



# the National Trust for Scotland

a place for everyone

November 2009

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410

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## the bulletin

*Helping Members' Centres, Groups and Friends to help themselves!*

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**WELCOME** to the last issue of the Bulletin for 2009! Most of our properties have now been "put to bed" for the winter but remember that lots of places are still open and have exciting things happening in the lead up to Christmas. Remember to visit our shops for your Christmas cards and 2010 calendars!

### **DONATIONS PLEA!**

Once again, a little reminder that ALL your donations should be sent directly to the Development Department at Wemyss House for processing and not to the properties **THANK YOU!** If you do send them to the property **PLEASE PLEASE** drop us a note so that we can keep our records up to date and give you the recognition in the Annual Review that you deserve.



### **EVENTS ON THE WEB**

If you are holding an event at a National Trust for Scotland property we can advertise this for you on our website.

Please email the full details including times and charges to [memberscentres@nts.org.uk](mailto:memberscentres@nts.org.uk) and our Webmaster will add your event to the events section [www.nts.org.uk/Events](http://www.nts.org.uk/Events)

### **WEMYSS HOUSE RELOCATION UPDATE FROM KATE MAVOR**

"As you know, as part of our ongoing work to reduce costs, we have been pursuing the sale of Wemyss House. It has now been confirmed that the sale of Wemyss House has now been finalised. The building has been sold to Fordell Estates Ltd which is a real estate investment company, for £8.75 million. The property had been valued by the District Valuer at £6.4 million.

Following careful consideration of a number of alternative premises in the Edinburgh area, the Board has agreed that our new office will be Hermiston Quay West Edinburgh. The new location is easily accessible from across Scotland by train and road. It is also on the Edinburgh Cycle Path network.

Having visited the modern, open-plan office of the National Trust in Swindon, I am convinced this kind of environment will make a positive difference to how we all work together. I am looking forward to hearing from the staff working group how we can create a vibrant space by the canal. According to our current timetable, our likely relocation date will be October 2010.

We intend to begin a staff consultation process within the next few weeks. This will involve staff representatives from across Wemyss House and is intended to ensure that the relocation process is as smooth as possible and that staff views are taken into account. More details on this consultation will be circulated soon and we'll also arrange visits to the new location. "

Kate Mavor  
Chief Executive

### **THE CHARITY REFERENCES IN DOCUMENTS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2007**

Can I please remind all groups that since March 2008 it is a legal requirement for those of you who are registered as charities with OSCR to include your charity number on ALL your documents and correspondence. I have included some information which should answer any questions you may have about this. If you need further clarification please check the OSCR website [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk) or contact them at:

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator  
(OSCR)  
2nd Floor  
Quadrant House  
9 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

### **CONSTITUTIONS**

A BIG thank you to those groups who have sent their Constitutions. There are still some outstanding and I would be

grateful if the following groups could send these in as soon as possible.

I am sure that you all know I am leaving the Trust and moving to a new fundraising job with Marie Curie Cancer Care. It has been my great pleasure to work with you all and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the groups the very best for the future. Please send all future emails to [memberscentres@nts.org.uk](mailto:memberscentres@nts.org.uk) and one of the Development team will be able to help.

Linda Evans  
Development Officer

### **TRUST SIGN MANGLED AT GLAMIS**



Moves to improve signage at the Angus Folk Museum have resulted in an unusual homecoming this year. Property Manager John McKenna was keen to find a quirky sign that summed up what the museum was about – the rural history of the Angus area and its people - and a dilapidated mangle at the House of Dun in Montrose seemed to fit the bill. The mangle was taken to Glamis and painstakingly restored to its former glory. During this process, it was discovered that the mangle was in fact made by a local Glamis blacksmith more than a century ago.

### **JOIN US AT THE WAVE!**

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, people from across Scotland will come together to send a clear message about climate change to world leaders, meeting in Copenhagen for the UN climate change

negotiations. It is anticipated that this will be the largest ever demonstration in support of action on climate change in Scotland.

