of 'Final Cleaning of ship'. (c 1955).

Dockyard Bell & Large Machinery display along floor
LH side 2 displays of Joiners joints & tools. Glass case model of HMS Acteon (1749).

RH side Masts, Spars & tools. A mast with 'platform rising up' at **RH end** of display made by **Shipwrights**. Descriptive board & tools for 'Caulking' wooden ships (tar & rope filling for ship & deck seams). Morticing joints machine.

Front (across bottom of Aisle) displays of **Shipwrights** work as boat builders. Part 'clinker' built boat & various tools, tins of resins, materials used. Small boat on working Davit.

Turn right, through iron doorway

Into an iron riveted 'ships machinery space' with audible ship noises. Rivet forge where rivets were made red hot for clenching iron together. Compressed air riveting machine. Caulking details with tools used in making ship watertight. Model of boiler room (in cabinet).

Onward into 2nd Aisle

LH side Blockmaking Morticing & Scoring machines.

RH side Corner saw, Boring machine, Shaping (Brunels)

LH side, Ropemaking machine, Splicing of wire & rope with tools.

RH side **Picture** of **HMS VICTORY Rigging**

Blocks & rope tackle used on sailing ships

RH side 'Knots' display. '**Tie the knots yourself**'

LH side showcase model of HMS Bristol (1969) &

in front is a Block & tackle lifting weights display.

Illustrates the easy way to lift heavy items using multiple sheaved blocks & a single rope. (**Have a try yourself**)

LH side (opposite 'Knots') Timber 'Boring' machine.

Built in 1851 for Great Exhibition & transferred to Dockyard in 1853 used in Blockmills working upto 1986.

Dreadnought Class (W L Wyllie) painting (copy) with original Dreadnought Gun Shell underneath.

Front end wall showcases of models HMS Hardy, HMS Andromeda, HMRY Britannia, HMS Amazon.

Overhead above are pictorials of 'Story of Portsmouth' Dreadnought Class Battleships 1900 into 1st World War

Turning into 3rd Aisle

RH side HMS Wildfire Bell (1964) a Chatham underground Shore Establishment involved in Dunkirk 1940 evacuation.

RH side plasma screen (**movement activated**) of the launching of Portsmouth 1962 built HMS Nubian.

Overhead HMS Nubian 'Launch Board'.

LH side Tide Gauge indicating depth of water & Portsmouth Clock that is still in full working order & correct time maintained.

RH side Vessels named 'Sirius' & Portsmouth 1964 built HMS Sirius with (War Actions) Honours Board. HMS Sirius 'Ships Bell' with names of children baptised on board, engraved on inside of bell & Names list graphic. Dolphin model & Block & Gavel exhibits.

LH above, on large **wooden roof pillar** is 'Solomon Selby' clock designed & built by Mr Selby. Originally located in Dockyard Blockmills.

RH side display of '**Blacksmith**' work, Forge, tools, etc Large hammers were used for larger items in red hot conditions. Iron cooking stove made by Specialist **Apprentice Blacksmiths** This group of Specialists included, **Gunsmith, Chainsmith, Anchorsmith, Trawlersmith, Springsmith, Locksmith, Firehearthismith, Horseshoer-smith.** (now Farrier)

LH side Royal Yacht Britannia Bollard cover made by Portsmouth Dockyard Joiners. Treadle & Electric lathe

RH Side Dockyard Bells (MED Factory), Gate Muster

RH side 'Patternmakers' Accurate patterns were made in yellow pine wood of components for castings These are actual wood patterns (made oversize for shrinkage when cold) used in the Dockyard.

LH side 'Founders' Metal castings evolved in 1840s to create accurate 'moulds' in sand from Patternmakers wood patterns pouring molten metal into moulds.

LH side high up pillar (above Founder display) is a large '**Bell**' rung to indicate '**start & finish times**' of work in Pattern shop (closed in 1982 after over 500 years of ship castings manufacturing).

At bottom of 3rd & 4th Aisle

'Ships Boiler Room' semi enclosed steam engine, fuel oil pumps, boiler feed pumps, Gauges, turbine blades etc

LH side Far RH Corner

Protective Clothing & smoke helmets, breathing apparatus & stretcher. Model boiler, triple expansion engine with propeller shaft. Early electrical dynamos & electrical instruments.

