

CASTLE & GARDENS OF MEY E-NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME TO THE CASTLE OF MEY E-NEWSLETTER

It is July and we are half way through the season already! What a season it has been so far with visitor numbers increased by 23%. We are open from May 17th to September 30th inclusive, we will be closed from 28th July to 9th August inclusive. So if you haven't visited already come and see us from August 10th!

Here's what our visitors have had to say about the Castle so far this year:

"Loved it! A real insight into a lovely lady. Great guides who really care."

Carrie and Andrew Young,
Nottinghamshire

"Lovely place!! We'll come back for sure!" Alessia Bonacina, Italy

"A wonderfully warm house filled with personality" Leonard Groat,
Sydney

THE
& CASTLE
& GARDENS
OF MEY 



JUST AN UDDER DAY AT WORK...

In June we had the pleasure of welcoming a CooVan from VisitScotland to the Castle & Gardens of Mey. Archie the CooVan arrived on a bit of a 'dreich' day but that didn't stop the delight on the visitors' faces on seeing the furry fella parked at the front of the Castle. Archie's fuzzy friend Hamish the CooVan returned one month later to glorious sunshine. They were accompanied by CooVisors Alice, Mel and John who are travelling all over the country providing visitors and locals with lots of tourist information and leaflets about the amazing sights and activities Scotland has to offer. On the left we have a picture of Jane, a Castle tour guide, with her very own Hamish the Highland Coo. Jim, another tour guide at the Castle, brought along Hamish the basset hound to meet his Highland coo-unterpart. We hope that the CooVans come back again next year!

CARS

We get many people visiting us in many different modes of transport and on some days something extra special comes along. Here are just a few pictures of vehicles that come through the Castle gates...



10 YEARS OF BEING A 5 STAR VISITOR ATTRACTION!

Once again the Castle and Gardens of Mey have been awarded Visit Scotland's highest rating, marking 10 years of being a five star visitor attraction. All aspects of the visitor centre, tearoom, shop, toilets, castle, gardens, animal centre, parking and grounds were studied and approved. Much hard work by all the staff goes into maintaining the reputation and standards of the castle so that visitors have the best experience possible and we are delighted to have retained this accolade for 10 years in a row. Well done Team!



BUSY BEES

Did you know the honey we sell in the Gift Shop is from two bee hives in our very own gardens? The two colonies of European Honey Bees (*Apis Mellifera*) have been in the grounds since 2012 but their connection with the Castle has been around for much longer. Robin and Gail Inglis have been beekeeping for over 30 years and look after up to 70,000 bees in the garden hives. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was very fond of Robin and Gail's comb honey and when the Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust was set up they were asked to supply honey to the visitor centre. The honey collected at the end of season is filtered twice, stored over winter, heated gently and then jarred. Bees need one month of warm sunny days to fly and work... which can be hard to get in Caithness!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A FRIEND OF THE CASTLE?

You could be a special part of Scottish Heritage. Friends and Patrons are very important members of the Castle of Mey community. They help us to preserve and maintain the castle and develop the gardens and farm, thereby ensuring that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's vision for this part of Scotland is kept alive for future generations. If you are interested in learning more you can visit [our website](#) and read about what being a Friend means.

Please like and follow us on our social media sites below to see what we are up to on a daily basis!



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