



3 February 2023

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND PRESIDENT PUTS TIME TRAVEL ON THE CURRICULUM**

- **Trust President Jackie Bird at Pollok House to support new pilot education programme**
- ***Timesliders* education programme encourages engagement with Scotland's history**
- **Theatre shows, podcasts and workshops used to inspire pupils**

The National Trust for Scotland President Jackie Bird supported the pilot of a new education programme by the conservation charity that is using time travel to get school pupils excited about the history of the country and its properties.

Jackie was at Pollok House on Wednesday 1 February while local St Vincent's Primary were onsite at the historic house as part of the ongoing trial of *Timesliders*, a pilot education programme that is being trialled with three schools in the local catchment to Pollok House, where the charity was founded.

In her presidential role, Jackie joined the pupils as they took part in a series of escape room style challenges to help the main characters of *Timesliders*, fictional heroes, Kyla and Eden, as they travel throughout Scotland's past, present and future to try to stop their adversaries from rewriting history.

The pilot of the programme, which aims to engage primary school pupils through storytelling, kicked off with The Natural History of Scotland in 30 minutes theatre shows at three local primary schools; St Vincent's, St Angela's and St Bernard's at the start of January. Pupils were then able to digitally travel back in time through a series of podcasts, taking them to the heart of the action with Kyla and Eden in the classroom, before being called to assist the time travellers at Pollok House, where they tested their maths, literacy and teamwork skills in a host of different problem-solving activities to help a historic figure escape from a portrait.

Jackie Bird, National Trust for Scotland President, said: "I'm excited to visit Pollok House in my role as the National Trust for Scotland President to see *Timesliders* in action. It's such a creative and fun way to get children interested in, and excited about the history of Scotland. The National Trust for Scotland cares for and protects many of Scotland's special places, from impressive landscapes to historic houses. It's fantastic to see how these places, their history and their notable figures have captured imaginations here today."

The programme has been developed by National Trust for Scotland's Senior Heritage Learning Advisor, Sarah Cowie, alongside Schools Co-ordinator Jill Kirkwood, Creative Consultant Ben Humphrey and Education Consultant Stephen Allen. Sarah said:

"Through the generosity of everyone who supports our charity, we are able to create fun, innovative education programmes such as *Timesliders*, to help us grow the next generation of heritage heroes, who can carry on our vital work to conserve our special places and ensure that their nature, beauty and heritage continue for future generations."

The programme will be evaluated during the pilot phase to understand how it can be developed further following feedback from teachers and pupils. In the future, subject to funding, the Trust plans to roll out the programme to other properties and regions to allow pupils across the country to take part.

Pollok House was the graceful 18th-century seat of the Stirling Maxwell family and was gifted along with its world-class collection of Spanish art by its family to the people of Glasgow in 1966. Glasgow City Council remains responsible for Pollok House, which is operated by the National Trust for Scotland on the city's behalf.

The work by the Public Engagement and Research team to develop new learning opportunities about the National Trust for Scotland's properties contributes to its vision to deliver Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone. Its 10-year strategy, unveiled in March 2022, refocuses its vision of caring for, sharing, and conserving Scotland's heritage, contributing to its engagement objectives, specifically to:

- Provide inspiring heritage visitor experiences
- Be a learning organisation championing skills to support traditional conservation and innovation

Read more about the strategy at: <https://www.nts.org.uk/our-work/our-strategy>

## **ENDS**

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

#### **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.