

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**New dining experience opens at Culzean Castle & Country Park**

Fo'c'sle is a dining experience which has recently opened at the National Trust for Scotland's Culzean Castle & Country Park.

The Fo'c'sle will serve breakfast, morning coffee, light lunches, afternoon tea and evening meals and with the restaurant perched on a rocky headland, guests can enjoy magical views overlooking the sea while dining.

The name Fo'c'sle is taken from the abbreviated form of forecastle - the term used to describe the upper deck forward of the foremast nearest the bow of the ship. The name reflects the nautical connections of the castle's history.

Culzean Castle and the Kennedy Family have been immersed in the nautical history of the West of Scotland since the 15th century. For generations the family utilised the coastal position of the estate for business and enjoyment, from sailing to shipbuilding and even smuggling.

In the eighteenth century, it is believed that the caves below the castle were used to smuggle contraband goods from the Isle of Man, avoiding the heavy mainland taxes imposed on products like tobacco, tea and rum. By the nineteenth century the smuggling trade had stopped and the family enjoyed sailing and yachting around the Scottish coast and further afield.

The term Fo'c'sle was also used to describe the living quarters of the ordinary sailor, which seems fitting for a restaurant situated in what was originally designed as the Servant's Hall by the 18th-century Scottish architect Robert Adam.

Donna Smith Catering & Hospitality Experience Manager Culzean Castle & Country Park said: “We are delighted to launch such an exciting and unique venue within Culzean Castle and Country Park. The Fo’c’sle is the perfect setting special occasions and group bookings and we look forward to welcoming future guests.”

**- ENDS -**

**Editor’s Notes:**

Fo'c'sle Service times are as follows:

Breakfast 8 -10am

Morning Coffee 10.30am -12noon

Lunch 12noon – 2pm

Afternoon tea 2pm – 4pm

Dinner from 6pm

Booking is highly recommended – call 01655 884455

**IMAGES:** <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/4wYEuu>

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.

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