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### **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND - David Livingstone Centre**

The David Livingstone Centre, part of the National Trust for Scotland, centres around *Shuttle Row*, the 18<sup>th</sup> century tenement where Livingstone was born in 1813.

The museum opened in 1929, after Rev James MacNair visited Livingstone's childhood home and was horrified to find that it was scheduled for demolition. MacNair founded the Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone Trust to preserve *Shuttle Row* and to turn it into a museum dedicated to the memory of the explorer.

While fundraising for the Memorial, as the Centre was then called, MacNair also appealed for the donation of objects associated with Livingstone for the new museum. Many objects were given by people who had either remembered Livingstone from childhood or whose parents had known the explorer. Today the Centre is home to 1500 artefacts and a collection of photographs, many of which have direct provenance to Livingstone.

The collection comprises a wide range of Livingstone's expedition equipment and personal belongings including navigational and medical instruments, diaries, and journals. The latter items in particular have been of great interest to scholars.

One group of items which has long been a source of mystery are the collection of diary entries dating from October 1870 to 1871 which Livingstone wrote across sheets of newspaper, presumably after he'd run out of writing paper. Almost completely illegible now, these sheets can have been barely legible when they were first written. They are believed to have been brought back to Britain, along with Livingstone's journals and field notebooks by HM Stanley when he left the explorer in March 1872, and were later gifted to the Centre by members of the Livingstone family.

The Centre is managed by the National Trust for Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone Trust, and South Lanarkshire Council.

The National Trust for Scotland is one of Scotland's leading conservation charities, which relies on the financial support of its members to fund its important work of caring for the natural and cultural heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

#### **Links**

David Livingstone Centre: <http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/23/>

National Trust for Scotland: <http://www.nts.org.uk/Home/>