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# QUARTERDECK

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The Friends of HMS Trincomalee

Spring 2019



**HMS Trincomalee arrives at Portsmouth**

**Cannons :The Sevastopol Cannon**

**Foudroyant Cannons**

**Hints to Young Naval Surgeons**

**Supporting HMS Trincomalee**

**Mess Deck Crossword & Forward Events**

**Maritime History North jointly with The National  
Museum of the Royal Navy and the Society for  
Nautical Research present their  
Spring 2019 Conference on 6 April 2019**

## **HMS Trincomalee and Pax Britannica in the 19th Century**

The Conference will address **HMS Trincomalee** - why and how she was built, her service, restoration and future and aspects of Hartlepoons Naval History.

Registration and coffee at 9.00am, finish at 4.00pm.

The presenters are acclaimed specialists in their field and will include:

**Professor Andrew Lambert.**

Laughton Professor of Naval History at King College London

**Professor Eric Grove.**

Distinguished Naval Historian and Broadcaster

**Dr Tim Voelcker**

Author and Broadcaster on Nautical and Naval History

**Captain R M Eddleston OBE, RD\*, RNR**

**Clare Hunt**

Curator of the RN Museum in Hartlepool.



## EDITORIAL

Two hundred years ago HMS Trincomalee was completing her maiden voyage to Portsmouth with her captain, Philip Bridges. In this issue is Eliza Bunt's informal account of the arrival, accompanied by prints and sketches from around that period. I also share with you some recently discovered information linking Captain Philip Bridges, with the poet laureate, Robert Bridges.

We are having a party to mark the anniversary of the maiden voyage, details of which are on page 23.

Malcolm Cook has provided an article about the cannon on display at Hartlepool headland, and this is supplemented with accounts of the fate of two cannons, and a cannon ball, which were once carried on our ship.

The Historic Quay is being developed by the National Museum of the Royal Navy – Hartlepool, and it is a pleasure to provide a report on how the Friends are making a considerable contribution towards this. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours in the months and years ahead.

Hugh Turner

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## HMS Trincomalee arrives at Portsmouth

Two hundred years ago HMS Trincomalee completed her maiden voyage from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to Portsmouth, England. She anchored at Spithead. For a formal report of her arrival, below is an extract from the Cumberland Pacquet of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1819.

**Tuesday the *Trincomalee*, 46, Capt. P. H. Bridges, (late Challenger,) arrived at Portsmouth from the East Indies. She sailed from Trincomalee (Island of Ceylon), in company with the Towey, Capt. Hill, on the 27th of October, and both ships arrived at Port Louis (Mauritius) 25th November, and sailed again the 9th of December; arrived in Simon's Bay, (Cape of Good Hope), the 27th of the same month; left Simon's Bay the 9th January for Table Bay, and having taken on board a supply of live stock for the St. Helena squadron, sailed from thence for that Island the 13th of January, and arrived there the 24th; left that island the 30th January, and Ascension the 8th February; touched at Fayal on the 19th March, and left it on the following day.**

However we do have a more colourful and personal record of our ship's arrival thanks to the diary that Eliza Bunt kept during and after the voyage, which was transcribed by Mary Hope Monnery. The following extracts from her diary relate to her arrival in England in 1819. The spelling and punctuation (or lack of it) is how she wrote in her diary and this adds to the joy of reading it.

