

Quartermasterdeck

FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE

£1.00

AUTUMN 2009

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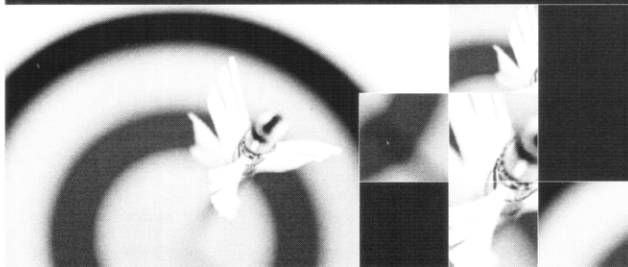
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Horwath Clark Whitehill

Editorial

In the previous edition of Quarterdeck there was an article showing how Captain Houstoun and HMS Trincomalee were involved in policing activities in British Columbia. On board the Ship at that time was a young midshipman, Lambton Loraine, who rose to greater things as evident in this issue – presumably he acquired some of his diplomatic skills from Captain Houstoun.

Dundee is home to both Scott's Discovery and the oldest British-built warship afloat, the Frigate Unicorn. My wife and I visited Dundee in May this year and spent an absorbing two hours on the Unicorn. This Frigate remains 'in ordinary', never having had masts fitted, providing a large covered presentation area on the upper deck. We whole-heartedly recommend a visit to the Unicorn. This being the 'in colour' birthday edition of the Quarterdeck – HMS Trincomalee is 192 years old in October – the two frigates share a page in the centre spread of pictures.

Finally the Friends were involved in two Summer events this year. The Summer Fair was held on board the Ship at a time when it was open to the public, with a tombola, cake stall, lucky dip, book stall, plant stall and even a 'Spot the Trincomalee' game. We also helped to man the Trincomalee Trust's stand at Hartlepool's two day Dock Fest in early July. Many of us became efficient in blowing balloons up after our stint on the rota. The Friends provided the funds for the balloons and the design originated from a member of the Trincomalee Trust, my hand proudly displays one in the colour centre spread. We are now looking forward to 2010, and in particular the arrival of the Tall Ships Race in Hartlepool from 7th to 10th August.

Hugh Turner (*Editor*)

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The Editor, Hugh Turner

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Membership matters directed to:

Membership Secretary, Keith Rogers

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LAMBTON LORAINÉ (1838-1917)

Midshipman on HMS Trincomalee

Of the Midshipmen associated with HMS Trincomalee, one rose to the rank of Rear-Admiral this being Lambton Loraine.

Lambton Loraine was born on 17th November 1838 and on 11 July 1852 succeeded as 11th Baronet Loraine of Kirke Harle, Northumberland. In the same year he entered the Royal Navy, originally as a Naval Cadet, a Captain noting at the time 'Sir Lambton Loraine Bart. Has very good talents, and promises to make a good draughtsman and surveyor.'

Sir Lambton joined HMS Trincomalee at Valparaíso in early 1853, at the age of 14 years, and was a Midshipman aboard the ship until 1857 at the end of her second commission based in the Pacific. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1858 and served in the Mediterranean, then in 1864 he was appointed Flag-Lieutenant to Rear-Admiral the Hon. Joseph Denman, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Station. In 1866 he was acting commander of the Mutine during the hostilities between Spain and her former colonies, Peru and Chile, then in 1867 he was promoted to Commander.

Sir Lambton is best remembered for his involvement in 'The Virginius Incident' of 1873.

Since October 1870 the ship, Virginius, a sidewheel steamer over 200ft (61m) long, capable of remarkable speed due to its powerful engines, was used to transport arms and men to aid the insurgencies against Spain in Cuba and Venezuela. The ship was regarded by Spain as a pirate ship and had several narrow escapes.

On 23rd October 1873 the Virginius sailed from Kingston, Jamaica with 102 Cuban insurgents. At Port-au-Prince 300 Remingtons and 300,000 cartridges were loaded on-board. At Comito 800 daggers, 800 machetes, a barrel of powder and a case of shoes were loaded. The ship headed for Cuba, but never reached shore. About 6 miles from land it was intercepted by the Spanish warship Tornado under the command of Captain Dionisio Costilla and an 8 hour sea chase ensued. During this chase, guns and equipment were dropped overboard to lighten the ship, however the poor physical condition of the ship and engines caused Captain Fry to surrender the ship barely 6 miles from the Jamaican coast.

