

09 October 2024

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND CELEBRATES HUGH MILLER'S 222<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY WITH BIG WEEKEND OF EVENTS**

- **Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum is set to celebrate Hugh Miller's 222nd birthday on Thursday 10 October.**
- **The Museum will host a guided fossil walk on Hugh's birthday to celebrate his achievements.**
- **Events will run from Thursday 10 October to Sunday 13 October, featuring a Big Birthday Weekend with family-friendly activities.**

Scotland's largest conservation charity is inviting visitors to celebrate the birthday of the Highland's most famous fossil hunter. The team at Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum, cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, will celebrate Cromarty-born Hugh Miller's 222nd birthday with events from Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 October.

Thursday 10 October will mark his birthday, and the team will be leading one of their popular Fossil Walks in his memory, allowing participants the opportunity to take part in citizen science and look for fossils on the same beach that Miller walked over 200 years ago.

Since starting in late June, Hugh Miller's Fossil Walks have already seen nearly 100 participants discover over 120 new fossil specimens. These fossils are displayed at the museum for a month after their discovery before being returned to the beach.

Photographs, measurements, and location data have been taken for each specimen and sent to palaeontologists from the University of Aberdeen, who are currently studying the fossil fish around Cromarty.

In addition to a Fossil Walk on his birthday, the team at Hugh Miller's will also be holding a Big Birthday Weekend on Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13. The family-themed event will include children's arts and crafts activities, science experiments and demonstrations, fossil walks, and the opportunity to view the Dingwall exhibition.

James Ryan, National Trust for Scotland Visitor Services Assistant at Hugh Miller's and leader of the Fossil Walks, said: "Our Fossil Walks have been a brilliant success, and we have been proud to allow people to take part in active citizen science. We couldn't think of a better way to mark this celebration than to lead a walk on his 222nd birthday.

"We last celebrated Hugh Miller's birthday in 2022 for his 220th birthday. This event was a big success, and the team hope to introduce more people to Hugh Miller's life and legacy this year.

“We have some very exciting plans for Hugh Miller’s Big Birthday Weekend, particularly for our science demonstrations. Hugh’s greatest talent was his ability to make science accessible and we hope to echo that with some truly engaging experiments to celebrate his birthday!”

Stone mason, geologist, writer, and social justice campaigner, Hugh Miller was born inside a thatched cottage in Cromarty in the early 19th century. From humble beginnings, he became one of Victorian Britain’s greatest minds and a leading voice for the Scottish people.

Hugh Miller’s Big Birthday Weekend will occur on Saturday, 12, and Sunday, October 13. All activities are included with entry to the museum and cottage (exceptions apply to the Fossil Walks which require prebooked tickets). To find out more about the birthday events and the Fossil Walks, visit: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hugh-millers-birthplace-cottage-amp-museum-33806402821](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hugh-millers-birthplace-cottage-amp-museum-33806402821)

Events like Hugh Miller’s Big Birthday Weekend support the National Trust for Scotland’s vision to care for, share and protect Scotland’s natural and cultural heritage, as outlined in its strategy launched in 2022, and contributes to its engagement objectives to provide access and enjoyment for everyone.

Further information about Hugh Miller’s Birthplace Cottage and Museum is available on the National Trust for Scotland website, here: [www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/hugh-millersbirthplace](http://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/hugh-millersbirthplace).

**ENDS**

**Editor’s Notes:**

**Images:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/5R3e8pU33M>

### **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.