

# Naval Dockyards Society

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME & BOOKING FORM

Saturday 29 March 2014 Lecture Theatre, National Maritime Museum Greenwich 11.00-4.45

## British Dockyards in the First World War

Commemorating this momentous centenary, the focus on Dreadnoughts and Rosyth is apt, as Dreadnought warships were crucial to the arms race leading to the First World War and Rosyth's use was vital to its success. This programme will address both national policy and social history, with the unprecedented use of women in what had hitherto exclusively been men's jobs.

9.30-11.00 Coffee/Tea and Registration

### Keynote Speaker Professor Eric Grove **British Warship Building during the First World War: An Analytical and Comparative Survey**

A reassessment of the warship building achievements of the United States and Germany and the relative performance of UK dockyards and private industry. The intention is to investigate whether the industrial achievement of the earlier wartime period justifies the Edgertonian analysis of the strengths of the later British 'warfare state'.

### Professor Ian Buxton: **Rosyth Dockyard, Battleships and Drydocking**

The main rationale for Rosyth was that its three docks, measuring 850ft x 110ft, could take all the existing battleships and battlecruisers. After 1916 Rosyth was rarely without a battleship to repair or overhaul. This paper notes significant dockings of battleships from the First to the Second World Wars.

### Martin Rogers: **Rosyth Dockyard 1903-1925: Its conception, birth, growth and demise**

Available as a printed paper with a short visual presentation by Martin Rogers and Dr Philip MacDougall

1.00-2.00 **Buffet Lunch** included in the fee

**Dr Vaughan Michell: Evolution of the Dreadnought Battleship based on Naval Construction during the First World War** This presentation explores the evolution and innovation of super-dreadnought battleships and derivatives based on Admiralty Constructor documents regarding war construction of the type. It seeks to identify the major impacts and innovations of war experience and convey them via examples in plans.

### Dr Paul Brown: **Docking the Dreadnoughts: Dockyard Activity in the Dreadnought Era**

The size of the dreadnoughts meant that the late Victorian yard extensions needed further alterations. This paper quantifies the changes to activity levels in the yards and considers how the additional demands were met through enhancements to the physical, human and financial resources of the dockyards.

### Dr Celia Clark: **'Drilling Hammock Hooks for Sailors': Women working in Portsmouth Dockyard in the First World War**

In WWI women were recruited to industrial work in Portsmouth Dockyard to replace men conscripted into the armed forces. In 1982 Celia Clark interviewed four survivors of this workforce on audio tape. This presentation will include excerpts, giving voice to their experiences of male hostility and harsh conditions.

### Peter Goodwin: **First World War Submarine Construction and Development**

Before the First World War the submarine fleet comprised the A, B and C class boats which had evolved little from the experimental Holland craft introduced in 1901. The paper will assess how the development of the D-K classes stimulated new technical skills within the dockyards to support the submarine fleet.

**Cost: £50.00 includes sandwich lunch, teas and coffees  
£45.00 NDS members, students, retired, unwaged**

**Return form by 22 March 2014** to Peter Goodwin, Secretary, Naval Dockyards Society, 26 Duncan Road, Southsea PO5 2QU - 023 9229 5949 - seaphoenix@talktalk.net

**Trains** 08457 484950 [www.nationalrail.co.uk/times/fares/](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times/fares/)

National Maritime Museum, Romney Road, Greenwich SE10 9NF <http://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum/>  
Please note that there is no parking at the Museum

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### NDS 2014 Conference: **British Dockyards in the First World War 11.00-4.45**

I wish to book a place on the Naval Dockyards Society Conference: **British Dockyards in the First World War**

I enclose a non-refundable cheque for **£50.00/45.00** made out to **Naval Dockyards Society**

**Please indicate affiliation/concession** - NDS member, student, retired, unwaged

Please indicate whether you are disabled / have a medical problem of which we need to be aware / need a special dietary requirement

**All Names Attending**.....

Address.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Signed.....Date.....