On 2nd November 1873 a 'council of war' was held by Spanish officials after the arrival of the captured Virginius at Santiago de Cuba harbour. Four ranking officers of the 'Army of Liberation' were executed at 6am on 4th November 1873.

Following a court-martial on 7th November the captain of Virginius and 36 members of the crew were executed by firing squad the same day. A further 12 Cuban revolutionaries were executed the next day.

It was Sir Lambton Loraine who intervened, arriving at Santiago de Cuba harbour as Commander of the British warship Niobe. Commander Loraine immediately sent the following communique to the Spanish Military Commander of Santiago, General Burriel:

Military Commander of Santiago – Sir: I have no orders from my government, because they are not aware of what is happening; but I assume the responsibility and I am convinced that my conduct will be approved by Her Britannic Majesty, because my actions are pro-humanity and pro-civilisation, I demand that you stop this dreadful butchery that is taking place here. I do not believe that I need explain what my actions will be in case my demand is not heeded. (signed) Lambton Loraine.

Sir Lambton delivered the letter personally and did not leave the office of the military Governor until he received a satisfactory reply. His valiant intervention stopped the executing cold, and thus many Cubans, Americans and Britons were saved by his action.

In April 1874, this Captain now, whom had spent his teenage years on HMS Trincomalee, was in New York for 13 days during which he was a welcome recipient of an almost continued round of receptions and evidences of public and private esteem.

On 25th April he departed New York, the New York Times reporting:

The vessel moved out of her dock a few minutes after 1 o'clock, Sir Lambton standing by the gangway with his umbrella raised, puffing quietly on his cigar and waving adieus with his hat to the little groups of friends on the pier, who sent him off with a hearty cheer.

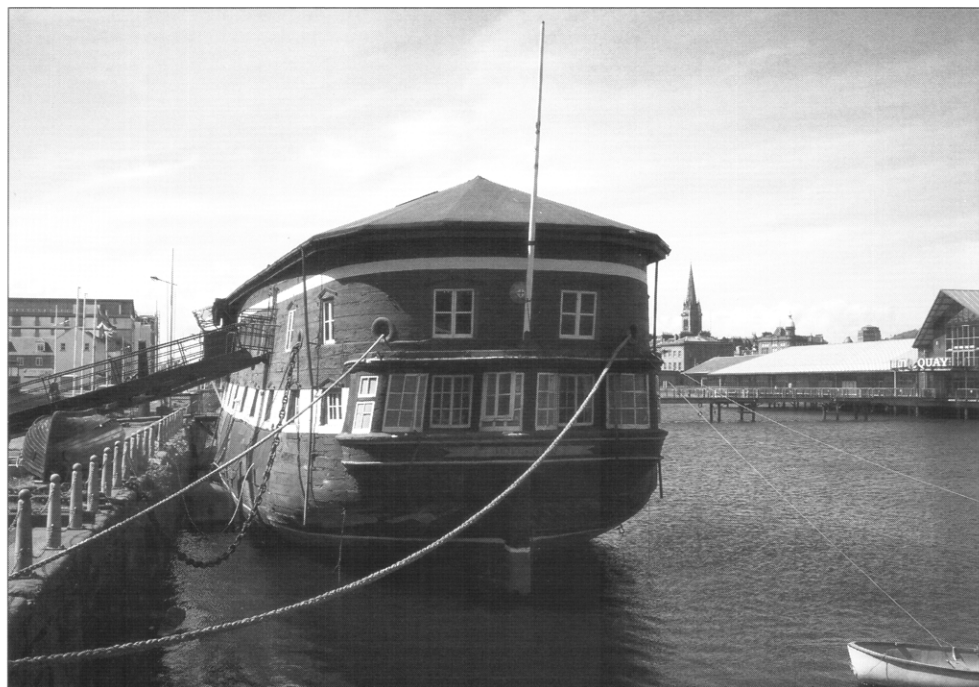
Sir Lambton became a retired Captain in 1885, and a retired Rear-Admiral in 1889, dying at the age of 78 years on 13th May 1917.



