

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

16 July 2020

Supporters and public respond to conservation charity's SOS call

National Trust for Scotland members and the general public have rallied behind the charity's emergency fundraising appeal, so far donating more than £1.6million to Save Our Scotland.

The appeal has seen the highest number of member contributions ever for a National Trust for Scotland fundraising appeal, with £800,000 donated over and above membership subscriptions. The campaign has also gathered support internationally, with donations coming from as far afield as the USA.

Save Our Scotland was launched by the Trust last month (10 June) after it announced a loss of essential income of £28 million caused by Covid 19 lockdown measures. The charity has been forced to take emergency action to save money, with all projects paused and some property re-openings postponed.

The fundraiser is a call out to all who love Scotland's heritage to raise at least £2.5million to ensure the continued protection of the properties and cultural heritage in the charity's care.

Director of Customer & Cause at the National Trust for Scotland, Mark Bishop said: "The Trust has been blown away by the response of key supporters, members who have donated, and the wider public too. This shows that there is a lot of support for the Trust out there and many people who want to play their part in helping the Trust continue its vital work to protect so much of what people love about Scotland.

"The support for the appeal will help our charity to recover from the impact of coronavirus and to get back to doing what it does on everyone's behalf, including re-opening many of our most loved places.

"The appeal is still running and further support is needed to be able to safeguard the future of the properties in our care. Anyone who would like to play their part can donate through our online appeal page."

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, all Trust countryside sites and around 30 estates and gardens, including St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve, Ben Lawers, Culzean Country Park in Ayrshire, Threave Garden in Dumfries and Galloway, Brodie Castle's garden and estate in Moray, Arduaine Garden in Argyll and Crathes Castle's garden and estate in Aberdeenshire, are currently open to visitors. Access to many of these natural and national treasures is free, but their protection costs the charity millions each year, and is only made possible due to the support of members and donors.

Selected castles, houses and visitor centres are scheduled to open in August.

For more information about the appeal, visit www.nts.org.uk/donate.

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.



Properties currently open

(Please check website for opening hours and be aware that toilet facilities may not be available at all places).

ABERDEENSHIRE

Castle Fraser – garden & grounds
Craigievar – grounds
Crathes Castle – garden & grounds
Drum Castle – garden & grounds
Fyvie Castle - garden & grounds
Haddo House - garden & grounds
Leith Hall - garden & grounds
Mar Lodge Estate – car parks only
Pitmedden – grounds only (garden reopening Spring 2021)

ANGUS

Barry Mill – grounds
House of Dun - garden & grounds

ARGYLL

Arduaine Garden
Crarae Garden

ARRAN

Brodick Castle - garden & grounds (open Thurs – Mon)

AYRSHIRE

Culzean Country Park - garden & grounds (open Thurs – Mon)

BORDERS

Harmony Garden
Priorwood Garden

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Threave - garden & estate (open Thurs – Mon)

DUNBARTONSHIRE

Geilston Garden (open Thurs – Mon)

FIFE

Culross Palace - garden (opens 3 July)
Falkland Palace – garden
Kellie Castle - garden & grounds

GLASGOW

Greenbank Garden - garden & grounds (open Thurs – Mon)

HIGHLANDS

Culloden – car park & battlefield only
Inverewe Garden – garden & estate (opens 15 July)

LOTHIAN

Inveresk Garden
Malleny Garden

MORAY

Brodie Castle - estate and garden

PERTSHIRE

Branklyn Garden (opens 3 July)

Already open**BORDERS**

St Abb's Head
Grey Mare's Tail

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Rockcliffe

FIFE

Balmerino Abbey
Hill of Tarvit - garden & grounds

GREATER GLASGOW

Ben Lomond

HIGHLANDS

Balmacara Estate

Corrieshalloch Gorge

Glencoe

Kintail

Torridon

West Affric

LOTHIANS

House of the Binns – grounds only

Newhailes – grounds only

PERTSHIRE

Hermitage

Killiecrankie

STIRLING & CENTRAL

Bannockburn – grounds & monuments

Ben Lawers

Dollar Glen

The Pineapple