



Chapelhill Hall has an unusual origin and an intriguing story which involved the whole community in the area, not only at Chapelhill but both sides of the River Almond, the church congregations, the farmers, the estate and Glenalmond College. The churches and schools in this area have been at the heart of the provision of halls for the community.

The Phoenix 1890 – 1930

In October 1894 there was a serious fire at Trinity College Glenalmond. No one was injured but the northern section of the West Wing was badly damaged as well as some rooms in the Tower, which included the Museum. Two masters' bedrooms and ten boys' bedrooms were lost.

The fire started in the Prefects' Common Room and was fought by staff and boys. Seeing the smoke, help came from both sides of the valley, the Perth Fire engine arrived at 7 am, and gradually it was brought under control.

Staff and boys were found temporary accommodation, and an emergency building was bought and completed within a few weeks. It was known initially as the Phoenix and later the Tin-Tab. (Tab for tabernacle or moveable structure often for religious purposes, and so a tin-tab came to be temporary building clad in corrugated iron.)

Glenalmond's Tin-Tab initially contained two classrooms, a Masters' sitting room and a Prefect's room. Its function changed over the years to provide, at various times, an extension to the Chemical Laboratory, the carpenter's workshop and the school shop.

Thirty years later this became Chapelhill Hall, deconstructed, moved to the other bank of the Almond, reconstructed and refitted.

The morning after the fire at Trinity College Glenalmond 1894.
Photo by A S Reid.



Chapelhill Hall –1930s

A new church was built on the very old site at Chapelhill In 1834. This saved members of the Church of Scotland from making the six mile journey to Moneydie church for services. But it did not have a church hall and there was not one in Harrietfield either.

In the 1850s a new school for the area was built at Ballandie, still active as Logiealmond Primary School. The vigorous dissenting congregation converted their former school building in Harrietfield into a church hall that was also available for other community uses.

By the 1930s Trinity College Glenalmond no longer had a use for their tin-tab, and the Chapelhill Kirk Session were able to acquire it for use as a church hall. The Kirk Session sought a convenient site from Scone Estate Trustees who agreed to let them erect the building on its present

site near the church. They had an annual tenancy agreement and paid a ground rent of ten shillings a year, the same sum as the previous occupant.

The building consists of a concrete and brick base, a wooden frame, corrugated iron cladding on the walls and roof, and wooden panelling to line the inside. The work of transporting the building from the College to Chapelhill was funded and carried out by the congregation, the farmers and two contractors (Donald Clark of Harrietfield and R. Keay mason and farmer in Marybank). The local farmers also cleared and prepared the site and made the carpark.

The costs overall must have been substantial and required significant fundraising. The official opening on Saturday 1st October 1832 was followed by a big sale of work, with tables of home baking and farm produce.

The Perthshire Advertiser recorded the opening on the 5th of October 1932. 'Through the generosity of the authorities at Glenalmond the frame of the spacious hut formerly in use at Trinity College was secured and reconstructed on a convenient site in close proximity to the Kirk. The interior has been entirely renovated, a new platform and modern conveniences installed, and the result is a credit to the congregation and a tribute to the enterprise of the minister.'

'The hall supplies a long felt want in the community. The congregation had not previously enjoyed the privilege of possessing a suitable rendezvous for church and other functions.'

'Lord Scone, M.P. for the Perth Division, performed the opening ceremony on Saturday afternoon in presence of a large attendance and said "this is a very scattered community, and it was only right that there should be some place in which the people could meet in the winter evenings, and at other times for the purpose of social recreation, and in which sales could be held for church or other worthy objects. The hall would be undoubtedly of great use to the community.'

