



03 November 2023

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND TALKS SET TO BRIGHTEN UP WINTER WEEKENDS ON THE WEST COAST**

- **National Trust for Scotland experts have partnered with the Highland Cinema, Fort William to deliver a series of talks to engage with the local community.**
- **Talks on the charity's work in the West Coast and Highlands include conservation of Scotland's archaeology, history, gardens and landscapes.**
- **The series of talks will start from 5 November 2023 and run until 24 March 2024.**

Experts from the National Trust for Scotland are working in partnership with the Highland Cinema in Fort William, to deliver a series of talks this winter to raise awareness and support for its work to protect and share the special places in its care.

The conservation charity is set to deliver talks covering a variety of themes that reflect its work to care for Scotland's natural and cultural heritage, with a focus on its properties in the west coast and Highlands, to engage with the local community and appeal to those with a passion for this area of the country.

The talks will cover archaeology of Scotland's landscapes, coasts and islands, illicit whisky production that took place across the Highlands in the early 1800s, and the history of the special places in the Trust's care including Canna, Glencoe, Glenfinnan and St Kilda. Garden and nature enthusiasts will also be pleased to see talks on Inverewe Garden in Wester Ross and Corrieshalloch National Nature Reserve alongside insight into how the conservation charity looks after its gardens on the West Coast.

Those interested in hearing from the National Trust for Scotland experts are encouraged to book their tickets early. Tickets are available to book on the Highland Cinema website, [www.highlandcinema.co.uk](http://www.highlandcinema.co.uk), with 50% of the ticket sale revenue helping to support the Trust's work to care for and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone.

Ali MacLeod, National Trust for Scotland's Head of Fundraising, said: "We're excited to present a series of interesting and informative talks in partnership with the Highland Cinema covering a variety of different areas of our work to care for Scotland's special places now and for future generations to enjoy. Join us to hear about our work to nurture the heritage gardens on the West Coast or the fascinating history of our

country's iconic landscapes, historic battles and the culture and way of life of our coastal and island communities.

"These events help to raise awareness and support of our vital work to protect our natural and cultural heritage. It's thanks to Angus MacDonald, Highland Cinema owner and long-standing supporter and member of the National Trust for Scotland Patrons' Club that we're able to deliver this series of talks to share the work we do to preserve Scotland's history and nature. We're incredibly grateful for Angus' support and the generous donations of our members and supporters, which is crucial in helping us to continue to care for, protect and share Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage for everyone to enjoy."

The Highland Cinema talks will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm on various dates throughout the winter period until spring, starting on 5 November and running until 24 March.

- **Inverewe & Corrieshalloch: A Garden & Nature Reserve on Sunday, 5 Nov**

Martin Hughes, National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager for Inverewe will share details of how the conservation charity cares for Corrieshalloch, Scotland's smallest National Nature Reserve, and the unique heritage garden, Inverewe, protecting their vulnerable habitats and adapting to climate change.

- **Glencoe: Past & Present on Sunday 19 Nov**

Explore the historical significance of Glencoe and its transformation into a contemporary destination with Emily Bryce, National Trust for Scotland's Glencoe Operations Manager, and hear from Michael Given from the University of Glasgow on recent archaeological partnership and finds related to period of the Glencoe massacre.

- **Pioneering Spirit: Mythology of Illicit Whisky on Sunday 3 December**

Join Derek Alexander, National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeology, to learn more about illicit whisky production dating back centuries, and its impact on our social and cultural heritage, and 'Pioneering Spirit', in partnership with The Glenlivet, a nationwide archaeology and research programme to explore and unearth stories old and new, and the knowledge and mythology of illicit whisky making.

- **The People of St Kilda on Sunday 14 January 2024**

Hear from Susan Bain, National Trust for Scotland's property manager for St Kilda to learn about the community that lived on the remote island archipelago for over 4000 years before they were evacuated in 1930. Find out about the lives of residents on the isolated island that is now a UNESCO World Heritage site and how the conservation charity preserves their culture and legacy.

- **Caring for Archaeology on Scottish Coasts & Islands on Sunday 28 Jan**

Join Dr Daniel Rhodes to learn how the National Trust for Scotland is working to document and protect coastal sites to preserve the cultural heritage of coastal communities and learn about the need for them to adapt in the face of climate change.

- **Culloden: Archaeology & Battle on Sunday 11 February**

Explore the archaeology and history of Culloden with Derek Alexander to hear about one of the most harrowing battles in British history, recent archaeological excavations and evolving knowledge of this historical event of on-going fascination.

- **The History of Canna on Sunday 25 Feb**

Listen to Hugh Cheape, Vice President of the National Trust for Scotland and Senior Lecturer of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, discuss Canna's history and heritage, stunning landscapes and well-preserved historical sites.

- **West Coast Gardens and their quirks on Sunday 10 March**

Explore the conservation charity's west coast gardens including Inverewe, Arduaine and Crarae, with Simon Jones, its Gardens and Designed Landscapes Manager for the south and west of Scotland, to hear more about these glorious gardens, and the issues faced to balance the needs of history, heritage and modernity, and their opportunities, challenges and quirks.

- **Glenfinnan 1745 on Sunday 24 March**

Hugh Cheape returns to share the compelling narrative of Glenfinnan, a place of breathtaking natural beauty along the shores of Loch Shiel, as a symbol of courage, hope and determination and its place in the history of the nation's rebellious spirit and dreams of independence.

Further details about the individual talks and tickets are available on the Highland Cinema website, [www.highlandcinema.co.uk](http://www.highlandcinema.co.uk).

Events like the Highland Cinema talks 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. These events support its engagement objectives to provide inspiring heritage visitor experiences and to be a learning organisation.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

**Images -** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/3W0b6pY782>

The Highland Cinema talks take place on various dates from November until March from 2.30pm, and include:

- Inverewe & Corrieshalloch: A Garden & Nature Reserve on Sunday, 5 Nov by Martin Hughes, National Trust for Scotland Highland Cluster Operations Manager
- Glencoe: Past & Present on Sunday 19 Nov by Emily Bryce, National Trust for Scotland Glencoe Operations Manager and Michael Given from the University of Glasgow
- Pioneering Spirit: Mythology of Illicit Whisky on Sunday 3 December by Derek Alexander, National Trust for Scotland Head of Archaeology
- The People of St Kilda on Sunday 14 January 2024 by Susan Bain, National Trust for Scotland St Kilda Operations Manager
- Caring for Archaeology on Scottish Coasts & Islands on Sunday 28 Jan by Daniel Rhodes, National Trust for Scotland Archaeologist
- Culloden: Archaeology & Battle on Sunday 11 February by Derek Alexander, National Trust for Scotland Head of Archaeology
- The History of Canna on Sunday 25 Feb by Hugh Cheape, Vice President of the National Trust for Scotland and Senior Lecturer of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- West Coast Gardens and their quirks on Sunday 10 March by Simon Jones, National Trust for Scotland Gardens and Designed Landscapes Manager, South & West Scotland
- Glenfinnan 1745 on Sunday 24 March by Hugh Cheape, Vice President of the National Trust for Scotland and Senior Lecturer of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

### 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.