

## The Mary Rose

With a heads up from a good friend, I had registered (along with 193 others from around the world) to take part in a free webinar held on Wednesday, the 22nd of April, 2020. The topic was the restoration of the **Mary Rose**, the flag ship of King Henry VIII. She had gone down in the middle of a battle while executing a turn with the lower gunports open. As she heeled over, the water poured in and... down she went with 100's of crew, her new captain, and the ship's dog the rat catcher. The year was 1545 and the Mary Rose was in her 34th year of service.



As a good portion of the remains were covered in sediment she was in a sense 'vacuum sealed'. Being starved of oxygen, normal decay was kept at bay. Eleanor Schofield gave an excellent presentation on the recovery work from 1971 to 1982 to the building of a museum to hold her and setting her up in side.



To preserve the structure above water they sprayed the hull with a 20% concentration of Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) solution for 19 years, freeze drying , followed by 3 years of air drying. After installing scaffolding supports they monitored the wood movement with overlaid imaging over the next 3 years and made the necessary adjustments. She has since (prior to Covid-19) been open to the public across from HMS Victory.

You can learn more about the history and preservation of the Mary Rose on the internet at [www.maryrose.org](http://www.maryrose.org)

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