



Dun Law
Extension
Community
Benefit Trust

Project:	Macfie Hall, Heriot - Refurbishment
Applicant:	Heriot Macfie Hall Committee Ltd
Date of application(s):	2019
Amount granted:	£100,000 November 2019

CASE STUDY 4 – MACFIE HALL REFURBISHMENT

In August 2019, Heriot Macfie Hall Committee Ltd applied to the Dunlaw Trust for a £100,000 grant towards the cost of refurbishing and modernising the 100-year-old Macfie Hall in Heriot. The objectives for the project included refurbishing the venue's kitchen, toilets and disabled spaces, as well as making the main hall more spacious and better-insulated with good natural lighting.

The much loved and well-used hall, which was gifted to the community by the Macfie family of Borthwick Hall in 1921, is home to a number of the villages' societies including: the drama group; women's institute; badminton club; and community council, while also providing a seasonal summer café. Recognising that the hall needed substantial work, and with the aim of creating a new flexible, accessible and welcoming hub for community life, the committee carried out an extensive local survey to inform the plans. A design competition attracted five architectural practices, and the winning design by Oliver Chapman Architects was chosen. PJM Joinery & Building of Haddington was contracted to build the project, and by the end of 2020 a redesigned brighter, airier and more contemporary Macfie Hall had been achieved. Enhancements included: four full height glass doors with great views; a new kitchen, serving hatch and equipment; new outdoor terraced areas; upgraded heating and insulation; and better disabled-accessibility.

A solid business plan and funding strategy was in place to successfully secure the remaining funds for the project, which had a total cost of £320,000. As well as the Dunlaw Trust grant, funding was secured from: Scottish Borders Council; the National Lottery Awards for All scheme; the Carcant & Toddleburn Windfarm Fund; the Garfield Weston Foundation; the Robertson Trust; and the Moore Charitable Foundation. Local donations and fund-raising activities contributed to the balance required.

Hall committee member Kate Finlayson said: "We are absolutely delighted with the outcome - we now have a really warm and welcoming hall in a spectacular setting in which we really feel we can meet the needs of our community. The contribution by the Dunlaw Trust was a significant step forward in our ability to meet the project needs and will have a lasting impact on people living in this area."

Macfie Hall, before and after