*11th Baronet Loraine
Rear-Admiral*

The Frigate Unicorn

The Oldest Warship built in Britain still afloat



The frigate Unicorn, built at Chatham in 1824, and now docked in Dundee is well worth a visit. Although only seven years later than the Trincomalee in its completion, the Unicorn reveals the beginnings of the move forward from wood to iron in naval ship construction, and Friends of HMS Trincomalee visiting will soon be finding themselves identifying the similarities and differences of the two frigates.

The Unicorn belonged to the urgent programme of shipbuilding after the end of the Napoleonic wars, when many of the ships of the Royal Navy were worn out by years of conflict. It was standard practice to stockpile good hulls in reserve, or 'ordinary'. A hull of a large warship took over two years to build and only a fortnight to rig. Whilst in 'ordinary' the masts and rigging were stored out of the weather and a roof was built over the hull to protect it. The Unicorn still has this roof, which is the only known example left in the world.

The upper deck, protected from the elements and without masts and rigging provides a spacious area on the Unicorn which is presently used to good effect for events such as caledidhs and performances of Gilbert and Sullivan (HMS Pinafore and the Gondoliers, naturally!)

Sir Robert Seppings, the Surveyor of the Navy from 1813 to 1832, was responsible for the Unicorn's design, and by 1817 he had already developed a round stern when building the Asia, this being fully framed and planked with only small windows. This design feature was a response to the construction weakness of the old men-of-war square stern which had consisted of elaborate, but lightly built windows for the office accommodation, and thus (as with the bow which had only a flimsy bulkhead) could be easily penetrated by enemy shot. It had become a standard manoeuvre for a ship to attempt to 'rake' her opponent by firing a full broadside in through the enemy's bow or stern.

Seppings in 1810 also developed iron 'knees' to replace the great curved pieces of wood called 'knees' which joined a ship's deck beams to its side. By the time of the Napoleonic Wars the Industrial Revolution was well under way, providing cheap and reliable iron to replace timber which was becoming scarce, particularly the curved 'compass' timber needed for 'knees'.

The iron 'knees' on the Unicorn represent the earliest use of iron as a major element for shipbuilding. Each one is formed to a slightly different angle from its neighbours, each iron fitting with great accuracy.

The Unicorn also has examples of thick iron diagonal strengthening straps, or 'riders', fixed to the inside of the hull. These were again devised by Seppings, first tried out in the Tremendous in 1811, and generally adopted in 1831.

The impressive figurehead for the Unicorn is ten feet long, including the horns, and was carved in Quebec Yellow Pine by Trevor Ellis, a carver based in Hampshire. It was unveiled on 17th July 1979 by the Prince of Wales (see the centre colour spread).

Friends of HMS Trincomalee visiting Dundee are likely to find the Unicorn more interesting than Scott's RNS Discovery also docked there. In 1968 the Unicorn Preservation Society was formed, chaired by Lord Dalhousie, and on 26th September 1968 Prince Phillip accepted HMF Unicorn from the Navy on behalf of the society which has the continuing task of preserving and renovating the frigate. The Society's hope is to have the Unicorn as the centre piece of the new marina planned for Dundee, with it masted and rigged.



