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Women of Achievement Luncheon 2008

The Caledonian Club
23 April 2008

Kindly sponsored by :

Adam & Company

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the National Trust for Scotland

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Women of Achievement Luncheon 2008

Wednesday 23 April 2008

Guest Speakers

Shonaig MacPherson CBE

The Hon Mrs Justice Gloster DBE

Susan Hampshire OBE

Joanna Trollope OBE

Theme:
'The Art of Achievement'

The 2008 Women of Achievement Lunch is sponsored by:

Adam & Company

Chairman Lady Edmonstone

Committee:
Treasurer - Mrs Carol Mitchell, Hon.Secretary.- Lucy Harrison, Deborah Bennett, Mrs S Bonham, The Hon Mrs A Colville, Anne Mason Brown, Lady Fuller, Mrs A Garrett-Cox, Lady McAlpine, Lady Ross.

This luncheon is by specific invitation only and is held to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contribution made in many varied fields by women in Great Britain who have Scottish connections.

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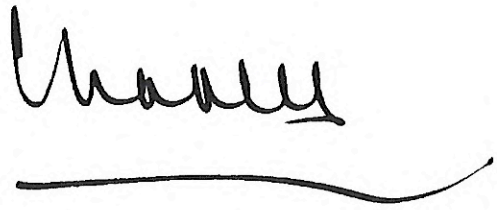
As Patron of the National Trust for Scotland, I am delighted to welcome you to this inaugural Women of Achievement Luncheon.

For nearly eight decades The National Trust for Scotland has been at the forefront of efforts to preserve and celebrate Scotland's heritage. It has succeeded in enriching the lives of so many people over the years and it aims to inspire future generations with more ambitious projects today.

One of these, in particular – the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum at Alloway in Ayrshire – has the potential to create a lasting interest in the language, poetry and song of a truly great Scot.

This comes with my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of the National Trust for Scotland and my warmest good wishes for an enjoyable and entertaining lunch.



Adam & Company

Adam & Company is Scotland's leading Private Bank, with offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Manchester, London and Guernsey. Adam & Company provides banking and investment management services to private individuals and their families, co-ordinated by dedicated personal managers sensitive to our clients' needs and concerns.

Adam & Company is delighted to support the NTS Women of Achievement lunch, and looks forward to extending a welcome to you on the day.

Welcome to the very first WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT LUNCH.

The idea of the lunch was conceived to fulfil three important objectives. Apart from raising funds for the on-going work of the National Trust for Scotland, we wanted above all to raise awareness of the significance and diversity of its contribution to Scotland past and present.

Established in 1939 by Sir John Stirling Maxwell, its promise remains true today 'To promote the permanent preservation, for the benefit of the nation, of lands and buildings of historic and national interest'. The National Trust for Scotland has 305,000 subscribing members and manages a huge portfolio including 40 historic buildings, 65 gardens, properties of iconic importance such as Culloden and Glencoe and island properties such as Canna and St. Kilda. Not many people know that it owns one in six of all Munroes - mountains over 3,000 ft. All in all 187,000 acres of our finest countryside and coastline are enjoyed by 1.3 million countable visitors a year as well as numerous others who revel in the open spaces.

Secondly we wanted to celebrate the achievements of Scotland's most successful women in a wide variety of fields and to hear first hand their personal story. Thirdly, we wanted to bring together convivial, able women to share each other's company and friendship. That is the 'spirit' of the event!

Thanks to Carol Mitchell, the lunch has been developed by a superb committee. They have given of their time and talents unstintingly and I thank them enormously for their efficiency, their good-humoured commitment and for the fun we have had creating this lunch. A special thank you also to our guest speakers for so generously sharing their thoughts and experiences.

Thank you from us all to you all for your support today. I am sure we will be given and receive of the best and I hope you leave stimulated and inspired by the occasion. We all hope that the lunch will continue to grow in impact as a tribute to Scottish womanhood and a toast to the bright future of our precious National Trust for Scotland.

Juliet Edmonstone

The proceeds of the luncheon will be donated to

The Robert Burns Appeal

The National Trust for Scotland is honoured to have been asked by the Scottish Government and the various organisations responsible for the upkeep of Robert Burns's sites and collections to inspire and co-ordinate a fresh perspective on his life and works, in Alloway.

This includes the construction of a new museum dedicated to the preservation and display of the diverse Burns collections, the upgrade and refurbishment of the cottage where Burns was born, and the integration of the gardens, monuments and such evocative sites as the Auld Kirk and the Brig O'Doon. Our aim is to bring to life the strongest themes of Burns's life and works in many different ways.

It is hard to exaggerate what this new initiative means for Scotland and for the millions of admirers of Robert Burns around the world. For the first time the world will be able to see and experience his entire legacy in the area that made him who he was – Ayrshire.

We are striving to secure the lion's share of our funding for this multi-million pound endeavour from a combination of major public and private sector bodies. We are already hugely indebted to the Scottish Government for their important financial commitment and we hope we can look forward to your support by your attendance at this event or in any other way you would wish.

the National Trust for Scotland

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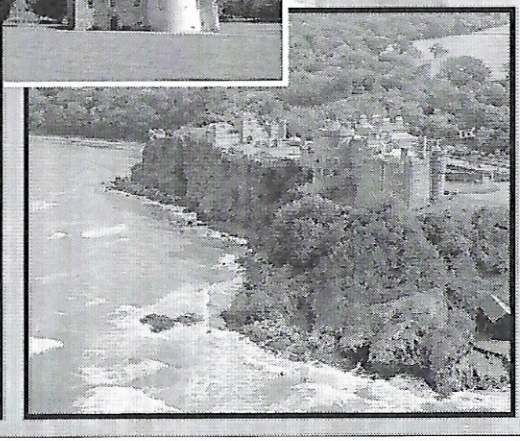
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO ...

The National Trust for Scotland is the nation's largest conservation charity. In addition to our inspiring collection of gardens, buildings and curios, we protect a huge variety of wildlife and wilderness habitats. One in six of Scotland's Munros are in our care, along with nearly 200,000 acres of countryside. The Trust also has a comprehensive educational programme to make our properties accessible to young and old alike. Despite a close working relationship, we are not part of the National Trust. The NTS is not a government body but a wholly independent charity.



