

Barrhead Burgh Hall & Municipal Chambers

“The James McGuire Building”





In 1894 Barrhead became a burgh with its own officials and council to run its own affairs. Its first elections took place with William Shanks becoming the first Provost of the new burgh.



During the provostship of Zechariah John Heys, around 1899 gifted the land owned by him lying between his home in Bank Street and his property in Main Street.

The approval and planning for the municipal buildings took place on 11th March

1901 with architects McWhannell and Rogerson appointed to design the buildings, the contract to build the buildings was given to a local building firm Houston and Young and work started in 1902.



Opened on 15th April 1904, one part comprised of the Council Chambers, Burgh Treasurers Office with a short land running between this section to the Burgh Court Hall with an ornamental gate between.



In 1948 Barrhead gained its official coat of arms when Lord Lyon, King of Arms who supervised all matters of heraldry in Scotland granted the coat of arms.



A view along the Main Street, taken from the tower of the Court Hall, showing the street scape in the mid-50s.

A new chapter to a very colourful story...

In January 2019, Include Me 2 Club reached an agreement with East Renfrewshire Council to lease and occupy the one time Municipal Chambers, former Police Station and latterly the Work and Employability Centre for the council which moved to the Foundry upon its opening in January 2015.

Since the building has lay empty, being closed and almost forgotten about, with little activity from this once pinnacle site of activity some 116yrs prior.

The plan was to rejuvenate, renovate and re-open the famous landmark as the HQ of Include Me 2 Club, to bring together two of the buildings former uses and roles within the community, being used across the years as the local Disability Resource Centre and Work & Employment to the members of IM2C.

The mission was to create Social Blend, a forward facing social enterprise, with multi-offer approach of Coffee, Café, Books, Crafts, Arts and Community

blended together to engage, inspire and empower the wider community, our members and supporters to make Barrhead a more inclusive community.

Inspired by the example set 116yrs before, rallying and bringing together the groups, resources and members of the community to create a new focal point, a meeting place and a hub of activity to reinvigorate the building back into daily life.

We recorded every alteration, every demolition, every mystery and find of the project along the way, to document, record and display the amount of work, effort and attention we took to renovate, restore and re-establish this amazing building back to its former glory.

We hope you enjoy the look behind the scenes, and behind the walls, quite literally as you follow our journey across the year, enjoy and feel free to share you thoughts, comments and own experiences of the building on our media.



(Above) Phil Daws, Paul, Ashley and Casper McIlvenny, Tony Buchanan outside the McGuire Building in 2019. (Below) Our new Social Blend Branding.