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### Monday March 29

everyone rejoysing to see land again ship more steady weather not so cold expect to get in tonight – Captain B[r]idges paid me a short visit promised to get me Boats and men to get my things to shore – Mr Welshman came to see if he



could do anything for me anchored at St Hellings [St Helens, Isle of Wight] being dark – wrote a letter to Mr W Craven ready to go on shore in the morning allso to Mr Wyett – Lieutenant Wilson came to ask if he could do anything for me befor he leaves the ship no no

### **Tuesday March 30**

anchored in Spithead at seven O Clock all Anxiety to hear from my friends on shore sent to my Dear friends father and Brother received an answer in the evening much to my satisfaction

### **31**

Mr Craven came off to breakfast with me found him particularly kind to me gave him a snuff Box and one for Joseph sent the Old lady a Bottle of Arrack and also sent some things on shore Mr Jeffrey came to see me Betsy gone on shore with Edwards to take some things Called on Mrs Jeffery and got her things safe on shore wrote to Mrs Cave who is at Horndeen [Horndean – a village about 8 miles north of Portsea] for the benefit of her health sent my papers to the admiralty

...

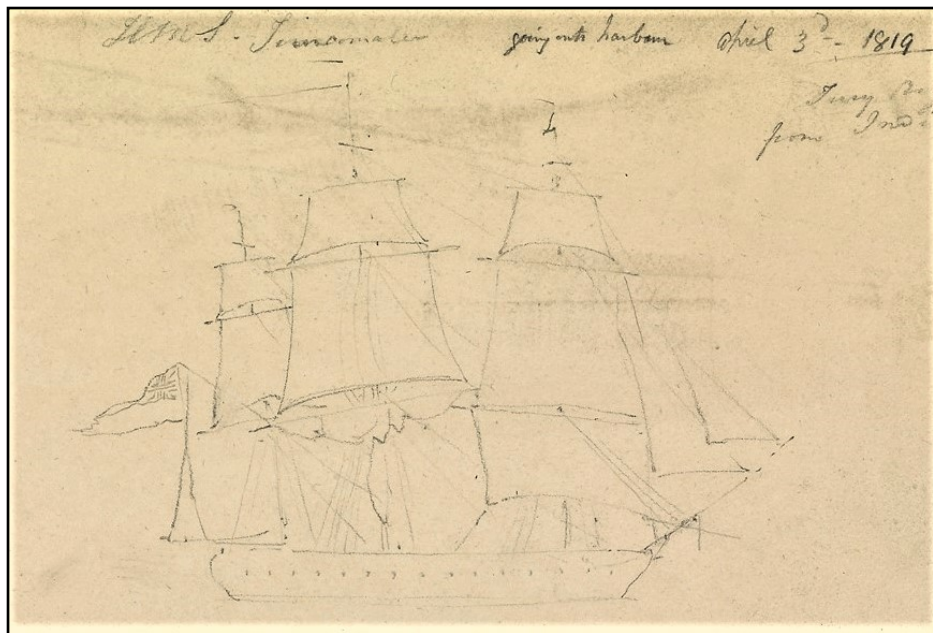
### **Saturday April 3**

Betsy and myself busy cleaning the cabin Mr Wyet and Mitchel came with a Dock yard Boat to take us and all the things on shore oh dear oh dear not a thing ready not a thing packed up bustle and confusion - well hear we are with all our things packed and in the Boat now standing on the Quarter Deck bidding adieu to our ship friends who are all assembled for that purpose with palpatating Hearts and smiling Countance we descend to the Boat in the Chair of state from whence we procede to Portsmouth Beach and after An Absence of two years and nine months we again set our foot on English Ground the Luggage is landed put in a Cart and taking to the Custom House where they are examined passed and taking into Hawk street without further trouble ...

—

On the same day that Eliza left HMS Trincomalee, the artist, John Christian Schetky (1778-1874) was in Portsmouth and he made a quick sketch of our ship going into harbour. To my knowledge this is the oldest surviving picture of HMS Trincomalee, and it is in the collection of the National Maritime Museum.

On 4th May 1818 Schetky sketched the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour.



The copper print of Portsmouth town and harbour dating from 1811 is by an unknown artist.



Two pictures by Thomas Rowlandson also help us to imagine what Portsmouth was like when HMS Trincomalee arrived two hundred years ago. His portrayal of a landing stage at Portsmouth in 1816, and the better known picture, Portsmouth Point.