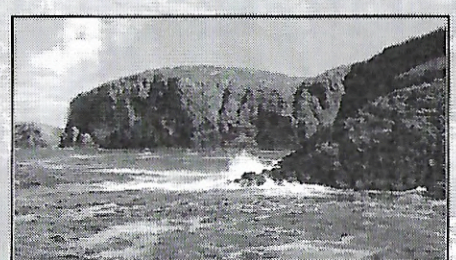
Countryside and wildlife

The Trust cares for 76,000 hectares of Scotland's finest countryside. We are the third largest landowner in Scotland and the largest managing the land for conservation purposes. It includes mountains at the heart of both National Parks, 7 National Nature Reserves, 27 European Natura-2000 sites, 46 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and many Scheduled Ancient Monuments - a huge responsibility and one that we take very seriously.

Much of the wildlife and natural habitats we look after require little intervention - just a wary eye on their continuing good health. We monitor rare plants at Ben Lawers and Grey Mare's Tail, keep watch on the nests of peregrines and eagles, and carry out surveys of the fauna, flora and vegetation communities.

Coastlines and islands

Islands and rugged coastlines are all conserved and protected while still maintaining public access to Scotland's wild places. Fair Isle, Iona, Staffa, Canna and Sanday, Mingulay, Berneray and Pabbay, and St Kilda are some of the magical islands cared for by the Trust. We also look after some wonderful coastlines, such as St Abb's Head, the Lochalsh Peninsula, Rockcliffe - one of Scotland's prettiest stretches of coastline, and the rugged Ayrshire coastline at Culzean Castle.

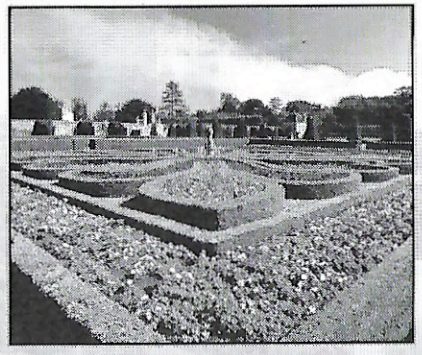


Gardens

The Trust looks after around 35 major gardens and designed landscapes and over 30 smaller gardens. Almost every style of Scottish garden history is represented from late medieval at Culross Palace, through 18th-century picturesque (Culzean), Victorian formality (Haddo, House of Dun), early 20th century (Arduaine, Branklyn, Crarae, Inverewe), to modern creations in older settings such as Falkland Palace, Inveresk Lodge and Priorwood.

With more than 283 hectares under intensive cultivation, supporting over 13,500 different sorts of plants, our gardens are internationally renowned for their plant collections. Geographical and climatic diversity, such as the Gulf Stream's effect on west coast gardens, provide conditions for the growth of remarkable, often unique, collections. The Trust are holders of 16 NCCPG National Plant Collections.

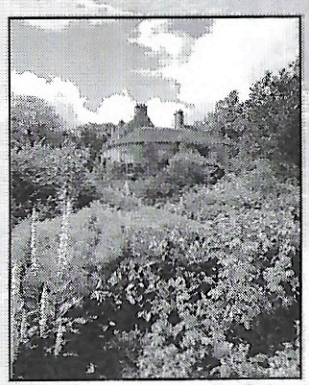
Collections and Conservation



The Trust is responsible for the care of tens of thousands of artefacts, from great works of art to humble domestic items, nearly all of which are displayed in their original context. It is seeing collections in such settings that makes a visit to a Trust house or castle so different from a visit to a museum.

The Trust conserves and cares for some of the finest built structures that make up Scotland's unique architectural heritage. By visiting NTS properties you are showing that you care about preserving our heritage for future generations of visitors to enjoy.

The National Trust for Scotland is a conservation charity that protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy. The future of this heritage depends on our ability to meet ever-increasing financial demands. We can do this only with the help of our membership. Please support our valuable work by becoming a member, making a donation or arranging a legacy.



The next event organised by the NTS London Office will be
A Summer Reception, Dover House, The Scotland Office on the 10 June 2008

Contact details: London Office, NTS at the Caledonian Club
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Email: camitchell@nts.org.uk lharrison'nts.org.uk

The National Trust for Scotland
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Tel: 0844 493 2100

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We believe absolutely in maintaining the personal approach and you will have your own dedicated personal manager. On this basis we have built many lasting partnerships with our clients and over years of service have got to know many families and their wider connections.

Adam is as able to serve those who are either financially active or have complex financial affairs as those whose situation is more straightforward. We are service driven and offer individually tailored solutions.

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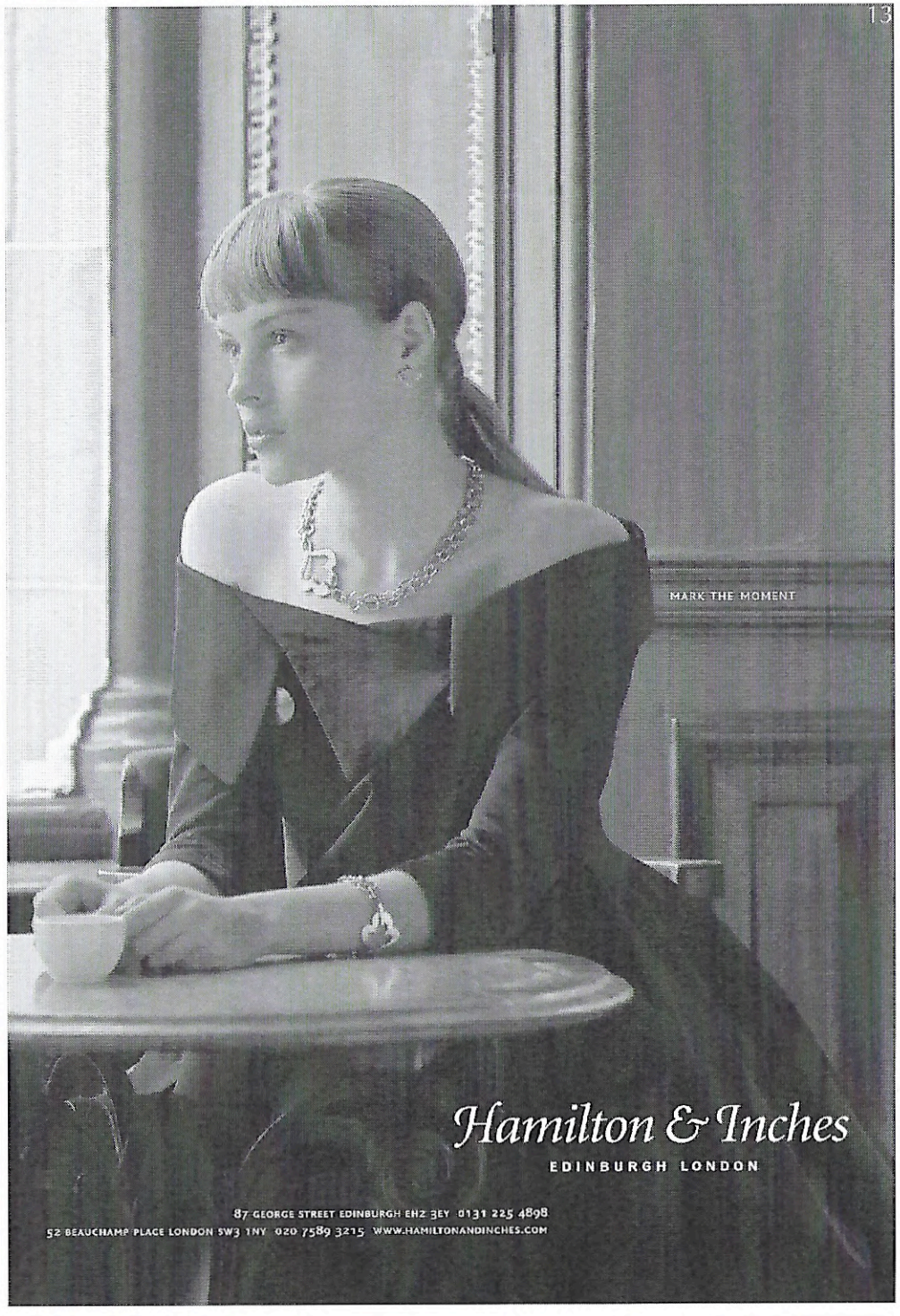
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This is very much a personal service, looking after our clients right from the start of their search, understanding fully their requirements, sourcing the right property and negotiating on their behalf the right deal to a successful exchange. It doesn't stop there as we are on hand to prepare them for completion and any assistance needed thereafter with maintainance. Builders, decorators, landscape gardeners, designers etc are no problem to us. We have access to excellent tradesmen and services. We only recommend and deal with the people who we know are reputable and reliable.

