

MOUNT STUART

ISLE OF BUTE

Press Release: Bute Houses Partnership Launch Event

Saturday 8th August

3pm – 8pm

Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute

The Bute Houses Partnership is a new, collaborative venture between four of the most unique historic buildings in Britain: Mount Stuart, Dumfries House, Cardiff Castle and the House of Falkland. Displaying a rich variety of architectural styles and details, internationally important collections, and famed designed landscapes each property is uniquely linked by being or having been in the ownership of the Bute family, one of Britain's most prominent families renowned for their architectural works and artistic patronage.

The Bute Houses range from the classical elegance of DUMFRIES HOUSE, Ayrshire, to the astonishing Gothic revival fantasies of CARDIFF CASTLE and MOUNT STUART on the Isle of Bute. The rich interiors of Cardiff and Mount Stuart can be seen to more subtle effect at the HOUSE OF FALKLAND in Fife. The exceptional architecture and interiors of all these properties owe their appearance to some of the most important architects and craftspeople to have worked in Britain over the past 250 years, most notably John and Robert Adam, Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, William Burges, Horatio Walter Lonsdale and Robert Weir Schultz. Added to this are remarkable and internationally significant collections of artworks and furniture as well as large and important designed landscapes and parklands which surround each building.

NOTE FOR EDITORS:

Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute is the ancestral home of the Marquesses of Bute and is one of Europe's most spectacular Gothic Revival buildings. Designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson - "The Premier Architect of Scotland" - for the deeply learned and fabulously wealthy 3rd Marquess of Bute, Mount Stuart's remarkable interiors (both mysterious and spiritual), rich collections, innovative use of new technologies and lavish gardens make it one of the world's greatest 19th century houses.

Dumfries House in Ayrshire is a fine and early work of the celebrated architect brothers John, Robert and James Adam and was designed for the 5th Earl of Dumfries in 1754. The house is also home to the most important collection of furniture by Thomas Chippendale during his "Director" period as well as pieces by his great Scottish contemporaries Francis Brodie, William Mathie and Alexander Peter. Remodelled by the 3rd Marquess of Bute and Robert Weir Schultz in the 1890s and again by the 4th Marquess of Bute in the 1930s, Dumfries House and its furniture collection was sold in 2007 to a consortium headed by Prince Charles and is now run by the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust.

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Cardiff Castle is at the very heart of the Welsh capital; a city that owes its economic development and dramatic 19th century expansion to the Bute Docks, established by the 2nd Marquess of Bute in 1839. A site occupied over time by Romans, Normans and Elizabethans the castle was dramatically and exquisitely enlarged by the 3rd Marquess of Bute and his eccentric genius of an architect William Burges and today survives as one of the greatest of all Gothic Revival buildings. The castle was gifted to Cardiff City Council by the 5th Marquess of Bute in 1947 and today attracts some 225,000 visitors per annum.

The House of Falkland in Fife was designed by the celebrated Scottish architect William Burn in 1839. Acquired by the 3rd Marquess of Bute along with the Falkland estate and the ancient Royal Stewart Palace of Falkland in 1887, the house subsequently underwent an incredible internal transformation making it today an exceptional example of arts and crafts taste, particularly in the works of the great Scottish arts and crafts proponent Robert Weir Schultz. The recently restored grounds offer some of Scotland's finest short walks, including to the spectacular Yad waterfall at the head of Maspie Den.

The Bute Houses Partnership aims to bring together these outstanding properties maintaining and strengthening historic links and a shared heritage and helping a wider public enjoy their many unique and varied qualities. The Partnership is a fluid organisation in the process of developing an exciting range of educational and commercial projects.

The Bute Houses Partnership will be officially launched at Mount Stuart on Saturday 8th August at 3pm. Event host, John, 7th Marquess of Bute, will be joined by speakers representing each of the four Bute Properties.

We are delighted to announce the speakers as follows:

- Andrew McLean, Curator & Archivist, Mount Stuart
- Ninian Stuart, Keeper of Falkland Palace, Vice Chair and Stewardship Director, Falkland Centre of Stewardship
- Matthew Williams, Curator, Cardiff Castle
- Kenneth Dunsmuir, Business Development Manager, Dumfries House

Tickets for this event are now available from the Mount Stuart office.

Admission: £20 (including light refreshments).

For further information and images please contact:

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