

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Roll up Roll up to the Hill House Box for circus fun day

Fresh from its transformation with the addition of a protective box, the National Trust for Scotland's Hill House in Helensburgh gearing up for another transformation as it prepares for its Big Top Day on Sunday 21 July.

Run by Circus Sensible, the Big Top Day will be the first of its kind to be held at the Helensburgh landmark and the event is the latest to take place since the property was reopened to the public on Friday 7 June after the completion of the pioneering mesh structure.

Visitors will enjoy a circus show which includes a two-person Comedy Circus, built on a variety of incredible circus skills. Performances will take place at 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00.

A circus skills workshop will also be hosted on the lawn, where visitors can put their talents to the test with juggling, plate spinning, stilt walking and Chinese ribbons.

Speaking ahead of the event, Emma Sweeney, Visitor Services Supervisor at Hill House, said: "We're absolutely delighted to invite visitors to experience the Hill House in a completely new way this summer. Every penny raised from events like the Big Top Day go towards protecting and caring for the Hill House. The work currently underway by the Trust will ensure this beautiful Mackintosh masterpiece can be enjoyed by future generations to enjoy."

A variety of traditional circus games including tin can alley and hook a duck will line the lawn and pop up food stalls will be available for visitors to enjoy throughout the day.

The event runs from 10am – 5pm and costs £8 for a child, £6 for an adult and £24 for a family ticket (2x adults, 2x children).

Look out for future events taking place at The Hill House including A Midsummer Night's Dream production on 14 August and The Godmother, a 1920s murder mystery evening on 21 September.

To find out more or start planning your visit, visit:

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/events/big-top-day-with-circus-sensible>

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Editor's Notes:

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

Designed by award-winning architects Carmody Groarke, the Hill House Box is a vast semi-transparent shelter around the main house, consisting of a 165 tonnes steel frame swathed in chainmail made up of 32.4million rings, themselves weighing 8.3 tonnes. It acts as a giant shield covering the entire building, protecting it from the rain while allowing the house to dry out and let conservators begin their work rescuing this iconic home.