## Join the Friends of HMS Trincomalee

Your membership card entitles you to free recurrent admission to HMS Trincomalee and the Historic Quay for twelve months, and to attend Friends' events. You will receive the magazine Quarterdeck which is issued three times a year, and know that you are contributing to the upkeep and presentation of our Ship. Further details are on our website:

[www.friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](http://www.friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk)



## The Sevastopol Cannon



As a footnote to the talk given to the Friends of HMS Trincomalee about the Crimean War in October, the words Sevastopol, cannon, and Hartlepool have a link of course. The Sevastopol Cannon has been a fixture on the Headland of Hartlepool for many years, and I remember as a child climbing on it and playing around it, not knowing the story behind why it was there. It has always been situated close to the lighthouse which, of course is adjacent to the now restored Heugh Gun battery.

During the Crimean War the city of Sevastopol was a key port for the Russians and home to the Tsar's Black Sea Fleet, which, if it broke out, could threaten the shipping in the Mediterranean, so it was vital that the port was taken.

The Allies, French, British and Ottoman, landed with the intention of marching 50,000 men the 35 miles to Sevastopol, and taking the city. However staunch opposition was met on the way, and in the one year it took to reach the objective, major battles were fought on the way at Alma, Balaklava, Inkerman, Tchernaya, Redan and finally a year long siege of Sevastopol.

Balaklava was made famous by Tennyson's poem 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' and fighting on the Russian side was soldier, Leo Tolstoy.

After taking Sevastopol the British must have removed every piece of artillery in the city. I thought that the cannon in Hartlepool must be the only one,

however at least 50 towns and cities throughout the Country and Commonwealth were given a cannon to place on display. Not all these survive as many were melted down in World War Two.

There is a plaque next to the Hartlepool cannon, which is very hard to read, but which states:

'This cannon was captured from the Russian army at the battle of Sebastopol during the Crimean War (1854-1856). In October 1857, the then Secretary of State, Lord Panmure, offered the cannon to Hartlepool Borough Council who gratefully accepted it. The cannon was transported from London on the steam ship 'Margaret', at a total cost of £2 19s 3d, and after a years delay, arrived in Hartlepool in September 1858.'

Checking the shipping registers I have access to, the only steam ship to fit the time scale is 'Margaret' (ON 1306) of 370 tons registered in Glasgow. This must have been a very early steamship, as all the other vessels registered about this time were still under sail.

Malcolm Cook

## **Cannon at Portsmouth**

Located on King's Bastion overlooking Spur Redoubt at Portsmouth there is a cannon which once was aboard our ship when it was used for training.

The inscription on the plaque about the cannon says:

"24 POUNDER" GUN FROM THE ARMAMENT OF THE FRIGATE  
HMS FOUDROYANT  
PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH BY THE  
FOUDROYANT TRUST 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 1974 TO MARK THE  
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE TRAINING  
SHIP HMS FOUDROYANT (EX TRINCOMALEE) AT THE  
TIME STILL ACTIVE IN THE SERVICE OF YOUTH.

THE GUN CARRIAGE AND CANNON WERE SUBSEQUENTLY  
REFURBISHED BY MARINE ENGINEERING ARTIFICERS OF  
HMS SULTAN DURING 1994/95





