24 February 2025

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND VOLUNTEER AWARDED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

* **Finlay McKichan has volunteered for the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre since its inception in 1974**
* **The Trust’s President’s Award exists to celebrate Trust volunteers and Committee Members for 50 years of service**
* **The Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre is also celebrating its 50th anniversary and has raised over £70,000 to support the Trust since 2003**

A longstanding member and previous Chairman of the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre has received The National Trust for Scotland’s President’s Award for 50 years of service.

Finlay McKichan joined the National Trust for Scotland as a member in 1963. He began volunteering for the Trust in 1974, attending the second meeting of the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre. His initial role was that of Honorary Secretary before he was appointed as the Centre’s second Chairman.  Finlay has been on the committee ever since and is currently the Excursion Organiser and Newsletter Editor.

He was previously nominated for the first Chairman’s Award in 2014 and received the George Waterson Award in 2014. In 2024, Finlay received the Trust’s President’s Award to celebrate and acknowledge his 50 years of dedication to the Trust. The Award was presented to Finlay at Crathes Castle by the Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland, Philip Long.

Established in 1974, the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre aims to promote the work of the Trust to people in Aberdeenshire, raise funds for the conservation charity, and help to make Trust membership an even more enriching experience by organising visits and hosting talks about specialist topics. The current Convener is Alison Mitchell.

Also celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre commemorated the milestone at the Town House in Aberdeen, where they were granted a Civic Reception. The event was hosted by the Lord and Lady Provost of the City of Aberdeen and attended by several local councillors.

Since 2003, when its records began, the Members’ Centre has raised more than £70,000 to support the protection of Scotland’s nature, beauty and heritage for everyone. With just over 80 members in 2024, the Centre organises a programme of activities throughout the year, including recent visits to Drum Castle, Castle Fraser, Leith Hall, Fyvie Castle, Pitmedden Garden and Haddo House.

Finlay McKichan, committee member of the Aberdeen Members’ Centre, said: ‘It is a privilege to receive the President's Award for 50 years of volunteering for the National Trust for Scotland and a pleasure to have been a committee member of its Aberdeen & District Members' Centre almost continuously since it was formed in 1974.’

Iain Hawkins, National Trust for Scotland’s Regional Director for the North East region, said: ‘Over its 50-year history, the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre has been a great support to the National Trust for Scotland. The dedication of our volunteers like Finlay and the Members’ Centre’s fundraising activities enable the Trust to continue our work in caring for and sharing special places in Scotland. We are very fortunate to have the support of numerous [Members’​ Centres and Friends’​ Groups](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nts.org.uk%2Fsupport-us%2Fget-involved%2Fmembers-centres-and-friends-groups&data=05%7C02%7Ccommunications%40nts.org.uk%7Cb4696200c156486d22e408dd54b15c87%7C36fd58d4efb342ec8c476b59854eddae%7C0%7C0%7C638759842921792068%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HK7bDvZ02YQF8vNWxuGXW50XelSNW4EieAe0DW7UtTQ%3D&reserved=0) across the country and we are very grateful for all their valuable support.’

To join, or for further information about the Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre, visit the [Aberdeen & District Members’ Centre’s website](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fntscentres.org.uk%2Faberdeen.html&data=05%7C02%7Ccommunications%40nts.org.uk%7Cb4696200c156486d22e408dd54b15c87%7C36fd58d4efb342ec8c476b59854eddae%7C0%7C0%7C638759842921806365%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VHV%2FmYS4MPEK32A2OXUymVYx0%2FxIRh0vZBQTXlBZudc%3D&reserved=0).

**ENDS**

**Editor’s Notes:**

**Images:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/E63Xv2re5n>

**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.