

Aultbea Hall Revival! February 2023 progress report

We had really hoped to have the two-storey block open by now, but the vital installers of electricity meters have yet to reach our northern outpost, so we cannot test the new electrical and fire security systems. But it shouldn't be very long now and, in the meantime, there's been plenty going on, both within and outside the building itself (essential drainage work!) and in establishing the new Aultbea Hall charity to replace the original 1960 Trust.

The internal painting of the refurbished areas is almost complete, thanks to hardy, well-wrapped volunteers who have been busy throughout these winter months; cleaning up is well underway and we are looking to set up the upstairs meeting room and re-equip the kitchen there. If you make a shopping expedition to Ullapool, please do take advantage of the blue tokens on offer at the Tesco checkout, as our project is one of the three being supported by their community fund for the next few weeks. At the very least, we will be granted £500 and, if we have more blue tokens in the box than the other worthy causes, then it's a very welcome £1500.

Looking further ahead, quotes have now been finalised for the repairs and renovations needed to bring the main hall back into full use, given that all the highly technical investigations have demonstrated that the steel supports can be repaired cost-effectively to give the Hall a new lease of life. That means we can start to make applications for grants to help with the costs of Aultbea Hall Revival! Phase II. Fingers crossed for those Community fund-raising will continue this Spring: Coronation Capers on 6 May at MacLennan Park should definitely be a date for the diary!

With respect to constitutional matters: it's taken almost a year to work through the required stages, but we now have the final documentation to confirm that the assets that came to the community as part of the original 1960 Trust – both the Hall itself and the 'old football field' – are now in the legal ownership of the new charity. The final AGM of the Trust, to be followed immediately by the first AGM of Aultbea Hall [SCIO], is booked for Tuesday 28 March. Between now and then, we are encouraging all adults (16+) who live in the area served by Aultbea Community Council to sign on as members to show their support. It's free! Visit our [Committee Matters](#) page to download the form, which can be completed electronically, or pick one up at a community event. Do email aultbeahall2021@gmail.com if you have any queries.

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Nothing we do in the name of Aultbea Hall would be possible without the encouragement, contributions and efforts (including an epic sponsored walk) of so many in the community, be they residents, visitors or businesses.

We also very much appreciate the ongoing and significant sums deposited by anonymous supporters into the wee, green boxes on the counters of the village shops and cafés. Both Aultbea Hotel and the Perfume Studio have raised money on our behalf through focussed activities. Finally, the two stunning roundels, created by the pupils of Bualnaluib School and now in prominent place at either end of the building, signify to all that Aultbea Hall Revival! is achieving our ambitions.

Fund-raising (and fun) community activities organised in 2023:

April onwards:

Sales of the iconic project T-shirt, with its tributes to Hall music-making through the decades. These have been modelled on land and sea, be it in Japan, the Sahara, Morocco, Malta, Rhodes, the Caribbean, Columbia or the USA, just to mention a few of the destinations.

Saturday 6 May Coronation Capers: Fancy dress, BBQ, tea tent, licensed bar, games, cake competition, tombola, raffle & music at MacLennan Park.

Saturday 5 August – Summer Flotilla: Flotilla, tea tent & BBQ.

Friday 29 December Festive Fun: Food, games and raffle in the Crow's Nest, which had been decorated by Bualnaluib School.