Cannon at Portsmouth - photographs courtesy of Steve Reynolds



## **Ballast on HMS Trincomalee that appeared on “Blue Peter”**

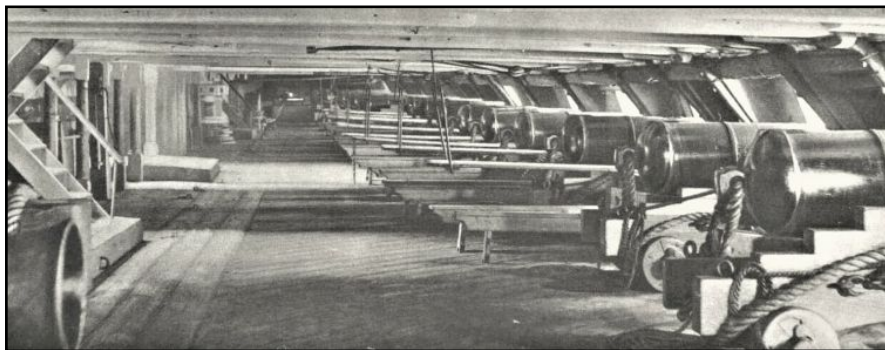
One cannon, that was on board HMS Trincomalee for a while, was sold at auction in 2009 for £ 16,000.

This George III 24-pounder naval cannon was made by Samuel Walker & Co. Ltd., in the late eighteenth century and was part of the gunnery on Nelson's flagship, the Foudroyant launched in 1798 at Southampton. The auctioneers described it as a plain cascabel with ring surmount. The barrel had six moulded turns and swamped muzzle, with the GR Royal monogram. The cannon was 9ft 10 inches long with a 5.8 inch bore.

HMS Foudroyant was considered the finest ship afloat when it was allocated to Nelson in the Mediterranean. She had eighty guns on two decks, these included thirty 32-pounders on the lower deck and thirty-two 24-pounders on the main deck. Her service included taking part in the capture of the vessels Le Genereux and Guillaume Tell in 1800, and in 1807 of Marengo and Ben Poule.

After her return to home shores in 1812 she remained in harbour service until 1891, and was later restored being used as a training ship. It was after she was wrecked off the North Pier at Blackpool in 1897 that the cannon was amongst those recovered and it was used as ballast for our ship, HMS Trincomalee, which replaced the old flagship as a training ship and was renamed the Foudroyant.

In 1972 twenty-six of the cannons were sold to the City of Portsmouth to set up the City walls. The particular cannon being sold at the auction was the one taken to the Blue Peter studio for a live feature presented by Peter Purves and John Noakes and belonged at the time to a James Close.



The gundeck of the Foudroyant prior to being wrecked in 1897



The cannon from Nelson's flagship that appeared on "Blue Peter"



# HMS TRINCOMALEE

## 1817 Specification

Built	Bombay, India of Malabar Teak, launched 12 October 1817		
Length	on Gun Deck	151' 4"	
	on Waterline	156' 0"	
	Hull overall	180' 0"	
	Driver boom to flying jib	270' 0"	
Beam Extreme for tonnage		40' 3¼"	
		39' 11¼"	
Depth in Hold		12' 11½"	
Tonnage B.M.		1066 Tons	
Displacement		1447 Tons	
Draught Forward		17' 3"	
	Aft	19' 7"	

ARMAMENT (original specification)	
Forecastle	3 x 9 Pdrs Carriage guns 2 x 32 Pdrs Carronades
Upper Deck	28 x 18 Pdrs Carriage guns
Quarterdeck	8 x 9 Pdrs Carriage guns 6 x 32 Pdrs Carronades
ARMAMENT (2 <sup>nd</sup> Commission)	
Forecastle	2 x 32 Pdrs
Upper Deck	10 x 8 inch 65 Cwt 8 x 32 Pdrs 56 Cwt
Quarterdeck	1 x 10 inch 84 cwt. 4 x 32 Pdrs 39 cwt.
For Boats/Landing Parties	
	2 x 12 Pdr. Light howitzers 1 x 6 Pdr. Light brass field carriage

## The Church at Cowichan Bay

The first mention of Cowichan Bay on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, dates back to the mid-nineteenth century. At this time Britain was still involved in efforts to stem the slave trade, which was not abolished until 1863, and the trade flourished along the coast of the island. There was also concern about the increasing influence of the American colonies.

It was Captain Richards, aboard the British ship HMS Plumper, who started naming landmarks in the area in about 1850, and many of the landmarks and islands in the region are named after British ships and the officers on board. On August 12, 1856, Vancouver Island was declared a British colony.



