



NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Thrills And Chills This Halloween At The Bard's Birthplace Museum

National Trust for Scotland's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is getting into the spooky spirit with a host of events for a frighteningly fun time for all the family this Halloween.

Garden trails, art classes, creepy crawlies and murder mystery events are some of the Halloween themed activities taking place at the conservation charity's museum in Alloway, Ayr, dedicated to the life and works of the Scottish bard.

One of Burns' longest works, the poem *Halloween*, written in 1785, and celebrating the time of year said: "Some merry, friendly, countra-folks Together did convene, To burn their nits, an' pou their stocks, An' haud their Halloween" – so it's only fitting that the museum commemorating his birthplace continue this tradition with a variety of Halloween inspired family-friendly fun activities.

Young ghosts and ghouls can enjoy the spooky Halloween trail, following clues around the gardens at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum with a lucky dip prize upon solving all the clues. Visitors can draw their own characters inspired by Burns' famous Tam O'Shanter poem or get up close and personal with an assortment of creepy critters with ZooLab, the top provider for ethical animal encounters in the UK. Budding artists can express their creative talents at The Little Art School which will be providing a structured art workshop for children and young people to produce a Halloween inspired work of art.

For the more mature visitor, a murder mystery night by Scotland's leading murder mystery company, *Can You Catch the Killer?*, is sure to get amateur detectives excited. The thrilling tale of murder and intrigue at the mansion of the mysterious and elusive Mrs Peacock and her unsavoury looking guests will put guests in the heart of the action by interrogating the suspects as the story unfolds.

Caroline Smith, National Trust for Scotland Operations Manager at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, said: "This time of year provides a great opportunity to engage with our local community and we've developed a variety of different Halloween events to appeal to all the family. Whether it's going outdoors on our Halloween trail or getting crafty with The Little Art School, encountering arachnids with ZooLab or helping to solve

our murder mystery there is a host of Halloween activities available right on your doorstep.”

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland’s favourite son and enduring hero of its literary heritage. The attraction explores the early years of his life and houses a collection of over 5,000 artefacts celebrating his life and work, including poetry and songs loved the world over and handwritten manuscripts by Scotland’s National Bard. The best place to get close to Burns and his genius is his birthplace in the beautiful village of Alloway. Our flagship museum starts a journey that weaves through the village, taking you from historical buildings to landmarks known to Burns.

The full line-up of events at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is highlighted below with further information on admission fees and booking information available on the National Trust for Scotland’s website here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/robert-burns-birthplace-museum-33776559369>

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum events are part of the National Trust for Scotland’s vision to deliver Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone. The project is one of many contributing to its engagement objectives, specifically to:

- provide inspiring heritage visitor experiences in Scotland
- enable growth and diversity of people to access our properties to improve health and wellbeing

Read more about the strategy at: <https://www.nts.org.uk/our-work/our-strategy>

ENDS

Events include:

17th October – 30th October, Halloween Trail

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/417990188907>

The Halloween trail offers a terrifying trek through the gardens of the museum with a trail sheet available from the main museum admissions desk and a map to follow and locate the creepy clues. Solve all of the clues and repeat the spooky word to our team to win a lucky dip prize.

17th – 21st October, 29th – 30th October, The Chase of Tam & Meg

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/415969956337>

The Chase of Tam & Meg, inspired by Burns’ *Tam O’ Shanter* poem, gives guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in the spooky tale of Tam and Meg’s getaway. Visit the Temporary Gallery in the main museum on 17th – 23rd October or 29th – 30th October where visitors can draw their own spook-tacular character to add to the chase. All of the amazing designs will be displayed in the Temporary Gallery until Halloween for all our visitors to view.

17th – 18th October, ZooLab

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/415834089957>

ZooLab, the UK's #1 ethical animal encounters organisation, will be at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum to give visitors a unique Animal Explorer workshop. Get up close to rats, insects, frogs and arachnids that are sure to make your skin crawl, with the fun and interactive session perfect for curious little minds. Limited spaces are available, therefore booking is essential.

19th – 21st October, Little Art School

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/415888081447>

The Little Art School will host fantastic sessions during the October school holidays with structured, art workshops to create a Halloween-themed painting. During the sessions visitors will be able to sample a variety of media including watercolours, pencils and gouache paint to develop their masterpiece. The teachers will guide students to build up their paintings starting with basic shapes, moving on to details and then applying colour. Every piece of work is mounted and presented in a protective slip to take away.

21st October, Can You Catch the Killer?

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/399982677957>

Scotland's leading murder mystery company – *Can You Catch the Killer?* – invites visitors to attend a truly unique evening with interactive performances by professional actors. The thrilling tale of murder and suspense at the mansion of the mysterious and elusive Mrs Peacock, and her unsavoury looking guests, allows visitors to get involved in the action by interrogating each suspect during the course of the evening from the comfort of their table to help solve the case.