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NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS' CONTRIBUTION

- **Charity thanks volunteers helping to care for and share Scotland's magnificent heritage**
- **Volunteers span the generations, ranging from teens to nonagenarians**
- **The Trust welcomes new volunteers to support its vision of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone**

Scotland's largest conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland, is celebrating its 1900-plus volunteers and the work they do to champion Scotland's heritage. Ranging from school pupils to people in their 80s and even 90s, volunteers include guides and gardeners, seabird rangers, musicians and needleworkers, as well as its President, the journalist and broadcaster Jackie Bird, and its new ambassador, the marine expert and explorer Cal Major, all working to care for, share and speak up for Scotland's special places.

National Trust for Scotland volunteers are based across the country, with well over 820 based in and around Edinburgh and Central Scotland, almost 250 in the Highlands & Islands, around 280 in the North East and some 570 in the South & West of Scotland. Some of these have been volunteering with the Trust for decades.

As Scotland's largest conservation charity, the Trust has a huge ongoing responsibility to nurture the rich and important landscapes, islands, wildlife, mountain paths, castles, collections and other national treasures in its care - none of which would be possible without the help and commitment of those dedicated volunteers.

As well as celebrating current volunteers, the National Trust for Scotland has volunteer opportunities available, whether people are looking to learn new skills, get involved in something new, be more physically active or just fancy giving volunteering a go.

With a vibrant volunteering community, the National Trust for Scotland has volunteering opportunities for people of all ages who are keen to get involved, join the team and help support the Trust's work. From history to horticulture, volunteers help carry out essential duties including around 60 flower arrangers, 23 volunteers working within collections care, almost 20 focusing on archaeology and 13 costumed interpreters.

Jacky Cox, Consultant for Volunteering at the National Trust for Scotland,

said: “The contribution of our fantastic volunteers to the work of our charity is both invaluable and inspiring. Their unwavering dedication to support our properties and collections come rain or shine is how we can continue our work to champion Scotland’s remarkable heritage, and we are truly grateful for their continued commitment.

“Volunteers are incredibly important for us to be able to carry out our work and deliver our vision of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, and we are always pleased when new volunteers join and become part of the Trust team. Anyone who is interested in joining us should look on our website or contact their nearby properties to see what volunteering opportunities we currently have available.”

Abigail Watson, who currently in her final year studying History at the University of Glasgow, is a Collections Care Volunteer at the Tenement House. As part of her role, Abigail was tasked with going through the textile archives to create a talk for visitors. Using one of the patterns, Abigail re-created a bustle jacket to be on display for visitors to be able to touch and feel during talks. Abigail explains what she has gained from her role at the National Trust for Scotland:

“I love history - it’s what I study, but I wanted to see if there was a way in which I could be part of it. As a family, we’ve always been members of the Trust, so I was very aware of the places the Trust cares for and the work it does. I really wanted to get involved with heritage, and I really enjoy talking to and learning from the other volunteers at the property – they’re all so knowledgeable and passionate about this special place. I love researching the family that used to live at the Tenement House and finding out more about them. I find myself becoming so absorbed in this research that I really feel as though I’m connected to them in some way. It’s a real privilege to be able to share their stories.”

For those interested in volunteering in their local area, head to the National Trust for Scotland’s website and find out how you can play your part in protecting Scotland’s heritage for everyone to enjoy, now and in the future -

<https://www.nts.org.uk/volunteering-jobs/find-a-volunteering-opportunity>.

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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.