



29 June 2023

TRUST CONSERVES THE WARP AND WEFT OF 300 YEARS OF HERITAGE AT WEAVER'S COTTAGE

- **Scottish Parliament among those celebrating tercentenary of Kilbarchan's Weaver's Cottage, cared for by the National Trust for Scotland**
- **Visitors can experience weavers' lives pre-Industrial Revolution and see 200-year-old working handloom in use**

Weavers from an eighteenth-century Renfrewshire cottage would be astonished to discover that their lives and work are attracting the interest of the Scottish Parliament, as well as visitors from all over the world.

Weaver's Cottage, in Kilbarchan, cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, this year celebrates its 300th anniversary, and was recently the subject of a parliamentary motion in the Scottish Parliament. The motion 'celebrates that this cherished piece of local history and Kilbarchan is preserved, and hopes that Weaver's Cottage will continue to be visited and learned about for years to come'.

Weaver's Cottage is just one of 100+ special places cared for and shared by the conservation charity, ranging from castles to gardens to National Nature Reserves such as Glencoe and Staffa. Though modest in scale compared to some of these places, Weaver's Cottage tells important and unique stories about textile production, and its part in Scotland's economic, social and cultural history.

Ana Sanchez de la Vega, the National Trust for Scotland's Visitor Services Manager for Weaver's Cottage, explains: 'The displays at the cottage transport our visitors back to a time when hand-woven textiles were the lifeblood of many communities. At one point in the 19th century, the village of Kilbarchan was home to over 800 weavers, living and working at looms in cottages such as this. At Weaver's Cottage – where weavers still make tartan on a 200-year-old handloom – we offer a window into those times, helping people relate to the lives and stories of that community, whose tartans and textiles have stood the test of time for hundreds of years. It's thanks to the support of our National Trust of Scotland members, donors, volunteers, visitors and other supporters that we are able to conserve and share this place, its stories and textiles for different generations today.'

Weaver's Cottage remained in use as a home until 1940, and has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1957.

As Kilbarchan and others celebrate the 300th anniversary of the cottage, the conservation charity has added new garden and video interpretation, allowing visitors to delve deeper into the history and significance of this special place, in support of its engagement objective to provide access to, and enjoyment of, heritage for everyone. The Trust has also loaned textiles from the Cottage's collections, including tartan samples and a quilt, to the Tartan exhibition at V&A Dundee.

ENDS

Editors' Notes

Visiting Weaver's Cottage

- Weaver's Cottage, in Kilbarchan, 12 miles south west of Glasgow, is open Thursdays to Sundays until 31 October, from 10.00 to 17.00 (last entry 16.00).
- Entry to the cottage is free to National Trust for Scotland members.
- For non-members, a visit costs from £6.00. Entry to the cottage garden, which features plants once used to make fabric dyes such as woad, is free.
- For more information on the cottage, planning a visit, and how to get there, go to <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/weavers-cottage>

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.