Turning into 4th Aisle

Steam Power developed in 1790s not used on ships until 100 years later. Numerous new Trades included **Engine Fitters, Boilermakers, Plumber, Coppersmiths, Ship Fitters, Electrical Fitters & Electrical Station Fitters** (Power Stations evolved later). Steam, Gas, Diesel & Electrical engines evolved with dockyard adapting to changes of design to install, maintain & modify.

RH side showcases of Electrical Power Breaker switch gear from Royal Yacht 'Victoria & Albert'. Displays of variety of Blowlamps & Oil cans/feeders.

RH side (look back to Oil Can display sidewall) is Wood Carving of Anchor 'catshead' (1840) for fitting over anchor hawse outlet. (On loan to Tate London 2014) Hand Carved Craftsman plaque

RH Portrait of General Eisenhower painted by Portsmouth Dockyard painter. Gift plinth from USA

LH side (projecting end wall) **Painters** work. 'Nelsons' prayer, 'Sir Francis Drake's prayer & Royal Coat of Arms, all hand painted.

LH side hand painted 'Ships Crests'. Figurehead HMS Peterel (1860) restored 2005 more 'Ships Crests'. 'Great Britain Union Flag' boards.

RH side Painters work. Lifebelts, Ships name board plus different paints used in their work., Intricate Ships painting tasks work includes Signwriting, Gold Leaf & Marbling by Skilled Painters (Indentured Apprentices). Painters regarded as decorative 'Artists'

Brush Hands (not apprentices) painted Ships external Hull & interiors of ships surfaces.

RH side (looking to RH end of Painters display sidewall)

Framed 'Apprentice Indentures' document. A legal document signing the apprentice for term of learning a Trade for up to 7 years. (Later reduced progressively)

LH side Flagmakers. Signalling by Flags from 1600s was method of communications particularly in Battles at sea to identify 'Friend or Foe' passing orders & symbolic occasions. Communication by flags continues in 21st Century despite all the electronic technology available.

RH side Sailmakers & their tools. Sails an early method of moving ships & boats at sea. In addition to sails, hammocks, awnings, covers, kitbags were also made.

RH side Portsmouth Dockyard World War 1 Females & 1970's Girl apprentices photo display

LH side showcases of Apprentice 'Test Pieces'. Items made by apprentices during training. Display include **Coppersmith, Painters, Engine Fitters, Ship Fitters, Electrical Fitters.** Displays of Measuring Tools many made by 1st year Engine, Ship & Electrical apprentices. Model boats & machinery models..Window frame.

RH side Displays of Drawing Office equipment, Trade Note books etc. Examination papers. Drawings

Through the archway into:

RH side International Code Flags & skill games

LH side is Holy Trinity Church wood carving "REREDOS" 1839 made by Portsmouth Dockyard Shipwrights. The church was destroyed in 1941-45 war (Church is inside Dockyard walls). More information described on graphics. Also Map of Church location.

LH side (alongside Reredos)

A 'Memorial Tablet' commemorating Officers & Men of 'Portsmouth Port Division' 1914-18 World War 1.

LH side (projecting wall) Honours Boards of Portsmouth Dockyard staff who attained high ranks in Dockyard Organisation for period 1845 – 1884.

RH side Sports & Social activities, trophies, photos Old Civilian Officers desk & chair.

RH side End wall by Exit Old brochures of Dockyard Pantomines & social activities of 1940 to 1970s

LH side on pillar. Cases of medals

LH side Apprentice Indentures, Trade notebooks & Imperial Service Medals (ISM) awarded to 3 members of the 'Tarzey family' in showcase. 1884. 1912. 1937

LH side Silk Chinese Tapestry 1950 (repaired in 2005) Presented in gratitude of Portsmouth Dockyard personnel 'Recorders of Work' loaned to Hong Kong Dockyard in 1947- 1950 to help restore Hong Kong working conditions following World War 2.

Then framed Recorders 'Ties', Gold wire Blazer badges of Portsmouth Royal Dockyard School apprentices

LH side pendulum Clocking In/Out clock. Graphics screen of No 7 Boathouse origins

LH corner 'Skippy the Kangaroo' made by welding apprentices

EXIT.

PRDHT(Support Group) has many 1000s artefacts, photographs, memorabilia etc of Dockyard History not displayed, available for research or information. Memories of a once thriving Royal Dockyard Industry making Portsmouth & the Country 'Great'.

We hope this leaflet and displays give you an insight to the varied work of Royal Dockyard Apprentices and you have enjoyed your visit.

Additions & improvements to the exhibitions continue

Please enquire how to become a member of PRDHT Support Group and enjoy being involved in display & renovation of our historical collection

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