With over sixteen years of experience and only working with a handful of clients at any given time, we are therefore in a very strong positon to be able to give complete undivided attention to people who desperately need our advice, guidance, knowledge and most importantly OUR time not always theirs. A client to us is not someone who just disappears after they have bought. They, we hope are a client for life who can come back to us whenever they want to ask for our help.

If you would like to talk to us about helping you with your search or any property matters in general then please do contact us and we will only be too happy to discuss them with you.

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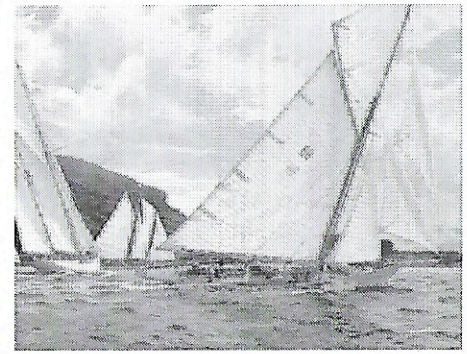
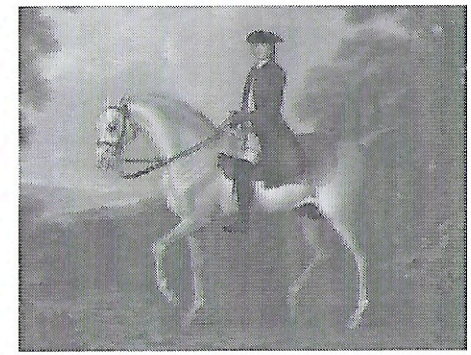

NEW GALLERY OPENING
APRIL 2008

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new gallery, located at 15 Langton Street in Chelsea SW10. The gallery specialises in British Art from the 17th century to the present day and we have a full programme of exhibitions starting in April 2008. Please contact the gallery for details of our exhibitions and to join the mailing list.

15 Langton Street, Chelsea, London SW10 0JL
E: info@jhba.co.uk W: jamesharveybritishart.com T: +44(0)207 352 0015

'The Right of Women' by Robert Burns

While Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty things,
The fate of Empires and the fall of Kings;
While quacks of State must each produce his plan,
And even children lisp the Rights of Man;
Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention,
The Rights of Woman merit some attention.

First, in the Sexes' intermix'd connection,
One sacred Right of Woman is, protection.—
The tender flower that lifts its head, elate,
Helpless, must fall before the blasts of Fate,
Sunk on the earth, defac'd its lovely form,
Unless your shelter ward th' impending storm.

Our second Right—but needless here is caution,
To keep that right inviolate's the fashion;
Each man of sense has it so full before him,
He'd die before he'd wrong it—'tis decorum.—
There was, indeed, in far less polish'd days,
A time, when rough rude man had naughty ways,
Would swagger, swear, get drunk, kick up a riot,
Nay even thus invade a Lady's quiet.

Now, thank our stars! those Gothic times are fled;
Now, well-bred men—and you are all well-bred—
Most justly think (and we are much the gainers)
Such conduct neither spirit, wit, nor manners.

For Right the third, our last, our best, our dearest,
That right to fluttering female hearts the nearest;
Which even the Rights of Kings, in low prostration,
Most humbly own—'tis dear, dear admiration!
In that blest sphere alone we live and move;
There taste that life of life—immortal love.
Smiles, glances, sighs, tears, fits, flirtations, airs;
'Gainst such an host what flinty savage dares,
When awful Beauty joins with all her charms—
Who is so rash as rise in rebel arms?

But truce with kings, and truce with constitutions,
With bloody armaments and revolutions;
Let Majesty your first attention summon,
Ah! ca ira! The Majesty Of Woman!

Women of Achievement Luncheon, April 23 2008.

12.00 Arrival and drinks

12.25 Lunch announced

12.50 Chairman's welcome

12.55 Introduction of NTS Chairman, Shonaig Macpherson CBE FRSE

1.00 Lunch

1.35 Coffee

1.45 Chairman's introduction

1.50 1st speaker, The Hon Mrs Justice Gloster DBE

2.00 2nd speaker, Susan Hampshire OBE

2.15 3rd speaker, Joanna Trollope OBE

2.30 Farewell and thanks

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MENU

Created by the Caledonian Club Head Chef, Paul Hodson

Carpaccio of Peppered Scotch Beef

Fillet of Sea Bass

Coffee/Tea
with fudge and Neston Park Farm truffles

Wines:
Robertson Cabernet, Robertson Winery Sauvignon Blanc, Elderflower Cordial

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SPEAKERS

Theme: **The Art of Achievement**

Lady Edmonstone
Chairman

Shonaig MacPherson CBE, FRSE
Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland

The Hon Mrs Justice Gloster DBE
High Court Judge

Susan Hampshire OBE
Actress

Joanna Trollope OBE
Author

Shonaig Macpherson CBE, FRSE

Shonaig Macpherson CBE, FRSE is Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland, following a distinguished legal career. Shonaig holds a variety of non-executive positions including Chairman of ITI Scotland Limited and of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry. She is a board member of Edinburgh International Film Festival and Edinburgh International Conference Centre Limited. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Shonaig is a Governor of Edinburgh College of Art and the Privy Council's appointee to the Convocation of Heriot Watt University.

