

CHRONICLES

PUBLISHED JUNE 2017 TO COMMEMORATE THE REOPENING OF DUNOON BURGH HALL

 burghhalldunoon  dunoonburghhall  @burghhalldunoon the most up to the minute news, from the last 150 years

On Saturday afternoon the Foundation Stone of a New Town Hall for the Burgh of Dunoon was laid with Masonic honours and under the most favourable circumstances.

Magnificent weather prevailed throughout the proceedings. Flags floated in the breeze from almost every house-top and point of prominence, residents wore their holiday attire, and brass bands, stationed in respective districts, filled the air with music. Each passing steamer disembarked its quota of passengers - many wearing the insignia of the 'craft' - to swell the general gathering; and long before the hour for the commencement of the proceedings, the principal thoroughfares were crowded by many, doubtless, simply on pleasure bent, in the interesting business of the day.

Lodges were represented from across the region as far afield as Royal Arch Rutherglen (Lodge Number 116) to Rothesay (Lodge number 292) but owing to the late arrival of some of the boats, several delegates did not report themselves. Towards two o'clock the different bodies intending to join in the procession assembled in the Drill Hall, Manse

Road, where the order of precedence was arranged. A start was effected shortly after two, the advance body consisting of a detachment of stalwart policemen, headed by two Police Officials on horseback. Closely following were a number of Good Templar Lodges, succeeding whom were the Masonic body, then the Commissioners of Police for the Burgh, the rear being brought up by the members of the Grand Lodge. The route taken was along Manse Road, through High John Street and Edward Street, to Auchamore Road, down Wellington Place and Ferry Brae to Argyll Street, and thence to the site of the new edifice. Both sides of these thoroughfares were lined with spectators, many of whom, by joining in, swelled the proportions of the procession to a great degree. On and around the building were congregated a large and select body of the inhabitants, including a goodly number of ladies. The members of the Grand Lodge having taken up their position near the Foundation Stone, which is placed in the front wall of the building, prayer, on

the call of the Worshipful Master, was offered up by the Rev. Mr Fullerton.

The Grand Secretary Mr Boag, read a document explaining the event of the day, which with the different coins of the realm and the newspapers of the day, was put into a glass jar and then inserted into a cavity in the stone. The customary ceremony peculiar to Masonry was then gone through, and the Grand Master having declared that the work had been performed in accordance with the rules of the body, prayer was offered for the success of the undertaking and three cheers were given in honour of the event.

Quiet having been restored, the Worshipful Grand Master said that it had given him great pleasure to witness the interest taken in the proceedings. By the enterprise of the inhabitants, he said, it had been resolved to erect a Hall which would be one followed by many other towns, for it was a great want when there was no proper hall for the bulk of the people to assemble in and express their feelings on all matters affecting the community and the nation. He hoped what had transpired that day would be the precursor of many blessings to Dunoon.

More loud cheers were heard from the crowd.

An original extract from the Argyllshire Standard, August 1873.



1868

QUICK GUIDE

A ballot of local people results in the formation of the Parliamentary Burgh of Dunoon.



1871

Twelve local men of influence and enterprise voted in as Burgh Police Commissioners .

The Dunoon Burgh Police Commissioners meet in a variety of locations including the Pier waiting room. In 1871 they decide to pursue the idea of a Hall for the Burgh of Dunoon.



PRESERVED IN THE FABRIC OF DUNOON BURGH HALL AND ECHOED IN THE ARTEFACTS THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND WITHIN IT, ARE FRAGMENTS OF A FASCINATING LOCAL STORY. IT IS A STORY THAT REFLECTS THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF DUNOON.

A small team of volunteers has spent two years recording, collating and debating the hall's story. They have delved into archives, sorted through papers, studied plans, opened locked cupboards and talked to people with fascinating stories of their own to tell.

Archive material recovered during the Hall's recent renovation, shows how the building was used; as a place for dancing, singing, meeting and performing, alongside more mundane but necessary activities such as filing complaints and paying bills.

Burgh records and newspaper articles chart change in Dunoon. They document moments of civic mindedness and enterprise, alongside disagreement and social exclusion. They walk us through nearly a century and a half of the Burgh's development.

Dunoon Burgh Hall's story begins in a time of male only social and political infrastructure and concludes in the present, with a diverse group of men and women reclaiming the Hall on behalf of the local community.

This newspaper is designed to provide a small window into this complicated and layered history. The format has been selected as a nod of respect to the area's longstanding association with newspaper journalism.

We hope these pages help to enrich your understanding of the Burgh Hall's story - it's rise, slow demise and community fuelled rebirth in 2017 as a creative, cultural hub for all.



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Gentlemen, we need a Hall for our new Burgh

150 years ago Dunoon was an expanding coastal town. It had an estimated population of 3000 and a growing reputation as a holiday resort. A pier, built just north of Castle Rock in 1835, enabled visitors to access the town directly by modern steam ship, making it a convenient holiday and day trip destination for Glasgow's expanding population.



Above: Image of West Bay, taken from Colgate's 1868 Guide to Dunoon. The guide was written and compiled by local insurance and house agent John Colgate. Image courtesy of The Castle House Museum. Right: A Voting card from an early Dunoon Burgh Police Commissioners Election. Found in the main hall under the stage.

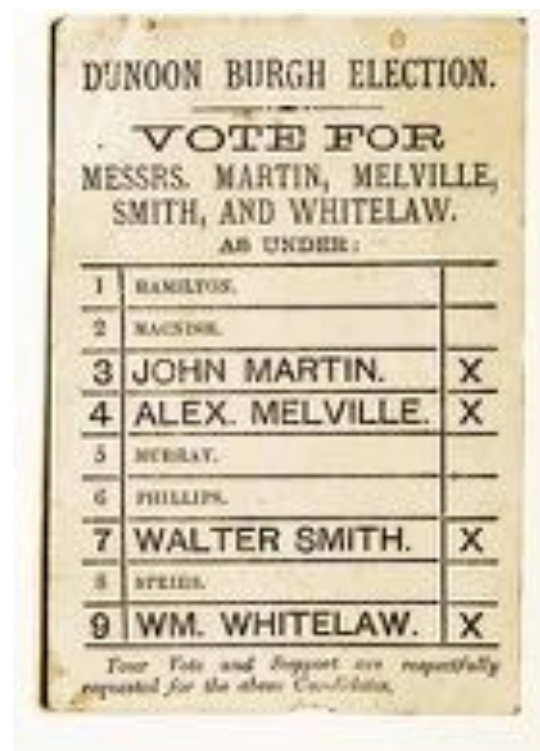
Despite being a town on the rise, a walk round Dunoon 150 years ago could be challenging. Muddy pavements and poorly maintained roads turned to 'quagmires' in the notorious west coast rain. Sewage and vermin regularly leached on to the streets from shallow 'rumbling sewers' and households fetched water from wells, as no mains water or sewage system had been established in the town. Moonlight was used to illuminate town gatherings, as gas street lighting was sparse.

On October 17th, 1868 local people, concerned about the general condition of the town, voted for Dunoon to become a Parliamentary Burgh. The General Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act 1862, gave communities powers to form Burghs. By adopting this act the Burgh could then appoint a council of elected officials, known as Police Commissions.

Twelve prominent local men were elected as Dunoon's Commissioners. At this time, only men were permitted to take on the role of Commissioners and only people who owned property or a business that had a rateable value were allowed to vote. In effect, these restrictions excluded women and people without means from this local election. In total 340 people participated in the first Commissioners election of 1868, which was an estimated one in five households in the Dunoon Burgh area of the time.

The Police Commissions had a similar role to the Council as we know it today. In 1868 the Police Commissioners could make decisions on "paving, lighting, cleansing, watching, supplying with water, and improving such Burghs respectively, as may be necessary and expedient". They were also given powers to raise funds via local taxation to carry out these improvements.

The first meeting of the Dunoon Burgh Commissioners took place in the Temperance Hotel, Argyll St, on the 26th October 1868. In the absence of a permanent meeting place the Commissioners moved these formal meetings around the town using Fusset Lodge, John St. and the waiting room at the Pier.



Securing a clean water supply for the town, to replace the wells, was a top priority for the Police Commissioners. Improvements to street lighting, the installation of weighing scales, the expansion of a gas supply and improvements to pavements were all on the agenda in these early days. It was in 1871, at another meeting in the Pier, that the issue of a suitable Public Hall for the Police Commissioners and the Burgh was first mooted.

In 1872 it was unanimously agreed that the building committee be tasked with 'procuring plans and specifications for the hall.'

Mr James McArthur Moir of Milton, the local land owning Laird, donated a site for the hall just off Argyll Street. It was agreed that a new access road would be created at the side of the Hall, the lower part of Hanover Street, to enable access to Royal Crescent from Argyll Street. The same year McArthur Moir shot himself. His sudden death threatened to delay the project, but the Commissioners pressed ahead with the help of McArthur Moir's Trustees. Two plots were secured side by side; one for the Burgh Hall and one for the United Presbyterian church (later St Cuthbert's), now demolished.

The architect Robert Bryden was appointed to design the building. Local tradesmen were appointed to construct it. Mr A Dixon - Mason, Mr T Young - Joiner, Mr J Kelly - Plumber and Gas Fitter, Mr Moses Nelson - Slater, Mr Stirling - Plasterer, Mr James Tannoch - Superintendent of Works.

In July 1873 notice was given in the local paper of the intention of the Police Commissioners to take out loans to fund the building of the hall along with funds for the construction of major improvements to the Burgh's water supply.

In September 1873 people gathered from across the west coast of Scotland, to lay the foundation stone of Dunoon Burgh Hall. A jar containing coins 'of the realm' and a copy

1872

- Mr MacArthur Moir donates land for the building of a Burgh Hall. In the same year he shoots himself for unknown reasons.

1872

- Mr MacArthur Moir's Trustees make two plots side by side available for development, just two weeks after his death. One for the Burgh Hall and one for the United Presbyterian church (later St Cuthbert's).

- Robert Bryden is appointed as the hall's Architect, his first major building.



of Colgate's 1868 Guide to Dunoon, (written and compiled by local insurance and house agent John Colgate), was placed in a cavity in the foundation stone and is still there to this day, as far as we know.

