



14 September 2023

PHILIP MAKES CULLODEN HISTORY AGAIN

A young man who helped officially open the Culloden Visitor Centre as a schoolboy 15 years ago has made a return, this time as a member of staff. Philip Nicol (21) has joined the visitor services team at Culloden, cared for by the National Trust for Scotland - where his forebears fought centuries ago.

As a six-year-old, Philip made history in 2008 when he cut the ribbon to declare open the Trust's new visitor centre, along with Scott Hay, aged 11 at the time. Philip from Inverness, and Scott from Kincaig, who are both descendants of soldiers who took up arms at the Battle of Culloden, were chosen to perform the honours after a family tree tracing competition.

Now Philip is again playing a big role at the historic site outside Inverness, by welcoming and engaging with the thousands of visitors who come to see where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite dream ended with the bloody battle in 1746. In his important role now he has joined the Trust's team at Culloden, Philip is helping visitors to connect with the story of the battle and the site and to understand the important conservation work carried out by the charity there.

To mark Philip becoming the latest team member with the conservation charity at Culloden, his colleagues recreated a photograph which was taken at the 2008 visitor building opening. He was joined by Scott (26) for the fun mock-up. Philip is pictured holding the very same targe that featured in the original photo, but this time Scott's weapon is replaced by his treasured family bagpipes.

Scott appeared on the BBC Antiques Roadshow in June 2022 talking about his great grandfather's pipes which were used on the battlefield in WW1, and which Scott still plays.

Philip recalled performing the opening ceremony back in April 2008, when he was a primary school pupil.

'My memory of the day has faded a bit now, but I remember lots of people making a fuss over me,' he said. 'I had memorised the story of my ancestors at Culloden by the end of the day as I had done so many interviews!'

'It felt like there were cameras everywhere me and Scott went. All the big media outlets in the area and across the country were there and it's only recently I've been able to

reminisce and appreciate how big a deal it was. It's really cool looking back at the photos now that I'm working here.'

Gail Cleaver, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager at Culloden, said: 'We had great fun recreating the photograph of that very important day for Culloden and the key role that both Philip and Scott played in it. It's fantastic that they are still so engaged and passionate about their history. We are now delighted to have Philip as part of the team and are sure he will be a big asset in helping us to share the history and stories of Culloden, all for the love of Scotland.'

Culloden Battlefield and its war graves have been in the stewardship of the National Trust for Scotland for more than 80 years. The clash saw Jacobites under Prince Charles Edward Stewart defeated by government troops led by the Duke of Cumberland on 16th April 1746, the last hand to hand battle on British soil.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

IMAGES: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/7K9c1ibtbP>

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.