

Panel 2 John Hawkins, the establishment of the Triangular Trade and his links to Chatham

In 1562 John Hawkins became the first Englishman to be involved in the ‘triangular slave trade’ (England – Africa – West Indies/Caribbean - England). Hawkins involvement in slave trading continued with additional voyages in 1564 and 1567-68.

Hawkins slaving fleet included a number of Royal ships – the *Minion* and the *Jesus of Lubeck* - which belonged to the Queen, Elizabeth I. These ships were over wintered on the river Medway before sailing on the slavery voyages.

In 1579, John Hawkins became the Treasurer of the Navy. He was responsible for operating the Royal Dockyards and for repairing the ‘Queen’s Shippes’. Chatham Dockyard was in its infancy during these years and Hawkins became one of it’s the founding fathers.

Following the Spanish Armada of 1588, John Hawkins along with Francis Drake founded the Chatham Chest for the relief and support of injured and disabled sailors wounded during the Armada’s battles. Hawkins also established the Sir John Hawkins Hospital in Chatham.

1.



Sir John Hawkins's Coat of Arms

Courtesy: © The National Archives

2.



Jesus of Lubeck

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