On 25th June 1874, a sumptuous dinner was held in the main hall for 'the principal gentlemen connected with the district'. This was chaired by Provost R.L. Smith. Numerous speeches and toasts were made in honour of the hall and the people who built it.

The newspaper, the Argyllshire Standard, covered the affair, listing the dishes that were served as:

Hot joints - Roast of Sirloin Beef, Corned Beef, Veil and Ham Pie, Pigeon and Steak Pie, Roast Turkey, Roast Lamb.

Cold Joints - Roast Lamb, Spring Chickens, Ox Tongues, Yorkshire Ham, Galantine Veal, Galantine Lamb, Salads with Aspic Jelly.

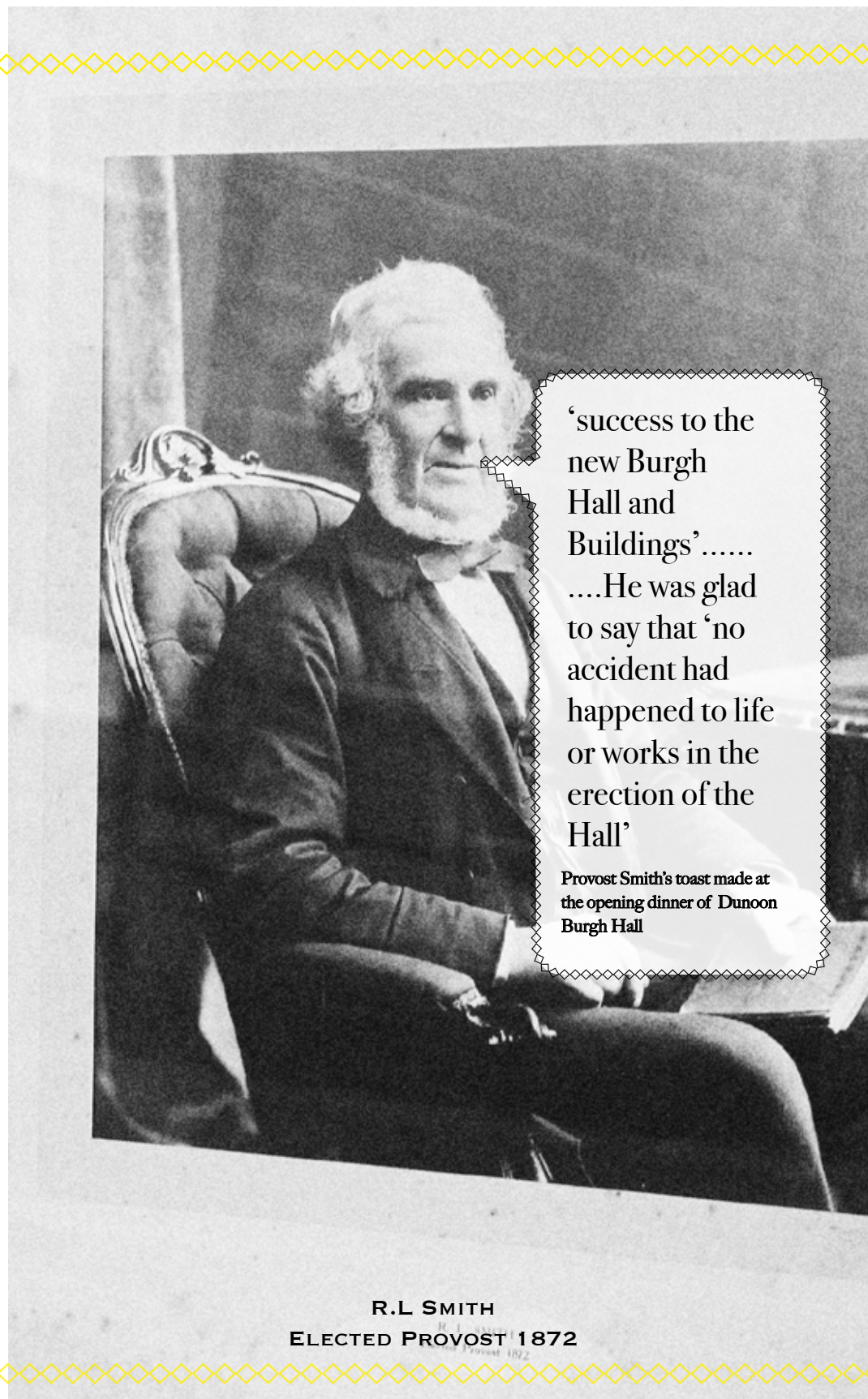
Sweets - Jellies with Fruits, Vanilla Creams, Gooseberry Tarts, Rum Jellies, Strawberries, Cherry Tartlettes, Cabinet Pudding and Biscuits.

“The tables were laid out - we might even say artistically - and with their display of centre dishes and epergnes laden with fruit, and the blending of the different colours in the crystal, formed a pleasing sight to rest the eyes on

”

This grand affair was followed by soup and sandwiches in the evening for the 'local people'.

The new Dunoon Burgh Hall was open, ready for use by the Police Commissioners, their staff and the people of the Burgh of Dunoon.



'success to the new Burgh Hall and Buildings'.....
....He was glad to say that 'no accident had happened to life or works in the erection of the Hall'

Provost Smith's toast made at the opening dinner of Dunoon Burgh Hall

R.L SMITH
ELECTED PROVOST 1872

Above: Provost R.L Smith, courtesy of The Castle House Museum

: 1873

- A Public notice in the Argyllshire Standard notifies Dunoon's residents of the Commissioners intention to borrow the sum of £20,000, to finance work to bring a water supply to the Burgh, erect a Burgh Hall and 'other necessary buildings connected therewith' and to re-pay existing Burgh loans.

:

- Sat 30th August a grand ceremony takes place in Dunoon to celebrate the laying of Dunoon Burgh Hall's foundation stone.

: 1874

- Just 9 months after the foundation stone was laid, June 25th 1874, Dunoon Burgh Hall opens with a sumptuous dinner.



ROBERT BRYDEN

Dunoon Burgh Hall Architect



1841-1906

Robert Bryden was born in Glasgow in 1841. He lived and worked in the city most of his life, but had family connections with Dunoon from boyhood. He attended Dunoon's Arthur's Academy and then married Elizabeth Robertson, the daughter of Alexander Robertson, a successful Glasgow Ironfounder who had retired to the Dunoon area.

These connections undoubtedly secured his position as architect for the new Burgh Hall in 1872. The Hall was Bryden's first major commission, received whilst working as an apprentice architect to Clarke and Bell, a well established Glasgow based practice.

Bryden was a member of the Sir Walter Scott Society and this interest in Scottish romanticism clearly inspired his architecture. He designed the Burgh Hall in the Scottish Baronial tradition, incorporating turrets, crenellations, gables and rough stone to capture the look of a medieval Scottish castle.

Dunoon Burgh Hall was clearly well received by the local community, as less than a year after completing the Hall, Bryden was commissioned to design St. Cuthbert's Church, now demolished, next to the Burgh Hall. He then designed schools in Strone, Toward and Innellan and in 1876 the Grade A listed St. John's Church on the other side of



Above left: Robert Bryden courtesy of Tom Warren.
Above: Dunoon Burgh Hall

Hanover Street, opposite the Burgh Hall. In 1890 he designed Dunoon Infants School, now Dunoon Primary School on Hillfoot Street. He was later involved with alterations to the Pier buildings and waiting area and worked on small projects in the town for many years.

Outside of Cowal, Bryden designed buildings across Scotland and the UK. Significantly he was involved with the Quarrier's village, Bridge of Weir and Seafield, Ayr, the private mansion of MP and engineer Sir William Arrol, the man credited with Glasgow's Titan cranes and the Forth Rail Bridge.

Robert Bryden died in Glasgow in 1906, leaving his son to carry on his architectural practice. He is buried in Dunoon cemetery, a sign perhaps of his affection for the town he helped shape.

“On the ground floor, accommodation will be provided for the Commissioners, their clerk, and collector. The flat above will be divided into a Hall – 77ft 10 inches long by 36 ft broad, and capable of holding 500 persons – a surveyor's room, and two retiring rooms. Entrance to the hall will be obtained from a sideway named Hanover Street. The style of architecture is old Scotch; and, as shown on the plans, the building when completed while meeting a much felt want, will prove an ornament not only to the locality, but to the burgh.”

”

