

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

John Muir Award
turns 21 *pages 2-3*
Literacy & Nature *pages 6-7*
Let's get digital *page 12*

The John Muir Award is the main engagement initiative of the John Muir Trust.
It encourages people to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

www.johnmuiraward.org
#johnmuiraward

JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

The John Muir Trust formally launched the John Muir Award, its main engagement initiative, in February 1997.



For our 21st Anniversary

- 1 We have a lead item in the John Muir Trust Autumn 2017 Journal
- 2 There's a web page for your stories of John Muir Award involvement over the years
- 3 We'll re-run the launch ceremony at Dunbar on 26th February 2018

1 John Muir Trust Journal – Turning 21

Read about the origins and early days, and two decades of collaboration and consolidation - hard copies are being distributed with this mailout, and available here: johnmuirtrust.org/about/resources. Search 'John Muir Trust Journals'

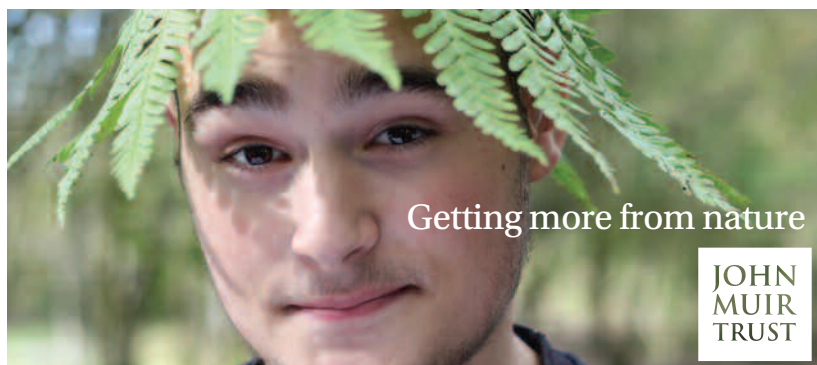


“It is amazing how little the John Muir Award has changed down the years”

“When it came to actual delivery, the Trust was so small that we needed other organisations to incorporate it into their own work and essentially deliver a shared agenda for us”

“The best £16,000 Scottish Natural Heritage ever spent!”

Support the John Muir Award



Getting more from nature



The John Muir Trust has always run the Award for free. With increasing demand, UK-wide, we want to help even more people enjoy and care for wild places.

Watch a short film, and donate at johnmuirtrust.org/johnmuirawardfund

Search 'John Muir Award Fund'

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JohnMuirTrust.org/Award21

Share your own reflections on long working relationships, quirky or unique angles, personal stories from the past 21 years...
Read more online and send things our way until February 2018.

We are very proud to have been associated with the John Muir Award for over ten years now. Every year all of our First Years students complete the Award, something that had never been attempted by a school before. Our pupils have got so much out of the Award and it's great to see how it has become such an important part of the work of other schools across Scotland and beyond, too.
Jake Perry, Beeslack Community High School

This award is all about serendipity – a happy coincidence of ambition and opportunity. It was serendipitous that, at a time when we in the Lake District National Park was looking for a new partner to deliver outdoor learning, Rob Bushby was right there with the ideal package.
Bob Cartwright, Former Director, Lake District National Park Authority

Wow – 21 already? How did that happen? Ardroy has been involved from the very early days. We've used it to inspire thousands of young (and older) minds since then, and it's led to some really great partnership working, most recently with the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Too many goosebump moments to list, when you've seen children share their learning, comments from parents or teachers after a residential, the list goes on... The Award fits beautifully into our ethos and desire to imbue a sense of environmental responsibility into all of our attendees. Roll on the 25th birthday party!"

Why the John Muir Award is Important to us: it has helped us, through informal outdoor education, engage young people who lack confidence, self-esteem, who struggle to engage with their peers, and have trust issues. Through this award we have been able to give our young people the opportunity to take part in activities not always available to them and to create amazing activities specific to the needs of the group while supporting them to achieve an award. The young people have created amazing memories, made new friends, gained knowledge of the outdoors and learnt the importance of the environment and conservation, and in turn sparked an interest in a career within the outdoors.
Amanda Black, Tulloch



Why this image? We've caught a moment of pleasure and joy in nature, as part of a bigger day of adventuring and learning. What could be better!
Phil Thompson, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre

3

Dunbar Launch

Environment Minister Lord Lindsay officially launched the John Muir Award in Dunbar Leisure Centre (and on Dunbar Beach) on 26th February 1997. We'll mark this on 26th February 2018 with as many of the original attendees as we can find... Let us know if you were there!



