



06 December 2023

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND CHAMPIONS SCOTTISH SUPPLIERS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION**

- **Conservation charity working with a host of Scottish suppliers with a focus on sustainability.**
- **Suppliers using natural and recycled materials to produce a range of products for National Trust for Scotland's online and gift shops.**
- **Profits raised through sales support the Trust's work to care for, protect and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone.**

The National Trust for Scotland is working with a host of Scottish suppliers to support its work to care for and protect Scotland's natural and cultural heritage while preserving traditional skills and craftsmanship across the country.

From Morayshire to Glasgow's Southside and beyond, Scotland's largest conservation charity is working with a variety of Scottish businesses producing a range of different items from handmade jewellery, leather goods and greetings cards, to scarves and soaps, selling them in its online and gift shops and providing the perfect ideas for presents with a purpose this Christmas.

The National Trust for Scotland, which looks after more than 100 special places throughout the country, is championing craftsmanship by working with a number of business that employ traditional skills such as knitting, leather tanning, printmaking, silversmithing and woodworking to create their products. The Trust's endeavours to work with artisan craftspeople aligned with its ambition to be a learning organisation, championing traditional skills and innovation, highlighted in its strategy, Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone, launched in 2022.

Caroline Reid, National Trust for Scotland's Director of Commercial Enterprises, said: "As an organisation with conservation at its core, we are really proud to support talented makers and craftspeople from across Scotland, helping to preserve traditional skills by working with them to source products that appeal to our members and supporters and showcase their talents. Their dedication to their craft and efforts to reduce their environmental impact by working with natural and recycled materials reinforces our vision to be a sustainable charity and supports our work to care for and protect Scotland's natural and cultural heritage to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

“We always aim to work with Scottish based suppliers and manufacturers where possible, and we have a wide selection of sustainable options available, offering environmentally friendly gift-giving ideas for loved ones this year, but be quick, the last posting day is 15<sup>th</sup> December, so please get your orders in before then. All of the profits raised from retail purchases both online and at our gift shops support us to continue our vital conservation work.”

Some of the Scottish businesses offering eco-friendly alternatives this Christmas include:

**In the Heather** jewellery, created by Laura Cooke and her team based in Glasgow, uses real hand-picked flowers encased in eco-friendly resin to produce unique items of jewellery. The botanicals used in the designs are collected close to Laura’s workshop and from National Trust for Scotland properties including heather hand-picked from Culloden Battlefield, allowing the wearer to carry a little bit of Scotland’s heritage with them wherever they go.

Scotland and its rugged beauty are one of the main sources of inspiration for **Hannah Louise Lamb**, who creates handmade items of jewellery and accessories showcasing Scottish landscapes, skylines and coastlines from her workshop in East Lothian. Hannah creates pieces using recycled silver and gold alongside single mine origin and Fairmined precious metals to encapsulate Scotland’s stunning scenery in a wearable item to keep the country close at heart.

**Barrhead Leather** produces handbags using sustainable Scottish deer skins, a bi-product of the venison industry that would otherwise end up in landfill. Anthony Wright, who runs the company, established the supply chain with various rural estates to make use of the deer skins, with the tanning process carried out at his workshop on the outskirts of Glasgow, following environmentally friendly processes, minimising waste and using recycled packaging. The Harris Tweed, woven especially for Anthony, is combined with the deer skin leather to offer fashionable designs, special in appearance, feel and provenance, all handmade in Scotland.

Featuring traditional Scottish Fair Isle patterns, **Green Grove Weavers** produces knitted and woven scarves, berets and mittens for the National Trust for Scotland, using natural and sustainable materials. Created by husband-and-wife duo Kenneth Pollock and Anne Bell from their base in Morayshire, they established their business in the Scottish Highlands to retain the skills garnered over centuries of textile production in Scotland. The bold designs, inspired by the changing colours of the Scottish landscape, combine modernity and tradition to provide the perfect present this festive season.

**Burgess Bagpipes**, a family-run business, has diversified its products utilising their woodwork and lathe-turning skills to create kitchenware and home accessories for the National Trust for Scotland, using sustainable, locally sourced wood and material from Fair Trade partners. Based in Dunphail, near Forres, the business produces designs showcasing Scottish emblems and historical figures associated with the Trust’s

properties. One of their favourite items currently on sale is the handmade Sgian Brew, a bottle opener featuring a stag's head design, inspired by the traditional Sgian Dubh.

Artist, designer and illustrator Allistair Burt started **Hole in My Pocket** in 2002, from his studio in the southside of Glasgow. Following a successful commission by the city's International Festival in 2010, Allistair went on to produce Scottish-themed prints and illustrations for greeting cards. He started working with the National Trust for Scotland in 2018 producing a collection for the Hill House, before working on projects for Brodie Castle and Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, and then expanding to cover more of the Trust's properties, printed using FSC approved card stock and 100% recycled envelopes.

Stirling-based Harris Tweed accessories manufacturer **Amy Britton Handmade in Scotland** has been running for 10 years and produces cross-body bags, make-up and wash bags, pencil cases, purses and glasses cases for the National Trust for Scotland. Amy's designs combine the renowned Scottish textile, woven in the Outer Hebrides, with waxed cotton linings saved from landfill, recycled zips, labels derived from plastic bottles, and product labels made from waste coffee cups, ensuring each element of the production process is as sustainable as possible, making it the perfect option for eco-friendly consumers this Christmas.

The **Highland Soap Company** produces organic soaps, hair and skincare products using natural ingredients showcasing Scotland's rich larder of fresh produce with fragrances including Hebridean Seaweed, Highland Lavender and Bog Myrtle amongst many others. Created by founder Emma Parton in her kitchen in the 1990s, the business is now located at new premises near to Old Inverlochy Castle and prides itself on its sustainable credentials by using recycled packaging with bottles made from sugarcane plastic and solar panels to power operations. The fresh scents of the Highland Soap Company are sure to make an impression with loved ones this winter.

Those looking to share the love of Scotland can give a truly meaningful gift this Christmas with a National Trust for Scotland gift membership for friends or family. Great as a last-minute stocking filler, with different membership types available, and the option to spread the cost throughout the year, membership of the Trust provides free access to over 100 properties across the country. It's a perfect purpose-driven present that supports Scotland's conservation, as well as providing year-round opportunities to explore and create long-lasting memories with loved ones.

Purchases in its online and gift shops support the National Trust for Scotland's vision to care for, share and protect Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone to enjoy, as outlined in its 10-year strategy, launched in 2022.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

**Images** - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/9n4o36336X>

## 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. The Trust's Gardens Strategy 'Connecting People, Plants and Places 2023-32' sets out the Trust's ambition for its gardens during the Corporate Strategy period.

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.