: 1875

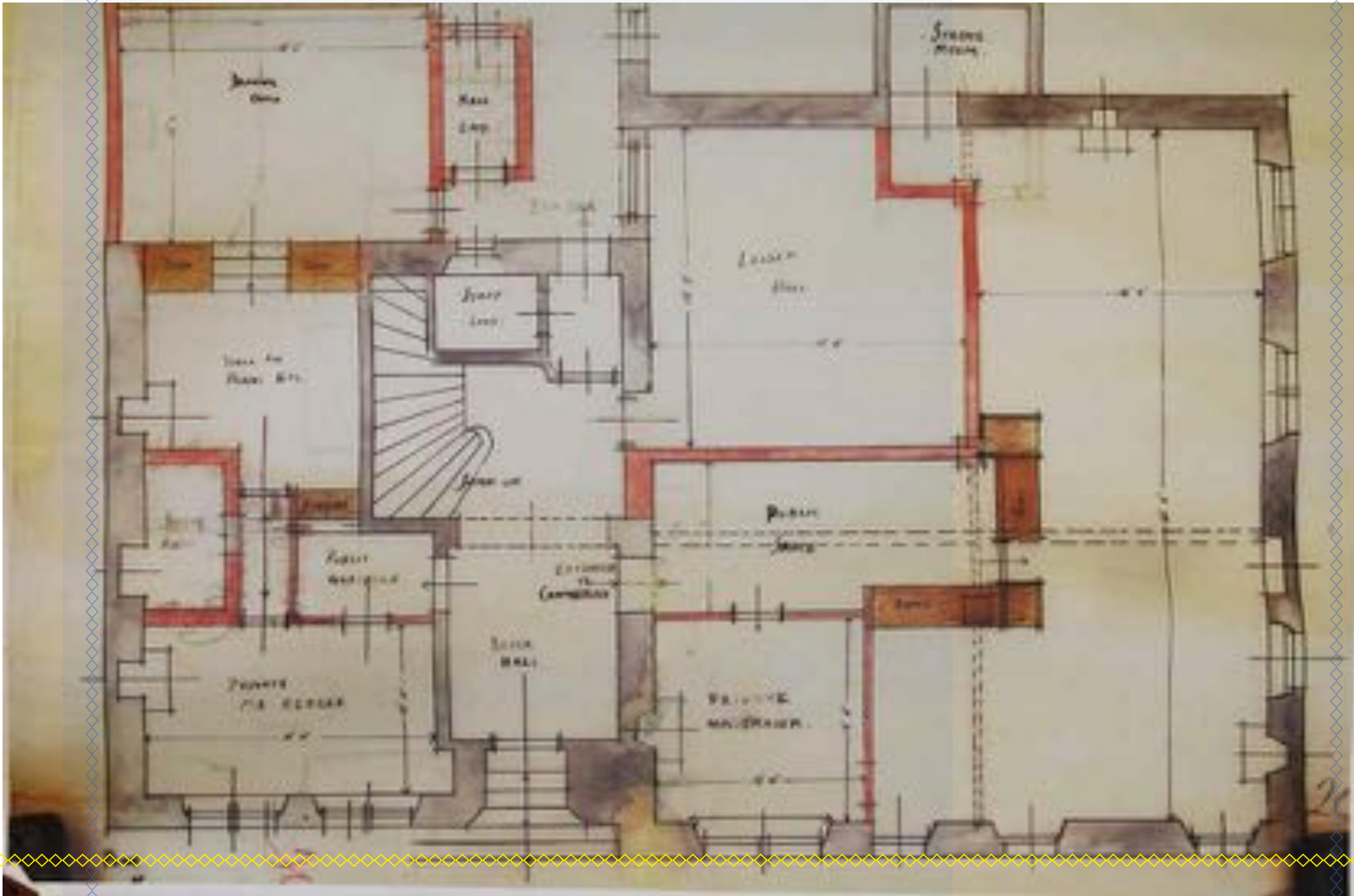
- October The Police Commissioners appoint a full time Surveyor to take charge of the Water Works and act as a Sanitary Inspector of the Burgh.
- Salary £20 per annum. His offices are in the Burgh Hall.

:

- Sanitation and water supply is discussed by the Commissioners at meetings in the Hall. The Commissioners appoint Dr Banks as Medical officer for the Burgh - an office he held for 50 years.

: 1879

- April 15th, a Secular Concert held in the Burgh Hall organised by Dunoon Musical Association.
- Admission to all parts of the Hall, one shilling.



Above: Hand drawn plans detailing the ground floor layout of the Burgh Hall. These were found in boxes of records stored in the building. Date & draftsman are unknown.
Below right: Main stairs in the Burgh Hall. Image courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland.

The three storey Dunoon Burgh Hall is built from local green schist stone. When it opened it towered over the growing town. It was described as having a “..grand tiled interior, stained glass windows, sweeping staircase”

The building combined a large public main hall with offices for Burgh officials and staff.

The main hall originally boasted a 500 person capacity and from the start was a multipurpose space. It was the largest non religious hall in the Burgh and for a time was the only purpose built theatre in Argyll. It was used as a venue for theatre performances, public lectures, exhibitions, bazaars, auctions, dancing classes, dances, Court Sessions, elections and much more.

The Police Commissioners and various committees attached to the Burgh met in rooms within the Burgh building. Offices

housed town officials – The Town Clerk, the Provost, the Burgh Surveyor and the Treasurer. ‘Burgh Men’ or their wives and mothers) came to collect their wages from the building each week.

A variety of clubs and local groups regularly rented the smaller rooms in the building, using the spaces for ‘improving lectures’ or to discuss arrangements for Burgh events, such as the Queen’s jubilee. It was the permanent home of the Freemasons, a music club and literature society.

As the needs of the Burgh evolved, so did the building. In the main hall a seating gallery was added in 1896 at a cost of £119. This extended the capacity of the main hall, but resulted in the entrance to that space changing from Hanover Street, to the main entrance from Argyll Street. Plans also show alterations to the Lesser Hall, now the gallery on the ground floor, and the expansion of accommodation for the caretaker.



“grand tiled interior, stained glass windows, sweeping staircase...”

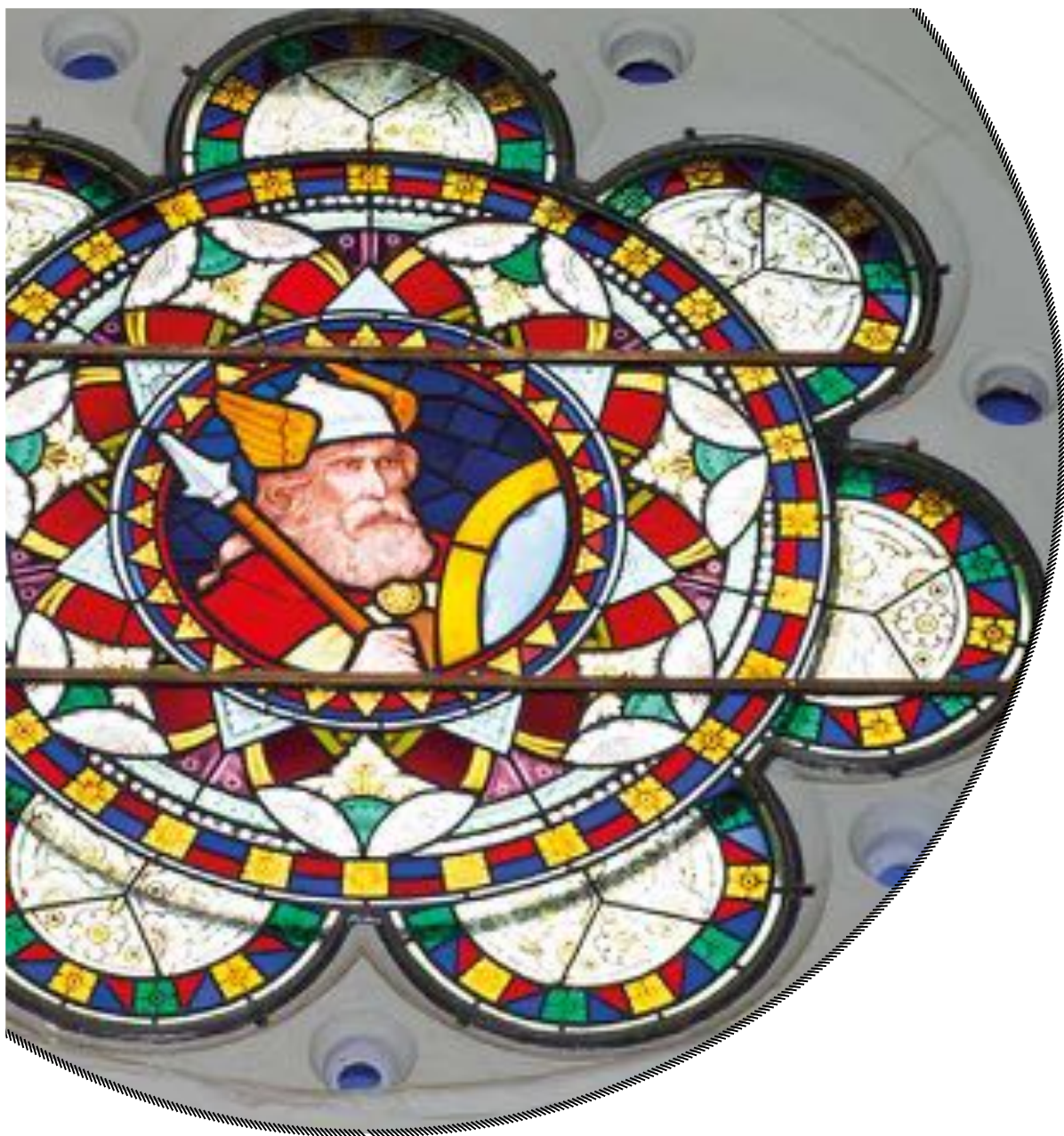
1882

- An exhibition of needlework takes place in the Lesser Burgh Hall, a room on the building’s ground floor, this is reported in the Cowal Watchman.

1885

- Minutes of a Police Commissioner’s meeting in the Burgh Hall, a note that ‘three lamplighters returned to the Burgh Hall after performing their work within a short time of each other, showing that their districts had been correctly allocated.’

- In an August meeting of the Police Commissioners, James Duncan Esq of Benmore was thanked for opening up his picture gallery and for his ‘great kindness and generous liberality to Dunoon and its numerous visitors.’



The stained glass window in the main hall was created by James Ballantine (1807-1877). Ballantine was a prominent stained glass maker of the time. He was awarded the contract to paint some of the windows in the House of Lords following a public competition. James Ballantine was the author of a series of books on the history and techniques of stained glass manufacture, notably a book titled *A Treatise on Painted Glass*.

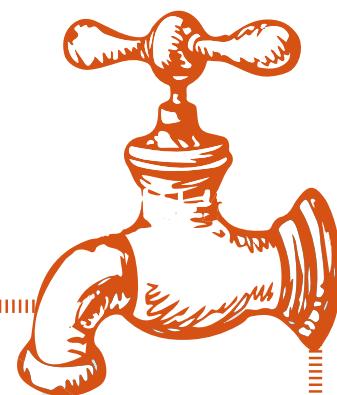
Over the years our stained glass Viking had lost his face. It turns out that either the glass was painted on the wrong side - hence degraded by the weather - or it had originally not been fired at a high enough temperature. During the refurbishment process our stained glass Viking was restored to his original condition following detailed research and a clever use of double-glazing.



Windows to nowhere

During the renovations a window mystery was resolved when we confirmed that the windows in the turret at the front of the building are purely decorative. There is nothing behind them - no room, no cavity - they cannot be seen from the inside of the building. Why were they there? Simply for the sake of symmetry and style, or so we think. We welcome your theories.

Rates Rise as Burgh water flows



Money to build the Hall and pay back the loans was raised by increasing the Burgh rates to local households and businesses. The total cost of building the hall is estimated at £3000 plus £1500 for extra embellishments which included an ornate timber ceiling in the downstairs gallery room and a 'quality' office for the Provost. The rates bill of 1873 read as follows:

DUNOON BURGH RATES BILL 1873

General police purposes....
1 shilling 9 pence

Sewerage rate.....3 pence

General improvement rate....1 penny



1886

- 3 November appointment of a Hall-keeper for the Burgh Buildings. 20 applications. Mr Thomas Thomson, slater, appointed.

