



# **C**ontents



WELCOME  
THE CAP  
REJUNEVATE  
GALA DAY  
UPCOMING EVENTS

# Welcome



Welcome to issue 1 of “Ford” newsletter. We will produce an issue every quarter and deliver it through your door. The decision to return to printing regular newsletters was based upon returns to the online survey and conversations with residents at the public meetings. The newsletter will be produced alongside digital methods of communication such as the website and Face Book posts.

We hope the newsletter will feature stories from Ford and its wider locality, highlight the work of groups using the Hall as well as events the Hall committee will be running. Every issue will look back at occasions that have happened in the previous three months and provide you with dates to save for upcoming events.

This newsletter is a special edition as it contains lots of updates and information about the Community Action Plan (CAP) that we want to share with the whole community. We would like to thank all those residents who took time to complete both online and paper surveys and particularly those who came along to the very informative public consultation meetings in May. We hope that you feel that you have had opportunities to have your voices heard in this process.

Also in this bumper edition we will be looking back at volunteer month - “ReJUNEvate” and marveling at the scale of accomplishments a small group of motivated people can achieve. We will relive the Village Gala Day and Evening and look forward to all the events we have planned in the Autumn.

**Enjoy!**  
**The Editor**



# What is a CAP?

A CAP is a Community Action Plan and is very simply a strategy that is based on a consultation of local people which aims to shape the future of the village hall and the services and social events it offers. As the plan is based directly on the views of villagers it is a community plan not a committee plan. The role of the committee is to organise the consultation process, use the resultant data to draw up an agreed plan then support the wider community to deliver it.

## How did we consult?

A website was created for the village and its hall: <https://e-voice.org.uk/fordvillageargyll/>. Information about the CAP was placed on the site including a link to an online survey. In addition, paper versions of this survey were hand delivered to every household in the wider Ford locality. In total we had 56 responses:



## What were the results?

90% of respondents were full time residents of the village, the remaining 10% were made up of past residents and those who have a holiday home here. We asked respondents to give three positive and three negative words which summed up their feelings about Ford.

CAP: 2024





# THE CHOICE IS £750K OR £250K!

Count of 10: If money was no hindrance what future would you like for the hall?  
A new Hall or renovate the existing building?



The survey asked respondents to give their view on the future of the Hall. It was fairly evenly split between those who wanted to save the existing building and those who wanted a new one. This question was discussed further at the three public meetings.

Once the three options were discussed in greater detail it became a choice over cost both environmental and financial. The greener and cheaper option was to renovate the existing hall. A new hall would cost a minimum of £750,000. With no funding currently available. A major renovation would cost a third of that and not require putting the old hall into land fill. A further complication is that if the village stopped using the hall in its current location the village might lose the right to the land it stands on. After much discussion it was agreed at all three public meetings that a project to renovate and decarbonise the current hall would be placed into the community action plan.



The committee have put together a project plan for the Hall and a copy is

available on the website:  
<https://evoice.org.uk/fordvillageargyll/cap-2025-7/>.

This is a document that will be regularly updated as we progress. Phase 1 of the project should be already complete by the time this newsletter is published. Phase 2 is in the fund raising stage.

## What else will be in the plan?

Having a renovated Hall that is fit for purpose will provide a hub from which the committee can offer or support services needed or requested by the village and the wider community. For example, when the toilets are renovated we aim to install a shower. This will then allow the Hall to be designated an emergency refuge. If during a crisis the village needed to come together for safety or if any residents were made temporarily homeless by flooding for example the Hall could be used as a safe space. On a more everyday level the committee is very keen to provide services either directly by setting up and running groups or through providing a space, equipment and perhaps money to support residents who want to organise their own groups and clubs. The survey

revealed a long list of activities the respondents were interested in (see left). The committee will also be aiming to put on a large social event each month alongside regular favorites such as Gala Day, Christmas Party and a

Hogmanay Night.

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Coffee Mornings: 13

Pub Quizzes: 28

Live music/Ceilidh events: 28

Gardener's Club: 16

Astronomy Club: 10

Book Club: 9

Wildlife and Walking Club: 18

Photography Club: 12

Tool Library: 14

Circuit Training: 6

Board Game Club: 10

Bowling Club: 2

Knitting and Crochet Club: 10

Community Transport: 9

Basic Bee Keeping: 4

Art classes: 9

History and Heritage Club: 12

Cooking Classes: 3

Supper Club: 8

## What next?



The completed CAP will be placed online and a copy will be available in the Hall. The plan will be reviewed annually with you the community so that we can identify progress and where we need to adapt our ideas. The CAP will provide a useful tool to seek out further grants to support its actions. However for the plan to succeed community buy in is essential. Volunteers will be needed, funds raised and skills shared. Together we can provide our community with the services and support the consultation has revealed it requires and wants.

# GET INVOLVED

If you would like to get involved then here are some things you can do:

- volunteer to help set up events.
- volunteer to clean after events.
- help keep the land around the hall tidy with an occasional mow and trim.
- become a Friend of the Village Hall
- join one of the clubs or groups.
- come along to the social events.
- offer lifts to neighbours so they can attend events or clubs.
- buy some Argyll Lottery tickets.
- come along to the annual AGM.





