**HMS Oardacious - Boat Unveil Event on board HMS Victory – Guide for Guests**

**Travel/Parking**Due to HMS Victory’s location within an active naval base, unfortunately there is no onsite parking for guests who do not hold a base pass and vehicle pass. There are several car parks in the local area, including Wickham Street and Gunwharf Quays. Taxis can drop guests off directly outside Victory Gate. The Hard Interchange bus terminal and Portsmouth Harbour train station are a short walk from the main entrance.

**Access**
HMS Victory lies within Portsmouth Naval Base and therefore comes under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Defence Security. For this reason, all guests must enter on foot through Victory Gate. *For those guests who hold a valid military base pass and vehicle pass, access is permitted as usual via Trafalgar Gate.* Please be aware that all bags may be searched upon entry to the dockyard. Please ensure that all guest names are submitted prior to the event and that you bring a form of photographic identification to present to security on the night, i.e. driving license or passport.

**Wheelchair Access**The Lower Gun Deck of HMS Victory is accessible for those in a wheelchair, however the tours and Quarterdeck are sadly not due to numerous steep ladders.

**Event Agenda**

18:30 - Boat blessing

19:00 – Guests are organised into tour groups in starboard arena and staggered tours begin\*

19:40 – Drinks reception begins on Quarterdeck (one glass of Prosecco)\*

20:00 - Welcome

20:30 - Guests descend to the Lower Gun Deck\* (one glass of Prosecco, one G&T and canapés)

21:15 - Ceremonial cake cutting by HMS Oardacious crew

21:30 – Farewell port/toast

21:40 - Thank you speech

22:00 – Carriages – guests depart from the gangway on the Lower Gun Deck

*\*Two groups of 25 guests will leave at 19:05, then two at 19:10, and the last two at 19:15.*

*\*Soft drinks are also available in addition to the alcoholic drinks provided.*

**Guided Tours**Following the boat blessing, guests will be organised into groups and greeted by their tour guide in the starboard arena. Tours last on average 45 minutes with each tour guide taking up to 25 guests. Tours will finish on the Quarterdeck where the drinks reception will commence at 19:40.

**Clothing**Even in the summer months the ship can get chilly in the evening so it is recommended that ladies bring a cloak or a shawl to stay comfortable.

Ladies should be advised that during the course of the evening they will have to negotiate steep stairs, uneven decks and cobblestones. In addition to this, for preservation and conservation reasons, stiletto heels are not permitted on board; the acceptable heel width is larger than a two pence piece. Should stilettos be worn, heel protectors will be provided and charged to the event organiser after the event at £5 per pair. These can also be obtained from bridal stores or online from <http://www.cleanheels.co.uk/>

**Toilet Facilities**

There are no toilet facilities on board HMS Victory, however toilet facilities can be located approximately 50 metres from the ship in the Port Arena, attached to the Mary Rose Museum.

**Health and Safety Briefing**

Please ensure the following information is read before boarding HMS Victory.

*We hope you enjoy your visit to HMS Victory. We have tried to make the ship as safe as possible but as she is old, we ask that you take special care during your visit. Please pay attention to the safety notices around the ship.*

*You access HMS Victory at your own risk and we will not be responsible for any direct, indirect or consequential loss, whether in contract, tort (including negligence), for breach of statutory duty, or otherwise, arising under or in connection with your visit to our site, including for loss or damage to property.*

*We do not limit or exclude our liability for death or personal injury caused by our negligence or any other liability which cannot be limited or excluded by applicable law.*

*HMS Victory contains:*

*• Steep stairs*

*• Trip hazards*

*• Low ceilings*

*• Narrow and low doorways*

*• Decks that are slippery when wet*

*• Low light levels*

 *Please be aware that:*

*• The entrance and exits are low*

*• There are low ceilings and beams throughout the ship, but especially on the Orlop deck near the place where Nelson died.*

*• There are trip hazards throughout the ship, but especially on the upper deck near the spot where Nelson was shot.*

*If you believe that you may find it difficult to visit such areas, please speak to a member of staff.*

*In the event of an emergency you will be directed off the ship by a member of staff and shown to a safe area in either the Port or Starboard Arenas were you are to remain and wait for further instructions.*

*Smoking is not permitted anywhere on board, including the Upper Deck. Should guests wish to smoke there is a tented arena in the middle port side arena, not the ship’s entry tent.*

Thank you for taking the time to read our Guide for Guests.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.