



ULLAPOOL MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTRE

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Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015

A bit of a change this year. Several of you have commented, and we have been concerned at the amount of paper that we have been sending out to members for the AGM, or the extent of text that we have been expecting you to read online. At last year's AGM we agreed a change in our constitution so that the formal report of the trustees including the financial statements – the 'statutory accounts' - would be made available at the AGM (and of course sent to any members who specifically request the full document), but for the purpose of clarity and brevity an abridged version be sent out in advance of the AGM. So - this report includes a brief summary of our financial position and an outline of activities, events and developments in the museum. Further detail is in our newsletter.

The board: the board meets every two months always with a relevant agenda balancing discussion on budgets and planning with routine updates and developments. Board roles have changed, and we welcome suggestions for new board members to strengthen our team. We have updated many policies and planning documents, and guidelines for a range of museum activities eg on display.

Funders and funding: We completed our extensive documentation to our major funders for the renovation, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland, and received our final contributions from them with grateful thanks. Following notification from Highland Council about proposed reductions in funding, we made strong representations directly and through the Highland Museums Forum. These representations delayed the reduction by a year. More on this below.

Exhibitions, events and visitors. The year to March 2015 included our first full open year after our renovations and this proved to be a very successful year. Visitor numbers were healthy, over 8000, and feedback was very positive following the work and changes in display. Our operating budget was improved after our negative situation from the building work, helped by a great deal of hard work by our fundraising team, good visitor income, some significant donations and generous sponsorship support from Ullapool Harbour Trust for the 2015 exhibition Ullapool and the Klondykers.

In our open season we had the opportunity to show three successful exhibitions – Full Circle based on the Coigach Cowboys and the circle of those leaving the area, and often family returning; Community at Sea celebrated the lives of the Lochside men who crewed racing yachts from the late 1800s to mid-1900s. Our visiting exhibition from Littoral Art about shoreline detritus brought a great deal of interest from local schools. We had several popular volunteer-led workshop activities for school groups and young people, and a

fascinating visit to the sites of the WW1 logging camp and prisoner of war camp. We were also involved in a busy volunteer-led programme of events as part of Creative Ullapool with film shows, story-telling, history walks, music and art activities.

Our closed season – November to March – is as busy as our open season. As well as occasional open days (we had around 60 visitors on New Year's Day), we use this time to do essential maintenance (we have very active team of volunteers on this), to have update meetings and training events for volunteers including a very popular session from the Family Archive Centre in Inverness, to keep the museum in the public eye and raise essential funds through our sales and soup and sandwich sessions in Ullapool, to prepare our seasonal exhibitions and update other displays, and to do essential planning. A great deal of work by our dedicated volunteers and staff members goes on "behind the scenes at the museum". The contribution from our curatorial advisor Helen Avenell is invaluable in leading the museum's cultural development and practical essentials.

Staffing and reception cover: Part-time seasonal assistants covered a little under half of our opening hours with the rest covered by volunteers. Fortunately we were successful in recruiting some new keen helpers to contribute to the museum's front of house and backroom activities, including valuable and essential work in our stores. Our paid staff changed – this led to a period of uncertainty because of the learning process and detail of some of the work required. This is now working successfully. Our curatorial support role continues successfully. With no full-time staff a great deal of the museum management and continuity has been and continues to be provided by board members and other volunteers.

Developments and plans: We are grateful for the continuing support from Visit Scotland who have confirmed our 3 star status, and of Lorna Cruikshank, Independent Museums Support Officer at Highland Council. She visits each year to assess our service delivery agreement. The main area we need to look at in relation to this is to include more Gaelic information in our exhibition panels. Next year we start our accreditation resubmission, required every three years. Our priority planning area is addressing the reduction in funding from Highland Council at the same time as addressing critical development needs eg upgrading our AV systems and natural history displays, and creating a more child and young people friendly environment. Board members have attended valuable training sessions on seeking alternative funding, and a small group led by the board treasurer is looking at a variety of different funding opportunities and methods. We are keen to develop a "Case for Support", and to make plans for seeking legacies and an increase in our membership/friends support. Rebuilding our website is proving frustratingly slow, mainly because of pressures on available time of volunteers in providing the necessary content to the professional web developers. Meantime we continue to use social media to promote our message and our activities and to retain the interest of our members and followers. We are always very keen in receiving feedback and suggestions from members and in recruiting new volunteers and board members. If you have not already considered this, we urge you to give it some thought.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by

