

Kate – SHTP2 Blog – October 2019

The final days of the project have been and gone! Our SHTP2 project year concluded with three days in Portsmouth at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. On the first day, we each gave a presentation on our year to the project partner host organisation, new SHTP2 trainees and funders. I was up first which was nerve-wracking but went well. Maybe a tiny bit thrilling in hindsight even - something I never thought I'd say that about public speaking! In the afternoon, National Historic Ships hosted an excellent panel discussion on the theme of 'Diversity in Maritime Heritage'. It was really good to have opened dialogue on this topic – I could have listened to much more discussion and debate on the subject, and hope to in future!



We also got a very wet and windy tour of HMS *Warrior* and transom restoration project, plus the dock of HMS *Victory*.

On our final day of being trainees, three of us got the chance to go to the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport to meet Ian Clark, industrial conservator and heritage consultant who had worked on the HMS *Alliance* and *Holland I* conservation projects. Ian gave a fascinating insight as well as getting to look around the vessels themselves. We then squeezed in a visit to ML1387, HMS *Medusa*, one of 480 vessels built to protect harbours from submarines during the Second World War and a vessel involved in the D-Day landings. Alan Watson, Chairman of the Medusa Trust, told us

about the number of roles *Medusa* had played over its lifetime in war and peacetimes, how the vessel has had a National Lottery Heritage-funded refit and how the Trust is working to preserve the vessel for the future. Volunteers were on board practising safety drills as *Medusa* is still operational!



And with that, our SHTP2 traineeship is over. It really has been a fantastic year; I've learnt so much and made friends and memories that I will keep for a very long time. Although I do not have a job to go to yet, I hope to continue to work in the museums and heritage sector! My very last project-related venture is a trip to the UK Maritime Heritage Forum in Glasgow on tall ship *Glenlee*! Fellow trainee Hannah and I will be speaking about our SHTP2 year – probably to a much bigger crowd this time, eek! Please come along!

With wholehearted thanks to everyone at National Historic Ships, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Royal Museums Greenwich, Scottish Fisheries Museum, Pioneer Sailing Trust and too many more to mention.