# REJUNEVATE

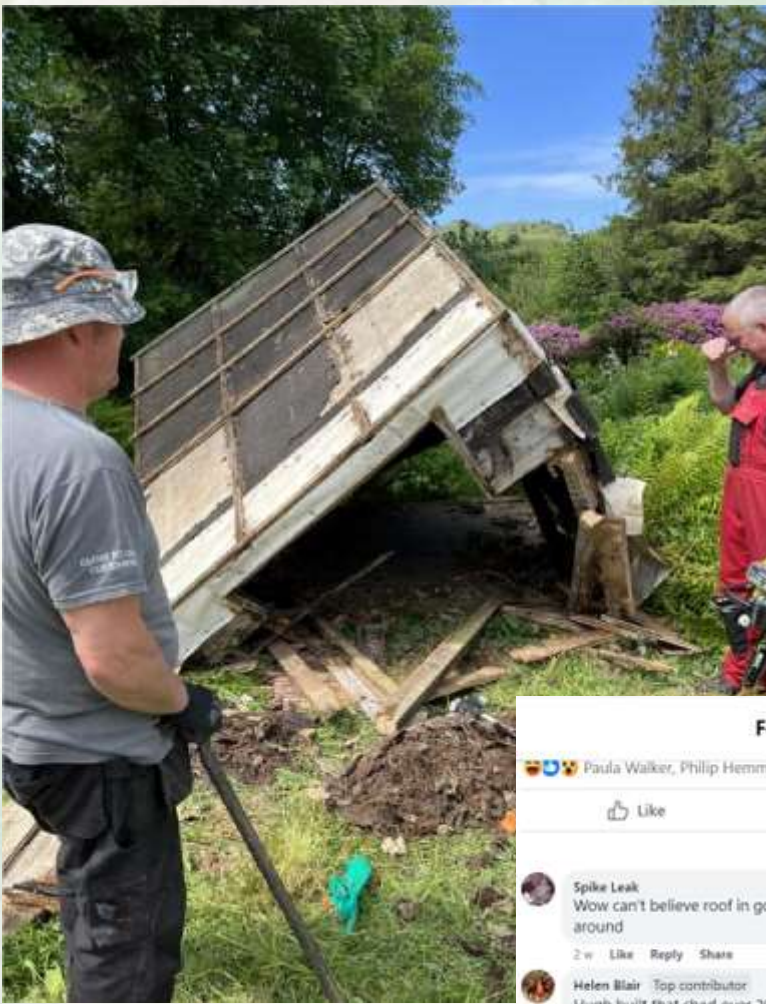


Phase 1 of the renovations to the Hall funded by Foundation Scotland and the National Lottery Awards for All would require a mixture of professionals to carry out such work as mould treatment, render repair, electrics and redecoration. However, the committee wanted to complete some work themselves and with local volunteers; hence the ReJUNEvate strategy.



Research also shows that when residents get involved in activity such as preserving a local asset they develop closer ties to the project and feel that the place belongs to them more deeply. There was a long list of jobs that could be carried out by keen amateurs: grass cutting, cleaning, tip runs, tree trimming, packing up the kitchen, making bunting, drainage channel digging, roof demossing and junk removal. The first weekend saw two symbolic jobs completed the removal of the upright piano and the demolition of the “spider nest”, sorry that should read “beloved shed”.





The shed was particularly tough to demolish especially on a hot June Saturday. Its demise brought back a few memories for people locally.



The piano unfortunately also met a similar fate. Despite attempting to give it away and having at least two time wasters let us down it was sadly decided to junk it.







Over the course of the three weekends we had 20 volunteers come to the Hall. These wonderful people included partners of committee members, local villagers and also people from further afield such as Crinan. Their work was also aided by local businesses such as DGC Landscaping and Jewson. The committee provided a well earned lunch each day and this allowed the workers to sit and chat often about past events at the Hall. The weather was not always kind, the midge were often biting but the atmosphere was always positive. By the final Sunday the committee were in a position to hand over the Hall to Steve MacMillan to finish phase 1.



# COMING SOON

## Stay Tuned

**September 7th - Pop Up Pub @the Hall: 7pm**

**September 14th - "It Will Never Work" -**

**Film and Q&A - 7pm**

**September 21st - Quiz Night at the Hall: 7pm**

**October 5th - Pop Up Pub @the Hall: 7pm**

**October 26th - Halloween @the Hall: 7pm**

**October 27th - Halloween (Kids Party)**

**November 2nd - Pop Up Pub @the Hall: 7pm**

**November 10th - Craft Fair**

**November 16th - Cocktail Night: 7pm**

**December 7th - Pop Up Pub @the Hall: 7pm**

**December 20th - Village Christmas Party - 6.30pm**

**December 31st - Hogmanay @the Hall - 10pm**

**For more information on what's happening @the Hall  
check the events page on the website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/fordvillageargyll/calendar/>**

# FORD