

LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND, 20 NOVEMBER 2012

Following the recent article in The Times relating to arrangements for Homecoming 2014, I thought it might be helpful to provide some more detail about the National Trust for Scotland's role in the celebrations.

As you will be aware, the National Trust for Scotland is currently working with Historic Scotland to transform the Bannockburn site for the 700th anniversary of the battle in June 2014. Works are advancing well, with the existing centre due for demolition shortly; the steel frame of the replacement building now complete and restoration of the A-listed onsite monuments well underway. All of this will ensure that visitors will have an outstanding experience when they visit Bannockburn from 2014 onwards.

Progress is also being made on planning events around the opening of the new centre, although you will appreciate that we are still in the early stages. The Trust is working with Homecoming 2014, Stirling Council and a range of other partners to plan and deliver what will be a re-enactment event which will be one of the signature events in the Homecoming 2014 programme. As well as the re-enactment, the intention is to offer a clan village on or close to the Bannockburn site.

The Trust had always intended to hold a re-enactment over the weekend of 28/29 June, so the three-day event in partnership with EventScotland is simply an extension of that original plan. The re-enactment is one of a series of events being planned by partners to create a programme for the Homecoming year and one which we hope will encourage many people from Scotland and beyond to visit and embrace and explore their heritage.

Please be assured that the Trust realises the significance and scale of this event and is taking its planning seriously, drawing on a wide range of expertise from within and outwith the organisation.

My colleagues Henk Berits, Director of Commercial Services and Marketing, and Battle of Bannockburn Project Director David McAllister will be attending Wednesday's VisitScotland Parliamentary Reception and will be only too happy to discuss this matter further with you on that occasion.

