



The Sheerness Dockyard Preservation Trust plans to publish an elegant art book containing the album of archive quality photographs taken in 1976 by two architectural students Mary Weguelin-Yearley and David Alsop to commemorate the Great Quadrangular Storehouse which once dominated Sheerness Royal Dockyard - just before it was lost to demolition. The Storehouse was one of the largest and most significant dockyard buildings; part of the large model of it to aid construction between 1823 and 1826 is on display in Sheerness Dockyard Church. The book is dedicated to publicising the tragedy of the demolition, championing a remarkable building that should never have been lost.

The trust is seeking grants towards the cost of publication and reproduction fees of an estimated £7/8000. Funding is sought from sources including the Society for Nautical Research and local charities on the Isle of Sheppey who would be happy to help with what is in effect a local history project. 500 copies of the book will retail at £25 and publication is planned for early 2026.

The book will have 160 pages, of which 8 in colour will reproduce the original architectural drawings by Edward Holl and George Ledwell Taylor from the National Archives. As well as the photographs, there will be several scholarly articles. The lack of appreciation of these functional buildings - warehouses and mills - in the 1970s will be explored, as well as the surviving components of the Store at Ironbridge, the V&A and Sheerness. Jonathan Coad examines the significance of the Sheerness storehouse in the development of British naval storehouses. David Hughes sets out the history of Sheerness dockyard and the arguments put forward at the public inquiry held into its demolition. Julian Harrap who represented the Georgian Group will describe his evidence at the inquiry. Mary Yearley describes her recollections of taking the photos as an architectural student. Celia Clark explores the role of architectural models in construction of dockyards and of photography in recording significant dockyard buildings. Other articles will be by Will Palin, former chair and current patrol of the Sheerness Trust and by Andrew Byrne as editor.

The book will be sold directly through the Sheerness Dockyard website, via book reviews and social media, with the possibility of selling it through the RIBA and Architectural Association. Any profits will be used to further the Sheerness Dockyard Trust's ambition to house the Dockyard model long term for public benefit.