***The Wave will be a fun, family-friendly march in Glasgow, where a diverse range of people can come together to show their concern about climate change. Similar demonstrations will be taking place across the world at this time. In order to demonstrate that this issue is important to Scotland, we need as many people as possible to turn out on the streets of Glasgow on 5<sup>th</sup> December.***

***Please assemble at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow at 10.30am to set off at 11.00am to Kelvingrove Park where there will be entertainment, face-painting, kite making and stalls.***

The event is being organised by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, a coalition of around 60 organisations campaigning on climate change, including the National Trust for Scotland. Together we represent over two million supporters in Scotland.

Join us in Glasgow to ensure that Scotland makes its voice heard and positively influences the UK government – who will be representing us at Copenhagen – to secure a global deal to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Full details are available at [www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland](http://www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland).

### **STUDY DAY SUCCESS AT HILL OF TARVIT**

Guests gathered at the Hill of Tarvit recently to hear a host of experts talk about the property's treasures. Speakers included Ian Gow, the Trust's Head of Collections, Archives & Library Services and Kate Mitchell and from the V&A. Participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves and everyone went away knowing a little bit more about the

wonderful collection housed at the property - particular the French furniture and silver. Similar days are being planned for the 2010 season.

Despite being closed for day visitors, the Hill of Tarvit is still hosting coach parties, dinners, weddings and other events.

### **OSPREY SUCCESS AT THREAVE**

A pair of osprey returned to Threave this summer and produced two chicks that have fledged successfully. Now that the chicks have fledged, the adults have disappeared from Threave, although the chicks are still roosting in the nest occasionally. Staff are keeping their fingers crossed that the adults will return again next year and establish this as a long-term nest site. Ospreys have been visiting Threave for many years – no doubt attracted by plentiful supplies of fish in the River Dee.



Following this the Rangers at Threave feel they would benefit from funding to acquire good quality binoculars and Telescopes to show the public and groups these fantastic birds during their breeding season. They would also benefit from their use generally around the Estate wetland reserve when taking groups out and about. If any group would like to help with this funding please get in touch.

### **NEW STUDENTS ARRIVE AT THREAVE**

Threave has welcomed a new intake of students for its prestigious hands-on

gardening course. This year's students include a midwife, a consultant pathologist, a teacher, a warehousing and logistics expert and two horticultural specialists wanting to develop their skills. Students will gain experience in a wide range of practical gardening skills throughout the one-year course, which has been run at Threave since the 1960s.



*Photo: (l-r) Gerald Thornton, George Thomas, Kate Wilding, Daniel Ainscough, Robert Harrison and Astrid Fries.*

### **RARE BUTTERFLY FOUND AT KILLIECRANKIE**

A rare butterfly has been spotted outside the Trust's visitor centre at Killiecrankie. The unusual specimen – a female Purple Hairstreak butterfly – was found last month on the ground at the front of the centre by property manager Ben Notley. "It is the first time a Purple Hairstreak has been recorded at Killiecrankie," said Ben, "and it was the first time personally that I've been lucky enough to see one. "The butterfly, which has beautiful reflective purple markings on its wings, usually lives high up in the branches of oak trees in England and Wales, so Perthshire would very much be the limit of its Northern range.



### **CONSERVATION OF BURNS ARTEFACTS BEGINS**

A major exercise is underway to prepare objects for display in the new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Work has begun on conserving hundreds of artefacts including paintings, furniture, books, manuscripts and other works on paper for the opening of the museum next summer. Conservation of works of art is being contracted out to specialists, however framing and mounting is being carried out in the Trust's own workshop at Wemyss House.



*Photo: (l-r) the Trust's workshop technician Stewart Colquhoun, accredited paper conservator Audrey Wilson and Robert Burns Birthplace Museum project conservator Sylvia Krauss discussing the framing and treatments of Burns-related objects.*

### **SOLE TRADING SUCCESS AND THEN SOME**

This year has seen the Sole Trading appeal buck the trend for charitable giving and break through the £100,000 barrier. A net total of £100,406.57 has been donated

during 2009 – the largest amount for a single year since the launch of the Trust’s first footpaths project back in 2000. So, the appeal which enables supporters to ‘give something back’ to the hills via the new Mountains for People footpaths project is well ahead of target – remarkable!



Mountains for People started in April 2009, running until spring 2013. Building upon the good work of its predecessor, Scotland’s Mountain Heritage, the project uses specialist repair techniques to conserve upland paths at 3 properties.