Joanna Trollope OBE

Joanna Trollope was born in December 1943. She is the eldest of three, the mother of two daughters and the stepmother of two stepsons and now a grandmother.

Joanna went to school in Surrey and then to Oxford. After a spell in the Foreign Office, she became a teacher before becoming a full-time writer. She first wrote historical novels, now published under the pseudonym Caroline Harvey, then *Britannia's Daughters* - a study of women in the British Empire, and then her contemporary works of fiction, several of which have been televised. *The Choir* was her first contemporary novel, then *A Village Affair* and *A Passionate Man*. *The Rector's Wife*, her first number one bestseller, made her into a household name. This was followed by: *The Men and the Girls, A Spanish Lover, The Best of Friends, Next of Kin, Other People's Children, Marrying the Mistress, Girl from the South, Brother and Sister, Second Honeymoon, The Book Boy* (a book for World Book Day) and *Friday Nights*.

Joanna was appointed the OBE in the 1996 Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to literature. Joanna Trollope has a huge commitment to people. She says, 'I mind more and more about people, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged ones.' She supports The Gloucestershire Community Foundation, Mulberry Bush School, The March Foundation for Dementia, RNIB, especially the Right to Read Campaign, the Meningitis Trust, Macmillan Nurses and the Breast Cancer Care.

When she considers what has happened to her career in the last ten years, she often thinks, as her friend Jilly Cooper once said, 'You'd believe it, wouldn't you, if it happened to someone else'.

Susan Hampshire OBE

From the age of three Susan was educated and trained as a classical ballet dancer at the Hampshire School in Knightsbridge, founded and run by her mother June. At fifteen, however, having grown too tall for ballet she turned to acting, appearing in the repertory production of *Night Must Fall*, and again in the film version a few years later opposite Albert Finney.

Her first West End appearance was in the musical *Expresso Bongo*, since when her career has ranged from musicals to Shakespeare and Ibsen - *The Taming of the Shrew, Peter Pan, Blythe Spirit, The King and I, Noel and Gertie, Relatively Speaking*, Alan Bennett's *Lady in the Van* and *Cinderella* to name but a few.

As well as many film credits, Susan also received an Emmy Award for Best Actress for her performances as Fleur in the *The Forsythe Saga*, as Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough in *The First Churchills* and as Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair'*. Her many television series include *The Pallisers, The Barchester Chronicles, Don't' tell my Father'*, 'The Grand', and seven series of 'Monarch of the Glen'.

In addition to acting, Susan has written several books including three for children. *Every Letter Counts* and the highly acclaimed *Susan's Story* are both autobiographical accounts of her struggle with dyslexia. She has five honorary university degrees (including one from St Andrews) and was awarded an OBE in 1995.

In 1983 Susan visited Vietnamese refugee camps in Hong Kong and also filmed charity work by Population Concern in the slums of Chittagong, Bangladesh. Susan has one grown-up son, Christopher, and lives in London with her husband, impresario Sir Eddie Kulukundis.

The Hon Mrs Justice Gloster DBE

Elizabeth was educated at Roedean School and Girton College, Cambridge. Called to the Bar in 1971 as a member of Inner Temple, she was appointed a QC in 1989 and a Bencher of Inner Temple in 1992. From 1993 to 2004 she was a judge of the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey, appointed a Recorder in 1995 and to the High Court Bench (Queen's Bench Division) in 2004, thus becoming the first woman Commercial Court Judge.

Between 1982 and 1989 she was a member of the panel of Counsel who appeared for the Department of Trade and Industry in company matters. Elizabeth was Counsel for the Crown in the famous Guinness case of 1989: R v Saunders, Ronson, Lyons and Parnes. She has appeared and advised in numerous high-profile City and insolvency cases, including the Barings disqualifications, Enron, Telewest, Parmalat, The Equitable, Railtrack, Marconi, TXU, Maxwell, EMLICO and Bermuda Fire and Marine.

Elizabeth has a grown-up son and daughter and lives in London and Buckinghamshire, with holiday bases in Scotland and Norfolk. She is married to Sir Oliver Popplewell, a retired High Court Judge, and past president of the MCC.

List of Guests

A
Lady Armstrong

B
Dame Margaret Barbour
Mrs Peter Baring
Mrs Charlie Barnett
Miss Dee Barnett
Mrs Audrey Baxter
Ms Deborah Bennett
The Hon Mrs Victoria Bevan
Mrs Geertje Boerboom
Mrs AS Bond
Mrs Simon Bonham
Susan Boyd
Mrs Cherry Bretton
The Hon Lady Brinkman
The Hon Mrs Maclean-Bristol
Mrs Brock
Mrs Buchanan
Mrs Gillian Buckland
Jennifer, Marchioness of Bute

C
Mrs Ken Carter
Mrs Gay Cheyne
Lady Colquhoun of Luss
The Hon Mrs Andrew Colville
Elizabeth, Viscountess Colville of Culross
Mrs Magdalena Conway
Mrs Nigel Corbally Stourton
Mrs Duncan Crawford
Miss Elizabeth-Rose Crichton Stuart
Ms M Cund

D
Mrs Clare d'Abo
Mrs Dargie Smith
The Dowager Lady Delves Broughton
Miss C Dewar Durie
Mrs Sylvia Dibben
Mrs Alastair Dickson OBE
Mrs Rosemary Dickson
Mrs Dewar Donnithorne Tait
Mrs Alex Dundas

E
Lady Edmonstone
Mrs Nicholas Edmonstone
Mrs Roger van Eeghen

F
Mrs P Fallon
Mrs Andrew Feilden
Mrs Amelia Fitzalan Howard
Mrs Jamie Fraser
Elizabeth Fraser
Lady Fuller

G
Mrs Andrew Garett-Cox
Lady Glenarthur
The Baroness Goudie
Mrs R Graham
Mrs Sophie Graham
The Hon Janet Grant
Mrs Keith Grant Peterkin

