



# THE LISTED PROPERTY OWNERS' CLUB MAGAZINE

ISSUE 127 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019





# Through the arched window

## *Coo Palace – case study*

**L**ocated on the coast of South West Scotland in a stunning position overlooking Wigtown Bay and the Solway Firth, Corseyard Farm and Model Dairy or ‘The Coo Palace’ as it is more commonly known, was built in the early 1900s by wealthy Manchester Merchant James Brown who retired to the area in 1895.



Coo Palace –  
Built in the early  
1900s overlooking  
Wigtown Bay and  
the Solway Firth

Brown, a lover of the Arts and Crafts movement, Art Nouveau and Italian architecture indulged himself – and his 12 strong herd of prize Belted Galloway Cows – by designing and building Coo Palace more in the style of a castle than a cow shed, complete with curved finials and decorative glazed tiles, balustrades, a 23 metre high water tower, prominent buttresses, arrow slits and turrets.

Set in around 8 acres this iconic landmark fell into disrepair after Brown’s death in 1920 and was given a Grade A listing by Historic Scotland in 1991 when it was placed on the Buildings at Risk register. After a number of changes of ownership and unfulfilled plans for conversion, the condition of Coo Palace deteriorated further until being purchased by The Holiday Property Bond in 2014.

Now renovation is well on its way to fruition and the creation of 26 luxury holiday cottages and apartments are on schedule to open in

Continued >>



Finger Jointed Blocks  
forming 1st stage of  
Arched Heads

spring of 2020. This is the 33rd development undertaken by the Holiday Property Bond, the 7th overseen for them by JMP Architects of Lancaster, and a team of 30 tradesman from Ayrshire-based 3B Construction have been working on the site since early 2018.

So it was with a strict brief to preserve as much of Coo Palace's character as possible, that A J & D Chapelhow (Cliburn) Ltd were entrusted with the job of creating the wooden windows and doors in traditional style for the main buildings and tower.


A family run business located in Cliburn, just south of Penrith, Cumbria, Managing Director Alan Chapelhow established A J & D Chapelhow in 1961. Alan's daughter Helen Law is General Manager and Granddaughter Sarah joined the company at the end of 2018. The D stands for Dorothy, Alan's wife.

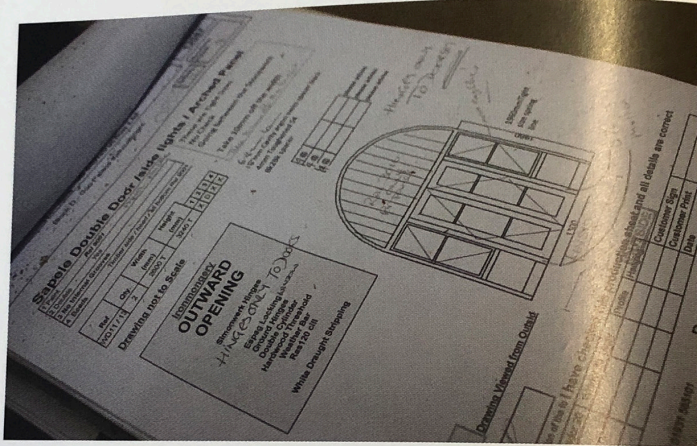
In the workshop, the team of 20 skilled craftsmen overseen by Hylton Fisher combine the latest technical innovations with skills and techniques handed down over generations, to create handcrafted timber windows, doors, patios and bi-fold doors, which can be ordered for 'supply only' or 'supply and fit' by the company's experienced fitting team.

Alan Chapelhow, together with key staff members John Hudson, Andrew Davidson and Andrew Wright travelled to the Kirkcudbrightshire coast, to measure up and create initial templates for the 127 windows and doors, with the administration undertaken by Helen Airey in the Cliburn office.

Delivered in phases with the first shipment of 20 oak doors taking place in April of 2018, the job has not been without its challenges. As John says, 'Coo Palace threw up a number of challenges, namely the time-scale and the vast quantity of arches required, which was by far and away the largest amount we've had to deal with in one order. But with the aid of our drawing and CNC departments these proved no problem and well within our capabilities.'

This has been a project in which all the Chapelhow team have been involved, from the apprentices upwards and the job has given the whole company a great sense of pride and satisfaction. There are currently 2 phases to finish although work is on schedule and the last delivery should be leaving Cumbria by early September.

'The restoration of Coo Palace by all involved showcases traditional workmanship at its best which is sympathetic to the traditions of the original Arts and Craft Movement so loved by James Brown; it has been a pleasure to be involved and to see this exceptional building once again being brought to life.'   
Helen Law




 Above Left: Arched panel with double doors centered to a side swing window / fixed light

Above Right: Finished arched louvre window

 Production sheets detailing arched panel door



 Creating the Bespoke Arches for this unique order

For further information contact  
**AJ&D Chapelhow (Cliburn) Ltd**  
 Tel: 01931 585 101 or 01931 714 289  
 enquiries@ajdchapelhow.co.uk  
 www.ajdchapelhow.co.uk