

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Douse the House at Charles Rennie Mackintosh masterpiece**

In June this year, the National Trust for Scotland installed the world biggest chainmail structure around The Hill House in Helensburgh near Glasgow - Charles Rennie Mackintosh's domestic masterpiece - to stop it dissolving 'like a sugar cube'. But is it working?

To find out, the conservation charity is hosting what is believed to be the first event of its type – a mass 'wet weather test' with the public invited to bring along water pistols to test out whether the 32.4 million chainmail rings are doing what they're supposed to.

The experiment takes place at 2.30pm on Saturday September 28 and anyone with a water pistol is welcome to join in the exercise. Entry to The Hill House grounds is free so no booking is required but as a thank-you for joining in the test, all attendees will be entitled to a voucher for free family access to The Hill House and box any time throughout September and October.

Emma Sweeney, Visitor Services Supervisor at The Hill House said: "We've had some pretty wet days since the box went up but we really need to test out the chainmail from all angles to see how it's working. We came up with the idea of the water pistol wet weather test as it's something that everyone can get involved in and it should show how well the chainmail is doing its job.

"Anyone with a water pistol – the bigger the better - is invited to come down and douse the house and we'll have National Trust for Scotland experts on hand to monitor the experiment and explain why the box is needed."

The Hill House box is part of the National Trust for Scotland's multi-million pound project to conserve this internationally-renowned building and interiors for generations to come. The roof and chainmail mesh are

designed to shield the building from the elements, allowing the building to dry out and for crucial conservation work to take place.

**LISTING**

**EVENT:** Douse the House, Sep 28, 2019, 2.30pm, free

**LOCATION:** The Hill House, Upper Colquhoun St, Helensburgh G84 9AJ

**DETAILS:** Join the National Trust for Scotland in its first ever mass wet weather exercise to test the vast chainmail jacket being worn by Charles Rennie Mackintosh's The Hill House. Bring a water pistol and take part in the experiment.

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