



Press Information: Embargoed until 10.00, Monday, February 20, 2012

Gannochy Trust 75th Anniversary

The life and legacy of one of Scotland's leading philanthropists will be celebrated this summer as the charitable trust he founded marks its 75th anniversary.

Following the completion of his visionary housing estate, Perth whisky distiller Arthur Kinmond (AK) Bell formed the Gannochy Trust in 1937 with the vision of distributing some of his industrial wealth to aid, inspire and improve both communities and people in and around Perth.

In the late 1960s, the Gannochy Trust widened its remit to the whole of Scotland. It has committed £24 million to charities nationwide during the last five years and funded causes across the country to the sum of £90 million in the last 30 years.

Gannochy Trust Chairman Mark Webster said: "AK Bell gave so much to the people of Perth and to the people of Scotland and in this landmark anniversary programme of events and celebration we hope to appeal to both those who today still benefit from his generosity and those who share his great interests in life such as cricket and music as well as his passion for Perth itself and the local countryside. It will be a celebration that everyone can enjoy."

Nowhere has the benefit of the Trust's work been more keenly felt than in AK Bell's native Perth where many of the city's major public buildings in large measure owe their existence to his legacy including the AK Bell Library, Perth Concert Hall and Bells Sports Centre.

He also provided substantial funding which led eventually to the current sewage works for Perth and surrounding villages and the Trust funded the development at Upper Springland in the 1970s.

Elsewhere in Scotland, the Gannochy Trust name features widely in national projects: National Museum of Scotland; Glasgow's new Transport Museum; Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery; Scottish National Portrait Gallery; Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre; Eden Court Theatre in Inverness; support for many seats of learning across Scotland, and there are many other smaller charities that have received vital lifeline funding from the Trust.

An astute businessman and accomplished sportsman, AK Bell was granted the Freedom of Perth in 1938 in recognition of "the many benevolent and public services rendered by him to his Native City, more particularly in the maintenance and development of industry of the City, the provision of housing accommodation and of facilities for the recreation of the Citizens and in testimony of the high respect and esteem in which he is held by the Magistrates, Council and Citizens". AK Bell died unexpectedly in 1942, aged 73.

The celebrations to mark The Gannochy Trust's 75th anniversary will centre on a series of events around the day the Trust was formed - 21st June 1937.

Outlining the year's programme, Gannochy Trust Chief Executive Gavin Davey said: "The Gannochy Trust today is something AK would be proud of. His aims and ambitions to provide support to specific sectors of Scottish society are still being met in his name 75 years on."

The exciting and inclusive programme will help mark the vision and philanthropy of the Founder and the support provided by the Trust to numerous charitable organisations both locally and throughout Scotland during the intervening years. They include:

Banners, flags and floral art: In co-operation with Perth & Kinross Council, there will be a city centre display of banners along Tay Street and around Perth Concert Hall, and a series of flags

along the North Inch. The exciting exhibition has been designed by young photographer Jessica McDermott. The flower beds at the North Inch and A K Bell Library will show the Trust logo and have been specially designed and constructed by the Council's Westbank Youth Project. The exhibition will show the history and work of the Trust and its close connection with the community of Perth and Kinross.

Anniversary Concert: The main Anniversary week will begin with a side-by-side Anniversary Concert on Saturday 16th June bringing together the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Perth Youth Orchestra (who celebrate their own 50th Anniversary in 2012) in the Perth Concert Hall, and featuring young 'rising star' soloists, including Alasdair Beatson and Rowan Hellier from Perthshire. The Concert has an exciting musical programme and will welcome James Naughtie back to Perth to act as the compere for the evening. The Concert will be accompanied by an **Out-and-About project** featuring the two orchestras to take elements of the concert to those not able to come to the event in Perth due to their infirmity, disability or remote locality.

Cricket Festival: There will be an imaginative **7-day cricket festival** at Doo'cot Park to celebrate A K Bell's great interest in cricket and his friendship with the world's greatest cricketer – Sir Donald Bradman. The Festival will be supported by Cricket Scotland and will feature all aspects of cricket:

* The newly-formed Perth Doo'cot Cricket Club will play the Scottish President's XI on Sunday 17th June.

* Perth & Kinross Girls will play against Scotland on Monday 18th June.

* The national primary schools Kwik Cricket finals will be held on Tuesday 19th June

* The Scottish secondary schools finals will take place on Wednesday 20th June, when Alec Stewart (ex-England international) is expected to attend to provide coaching and present prizes, as part of the Clydesdale Bank Sports Ambassadors Programme.

* A Scotland Select XI will play an International XI on Thursday 21st June.

* On Friday 22nd June an Australian youth touring team will play against a Scottish youth representative team for the A K Bell/Sir Donald Bradman Quaich; at the same time the Trust is delighted to host a disabled cricket event at Doo'cot Park for the first time.

This will be one of the most extensive cricket festivals ever held in Scotland and it will have an emphasis on young cricketers and inclusion.

Doors Open Day: An expanded Doors Open Day event in September 2012 to bring together residents and friends from his first community project – the Gannochy Housing Estate.

Anniversary Booklet: The Trust will publish a booklet depicting its history by local author Jeremy Duncan.

Youth and Community: The outcomes of two inspirational partnership projects for young people and communities – 'Living Communities' and the 'Youth Philanthropy Initiative' – will run throughout the year and will continue the Trust's priority on inspiring Young People.

A Legacy for the Future: The Trust will also announce another significant legacy project in 2012.

Ends

For further information please contact Gavin Davey, Chief Executive, The Gannochy Trust on Perth (01738) 620653.

Note to editors - The Gannochy Trust will precede each of the individual events with separate press releases and details of photo and interview opportunities.