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Revised curriculum information for England & Scotland

These documents are useful for explaining and supporting John Muir Trust work with schools, and positioning our work with a wide range of partners. The John Muir Award provides an ideal structure for contributing to curriculum requirements and can be used with whole year groups, class groups, small groups of learners, individuals and families.

There is also a handy curriculum map to show how the Award can be used to help deliver against specific subject areas and cross curricular learning outcomes.

Scotland

The John Muir Award and Curriculum for Excellence

Use this document to find out how the John Muir Award contributes to learning in schools in Scotland. It includes examples of the John Muir Award in action, and information on how it can help meet school priorities such as: raising attainment for all, inclusion and special educational needs, literacy and numeracy, health and well-being, employability skills, and learning for sustainability.

Search 'John Muir Award and Curriculum for Excellence'



England

John Muir Award and the Curriculum

Read our updated John Muir Award and the Curriculum publication demonstrating how it can be used across the curriculum and support school priorities such as: progress and attainment, health and wellbeing, character development and enhancing employability skills.

Search 'John Muir Award and the Curriculum'

Inclusion, Wild Places & the John Muir Award

We've recently updated our Inclusion publication, outlining why and how inclusion organisations get involved in the John Muir Award. It also highlights links with national policy and initiatives. Have a look online to see new examples of the diverse ways that inclusion organisations are getting involved, and how they use the John Muir Award to engage new audiences in wild places.

Search 'John Muir Award Inclusion'



Photo: Jess Shurte

A Pollinator Portfolio: creating a buzz through the John Muir Award

The John Muir Award offers a fantastic way to frame activity that contributes to the conservation of pollinators - from wildlife gardening to beekeeping.

From schools that are part of the Heritage Lottery Funded UK-wide Polli:nation project to a mental health service in Glasgow, our new Pollinator Case Study shares some great examples of how groups have been making local pollinators welcome in their wild places.

Search 'John Muir Award Pollinator Case Study'



"Representatives from each class became members of the HIVE group, bringing together new ideas from across the school. It's been great to see them taking responsibility for the sustainable future of pollinators within our grounds and forest school sites."

Class teacher Jill Gaunt,
Richard Bonington Primary School, Nottinghamshire

Photo: Katrina Martin

4,599
people in
196 groups
worked on over 18,000m² of **wildflower areas** with species including daffodils, bluebells, poppy, lavender, primroses, sunflowers and many more

8,712
people in
389 groups
maintained or created 3,900 wildlife habitats for birds, bees, butterflies, minibeasts, moorland species, peat bog species, frogs, newts, small mammals, bats, hibernaculum, amphibians, hedgehogs, field mice, voles and doormice



Who uses the John Muir Award?

From youth work to mental health support, from addiction recovery to engaging with at-risk families, the Award is used across a wide range of sectors which aim to promote inclusion.

Literacy, Nature & the John Muir Award

The natural world offers inspiration and stimulation. It provides rich, multi-sensory experiences that can be a springboard for creative writing. Learning about the natural world can help build new vocabulary and knowledge and this real life context helps information to be retained.

The outdoors can be used to develop emotional literacy. From spending solo time in quiet reflective spaces to engaging in high impact adventurous activities as part of a group, there are opportunities to process and communicate thoughts and feelings. Writing activities such as planning and reviewing, as well as personal reflections in journals, contributions to school displays, poetry and sharing online can all contribute to achieving a John Muir Award.

Outdoor Learning Approaches, Literacy & Policy

Outdoor Learning isn't a subject or topic; it's a way of teaching. Natural Connections (a four year project funded by Defra, Natural England and Historic England) has shown that school grounds and local greenspaces can be used daily to enhance teaching and learning, and to deliver a wide range of associated benefits, including promoting children's social and emotional skills and their engagement with learning.

