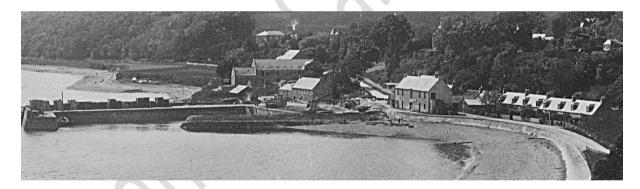


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INTRODUCTION

October 1817 in Fortrose heralded fundamental improvements in infrastructure that would have a lasting impact on the town. First, a proper road with the necessary bridges had been completed to link Fortrose with Conon Bridge and the newly built trunk road system; secondly, Fortrose harbour had been completed. The harbour became a successful commercial port and a hive of activity. The harbour has a secret too – during the Second World War it was a 'hush hush' combined operations base and had a direct role in the preparations for the D-Day landings in 1944. This is its story updated in 2021¹. This history is dedicated to the memory of George Taylor, one-time harbour master and founding member of Chanonry Sailing Club.



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¹ The original version of 'Harbouring Heritage' was 'published' (posted) in March 2012 and had its first significant revision in January 2015 which contained information from further research by the author or from contributions gratefully received from others. A second revision was prepared for the harbour's bicentenary in 2017 and this third revision in Spring 2021.

COMMENTS OR FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you have comments or further information for the author about the harbour he would be pleased to receive these and can be contacted via info@chanonry.org.uk or by note in the mailbox at the Clubhouse.

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Part 1 - Establishing the Harbour

Part 2 - Harbour Industries

Part 3 - The Pier & Ferries

Part 4 - Cargo & Ships from Sail to Steam

Part 5 - The Harbour in the World Wars

Part 6 - The Sea Scouts, the Harbour & Leisure Sailing

TIMELINE

•Town petitions Commissioners for Highland Roads & Bridges for support for a harbour
•Harbour completed
•Fortrose Gaslight Company opens gas works at harbour - lasts 5 years
•Regular regattas held for sailing, swimming & rowing
•Town Council applies for premission to build a 230 yard long wooden landing pier
•The wooden pier is completed
•The Black Isle Steam-ship company starts a ferry service to Inverness
•Annie of Inverness launched - home port Fortrose
•Dispatch, launched 1888, bought by McLeman of Avoch and based at Fortrose
Black Isle Railway reaches Fortrose
•The Black Isle Steam-ship Company goes in to liquidation
•Plans drawn-up to repair pier - not effected
Outbreak of World War One Chanonry Boating Club suspended
•Annie is sunk off Swona - all hands saved
•Most of pier destroyed in a storm
•Chanonry Boating Club, suspended since 1914, winds-up
Outbreak of World War Two Outbreak of World War Two
•HMS Monster forms at Harbour and training commences for the D-Day landings
•Chanonry Sailing Club forms

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The Landing Craft Association

The Friends of Purton Sands
Scottish Natural Heritage

Am Baile Arch Highland The Highland Archives

Inverness Reference Library















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Elizabeth Sutherland, historian and author

The late George Taylor, Honorary Rear Commodore and founder member, Chanonry Sailing Club, ex Harbour Master Fortrose and waterside character

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Ian Basham
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Sue Wompra, Groam House Museum volunteer
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John Mackenzie
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Kate Mackenzie (nee Taylor)

And these members of Force S (1943/44)

George Berry Jean Gadsen Frederick (Ricky) Peel Arthur Walter

Richard Jenner
Munlochy
March 2021