1st Floor Main Room

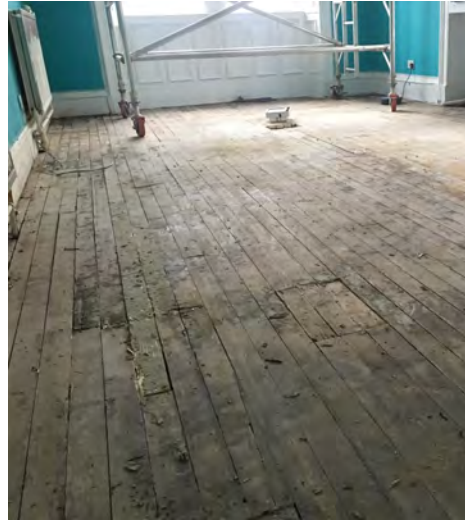




1st Floor Main Room

1st Floor Hot-desking Office

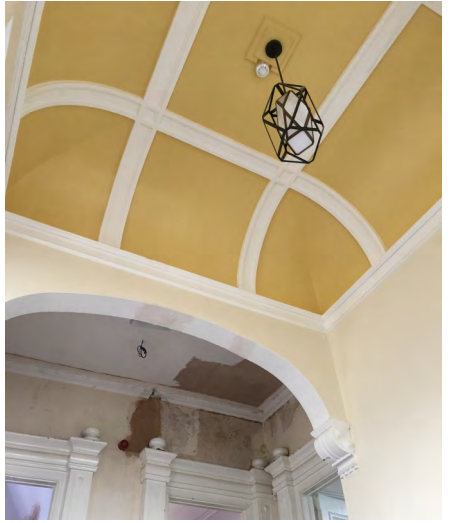




1st Floor Hot-desking Office

1st Floor Hallway

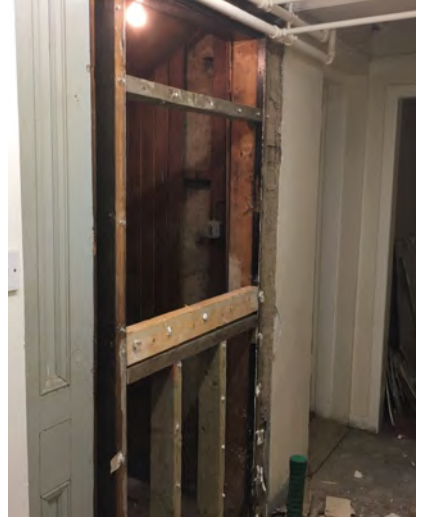




1st Floor Hallway

Ground Floor Hallway





Ground Floor Hallway

Ground Floor Kitchen





Ground Café and Kitchen Space

Ground Floor Café and Front Door Space



5,840
Volunteer Hours

Equivalent to **£57,728** worth of Voluntary Contribution at the Living Wage



£18,500
Worth of Donated Goods, Time & Materials



£73,000
Invested in the Renovation & Refurbishment

£51,000
Materials & Equipment

£10,000
Contractors

£7,500
Running Costs

£4,500
Design & Consultancy

£10,000
Awards for All Fund



£6,000
YPI Wood Foundation



£8,000
Participatory Budgeting



£2,000
Allma Construction



£1,000
East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce



£46,000
IM2C Funds

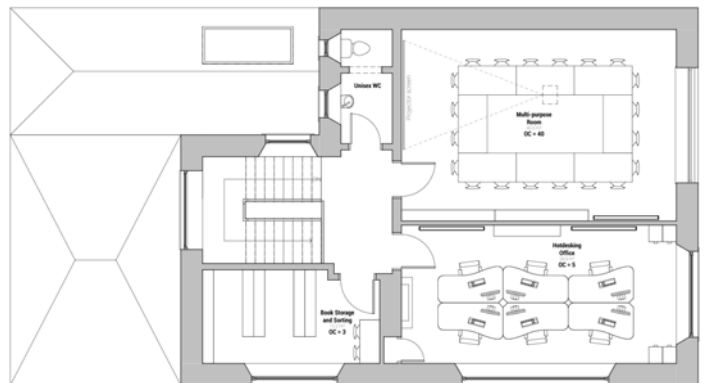
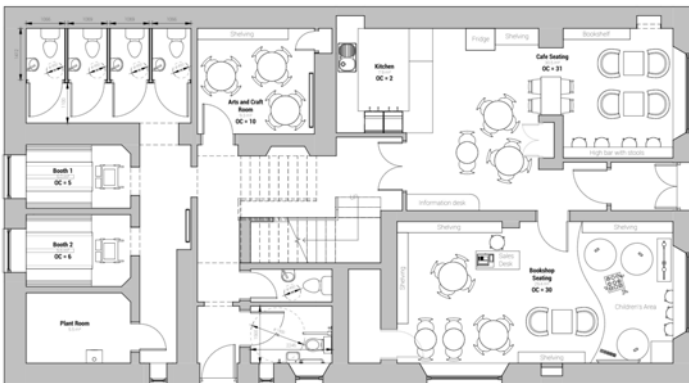


Virtue et Labore “By virtue and hard work”

With the Barrhead Coat of Arms that is hand carved in the 1st Floor Chamber, displaying the motto “Virtue et Labore” translating into “By Virtue and Hard Work”, this very much resonated into the projects delivery, through the hard work of the volunteers, supporters and contractors a newly renovated community hub will welcome both individuals and groups across the community. The coat of arms is a reminder of the past,

with a new take on the design by our graffiti artist “Tragic O’Hara” redesigning the arms based on the hand carved version, but applying a new modern take of the arms for its next adventure.