- Dunoon Public School Seniors hold a Christmas concert 'The Burgh Hall was densely filled, pupils on a platform extended into the Hall' and at New Year at the annual Highland Ball 'dancing started at 9 o'clock until the early hours.'

1887

- The cost of gas in the office of Mr Hunter, the Burgh Treasurer, 'who was inclined to go out of the building leaving the gas burning' was discussed by the Police Commissioners.

McArthur Moir of Milton Vs Mackintosh

Nearly 200 years ago the main road towards the Clyde stopped at Moir Street. Rather than continuing straight down to the Pier, it turned right at Sinbad's Bar and followed a line taking it behind the shop where Bookpoint is located. The only 'short-cut' up to Hillfoot Street was a path that started at and ran through the site where the Burgh Hall now stands.

Before the building of the Hall in 1873, the land was an open field leading to an area known as the Gallowhill. There were no streets or houses between Argyll Street and Edward Street like there are today.

By 1870, Argyll Street had been completed. It now ran all the way to the Pier. The old short-cut was not needed and effectively disappeared through a lack of use. The Gallowhill land, which the old shortcut passed through, belonged to Mr McArthur Moir of Milton. He had built a house on the land. An argument between a Mr Mackintosh who lived in Ardenlee and Mr McArthur Moir started over access rights across this land. Mackintosh threatened to get a court order saying that he could drive his coach and horses over the old short-cut, taking him right past the windows of McArthur Moir's House. Other people from the town sided with Mackintosh and the dispute over access went up to the highest civil court in the land, in Edinburgh. ('Civil' cases are concerned with property, contracts, and other disputes – not crimes.) They asked the judges and jury

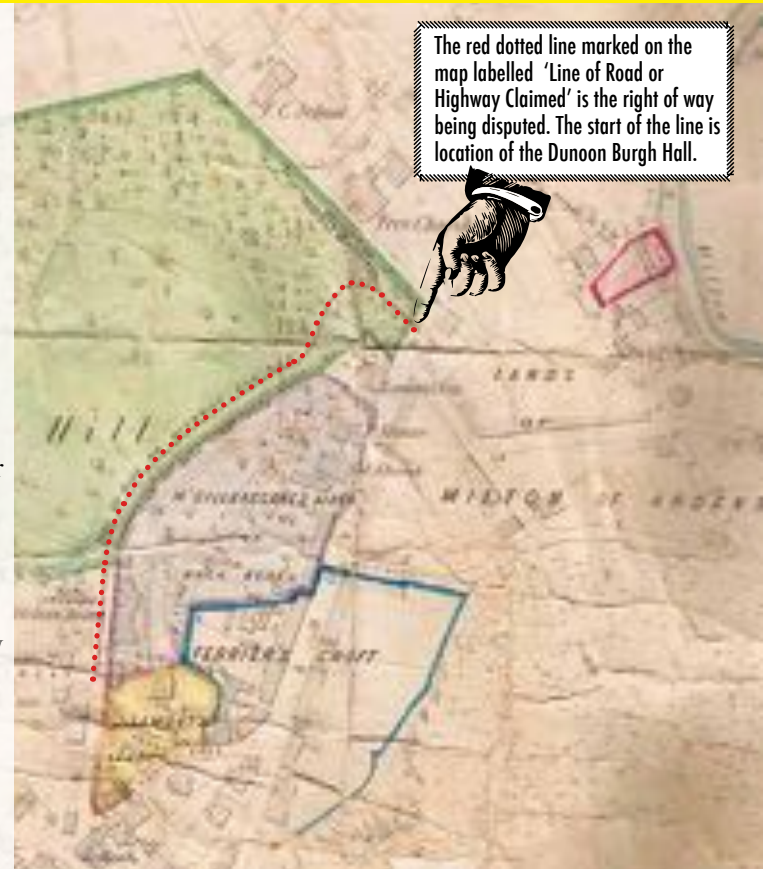
of the court to decide who was right. The map (right) dates back to the 1870s court case. It shows the town and the route of the short-cut, marked by a red-dotted line labelled 'Line of Road or Highway Claimed'. This plan was shown to the court.

Mackintosh won the case. McArthur Moir appealed and the judges said there had to be a re-trial. This took place and Mackintosh won again. McArthur Moir had to allow the route to be used again. He also incurred most of the legal bills for both sides.

However it turned out well for McArthur Moir and for the Burgh of Dunoon. Royal Crescent was developed and Victoria Road joined Auchamore Road to Hanover Street. Many new houses were built in this area at this time, making the land owning Laird, McArthur Moir, even richer than before. He committed to transferring a section of this once disputed land to the Burgh, enabling the Police Commissioners to push forward with their plans to build the Dunoon Burgh Hall. Sadly Mr McArthur Moir of Milton never saw the Hall, owing to his shocking suicide in 1872. However the gift of land he made means that today, everyone can enjoy access to Dunoon Burgh Hall.

Article contributed by Euan MacDonald & The Castle House Museum, drawing on notes by the late Angus McLean.

Right: Image of the plan supplied by Stewart & Bennett who hold it on behalf of the National Archive for Scotland.



'The craft' in the Burgh Hall

On the first floor of the Burgh Hall, in a room known today as the Green Room, ornate plaster work decorates a recess. It was installed between 1874 and 1909, probably by Craftsman and Freemason Andrew McFarlane of McFarlane Plasterers, a company that still exists in Dunoon today.

The plaster work is a lasting reminder of how the Freemasons of Dunoon - Argyll Lodge No. 335, occupied this room from the earliest days of the Burgh Hall.

In the book *The History of Lodge Dunoon Argyll No. 335 1834 - 2000* written by John Douglas MacFarlane, a Freemason, reference is made to a meeting of members that took place in February 1874.

'I am requested by the Dunoon Argyll Lodge No. 335 to offer for the top hall of the Burgh Buildings a yearly rent of £14 with the following alterations:

1. Back partition taken away.
2. To make a door from the hall to your reception room, and you agree to give us the use of that room on our meeting nights, also any of our other meetings a convenient room.
3. Supply with grates and any other little things that may be necessary."

This suggests that before the building was officially opened, alterations to the layout were being made to accommodate the Freemasons as tenants. Their first meeting in the Burgh Hall took place 30th of June 1874, just five days after the hall was officially opened.

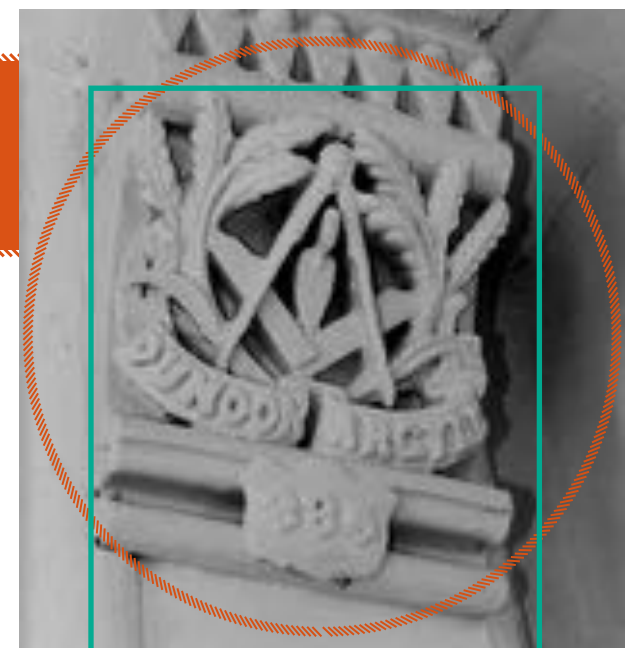
In 1877 the annual rent for the room was increased to £16 with the same conditions plus the "Liberty to sublet the hall to the Plymouth Brethren". The Plymouth Brethren were a small Evangelical Christian church. On February the 4th 1887 it was minuted that the lodge room had been sublet to a Mrs McFarlane for the purpose of teaching dancing 3 nights a week for 6 weeks. She was charged 2/6 per night.

The Dunoon Observer of 1893 described the Hall as it hosted a Masonic Assembly.

"On each window sill were numerous fairy lights clustered round the base of a pedestal lamp, making each window an alcove of light. From the platform amidst a bower of greenhouse plants and shrubs, sounded forth the strain of the dance music."

These were clearly very grand events.

Lodge 335 moved out of the Burgh Hall in 1909 and then returned again from 1918 to 1926. The arrangement ended when the Freemasons secured their own premises along Argyll Street, where they remain to this day.



The plasterwork features tools. These are commonly used as allegorical symbols in Freemasonry. The Square and Compasses are traditional symbols of the Masonic Order. The Set Square symbolises that we "square our actions with all mankind" and act respectfully towards, and be mindful of others. The compasses are a reminder of "the unerring and impartial justice of our creator (God) who defined for us the limits of good and evil. The trowel is a symbolic reminder to "spread the cement of brotherly love". The foliage around the square and compasses is probably Acacia leaves. These leaves represent everlasting life as the Acacia tree is an evergreen.

- The Police Commissioners inquire about meeting in the room occupied by the Freemasons. It is suggested that the Freemasons' rent be reduced to £10 per annum. The Freemasons themselves suggest £6, on the basis that they had been Burgh Hall tenants for the last twelve years.

- The Literary Society request a reduction of rent for their use of the Commissioners' Room in the Burgh Buildings. The reduced sum of 4 shillings per night was refused on the basis that 'it is poor enough if 20 or 30 gentlemen cannot pay twopence or three pence per week' (laughter reported).

- Annual supper for the Poor of the Town in the Burgh Hall, held on New Year's Eve, by the Good Templar Legion. Parish Church Sabbath School Soiree held at Burgh Hall.

FUN AND GAMES

Look up at Dunoon Burgh Hall and you might catch the eye of our famous Gargoyles and Grotesques. The hall has 4 of these mythical stone creatures. They dwell around the door and on the external facade of the building.



