

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

6 December 2018

### **Make a difference this winter with the National Trust for Scotland**

The National Trust for Scotland's Conservation Volunteers work all year round to support the charity's efforts to care for Scotland's natural treasures. The winter season of projects has now been announced and are open to all to take part.

Becoming a Conservation Volunteer gives participants the opportunity to learn new skills. For the Glasgow-based group, tasks this season range from tool care at Pollok House in Glasgow, fence-making at Brodick Castle on Arran and path-building at Glen Nevis. Places are available on projects from 15 December to 25 May.

Volunteers will also get the chance to attend training courses and lectures to enhance their understanding of countryside skills and conservation issues.

With both one-day and weekend projects to choose from, the projects are an ideal way to become actively involved in conservation, meet new people and get some fresh air and exercise.

Julie Bond, Conservation Volunteer Co-ordinator for the National Trust for Scotland, said: The love for Scotland is at the centre of what we do, so we're excited to be announcing this season's outdoor programme of events. "Our conservation volunteers make a massive contribution to the care of the Trust's 200,000 acres of countryside, historic estates and beautiful gardens. If you enjoy the outdoors and fancy doing something a bit different this winter, please get in touch – new members are always welcome."

Becoming a Conservation Volunteer costs just £25 for non-members of the National Trust for Scotland and is free for current members. Volunteers can choose how little or often they'd like to participate in activities.

Full information about all upcoming projects are available at [www.nts.org.uk/volunteering-jobs/conservation-volunteer-groups](http://www.nts.org.uk/volunteering-jobs/conservation-volunteer-groups)

**GLASGOW CONSERVATION COLUNTEER GROUP WINTER PROJECTS**

Culross

Dates: Saturday 15 December 2018

Time: Departs at 9.00

Work grading: Low level/medium physical tasks

Number of spaces: 6

Culross is a jewel of a village, a living museum of 17th century port life. White-harled houses line steep cobbled streets from the market cross to the hilltop abbey. During this one day project you'll be helping Gardener Louise with some pruning. The holly and hawthorn hedges act as secure nesting sites so need to be kept in shape.

Pollok

Dates: Saturday 12 January 2019

Time: Departs at 10.00

Work grading: Low level work, not too physical

Number of spaces: 8

Join NTS staff for this tool care and maintenance workshop at Pollok House. We will run through everything you need to know about keeping tools in good order and prolonging their working life. If there's time we will also give demonstrations on using tools you might be less familiar with.

Brodick Castle

Dates: Friday 18 January – Sunday 20 January 2019

Time: Meet at Ardrossan for the 18.00 ferry

Work grading: Demanding physical tasks

Number of spaces: 12

Restoration of the Glen Rosa woodland is an exciting project that CVs can get involved with this winter. Head Ranger Kate says: "We're trying to restore some of the habitats that have been degraded through overgrazing in the past, and we're going to put a huge fence right across the glen and restore the woodland" As well as fencing, you could also be involved in that old favourite, rhoddie bashing.

Accommodation is provided for this project at Shore Lodge, which is heated and has hot water, showers and beds.

Steel toe capped boots may be required. Check with your Conservation Volunteer Leader beforehand.

Kittochside

Dates: Saturday 2 February 2019

Time: Departs at 9.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 12+

Glasgow CVs have been working hard over many years to hold back the spread of gorse and conserve this important wild flower meadow. The work continues...

Black Hill Viewpoint

Dates: Saturday 9 February 2019

Time: Departs at 9.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 10-12

Black Hill has a rich archaeological history and it's a splendid place to enjoy views of the Clyde Valley. In order to protect archaeological treasures, this is another site where we need to control that most tenacious of regenerators, gorse.

Glen Nevis

Dates: Friday 22 - Sunday 24 February 2019

Time: Departs at 16.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 12

Working with Nevis Landscape Partnership staff you will be carrying out low-level footpath work. The work contributes to the Future Forests Native Woodland expansion project in Glen Nevis and maintaining a network of paths helps to promote public access.

Accommodation will be provided at the Glen Nevis Youth Hostel.

Steel toe capped boots may be required. Check with your CV Leader beforehand.

Geilston Garden

Dates: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March 2019

Time: 9.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 12

Working with the Head Gardener you will be removing invasive non-native species in the woodland garden to allow for new planting. You might also get involved in resurfacing to reduce the use of herbicides. General garden work such as pruning, border preparation, planting and mulching to conserve, enhance and rejuvenate the designed landscape may also feature. Steel toe capped boots may be required. Check with your CV Leader beforehand.

Ben Lawers

Dates: Friday 22 - Sunday 24 March 2019

Time: Departs at 18.30

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 8

Ben Lawers is a hotspot for nature enthusiasts. It is renowned for its flora, which includes many rare and endangered arctic-alpine species. The property has also been at the forefront of montane woodland restoration work, and during this project you will be helping the Ranger team as they take their next batch of willow cuttings.

If there is bad weather in late March, the task may change and be more demanding. Check with your CV Leader beforehand.

Accommodation is provided for this project at Lynedoch in Killin, which is heated and has hot water but limited space.

### Glencoe

Dates: Friday 5 - Sunday 7 April 2019

Time: Departs at 18.30

Work grading: low level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 8

Sadly, this magnificent Glen isn't always given the respect it deserves and the roadside areas can become spoilt by litter, which can also harm local wildlife. Join National Trust for Scotland staff and members of the local community on this large scale litter pick to help clean up Glencoe! On Saturday evening your efforts will be rewarded with a BBQ.

Accommodation will be provided at the Alpine Bunkhouse, Glencoe Independent Hostel.

### The Hill House

Dates: Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 April 2019

Time: Departs at 9.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 10

Work will include tidying and restoring the garden and car park areas affected by the Hill House "Box" project. Environmentally, there will be the removal of any debris left behind from the build. There will also be some general gardening work, perhaps including replanting and preparation of areas to be redeveloped.

### Newhailes

Dates: Saturday 11 May 2019

Time: Departs at 9.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 12

A community garden is being set up at Newhailes and your help in getting this exciting project off the ground would be greatly appreciated.

### Inveresk Garden

Dates: Saturday 25 May 2019

Time: Departs at 9.00

Work grading: Medium level physical tasks

Number of spaces: 12

Tall trees, fragrant flowers, ponds, wildlife galore – these walled grounds tucked away in the charming village of Inveresk have all the ingredients for garden paradise. During this one day project work might include removing Elderberry seedlings and epicormic growth from Lime trees, as well as clearing ivy from a boundary wall and an old path.

**-ENDS-**