Iron Riders



Iron Knees

The Frigates

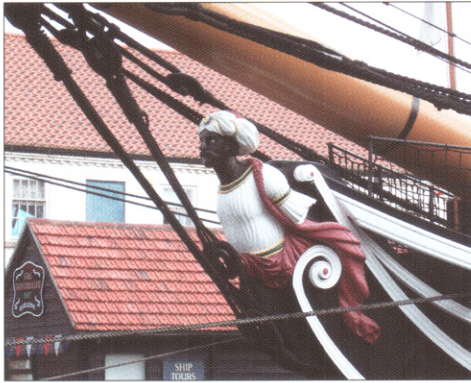
Trincomalee



Unicorn



Stern



Figurehead

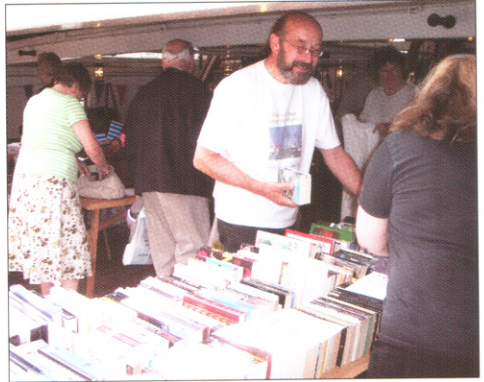


Captain's Cabin

Summer Fair and Dock Fest



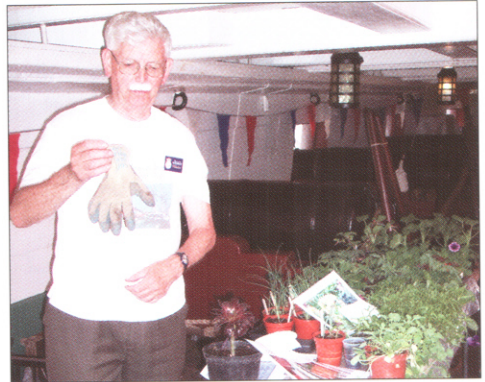
Cake Stall



Book Stall



Lucky Dip



Plant Stall



Dock Fest & Balloons



MEMBERS' LETTERS

I am not certain that the title 'Members' Letters' is entirely appropriate in this edition. I thank a member of the Friends, David Bell, for his e mail concerning the Crest Boards featured in the last edition of the Quarterdeck.

Bill Monaghan, who is a not a member, originally contacted me by e mail having heard about the article on the Susan Sturges from a Friend of HMS Trincomalee. His subsequent letter explains his interest.

Finally, whilst walking down the Promenade at Blackpool in early August I was unable to escape from matters appertaining to the Trincomalee The Commemorative Plaque to HMS Foudroyant is to be found just to the North of the North Pier.

Editor

From David Bell – e-mail 22nd June 2009 Concerning the Crest Boards

I found the note on these very interesting. I have a set of slides made when the ship arrived at Hartlepool for restoration. One of the slides puzzled me a bit. I wondered what it was fastened to the bulkhead. Thanks to the Summer News I now know.

Thanks
David Bell

From Bill Monaghan 26th August 2009

Many thanks for emailing me a copy of 'The Curious Case of the Susan Sturges'. This was an interesting story for me in that I had visited the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii) two years ago. During the visit our young guide 'Heron' told us that the Haida tribe used to make raiding parties to the mainland and return with captives which were enslaved.

At the time I was somewhat sceptical not having previously heard of this practice. (I was born on Vancouver Island and grew up in B.C.)

I enclose a donation for the Trust.

Once again, many thanks

Bill Monaghan
Godalming

Details on plaque near Blackpool's North Pier:

HMS Foudroyant

This plaque commemorates Lord Nelson's Flagship 'Foudroyant', an 80 gun two decker launched at Plymouth in 1798, which ran aground during a severe storm and became a total wreck 600 yards opposite the Hotel Metropole on 16th June 1897.

Lord Nelson raised his Admiral's flag on her from 1799-1800. Queen Victoria and Lady Hamilton once graced her decks.

After seeing action mainly in the Mediterranean she retired from active service in 1812, remaining in harbour service at Devonport until 1851. She then became an instructional vessel in gun drill. Being sold out of service in 1891, she was eventually purchased by Mr. Geoffrey Wheatley-Cobb of Caldicott Castle who saved her from a German shipbreaker.

Mr Cobb then used her as a training ship, touring seaside resorts and ports around the country. It was whilst visiting Blackpool and lying at anchor 2 miles off shore that she broke her moorings during the storm.

The lives of the 28 crew members were saved by the heroic efforts of the Blackpool lifeboat crew – the 'Samuel Fletcher of Manchester'.

The unveiling of this plaque on the 16th June 1997 commemorates the Centenary of the wreck.

Mess Deck Crossword

Summer 2009

Solution:



That was the Summer

To start with here is a quick review for any Friends who have not been able to visit the Ship over the summer period. It has been pretty good – visitor numbers that is – rather than the weather, which has been a bit ‘iffy’ around here! Our numbers are well ahead of the same period last year which is most encouraging, and they are just about up to our targets.