Gargoyles and grotesques are commonly found on large houses, public and civic buildings designed in the Scots Baronial style. It was a style influenced by earlier gothic churches and cathedrals which were adorned by Gargoyles and Grotesques, as they were believed to ward off other demons and devils, protecting the sanctity of church. It is not clear what these mythical creatures are, but they often display dragon like qualities or are presented as half animal, half human forms, symbolic

of the underworld. They intentionally remind the faithful that present beneath the everyday world, lurks another world of monsters, demons and strange beasts.

Similar looking characters can be found carved into religious buildings throughout Europe, India and Nepal.

The Burgh Hall's largest carved creature sits overlooking Hanover Street and Argyll Street. It is commonly referred to as a Gargoyle but is technically a Grotesque as it does not form part of the Hall's drainage system. The word 'Gargoyle' comes from the French word 'gargouille', which in English means 'throat' or 'gullet'. Historically Gargoyles function like decorative water spouts, carrying rainwater away from the roof or stonework of the building using pipes and openings integrated into the carving, often exiting at the open mouth of the creature some distance away from the building to protect it from water damage.

Grotesques are carved creatures but are generally there to decorate the building, sometimes to conceal structural joins or hide the end of a support buttress, keeping these structural elements out of view.

Sometimes the carvings are used to tell stories. In the case of the Burgh Hall our largest Grotesque is said to be glaring in the direction of a local shop owner who refused to make a financial contribution to the building of the hall. Watch out!!

Contributed by Moira Ferguson



1887

- Ladies of the district meet in the lesser Burgh Hall, to consider the arrangements for the Women's Jubilee offering to the Queen.

1888

- W. W. Mackay presents a semi-grand piano to the Burgh Hall, with conditions.

1889

- Dunoon Burgh Hall hosts The 5th Volunteer Battalion (Princess Louise's) Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders dance, which took place following a week's training at a volunteer camp at Ardnadam.



The Viking in the window of Dunoon Burgh Hall bears a strong resemblance to someone very closely connected to the Burgh Hall. **Can you guess who?**

CLUE

look back
Answer on page 19

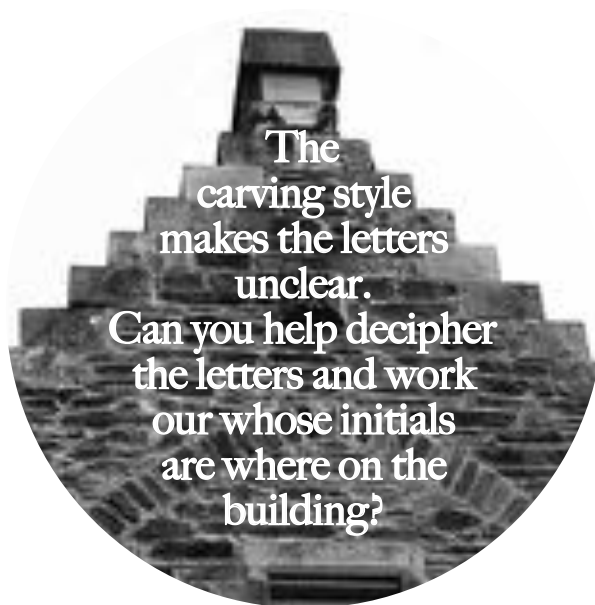


Help
solve a mystery

The initials of the serving Police Commissioners from 1872 /1873 are carved into the stonework on the side, front and at the apex of some of the roofs across the building.

NAMES
of the Police Commissioners

R.Leslie Smith
Archibald Mitchell
George Stirling
Captain David Leslie
William Spiers
William Campbell
Archibald Somerville
Hugh Duncan
James Hunter
William Ross
Donald McIntyre
Thomas Kent



The carving style makes the letters unclear.
Can you help decipher the letters and work out whose initials are where on the building?

CLUE

R.Leslie Smith
RLS



Contact the Dunoon Burgh Hall with your answers

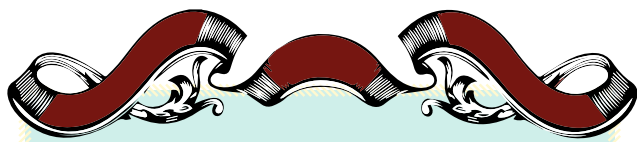
1892

- The Dunoon Burgh Police Commissioners draw up a memorandum to the Secretary of State for Scotland "to be the capital of Argyllshire."

- The Dunoon Burgh Police Commissioners purchase the Pier and skating rink on behalf of the Burgh.

1896

- Rev Duncan MacGregor Baptist minister, requests a continuation of his use of the Burgh Hall for the youth sociables. A month trial period granted on the basis that the Hall committee feed back on the state of the hall after the sociables which had caused issues!



WHAT WAS ON?

A typical year at
Dunoon Burgh Hall

1886

Political meetings – 4 plus municipal election

Concerts/shows/plays – 20,

Saturday Sociables – 5,

Sale of works/bazaars – many,

AGMs – 5

Tickets, flyers and posters found in the Burgh Hall during the renovation, 2016/17, illustrate the variety of events and performances enjoyed by local audiences. They also give us a fascinating overview of changing theatre trends and audience tastes over the last 150 years.

1. A program for a Secular Concert, 1879. Found under the stage in the main hall.

2. A ticket to an evening supper and Saturday night variety show, also found under the stage in the main hall. This 'pleasant and profitable evening for Men and Women' includes lively readings, sacred singing and a magic lantern show. The magic lantern was an early form of image projection, popular before film.

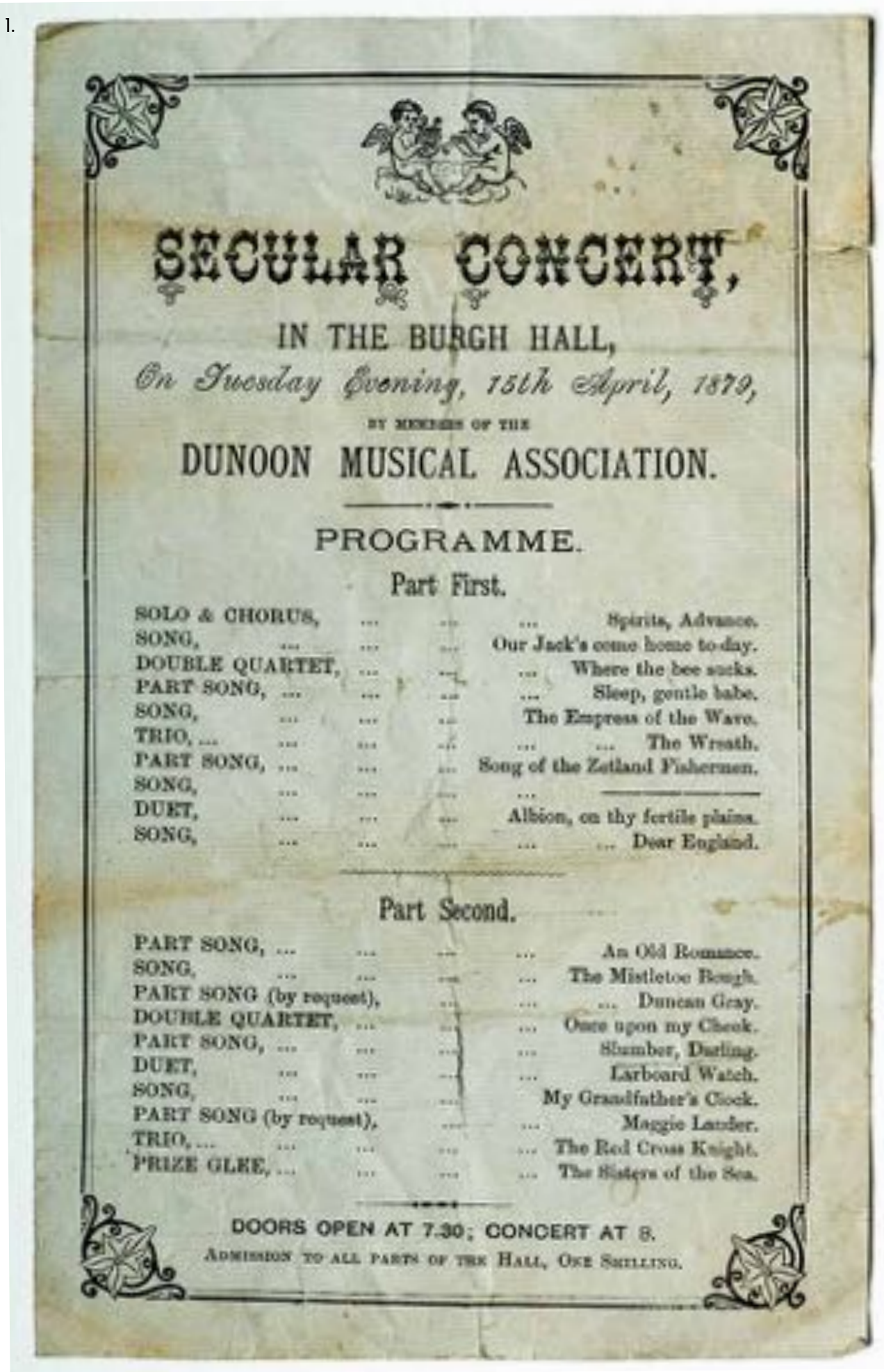
3. On the 3rd floor of the Burgh Hall is a small attic room. Fixed to the inside of the room's door is this fragile postcard. It promotes the 'Negro Comedian, Moon Kicker and Break-neck dancer Tom Berrick.' He was a performer who toured music halls and theatres throughout the UK during the late 19th and early 20th century. He 'blackened up' for performances to emulate a person of African American descent, performing songs and dances based on stock stereotypes to entertain mainly white audiences. This practice, which originated from America, was still part of main stream entertainment until the 1970s. The BBC's prime-time Saturday night show, The Black and White Minstrels, featured a troop of entertainers who performed in the same tradition as Tom Berrick. This was only taken off air in 1978.

4. & 5. A ticket for a flower show at the Burgh Hall 1905, found behind the stage in the main hall. The show features and is possibly in aid of the 'Crippled Girls'. The text on the ticket suggests that the 'afflicted girls' were part of the spectacle involved in flower making.

6. An image of a flora and fauna display located below the seating gallery in the main hall. The image is possibly from the same event as the above ticket. The image is courtesy of the Castle House Museum.

