

## NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

IMAGES: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmVR9sPP>

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### Mimic Mack's style to mark architect's birthday

The National Trust for Scotland's ever-creative Hill House team are asking visitors to get involved in some birthday weekend fun from 5 – 7 June, with an invitation to don their finery to for a double celebration – Charles Rennie Mackintosh's 153<sup>rd</sup> birthday and the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the opening of the chainmail Box.

Taylah Egbers, Visitor Services Supervisor at the Hill House said: "On 7 June, we have a lot to celebrate at the Hill House - not only is it 2 years since we officially opened our protective Box, we also mark Charles Rennie Mackintosh's 153<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

"To mark this special date, we are asking all our visitors, to join us in celebration by wearing their most Macktastic outfit to the site! From 5 to 7 June, we want to see fabulous mask moustaches, glamorous hats, artistic inspired clothing, the works! Mackintosh style is world famous, so we can't wait to see the creative outfits our visitors put together for this special occasion at a place that so many people love."

Visitors who come dressed up will receive a 10% discount in the property's award-winning shop.

Over the weekend, the Glasgow Book Fairies, will also be visiting with a lovingly prepared Mackintosh-themed book drop. The Glasgow Book Fairies are magical creatures who selflessly give stories to others and expect nothing in return, our visitors will simply take a book marked by the fairies, read it and leave it for the next person to enjoy.

The Hill House is open daily - advance booking is essential:

<https://nts.cloudvenue.co.uk/advancebookingthehillhouse>. Advance booking is not needed for the Café or Garden.

The Hill House in Helensburgh is considered to be the finest example of domestic architecture by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. However, Mackintosh's experimental design, combined with his trial of new materials, has meant that the house has been soaking up water like a sponge for over 115 years.

Battered by around 190 days of rain each year, the long-term survival of the building is in doubt and there's a real danger of its priceless, Mackintosh-designed interior being lost forever.

The Box is the Trust's innovative solution to the problem of water damage at the Hill House. Designed by award-winning architects Carmody Groarke, the Hill House Box is a vast semi-transparent shelter around the main house, consisting of 165 tonnes of steel frame swathed in chainmail made up of 32.4 million rings, themselves weighing 8.3 tonnes. It acts as a giant shield covering the entire building. It

will protect it from the rain while allowing the house to dry out and letting conservators begin their work rescuing this iconic home.

## **ENDS**

### **Editor's Notes:**

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with more than 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

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