



26 October 2023

LOVE SCOTLAND, WITH JACKIE BIRD, RETURNS FOR A SEVENTH SEASON

The National Trust for Scotland's popular podcast, *Love Scotland* will return for a seventh season on Friday 27 October, sharing the country's nature, beauty and heritage with listeners from around the world.

Hosted by journalist and broadcaster Jackie Bird, the new season will launch with a recording of the first *Love Scotland* live podcast, which was recorded during the Trust's Annual General Meeting in September and features a conversation with award-winning writer and historian, Alistair Moffat, and Derek Alexander, head of archaeology at the Trust.

A podcast which centres around telling the stories of Scotland's special places, the upcoming season is packed with fascinating stories of the country's rich history. With a new episode released every Friday from 27 October through to 15 December, Jackie has the opportunity to meet with experts, historians, authors, and members of the National Trust for Scotland team in places ranging from Hill of Tarvit to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

Season seven sees Jackie delve into the story of a song which is famous around the world, Auld Lang Syne, and how it has evolved over the years into an internationally famous anthem.

Other subjects that will be covered during season seven include the tragic story of the Sharp family who lived for four decades at Hill of Tarvit. With each member of the family passing in short succession, Jackie investigates exactly what happened and how the Trust came to care for the historic 20th century mansion. Jackie will also travel to St Abbs to learn more about winter wildlife with Trust ranger Ciaran Hatsell, visiting during peak seal pupping season.

As the season progresses, Jackie will delve into the untold story of Margaret Mackintosh and the famous Hill House in Glasgow, as well as looking at six castles that tell Scotland's story, before venturing to Kellie Castle to share the hidden tales of the castle and one of the country's most successful families of architects and artists, the Lorimer family, who lived there.

Hosted by Jackie Bird, who became President of the conservation charity in 2022, her unique perspective and talent for interviewing people and sharing Scotland's history has

helped the podcast grow steadily year on year since it started in 2020. With more than 60 episodes recorded, covering a range of rich subjects, the podcast has gone on to win industry awards including 'Podcast of the year' at the Professional Publishing Association (PPA) awards last year.

Commenting on the release of season seven, President of the National Trust for Scotland and *Love Scotland* podcast host, Jackie Bird, said: "It's a joy and a privilege to be able to travel across the country and meet with individuals, from famous musicians to learned historians, to delve deeply into the stories of Scotland's past and present for *Love Scotland*. There is a wealth of nature, beauty and heritage for people to explore throughout the country, so having the opportunity to bring the tales of these places, and the people who lived and worked in them, to life, is fantastic.

"The first episode of season seven is a particularly exciting one, as it marks the first live podcast. During this sell-out event I was delighted to have the opportunity to sit down with Alistair and Derek and speak to them in great detail about Scotland's battles through the ages.

"This season I uncover new stories, long forgotten and buried deep in the archives of some of the country's greatest homes and minds, and delve into the history of one of the country's most famous songs, Auld Lang Syne, as well as connecting with nature and the natural heritage that surrounds us. I hope listeners are as excited as I am about the new series and I look forward to hearing their feedback as the weekly episodes air."

You can listen and subscribe to Love Scotland on all the usual podcast channels, including [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#).

Season seven of *Love Scotland* begins on Friday 27 October, with a weekly episode every Friday until 15 December, when the final episode will air.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland or the Love Scotland podcast, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

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.