

10th September 2025

TRUST THANKS HISTORIAN WHOSE LEGACY WILL PROTECT CULLODEN

The National Trust for Scotland has revealed that acclaimed academic and historian Professor Christopher Duffy left the charity more than £1 million to support their work to protect one of Scotland's most important historical sites – Culloden Battlefield.

The news comes during Remember A Charity week, which takes place each September and encourages people to consider including a gift to a charity in their Will.

Professor Duffy had a long connection to the National Trust for Scotland, and Culloden was one of his key research focuses. His books on the battle are considered amongst the most authoritative on the subject - perhaps his best known is *The '45: Bonnie Prince Charlie and the untold story of the Jacobite Rising*. The royalties from the sale of his books will go to the National Trust for Scotland to benefit Culloden from now on.

Ali MacLeod, the Trust's Head of Fundraising & Philanthropy, said: "Through his academic brilliance, generous collaboration, and philanthropic support for [Culloden 300](#) and the [Culloden Fighting Fund](#), in his lifetime Professor Duffy made an extraordinary and lasting impact on how we understand, interpret, and protect Culloden. By leaving the royalties from his books and a remarkably generous legacy, he ensured that his life's work and passion will continue to shape the future. His foresight and his gift will play a vital role in helping the charity safeguard Culloden for generations to come."

Gail Cleaver, the Trust's Operations Manager for Culloden, said: "We are deeply grateful that Christopher continued his lifetime of support by leaving a gift for the National Trust for Scotland's work at Culloden in his Will. His generosity will help us ensure that this place, which he knew so much about and cared for so deeply, will be protected now and for the future, and that the stories, which incredibly, are still emerging from this momentous historical event, will be shared."

Professor Duffy was an active advocate for the site, visiting frequently and generously sharing his knowledge, research, and expertise. A much-respected authority on 18th-century military history, he provided the National Trust for Scotland with valuable information that has added hugely to the understanding of this complex battle, the site itself, and its impact in Scotland and around the world.

Fellow historian and National Trust for Scotland Trustee Professor Murray Pittock, paid tribute to this deep connection, saying: "Working with Christopher on the defence and protection of Culloden Battlefield was a privilege which can only bring home to us all

how deep this loss is. Travelling the length of the UK well into his eighties, Professor Duffy tirelessly brought home to numerous audiences the scale and immense importance of the UK's most visited battle site, and the need to protect it for future generations in Scotland and throughout the global diaspora which had its beginning there."

Professor Duffy's philanthropic and academic support enabled the development of a new way to research battlefields. This approach fuses archaeology with forensic historical analysis and landscape history, to give a deeper understanding of the battle and the battlefield.

In 2021, Professor Duffy was on site while the Trust's archaeological team undertook digs on previously unexplored areas of the battlefield. Grids of test pits were excavated, and artefacts were recovered from the topsoil. The team also undertook metal-detecting for lead shot and other items close to the second line of the Government infantry, as shown on his map research. Professor Duffy was particularly interested in the use of LiDAR survey data to review the micro-topography of the battlefield, which allows an identification of the areas that might have once been boggy hollows or burns, which could have affected the troops' movement.

Derek Alexander, the Trust's Head of Archaeology, said: "Working with Christopher was always a privilege and rewarding. He once gave an impromptu lecture about the Culloden map evidence he had collected to our archaeological volunteers as we started our series of recent investigations. He grabbed the attention of everyone in the room and armed with his knowledge and enthusiasm, we went out to look for evidence. Without Christopher's support we would not have been able to undertake our wide range of investigations."

The National Trust for Scotland is an independent charity which relies on the generosity of its many supporters. Last year, donors who included a gift in their Will contributed more than £12 million to the charity.

Ali MacLeod, the Trust's Head of Fundraising & Philanthropy, continued: "Scotland has a wonderful heritage. Our historic places and beautiful landscapes inspire people all over the world and have brought about many treasured memories and meaningful shared moments in people's lives. We simply couldn't do the work we do without gifts in Wills. The generosity and foresight of those who support us in this way helps us to continue our important conservation work and ensure we can protect the many special places in our care today. We are so grateful to everyone who decides to support us in this way."

To learn more about gifts in Wills and how to support the charity in this very special way, visit: <https://www.nts.org.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/gifts-in-wills>.

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Notes to Editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/v4FdwN0027>

About Professor Christopher Duffy (1936 – 2022)

Professor Duffy read History at Balliol College, Oxford, graduating 1961. Throughout his career he focused particularly on military history, teaching at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and college of the British General Staff. He was a research professor at De Montfort University. In addition, he was a founder member of the British Commission for Military History and the Scottish Battlefields Trust, and was a Vice-President of the Military History Society of Ireland and Chairman of the 1745 Association. Professor Duffy was the author of around 20 published works. He was a dedicated supporter of Culloden Battlefield and the National Trust for Scotland's work to protect it for future generations.

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.

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.