

Aultbea Hall Revival! Update 2025 - May and June - open to all!

The early months of 2025 saw phenomenal activity as all our contractors put in a concentrated and concerted effort to get the main Hall open. Joiners (including skilled volunteers) and electricians inside, and landscapers outside, all braved the late winter weather to get the job completed. The electrics and fire security systems were commissioned, many new fire doors were installed, repairs were made to the ceiling, walls and floors, benches were constructed between the steel supports, creating very attractive booths (which now have smart clan cushions, thanks to donations from local families), the accessibility improvements to the car parking area and ramps were completed ... what an achievement!

Then came the administrative challenges of securing the consents from Highland Council's planning department that everything was in order, and finally, proving that we could comply with all the requirements for the Public Entertainment Licence, just in time (and only just!) for the local Poppy Scotland group to host a VE Day Celebration lunch on 10 May. Such an appropriate first community event to recognise Aultbea Hall Revival, given the World War II heritage of the building.

And, possibly for the first time in many years, the Hall was then full for a Midsummer Dance on 20 June. Huge thanks to local band Recovery and DJ Colin Irvine, who both provided entertainment for free. A great night had, and appreciated, by all. As one Facebook comment emphasised: "Well done for all the hard work to bring the hall back to life!! It's very much a part of the village and has been sadly missed. Congratulations." There are still improvements to make, and lots of painting to be undertaken, inside and out, but Aultbea Hall is now at the 'heart of the community' once again, after 6 years of closure and a renovation project that has taken 4 years to bring to fruition.