

BRÆNDEKILDE – CULTURAL VILLAGE

THE VILLAGE HALL

The beginning

Brændekilde Village Hall was built in 1902.

In June 1901, a suggestion was made to build a joint village hall based on a multi-ownership scheme.

In the course of a fortnight, the amount of DKK 4,800 was collected; at that time, a day wage amounted to 1,- to 4,- DKK.

In November 1901, the co-operative village hall was completed and opened for the first time.

Things can go fast in Brændekilde, for sure!

Today's village hall has not changed much since it was built:



Danmark set fra luften (www5.kb.dk)

The ground floor has (still) an entrance hall, a kitchen and a large ballroom whose vaulted ceiling provided good acoustics. The 1st floor has another, but smaller ballroom and a box-room.

Windows and doors have round arches in the Romanesque style of the time.

Historical background

Brændekilde Village Hall should be seen in the political context of the time from 1870 to 1901 when the Danish Conservative Government banned all get-togethers and meetings in schools.

As a result, around 1600 village halls were built all over the country, along with a great number of abattoirs, dairies, and co-ops, all being organized on the same multi-ownership scheme.

The first 100 years: 1901-2001

With the change of the Danish political system in 1901 and the introduction of Cabinet respon-

sibility, village halls became popular with everybody. They were called “the ground floor of the whole parish”.

The Brændekilde Village Hall was used for get-togethers and parties, and from 1910 also as a classroom and gymnasium.

A regular event of the Village Hall was its yearly harvest festival, which was held on two consecutive Saturdays, the first festival for the farmers and shareholders, and the next one for the farmhands.

In the 19th century in general, things were tight financially, which impacted negatively the heating system, cloakroom, and upkeep of the Village Hall.

From 2001 and onwards

In 2002, the Brændekilde Village Hall celebrated its centenary with a big party. The Hall being badly maintained, however, several locals voted for its demolition, whereas others, the majority, backed its preservation. Organized by a

new board of governors, an extensive renovation was started. In 2005, came a new roof; in 2007, wheelchair-accessible toilets; and in 2010, a telecoil, a projector and loudspeaker systems. Renovation is still ongoing, being financially backed by funds plus flea markets organized by committee members of the Village Hall. organized by committee.

