

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE  
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### ***Fa yir honest, sonsie covered face* – Burns' birthplace reopens to the public**

Scotland's National Bard prepares for the reopening of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum to the public. A statue of the poet inside the museum has been given his very own face covering as visitors are welcomed back to the poet's birthplace in Alloway.

The museum and Burns Cottage are owned and cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, and have been closed since March due to Covid-19 lockdown measures.

All facilities are now open from Thursday to Monday, including the immersive Burns exhibition, Scots Wa-Hey children's play area and the café.

The thatched cottage where Burns was born in 1759 and lived until the age of seven will also be open to visitors, who can get a glimpse into the Bard's early life and the inspiration behind his poetry.

Support from members and donors has allowed the conservation charity to continue extensive conservation work on the traditional thatched roof during the ongoing health crisis. Centuries of Scottish winters had taken their toll and the roof had significant tears and the thatch was rotting underneath. Repairs have now been completed, with specialist teams replacing the traditional thatched roof and repairing the walls and chimney too.

Caroline Smith, Operations Manager at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum said: "Our team has been working extremely hard to prepare the museum and cottage for reopening. We understand that the threat of the coronavirus is still very real and the safety of our visitors and staff is our absolute priority – we've had to make a few changes so that everyone can enjoy Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

"There will be hand sanitiser stations at various points and we ask that people maintain a social distance at all times. There also will be limited seating in the café, which will be offering a reduced menu. Due to the size of the rooms inside the cottage, only one person or family group are allowed in a room at one time. Visitors will be asked to wait until the room in front of them clears before entering.

"We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors back and telling the fascinating stories of Scotland's National Bard. Thanks to the generous donations we've received, we've been able to bring in specialists to maintain the original construction of the cottage and make sure that it's there for generations to enjoy."

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland, go to [https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum?lang=en\\_gb](https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum?lang=en_gb)

**ENDS**

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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](http://www.nts.org.uk).

