

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Scotland unites for the first ever Burns Big Night In**

Stars and celebrities toast the Bard in online celebration

Scotland will unite this January in a digital celebration of the nation's beloved Bard as the National Trust for Scotland hosts the first ever Burns Big Night In.

The online event will bring Burns Night into the homes of people in Scotland and across the world in a virtual evening of music, song, poetry, whisky and great Scottish patter – all streamed live from Robert Burns Cottage in Alloway on Saturday January 23 at 7pm.

This year, with Covid-19 safety measures in place, many Scots are unable to celebrate Robert Burns' birthday at a traditional Burns Night events. The Burns Big Night In will ensure that the Bard enjoys a fitting celebration, with cameos and performances from both famous and up-and-coming Scots actors, comedians, musicians and poets.

The historic Burns Big Night In will be hosted by DJ and presenter Edith Bowman in the humble thatched cottage in Alloway where Burns was born on January 25 1759 and which is looked after today by the National Trust for Scotland.

Scotland's national conservation charity also cares for the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, the Burns Monument and Gardens, the Poet's Path, Brig o' Doon and Alloway Auld Kirk, which are all located in the Ayrshire village. Funds raised by the Burns Big Night In will ensure that the properties and Burns' legacy are safeguarded for future generations to visit and enjoy.

Host, Edith Bowman, said: "Burns Night has always been a significant date for me but even more so when living south of the border. Hearing a verse from Tam O'Shanter or a Toast to the Lassies makes me feel warm and nostalgic and proud to be Scottish. I jumped at the chance to host the National Trust for Scotland's Burns Big Night In. The charity does such important work caring for Burns Cottage and many artefacts from his life and that's why I'd urge everyone to buy a ticket for this fabulous virtual event. Not only will they be entertained by some of Scotland's finest talent, but they'll also have the opportunity to protect Burns' legacy for generations to come."

The night will feature live music from artists including Talisk, a cocktail masterclass courtesy of The Glenlivet, who are the event partners, and some exclusive insights into the life of Robert Burns from National Trust for Scotland experts.

Poet and illustrator, Iona Lee, poet Len Pennie and writer and founder of Rebel Inc, Kevin Williamson and other very special guests will bring the traditional Burns Supper to life including the world-famous Address to the Haggis.

Comedian Janey Godley is also thrilled to be part of the virtual Burns supper and said: "It is a huge honour to be celebrating Burns Night, together with the National Trust for Scotland, especially in these trying times. We need to celebrate our culture now, more than ever."

Tickets for the Burns Big Night In are available to [buy online now](#) and people can also snap up limited edition 'Boxes of Braw', which include goodies such as whisky miniatures, a family ticket to Robert Burns Birth Museum and a copy of the Auld Lang Syne manuscript.

Chris Waddell, Learning Manager at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, is looking forward to being part of the Burns Big Night In.

He said: "Robert Burns is loved across the world and, normally, thousands of people flock to his birthplace in Alloway to visit. This year we've only been able to welcome a few visitors, and that's why the Burns Big Night In is so important. It allows us to share his work with as wide an audience as possible.

"Burns was so far ahead of his time and he inspired generations of writers and creators across the world. People loved and continue to love him because he was the original humanitarian and a man of the people. His work continues to touch us daily and thanks to work of the National Trust for Scotland we are able to keep his legacy alive, ensuring that future generations can continue to be energised by his work."

The Burns Big Night In will be streamed live at [burnsbignightin.org](https://burnsbignightin.org). Ticket holders will be sent a link to the celebration 24 hours before it begins and will also be able to access a live recording via the link for a limited time afterwards. You can buy tickets here on the website: <https://burnsbignightin.org/home/#tickets>

And you can find out more about the event and Robert Burns' legacy at the National Trust for Scotland website, [nts.org.uk](https://nts.org.uk)

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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](http://www.nts.org.uk).

We would be grateful if, when referring to the National Trust for Scotland that our name is not shortened to 'the National Trust'. We are an independent organisation, separate from the National Trust. The National Trust for Scotland is commonly shortened to NTS or 'the Trust'.

