



2 May 2023

## **NINE-YEAR-OLD EVIE KNITS FOR NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND SEABIRDS APPEAL**

- **Nine-year-old from Ardgour raises £54 with home-made bags and pompoms**
- **Conservation charity praises her ingenuity and determination**

A nine-year-old from the West Highlands was so moved by the threat of avian flu to Scotland's seabirds that she set about raising over £50 to help protect them.

Evie Maclean of Ardgour spent several days knitting bags and pompoms, which she then sold around her school and village to donate to the National Trust for Scotland's Save Our Seabirds campaign. The conservation charity has thanked her for her ingenuity and determination in raising money for seabirds and roping in other people to support their cause.

The threats facing Scotland's puffins and other seabirds first came to Evie's attention when she spotted a letter about the charity's seabirds appeal in the post: 'Daddy didn't read the letter at first but then I read it to him,' explained Evie, who decided not only to take action herself, but to involve her school and her village.

Having used her knitting wheel to make colourful pompoms and bags, she hand-drew posters and spent a Saturday cycling around the village to put them up, advertising her bags at 50p each and pompoms at 10p each. The next week, she took all her knitted items to school, having enlisted the headteacher to put out an email to parents asking if pupils could donate money. A great response on the day meant that Evie collected £54 to donate to the National Trust for Scotland's appeal.

Her father Ewen Maclean said: 'This is Evie's first charity fundraising event but she has always been fascinated by animals and birds in particular, and loves making sure the birds in the garden are well fed. We made bird boxes last summer and she is always thrilled to see the blue tits making their homes.'

'She is delighted with the National Trust for Scotland's appreciation for her hard work and for her determination to get others interested in Scotland's seabirds and the threats they face.'

Ellie Owen, Senior Seabird Officer at the National Trust for Scotland, added: 'We were very touched when Evie wrote to us, asking us to please help save the seabirds with the money raised, and sending us a puffin picture she had drawn. It truly made our day.'

'Over one million seabirds live in the places under the National Trust for Scotland's care, and the challenges facing them are serious, including avian flu, climate change and predators such as rats. That's why we're working hard so hard to protect them in different ways, including monitoring and research into avian flu and measures to protect them against the threat of invasive predators or new diseases.

'Evie has been inspirational and inventive in supporting our appeal and helping us to protect our seabirds, and we're so grateful for the efforts she made to raise money and - very importantly - tell other people how they too can help to protect Scotland's wonderful seabirds. Knowing we have the support of people like Evie gives us all the more motivation to keep working to improve seabird conservation in the special places we care for.'

If you'd like to follow Evie's example and support the National Trust for Scotland's Save Our Seabirds appeal or find out more about it, visit [nts.org.uk/sos](https://nts.org.uk/sos).

**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](https://www.nts.org.uk).

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.