

The Lenox Project

A lasting legacy for Deptford



A project to build and sail a 17th century royal naval ship, create a dockyard museum and establish a centre of excellence for historic shipbuilding and restoration

www.buildthelenox.org

PATRONS: **Dame Joan Ruddock, Dan Snow**

Our vision



Above: Deptford Dockyard by Cleveley; The Royal Dockyard by Joseph Farington; archaeological explorations at the dockyard by Museum of London, 2012-13; Artist impression by Richard Endors of Lenox at Convoys Wharf, showing the location of the project site looking towards Greenwich. Below: Samuel Pepys, Secretary to the Admiralty.



- To build and launch the Lenox, a replica 17th century ship, on the site of the former Royal Dockyard in Deptford, now known as Convoys Wharf.
- To aid the revitalisation of the economic, cultural and historic heart of Deptford.
- To create a permanent home for the Lenox on the site, as the centre piece of The Deptford Dockyard Museum, which will focus on the history of the King's Yard and naval shipbuilding at Deptford.
- To establish an international centre of excellence for historic shipbuilding and restoration in line with our aim to create a lasting legacy for the historic dockyard.
- To establish a future role for the ship, both at the site and in an ambassadorial capacity, attracting visitors to the area and representing Deptford, London and the UK on overseas voyages.
- To work in partnership with educational and government agencies to create a skills and training programme in maritime and manufacturing skills through a series of apprenticeship programmes.
- To provide a platform for cultural, historical and educational experiences and collaboration with academic, heritage and scientific groups.

The importance of the Royal Dockyard

Founded by Henry VIII in 1513, Deptford Dockyard was the most significant royal dockyard of the Tudor period. For nearly four hundred years Deptford was the central power house of the nation's navy. Hundreds of warships and countless trading vessels were built here, including ships built for exploration, science and expansion of the empire. Famous vessels such as the Golden Hind, Mary Rose, Discovery and Endeavour were refitted here and Deptford was associated with the great mariners of the time, including Drake, Raleigh and Cook.

Deptford's reputation as a centre of shipbuilding excellence spread across Europe and in 1698 the Tsar of Russia, Peter the Great, visited the dockyard to learn more about shipbuilding methods so that he could modernise Russia by introducing the latest technology and designs.

In the past, Deptford prospered from the presence of the dockyard, which provided a highly skilled workforce and supported associated industries. This prosperity and success can be seen to underpin the current prominence and heritage status of Greenwich.



Why the Lenox?

The Lenox was the first of the great Thirty Ship building programme of 1677, instigated by Charles II and managed by Samuel Pepys as Secretary of the Admiralty. Pepys considered it to be the greatest achievement of his career.

Lenox was built by John Shish, the Master Shipwright at Deptford and was launched on 12 April 1678. She survived until 1756, being rebuilt in 1701 and again in 1723. The design of 1677 was so successful that its form remained virtually unchanged until it was replaced in 1755 by the 74-gun ship.

The Lenox was arguably one of the most beautiful naval vessels ever built, incorporating more carving than at any other period. She was extensively recorded in official records and art, providing a unique opportunity to build a replica seventeenth century ship according to known specifications, so that by building the Lenox, the skills and technology that created all other ships of the period can be understood.

The opportunity for the public to witness shipbuilding on such a grand scale and the training benefits it brings will enhance the local economy of Deptford and create a unique visitor attraction for London.