The Gift Aid returns and our Visitor Book records that people are visiting us from all over the country, and international visitors are also well up. No doubt, like many attractions, we are benefiting from the ‘visiting friends and relatives’ syndrome and from the exchange rate encouraging foreign visitors to Britain.

It’s not only the normal visitor element that has done well of late, however, as we have had a spate of filming – including Time Team and another Channel 4 historical documentary, a piece for the 25 years of the Heritage Lottery Fund and a television advert for Sunderland Empire’s Panto! There has also been an interesting photoshoot in support of the new Royal Mail stamps that are depicting uniforms – we don’t know any more about how this may be used at this point in time, but keep an eye open!

Looking after the Ship

The Ship is looking great, particularly with the International Code Flags spelling out ‘Welcome to Trincomalee’ flying high everyday. The rigging work, completed at the end of last year, is standing up well, but we have had one problem to contend with over the summer and that is the discovery of a bit of rot in the opepe on the Quarterdeck right above the Captain’s Cabin. Les Gilfoyle and the two maintenance lads have done a fabulous job in replacing the affected timbers, but it has been a bit of a trial as the Cabin has had to be made ready for weddings and functions on a regular basis, thereby restricting their work, and meaning lots of cleaning!

Work in hand for the forthcoming period includes removing the canvas covers in the Waist area and replacing with netting instead, which will be more authentic. The other big job is the painting of the portside of the hull – a job involving working from floating pontoons with a scaffolding tower – not one for me, thank you all the same!

Schools Scheme

It is a delight to report that we have set up a schools membership scheme, initially for Hartlepool schools, which will give real opportunities for local youngsters to visit the Ship and Hartlepool’s Maritime Experience [HME] more frequently for curriculum-related work. Thanks are due to Alan White, Headteacher of Manor College of Technology in the town – and a Trustee – for his work in getting this together. More later.

Children in Need

Talking of young people, the BBC has asked us at HME to host the North East element of this show on the evening of Friday 20 November. We are busily putting together a programme, and there is little doubt that someone will be up the masts! It should be good profile, and you never know, if we are wacky enough, we may get some national coverage. Come along and have a look if you are around as it should be a good evening for all concerned.

Christmas Dinners in the Captain's Cabin

Once again we are making the Captain's Cabin available for Christmas Lunches, and this year the period is extended to the whole of December. We can take around thirty people each day in tables to suit individuals, couples or groups. It's a lovely atmosphere, and we know last year a couple came all the way up from the South Coast just for lunch as a special treat for themselves! I know at the time of writing that reservations are going well, so do please give a call to Cleveland Caterers on 01429 891556 as soon as possible to check availability and booking. We look forward to seeing you.

Website

Finally, just to let you know that some updates to our website are on the way, which should mean that we can change it more easily to give current information. Do have a look now, please, for things for Christmas. How about a Friends Membership for a friend?

Bryn Hughes

General Manager, HMS Trincomalee Trust

Peter Hogg

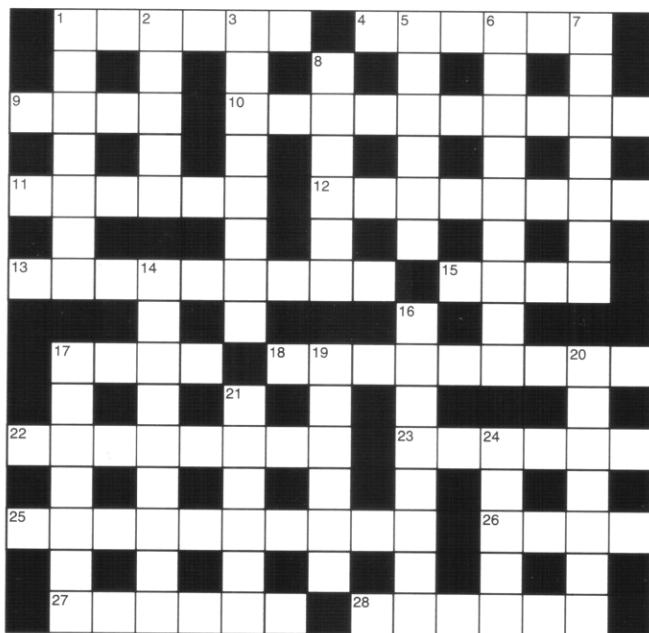
Peter Hogg, Colonel Euan Houstoun and Peter's son, Nigel, instigated the Friends of HMS Trincomalee in 1991, Peter's number was 1001. He had every right to give himself that very first number as he was the very first membership secretary and devised the database that is still being used today. He was a very keen supporter of the Ship and a fund of local knowledge not only of the working docks but also of the history of Hartlepool and its people. He came to my aid more than once when researching the story of Trincomalee with particular reference to its time in Hartlepool in the 19th century. He was also well known for his talks and the Friends could only listen with reverence during his talks in the Captain's Cabin.

