**The HMS Trincomalee Trust**

**CAPTAIN DAVID TERENCE SMITH OBE FNI RN**

**President, The HMS Trincomalee Trust**

**1927 – 2013**

Captain David T Smith OBE FNI RN, the President of the HMS Trincomalee Trust, died in Malta on 23 March 2013, after a short illness.  He was aged 86 years.

David Smith had a long and distinguished career in the Royal Navy, starting as a cadet in the Training Ship HMS Conway.  He had a number of sea-going appointments including being navigating officer on HMY Britannia and Commander on HMS Eagle.

On retiring from the Royal Navy he became an Elder Brother of Trinity House and was a full time officer of this important organisation.  He visited all the Trinity House’s lighthouses in HMS Patricia.

He then took on the Chairmanship of The Foudroyant Trust in 1976, Foudroyant then still being used as a training ship in Portsmouth harbour.  In 1987 it was decided to stop using the Ship for training and start the very necessary repair and renovation work.

After much research and discussion, he decided that the best place for this work to be done was Hartlepool.  In July 1987 he took the risk of spending all the funds the Trust then had to hire a submersible barge to take the Ship from Portsmouth to Hartlepool.

The repair and maintenance of this historic ship then became his main preoccupation and he was dedicated to the objective of restoring her to her former glory.

Her name was restored to her original name of HMS Trincomalee in 1992; he remained chairman of the ‘new’ HMS Trincomalee Trust.  He personally oversaw all the very detailed work of restoring the Ship ensuring that all the repair and replacement work was done correctly and that wherever possible the original timbers were retained.  This meant frequent and lengthy visits from his home in Southsea to Hartlepool.  The hours he gave to this project, all on a voluntary basis, are almost beyond counting!  Under David Smith’s chairmanship, The Trust raised more than £10.5million for the work, it took 11 years, at least 750,000 man-hours of skilled work were needed, and over £8million was pumped into the local economy in wages and purchases.

The restoration, which retained more than 60% of the original fabric of the Ship, turned a rotting hulk into an award-winning maritime attraction of national importance which has subsequently been recognised by the inclusion of the Ship in the Core Collection of the National Register of Historic Vessels in the UK.  Also, recently, in 2010, the Ship became the first affiliate of the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

He retired as chairman in 2000, after 24 years in the post, when the restoration was largely complete, and handed over to Colonel Michael Stewart who had been his vice-chairman.  David was then ‘promoted’ to be the President of the Trust, so retaining an involvement in the ship he had done so much for.

This magnificent Ship, now fully restored, is a splendid testament to his long and dedicated work. This has been recognised by the award of an OBE, by the World Ship Trust’s personal award to him in 2001 for the “outstanding restoration and preservation of this historic Ship”, by the personal award of a VICTORY medal in 2011 by the Society for Nautical Research for “the monumental achievement which is HMS Trincomalee” and by the many hundreds of thousands of visitors who have flocked to Hartlepool since the Ship opened as a visitor attraction.

David will be missed by us all at the Trust.  Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with David’s family and in particular with his two sons, Christopher and Richard.

**/ends**

**Photographs:**

A recent photograph of David Smith is attached as well as a photograph of HMS Trincomalee, berthed afloat at Jackson Dock, within Hartlepool’s Maritime Experience.

All photographs  © Christopher Armstrong

**Contact:**

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| David McKnightGeneral ManagerThe HMS Trincomalee TrustJackson DockMaritime AvenueHARTLEPOOLTS24 0XZ | T: 01429 223 193 / 07759 284 266E: dm@hms-trincomalee.co.uk  |