

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Sir John returns to Pollok**

The National Trust for Scotland's Pollok House welcomes 'This Lad o' Pairts' an exhibition funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Stories, Stones and Bones programme, which will reintroduce Sir John Stirling Maxwell to the people of Glasgow.

'This Lad o' Pairts' will open at Pollok House on Saturday 17 November. The house was once home to the Maxwell family, who lived on the site from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The Maxwell family donated the house and estate to Glasgow in 1966, and today it is looked after by the conservation charity.

Sir John Stirling Maxwell was the last of the Maxwell family to bring about significant change to the lands that formed the Pollok Estate. Social housing schemes, open spaces in the city, fair rents for workers and quality town planning were all close interests of Sir John. From the moment he inherited Pollok Estate he gave his time, and in many cases his land, to further these and other causes.

Sir John opened his grounds at Pollok to the public, and also donated land for urban parks. In 1939 he drew up a pioneering conservation agreement with NTS which imposed strict conditions for the preservation of the natural and built heritage of Pollok Estate.

Sir John was born to a life of privilege but as a wealthy man who was well connected to local and national government, he used his position to help ordinary people at a time of difficult social and economic change. He spoke out publicly to influence debate on a range of national issues, lent his assistance to many Scottish charitable organisations, and was a founding member of the National Trust for Scotland.

As part of the research carried out for this exhibition, accounts from people with memories of Sir John and life on the estate were recorded. Those who shared

their memories remember him as a kind man, providing good housing for workers, and supplying coal and electricity.

To complement the exhibition, Pollok House will host a series of talks, giving visitors a flavour of life on the estate.

Ken Mallard, Volunteer on the Pollok House Oral History Project said: "It's been fascinating to speak to people and to hear their connections with the estate and house. I've loved being able to share information that we've gathered with those we've met. It's really been a two way thing."

'This Lad o' Pairts' exhibition will open on 17 November and will run until end June 2019.

In January 2019 a mobile exhibition, with complementary talks, will begin a tour of Pollok Library, Pollok Community Centre, Cardonald Library, Langside Library and Newlands FC Church.

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