At the time the Governor of the area was Governor Douglas who looked after the safety of the new settlers in the area by acting quickly in response to any hostile acts by the natives. So it was, that in September 1856, HMS Trincomalee was towed by the Hudson's Bay steam vessel Otter, from Fort Victoria to Cowichan Bay. 400 able seamen arrived at the Bay seeking justice from the local Indians, and cannon balls were fired into the nearby mountain to intimidate the natives. It was one of these cannon balls which was used to break up stone for the construction of the first church at the bay. Cowichan Bay was the first development for settlers to be established north of Fort Victoria.

Before the building of this church, services at Cowichan Bay were held in the bar of the local John Bull Inn. Although religion was not of great importance to the settlers, it was of significance to the natives, and in 1870 the first church at Cowichan Bay was built on the top of Comiaken hill by Father Rondealult, who had arrived at the Bay in 1859.

This church was built of solid stone, and for years was known as 'The Stone Church', however with time it became better known as 'The Butter Church' as it was financed by the sale of butter from the church dairy herd.



The Church at Cowichan Bay in 2015

## Some Relatives of Captain Philip Henry Bridges

In the Summer 2010 issue of the "Quarterdeck" Mary Hope Monnery, a Friend of HMS Trincomalee, provided a biographical account of the Captain of our ship on her Maiden Voyage, Captain Bridges. This article can be found on our website in the archives.

Since this article was written, a link was found between Captain Bridges and the poet laureate from 1913 to 1930, Robert Bridges, with thanks due to Julian Reid, the Archivist at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Philip had an older brother, Thomas Edward Bridges, born at St Nicholas at Wade in the Isle of Thanet in Kent in October 1782. Thomas was only 15 years old when he was matriculated by University College, Oxford on 26 July 1798. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Corpus Christi College in 1802. Later, on 31 January 1806, he became a fellow of Corpus Christi College, and on 13 February 1823 he was unanimously elected President of the College. As head of the College he was now allowed to marry, and he promptly married his first wife, Jemima Sarah Welch at Tunstall, Lancashire. Thomas died at Ilfracombe in 1843 and was buried at Corpus Christi College chapel.

Philip and Thomas were the sons of another Thomas Bridges and his wife Ann Jacob. This senior Thomas had a brother Edward, who married Mary Sankey – and here there is a direct descent to Robert Seymour Bridges the poet.

They had a son, John, who married an Elizabeth Denne, and they in turn had a son, John Thomas Bridges, who was born in 1805 and matriculated from Wadham College, Oxford in 1822. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1827

This John Thomas Bridges was the father of Robert Seymour Bridges, the poet laureate.

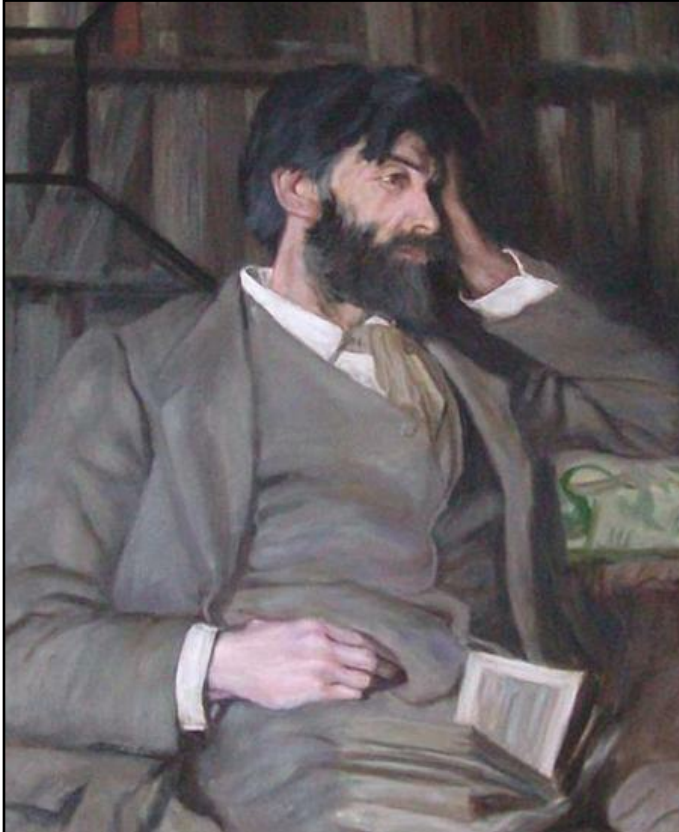
So, if you are following this, the poet laureate, Robert Bridges, was the great grandson of our Captain's uncle.

