

12 November 2024

EXPLORE SCOTLAND'S UNIQUE HERITAGE THROUGH THE TRUST'S WINTER TALK SERIES

- **This winter, the National Trust for Scotland teams up with Fort William's Highland Cinema to host a series of talks aimed at raising awareness and support for the Trust's mission to protect and celebrate Scotland's heritage**

The National Trust for Scotland's *Winter Talk Series 2024/25* kicks off this week in partnership with Highland Cinema and will take place in Fort William throughout the winter period. The talks will cover a variety of themes and highlight the Trust's commitment to care for Scotland's special places.

From St Kilda to Ben Lawers, Canna to Bannockburn and more, the event series aims to engage local communities and those with a passion and interest in the protection and preservation of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage. Hearing from the Trust's experts, and from Alasdair MacEachen, president of the [St Kilda Club](#), the talks will explore the cultural and military history of St Kilda, dive into the impressive heritage restoration efforts at Canna House, cover the Battle of Bannockburn, the legacy of geologist Hugh Miller and take attendees on a journey through lesser-known Highlands & Islands sites through image and sound.

Ali MacLeod, Head of Fundraising at the National Trust for Scotland, said: 'We're very excited to present a new series of interesting and informative talks in partnership with the Highland Cinema, covering a variety of different areas of our work to care for Scotland's special places now, and for future generations to enjoy.'

'These events help to raise awareness and support of our vital work to protect our natural and cultural heritage. It's with thanks to Angus MacDonald, owner of the Highland Cinema and long-standing supporter and member of the National Trust for Scotland Patrons' Club, that we're able to deliver this series of talks and to share the work that we do to preserve Scotland's history and nature. We're incredibly grateful for Angus's support and the generous donations of our members, supporters and donors, which is crucial in helping us to continue to care for, protect and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone to enjoy.'

Hamish McIntyre, Marketing & Programming Manager of the Highland Cinema in Fort William, said: 'Highland Cinema is delighted to continue its relationship with National Trust for Scotland, bringing a new series of fascinating and informative talks from its experts to the local community.'

The Highland Cinema talks will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm on various dates throughout the winter period until spring 2025, starting on the 17th November 2024 and running until 9th March 2025.

Tickets are available to book on the [Highland Cinema website](#), with 50% of the ticket sale revenue helping to support the Trust's work to care for and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launched in 2022.

ENDS

Editor's Notes:

About the events

The extraordinary similarities between St Kilda & Tristan da Cunha, Sunday 17th November

A fascinating presentation and talk on the similarities of the two remote and mysterious islands of St Kilda and Tristan da Cunha, with St Kilda volunteer and historian Alasdair Maceachen, who visited Tristan da Cunha in 2011 and is a regular visitor to St Kilda. [Book tickets](#)

The challenges and incredible finds of a heritage restoration project at Canna House, Sunday 1st December

Join Clea Warner, Regional Highlands & Islands Director at National Trust for Scotland, to hear all about the Canna House restoration project which has seen tens of thousands of items painstakingly recorded, packed, stored and conserved; from a Steinway piano to collections of moths and butterflies, and an important international archive of Gaelic culture – all collected by John Lorne Campbell and Margaret Faye Shaw during their lifetime. [Book tickets](#)

St Kilda, a U-boat, and the island's past military associations, Sunday 26th January

From World War I through the Cold War to today, the remote and enigmatic island of St Kilda has long been host to and associated with various British military operations. Join Susan Bain, National Trust for Scotland Property Manager of St Kilda, for a presentation and talk on this secretive facet of the island - and find out why a German U-Boat made a visit in 1918. [Book tickets](#)

Robert the Bruce and the Battle of Bannockburn: 1314 and today, Sunday 9th February

Join Callum Watson, the Trust's Battlemaster at Bannockburn, for a special fact and fiction presentation and talk on Robert the Bruce, the Battle of Bannockburn and the latest findings on this landmark moment in Scottish history. [Book tickets](#)

The story of Hugh Miller, Scottish geologist, writer and folklorist, Sunday 23rd February

Join James Ryan, National Trust for Scotland Visitor Services Assistant, for a special presentation and talk on Scottish geologist, writer and folklorist Hugh Miller (1802-1856)

who has been acclaimed as "the supreme poet of geology" and called "the David Attenborough of his day." [Book tickets](#)

A canter around some of the less well-known Highlands & Islands NTS properties in image and song, Sunday 9th March

Join Will Boyd Wallis, National Trust for Scotland Operations Manager, for a special presentation and talk that will take you on an interesting and informative canter around many of the less well-known Trust properties through image and song – from Torridon to Iona, Staffa to St Kilda and Ben Lawers to Pabbay. [Book tickets](#)

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.