

KNOCKROON: A MODEL COMMUNITY FOR SCOTLAND

ARRAN CIVIC TRUST

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a sustainable mixed-use development initiated by
HRH The Prince of Wales as an integral part of the
acquisition of Dumfries House and grounds in East Ayrshire

**An illustrated talk by ANNE and IAN HOPE
of HOPE HOMES, the developers**

TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2013

Ormidale Pavilion 7pm

ALL WELCOME

The purchase, for the nation, of Dumfries House designed by the famous architects of the day, William and Robert Adam, by a consortium led by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (or Duke of Rothesay as he is known in Scotland), marked the start of a long-term commitment to East Ayrshire by the Prince's Charities. The purchase was quickly followed by the decision to take forward a model community for Scotland along the lines the acclaimed Poundbury development in Dorchester, Dorset. Knockroon, as this development is called, close to Cumnock, is not just another housing development. It is a new community being built on land belonging to the Dumfries House Estate. With a network of paths leading to the house and the many facilities of the estate itself, it will have a wide mix of sizes and types of homes, shops, businesses and community facilities, priced appropriately to encourage buyers from the locality. By drawing on the timeless language of traditional design, Knockroon is being built to a high standard and will continue to look beautiful for decades to come. Dumfries House, built between 1754 and 1759 for the 5th Earl of Dumfries, and with a unique collection of Chippendale furniture, has been described as an 18th century time-capsule since the principal rooms and

their contents have remained virtually unchanged for 250 years. In June 2007, HRH The Prince of Wales, under his title as the Great Steward of Scotland, headed a consortium of charities and heritage bodies to purchase this unique house, its contents and adjoining land, in order to keep this historical jewel intact and accessible to the public.

However, the House was only the beginning. HRH The Prince Charles has also set in motion several exciting projects that will not only reinvigorate the surrounding area, but will also create a lasting and creative legacy for many years to come, offering training and apprenticeships for young people in traditional skills.

Already achieved, the Coach House café serving a selection of sandwiches, paninis and home baking; the newly opened Library Restaurant is located in the west wing of Dumfries House in the former billiard room. The Sawmill has recently been converted to a traditional skills centre by Hope Homes Scotland. This will be used by The Prince's Foundation to teach students of many nationalities. The recently renovated laundry building now houses four artists' studios which will be the home of an exciting new international residency opportunity for practising artists from Scotland and the USA, as well as being a venue for students of The Prince's Drawing School to experience drawing and painting around the estate.

Morrisons Farm at Dumfries House now stands on the site of a 1940's British Army camp. This 900 acre farm was set up in partnership between Dumfries House and Morrisons supermarket.

Hope Homes are currently constructing The Belling Hospitality Training Centre, The Stonemasons' Shed, The Education Buildings and an Outdoor Residential Education Activity Centre. The Summer House in the walled garden was constructed as part of The Building Craft Apprentices Livebuild 2012 project. Participants in The Prince's Foundation Summer School came up with the design of the building that is now in situ and was constructed by craft apprentices, over a 2 month period, supervised and assisted by Hope Homes highly skilled tradesmen.

"Creating sustainable and green neighbourhoods is all about finding solutions that will stand the test of time – not about gimmicks or quick fixes". Hank Dittmar, Chief Executive, The Prince's Foundation