7. A hand tinted photograph of one of the annual produce shows that took place in the Burgh Hall. The shows were organised by the Dunoon and District Horticultural Society. Competition was tough, with a reported 486 entries made into the show in 1904 and 1905. Produce included fruit and vegetables, cut flowers and pot plants. 1905 was a good year as 'favourable growing conditions during the season' meant the standards were 'above the average.' Show judges come from Pollokshields, Rothesay, Killearn and Greenock. The image is courtesy of the Castle House Museum.

1.



1896

• A seating gallery is added in the Main Hall at a cost of £119.

1899

• June 17th, it was reported to the Police Commissioners, that the Decorations Committee had agreed to get full merchant flags with the Dunoon Burgh Coat of Arms. These were purchased to decorate the Burgh Hall and Castle in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

• The Dunoon Burgh Police Commissioners purchase the local Gasworks on behalf of the Burgh.

2.



3.



4.



7.



5.



6.



: 1901

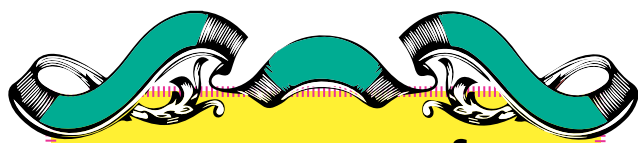
- The Dunoon Burgh Police Commissioners were renamed Dunoon Burgh Councillors after the
- Dunoon Town Council formed following the introduction of the Town Councils (Scotland) Act.

: 1902

- Robert Leslie Smith, the Provost at the time of the building and opening of the Burgh Hall dies.
- His obituary is published in the Dunoon Herald & Cowal Advertiser on 18 April 1902.

: 1905

- In August the annual show of Dunoon and District Horticultural Society takes place in the
- Burgh Hall with 486 entries. This is followed in
- September by a Floral Exhibition 'Do not fail to see the crippled girls at work.'



A new piano for Dunoon Burgh Hall

Mr W.W. Mackay of Isabella Villa, gave the town a new gas lamp at Ferry Brae, and presented two fountains, one beside the bandstand near the pier and The Loving Hand fountain at the front of the Burgh Hall.

Mr W.W. Mackay's contribution didn't end there. In 1888 he offered the Burgh Hall a semi grand piano. This kind offer came with the following conditions of use.....

“....that the Lectures committee get free use of the instrument when required in connection with the Lecture Course. While I think music, when rightly applied, has an elevating tendency, it can be perverted, and I condition that the piano will not be let, say, for Negro Comic songs or dances, or any kind of Buffoonery; but I would leave it to those who let the Hall to decide, knowing my mind, what they think will be of lowering moral tendency, and ask them to refuse the use of it only to such. I think it should not be let for Dancing purposes after eleven o'clock at night except on very rare occasions.”

Lost and found

During the renovation of Dunoon Burgh Hall, a number of discarded and lost items have been discovered. Collectively there is little monetary value in them, however they give us valuable insights into how and who used the Burgh Hall over the years.

1. A beautiful pencil sketch of an unknown woman. One of a number of drawings made directly onto the plaster work in a room in the attic of the Burgh Hall.
2. A leather purse from around the 1920s/30s. Found under the stage in the main hall.
3. Photographs recovered from behind the fire place in the Caretakers flat. The subjects in photographs are unknown.
4. A Lemonade bottle containing a lively note, hand written by Council tradesmen in 1970s. Found in the main hall seating gallery.
5. A number of discarded cigarette packs found in the seating gallery and under the stage.



2.



3.



1912

- It is reported that the Burgh Hall 'has had as many events as the Pavilion through the year, though with less glitter.' - The Pavilion is a large entertainment space on the site of the Queen's hall, Dunoon.

1914 - 18 WWI

- Dunoon Burgh Hall supports the war effort hosting sales of work, knitting bees for troop 'comforts' and First Aid training.

Hamgate

A letter recovered from files, found in the hall records, is a formal complaint made to the council's sanitary inspector based in the Burgh Hall. The letter details an unfortunate incident in Liptons, a tea room, where a girl serving in the shop mishandled some ham.

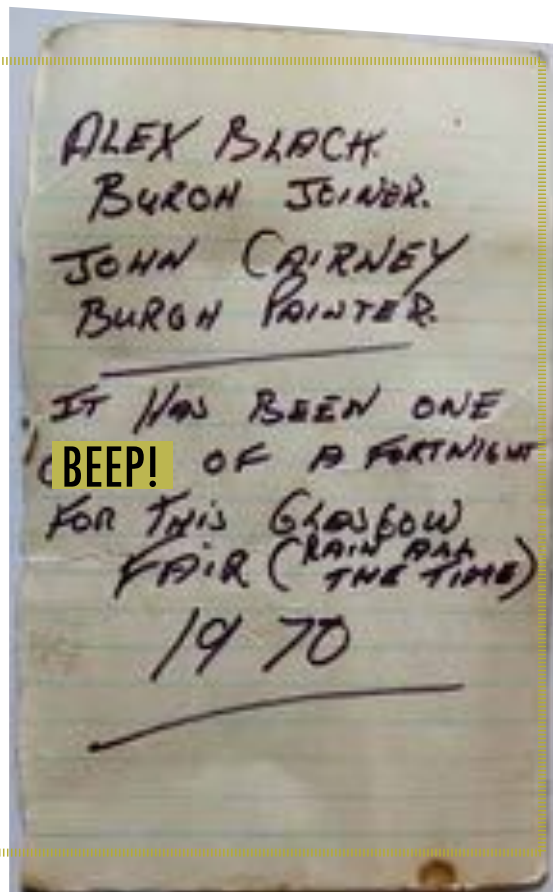
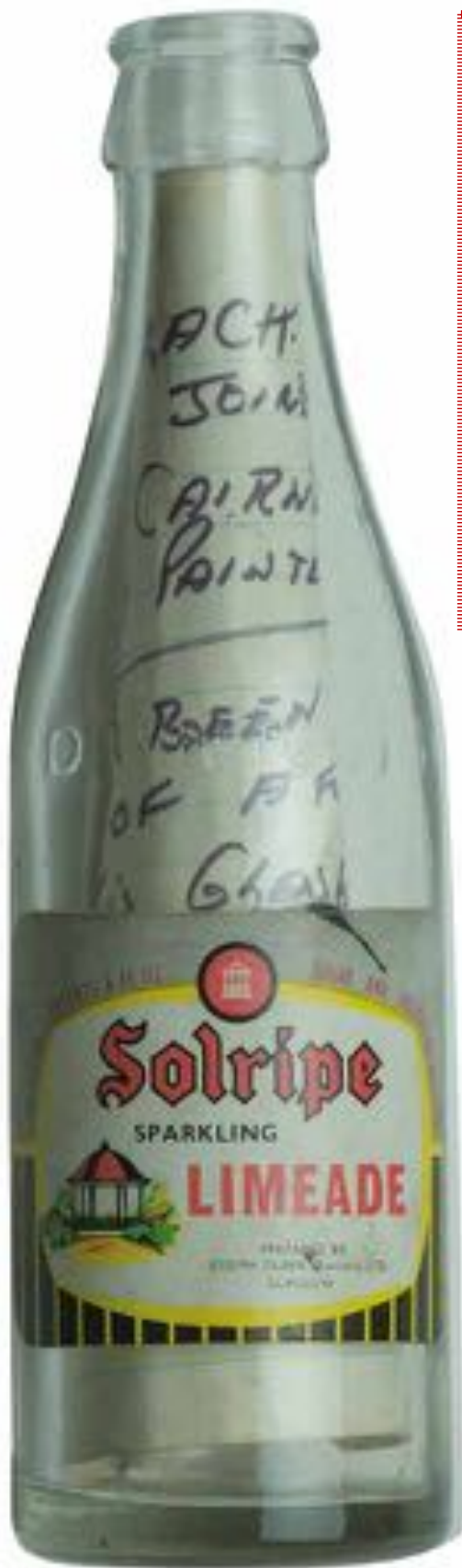
R. Gordon, Esq.,
Inglis's Sanitary Inspector,
County Office,
DUNDEE.

Dear Sir,

The unfortunate tea just occasioned it at which being served with tea in Liptons' shop. The girl, instead of cutting the slices of ham with a knife to obtain the correct weight, tore it apart with her fingers. Of course complaint to the manager but there was a mess and although I am in the shop were apologetic. Perhaps you would care to have a few words on the matter.

Yours sincerely,
John Cairney

'instead of cutting the slices of ham with a knife to obtain the correct weight, [she] tore it apart with her fingers.'



War & the Hall



Above: Dunoon Burgh Hall's entrance during the Second World War. Below: A poster from a blanket appeal for Evacuees. Both images courtesy of the Castle House Museum.

During the First World War the Hall hosted fund raising sales, knitting bees for troop 'comforts' and First Aid training. During the Second World War, over a thousand evacuee children arrived from



Glasgow, and their billets were organised from the Hall offices.

Local resident, Dougie Walker, who was aged 7 at the time of the Second World War, recalls that the main hall was used as a forces NAAFI canteen. He remembers Camp coffee being given to his mother. He recalls being behind the counter under the balcony at the back of the main hall and being told to

'behave himself!'

Dougie Walker went on to become an apprentice joiner. His next memory of the Burgh hall is going up to the attic room to pay union dues. David Bertram, a local die-hard socialist, asked every month

'would you like to put something in for the party?.'



1928

- A civic weekend takes place on the 9th - 15th September to celebrate 60 years since the formation of the Burgh. The 50th anniversary had not been celebrated, as it fell during the First World War.

- Dunoon Burgh Hall hosts a 'Treat to Old Folks' and a Flower Show. Meanwhile at the Pavilion, the Burgh's larger, grander entertainment space, there is a luncheon which includes a toast to 'the Burgh of Dunoon' by Sir Harry Lauder.

1938 -45 WW2

- Dunoon Burgh Hall is utilised in the war effort as a canteen, entertainment space and centre of administration to support charitable appeals and oversee the safety of over 1000 evacuee children.