H
Viscouness Mackintosh of Halifax
Lady Kulukundis OBE
Mrs Guy Hands
Miss Karen Harper-Gow
Miss Lucy Harrison
Jane, Countess of Harrowby
Mrs R Harvey
Mrs James Harvey
Mrs Aline Hay
Mrs Ian Henderson
Mrs Paddy Hopkirk
Mrs Mark Horton
Mrs Andrew Howard
The Hon Mrs M E Howard
Mrs Tom Howard Redfern
Mrs Petronella Humphries

J
Mrs James Jack
Mrs Jeffray Johnstone
Mrs H Jones CBE, DL

K
Mrs Rod Kinnell CBE, DL
Mrs Lucie Kitchener

L
Lady Lang
Lois Leavitt
Susan Leith
Miss Pammie Leslie Melville
Mrs D Liddell

L
Mrs J Lord
The Marchioness of Lothian
Lady Luce
Mrs Nelly Lukava

M
Dr Margaret MacCann Flora MacDonald
Mrs R MacDonald
Mrs Alpin MacGregor
Mrs Leslie Mackie
Ms Shonaig Macpherson CBE, FRSE
Lady Macpherson of Biallid
Miss Isobel Macpherson
Mrs Helen Mallinson
Mrs Stephen Martin
Lady Martin
Mrs David Marx
Miss Anne Mason Brown
Mrs David Maxwell
Deborah McAllister
Lady McAlpine
Mrs Colin McCorquodale
Allison McCowan
Vivien McLean
Mrs Simon Metcalf
Mrs Angus Milne
Mrs Carol Mitchell
Lynne Moore
Mrs Alan More Nisbett
Lady Mortimer
Mrs G Munro-Ferguson

N
Baroness Neville-Jones
Lady Newall MBE
Mrs John Nicholson
Rosemary, Marchioness of Northampton

O
Lady Ogilvy-Wedderburn
The Baroness von Oppenheim

P
Mrs J Paice
Mrs Lorna Paviour
The Hon Mrs Mary Pearson
Rosamunde Pilcher
Mrs Sophie Plunkett
The Hon Mrs Justice Gloster DBE
Caroline Primrose
Lady Purves

R
Mrs Pat Ramsay
Lady Redesdale
Mrs David Reid
Lady Rennie
Lady Rifkind
Mrs C Riley
Lady Rix
Lady Ross
Mrs Ross Farrow
Miss RGR Russell

S
The Hon Mrs Timothy Scott
Mrs Claire Angier Scott
Miss Diana Scott
Mrs Walter Scott
Mrs Peter Scott
Mrs M Seligman
Mrs Alexander Shephard
Mrs Donald Sherlock
Lady Shields
Mrs John Spicer
The Hon Mrs Peter Stanley
Mrs Derek Steel
Mrs E Stenhouse
Lady Stewart
Mrs Sara Stewart
Mrs Susan Stinson
The Hon Julia Stonor Camoys
Lady Strathcarron
Isobel, Countess of Strathmore
Mrs A Struthers

T
Mrs Joanna Trollope, OBE
Mrs John Troughton

V
Mrs R Vernon

W
Mrs AGO Walker BA Hons, MSc DL
Mrs Carolyn Warrender
Lizzie Watson
Mrs Sam Whitbread
Miss Susie Whitcombe
Mrs Humphrey Wood
Mrs Roderick Wordie

A Special Recipe from Claire Macdonald

Filleted Cod with Puy Lentils, Pickled Lemons and Tomatoes

You can use any firm-fleshed white fish for this instead of cod - for example, hake, whiting, megrim, or ling. The tastes of the pickled lemons and tomatoes are extremely good together, and the lentils are delicious with the sharp fruit flavours.

The lemons need to be made at least 3 weeks before using them; once opened the jar must be kept in the fridge and will last for up to a year. Pickling lemons is simplicity in itself. First, wash the lemons very well under running water to remove the preservative. Then, on a board, cut each lemon down in quarters but without cutting the base of each. Push each lemon into a jar, adding 1 tablespoon of flaky salt (I use Maldon), trying to get as much of the salt as you can inside each lemon. Then pour in boiling water upto the jar up to the top and seal the jar - I find kilner jars are best for this. Do not open the jar for 3-4 weeks.

This dish really has everything in it - starch in the lentils and vegetables in the onions and tomatoes. But if you feel further vegetables are needed, I would eat spinach, wilted and seasoned with nutmeg.

Serves 6

4 tbsp olive oil
3 medium-sized onions, skinned and sliced thinly
1-2 fat cloves of garlic, skinned and finely chopped
3 tins of chopped tomatoes, each weighing 400g/15 oz
1 tbsp quite finely chopped pickled lemon
Lots of black pepper (not salt: the pickled lemon contributes enough saltiness)
6 pieces of cod, each weighing about 175g/6oz

For the lentils

2 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, skinned and finely diced
225g/ 8oz puy lentils
900ml/1½ pints chicken or vegetable stock

Start by cooking the lentils. Heat the 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a saucepan and fry the diced onion in the oil for 2-3 minutes. Stir in the lentils, add the stock. Let the stock reach simmering point and simmer gently, the pan uncovered and stirring from time to time, for 20-25 minutes.

Meanwhile, in another saucepan or sauté pan, heat the 4 tablespoons of olive oil and fry the thinly sliced onions for several minutes, stirring occasionally so that they cook evenly. Cook until the onions are quite soft and beginning to turn colour at their edges. Then add the chopped garlic and the tinned tomatoes. Let this mixture simmer gently, then add the chopped pickled lemon and season with pepper. Simmer for 5 minutes, then push the pieces of fish down into the sauce, and bring the contents of the pan back to simmering point. Cook gently for 5 minutes—the fish will cook in the heat of the tomato mixture. Serve, with the lentils spooned beside or underneath.

You can get ahead by cooking the onions, tomatoes and pickled lemons a day ahead, reheating it to serve, and cooking the fish in the sauce at that point. If it is more convenient, you can even cook the lentils and reheat them, but they look rather unappealing when cold, so don't let that put you off!

'My Bonie Bell'
by Robert Burns

The smiling Spring comes in rejoicing,
And surly Winter grimly flies;
Now crystal clear are the falling waters,
And bonie blue are the sunny skies.
Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth the morning,
The ev'ning gilds the ocean's swell;
All creatures joy in the sun's returning,
And I rejoice in my bonie Bell.

The flowery Spring leads sunny Summer,
The yellow Autumn presses near;
Then in his turn comes gloomy Winter,
Till smiling Spring again appear:
Thus seasons dancing, life advancing,
Old Time and Nature their changes tell;
But never ranging, still unchanging,
I adore my bonie Bell.

ROBERT BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

There was a lad was born in Kyle...
Rantin', Rovin', Robin

Almost 250 years ago, in a small cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire, Robert Burns first drew breath.