Catriona Martin (Chair)

Date: 24 September 2015

Ullapool Museum Trust

Precis of the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2015

	Unrestricted Funds			Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £		
Income					
<i>Grants, donations and subscriptions</i>					
Donations	3,389	-	1,000	4,389	4,222
Membership subscriptions	978	-	-	978	1,213
Gift aid	932	-	-	932	548
Highland Council operating grant	12,006	-	-	12,006	12,377
Release of deferred government grant	-	-	-	-	860
Renovation grants	-	-	-	-	110,829
	<u>17,305</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>18,305</u>	<u>130,049</u>
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>					
Admissions	12,195	-	-	12,195	2,439
Fund raising	10,288	-	-	10,288	7,472
Shop sales	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,663
Miscellaneous	454	-	-	454	268
Gift aid	456	-	-	456	153
	<u>24,893</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,893</u>	<u>11,995</u>
<i>Investment income</i>					
Bank interest	18	-	-	18	21
Dividends and interest from investments	1,129	-	-	1,129	1,246
Gift aid	282	-	-	282	275
	<u>1,429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,429</u>	<u>1,542</u>
Total income	<u>43,627</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>44,627</u>	<u>143,586</u>
Expenditure					
Salaries	20,278	-	-	20,278	13,277
Fundraising costs	987	-	-	987	210
Shop purchases	1,227	-	-	1,227	203
Insurance	4,015	-	-	4,015	3,753
Light and heat	3,087	-	-	3,087	2,442
Repairs and maintenance	741	-	-	741	143,649
Office costs	470	-	-	470	737
Exhibitions, advertising and publicity	2,862	-	-	2,862	886
Telephone	658	-	-	658	577
Computer costs and IT support	1,280	-	-	1,280	356
Subscriptions and miscellaneous	1,280	-	-	1,280	816
Depreciation	-	3,547	-	3,547	3,990
Examiner's remuneration	850	-	-	850	850
Investment revaluation	-	(296)	-	(296)	108
Transfer (building maintenance fund)	1,500	(1,500)	-	-	-
	<u>39,235</u>	<u>1,751</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,986</u>	<u>171,854</u>
Surplus / (deficit)	<u>4,392</u>	<u>(1,751)</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>3,641</u>	<u>(28,268)</u>

Ullapool Museum Trust

Precis of the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2015

Balance sheet summary

	2015	2014
	£	£
Fixed assets	232,576	236,123
Liquid assets		
Investments	24,041	22,616
Stock	100	502
Debtors	3,391	12,391
Bank balances	24,328	11,201
Creditors	(484)	(2,522)
	51,376	44,188
Total assets	283,952	280,311

Reserves

	At 01/04/14	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31/03/15
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	20,739	43,627	(37,735)	(1,500)	25,131
Designated funds					
Capital fund	236,123	-	(3,547)	-	232,576
Contingency fund	17,449	296	-	-	17,745
Repair fund	4,500	-	-	1,500	6,000
	258,072	296	(3,547)	1,500	256,321
Restricted funds					
Website	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
Exhibition (note)	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Museum renovation	1,500	1,000	-	-	2,500
Total reserves	280,311	44,923	(41,282)	-	283,952

Note: a donation gratefully received from the Ullapool Harbour Trust, relating to the cost of the Klondyke Exhibition held in Spring / Summer 2015

Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No member of the executive board committee received any remuneration during the year. No travel expenses have been reimbursed during the year (2014-nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2014-nil).