Peter died peacefully in his sleep on 24 July 2009 aged 89 years. We shall all miss his wit, twinkling eyes and his fund of knowledge.

Jean Hughes

Mess Deck Crossword

Autumn 2009



HDT

ACROSS

- 1 The Queens Elizabeth and Mary
- 4 Soak up
- 9 Three
- 10 Charity workers
- 11 Diagonal strengthening straps on the Unicorn
- 12 The Foudroyant was Nelson's
- 13 Machine
- 15 These shanties can be long or short
- 17 Biblical prophet
- 18 A hull which is stockpiled (2,7)
- 22 Longer than this is needed to build a warship's hull (3,5)
- 23 A barrel of this was loaded on the Virginus at Comito in 1873
- 25 A raking broadside is aimed here (3,2,5)
- 26 Fencing sword
- 27 Snatch
- 28 Sacred poems

DOWN

- 1 Midshipman on HMS Trincomalee 1853 to 1857
- 2 Sir Lambton's warship
- 3 Editing
- 5 Loraine's Rear-Admiral in 1864
- 6 Exaggerate
- 7 Military Commander of Santiago
- 8 The Seven Sisters
- 14 Burden (5,4)
- 16 He was responsible for the Unicorn's design
- 17 In April 1874 Captain Loraine spent 13 days here (3,4)
- 19 Got comfortable, like a bird
- 20 Spectators
- 21 Seasickness symptom
- 24 Steers the Ship

Solution next issue

APPLICATION FORM

to join

THE FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE

Membership categories and annual subscriptions:

Adult	£20.00
Concessionary *	£15.00
Joint Adult	£30.00
Joint Concessionary *	£22.50
Family Group +	£45.00

* Children, students, senior citizens and those unwaged

+ Two adults and up to three children in a family

Please complete, detach and return this form to:

The Friends of HMS Trincomalee
PO Box 1817, Hartlepool, TS24 7YE

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE

YOUR DETAILS:

Title Surname

First Names

Address

.....

..... Post Code

Tel.

Membership Category

Cheques made payable to 'HMS Trincomalee Trust'

AMOUNT

☐

GIFT AID DECLARATION. As a UK taxpayer I would like the HMS Trincomalee Trust to claim back the tax on this and all future donations.

Please tick the box.

SIGNATURE

THE FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE

Autumn and Winter events 2009 / 2010

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 21 October | <i>Trafalgar
A talk by Commodore Paul Sutermeister,
Vice Chairman, HMS Trincomalee Trust</i> |
| 25 November | <i>Last of the Adelaide Star
A talk and slide show by Captain Kinghorn about
the last two voyages of The Adelaide Star – 1974/75</i> |
| 21 December | <i>Carols in the Cabin
A festive sing along for everyone</i> |
| 27 January 2010 | <i>Heritage Lottery Fund
Ivor Crowther, Head of Region, Heritage Lottery
Fund</i> |
| 24 February | <i>HM Coast Guard - Past and Present
Greg Albrighton</i> |

*Unless otherwise stated all events take place in the
Captain's Quarters on board HMS Trincomalee
and begin at 7.00pm*

These events are free for Friends, with guests charged £1 each.

Friends receive free entry to HMS Trincomalee and
Hartlepool's Maritime Experience for one year, can attend
talks and presentations on board, receive the Quarterdeck
magazine which is published three times a year and receive a
10% discount on items from the Ship Shop.
An application form is overleaf.