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MOUNT STUART TRUST  
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Mount Stuart Trust is a Charitable Trust, founded in 1989 by John Crichton Stuart, Marquess of Bute (1933-1993), with the aim of entrusting the historic Mount Stuart together with the land and resources previously comprising the Bute Estate to a charitable trust managed by a board of independent Trustees.

The Trust works to facilitate public interest, understanding and appreciation of the arts, architecture, and the rural environment. The Trust manages and maintains a series of assets across the Island of Bute, including Mount Stuart House and Gardens, which have been open to the public since 1995. The trust is committed to conservation, environmental sustainability, innovation, public access, and education.

The Bute Collection is generously loaned to the Mount Stuart Trust and is one of the UK's foremost private historical collections, dating from the 12th century to the present. Collected by successive generations of the Crichton Stuart family, the Bute Collection consists of spectacular fine and decorative art, an internationally significant archive, and historic libraries comprised of over 27,000 books.



Across all departments and in each area of the Trust's activities we are dedicated to upholding the aims and values of the Trust as outlined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. These examples illustrate our commitment to sustainability, community and the promotion of arts and education.

**Lochend**, on the shores of Loch Ascog, is a sustainable living development recently completed as a pilot for a series of sustainable, designed housing projects, built to attract renewed community life to the island and work towards improving the island's recent demographic emigration. Further sustainable living developments are planned for the future.

**Bute Books Volunteer Group** is a collaboration with the SAWA Project (a partnership between Mount Stuart Trust, LiveArgyll and Argyll & Bute Council). In Syrian Arabic, Sawa means 'together', and the Project has been designed to enable new Scots to develop language skills learned through ESOL, encourage language learners to engage with local islanders, and use their new language skills to work in partnership and share experiences together. Our librarian has been running this project for two years with Syrian and Ukrainian refugees in the libraries at Mount Stuart. Our goal is to expand this project across all areas of the Trust.

Our **Contemporary Visual Arts Programme** was launched in 2001 to promote and facilitate interest in the contemporary visual arts and bring exhibitions of international standard to Bute and Argyll. Each exhibition is complemented by a programme of events, publications and educational activities. The programme has worked with both international and UK artists, inviting them to respond to the house, grounds and collections. Since 2018 the **Emerging Artist Residency** has invited early career stage artists with a focus on socially engaged practice to develop their work on Bute.

Each year our Collections team shines a spotlight on an aspect of the collection, archives and libraries. Recent **exhibitions** include *Fantasy to Fabrication* which looked at the 19th Century Decorative Art collection at Mount Stuart and *Comics Uncovered* which delves into the history of comics, graphic art, satire and caricature from the Georgian era to now. Future plans will include an exhibition focusing on the historic dress collection at Mount Stuart, an exploration of the rural history of the Isle of Bute, and the display of botanical illustrations from the archive, as collected by the 3rd Earl of Bute.

Community Engagement is key to everything we do at Mount Stuart and is at the heart of our strategic aims. Mount Stuart itself is a hub for community events throughout the year and we continue to nurture ongoing connections within the community from schools to nurseries, local community centres and groups, cross-sector groups, local authority provision, community sports, housing, and the farming sector. Mount Stuart is embedded in the community as a significant employer and provider of apprenticeship opportunities on Bute.

We continue to collaborate with key community stakeholders and individuals such as Bute Kitchen, The Pavilion, Isle of Bute BID and Argyll and Bute Council in order to support local growth and initiatives.

Looking forward, we continue to work at building and maintaining relationships across the range of stakeholders on Bute – work which we consider to be of vital importance. Public consultation and benefit are a mainstay of community engagement.

Read our Community Engagement Strategy here:

<https://www.mountstuart.com/community>





## O u r B o a r d

Our board is made up of trustees from a range of backgrounds with relevant skills and expertise, including members of the Bute family, who support the diverse activities of the Trust.

The board is chaired by Sophie Crichton Stuart. Sophie was appointed in 2020 having served on the Board of Trustees for several years. She is additionally the founding Director of the Contemporary Visual Arts Programme at Mount Stuart. Sophie was the Director of the Edinburgh Tapestry Company from 1993-2001 and has served on the board for a number of contemporary arts organisations including The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, and Public Art Fund, New York.

To find out more about our team, board and strategy please visit our website:  
<https://www.mountstuart.com/governance>



## B e i n g a T r u s t e e

Board duties include being fully aware of the Trust's Articles of Association, mission, and strategies; preparing for meetings by reviewing the agenda and supporting papers; regularly attending board meetings and participating actively; keeping up with issues that affect the organisation; have a broad understanding of trust finances and analysis.

Trustees are not paid for their time but the Trust is able to reimburse trustees for expenses incurred while travelling to meetings. Board meetings are held three times a year, on Bute and in London, with virtual means of attending available.

Trustees are welcome to attend meetings of the Finance Committee, Risk Management Committee, and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Attendance at informal community engagement events is encouraged. Trustees are invited to attend exhibition openings, talks and performances held at Mount Stuart; attendance at these events is not mandatory but is appreciated.

Mount Stuart Trust is actively searching for an additional board member to support Trust activities and the ongoing implementation of our strategy, with a focus on sustainability, community engagement and long term financial stability.

## Requirements:

- Must be Bute based
- Previous record of key public-facing service preferred
- Have an interest in Community and Community Engagement
- Board experience preferred

Expressions of interest to be registered, with accompanying CV, by November 30, 2023 to Charlotte Rogers; [charlotte@mountstuart.com](mailto:charlotte@mountstuart.com)

Mount Stuart Trust is committed to upholding the values set out in our ED&I policy and to create a workplace that is a safe and welcoming for all our staff, visitors and trustees. Diversity is valued at Mount Stuart and the Trust encourages applications from people from all backgrounds. If you have any access requirements at the application stage, or after, please get in touch with us to discuss any reasonable accommodations.





Keep in Touch

### **Mount Stuart Trust**

Mount Stuart  
Isle of Bute  
PA20 9LR

01700 503 877

Mount Stuart Trust Ltd., a Scottish Registered Charity, No. SC009584

### **Find us on Social Media**



### **Chair**

Sophie Crichton Stuart

### **Trustees**

Toby Anstruther, Beth Bate, Jack Bute, Anthony Crichton Stuart, Samantha Embury, Georgia Fenwick Gomez, Stephen Jenkins, David Rae, Francis Russell

### **Senior Leadership Team**

Harry Bowman - Head of Rural Operations

Donna Chisholm - Head of Visitor Operations