To continue this line of descent, Robert Bridges had a son born in 1892, Edward Ettingdean Bridges, who went on to become Secretary of the Cabinet, 1938-1945, and then Secretary to the Treasury and Head of the Civil Service, 1945-1956. In 1957 he became the first Baron Bridges, and in 1965 a Knight of the Garter. Edward died in 1969.

Edward's grandson, and the third Baron Bridges, is Mark Thomas Bridges, born in 1954, and is the solicitor to, among others, Queen Elizabeth II, the Princess



Royal and the Duchy of Lancaster. Mark became a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in the 2019 New Year Honours.



Robert Bridges

## **A Passer-By**

Whither, O splendid ship, thy white sails crowding,  
Leaning across the bosom of the urgent West,  
That fearest nor sea rising, nor sky clouding,  
Whither away, fair rover, and what thy quest?  
Ah! soon, when Winter has all our vales opprest,  
When skies are cold and misty, and hail is hurling,  
Wilt thou glide on the blue Pacific, or rest  
In a summer haven asleep, thy white sails furling.

I there before thee, in the country that well thou knowest,  
 Already arrived am inhaling the odorous air.  
 I watch thee enter unerringly where thou goest,  
 And anchor queen of the strange shipping there,  
 Thy sails for awnings spread, thy masts bare:  
 Nor is aught from the foaming reef to the snow-capp'd grandest  
 Peak, that is over the feathery palms, more fair  
 Than thou, so upright, so stately and still thou standest.

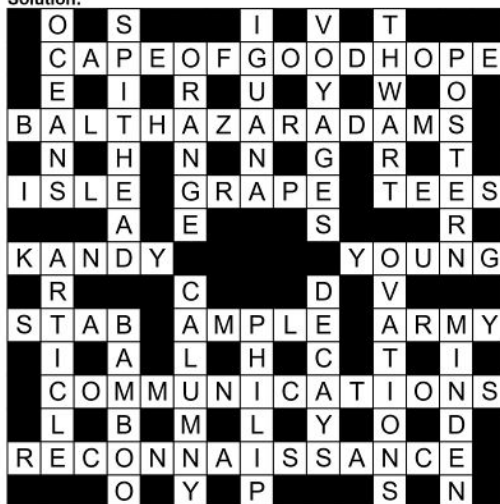
And yet, O splendid ship, unhail'd and nameless,  
 I know not if, aiming a fancy, I rightly divine  
 That thou had a purpose joyful, a courage blameless,  
 Thy port assured in a happier land than mine.  
 But for all I have given thee, beauty enough is thine,  
 As thou, aslant with trim tackle and shrouding,  
 From the proud nostril curve of a prow's line  
 In the offing scatterest foam, thy white sails crowding.

Robert Seymour Bridges

## Mess Deck Crossword

Autumn 2018

Solution:



## Hints to Young Naval Surgeons from Falconer's Dictionary of the Marine 1815 Edition



The following hints to young naval surgeons are lately published by an old veteran in the service, and may be useful even to those who have some experience.

1. In order to reap the greatest advantage from the field upon which he is entering, he should set out on a fixed plan, as to what he is to pursue.

