

Get in touch with the John Muir Award — the educational initiative of the John Muir Trust

41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD — 0845 458 2910

General enquiries — email [info@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:info@johnmuiraward.org) [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org) — [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

**JOHN MUIR AWARD MANAGER**

Rob Bushby, [rob@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:rob@johnmuiraward.org)

**WEST SCOTLAND**

Toby Clark  
126 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 2BH  
0845 458 3184  
[toby@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:toby@johnmuiraward.org)

**EAST SCOTLAND**

Kim McIntosh  
41 Commercial Street Edinburgh EH6 6JD  
0845 458 2910  
[eastscotland@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:eastscotland@johnmuiraward.org)

**CAIRNGORMS**

Al Smith  
Cairngorms National Park Authority  
14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire PH26 3HG  
01479 870518  
[cairngorms@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:cairngorms@johnmuiraward.org)

**WALES**

Hugo Iffla  
Suilven, Marconi Lane, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9HN  
0845 456 9398  
[hugo@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:hugo@johnmuiraward.org)

**CUMBRIA**

Graham Watson  
c/o Cumbria Youth Alliance  
University of Cumbria, Newton Rigg, Penrith CA11 0AH  
01768 893656  
[graham@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:graham@johnmuiraward.org)

**NORTH EAST ENGLAND**

Katy Standish  
The EWE Centre, Esh Winning Primary School, The Wynds, Esh Winning, County Durham DH7 9BE  
0191 373 9799  
[northeastengland@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:northeastengland@johnmuiraward.org)

**ENGLAND**

Caroline Standring  
126 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 2BH  
0845 458 3184  
[england@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:england@johnmuiraward.org)

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Scottish Natural Heritage  
All of nature for all of Scotland



**JOHN MUIR AWARD**

wild places:  
DISCOVER  
EXPLORE  
CONSERVE  
SHARE

John Muir Award News  
Spring 2010

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

100,000

# 100,000 John Muir Awards

100,000 John Muir Awards feels like a big deal. It's more or less the number of islands on the planet. It's roughly the number of years it takes snow falling at the South Pole to reach the coast of Antarctica (historically). It's the number of hairs on an average head.

To reach this milestone has been quite a journey, from 6 groups and 212 certificates during the pilot year of 1996 to well over 700 groups and almost 22,000 Awards achieved in 2009.

## Origins

The earliest mention of the John Muir Award dates back to November 1993. A Draft Proposal from Graham White was put to the Chairman's Committee of The John Muir Trust to create "A John Muir Environmental Award Scheme". It would be 'a national, open access scheme which could advance the Trust's work and objectives by bringing young people into direct contact with our work and ideals, and with those of John Muir'. Young people would be invited to "do something for wild places. The Award Scheme would be designed to directly involve large numbers of young people in the conservation of wild places and to encourage personal growth by means of environmental education."

'There is a large and empty green field waiting for someone to raise a standard. The John Muir Trust should seize the initiative and ask other agencies to join them in promoting nature conservation values among young people.'

Graham White, 1993



Environment Minister Lord Lindsay on Dunbar Beach at the Awards launch, 1997

## Momentum

While it took 10 years for the first 50,000 awards to be achieved (in August 2007), it took just a quarter of that time for the next 50,000. Such growth is thanks largely to sustained links with 'champions' at organisations that deliver the Award – 'Award Providers'. The majority of activity is with groups that come back to us year on year. Key members of staff, teachers, Countryside Rangers, youth workers and volunteers understand what the Award is and how to utilize it with their participants, pupils and members. Its framework offers structure and focus to activity. The Award themes (Discover, Explore, Conserve, Share) break down the big topic of 'environment' into bite-sized chunks. It doesn't have onerous bureaucracy, and it celebrates what people do at an individual level.

Larger strategic relationships also underpin this growth. Cairngorms National Park Authority, Cumbria Youth Alliance, East Lothian Council, YHA and The Outward Bound Trust have invested in the John Muir Award over the past decade. Durham County Council was added to this list last year. They all recognise the Award as a tool for meeting their own organisational aims.

