



22 March 2023

## **LEGACY FUND SUPPORTS CONSERVATION SKILLS AT NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND**

- **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Bute, whose namesake Marquess of Bute Memorial Fund supports conservation internship at National Trust for Scotland**
- **12-month Bute internship run by the Institute of Conservation on behalf of the Trust**
- **Alice Law joins the Trust in March 2023 to learn and build upon her conservation experience**

A legacy fund set up in memory of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Bute is supporting the next generation of conservators by preserving heritage and conservation skills at the National Trust for Scotland.

Alice Law joins the conservation charity on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the passing of Lord Bute, to assist in its care of Scotland's cultural heritage thanks to a memorial fund set up in his name. It provides funding for the 12-month Bute internship, designed to help aspiring conservators gain more experience in the field while safeguarding traditional heritage and conservation skills for the future.

Lord Bute's close ties with the National Trust for Scotland were the catalyst to establish the Marquess of Bute Memorial Fund to support future generations of conservators in the country. Alice joins the Trust to undertake the Bute internship organised in partnership with the Institute of Conservation (Icon), the leading professional body for conservation in the UK.

During the internship, newly qualified conservator Alice will learn more about the specialist care involved in preserving Scotland's historic properties, their interiors and collections of unique artwork and artefacts. Working across a number of projects and properties, Alice will shadow the Trust's three Conservators and work alongside members of the Collections Care teams as they meticulously look after some of Scotland's most valued historic buildings and prized collections to enhance her knowledge and skills in preventive conservation techniques.

Alice, who joins the Trust after completing a MSc in Conservation Practice at Cardiff University, having previously undertaken a History of Art MA at the University of Cambridge, said: "I've grown up going to Scotland and visiting National Trust for Scotland properties, so I feel incredibly excited and privileged to be able to learn more about the workings of historic buildings and the care of their collections in a place that I love. I want to learn as much as I can over the year, to challenge myself with new

objects and scenarios, and to work with like-minded people, to build on my university experience and bring it forward into my future career.”

Lesley Scott, Icon accredited Conservator for the Edinburgh and East region who joined the Trust in 2020 and specialises in conservation of objects, such as social history objects and static/non-working industrial items, will manage Alice during her time at the Trust to guide her through the internship. Alice will assist Lesley on a programme of work to look at how the Trust cares for dynamic objects, e.g. those with moving parts, such as clocks and printing presses, as well as experience both preventive and remedial conservation practices. Remedial conservation focuses on the practical treatment and stabilisation of historic objects whereas preventive conservation aims to slow down deterioration of objects by managing the surrounding environment and monitoring for any changes.

Lesley said: “The Bute internship is possible thanks to the generous support of John Crichton-Stuart, the 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Bath. He was an avid supporter of heritage and the arts in Scotland and established a world-renowned art collection as well as owning many historic buildings. He spent over two decades with the Trust as Chairman, Vice-President and later President; it was because of this close connection that the Trust launched an appeal after his death to set up the Marquess of Bute Memorial Fund.

“Through the internship, Alice will be able to develop her conservation practice in a challenging yet supportive environment where she can get up close to some of Scotland’s treasured cultural objects and collections of artwork and learn from highly experienced professional accredited conservators, working on both preventive and remedial conservation practices. The internship supports the Trust’s objectives set out in its 10-year strategy, *Nature, Beauty and Heritage for Everyone*, to improve the condition of its estate and to be a learning organisation, championing traditional conservation skills.

“Working with the Trust provides a different aspect in the field of conservation to that of a museum for example. Our collections are displayed in a lived-in place, with the layers of history visible through the surrounding artworks, interiors and furnishings to give a real sense of how they were admired and cherished by their owners in situ, rather than through the glass of display cases. It will be a real hands-on experience for Alice and we look forward to her joining the Collections Team in the Conservation & Policy Directorate.”

The enthusiastic response by its members to a fundraising appeal launched by the Trust after the passing of the John Crichton-Stuart in 1993 helped to create the Marquess of Bute Memorial Fund, that was set up in 1995. It was used to fund an annual award called the ‘John Bute Award for Conservation’ where financial grants would be awarded to assist young people to develop skills in the field of conservation while working in association with the National Trust for Scotland.

Since 2008 the internship has been administered by Icon, the Institute of Conservation. This professional body regulates the standard of the internship and acts as an independent support network for both the intern and the hosting institution to solve any problems that may arise. The partnership with Icon also allows the Trust intern to

network with other Icon interns across the country to share advice, best practice and experiences.

Heather Doyle, Institute of Conservation Accreditation Manager, said: "Icon is delighted to be partnering with the National Trust for Scotland again. The Trust has provided many valuable internship opportunities over the years, enabling fledgling conservators to benefit from the skills, knowledge and experience of their conservation team. Through these roles, we hope Scotland's rich heritage can be enjoyed by future generations. We wish Alice every success and look forward to seeing the results of her hard work."

The Bute internship contributes to the National Trust for Scotland's vision to deliver *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*. Its 10-year strategy refocuses its vision of caring for, sharing and conserving Scotland's heritage, and the internship contributes to its conservation and engagement objectives to stabilise and improve the condition of its estate and to be a learning organisation by championing skills to support traditional conservation and innovation.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland, or the events taking place in your area, visit: [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

A selection of high resolution imagery can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/NTSCIn>. For more information, imagery or interview requests please contact Muckle Media on [nts@mucklemedia.co.uk](mailto:nts@mucklemedia.co.uk) or call 0131 228 9713.

### About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.