Behind the scenes in the 50s & 60s



Betsy Watkins started work at the Town Chamberlain's office as Mr Fraser's secretary around 1958, after she graduated from business college. Mr. Sands and Betsy worked together and always liked a cup of tea mid morning, but Mr. Fraser only let them have one in the afternoon. They devised a way of heating the pot under the counter to make tea, smiling and winking at each other as they hid their cups under the counter.



The Town Chamberlain's staff at a leaving do in the offices at the Burgh Hall, 1966. Image courtesy of Jean Buckles.

Family pictures of Nan and Archie McCallum outside the caretakers flat at the Burgh Hall. Nan moved in in 1958, living in and looking after the Hall. Her husband was the official driver for the Dunoon Burgh - 'they kept the garden [at the Hall] lovely'. Images courtesy of Nan and Archie's family



Nan's flat in the Burgh Hall



Family fun - A young John McAslan, chair of the Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust, meeting Santa in the hall 1957. Image courtesy of the McAslan family.

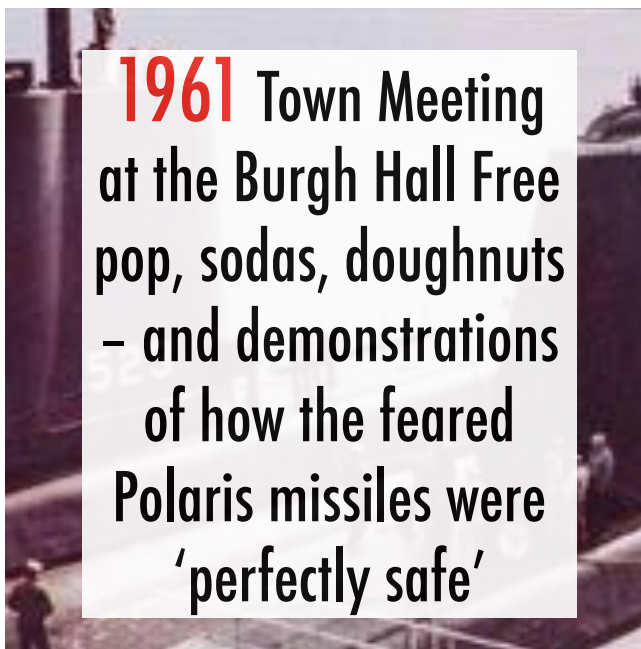


William Fraser served as Town Chamberlain of Dunoon from 1931 to 1964. Image courtesy of Fraser's family.



Over the many years of campaigning and fundraising many people from home and away have donated generously to support the restoration of Dunoon Burgh Hall. Every penny has been appreciated and carefully used, however, one donation has a very special resonance with the heritage of the building.

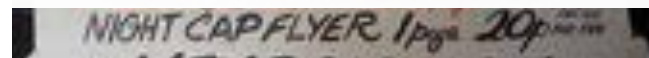
William Fraser served as Town Chamberlain of Dunoon from 1931 to 1964, thirty-three years of commitment to the town and a full career based in the ground floor offices of Dunoon Burgh Hall. Mr Fraser's son, Kenneth, now resident in St Andrews and a regular visitor to Dunoon, was keen to have his father's life-long connection to the building commemorated. His very generous donation of £500 has helped to ensure that the original Town Chamberlain's office has been fully restored, providing our small gallery space, and that the very important etched glass windows have been retained.



1961 Town Meeting
at the Burgh Hall Free
pop, sodas, doughnuts
– and demonstrations
of how the feared
Polaris missiles were
'perfectly safe'



To pull in the crowds and keep up with other resort towns in the 1960s, Saturday Night Bingo sessions were started in the main hall of the building.



1958

- Nan and Archie McCallum move into the caretakers flat in the Burgh Hall. Archie was a driver for the Burgh, Nan was the caretaker for the Burgh Hall.

: 1959

- The Innellan Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs bring their gang show on tour to the Burgh Hall.

Award winning Drama at Dunoon Burgh Hall

At one point there were many drama groups in Dunoon. However, during the 1960's interest declined. In 1968 The Centenary Players were formed bringing all the drama groups into one. The group was formed in Dunoon's centenary year, 1968, hence the title. Members included Harry Derrett, Jimmy Connolly, Paton Cumming, Alex Pollock, Ishbel Moodie and Irene Storie. They generally performed two plays per year.

The group made all their own costumes, props and furniture. For the play 'The End of the Beginning', Jimmy Connolly, who worked for Browns of Strone, made an authentic looking cottage using polystyrene from the inside of supermarket boxes glued onto plywood with a wash of paint. During this performance a truckle bed was taken from the attic of the Burgh Hall to the stage, during the interval. While the cast were negotiating the narrow stairs they dropped the bed with an enormous clatter.

Memories include trying to record crowd scenes of cheering in the toilets; creating an 'olde worlde' rug using layers of newspaper and wallpaper paste; chewing gammon steaks during the play 'Himself When Young'; and rehearsing in the freezing cold Tower room at the top of the Burgh Hall. For 'Ophelia' they had to repair a wooden chair, which had lost its seat, using plywood and a sheepskin rug.



1973 the Centenary Players winning the Premium Award at the Argyll Drama Festival in Ardrishaig.

The Council asked the players to put on one-act plays for three or four weekends at the Burgh Hall. This had to happen on Sunday evenings as the Bingo took precedence on Friday and Saturday nights. They were not allowed to store the flats and furniture overnight in the hall and instead had to put them outside in a small hut every evening.

In 1973 the Centenary Players won the Premium Award at the Argyll Drama Festival in Ardrishaig.

Article contributed by Irene Storie

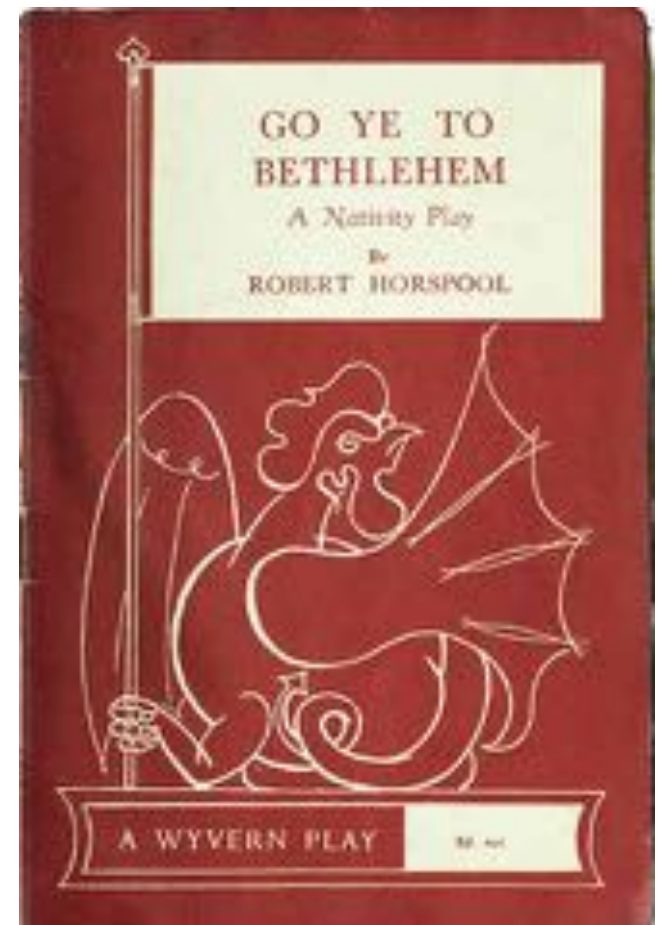
DUNOON CENTENARY PLAYERS
PRESENT
Two One-Act Plays
With **SKITS, SONGS, and DANCES,**
By MEMBERS, JUNIOR ENTERTAINERS, and
THE REEVERS,
IN THE
Burgh Hall, Dunoon,
ON
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
17th and 18th MAY, 1969
At 8 p.m.
★
SATURDAY EVENING—
Chairman—Mr. JAMES MARSHALL, M.B.E.



'A bit of Land' in the Burgh Hall with cast members Pam, Mary, Vernon, Jimmy, Paton and Harry of the Centenary Players.

The Players are back!

On the 5th June, 2017, the Burgh Hall Players, our resident performers, will recreate the play 'A bit of Land'. It was originally performed by the Centenary Players in the 1960s. One of the actors from the early line up, Alex Pollock, appears in the 2017 production.



: 1961

- U.S. Navy personnel from the newly-arrived nuclear submarine tender ship, U.S.S. Proteus hold an information meeting at the Burgh Hall.

: 1973

- Centenary Players, who perform in the Burgh Hall, win the Premium Award at the Argyll Drama Festival in Ardrishaig.

: 1976

- Dunoon loses it's status as a Burgh. Hall officials move out, leaving the building only in partial use.

SAVE OUR BURGH HALL



Dave McEwan Hill has been involved in the campaign to save the Dunoon Burgh Hall from the early 2000s. Prior to this Dave called the Bingo in the Burgh Hall.

the Queens Hall - the other hall in the town - in which the local council had invested a lot of ambition and expectation. There was a suspicion that some saw the Burgh Hall as competition and an impediment to the success of the Queens Hall. But everybody knew that the Burgh Hall was a much more suitable venue for certain events than the huge Queens Hall.

To cut a long story short the Council shut down the theatre and upstairs areas in the Burgh Hall while retaining facilities in the ground floor as council offices, while the local council still ran from Dunoon. When the council became Argyll and Bute a Burgh Hall was determined redundant and deterioration set in. The ground floor went into use with housing associations for a time but these could not sensibly be charged with maintaining the whole enormous building. So the Burgh Hall closed and became redundant. That was when "save the Burgh Hall" became an issue.

I agreed to write about the journey that started in the mid 1990s which has led us to the place we are today. The more I thought the more I remembered the dozens, or more probably the hundreds, of people that were involved in the rescue campaign. And I realised that no matter how many I remembered some I would surely forget. And some great guys are no longer with us so I'll use names very sparingly in this account. They'll all be recorded in minutes somewhere and can be dug up if a record needs to be made. So I'll just sketch out some significant events.

