

MEDIA RELEASE

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National Trust for Scotland makes eggs-cellent use of Easter egg mountain

- **Covid-19 caused cancellation of Scotland's largest Easter egg hunt in April**
- **Tens of thousands of chocolate eggs now donated around Scotland by Trust**
 - **2020 had been expected to be Trust's biggest Easter event**
 - **Some eggs still available for distribution**

Hospitals, food banks and community groups around Scotland have answered the call from the National Trust for Scotland to find homes for thousands of chocolate eggs unused after the cancellation of the charity's annual Easter egg hunt due to Covid-19.

Over 30,000 individually boxed eggs had been delivered by Cadbury before the UK went in to lockdown and the chocolate company generously gave permission for the Trust to distribute the treats.

In recent weeks staff have donated around half the eggs but the Trust is now looking to hear from more groups who could make use of them. If stacked on top of each other the total number of eggs would be three times the height of the tallest Trust peak, Ben Lawers.

Showing support for the NHS, many eggs went to the patients and staff of hospitals around the country. Paediatric wards and porters in NHS Lanarkshire took a delivery of eggs as well as the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow. Branklyn Garden in Perthshire donated to the Perth Royal Infirmary and properties in Fife made donations to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy. Further south, eggs made their way to Borders General Hospital too.

In Tayside, eggs went to a range of locations including Brechin's Stracatho Hospital, Kingsway Care Centre in Dundee, the Murray Royal Hospital and Community Mental Health Teams in Perth, Kinross, Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar.

Culzean Castle, Brodick Castle, Pollok House, Threave Garden and Tenement House all donated their eggs to local foodbanks. Bannockburn gave its chocolates to Women's Aid in Alloa and The Bellfield Centre in Stirling. Eggs also went to community groups and charities such as the Community Pantry in Larbert, Fullarton Connexions in Irvine, homelessness charity Seascape in Ayr, 10:10 Trust in Ayrshire, Centrestage in Kilmarnock, Peace Childcare and the Royal Blind home in Edinburgh.

Eggs have a use-by date of July and are currently being kept in storage at Trust properties. Suggestions of organisations who could take Easter eggs can be made through the National Trust for Scotland's social media pages.

32,000 people took part in the Trust's Easter egg hunts last year and 2020 had been expected to be even bigger. A total of 41 Trust sites around Scotland had been gearing up for what is usually the organisation's biggest weekend of the year.

Hunts were due to take place in the grounds and castles of places such as Culzean in Ayrshire, Falkland Palace in Fife and Crathes in Banchory as well as smaller properties including Tenement House in Glasgow and The Georgian House in Edinburgh. Outdoor locations such The Hermitage at Dunkeld, Inverewe at Poolewe and Arduaine Garden, Oban were also planning on hosting hunts.

Mark Bishop, Director of Customer & Cause at the National Trust for Scotland said: "It was absolutely heart-breaking to have to cancel our Easter Egg hunts this year and not be able to welcome the tens of thousands of people who we usually see. As well as being our biggest weekend of the year, Easter marks the start of the season for many of our properties but given the unprecedented global situation everything had to be put in hold. In the midst of all this though we saw that some good could come out of the situation.

"30,000 Easter eggs don't eat themselves and our operations teams have been finding places for them to go. It's wonderful that so many have gone to the NHS and to other groups and organisations doing incredible work in our communities."

For more information about the National Trust for Scotland or to support its work, go to www.nts.org.uk.

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Editor's Notes:

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

