



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**National Trust Lunch & Learn: Unlocking History, Artefacts at Jackson Wall Manor**

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2024** – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands will be hosting a Lunch & Learn: “Unlocking History, Artefacts at Jackson Wall Manor” on 19<sup>th</sup> June, from 12:00pm-3:00pm at Grand Old House with guest speaker, Elysia Petras, a PhD candidate training in historical archaeology at Temple University in Philadelphia. Petras will present on the Jackson Wall project excavations to date and share preliminary findings from the project. Tickets (\$100, includes a 3 course meal) are available online, visit [www.nationaltrust.org.ky](http://www.nationaltrust.org.ky) and spaces are limited.

The upcoming Lunch & Learn is a fantastic opportunity to discover the history of Jackson Wall Manor and learn interesting information regarding the artefacts found during the historical dig. In 2023, the first and unprecedented archaeological dig at Jackson Wall Manor was led by Elysia Petras and was groundbreaking as a myriad of artifacts were uncovered, cleaned, cataloged, and sent off for further analysis. Uncovered artifacts included pottery, clay pipes, bullets, and various animal bones. Some of the artifacts found date back to the 1600's. Several NTCI staff members and a group of volunteers were led by Elysia in daily excavations of a small portion of the site.

“The Excavation of the Jackson Wall Manor is a unique opportunity to peer into the Kaleidoscope of our past and uncover hidden messages from what is essentially a historical postcard. The site is one of the more obscure National Trust heritage treasures and is one that has already given great insight into what the lives of the first settlers would have been like. It is counterpart to Pedro St. James, as both were hubs for trade and commerce; existing on opposite coasts” says Stuart Wilson, Historic Programmes Manager, National Trust for the Cayman Islands.

As of 6th June, Elysia Petras has begun the second archaeological dig at Jackson Wall Manor with the assistance of volunteers and NTCI staff members, up until 18th June. New discoveries of items will be mentioned at the Lunch & Learn on 19th June.



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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **About the National Trust for the Cayman Islands**

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is a non-governmental organization whose mandate under the National Trust Law (2010 Revision) includes the preservation of the historic, natural and maritime heritage of the Cayman Islands for present and future generations.

## **About the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme**

The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme began in 1990 with only 30 dedicated Blue Iguanas and the primary goal to restore the wild population to 1,000 Blue Iguanas, encouraging viable population in the long-term. Having met its primary goal in 2018, the initiative formally transitioned to the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme in 2019 with a new focus of sustainably conserving the native species of Grand Cayman.

## **About the National Trust's Environmental Programme**

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' environmental programme was founded on the concept that the protection of native plants and animals is best achieved by protecting the natural areas in which they depend.

## **About the National Trust Conservation Programme**



The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' conservation programme strives to protect Cayman's native species and the habitats in which they live, and includes the endemic Blue Iguana of Grand Cayman, the Sister Islands Rock Iguana and Cayman's native bat species.

### **About the National Trust Historic Preservation Programme**

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands introduced the launching of its *Historic Preservation Fund* at its Annual General Meeting in September 2021 for the purpose of inviting increased support of its continuing efforts to encourage the preservation and protection of historic homes and buildings for present and future generations of the Cayman Islands.