



Run by the Community for the

Community

## The 2020 Vision for our Peninsula Village Hall



***Rising to new heights!  
What's the story behind the scaffolding? Find out more  
inside!***

Visit the optician and the perfect eyesight result is 20/20 vision. Well we have our own 2020 Vision for the Burgh Hall and that is to make sure there is something for everyone at the Hall – and that everyone can use it.

CBH is where our lives overlap and where the community has connected for over 100 years. This has meant continuously adapting what we do and how we do it. It means making sure we are providing what the community wants and needs.

Of course we are very proud of our rather grand wee village hall with its majestic views 'doon the watter'. But it is in our hearts because of what it does – not just what it looks like.

So we will be taking care of our heritage but, most importantly, we will be taking care of each other. So the story inside is not just about improving our Hall – it is about improving our community too.

***Cove Burgh Hall 1959. Who is the girl skipping away from the hall?*** She is just one of the thousands who have used the Hall since it opened in 1893.



Learn about the long and proud history of our local village hall and some of the things that happen in it on **page 2**. Find out more about the building work on **page 3**.

On the back page we say thanks to all our supporters – and set out what we hope will be coming soon.





## **Born in 1893 and still going strong!**

### ***Did you know?***

Cove and Kilcreggan were created by the 8th Duke of Argyll in 1849. The villages became a single Burgh in 1865, administered by locally elected Commissioners and headed by a Provost. The Burgh had no venue for public meetings and social gatherings. It was not until 1891 that building a Burgh Hall began. Initiated by Charles

William Cayzer, a self-made man, and the new Provost of the Burgh. From poverty in East London he became the rich owner of the Clan Shipping Line.

He launched a scheme to raise money to build a Burgh Hall at an estimated £2000 and donated the first £500, the remainder being subscribed by wealthy residents. When he had to spend more time away from the area Peter Donaldson (a wealthy Glasgow iron and steel merchant) became Provost. His summer residence was Woodbine in Kilcreggan (formerly the Kilcreggan Hotel). He moved the building project ahead. Financial assistance in the form of a low feu payment was given by the Duke of Argyll.

James Chalmers, designer of the hall, liked red sandstone. The architectural style of the Burgh Hall is "Scottish Baronial". Officially opened on 14 May 1893 a civic reception to mark the event was hosted by Provost Donaldson.

### ***The spectacular view of the War Memorial, seen from the Hall, as the sun sets in November.***



2020 is Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters. Is there a better placed village Hall in the country?

In 1895 the image of Cove Burgh Hall was placed at the centre of the official Burgh Seal demonstrating the prominent position it held in the area. Newspaper articles of the time report the many and varied events held at the Hall and, as social needs changed, it continued to play a central part in local life. It has been in continuous use since – over 126 years. Today the hall is used by 25 community groups and hosts a wide variety of both public and private events.



***The Real Ale Festival - the annual event draws visitors from across the Peninsula and beyond.***

***A great dance hall!  
Ideal for clubs,  
events and private functions.***



***TRUSTY AND RUSTY!  
No - this is not a caption  
are two of the Hall's volunteers  
in looking after the building.  
was left of one of the structural  
of water leaking into the***



***contest. Richard and John  
who have a special interest  
Here they are holding what  
support girders after years  
building.***



*One of the major areas needing completely renewed is the balcony on the upper floor, outside the library.*



### **So what has all the work been about?**

The panoramic and uninterrupted views down the Clyde to Arran are great on a sunny day. But, as you may have noticed, we sometimes get wind and rain on the Peninsula. Sometimes both at the same time! And the rain was being driven through the external façade and into the building.

Over recent years some of the volunteers have been carefully studying the state of the Hall and researching how to tackle some of the problems. They saw that some of the stonework was crumbling and that water was coming through the stone and was gradually rotting the inside timbers and steelwork.

As this was going beyond the expertise of our own volunteers, help was required. Specialist architectural professionals and conservation experts were consulted. Without getting too technical some detailed studies were made of the sandstone and the mortar holding it all together. Sandstone is the main type of building stone used in Scotland. Although a durable material, sandstone is also naturally porous, making it prone to erosion if subjected to water and wind over time. Sound familiar? Correctly used and maintained, however, stone is a sound, stable building material – as shown by our many prehistoric, medieval, Georgian and Victorian buildings.

However, the snag was the mortar used to 'repair' the building over 50 years ago was causing some problems. A quick online search of "hot mix lime" tells us that hot mix is the new hot topic in lime mortars. Basically, over the past 15-20 years a lot of earlier hard cement mortar repairs and repointing of stone buildings have been replaced using lime mortar to counteract the accelerated decay caused to the stone by the hard cement. Current advice is that a hot mix lime mortar is more effective – and that is what has been done at your local community Hall! So now you know.



### **Cornered! Or not.....?**

**This shows where some of the replacement sandstone will be used to strengthen the building.**



## Thanks to all our Supporters.....



The restoration work in 2019 was generously financed by a range of grants. We want to give a special thanks to the organisations that supported us – without you this work would never have happened. The critical work to safeguard the hall for generations to come has been done.

***But we're not finished yet...***

### **...there's more to come**

CBH is the Peninsula's own community hall. And the aim is to make sure there is something for everyone. That means constantly adapting what is done and how the hall is used. It also means that we continue to look after the heritage of the building – not as a monument but as a vibrant hub of community life.

Many community groups have grown and developed their work using CBH. And we would like to see more groups starting and utilising the hall so we are looking at how this can be supported. This means having a flexible and multi-use venue.

To keep the interior in good shape we need to keep spending, and each year income from events, hires and friends of CBH pay the running costs.

We know we need to spend more on making sure the hall is accessible, practical and comfortable for everyone and for a wider range of uses. Inside the hall there are changes that could be made to restore some of the early splendour. We will be exploring if and how that can be done. And we still have some more sandstone preservation work to do – not as critical as what has just been done but important to keep the hall going for generations to come. Perhaps another 100 years?

**Cove Burgh Hall is our hall  
Where we meet friends  
perfect meeting place  
connect.**



**– run by us and for us.  
and friends-to-be. The  
where our lives overlap and**



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development  
Europe investing in rural areas



Scottish Rural  
Development  
Programme



The Scottish  
Government  
Riaghaidh na h-Alba



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