In recent months, work has been carried out on Coire Raineach in Glencoe, Tom na Gruigaich and Mullach an Rathain in Torridon and Glen Rosa and the Corrie to Goatfell path on Arran. This, together with ongoing maintenance by the skilled in-house Footpath Management Team on Arran, Glencoe, Ben Lawers and Ben Lomond, will help ensure the longevity of the mountain paths, and protect the delicate mountain environments from erosion.

The project team has received many compliments from hill-walkers on work done so far. This, plus the funds raised, shows that the Trust’s sensitive restoration of the paths is truly appreciated. Thanks to everyone involved in both the project and the fundraising whose hard work has made Sole Trading such a success.

## **THREATENED BUILDING RECORDED**

This autumn’s Buildings Team Meeting provided an opportunity to employ Trust resources to record one of its threatened properties. A two-day training event was organised with the help of Trust Archaeologist Derek Alexander, Simon Green of RCAHMS and Stephen Copp, LHis Project Manager to instruct Surveyors in a variety of building recording methodologies. The property investigated was the Bungalow at Kintail which was understood to have been built in 1918 by the Kintail Estate as accommodation for their chauffeur. The effects of vandalism combined with the fragile nature of its construction had begun to threaten the building’s vulnerable timber fabric and the Trust’s own records of the property were insufficient. Surveyors were introduced to detailed building recording through hand measurement, plane table survey, and reflectorless totalstation and this work is being used to create a comprehensive record of the property which will help inform any future developments. Investigation revealed that, as with many buildings, there was more to the structure than originally anticipated with some of the building materials coming from another earlier structure. Aside from a few showers, the weather fully cooperated and thankfully the much-anticipated midges failed to make an appearance.

## **BIRD OBSERVATORY ON TRACK**



The new Fair Isle Bird Observatory is progressing well, and looks set to one on

target in April 2010. The team at the FIBO Trust have raised almost £4 million to fund the project. Fair Isle, which has been in the care of the Trust since 1954, is a twitcher's paradise, with many bird species passing through. More info on the latest sightings is available at the FIBO ranger's blog.

### ST KILDA MOUSE RESEARCH STARTS



The University of Edinburgh is about to begin a three-year study into the St Kilda Field Mouse. The mouse is unique to the islands and is very different from its mainland cousins - it is nearly twice the weight of a mainland field mouse and has different coloration on its belly. Another species of mouse unique to the islands, the St Kilda House Mouse, became extinct shortly after the evacuation of the archipelago in 1930. Dr Richard Luxmoore, Senior Nature Conservation Adviser at the Trust, said:

"We are particularly keen to find out about this little animal because we don't want the same fate to befall it as its former neighbour. We need to know how many there are, where they live, what they eat and how they survive the winter on these seemingly inhospitable islands".

### EUROPA NOSTRA AWARD UNVEILED

The Trust's Little Houses Improvement Scheme had the pleasure of unveiling the Europa Nostra Award which was presented for their recently completed work at the old schoolhouse in Logie near Montrose. The local ceremony was intended to thank all those whose

involvement was critical in saving a building which was scheduled for demolition and restoring it in a manner which secured Europe's most prestigious award for conservation. This project would never have succeeded without the inspired effort of the neighbouring community and the coordinated support of local government and funding agencies who saw the value in preserving a rare survivor of Scotland's vernacular earth building traditions. The intimate ceremony was intended as a thank you to all those involved in the project and featured the unveiling of a substantial bronze plaque which will be permanently displayed at the schoolhouse. The unveiling ceremony was conducted by the Trust's Chief Executive Kate Mavor and the event hosted by the property's tenant Joe Wishart. Joe is a confectionary baker of local renown who works as a volunteer at the House of Dun and hosts cream teas at the schoolhouse to raise funds for the Trust.

### FEELING FESTIVE

There are lots of events taking place at Trust properties across Scotland in the run up to the festive season.



Information on the events, festive menus, shops, gift membership, online shopping and more can be found at [www.nts.org.uk/christmas](http://www.nts.org.uk/christmas)

- remember to let your friends and family know as there really is something for everyone.

**GET IN TOUCH** if you have any interesting stories or news you would like to share with other Members' Centres and Friends' Groups. Please email them to: [memberscentres@nts.org.uk](mailto:memberscentres@nts.org.uk)

The next *Bulletin* will be mailed out in February 2010.