Outdoor Learning was used by schools involved in Natural Connections across all curriculum areas, most regularly and consistently in the core subjects of science, English and maths. Its use in these important subjects reflects that teachers were confident that curriculum objectives could be met through this approach. Schools also reported that it greatly enhanced lessons, motivated pupils and encouraged teachers to try new things.



Photo: Keith Brame

Teachers particularly valued Outdoor Learning for inspiring creativity. Using the natural environment in English/literacy sparked greater creativity in pupils' work by firing their imaginations, and provided them with first-hand experiences to write about: "I do a lot of stories based in the woodland, using artefacts and natural objects... We are always searching for a great hook for our learning experiences to try to get pupils enthused ... I've seen a real improvement in children's writing." (Teacher, Natural Connections).

In Scotland, improving literacy as well as other key foundations for learning - numeracy and health & wellbeing - is a key focus of the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Amongst the Recommendations of Learning for Sustainability Vision 2030+ is a commitment to recognise "The added value of Learning for Sustainability [including Outdoor Learning] in enabling improvements to literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, as part of the drive to raise attainment and tackle inequity."

The John Muir Trust is working to give these approaches more prominence in education policy.

Search: 'Transforming Schools through Outdoor Learning'; 'Learning for Sustainability Vision 2030+'

Literacy & Nature Resource Guide

Read the new John Muir Award Literacy & Nature Resource Guide to find out how nature and the outdoors can inspire and support literacy skills.

It includes links to literacy resources that have a natural theme or are specially adapted for the outdoors, along with Award-specific resources and examples.



"Literacy is about loving life and expressing it in different ways"
Juliet Robertson, Creative Star Learning

We have a range of Resource Guides on National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Biodiversity, Surveys, Outdoor Learning, Outdoor Access, Wildlife Gardening, Sustainability, and John Muir.

Search 'John Muir Award Resource Guides'

The Lost Words

With acrostic 'spells' by Robert Macfarlane and beautiful watercolour artwork by Jackie Morris, this enchanting collaboration conjures back to glorious life some natural words fading from usage.

Robert Macfarlane will be familiar to many as the author of a number of books about landscape, wildness and culture including *The Wild Places*, *Mountains of the Mind*, *The Old Ways* and *Landmarks*. This newly published hardback focuses on words that are moving to the margins of many children's lives and stories – bluebell, dandelion, otter, kingfisher, acorn – and presents them as both challenge and celebration.

The challenge is to the culture in which we live, a timely reminder that we should take a good, long look at what we value. For children and young people in particular – and arguably for all of us – experiences of nature and wild imagination are vital. Words and names can help us to interpret and express what we value.

As Jackie says, “when you work in the world of words, language, such things have power”.

The Lost Words is also a joyful celebration – of nature words and the natural world they invoke. With acrostic poems and hand-painted illustrations, Jackie's aspiration was for “a book for all ages, a book that reads aloud to delight the ear, with images that dance in the heart”. Robert's goal: “to cast spells of language to summon the words back into common usage. A ‘spelling’ book in more ways than one”.

The book is about lost and found, about words, about the wild.

Published October 2017 by Penguin Books Ltd, ISBN: 9780241253588



“Language is written deeply and richly into our relationships with landscape and with nature: there as the place-names on our maps, and the many names of species, common and rare, with which we share our lives. Names matter – and good names carry knowledge, poetry and mystery with them.

As Tim Dee puts it, “Without a name made in our mouths, a creature or place struggles

to find a place in our minds and hearts”. This doesn't mean that we all need to be fluent in Latin binomials. Children, especially, don't need names to need nature.

Given the chance, children will new-mint stories for nature and coin gleaming names for it. Given the chance, they will meet the living world eagerly with their bodies and minds, touching and eating and dreaming it:

no Linnaeans necessary.

But common names can carry a magic with them: kingfisher, goldfinch, magpie – these are all wonder-words in their ways. Without names to give it detail, the natural world can quickly blur into a generalized wash of green – a disposable backdrop or wallpaper, something to be ignored.”

Robert Macfarlane

Credit: Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris

kingfisher

kingfisher

Kingfisher: the colour-giver, fire-bringer, flame-flicker, river's quiver.

Ink-black bill, orange throat, and a quick blue back-gleaming feather-stream.

