

7 July 2025

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS AT ROBERT SMAIL'S PRINTING WORKS

Members of the community gathered on Friday 4 July at Robert Smail's Printing Works in Innerleithen to celebrate the opening of a new bridge across the Mill Lade.

The new bridge replaced one that was closed for public access in 2024 and connects to a 1.5-mile walking trail along the lade. It is part of a year-long community project funded by Destination Tweed, which involves archaeological mapping, biodiversity sampling, and artworks. The bridge was officially opened by the National Trust for Scotland's CEO, Philip Long; Operations Manager, Gordon Stewart; and Visitor Services Supervisor, Ylva Dahnsjo.

As part of the celebrations, the Trust was also proud to accept the donation of Adam Smail's walking stick into its care, which will go on display at the Printing Works. Adam Smail was the brother of Robert Cowan Smail, the second owner and operator of the Printing Works. Adam acted as salesman for the Printing Works and survived WWI but was tragically killed by lightning while fishing on the River Tweed in 1930. Donated by siblings Elizabeth and David Sanderson, friends of the Smail family, the walking stick will help tell Adam's story as part of the legacy of the Smails and the Innerleithen Printing Works.

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About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.