He ought to dedicate a certain sum annually for the purchase of well selected professional books, and that he may peruse them with advantage, he ought minutely to examine the nature of each complaint that occurs within the sphere of his observation, and then consult every author in his possession on that particular topic, noting how their sentiments agree with the actual phenomena. By this means he will not only have the resources at hand in the treatment of diseases, but their symptoms will become technically rivetted, as it were, on his mind, by the comparison; while his notes will be a ready reference to sources of information, to meet accidental emergencies.

2. He should systematise his studies; allotting certain days for medical, and others for general literature, taking care that the former should always preponderate, and that he should early accustom himself to digest what he has read, and to think at least three times as much as he reads, in order to become equal to original and independent exertion.

3. He should preserve a dignified deportment in respect to temperance and morality; as a mild and steady discountenance of vice and debauchery will often have more effect on his brother officers than the frowns or lectures of the chaplain, who is too often very illiberally suspected of censuring vice merely ex officio.

4. Although mental relaxation be as necessary as corporeal rest, yet he should be exceedingly cautious how he gives way to amusements commonly resorted to by civilians on board ship, as there will be a danger of estranging him from professional pursuits, which will be apt to appear dull and insipid, when contrasted with those more fascinating entertainments. If, however, his intellectual enjoyments are well regulated, he will not often require these adventitious aids in passing his time at sea.

5. His conduct to the men should ever be characterised by humanity and tenderness, always keeping in mind the uncertainty of his art, and the danger of suddenly deciding on what he might conceive to be imposition; as it is better that we should be ten times duped by fictitious complaints, and thus protect a skulker, than once reject a real case of pain or disease, however appearances might justify us at the moment.

6. He should keep an accurate record of every circumstance touching the health of the ship's company, or in any matter connected with his profession, or the general science of philosophy, so that the most important facts and observations might be transmitted to the medical board from time to time; and if the medical commissioner were to examine with any degree of minuteness the journals that flow in from the different quarters of the globe, an accurate estimate might soon be found of ability, from such an extensive source of information as would thus be established; and a powerful stimulus to the exertion of talent and industry would be diffused among the meritorious orders of the profession, without any expense to the nation!

## Supporting the Preservation and Presentation of HMS Trincomalee

The aims of our Charity, “The Friends of HMS Trincomalee”, is to support the preservation and presentation of our ship. All the trustees are in agreement that any grants given by us to the National Museum of the Royal Navy – Hartlepool, should be used directly for these two purposes.

We are pleased to report that in addition to the £6,000 “ring-fenced” for a new floor cover in the Captain’s cabin, in January the trustees pledged £15,500 towards the restoration and presentation of the ship’s Victorian figurehead. The full costing for this is £30,000, and with our substantial pledge the National Museum is hoping to gain a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We await to hear the outcome of this.

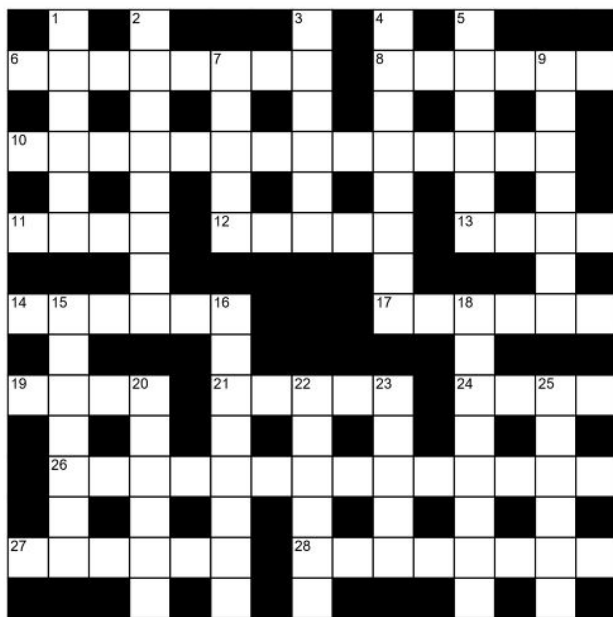
The Historic Quay site is undergoing a transformation, with funds being sought from other bodies to support a new education centre and new exhibits, such as the Rescue Motor Launch 497, which arrived at the Quay at the end of January. This launch, from the Second World War, is undergoing restoration at Hartlepool, but the Friends will not be contributing to this specific project with it not conforming to our charitable aims. Hopefully many Friends of HMS Trincomalee will be able to see the developments at the Quay over the next year and onwards, with our ship remaining the star attraction.