Nick Barrett, Outward Bound Chief Executive comments:

'Working with the John Muir Trust helps meet our strategic aim of placing the environment at the heart of what we do.'

Underpinning all this is a plethora of personal stories, achievements and touchstones.

When asked their reason for registering a group recently, a Glasgow volunteer leader said:

"I did my John Muir Award about 10 years ago in Glen Etive. It was amazing, the best experience. I was a bricklayer at the time and it changed my life. I want the pupils that I'm working with to experience that too."



Dei Davies

Of course, the involvement of so many John Muir Award participants has not resulted in 100,000 people descending en masse onto John Muir Trust properties or wild land in general. But what it has done is actively engage a diverse audience in the aspect of the Trust's vision that 'wild places are valued by all'.

"I love being surrounded by nature, and it makes me feel so alive and excited. You would be surprised what you learn by just walking through the trees."

Caoimhe Dunn, Glasgow

"Wild places are important to me because they help me to get away from the hustle and bustle of the school and the city."

Stephen Donnelly, Glasgow

At a time when we are largely disconnected from nature and, as WWF-UK's Tom Crompton suggests, "marinated in a commercial advertising culture", the Award encourages people to dip into wildness – at least for a few days. It also places a value on experiencing what the writer Robert McFarlane calls "the undiscovered country of the nearby" as much as our grander landscapes. Conservation pioneer Muir took early inspiration from the harbour and meadows around Dunbar; similarly, participating in the Award helps reveal a broad spectrum of wild places that are available to us all.

## What now?

From the early years, we have found that the shape of the Award suits the circumstances of most groups. It also integrates with local opportunities and can help relate activity to issues – be it curriculum links, biodiversity awareness, healthy lifestyles, or a family shared experience. It has a capacity for relevance that isn't time bound.

Those at the forefront of environmental communication talk of the need for values-based links with nature. Campaigner and writer Tony Juniper, for instance, stresses the need to promote direct experiences and emotional connections. "Make more effort to reach out, get beyond the middle classes," he says. Likewise, Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Minister for Marine and Natural Environment, urges us to make our communications "personal and real", to create a narrative and tell success stories. "The John Muir Award sounds like a really positive initiative", he says. "I commend your success in reaching significant numbers of young people."

Having reached this landmark, we aren't planning radical change. There is still a wealth of untapped opportunity to promote connections with nature, support care for the environment, and help people to share their stories. 100,000 John Muir Awards is a shared achievement – thanks and congratulations to everyone who has been involved so far. We look forward to you being part of the next 100,000.

## Join in with the celebrations

We have created a '100,000 Awards' online gallery to capture and share your experiences. Add to it with a picture of yourself or your group with your certificate, in a setting that reflects your activity and achievement.

Visit [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org) for the link. See the range of contributions already there, simply download the online gallery submission form, and send this to us with your image and a few words about what you did. Alternatively contact your Regional Manager.



## 100,000th John Muir Award presented in Cumbria

For everyone who has been involved in the John Muir Award since its earliest days, the presentation of an Explorer Award to Penrith school pupil Jake Atkinson by Trustee Dick Allen was a landmark moment. Jake, 13, was part of a group from Ullswater Community College who had completed a wildlife garden project in the school grounds. An impressive amount of work was undertaken, including hedge-laying, dry stone walling, tree planting and identification, and pond construction – shifting 22 tonnes of clay in the process.

The wildlife garden has enabled pupils to enjoy being outside, learn about local biodiversity and work to increase the variety of wildlife in the area. Pupils have also experienced a variety of activities in the Lake District National Park, including helping maintain the Field Study Council's garden at

Blencathra and working with the Forestry Commission on woodland diversity at Whinlatter.

"What I enjoyed most was helping the year six students to achieve the tasks in the eco-garden," said Jake. "I also enjoyed working with my friends and learning new skills to take home and use on the farm."

