

# AN INVITATION TO PORTSMOUTH AREA U3As

Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust's Support Group would like to invite members of local U3As to visit their exhibitions in the Historic Dockyard. Please see the attached information sheet for more details of these collections of artefacts and archives.

We have recently welcomed groups from Amberley Museum, Gosport Diving Museum and members of the RY Britannia Association. The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire together with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth have also visited us. Following very positive feedback we are now wishing to broaden the scope of visitor groups.

There is **no admission charge** but donations to the Trust's funds are very welcome. Groups of between 6 to 20 persons can be escorted on our conducted tours. However we need to make you aware that our premises over the Royal Navy Museum can only be accessed by a flight of stairs.

Visits from the U3A might specifically appeal to your Local History, Family History and Technology groups. However we also feel that there might be further general interest amongst other groups. If you are interested or if you require further information please very kindly contact Colin Lay \* . We look forward to welcoming you.

\* 02392 486229 [lay.colin@talk21.com](mailto:lay.colin@talk21.com)

---

---

## PORTSMOUTH ROYAL DOCKYARD HISTORICAL TRUST (PRDHT)

PRDHT is managed by a Board of Trustees who are represented by members from various local organisations such as Portsmouth University, Portsmouth City Council, Royal Navy and BAE. It's "working arm" is the Support Group, which is made up of volunteers, mainly retired persons from Portsmouth Dockyard and the Royal Navy. The Board together with the Support Group are dedicated to preserving and presenting the wonderful story of Portsmouth Royal Dockyard and its extremely proud history.

The Support Group maintains The Apprentice Exhibition in Boathouse Number 7 as well as being responsible for the very extensive collection of artefacts which relate to a multitude of professions, trades and crafts employed in the dockyard during 500 years of ship building and repair. These artefacts together with a large quantity of archive material are stored in premises above the Royal Navy Museum. Amongst these archives are the Rate Books which provide a rich source of information about individual employees and help to trace dockyard ancestors. A fantastic collection of photographs is also held. Furthermore our premises are in one of Thomas Telford's storehouses and provide a fascinating experience of the original state of these historic Georgian buildings.

Although the Support Group's premises are not open to the general public, it's members are keen to promote a greater awareness of PRDHT by inviting groups to participate in conducted tours of it's premises and of the Apprentice Exhibition. In doing so, it is hoped to progress the objectives of the trust listed below :-

- \* To promote research into the history and industrial archaeology of the Royal Dockyard at Portsmouth and to disseminate the results of such research.

- \* To promote the education of the public on matters connected to the history of the Dockyard.

- \* To advance the education of the public in the history and archaeology of the Dockyard by the maintenance of an accessible, comprehensive collection of artefacts and documents and the promotion of associated public exhibitions.

NB Further details of PRDHT are available on : [portsmouthdockyard.org.uk](http://portsmouthdockyard.org.uk)