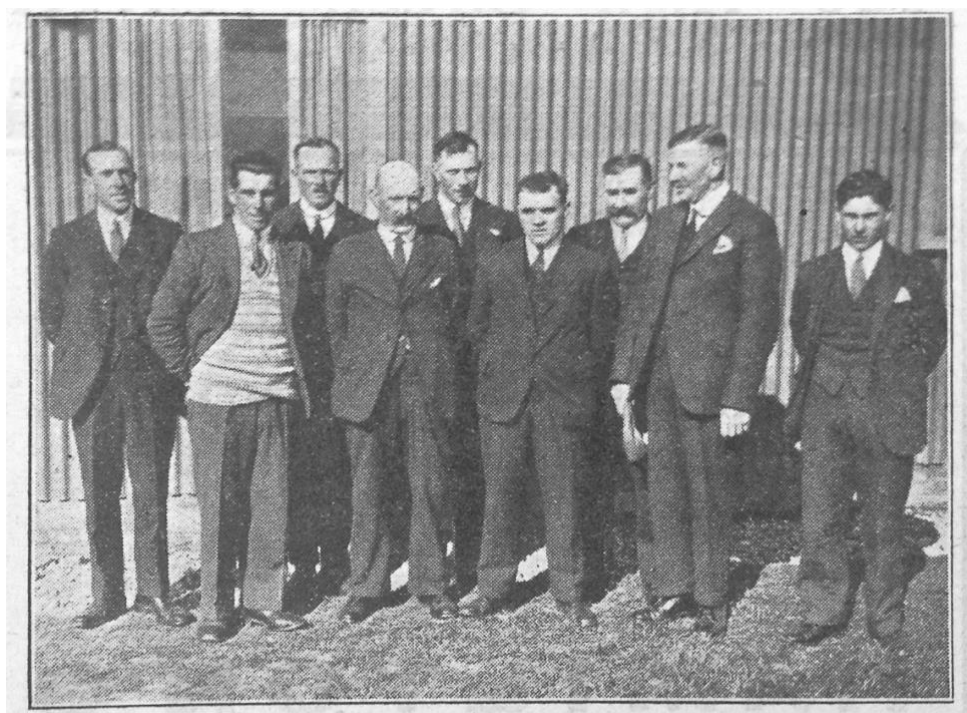
Logiealmond Hall Opening

Left to Right: Mr R F Goodacre, Rev Dr Cameron, Lord Scone, Lady Scone with the Master of Scone, and Mrs Cameron
Perthshire Advertiser 5th October 1932



Chapelhill Building Committee

Members of the new Chapelhill Hall Building Committee: — left to right— Messrs D. Simpson, H. Robertson, W. Scrimgeour, A. Pattullo, J. Cameron, R. Miller, H. Scott, D. Simpson sen. (chairman) and H. Scott jun.
Perthshire Advertiser 5th October 1932



Chapelhill Hall - 1950s to the present

The church at Chapelhill was closed in 1958 as it was in serious disrepair. After that the regular Sunday services were conducted in the church in Harrietfield, but, In addition, a monthly service was held in the hall, as well as Sunday School classes.

Ten years later the Minute Book of Chapelhill Hall started a new volume with a meeting to propose that, although the Hall was vested in the Kirk Session, it 'should be looked upon as the Community Hall for the District'. A Committee was set up consisting of four members of the Kirk Session and four members of the SWRI, as well as the Minister and the District Councillor. In time this was broadened to include other users, such as the Badminton Club.

In 1984 the unoccupied church at Chapelhill was demolished, the walls knocked inwards and the whole levelled off at windowsill height.

Although no deeds have been found recording the transfer from the Church of Scotland to the community, they are reflected in the Valuation Rolls. From Chapelhill Kirk Session to Logiealmond Kirk Session and, from 1986, the proprietor and owner is recorded as Chapelhill Hall Committee. The Earl of Mansfield remains the proprietor of the land.

A great deal of work was done to improve and modernise the hall and considerable fund raising was needed initially and throughout the years. Events included dances, ceilidhs, sales of work, Burns Suppers, plays and parties. There were also events to support local organisations like the Curling and Badminton Clubs, as well as good causes.

Today Chapelhill Hall has the status of a SCIO, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and a new committee is tackling the challenges of rising costs (particularly electricity and insurance) and maintaining a building with a history of 129 years for the benefit of the local community.

References

The Book of Glenalmond, 1956
 The History of Glenalmond, G St Quentin, 1956
 Perthshire Advertiser
 Valuation Rolls for Perthshire
 Chapelhill Hall Minute Book

Post script.

Dr Graham Clark is making a survey of the surviving corrugated-iron buildings in Scotland. He has published his results for those used for churches and halls in the journal *Scottish Local History*, and both Chapelhill Hall and Logiealmond Primary School's dinner hall are expected to feature in the next issue on school buildings.

Burns Supper in Chapelhill Hall, around 1970

