

OUR LADY'S HALL

(DRIMNAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE)

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REFURBISHMENT / REDECORATION PROGRAMME (begun late 2010)

(Much of the below was facilitated by our involvement in the TÚS Placement Programme – Department of Social Protection Scheme – Caretakers / Cleaners / Office Admin persons)

We would also like to acknowledge at this time the truly great financial help and support provided for capital / refurbishment works by Dublin City Council without whose help much of the improvements we've been able to accomplish would not have been possible.

The following individuals and groups have also given tremendous support and financial help over the period:

- Anon
- Church
- Concerts
- DCC
- Dr. Cr. Union
- DRA
- ESB
- Masseys undertakers
- McElroy undertakers
- OLH fundraising
- Smurfit

In 2010 we drew up a 3-year programme (essentially a wish-list at the time) which we were able to implement and then continued to proceed on a project-by-project basis to the present time (2019).

3-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2011 / 2013

PHASE ONE - 2011:

- A. Installation of Timer on Heating System.**
- B. Store Room – formerly Ladies Cloakroom:**
 - a. Totally refurbishment + Kitchenette -Drimnagh Dev Group’s FÁS room.
- C. Large Dressing Room** - This has been redecorated
- D. Small Dressing Room** - This has been redecorated
- E. Flat Roofs over Stage & Dressing Rooms** - refurbished
- F. Varnishing of all internal doors** - completed
- G. Refuse collection programme**

PHASE TWO – 2011 / 12:

- A. Passageway behind Stage** - Redecorated
- B. Sub-Stage Area** - Major clean-up carried out with some redecoration and also all heating pipes insulated
- C. Landing between Stage and Sub-Stage** - Tidied up and made safe from Health & Safety point of view.
- D. Replacement of old round-pin sockets** with flat-pinned ones.
 - a. There may be a small number remaining to be converted
- E. Removal of spot-lights in main Hall**, and replacement with new conventional lights.
- F. Improved lighting in Office**

PHASE THREE – 2011 / 12:

- A. Entrance Foyer** - Redecorated
- B. Front Office** – Redecorated + New computer / printer / Internet connection / phone
- C. Front Hall Toilets** - Both have been refurbished
- G. New Sound (P.A.) system** – to accommodate reintroduction of Bingo
- H. New Fire Prevention System** – essential works
- I. New Emergency Lighting system** – essential works
- J. Gas conversion for central heating** + new Radiators in Main Hall

PHASE FOUR- 2013:

- A. Ladies Toilets** - Total refurbishment undertaken
Disabled toilet added
- B. Gents Toilets / Outer space / Chair room** - Total refurbishment undertaken
- C. Main Meeting Room (Old Music Room)** - Redecorated

PHASE FIVE - 2013:

- A. Committee Room** - Redecorated / Central table refurbished / new chairs donated
- B. Upstairs Foyer (Tea-Room)**
 - Redecorated with new curtains added.
 - External Balcony doors refurbished.
 - Painting of front doors & windows
- C. Kitchenette** - Completely refurbished.

OTHER GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS 2014 / 2019:

1. Installation of CCTV system
2. Installation of Vending Machine – rent free plus % of sales to us.
3. Pool Table (2012) – rent free plus % of ‘sales’ to us – bought outright in 2019
4. Increased Renting of space from approximately 7 hours per week in 2010 (Ladies Club & Irish Dancing) to current 50 to 60 hours per week.
5. Installation of safe.
6. Installation of new Burglar alarm.
7. Installation of new Front Doors.
8. Installation of Platform Lift to facilitate access to upstairs rooms,
9. Complete replacement of all Windows & Emergency Doors with Double-Glazed windows
10. Upgrade of both Sound and Lighting in Stage area + refurbishment of Disco Ball.
11. Installation of automated blinds for high windows in Main Hall
12. Refurbishment of floor of Main Hall
13. Refurbishment / Upgrade of Boiler Room

IMPROVED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

The Lady’s Club and the Mountaine / Mulhall School of Dancing (Irish Dancing) were the only two regular bookings in July 2010 when this Committee took over the Management of the Hall. Since then we have added the following regular weekly bookings– a small number have fallen by the wayside.

- 1) AA Group (Discussion Group) - this moved on after a number of years
- 2) Active Retired (twice weekly)
- 3) Ballroom Dancing for Adults (Social Dancing) / with some private tuition classes.
- 4) Ballroom Dancing Youth Classes & Competitions
- 5) Bible class – this moved on after a number of years through lack of numbers
- 6) Bingo – successfully reintroduced to Centre in 2011
- 7) Bootcamp fitness classes (twice weekly) – this has moved on after a number of very successful years
- 8) Bridge Club
- 9) Drimnagh Development Group FÁS Scheme (5 days)
- 10) Drimnagh Residents Association (5 days)
- 11) Film Club (Monthly)
- 12) Got2Dance Stage School
- 13) Jiu Jitsu classes – this has moved on through lack of numbers
- 14) Men’s Club
- 15) NCBI -computers impaired vision
- 16) Panto –successfully reintroduced to the Centre in 2014
- 17) Panto rehearsals – all Sundays Oct / Dec
- 18) Sing-Act-Dance Academy (Drama School) (Twice weekly)
- 19) Table Tennis Club – closed down after a number of years
- 20) Yoga (three times weekly)
- 21) Youth Café – this has moved on
- 22) Zumba classes – this moved on after a number of very successful years.

ONE-OFF & WEEK-END ACTIVITY

- I. **Panto Summer Camp** – a week in August
- II. **White Collar Boxing** – a Saturday in May
- III. **White Collar Boxing** – a Saturday in November
- IV. **Halloween Party** – joint DCC/ DRCG for youth
- V. **Brazilian Church Festival** – last weekend in October
- VI. **S.A.D. Academy Annual Concert** – a Saturday in mid-May
- VII. **Drimnagh Christmas Dinner** – last Saturday in November
- VIII. **Summer Buffet** – last Saturday in May
- IX. **Photography Group** – once or twice annually
- X. **Partnership** – occasional 6-week programmes