



A SNAP SHOT OF THE HALL AS A PRIMARY SCHOOL

The primary school was opened in February 1843. 62ft long, 26ft broad and 10ft high, it consisted of two rooms, one for boys and one for girls.

Built from stone and lime with a slate roof, the building works were financed from local funds. While its patron was Rev'd John Joy, records state it was not built on church lands.

In 1845 the two teachers in the school were John Naully (aged 20) and Ellen Grey (aged 24). The average daily attendance was 70 children although there were 102 on the roll. While most pupils had to pay fees to attend the school, 30 free places were available at the discretion of the patron.

In the early 1900's the phrase "An bhfuil cead agam dul amach" meant literally that. The school toilet was a small galvanised hut built over the stream that runs down the side of Ballynageeragh road. The timber seat had a circular hole and in the winter or when it rained a constant flush was provided by the stream. In the summer time the master would send the bigger boys to the village well for buckets of water.

The school moved to the existing school building in 1948.

Want to help or find out more?

Your help is essential to make the renovation of the hall a reality. For more information or to discuss how you can help please contact either:

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Halla Pobail Dún Aill Dunhill Community Hall

For the past number of years Dunhill Hall has been vacant and boarded up. As many people in the community want to see it become an attractive welcoming community space once again a project to renovate it has begun.

Up until recent years Dunhill Parish Hall has been a focal point in the social and cultural life of the village and surrounding area.

Following a Health and Safety audit of all parish properties in 2008/09 the Hall was closed to the public until remedial works were completed. The building itself is structurally sound but it has become a derelict eyesore in the middle of the village.

Dunhill Community Hall Committee has been set up under the umbrella of DFBA Community Enterprises Ltd to co-ordinate this work. A long-term lease on the building has been signed on behalf of the community with the Diocese.

To date €32,000 has been spent on replacing the flat roof at the back of the building, rewiring and installing safety lighting. The next stage of the project will involve renovating the inside and outside of the building to provide comfortable and welcoming accommodation for the wide range of community activities we expect it to host.

Some of the activities planned include book clubs, retirement clubs, youth clubs and other community activities. In other counties similar buildings are used by families to host funeral and months mind refreshments. Once the building work is complete a Hall Management Committee will be put in place. They will organise the ongoing use, upkeep and maintenance of the Hall.

Who will pay for it?

Based on current plans the renovation is expected to cost approximately €260,000. The work to date was funded by a grant from the County Council and donations from the Parish and Squash Club. We plan to raise the remaining funds through a combination of grants, donations and contributions from the community and fund-raising.

Every house in Dunhill and the surrounding area will be asked to make a minimum contribution of €5 a month or €60 a year for three years. This commitment from the community will strongly enhance our ability to secure further grant aid.

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE
ACHIEVED BY A COMMUNITY WORKING
TOGETHER