

17 September 2024

INVEREWE HOUSE HERBACEOUS BORDER RESTORED THANKS TO GENEROSITY OF DONORS

- **Thanks to the generosity of donors, the National Trust for Scotland completed an £83,862 project to restore and enhance the flower garden border in front of Inverewe House.**
- **National Trust for Scotland London Members' Centre, The Finnis Scott Foundation, Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust and Ms Sheila M Carruthers have donated to Inverewe Garden, facilitating the project's completion.**
- **The National Trust for Scotland has restored and renovated the front garden of Inverewe House.**

The team at Inverewe Garden has completed a project to restore the flower bed in front of Inverewe House, known as the 'Heart of Inverewe Garden,' thanks to generous donations to the National Trust for Scotland.

Inverewe Garden is a beautiful, historic place but since 2017, various factors meant the herbaceous border that outlines the front of the house became damaged. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the National Trust for Scotland London Members' Centre, The Finnis Scott Foundation, Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust, and Ms Sheila M Carruthers, a restoration project has repaired the stone border, bringing the flower beds to life and enhancing the visitor experience.

The garden's challenges began in 2017 with the house restoration project, when drastic steps were taken to remove the herbaceous plants from the border to eradicate bindweeds and Oxalis. The border wall had become infested with shrubby plants, and it also suffered a partial collapse in 2022 due to continual freeze-thaw action aggravated by increased rainfall during the winter. The decision was therefore taken to do a complete renovation.

Highland Building and Conservation Ltd, based in the Black Isle, restored and reinstated the Caithness Stone edge. The original stone border was rough with an informal edge, but to give substance to the whole border, the stones had to be perfectly straight. This meant that the slightly undulating lawn had to be completely lifted and levelled to marry the stone more carefully with the lawn edge. Any gaps along the edge were then sown with grass seed that would germinate and complete the lawn.

Under the guidance of Kevin Ball, Head Gardener at Inverewe Garden, curved seating bays were included within the border. Mark Talbot Carpentry created four bespoke Green Oak benches to fill these bays. These benches offer an arts and crafts feel that works with other bespoke features in the walled garden.

Visitors can now see the pink thistle heads of *Cirsium rivulare*, the Primrose yellow heads of *Phlomis russeliniana*, the Smokey Purple Pea flowers of *Baptisia australis* 'Purple Smoke,' the white umbels of *Selinum wallichianum*, the dusky pink heads of *Eupatorium maculatum*, and the bright yellow daisy flowers of *Rudbeckia Fulgida* 'Goldstrum.'

On the shadier western edge, visitors will see the introduction of woodland edge species such as the delicate white daisy flowers of *Eurybia davaricata*, the burgundy of *Astrantia Gill Richardson*, and the white and pink flowers of *Gillenia trifoliata*.

One of the most exciting parts of this project revolves around the Black Honeybee, *Apis mellifera*. Due to its remote location in Western Scotland, Inverewe offers the chance to become a refuge for the native black bee with its introduction to Inverewe Garden. To facilitate this, freedom hives will be implemented, which will allow the resident bees to utilise the herbaceous border in late summer whilst taking advantage of the many spring flowering woodland species in the nearby woodland.

Martin Hughes, National Trust for Scotland Operations Manager for Inverewe Garden, said: "We are incredibly grateful to National Trust for Scotland London Members' Centre, The Finnis Scott Foundation, Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust, and Ms Sheila M Carruthers for their donation and the further support from local businesses. Without their generosity, this restoration project wouldn't be possible. Inverewe Garden is a spectacular place, and we put conservation and care at the heart of everything we do."

"This was a mammoth project that truly restored the heart of the garden at Inverewe. Every decision we made was carefully considered, from lifting the Fairy Foxglove out of the wall and replanting in the rock garden so we could save this beautiful addition of colour, to completely releveling our expansive lawn, and we always kept the Trust's strategy of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone in mind. By restoring the garden and making it accessible and beautiful for all our visitors, we are reflecting the Trust's core values, and we are proud to be able to look after such a special place."

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Editor's Notes:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/5B4q090848>

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.