Existing models

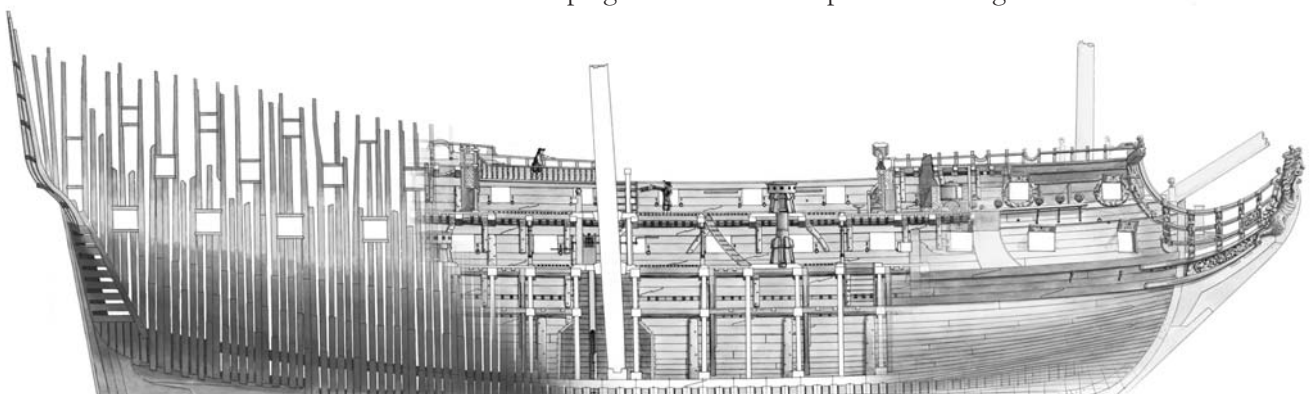
Similar schemes exist in several European countries, Russia, Australia and the USA. These include L'Hermione at Rochefort, Götheborg in Sweden, De Zeven Provinciën in Holland and Poltava in Saint Petersburg. The experience that has been gained on these schemes will provide valuable guidance for the development of The Lenox Project business model. This is a unique opportunity for Deptford, which will not only reinvigorate its maritime history but create a global platform for London and the UK, alongside other internationally successful projects.



Above: Visitors see L'Hermione being built at Rochefort; in port with masts and rigging; retracing the route of the original ship, L'Hermione arrives in New York, 2015. Below: Section of the Lenox by Richard Endors.

Project progress

The Lenox Project CIC has been operating as a completely self-funded organisation since 2011, managed by a dedicated group of volunteers who are all resident in, or have strong links to Deptford. When the Mayor of London granted planning permission for the Convoys Wharf redevelopment in 2014, he acknowledged the importance of the project by ordering an independent study to establish the most feasible location on the site for the Lenox. This study was completed in November 2015, after which The Lenox Project CIC was able to start the crucial process of developing a robust business plan and raising funds.





Above: The Poltava in Saint Petersburg; the Swedish ship Gothëborg visits London in 2007; trainees sailing on Gothëborg; the ship docked in Hong Kong on a voyage to China.

Cover: Building L'Hermione; painting of Lenox passing Greenwich in her 1678 maiden voyage from Deptford to Chatham by Richard Endsor; L'Hermione visitors during construction; Gothëborg visitors at her home port; L'Hermione docks in Manhattan; L'Hermione crew; Gothëborg crew.

Project proposals

The most feasible location for The Lenox Project was established through the independent study as the Safeguarded Wharf at the west end of the site, next to the river. This site offers the opportunity to construct the ship in a new dry dock; she will be built as an accurate replica, since every detail of her original construction was recorded by the shipwright, and this information was collated by historian Richard Endsor in his 20-year study of the vessel. The wharf site will include the ship's home berth in a new wet dock, creating a self-contained visitor attraction.

The layout of the visitor centre and workshops will enable visitors to see historic shipbuilding in action, within a working museum environment. The public will have the opportunity to participate directly in the construction process by attending specialist courses, in addition to the apprenticeships that will be on offer. It is important that visitors will be able to witness all aspects of the work in progress so that the educational benefits of the project can be maximised.

Funding and support

The Lenox Project CIC has begun a new phase in its project plan, which involves establishing itself as a charity, appointing consultants, preparing a business plan, applying for funding and developing detailed planning proposals with Lewisham Council.

The project is eligible for start-up capital under the Convoys Wharf outline planning condition and further funding will be sought from heritage bodies and corporate sponsorship to provide the essential engineering and building infrastructure. The aim of the project is to become self-sustaining and profitable as soon as possible and the intention is to get the public visiting the project at the earliest opportunity. The experience of other European projects, in locations with far fewer visitors than London, suggests that The Lenox Project could attract a high number of paying tourists. The surplus will be used to continue historic shipbuilding and restoration on the site, and to support other maritime projects around the country.

The project has the backing of local people, stakeholders and Members of Parliament, Lewisham Council, GLA, heritage bodies, other maritime museums, naval historians and archaeologists, media and broadcasters, other naval dockyards and related national and international organisations.

Further information

The Lenox Project Vision amended November 2015: *download at* www.buildthelenox.org

The Restoration Warship – the design, construction and career of a third rate of Charles II's Navy by Richard Endsor, 2009

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