Ullswater Community College has been involved in the John Muir Award for five years and head teacher Nigel Pattinson is delighted that Jake's efforts have been rewarded in this way. "We have a responsibility to develop an awareness of the importance of our environment, giving students an opportunity to learn about conservation and extending links into other curriculum areas," he commented.



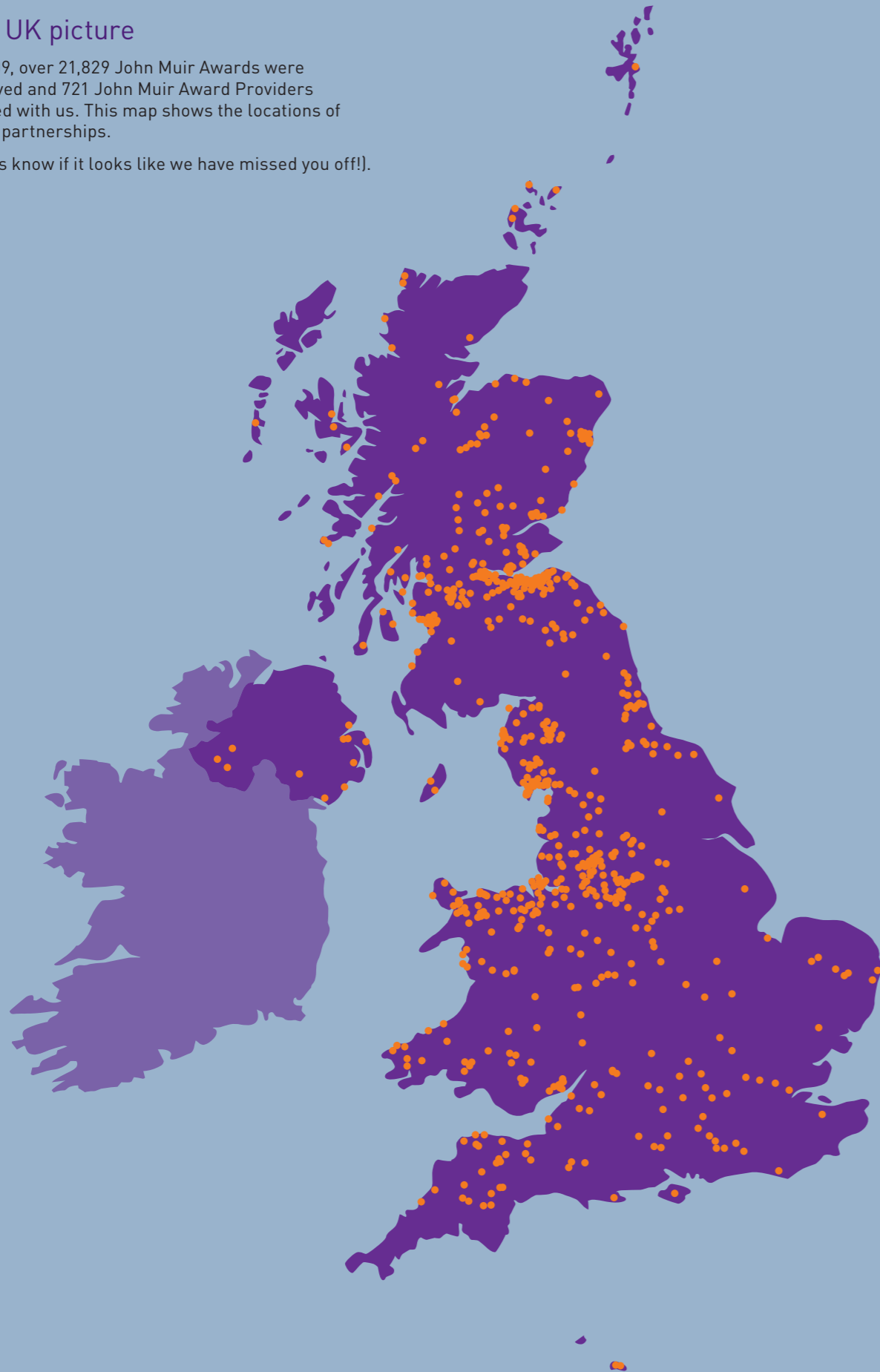
Miranda Morgan

Jake, the 100,000th John Muir Award, and commemorative oak tree

## The UK picture

In 2009, over 21,829 John Muir Awards were achieved and 721 John Muir Award Providers worked with us. This map shows the locations of these partnerships.

(Let us know if it looks like we have missed you off!).



## Scotland – far and wide

The John Muir Award's origin, and a major slice of its activity, is in Scotland. Regional Managers **Toby Clark** and **Kim McIntosh** highlight some of Scotland's contributors to 100,000 Awards...

### BIG IS BEAUTIFUL!

With over 3000 John Muir Awards delivered since 2004, The Dolphin House Outdoor Education Centre is one of our largest Providers. Nestling on the shore beneath Culzean Castle & Country Park, South Ayrshire, the centre delivers curriculum outcomes with a sense of adventure, fun, and challenge to the upper primary school pupils who visit.

"Pupils gained a lot from taking care of nature, realising how important their local environment is." Angie Lewis, Coylton Primary School

### FAR FLUNG

Situated in the far North-West Highlands, Cape Adventure International is one of the most remote John Muir Award Providers. Hundreds of young people and adults experience their own adventures along shell encrusted shorelines, up majestic peaks and mountains, and across sparkling lochs and inlets.

"For the pupils who took part in the John Muir Award it was an eye-opener, and really helped them to look at the natural world around them in a different way." Ros Leslie, Cults Academy, Aberdeen

### LONG TERM SUPPORT

Walk and Talk Experiences is one of the longest standing John Muir Award Providers, delivering the Award since its beginnings in 1997. Based at an old shepherd's cottage in the Borders, the programme combines counseling with experiential learning through being in the natural environment.