Neat and still it sits on the snag of a stick, until with...

Gold-flare, wing-fan, whipcrack the kingfisher – zingfisher, singfisher! –

Flashes down too fast to follow, quick and quicker carves its hollow

In the water, slings its arrow superswift to swallow

Stickleback or shrimp or minnow.

Halcyon is its other name – also ripple-calmer, water-nester,

Evening angler, weather-teller, rainbringer and

Rainbow bird – that sets the stream alight with burn and glitter!



#JOHNMUIRAWARD

Love, like & share #JohnMuirAward is an increasingly popular way to share experiences on social media. Here's a small selection. And see page 12 for details of our new Record eBook.



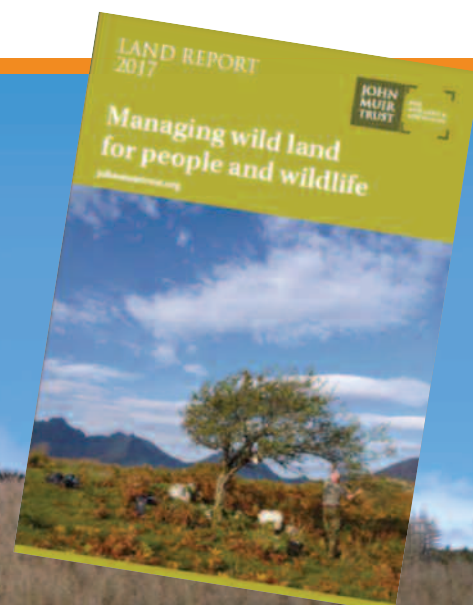
John Muir Trust Land Report

A new John Muir Trust report was published this summer highlighting the work we do to improve habitats and encourage wildlife on the land we manage, guided by our Wild Land Management Standards.

This includes over 2,500 people achieving a John Muir Award during 2016 as part of direct involvement with Trust properties and land partnerships, delivered through 25 organisations.

As well as the Land Report, there's a detailed overview of community engagement on Trust properties through using the John Muir Award.

Search 'John Muir Award community engagement', 'John Muir Trust Land Reports'



Glenlude perspectives

John Deeney

Phoenix Futures

“Glenlude offers our service users the opportunity to carry out practical conservation tasks in a tranquil setting in the Scottish countryside rather than the suburban areas that they currently work in. It's a chance to explore, meet new people, take on new challenges and feel free from everyday problems.

The service users have adopted Glenlude as their second home; they love coming down and are always trying to persuade us to take them more often. It is a very special place for everyone. To me, this is a very powerful partnership that exemplifies how collaborative working supports individuals in their recovery journeys. As an organisation, we are very proud of the partnership we have developed with the John Muir Trust and look forward to our continued working together.”



Mark Timmins

Tomorrow's People Edinburgh and Borders Hub, Galashiels Focus project

“Our partnership with the John Muir Trust at Glenlude is an ever enriching experience for our young people, allowing them to gain positive experiences, which help to move them towards a fulfilling role in society. We look forward to developing our relationship in the years to come, along with the continuing addition of trees to the wood which we like to call the Gala Wood.”



Pictured: Volunteers plant saplings out on the open hill



Chance to Shine!

Year of Young People 2018 - the latest Scottish Government themed year - is an opportunity to celebrate the amazing young personalities, talents, and achievers that make up Scotland. It's all about inspiring our nation through its young people's ideas, attitudes and ambitions.

A year-long programme of events, activities and ideas will give young people in Scotland the opportunity to show the world what they're made of. Year of Young People 2018 is something everyone - young or young-at-heart - can support and be immensely proud of.

The John Muir Trust has been invited to get involved in a couple of ways. We're co-

designing a project to help better understand the relationships that young people have with wild places. And we're doing another targeted Conserve Audit to identify and share the amount and type of activity carried out by young people to meet the Conserve aspect of the John Muir Award.

There's lots of information including a supporter's toolkit at yoyp2018.scot.



Charter for Trees, Woods and People

On 6 November 2017 - the 800th anniversary of the influential 1217 Charter of the Forest - the Charter for Trees, Woods and People will be launched.