His humble beginnings and relatively short life would make his literary legacy all the more remarkable. The intensity of that life, and the power of his words have ensured Burns a place in the pantheon of literary greats and a place in the hearts of Scots.

The National Trust for Scotland are now architects of the rebirth of Burns in Alloway; this year NTS will acquire Burns Cottage and Museum and lead an exciting redevelopment project which will see the birthplace of the poet become an international hub for the appreciation and understanding of Robert Burns.

Driving the redevelopment is the world's most important museum collection relating to Burns, described as 'Scotland's literary crown jewels'. The incredible range of manuscripts, books, art and artefacts which bear the poet's imprint lie at the heart of NTS's plans. A new state of the art museum will house and display the collection while an Education Pavilion will provide accommodation for visiting schools groups and lifelong learners. Burns Cottage and the surrounding land will be landscaped to recapture the smallholding known to Burns. Through proper conservation and reinterpretation of this real connection to the life of the poet, Burns lives.

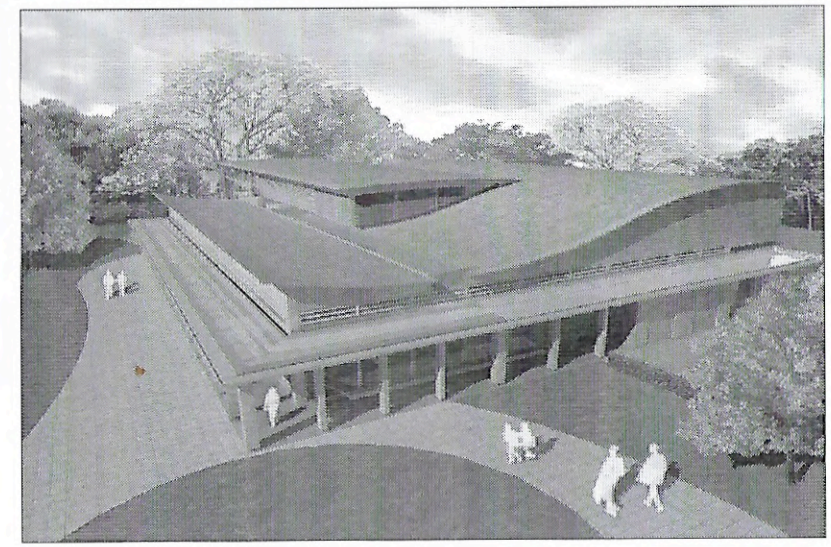
Alloway was a place of beginnings for the poet it is where his life began and it is where NTS wish visitors to embark upon their own journey of discovery into the life and work of Burns.

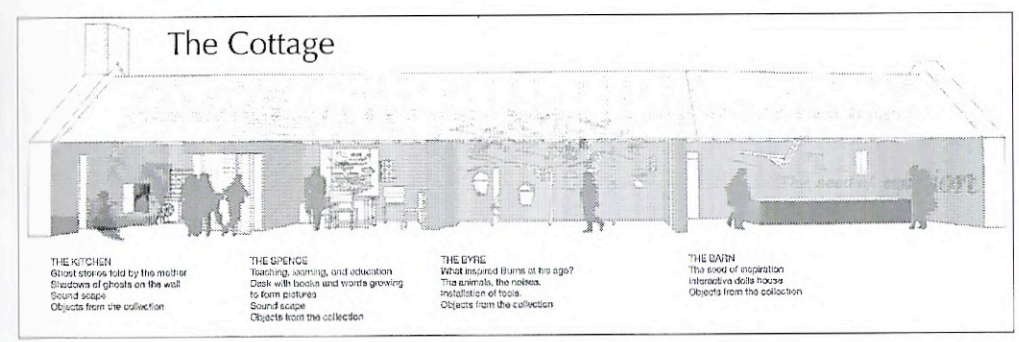
Alloway was a place of inspiration for the poet he mused on the landscape of his youth many years later when writing songs like Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon and penning the masterly Tam o'Shanter. NTS wish visitors to become inspired by Alloway.

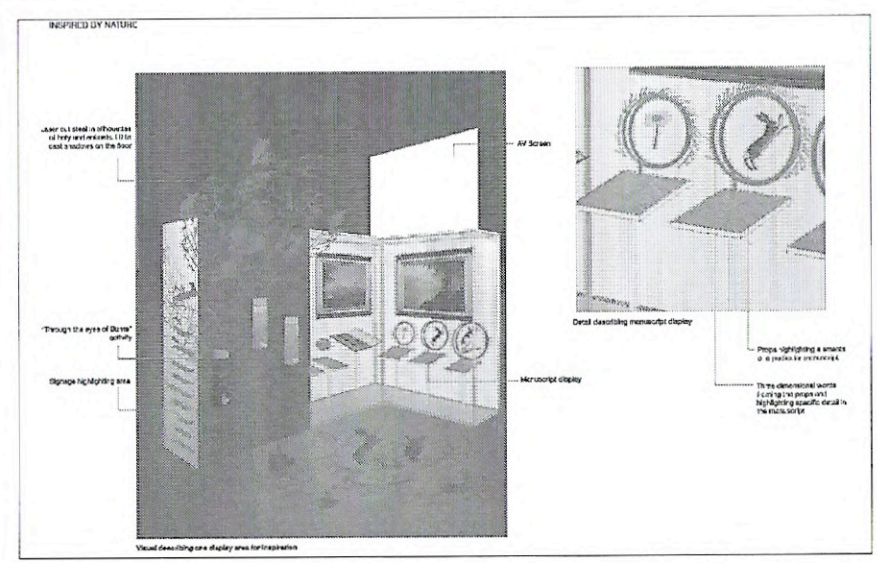
Burns never quite forgot the land of his birth and NTS wish to make a visit to the renovated site Robert Burns Birthplace Museum an unforgettable experience for every visitor.

The Fundraising Appeal for Robert Burns Birthplace Museum represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a museum that will inspire and inform generations of visitors from across the world. Get involved and help NTS do justice to the unique life, work and legacy of Robert Burns.