"The John Muir Award is the only educational programme these young lads have opted into in the last two years. It is an enormously beneficial Award that bridges the gap. It is really lovely to have something that these people can access and be a part of." Rab Erskine, Walk and Talk Experiences

### CLOSE TO HOME

Based in a wildlife garden in the middle of Dundee, the Chrysalis Project is one of Scotland's most urban Award Providers. As part of a horticultural training project for adults with mental health problems, the Award is used to help people to reconnect with nature.

"What we've found is that people quickly tap into the natural environment... it creates a self-awareness, an awareness of nature and the holistic lifestyle of the planet and they can start to see themselves in that. It takes them away from the urban sprawl, the grey block work of the city." Kevin Bruce, Depute Services Manager, Chrysalis Project



Karen Knaemiller

## Cairngorms

### Alan Smith

The John Muir Award was embraced in the Cairngorms in 2003 – one of the first acts of the brand new Park Authority – and in its first year 292 people achieved their Award through 14 organisations. In 2009 there were 2400 Awards completed through 66 organisations!

The numbers are important but not the sole objective of the John Muir Award. Over the years it has played an important part alongside wider initiatives of the Cairngorms National Park Authority and is written in to the current National Park Plan:

'Extend the use of the John Muir Award to encourage more people to experience a sense of wildness in the Park and to share their experiences'

The Award is an important feature of the Cairngorms National Park Authority's Learning and Inclusion policy and

has been identified as such by Award Providers:

'We work with women particularly around their personal development – it really helps to use the John Muir Award. Anywhere that is wild and open is great for us. It brings up valuable environmental issues and personal growth. The experience changes women.'

### Wild Walks Women's Project 2006

More recently in 2009 the John Muir Award featured strongly in the survey 'Scotland's National Parks and National Nature Reserves – barriers to engagement'. It was identified as an effective way of helping excluded groups make the most of the natural environment.