We knew we were onto a winner when we had a meeting at the Grammar School and attended by about 400 people attended, happy to join a 'Save the Burgh Hall' campaign. The steering committee got to work. What was my part in that? Well I'm awfully good at having good ideas and persuading others to do all the work. But we met in the Swallow Cafe and plans to set up an arts and community centre were devised. An application was drawn up to be submitted to the National Lottery. To our immense joy The National Lottery came back to us with a hugely generous offer. We required a letter of support from the Council. They refused to give it to us. I'll repeat that. We were refused a letter of support from the Council. The Lottery came back to us wondering what was up. We were refused again. The Steering Committee collapsed.

But some of us weren't going away. A reformed committee had meetings at the Mayfair Hotel. Public disquiet about the closing of the Hall was further heightened by a risible suggestion that it could be changed into flats. That was knocked on the head. Then the word was insinuated that the building, especially the roof, was structurally unsound and it should be knocked down. Sarah Mackinnon of the Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust was called in by the committee. After a very thorough investigation she determined the building was of historical and strategic importance and had to be saved. John Stirling from Castle House museum got Dunoon Burgh Hall listed status - grade B. Success - and a problem for the council. It solved the problem and got it off its hands by offering the building to a responsible owner or organisation for £1. There were two offers and the John McAslan Family Trust was chosen.



1990s

- Dunoon Burgh Hall's main hall is closed to the public and lies unused. The District Council retains offices on the ground floor.

1993

- The Dunoon and Cowal Heritage Trust obtain a category B listing for the Dunoon Burgh Hall.

2002

- A proposal to change the Hall into offices and flats, made by the hall's then owners Fyne Homes, is made.
- The community object and a public meeting is held at the Dunoon Grammar school to discuss the future of the hall. 400 local people attend.

I will never forget the day a group of us stood in the middle of the theatre upstairs and realised the huge job we had taken on.

That was when the real work started but as soon as we got the theatre into usable condition –and we had enormous generosity and help from so many people, cleaning, fixing and furnishing – we started getting booking after booking. I won't forget the journeys with my van to collect – for nothing – lots of furniture from a big school that was about to be demolished and which provided the seating for all our audiences for the next couple of years. The generosity of the McAslan Family Trust was of course central to us even getting going. But the generosity of others was no less remarkable. The son of Dunoon's last Town Chamberlain gave us £500 for instance on the condition that the window that says "Town Chamberlain's Office" remains –and it has, if you look at the windows on the front. Highlights will always be remembered. The Wednesday Comedy Nights that were successful despite inadequate hall heating . On one particular evening we managed to only get the heating in the middle of the hall up to 6 degrees despite the heating being on all day. I remember a very funny guy making us all laugh as he performed on stage in hat, coat and scarf it was so cold. We then went to IKEA with the formidable Liz Miller of the Youth Theatre to buy blankets to be handed out to audiences on similar nights. I mention Liz because the Youth Theatre and the great team she had supporting it encapsulated what this marvellous hall could provide for this town. And Liz had been central to the original applications to the National Lottery. And then Zumba which provided a signal service. Fifty lassies worried about their weight jumping up and down to disco music identified a structural fault as the floor started to sag. And so many other events. Did anybody ever steal your bum? A well known young lady in the town was persuaded by a hypnotist that somebody had stolen hers and wandered around the audience squeezing other people 's looking for it. Memories indeed.

Then the McAslan machine moved into gear and a marvellous gallery was constructed downstairs and some amazing exhibitions were mounted to the huge enhancement of the project and Dunoon Burgh Hall. In December 2014 it closed and the work of complete restoration started when the funds needed were acquired from a variety of sources . The fire was kept alight at the Burgh Hall Pop Up Shop which has started what the Burgh Hall will be when it re-opens – an arts, cultural and community centre for this lovely town. With a lovely cafe bar at the back I'm glad to say!

Standing on Argyll Street and looking at the impressive Burgh Hall one's gaze can wander to the absolutely stunning St John's Church adjacent. Same architect – Robert Bryden (and Dunoon Pier) and perhaps wonder if the Burgh Hall and Dunoon might be enhanced if the huge expanse in front of the church might become St John's Square and give Dunoon a fabulous town centre.

Article contributed by Dave McEwan Hill



Image above courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland



Jean McAslan

On Saturday 19th September 2009 family and friends gathered in the Burgh Hall to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who played a significant part and who left a lasting legacy to the Dunoon community, in the form of the restored Hall.

With her late husband, Jean McAslan was instrumental in setting up a Fund in the 1950s to provide swimming baths for Dunoon. Fifty years later, it was the memory of that campaign that prompted her to write to her son, John, an architect, to tell him that the Burgh Hall was facing potential demolition.

Her letter led to him visiting the hall, seeing its potential, buying it and coming on board with an initial funding package and lots of ideas for the future - safeguarding it for the local community.

Jean McAslan was thrilled to attend the Open Day at the Hall on 2 May 2009 when 2500 people came, but, sadly, died in London six weeks later. On September 19th, a commemorative plaque was unveiled - in tribute to a woman whose passion for her community and willingness to act on her ideas has meant that future generations in Cowal will have a community facility to be proud of.

Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard

*If I should die before the rest of you
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone.
Nor, when I'm gone, speak in your "Sunday" voice,
But be the usual selves that I have known.
Weep if you must,
Parting is hell.
But life goes on,
So.....sing as well.*

by Joyce Grenfell, one of Jean McAslan's favourite writers



2008

- A feasibility study of the Burgh Hall is carried out, with the support of Fyne Homes. The study considered how the hall could be revived as an arts and community centre.

2009

- The John McAslan Trust purchase Dunoon Burgh Hall from Fyne Homes for £1. The John McAslan Trust help form the Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust to oversee the development of the Hall.
- Following renovation work to make the hall safe, an open day takes place, Saturday 2nd May. The day features local bands, artists and crafts and is attended by 2,500 visitors.



Image above, top right & top left courtesy of Dave Hill

2009 - 15

- An inspiring programme of community events and exhibitions is developed in the 'work-in-progress' venue, including ARTIST ROOMS - Robert Mapplethorpe, Cowal Open Studios exhibitions, craft workshops, dance classes, craft fares, Dunoon Film Festival, YouthSTUFF, and much, much more

2016

- Extensive fundraising effort by Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust secures major investment from a range of funding bodies to support the complete refurbishment of the Dunoon Burgh Hall. The building closes once again for work to begin, but events and exhibitions continue from a Pop Up Shop on Argyll Street.



This newspaper could not have been created without the huge support of our Dunoon Burgh Hall Heritage Volunteers. An enormous thank you goes out to all the people who have participated in the heritage programme over the last two years, to our generous funders and the ongoing work of the Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust and team of Trustees.

Many people have volunteered their time and talents directly to the development of this first edition of the Dunoon Burgh Hall Chronicles. We have all worked hard to try and ensure that the information in this newspaper is correct and complete. However, this is an ongoing project and we welcome your feedback on the paper. We are particularly keen to speak to people who can provide us with more stories about Dunoon Burgh Hall.

Please contact us if you can help. Pop in or email: info@dunoonburghhall.org.uk call: 01369 701 776

Contributors & Advisors

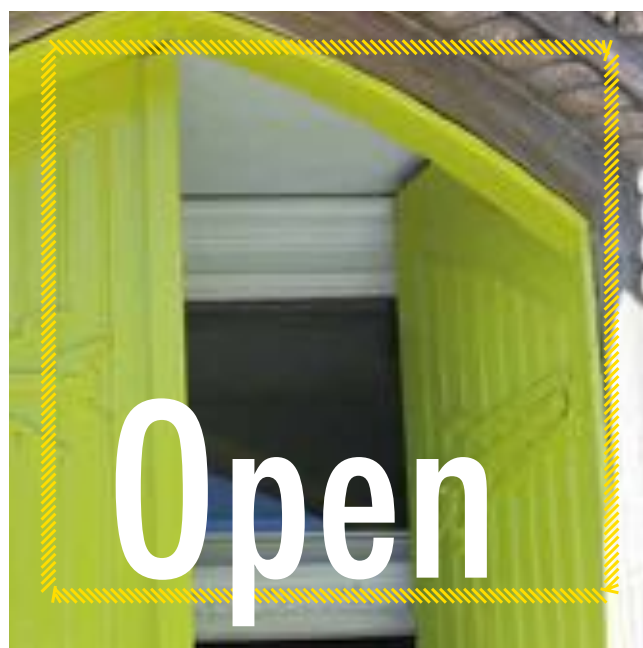
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Dunoon Burgh Hall Project Manager
Ann Campbell

Articles by: Euan Macdonald, Moirra Ferguson, Irene Storie, Dave Hill, Hannah Clinch, Ann Campbell and Jenny Hunter.

A special thank you to:
John Stirling - for sharing your encyclopaedic knowledge of Dunoon, along with the images, books and resources held in The Castle House Museum.
John Wm. Morris, LRPS - for the care taken cleaning and photographing the many artefacts found in the Hall and for your willingness to share your images in this publication.
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Historic Environment Scotland - for images of the Hall and granting permission to us to reproduce them.
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Argyll Print & Design - for your technical advice and guidance.
Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard staff - for your patience allowing us access to the archive and granting us permission to reproduce text.



2017



ANSWER
The Viking in the window resembles Dunoon Burgh Hall's architect Robert Bryden.

Dunoon Burgh Hall reopens *Hip, Hip, Hooray*

Dunoon Burgh Hall

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 Castle-House-Museum
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Architeco
wish all at the Burgh Hall the very best of luck in their fabulous renewed home.

.....

The Burgh Hall is the venue which started me on a lifelong hobby of backstage activities and I wish the Trust every success for the future.

Hugh D MacLachlan,
Aberdeen

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Congratulations and good luck on the re-opening of the Burgh Hall, it looks amazing and is a great facility which is a real asset for Dunoon and Cowal

Best wishes from all at Benmore Café and Shop

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"We would like to wish the Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust every success for the future"

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"Cowal Physiotherapy is proud to support the newly opened Burgh Hall and wishes everyone involved all the best with future projects"

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"The businesses of Dunoon, Kirk and Sandbank offer their congratulations to all the staff of Dunoon Burgh Hall on the completion of their eagerly awaited refurbishment."

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Thank you from the Whittons

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Cowal Cinema Club

The Cowal Cinema Club, now in its 5th year, wishes to congratulate the Dunoon Burgh Hall with its fantastic achievement, and looking ahead to Dunoon Film Festival 2017

cinemaclubcowal@gmail.com

Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard

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