'He'll hae misfortunes great an sma,
But ay a heart aboon them a',
He'll be a credit till us a':
We'll a' be proud o Robin'







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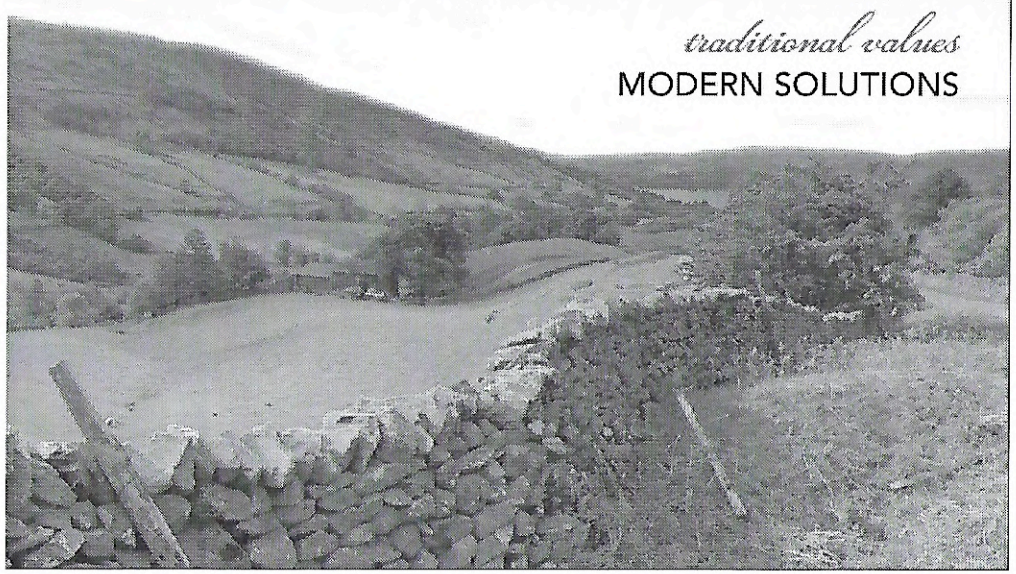

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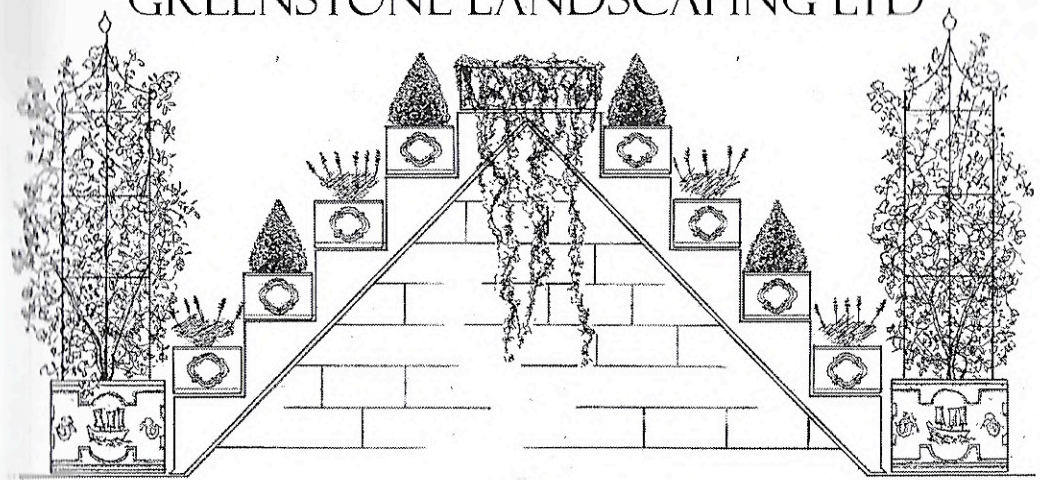

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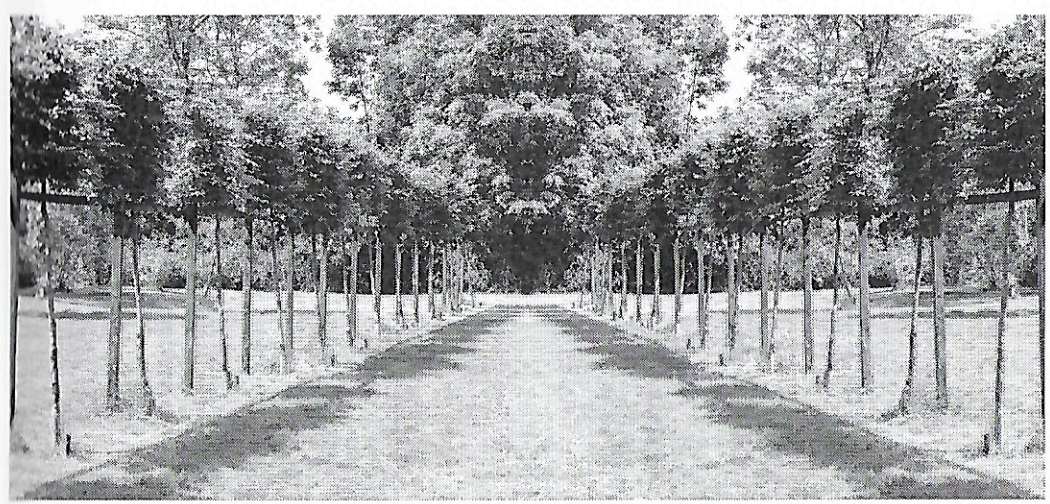

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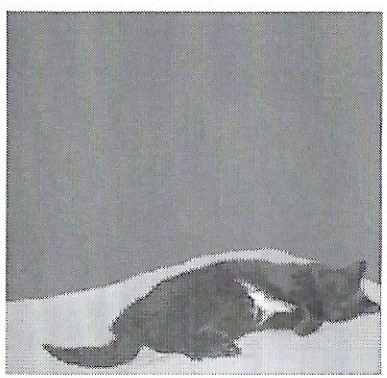