The value of the John Muir Award in helping to meet National Park aims has recently been recognised with the

John Muir Award becoming part of a core Outdoor Learning Post for the Cairngorms National Park Authority. This has ensured that the John Muir Award should be in the Cairngorms for the next 100,000 Awards!



Cairngorms National Park Authority

## Wales

**Hugo Iffla** looks back over the past 8 years:

Our growth in Wales has been very similar to other regions, and about 18% of the 100,000 awards presented have been achieved in the Principality. In fact this year we anticipate passing our own significant milestone of 20,000 awards.

It is predominantly through the Award that the John Muir Trust has a presence in Wales, and in fact Hugo was the first person to be employed by the Trust outside Scotland back in 2002. By this point, it had already gained a foothold through the efforts of a 'steering group' set up by Del Davies and then-Trustee Rob Collister. Both led by example by completing their own Discovery Awards, rigorously monitoring each other's activity. This is an approach we still

encourage with leaders, teachers and volunteers. Organisations do find it to be a useful staff development tool – not only in getting to know the environment leaders operate in, but also becoming familiar with the structure of the Award so they can be more effective in running it for others.

Building on the strong foundations laid by Rob and Del has led to a steady growth both numerically and geographically, and now there is hardly a corner of Wales where some activity has not taken place. It has also been truly 'open to all' with participants of all ages and backgrounds taking part in a wide range of projects from urban based schemes through to those taking place in our wildest landscapes. We have also developed resources to enable involvement from start to finish – Proposal Form to

Certificate - in the Welsh language.

We look forward to continued growth, and the opportunity of inspiring people of all ages to care and take responsibility for the wild land and wild places of Wales.



Bryn Beddau, North Wales

Del Davies

## England

**Caroline Standring**

Activity in England has been going from strength to strength since 1997- growing from only a handful of awards south of the border to over 8,300 awards in 2009 alone - with two staff members in Cumbria, one in the North East, and one employed by YHA accounting for around 15% of the awards achieved to date.

However, England – south of a line from Morecambe Bay to Middlesborough – remains a missing jigsaw piece in the John Muir Award's UK-wide presence. Without dedicated funding and hence no Regional Manager, it is managed on a part-time basis from our Glasgow office.

With so many awards in England it is hard to describe a typical one. From a small group of graduate volunteers in Devon to the Hawk and Owl Trust Volunteers (HOOTS) in the Yorkshire Moors and from a Forest School group in Shropshire to an innovative Mental Health therapy walking group in Norfolk, all points of the compass are covered. Hundreds of groups have used the Award throughout the country to recognise the achievements of people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

With around 180 providers registered we have a mixture of both new and old Providers – some who have been involved for years while others are just starting out.

Since the Award started in England groups have discovered areas both close

to home and further afield – they have explored wildlife areas in school gardens and gone camping in England's national parks. They have been involved in litter picks in woods and on beaches, started campaigns to save wild land at risk or reduce energy usage and maintained miles of paths.

For a large proportion of those attaining an Award in England the experience was the first time they had done anything like it- but hopefully it won't be the last:

"They are not the same people... these are boys that in school are getting into fights but here they are totally fascinated by a frog. If you take them out of their environment they can see the bigger picture" Provider working with excluded pupils

and

"Most of them never knew this [Peak District National Park] existed. They are asking how to take their parents back..." (Provider working with refugees).



Beech Hall School, Cheshire

Jacki Clark

## Cumbria

**Graham Watson**

The John Muir Award extended its reach to Cumbria in 2003 at the invitation of Cumbria Youth Alliance and with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then around 12,000 Awards have been achieved in Cumbria.

'Early adopters' included some of the key players in outdoor and environmental education. Cumbria Outdoors attract Cumbria schools and pupils to a north-western corner of the Lake District; Low Bank Ground, Wigan LEA's outdoor education centre, has taken a strong lead in pushing environmental engagement for over a decade; Outward Bound Ullswater is an international brand name in the field of outdoor learning; FSC Blencathra has a strong ethos of understanding the environment. These, and others, began to integrate the John Muir Award with their programmes, and have continued to do so.

