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## **DONATION OF PETER PAN MEMORABILIA ADDS TO THE MAGIC OF JM BARRIE'S BIRTHPLACE**

- **Programmes from early stage productions of Peter Pan dating back to 1905 have been donated to the National Trust for Scotland**
- **The items from a private collection of Peter Pan memorabilia were held by Ms Christine De Poortere, who managed the Peter Pan legacy for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity**
- **Items will go on display at JM Barrie's Birthplace in March 2024**

A collection of memorabilia of Peter Pan's first stage shows from the turn of the century have been donated to the National Trust for Scotland to add to the magic of JM Barrie's Birthplace.

The items, including programmes from the first UK and US productions of the stage show, dating back to 1905 and 1906 respectively, alongside other memorabilia, have been donated to the conservation charity, which cares for and shares the home of the successful playwright and author JM Barrie, in Kirriemuir, Angus, where he was born in 1860.

The National Trust for Scotland, which protects the country's natural and cultural heritage for future generations to enjoy, received the donated items from a private collection of Peter Pan memorabilia that was curated by Ms Christine De Poortere. Ms De Poortere, who managed the Peter Pan legacy for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity for 12 years until her retirement in 2016, established a personal collection of various Peter Pan memorabilia that she was unable to donate to Great Ormond Street as it had no museum, or place to display the items.

Ms Christine De Poortere said: "Over the years I looked after J M Barrie's amazing gift to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), I had great fun collecting Peter Pan-related items, ranging from early theatre programmes, books and other memorabilia. They are witness to Peter Pan's huge and timeless popularity from the start, and also show how every generation had their own vision of the story, long before Disney's interpretation. Having retired a few years ago, I felt the time was right to part with the collection, but as GOSH no longer has a museum, J M Barrie's Birthplace was the natural choice, as Kirriemuir was Peter Pan's first Neverland. I am delighted the National Trust of Scotland has chosen some significant items which will enhance their own collections and displays."

The collection of Peter Pan memorabilia will be displayed at JM Barrie's former childhood home in Kirriemuir as part of a new exhibition that is set to be unveiled in March next year. Other items acquired by the National Trust for Scotland include a book of letters written by children to Pauline Chase, the actress who played Peter Pan between 1907-1914, a music sheet from the first silent movie production and a US published Peter Pan puzzle story book.

Scott Byrne, National Trust for Scotland Operations Manager for Angus, said: "JM Barrie, the man behind Pan, was born in Kirriemuir and spent his childhood at the home that we still care for and share today. He went on to establish a highly successful career as a playwright and author long before he wrote Peter Pan; the first stage production of the play was first performed at the Duke of York Theatre in London in December 1904 when Barrie was already 44 years old. He left Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital a lasting legacy by donating the royalties from performances of Peter Pan in perpetuity.

"It feels like a natural fit for these items to return to his birthplace, which can also be considered the birthplace of Peter Pan, and we're incredibly grateful to Ms De Poortere for the opportunity to add these important artefacts to our collection. The new items will enhance our knowledge and help us to add more colour and context to the origin story of the famous flying Peter Pan, the early UK stage productions and its successful transition to the US just a year later, that would be the catalyst for what would become a global phenomenon. Thanks to our members and supporters for their continued generosity in supporting the work of the National Trust for Scotland to continue to protect and share this special place, for future generations to enjoy."

The new collection items at JM Barrie's Birthplace supports the National Trust for Scotland's vision to provide access to nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launch in 2022. This project contributes to its conservation and engagement objectives to speak up for heritage that doesn't have a voice and provide inspiring heritage visitor experiences.

Further information about JM Barrie's Birthplace can be found on the National Trust for Scotland, [here](#).

**ENDS**

**Editor's notes:**

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

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