

Press Release

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Enchanted Forest Organisers Expect Sell Out Homecoming Show as 2009 Theme Explores Scotland's Myths & Legends

Perthshire Big Tree Country, the organisers of Scotland's premier sound and light show, The Enchanted Forest, have announced they expect this year's event to attract over 20,000 visitors, building on its record breaking success in 2008.

The Enchanted Forest, now in its eight successful year is set to entertain visitors from far and wide with the 2009 theme "Scottish Myths and Legends". The event takes place at Faskally Wood, near Pitlochry, from Friday 16th October – Sunday 1st November.

Faskally Wood, which is managed by Forestry Commission Scotland, is set to be transformed into a journey through Scotland's mystical past, bringing visitors face to face with well known characters such as Robert the Bruce and Tam O' Shanter, and perhaps lesser well know characters such as the Shelly Man and the Selkie. There may even be a surprise visit from Scotland's greatest mythical character, Nessie, who (organisers believe) may be down in the area on holiday during the show!

Visitors will depart via coach from The Fishers Hotel on Pitlochry's main street to be greeted at the entrance of the forest by The Shelly Man who will guide them onto the themed route and start them off on their journey through Scotland's past.

This year, in response to visitor feedback, organisers are breaking with tradition and have planned a series of sound and light shows, situated at different points around the forest.

Stephen Bolland, chair of the steering group for The Enchanted Forest 2009, commented "The event has been successfully run for seven years now and there was a feeling that it was time to change the format of the event to encourage visitors to stay for longer on site and to ensure that we continue to deliver excellent value for money for the very many repeat visitors who come to the event each year."

"Our whole approach has been to look at the forest as a series of platforms upon which different sound, light, water and pyrotechnic effects can be used to greatest effect. The show that has been devised for 2009 is, quite simply, a creative feast for the senses."

During the event, visitors have an opportunity to explore the forest, making their way around a fully accessible paved walk. All areas of Faskally Wood will be lit for effect and the experience will be memorable as well as informative.

Stephen Bolland added, "Scottish Myths and Legends has everyone on the team very excited. We've really listened to what our customers are looking for, built upon our experience of running what is Scotland's biggest and most successful outdoor sound and light show, and we've come up with something that will undoubtedly be a hit with visitors."

This year there will also be a dedicated play area for children called "Spooky Wood" where children can interact with the fairies and wood nymphs and perhaps even catch a haggis! For those that fail

to catch the haggis, the Scottish themed catering on site will be selling Haggis Burgers so there will be no need to worry.

Last year 19,500 people visited The Enchanted Forest, setting a new record, with most shows selling out weeks before the event started. Organisers are expecting tickets to be in high demand this year with additional international promotion for the event coming as a result of involvement with the Scottish Government's Homecoming Scotland marketing campaign.

Visitors to the area can also enjoy the Pitlochry Autumn Festival events taking place near to the departure point for The Enchanted Forest, making it a truly family event.

The shuttle departure point in Pitlochry is a two minute walk from Pitlochry Railway Station and organisers are urging people to make best use of the public transport links available.

For further information about The Enchanted Forest and to purchase tickets, visit The Enchanted Forest website at www.enchantedforest.org.uk

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