Environmental organisations such as the National Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Forestry Commission, have been engaged, with the John Muir Award a regular catalyst for grassroots partnership activity. Without a sustained presence in the county these partnerships would have foundered. The Lake District National Park Authority and Friends of the Lake District have been strong supporters.

For Cumbrians living in the urban areas the Lake District can be perceived as inaccessible. The John Muir Award has

played a part both in encouraging people to visit the National Park, but also to look on their doorstep for green spaces – town parks, allotments, and small local woods, as well as to the Coast.

Many organisations involved with the Award in Cumbria are working with young people under-achieving, excluded from school, with learning or behavioural difficulties, and with a variety of needs. A dedicated John Muir Award 'Inclusion' post has been key to supporting this work. This diversity of inclusion related groups, including Youth Offending Teams, pupil referral units, alternative curriculum in schools, Care Centres, and specialist schools, has contributed a fantastic amount and variety of benefit both to their environment and to the participants' personal development through completing their Award.



Kim Farr



Windermere St. Anne's School



Blencathra FSC

## North East England

**Katy Standish**

In 2009 Durham County Council and the John Muir Trust teamed up to establish the John Muir Award in North East England – our latest partnership.

John Muir Award participants from all corners of the region are busy discovering wild places and encouraging biodiversity to flourish. In the first three months of the partnership, 135 certificates contributed towards the milestone of 100,000 – humble beginnings, not dissimilar to the Award's origins.

The creativity and adventurousness displayed has been impressive. Participants explored ponds, woodlands, beaches, and marshes by geocaching, mountain biking, leading wildlife walks, playing environmental games, and craft making. Young people from Pennywell Youth Project in Sunderland achieved

their Discovery Awards for improving a neglected wild place behind Barbara Priestman School. The area is home to the water vole, one of the UK's fastest declining mammals. Group leader, Lisa, said 'The young people were extremely passionate about the project because they knew how important the site was and what it meant for the conservation of water voles.' Students and teachers from the School are

continuing efforts to transform this area into a haven for all types of native wildlife.



Pennywell Youth Project

Pennywell Youth Project

## Biodiversity is life

2010 is International Year of Biodiversity (IYB2010). Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth - plants, animals, soils, water and other living things - including us. It provides us all with food, clean water, fuel and other vital services that our health and wealth depend on.

The John Muir Trust is a member of the IYB-UK partnership, a network of organisations that have come together to promote the understanding of biodiversity. We want to use IYB2010 to connect people with nature. We want to enjoy the wonderful biodiversity we have throughout the UK and explain why it's important to all of us.

### Biodiversity across the UK

IYB2010 is your chance to learn more about the tapestry of life around you and why it is important, and to get involved in monitoring and conserving it. If you are keen to get outdoors and do your bit for biodiversity

www.biodiversityislife.net offers a great start for information on:

- Why biodiversity matters
- Going to an event - hundreds are being planned across the UK from exhibitions to worm charming.
- Contributing to a wildlife survey (guidance and resources to make it easy).
- Signing up to a free, hands on science experiment investigating the seasonal changes of 6 common trees.
- Checking out the many online educational resources promoting the diversity of life and the importance of conserving it (aimed at school-aged children).

- Success stories to be inspired by.
- Making a pledge on how you will help.
- Help with media campaigns - including media contacts, images, press releases, quotes and facts and figures - e.g. "there are fewer mountain gorillas in the wild than footballers in the Premier League".
- Becoming a partner to show your support.

There's an 'Official Video of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010' available on YouTube (8.27 mins), giving a global overview.



### John Muir Trust, Biodiversity and You

The work of the John Muir Trust, its members and the many John Muir Award participants helps to celebrate and safeguard biodiversity.