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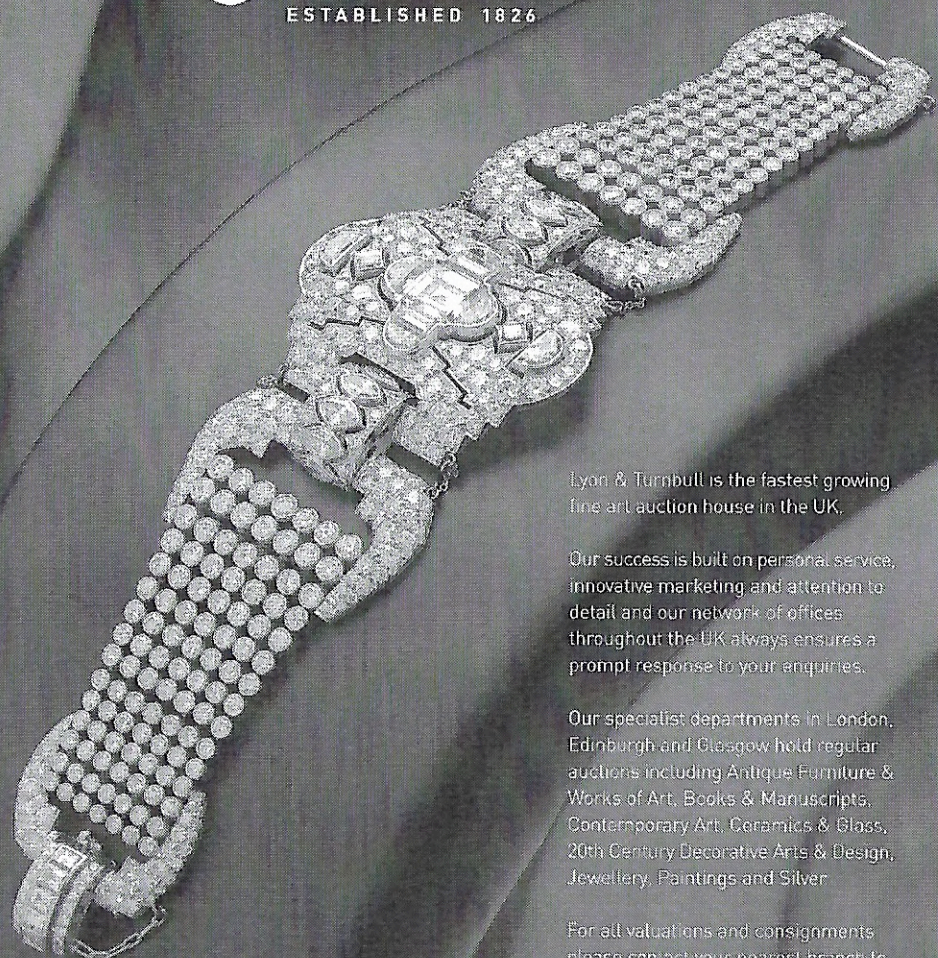

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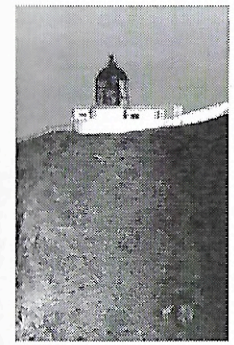

The Centre provides a link for members of the National Trust for Scotland and The National Trust who live in or visit London and the Home Counties and share a love of Scotland and its heritage.

Our programme of events includes illustrated lectures, visits, excursions, tours and parties. The visits include some to houses and organisations not normally open to the public. Our tours have included many trips to Scotland as well as other parts of the UK and further afield.

To find out more, please contact:

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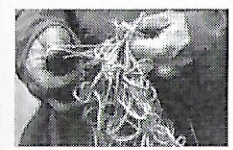

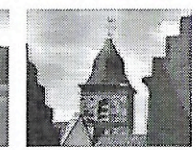

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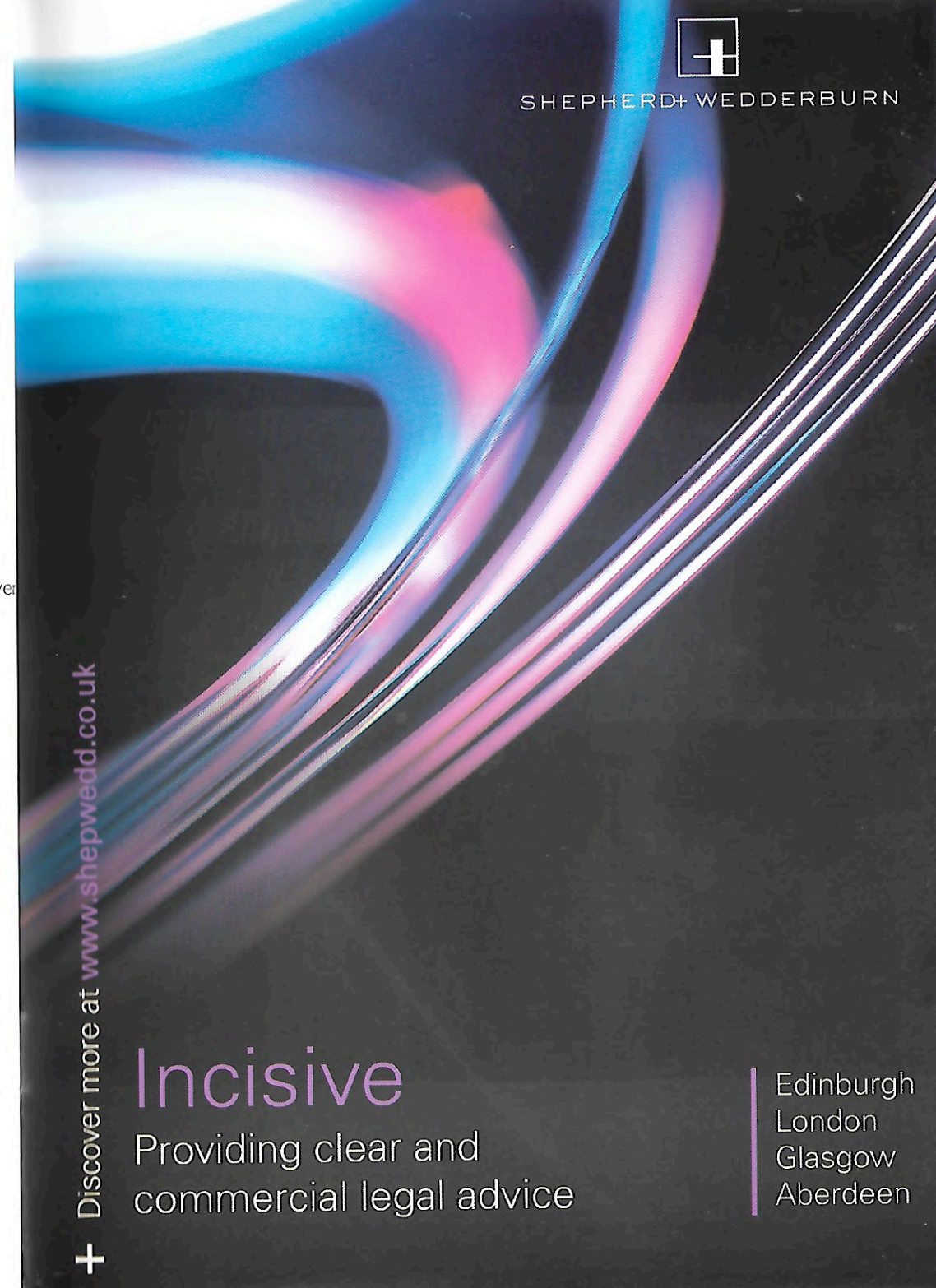

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