Introduction to HMS Unicorn
The 5 W’s

1. When
2. Why
3. Where
4. Who
5. What
HMS Unicorn was designed by Sir Robert Seppings (1767-1840), Surveyor of the Navy.

The ship was ordered in 1817 and construction started in 1822 at Chatham Dockyards, Kent.

Unicorn was launched on 30th March 1824.
Why?

Unicorn was built at the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) as a frigate warship made of both wood and iron.

A frigate like Unicorn was built to carry 46 guns, a crew of 300 and perform roles such as scouting and defending trade routes.
Where?

Unicorn was always kept in reserve and so remained in the UK for her entire life.

Until 1872, the ship was moored at both Chatham and Woolwich in the south of England.

In 1873, Unicorn was brought to Dundee and has never left.
Who?

As a frigate, Unicorn was designed for a crew of 300 sailors.

When the ship came to Dundee, it was converted into a training ship and used for members of the Royal Naval Reserves (RNR) and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves (RNVR).
Although Unicorn never fired her guns in anger, the ship was operated by the Navy and the Ministry of Defence for over 140 years.

Many of the reserve troops that trained on board served in both the First and Second World Wars.
Exploring the ship and what you’ll see
The Gun Deck
The Captain’s Cabin
The Mess Deck
The Ship’s Hold
We are looking forward to welcoming you and your shipmates aboard!