

## THE FUTURE



There is a real urgent need to continue with Harbour repairs. We are sure that everyone understands that the level of funding needed is quite considerable.

Both Public and Private Sector grant aid will not be forthcoming to repair the harbour unless it can be robustly demonstrated that once repaired and upgraded the Trust will be able to generate surpluses to maintain the Harbour in the future. This is a condition that has been stipulated many times to the Trustees

That is why many revenue generating possibilities are being considered and worked on.

The sums of money required for the future maintenance of the Harbour are considerable. How the Harbour is going to generate these funds is challenging. This is however a pre requisite in order to secure the Capital Funds to carry out the extensive repairs and upgrading of the Harbour.

It is a race against the clock to secure the future of Port Erroll Harbour. If the marine and civil engineering works identified are not done soon the harbour will in a very short time become a pile of rubble.

## Trust to Charity

The Trustees along with the Harbour Solicitors have at long last established a legal entity that will be granted charitable status [A Registered Charity] and meet all the conditions stated in the Port Erroll Harbour 1924 Disposition

What a tortuous route it has been to get to this stage of migrating the Trust to a Charity.

The Trust would warmly welcome any local voluntary support and also any ideas for the ongoing upkeep of the harbour estate.

Please consider supporting a valuable local asset that provides - jobs – enjoyment to many leisure and pleasure users who do water based activities and supports the local economy and Tourism.

Come on board and help us to achieve the vision and sustainability of the Harbour.  
Contact: [info@porterroll.net](mailto:info@porterroll.net)

### New Trustees - Directors

Three new trustees who are also stakeholders at the Harbour are currently being inducted into their new roles and the legal papers covering the appointments are being collated in order to have these submitted to Companies House.

**Harbour Management and Maintenance**  
A plan is in hand to have the grass cut regularly at the Salmon Net Drying area.

A maintenance programme is underway on a range of Harbour assets.

Many thanks to ESS Support Service Worldwide for the generous donation of cleaning materials and consumables.

**JULY 2018**



**Harbour Newsletter**  
Port Erroll Harbour Trustees  
David Webster & Gavin Thain

Port Erroll Harbour Operations Sub-Committee  
Gavin Thain (Chair), John Kensett,  
Kevin Shearer, Peter Buchan, Scott Buchan, Ian  
Edwards, David Webster

**Trout Fishing**  
In the  
**Water of Cruden – Port Erroll**  
**Harbour**



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### Trustees Commitment

The Trustees decided some time ago to align the Harbour Management and Operations with Transport Scotland's Modern Trust Ports in Scotland – Guidance on good governance.

In becoming a Registered Charity this will also help ensure that the Harbour is in a good place to raise funds providing a robust revenue stream can be found for future maintenance.

Small rural harbours in Scotland and the rest of the UK do not generate large surpluses and many run at a substantial loss each year.

Rural Harbours have had to close because of serious structural failures and collapse. These Harbours have been formally closed for use by local fishermen, the public and are not available for leisure and pleasure water based activities.

The concepts that the Trustees are working on to secure the Harbour are not at a professional stage where all the necessary information is available for discussion with - The Scottish Government – the Area Authority – The Community Council the Community Association - other Public bodies and importantly the local community.

### Mis-information being passed to our local Community

The Trustees wish it to be known that there never was and there never will be any failure by the Trustees to extensively consult on any proposed major revenue generating developments at Port Erroll Harbour. Consultation will include all the relevant public - private sector bodies – the Area Authority, the Community Council and Association and importantly the Community.

It is very disappointing that some members of our Community think that the Trustees suffer from some form of naivety in relation to such matters.

The Harbour Trustees are committed to extensive consultation when and if a concept is taken to a pre project phase.

If you hear, receive, witness any information to the contrary you are being given misinformation.

#### Many thanks:

We are grateful to the local Horticultural Society for planting the boat and the planters at the Harbour along with the watering in the dry weather - this is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Aberdeenshire Council for the professional maintenance carried out to the wooden stairs up to the viewing area.

Thanks to all visitors to the Harbour for their generous and valuable donations. The support to the harbour and our local economy is very welcome. We are regularly asked by visitors about local services, facilities, places to eat and where to buy certain goods

Thanks to Cruden Parish Church for their donation. It was a real pleasure to host the Songs of Praise event and it was good to see such a good representation of our local community taking part. Haste ye back.



### A little background about Port Erroll Harbour

The House of Hay was granted the Barony of Slains from Robert the Bruce as a reward for their part in the Battle of Bannockburn.

The Hays later transferred their allegiance to the house of Stewart and became ardent Jacobites, playing a significant role in national politics.

The Hay family however played a central role in village life at the Ward of Cruden [now Port Erroll].

Major William Hay, 19th Earl of Erroll, fought in the Crimean War and returned to the north-east to develop the harbour at the Ward of Cruden in the 1870s.

He leased the Salmon fishing rights and provided a significant number of “low rent” houses for the fishermen and to also entice others to come and reside at Port Erroll

The harbour was built under the auspices of the 19th Earl of Erroll- The settlement “Ward of Cruden” had a name change and became Port Erroll in his honour. There were as many 180 Fishermen and 68 boats using the Harbour. Fishing was the mainstay of the village and instrumental in its growth from a population of 200 in 1875 to some 616 people in 1912 – More to follow in the next edition.