



What are village halls?

- A feature of village life in rural Scotland since the 19th Century
- Community spaces meeting the needs of local society
- Self-reliant and autonomous
- Constantly adapting to change
- Cost effective
- Sustainable





Of today's active halls...

- Up to 3000 in Scotland
- 30% of Scottish halls are 19th C
- 50% were built before 1930
- 72% are pre 1960's
- Only 8% modern

- 66% strictly rural
- 25% in large villages





Village halls – as war memorials

- As many as 20% of our halls were built to commemorate war dead from as far back as the Crimean Campaign in the 1850's but particularly the First World War
- Peaks in building in 1919-26 and 1950-56





Changing and adapting...



Lonach Hall, Aberdeenshire.

Built in 1845

“...combining charitable and beneficial intentions... in a building wherein both business and recreation may be pursued”.

Extended in 1896

Refurbished 1999 to 2006



...but with the same values

LONACH HALL
STRATHDON

home
meetings
weddings & events
room plans & layouts
availability
contact & booking
location
history & restoration
what's on

home

Hospitality and Heritage in the heart of the Highlands

The Lonach Hall is a historic building recently restored and refurbished to award-winning standards. It is a unique, flexible facility, situated in the friendly community of Strathdon within the Cairngorms National Park, just 45 miles west of Aberdeen. Its hillside location gives stunning views across the strath, the river Don and the surrounding countryside.

The Hall complex offers the Main Hall, Upper Hall and Committee Room and is a focal point for the local community. It is also ideal for a range of events including:

- Weddings
- Corporate events
- Product launches



Raising the profile: Why now?

Challenges facing hall committees are getting bigger and more complex

- Reduction in funding available
- Increased complexity of applications
- Poor condition of many buildings
- Increasing compliance burdens
- Increasing complex governance and regulatory burdens





Raising the profile : Why SCVO?

- Involved with halls since 1940's when the Scottish Council for Social Service administered grants and loans to halls. Named on many trust deeds
- Provided a forum for the promotion of Federations of Halls in 1970's
- Administered the Millennium 21st Century Halls programme
- Publications and website
- 2007: Halls for All campaign
- 2008: Village Halls Summit





Challenges ahead

Modernise buildings to make them

- Warm and comfortable not damp and cold
- Energy efficient and environmentally and economically sustainable
- Flexible spaces that meet the needs of the community... and can deliver a range of services and activities





Challenges ahead

Support hall management committees by:

- Providing quality information
- Advocating and representing their interests
- Encouraging volunteering from all ages
- Promoting good governance
- Providing training
- Working to create a funding landscape that is uncomplicated, joined-up and user friendly

