

MEDIA RELEASE
17 January 2020

Family fun and spectacle to celebrate our national bard

As the world centre for Robert Burns, complete with the cottage he was born in and the home of more than 5,000 Burns artefacts, there's nowhere better to celebrate his birthday than the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway.

Burns' birthday is Saturday January 25 and this year the National Trust for Scotland's museum is hosting a whole weekend of celebrations.

On Saturday, Burns Gala Day is a free event for all ages at the museum. A celebration of the life and legacy of Burns, the day will feature live traditional and contemporary performances, food and drink tastings and a whole lot of fun for the family.

Running between 10am and 4pm activities will take place in the foyer and gallery and will be home to fun games including 'caramel wafer Jenga', 'Irn Bru bowls' and a 'haggis shy' – a unique twist on the classic coconut shy.

Burns experts will be on-site reciting poetry and songs from 2.30pm and visitors can test their own poetry skills at the gala's open mic session between 12pm and 1.30pm. Art fans can get creative at the pottery painting sessions running all through the day, or learn a new skill at the sessions which show how Burns poetry and lyrics would have been printed during his time.

In the evening from 7pm, the museum transforms for the first ever Blazing Burns Night Spectacular – a ceilidh and spectacular choreographed fire show. Suitable for all ages, the event features live music, dancing, an awe-inspiring fire performance finale and, of course, haggis, neeps and tatties.

Music comes from the McHart Ceilidh Band, and the Ayr Brewing Company will be serving up Jolly Beggars bitter and Rabbie's Porter in the Burns Beer Hall.

Then, on the Sunday, the museum is hosting a Big Burns Brunch. Choose from 11am or 1pm sessions for traditional Scottish fare including haggis, square sausage and tattie scones. Kids under eight eat free and music is provided by the Portencross Ceilidh Band.

As an extra bonus, Burns Cottage will be open to visitors through January. Currently undergoing vital conservation work, the cottage isn't due to open to the public until April

this year, but the National Trust for Scotland is reopening it from now until February 3 for the Burns celebrations.

Caroline Smith, operations manager at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum said: "There's something a bit special about celebrating Burns' birthday in the very place where he was born and it's a date that we look forward to all year. There's a lot going on over the weekend and we're excited to be sharing our passion for Rabbie's genius with so many people of all ages. Events like these also help us protect special places and bring our incredible history to life around the year."

ENDS

LISTING

EVENT: Burns Gala Day

DATE: 25 January 2020

TIME: 10am – 4pm

INFO: Celebrate Burns Day in the birthplace of the Bard. Join us as we celebrate the life and legacy of Burns with live traditional and contemporary performances, food and drink tastings and a whole lot of fun for all the family.

LOCATION: Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Murdoch's Lane, Alloway, KA7 4PQ

PRICE: Free

EVENT: A Blazing Burns Night Spectacular

DATE: 25 January 2020

TIME: 7pm – 10pm

INFO: What better way to celebrate Burns Night than with a ceilidh and a spectacular choreographed fire show? Join us from 7pm for an evening of live music, dancing, an awe-inspiring fire performance finale and, of course, haggis, neeps and tatties.

LOCATION: Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Murdoch's Lane, Alloway, KA7 4PQ

PRICE: Adults £12.50 / Child £8.50 / Family (2 adults and 2 children) £37.

EVENT: Big Burns Brunch

DATE: 26 January 2020

TIME: 11am & 1pm

INFO: Start your Sunday right with a traditional Scottish brunch!. Enjoy live performances throughout the morning whilst enjoying traditional fare including haggis, square sausage and tattie scones.

LOCATION: Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Murdoch's Lane, Alloway, KA7 4PQ

PRICE: Adult £9.95 / Child (Aged 8+) £5.95 / Child (under 8) eat free with an adult

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Images:

Attached free-use image shows fire performers

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.