To find out more about the Trust's biodiversity-related activities, a special IYB2010 web page has been created at [www.jmt.org/biodiversity.asp](http://www.jmt.org/biodiversity.asp), with links to other biodiversity partners. Just click on the **2010** link throughout the website.

The John Muir Trust and John Muir Award gives you a real opportunity to find out more and celebrate biodiversity, whether visiting wild places, studying our surveys or getting actively involved.

#### PLACES

John Muir Trust properties, and the wild land of our partners, are rich in biodiversity and inspiration.



#### INFORMATION

Surveys of Trust lands date back to 1988, and our current Wild Land Project is creating a database of species and vegetation records.



#### ENGAGEMENT

Conservation work parties and the John Muir Award get people actively involved with biodiversity. Support the Trust's biodiversity work via its Biodiversity Fund.



### Invest in Scotland's thriving nature

Of the 41 UK priority habitats in Scotland, nearly 35% are decreasing. The status of others is unknown.



Over half of our native bird species, a quarter of plant species and nearly three quarters of our butterfly species have declined in the last 20 years.



Climate change is one of the most serious threats to biodiversity. Targeted action enables habitats to adapt.



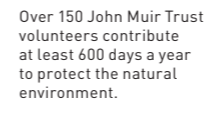
Loss of biodiversity threatens our food supplies, opportunities for recreation and tourism, sources of wood, medicines and energy.



The past decade of focused biodiversity programmes has seen recent gains in Scottish breeding birds - a good indicator of the state of the wildlife and countryside.



The John Muir Award inspires 20,000 people a year to connect with the natural environment, improving awareness of biodiversity.



8 priority bird species and 4 priority vascular plant species are present on John Muir Trust land, including skylark, song thrush, corncrake, black grouse and juniper.

Extract from John Muir Trust Biodiversity Fund web page

### Links and useful places to go

- IYB-UK 2010
- IYB-UK - what's on
- IYB-UK - get involved
- IUCN Red List of threatened species
- Woodland Trust - Nature's Calendar survey
- OPAL explore nature - inspiring a new generation of nature-lovers
- 2020VISION for a wilder Britain
- iSpot - your place to share nature
- Scottish Natural Heritage - IYB2010
- Wild about plants
- Plantlife
- See the John Muir Award web pages - Resources - for:
- John Muir Award Resource Guide - Biodiversity
- John Muir Award Resource Guide - Surveys
- These links are all available from [www.jmt.org/biodiversity.asp](http://www.jmt.org/biodiversity.asp)



## 2010 Training Programme – visit [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org)

### Leader Training – various dates across the UK

Two-day residential course, giving a thorough introduction to the John Muir Award.

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 14th & 15th April (Weds – Thurs) | Keswick, Cumbria (Waiting List only)                   |
| 17th & 18th April (Sat – Sun)    | Badaguish Centre, Cairngorms, Scotland                 |
| 24th & 25th April (Sat – Sun)    | Once Brewed Youth Hostel, Northumberland National Park |
| 27th & 28th April (Tues – Weds)  | Comrie Croft, Crieff, Perthshire                       |
| 15th & 16th May (Sat – Sun)      | Field Studies Centre Rhyd-y-Creuwau, North Wales       |
| 2nd & 3rd October (Sat – Sun)    | Bendrigg Lodge, Near Kendal, Cumbria                   |
| 2nd & 3rd October (Sat – Sun)    | Wiston Lodge, Biggar, Scottish Borders                 |
| 7th & 8th October (Thurs – Fri)  | Hendre Isaf Basecamp, Betws-y-Coed, North Wales        |
| 11th & 12th October (Mon - Tue)  | Lowway Farm, Teesdale, North Pennines                  |

Cost: £120 for two days, including food and accommodation. Reduced rate of £60 for charity representatives and those attending in an individual capacity.

### And...Specific Training

Do you already use the John Muir Award and want to explore how to get more from it? These one-day courses and events will use your John Muir Award experience as a basis to look in more detail at specific areas of interest.