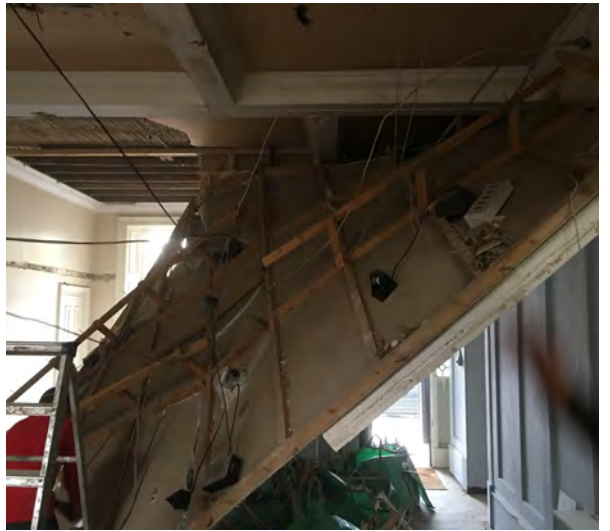
Gifts with the design and cost of arms will soon be available from the Social Blend Gift Shop, alongside a newly registered Tartan symbolising the Inclusive Community we want to create.

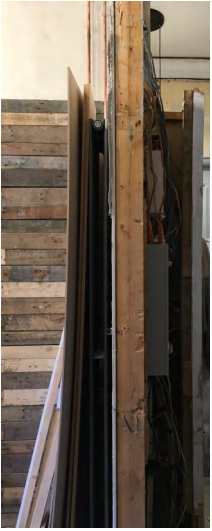




Ground Café and Kitchen Space

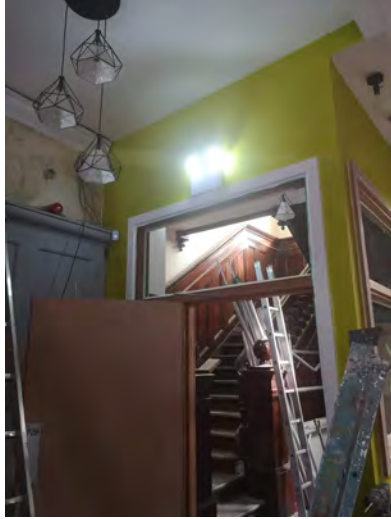
Ground Floor Café Space





Ground Floor Upgrades

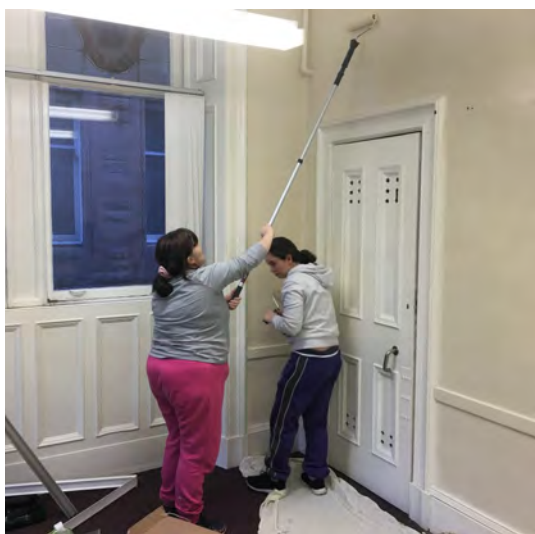
Ground Coffee Shop and Kitchen

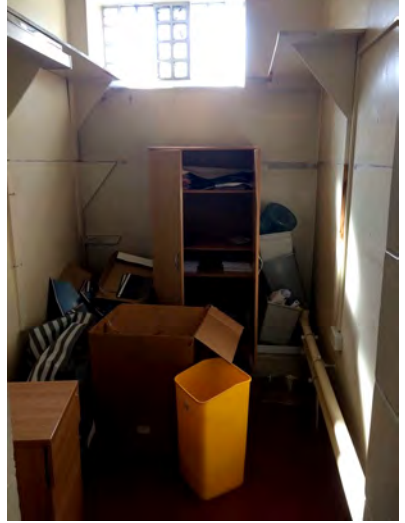




Ground Gift Shop Space

Ground Gift Shop Space

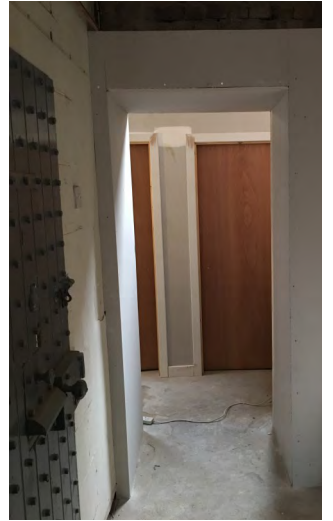
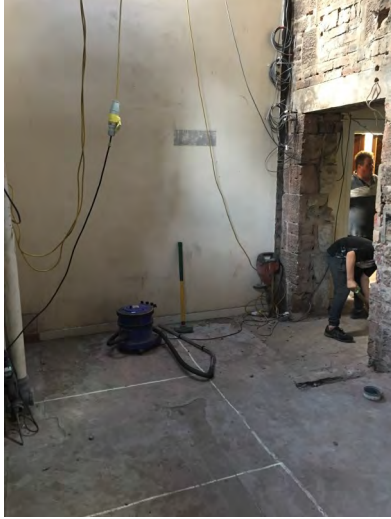




Ground Floor Cells

Ground Floor Cells

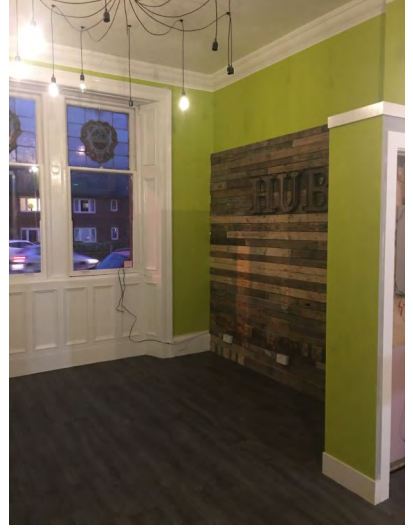




Ground Floor Cells

Ground Floor Side Door Toilets





Various Areas and Highlights

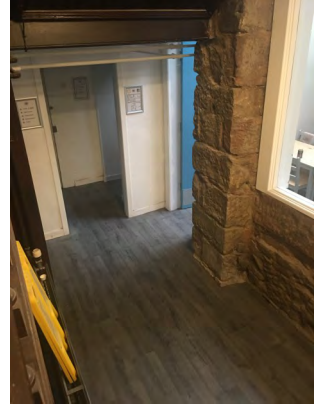
Ground Floor Pottery Studio Space





Ground Floor Pottery Studio Space

Ground Hallway Highlights



With a special thanks to the following people



With a huge thank you to

- Taylor Nisbett
- Bruach Design
- David Green
- Kevin McCaughey
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- Robert Grey & Paul Vickers (Joinery)
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- Perfect Plaster (Stevie)
- Central Fire & Security
- Lawrie Flooring
- J-Mac Roofing
- Brandon Hire

Local Companies and Supporters

- Barrhead Timber
- Barrhead Men's Shed
- Moodies & Co Funeral Directors
- Barrhead News
- All About Barrhead
- Printbase
- St.Lukes High School (YPI Group)
- Peeky Window Blinds
- Chrystal & Hill Ltd.
- Barrhead Community Council
- Allma Construction

Our Team of People

William McCready, Paul McIlvenny, Jamie Brownlie, Thomas Maxwell, Mark Magee, Andrew Jardine, Wesley Greer, Lynn Murdoch, Meilssa Neish, Elaine Clark, Elise Kelly, Kelly Jardine, Susan Wilson, Aaron McGoldrick, John Hainey, Iain Elliot, Ryan McIlvenny, Tyler Vettraino, Ian Gribble and Jardine, Kirsteen Downs, Gillian MacDonald, Neil Robertson, Nicola Fay, Maurven McDougall, Alasdair Lees, David Stewart, Fiona MacLaren and all the others who helped along the way....

Thank You!

Our Funders





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