Photograph courtesy of the National Museum of the Royal Navy - Hartlepool

# Mess Deck Crossword

Spring 2019



HDT

## ACROSS

- 6 The Butter Church is at this bay (8)
- 8 The Headland of Hartlepool has a Russian one (6)
- 10 Thomas Bridges became one in 1802 (8,2,4)
- 11 Had a fleet at Sevastopol (4)
- 12 To rise into waves (5)
- 13 Duelling sword (4)
- 14 Violent contractions (6)
- 17 Built on the same model (6)
- 19 HMS Foudroyant had eighty of these (4)
- 21 More uncommon (5)
- 24 Crimean War battle (4)
- 26 Drug scientist (14)
- 27 Clannish (6)
- 28 The part behind the base-ring of a cannon (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Raids (6)
- 2 He named landmarks around Vancouver Island (8)
- 3 A dinner dish (6)
- 4 Confused struggles (8)
- 5 False (6)
- 7 Ships' bodies (5)
- 9 Filthy (7)
- 15 Ship captained by 2 down (7)
- 16 Jumble (8)
- 18 To make drunk and ship as a sailor (8)
- 20 Threadbare (6)
- 22 Frivolous development of the baroque (6)
- 23 Canons (5)
- 25 Call together (6)



# **THE FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE EVENTS 2019**

The events for spring 2019 will take place at:

**West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club (WHRFC),  
Brinkburn, Catcote Road, Hartlepool TS25 4HA**

20 March                      A party to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Wednesday                  arrival of HMS Trincomalee in England  
WHRC                          Doors at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start  
  
(a light buffet will be provided to accompany both  
the visual and musical entertainment – 3D glasses  
will be provided)

22 May                          “Flotsam & Jetsam”  
Wednesday                  A miscellany of short presentations  
WHRC                          (Friends able to contribute please contact Martin Barker  
or any Committee Member)

## **The September Annual General Meeting is in the Baltic Suite, at the Historic Quay (HQ)**

25 September                  Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday                  - to include a report from the  
HQ                                  National Museum of the Royal Navy – Hartlepool

23 October                      “From post chaise to cable -  
Wednesday                  Naval communication in the nineteenth century”  
(Venue to be                  Hugh Turner  
confirmed)

27 November                  A talk about the *Coronia*, the Dunkirk little ship  
Wednesday                  being restored at Hartlepool marina  
(Venue to be                  Pauline Field  
confirmed)

All begin at 7.00pm – Talks starting at 7.30pm after refreshments  
These events are free for Friends, guests charged £3 each.

[friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](http://friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk)

## EXHIBITION AT THE FITZHUGH LIBRARY MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE

There is at present a display about HMS Trincomalee at the FitzHugh Library, first floor, 51 Market Place, Middleton-in-Teesdale DL12 0QH, (Above the Village Bookshop, opposite the Teesdale Hotel).



This will run until the end of May 2019, the library is open on Mondays and Tuesdays except Bank Holidays between 10.30am and 2.30pm.

The FitzHugh Library was set up as a charitable trust in 1990 to maintain and expand an existing collection of local material which would be made available to the public for reference and research.

( [www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk](http://www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk) )

There is no admission charge and the library is free to use, however access via a staircase may be unsuitable for some.