

## NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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IMAGES: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/766czp>

### **Culzean by the Sea – new summer sculpture trail celebrates coasts and waters**

The National Trust for Scotland's spectacular cliffside castle of Culzean will be host to new art this summer as part of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21.

A new sculpture trail has opened this month around Culzean Castle and Country Park in Ayrshire - each creation linking to a distinctive aspect of Culzean's relationship with sea and waterways. Running until 26 September, visitors will explore the beautiful gardens and grounds to admire each of the willow sculptures.

The fantastical trail of willow sculptures depicts creatures, real and mythical, of the sea and water. From a magical mermaid, a seahorse and a terrifying kraken, there are 15 creatures to find located throughout the country park.

The bespoke pieces were created by Girvan-based sculptor David Powell, with support from the Year of Coasts and Waters and EventScotland.

Gareth Clingan, Operations Manager at Culzean Castle and Country Park said: "After a long lockdown, we know people can't wait to get back to the places they love. This new sculpture trail will help you find new ways to appreciate Culzean's beautiful grounds and connect with nature."

David Powell, sculptor, said: "The Culzean project has been a fantastic opportunity to explore the real and imagined worlds of coasts and waters on my doorstep, bringing to life creatures from both local folklore and the real world. I hope that the sculptures and the new trail gives as much pleasure to visitors as I have had in creating them over the past year, informing and educating them about the wonderful wealth of wildlife and folklore that surrounds us."

Paul Bush OBE, Director of Events at VisitScotland said: "We are delighted to be supporting Culzean by the Sea as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21. Scotland offers the perfect stage to explore our coastal settings and this sculpture trail adds a new creative element for visitors to Culzean to enjoy."

Visitors collect a trail map which includes fun facts about these creatures (suggested donation of £2 per trail). There is a chance to win a willow sculpture in the prize draw!

To find out more about the sculpture trail and to plan your visit, visit our website:

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culzean/events>

Find out more about Culzean Castle and Country Park and its event programme here:

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culzean>

## **ENDS**

### **Editor's Notes**

#### **The National Trust for Scotland**

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with more than 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love. Become a member at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

#### **Culzean Castle and Country Park**

Culzean Castle and Country Park is perched on the Ayrshire cliffs, built as the luxurious playground of David Kennedy, 10th Earl of Cassillis. It was designed by Robert Adam in the late 18th century and is filled to the turrets with treasures that tell the stories of the people who lived here. Opulent to the extreme, the park is planted with conifers and beech, sculpted around miles of sandy coastline dotted with caves, and finished off with a Swan Pond, an icehouse, flamboyant formal gardens and fruit-filled glasshouses as well two fantastic play areas: Adventure Cove & Wild Woodland.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culzean/highlights/adventure-cove-and-wild-woodland>

#### **David Powell**

David is an artist maker in steel, willow and stone. A self-taught weaver inspired and influenced by landscape form and place, David uses the natural colours and the line of the willow rod to draw and define three dimensional forms both representational and abstract. His work utilises steel, willow and stone to create bespoke permanent and transient works for schools, gardens, parks, events and the home.

<https://wordpress.com/view/davidpowellarts.art.blog>

#### **Year of Coasts and Waters 2021**

Scotland's Coasts and Waters will be showcased throughout 2021 and celebrated with a programme of activity designed to support the nation's tourism and events sectors.

Following input and feedback from the tourism and events industry, there was strong support and a commitment from Scottish Government to rollover the celebratory year into 2021. Work is currently ongoing to rescope and reshape the supported events programme.

The year, led by VisitScotland will sustain and build upon the momentum of Scotland's preceding Themed Years to spotlight, celebrate and promote opportunities to experience and enjoy Scotland's unrivalled Coasts and Waters, encouraging responsible engagement and participation from the people of Scotland and our visitors.

A programme of activities, events and ideas will shine a spotlight on the impact our waters have had on Scotland, from the formation of beautiful natural features to the creation of our national drink – whisky.

Join the conversation using #YCW2021

Following an industry consultation, the Themed Years are planned to take place every second year to enable more time for planning and collaboration. Given the impact of COVID-19 an exception will be made in 2021 with the 2020 year rolling forward. 2022 will celebrate Scotland's Year of Stories.