

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**21 July 2017****Try something new and learn something old this summer**

Families across the south of Scotland and north of England are being challenged to try something new this summer, whilst learning about Scotland's heritage with the National Trust for Scotland.

With a jam-packed events programme which kicked off at the start of July, the National Trust for Scotland is encouraging parents and children to get out and about during the summer holidays to discover some of Scotland's national treasures.

Families can take part in a range of fun-filled activities, including guided bat walks, woodland and coastal walks, outdoor theatre for children, garden open days, sketching days, vintage afternoon teas, and much more at its protected sites across Dumfries and Galloway.

Sites include gardens, historic houses, nature reserve and coastal walks, with lots of history to learn about and wildlife to spot. The key places to visit are Threave Garden and its great café; Threave Nature Reserve with its ospreys and peregrines; the glorious coastal walk at Rockcliffe; Thomas Carlyle's Birthplace at Ecclefechan.

Richard Polley, general manager Dumfries and Galloway for the National Trust for Scotland, said: "Summer is a busy time for us as adults and children too can take advantage of the better weather and do something fun outdoors. Not only do families get to take part in something enjoyable, but they can also learn about Scotland's heritage and how we work to protect it.

"Visiting National Trust for Scotland properties can be both fun and inspirational; it's a great way to encourage people to enjoy time outdoors and discover all about Scotland. This year we have organised even more events and activities that are attainable, affordable and relevant to all ages."

The National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity with 360,000 members and growing, and is the only charity to care for both built and natural heritage.

Its full events programme can be found at www.nts.org.uk/Events. Members and non-members are welcome. Family memberships can be purchased for only £7.50 per month.

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