

22 August 2024

EDINBURGH MEMBERS' CENTRE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

The Edinburgh Members' Centre of the National Trust for Scotland recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special gathering of members and local Trust colleagues.

Established in 1974, the Edinburgh Members' Centre aims to promote the work of the Trust to people in Edinburgh, raise funds for the conservation charity, and help to make Trust membership an even more enriching experience by organising visits and holding lectures and talks about specialist topics.

The National Trust for Scotland is fortunate to have the support of several Members' Centres and Friends' Groups across the country. These organisations generously support the Trust's work in caring for and sharing special places in Scotland.

The Edinburgh Members' Centre has raised more than £175k since 1993, when its records began, to support the Trust's protection of Scotland's nature, heritage, and beauty for everyone. With just over 300 members in 2024, the Centre organises a programme of activities throughout the year, which include recent visits to Chester, Falkland Palace & Garden, The Hill House, and Culzean Castle & Country Park, and talks from experts on subjects including Orca conservation, Rosslyn Chapel, and Scottish antiquaries. In years gone by, some members have travelled as far afield as St Kilda, the Trust's most remote location.

Jim Bremner, Chairman of the Edinburgh Members' Centre, said: "Since the Centre's formation, members have been arranging a wide array of visits, walks, and talks, as well as volunteering missions at Trust places. Feedback often supports how much variety we offer in terms of locations for visits and walks, which give members an opportunity to see and learn about places they may not otherwise get to or know about – particularly those without their own transport. And we receive similar positive comments on the selection of talks we host. Many of our members, including myself, are or have been committed National Trust for Scotland volunteers and have enjoyed supporting the work of the charity, and learning more about the breadth of places that it cares for across the country."

Stuart Maxwell, Edinburgh & East Regional Director at the National Trust for Scotland, said: "Over its 50-year history, the Edinburgh Members' Centre has been a great support to the National Trust for Scotland. Through their generous donations and fundraising activities, they have contributed more than £175,000 since 1993, and more in the 19 years prior to these records. They have brought together local members to create a wonderful community, and many of the members are also dedicated volunteers at Trust properties in the Edinburgh area, playing a pivotal role in the visitor experience at these places. We're very grateful for all their support."

To join or for further information about the Edinburgh Members' Centre, visit <https://ntscentres.org.uk/edinburgh.html> or contact the Centre's Membership Secretary, Peter Westbrook, on emcnts@virginmedia.com or 07785 316311.

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Notes to Editors:

The Edinburgh Members' Centre of the National Trust for Scotland is an independent registered Charity, registered in Scotland; Charity No SC 025732.

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.