As a signatory to the Charter, the John Muir Trust believes the people of the UK have a right to the benefits brought by trees and woods. We put this into practice through work with partners to create woodlands such as the Heart of Scotland Forest, and in our own woodlands including Li and Coire Dhorrcail - winner of Scotland's Finest Woods Award. And we encourage people to take action for woodland: in 2015 21% of John Muir Award Conserve activity took place in woodlands and 12,533 trees were planted by 3,819 participants. The new charter will recognise, celebrate and protect this right.

Over 60,000 stories have been gathered from the public about why trees are important to their lives. These have led to **10 Principles, right**, which describe the role trees play and how they must be protected and allowed to thrive for the benefit of all.

You can be a part of this historic moment by signing the Tree Charter - it will draw its strength from the hundreds of thousands of people across the UK that sign. Show your support - **Sign The Tree Charter**. Search 'Tree Charter Signatory'



Thriving habitats for diverse species



Planting for the future



Celebrating the cultural impact of trees



A thriving forestry sector that delivers for the UK



Better protection for important trees and woods



Enhancing new developments with trees



Understanding and using the natural health benefits of trees



Access to trees for everyone



Addressing threats to woods and trees through good management

Strengthening landscapes with woods and trees



Unleash your local greenspace learning potential

'Beyond your Boundary' offers easy steps to learning in local greenspace.

This new Scottish Natural Heritage resource helps you to find, access and use your local greenspace for learning. It is for educators in all schools, of any subject, working with pupils of all stages.

Search 'Beyond Your Boundary'



The 2018 Wild Nature Diary and Calendar (pictured), as well as our latest range of Christmas cards, is now available to buy online.

Not only do they look fantastic, but if you buy directly from us 100% of profits go towards protecting and enhancing wild places.

johnmuirtrust.org/shop



Foreword by Chris Packham

It's time for us all to pull our heads out of the peat. It's time for us to honour the man, to emulate his grit, match his vision and trump his determination. John Muir was many things, but perhaps most importantly he was a fighter who put his heart on his sleeve, refuted compromise and took risks and, my goodness, do we need his ilk now. Let me put two things in sharp perspective; one, these are very dark days for the environment and two, all is far from lost. And if that isn't enough to rouse us to join ranks and fight a noble and righteous last stand I don't know what is.

Our campaign needs action on all fronts. The mega issues of climate change and human population growth, the global and national biodiversity loss, the regional threats of development and agricultural carnage and the local issues of environmental vandalism which blight our daily lives are not beyond salvation if I, you, we, actually act. Caring

is no longer enough - we have to implement the many proven methods of recovery and restoration we have in our arsenal of technologies. We must draft the scientists and empower the managers, free the teachers and feed the young a diet of truth and hope. And we must stop cowering before the lies and corruption, which thwart our immediate progress. The John Muir Trust is a do-er and what it does, it does well. Landscape management, rewilding, education, the excellent Award scheme... all superb, researched, planned and practiced with intelligent and reasoned success. The problem is only that it's not doing enough, fast enough and that is no fault of the Trust. That's down to us because without our active support, energies and funding it simply cannot. It's time to stop sitting down moaning and musing over our collective predicament, it's time to stand up, be counted and contribute. One planet, one chance, your choice.

Chris Packham
2017

Let's get digital...digital

New web-based Record eBook helps John Muir Award participants experience, record and share wild places.

We've launched a brand new free resource for participants and leaders. You can now create your own Record eBook to capture what you do, see, sense and find out – through quotes, poems & stories, songs & sounds, films & pictures...

The Record eBook is available to use anywhere – through smartphones, tablets, laptops and interactive smart boards. You can use it in wild places or back at the centre, in the home or classroom.

"We've seen a significant increase in John Muir Award leaders and participants sharing what they do through using #johnmuiraward on social media, so encouraging those involved to record and share experiences through a dedicated web resource feels like

an exciting natural progression."
*Kevin Lelland, John Muir Trust
Head of Communications*

The Record eBook is available to everyone across the UK who has registered John Muir Award activity with the John Muir Trust. Get in touch with your key Award contact to help you create your Record eBook account, or visit www.johnmuiraward.org/recordebook to see how it works.

Huge thanks to Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and Heritage Lottery Fund for their support.

Search 'John Muir Award Record eBook'

