

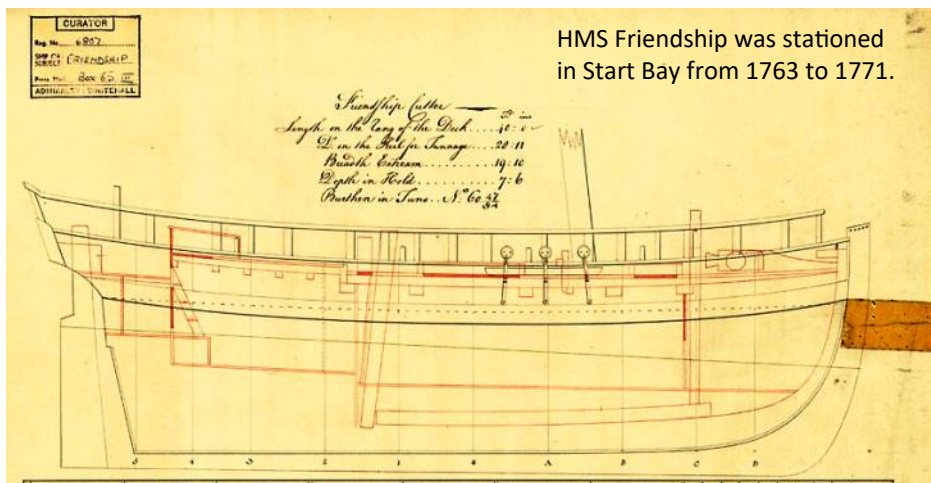
HMS Friendship

HMS Friendship was a 4-gun single-masted cutter of the Royal Navy, purchased in 1763 for coastal patrol duties in the immediate aftermath of the Seven Years' War with France. She was stationed for eight years' service in Start Bay. HMS Friendship was one of thirty cutters ordered to be purchased by the Royal Navy in a three-month period from December 1762 to February 1763 for coastal duties off English ports. The function of these purchased cutters included convoy and patrol, the carrying of messages between Navy vessels in port and assisting the press gang in the interception of merchant craft.

Admiralty Orders for her purchase were issued on 16 February 1763 with the transaction completed at a price of £316. On 8 April 1763 the newly purchased cutter sailed to Woolwich Dockyard for fitting out as a Navy craft. Two months later on 17 June, at a total



cost of £501 she was rebuilt for Navy service, she was armed with four three-pounder cannons and six pounder swivel guns, with a complement of 24 crew. In April 1763 and the vessel entered the Navy as a patrol cutter in Start Bay. Her first commander was Lieutenant Patrick Strachan. In 1766 command passed to Lieutenant Rowland Pigot and then in 1768 to Lieutenant John Glover. HMS Friendship remained at the same station in Start Bay throughout these changes of command.



HMS Friendship was stationed in Start Bay from 1763 to 1771.

Name:	HMS <i>Friendship</i>
Launched:	1760 merchant vessel
Acquired:	16 February 1763
Commissioned:	April 1763
Decommissioned:	October 1771
In service:	1763–1771
Out of service:	October 1771



In September 1769 she captured a smuggler's vessel carrying two hundred gallons of brandy and a quantity of tea.

The Royal Navy impressed many merchant sailors, as well as some sailors from other nations. People liable to impressment were "eligible men of sea-faring habits between the ages of 18 and 55 years". Non-seamen were impressed as well (Landsmen) Outbound merchant ships, officers and apprentices were exempt from impressment. When war broke out the Navy would deploy frigates and cutters off the coast to intercept inbound merchantman. Reportedly some merchant captains redirected their ships to Irish ports to offload favoured crewmen, before making final land-fall in England. In times of an extreme shortage of men, the Navy would "embargo" the coast for a short time; merchantmen had to supply a portion of their crew in exchange for permission to sail.

Class and type:	4-gun cutter
Tons burthen:	60 ⁴⁷ / ₉₄ (bm)
Length:	39 ft 7.5 in (12.1 m) (overall) 28 ft 11 in (8.8 m) (keel)
Beam:	19 ft 10 in (6.0 m)
Depth of hold:	7 ft 6 in (2.29 m)

Many merchant ships had hiding places constructed where their best crew could hide when approached by a Naval vessel. In addition to impressment, Britain also used the Quota System (or *The Quod*) from 1795 to 1815, whereby each county was required to supply a certain number of volunteers, based on its population and the number of its seaports.