

28 May 2024

## **FAIRYTALE GEM IS PINK AGAIN: CRAIGIEVAR CASTLE TO RE-OPEN**

- **National Trust for Scotland to re-open Craigievar Castle in Aberdeenshire on Friday 31 May**
- **Charity completes 18-month conservation programme to restore and protect the famous 'Craigievar Pink'**
- **Limited daily tours offer a glimpse into Scotland's rich heritage at this iconic 'Disney Castle'**

High on a remote hillside in rural Aberdeenshire, one of Scotland's most remarkable castles, Craigievar, is about to re-open to visitors.

The National Trust for Scotland, the country's largest independent conservation charity, will celebrate the successful completion of a complex 18-month conservation project when the doors of Craigievar Castle re-open on Friday 31 May.

Craigievar, one of the best-preserved examples of a tower house castle and often nicknamed 'Scotland's Cinderella Castle', is famous for its iconic pink colour scheme, stunning 17<sup>th</sup> century plaster ceilings and original collections.

A small team of staff and volunteer guides are now carefully re-instating the precious collections in preparation for welcoming visitors and supporters again. No artificial light is used in the castle, allowing visitors on its limited number of daily tours to share the experience of eight generations of the Forbes family and view the castle interiors and collections as the family did for 300 years. Visitors from around the world regularly enthuse about the intimate and exclusive tours, which are only available in person and have limited ticket numbers each day.

Craigievar's lofty position near the Cairngorms offers visitors stunning views across Aberdeenshire and Royal Deeside, but extreme weather has been taking its toll on the building fabric over the past decade. Through the National Trust for Scotland's meticulous Pink Again project, the charity's conservation experts and specialist contractors have revived the 'Craigievar Pink' and provided the most protective conditions for the exquisite plasterwork and rare collections inside.

Having erected a mammoth seven-storey scaffold and neon pink protective shroud at the start of the project, the National Trust for Scotland then made discreet changes to the buildings detailing and slate roofs to better cast away rain and snow. Harling repairs were also carried out before contractors applied over 13,000 litres of special recipe limewash – enough to fill a small swimming pool and paint all the courts at Wimbledon twice over. After working seven storeys high in all weathers for 18 months, contractors

Harper & Allan, who specialise in traditional stonemasonry, removed the final pieces of scaffolding this spring.

The project at Craigievar was funded by members and supporters of the National Trust for Scotland, with donations coming from as far afield as the USA. Grant funding from Historic Environment Scotland, under its Annual Repair Grant and Partnership Fund schemes, also allowed conservation of Craigievar's barmkin wall, one of few remaining examples in Scotland of the traditional protective boundary.

As the team eagerly await their first visitors for 18 months, James Henderson, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager for Craigievar, said, "The fairytale castle is a global icon of Scottish heritage and a pink beacon for visitors. Our charity can't wait to continue telling the story of Craigievar and we're extremely proud that the National Trust for Scotland's supporters and the project team have ensured that there are many more chapters to come."

Iain Hawkins, the National Trust for Scotland's Regional Director for the North East, explained why Craigievar Castle has been an important achievement for the conservation charity: "Craigievar Castle and the Pink Again project perfectly encapsulate the National Trust for Scotland's ambitious and wide-ranging activity to protect, care for, share and speak up for Scotland's precious heritage in support of its vision of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. We are grateful to all our members and supporters who make it possible to share Scotland's remarkable heritage – at Craigievar and across the whole of the country."

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

High resolution imagery can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-dn4nVbMLTw>.

### 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.