#### Introducing John Muir at John Muir's Birthplace

Fri 19th March £20

Dunbar, East Lothian



Get lots of ideas on how to bring John Muir into your Award activity – or just find out more about Scotland's most influential conservation pioneer. Explore resources and activities used by visiting John Muir Award groups at some of Muir's boyhood haunts around Dunbar. Jo Moulin (Manager John Muir's Birthplace) will give an alternative overview of John Muir's life, with stories of some of his wildest adventures.

See [www.jmbt.org.uk](http://www.jmbt.org.uk)

#### Reviewing Outdoor Experiences with Roger Greenaway

Fri 7th May £50

County Durham

This is the sixth year that this popular day exploring reviewing techniques and top tips has run. This practical (and slightly theoretical) introduction will offer tools and ideas for sharing experiences that can be used both indoors and outdoors with a wide variety of groups of all sizes.

See [www.reviewing.co.uk](http://www.reviewing.co.uk)

#### Art and Environment – an exploration of Jupiter Artland

Weds 19th May £10



Wilkieston, Edinburgh

Using senses, imagination and intellect, the day will explore how art can inspire and interpret connection with the natural

world, in a way that is relevant to 'taking learning outdoors' and the Curriculum for Excellence. Jupiter Artland is a unique resource in Scotland. It showcases contemporary sculpture by leading artists in an 80-acre open-air classroom set among beautiful parkland and woodland.

See [www.jupiterartland.org](http://www.jupiterartland.org)

#### Engaging with nature – Wild about plants

Thurs 27th May Free

National Wildflower Centre, Liverpool

Weds 1st September Free

Foxglove Covert in Catterick Garrison, Yorkshire



Explore barriers and challenges to getting young people involved in local natural places, share inspiring activities, and find out how Plantlife resources relate to you and your groups. These days are aimed at youth and community education workers (Liverpool), and upper Primary School teachers (Catterick), but will be of interest to others.

'Wild about plants' is a Plantlife project that aims to engage more people with their local natural places and the wild plants that grow there.

See [www.wildaboutplants.org](http://www.wildaboutplants.org)

## John Muir Award communications

As well as our 6-monthly newsletter, you can keep in touch with the John Muir Award via e-bulletins and our web pages.

### New look e-bulletin

We used the occasion of our 100,000th John Muir Award to launch a new look e-bulletin in February – [www.jmt.org/jmaward-ebulletin/newsletter-20100203.html](http://www.jmt.org/jmaward-ebulletin/newsletter-20100203.html). It aims to keep you up to date with news items and links that we think are of interest to Award Providers – nationally and regionally. We'll send them out approximately every couple of months, as an email with additional web-link. An online archive of e-bulletins will be set up soon. If you'd like to receive our e-bulletin contact us at [info@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:info@johnmuiraward.org).

We don't share email contacts with any other parties.



### Web pages

Click on [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org), or via the John Muir Trust home page, to access:

- background information on the award
- descriptions and examples of the Award's four Challenges
- recent and historical publications
- online newsletter
- training information and booking guidance
- Proposal Forms and Certificate Request Forms (to register and help complete your Award)
- Resource Guides on Join Muir, Biodiversity, Surveys, Campaigning, Access
- see case studies of the John Muir Award in action with diverse groups in a range of locations
- Welsh translation of resources
- links to films
- online gallery
- Views from 2050



## Views from 2050

Our Autumn 2009/2050 Newsletter drew more response than any we've ever produced. Looking back from 2050 (at what our nature and landscapes might have contributed to a 'low carbon society') was a perspective that perplexed some – 'confusing', 'challenging' – but generated overwhelmingly positive comment:

'Provocative'.

'Exciting'.

'A stimulating resource for my pupils (15-16 year-olds). Some didn't get it but others were really taken with the whole thing.' School teacher, Norfolk.

'Just leafing through your report it's evident that there remain many aspects of the debate on the environment that are currently rather occluded by climate change.' Dr. Sarah Kyambi, Deputy Director, David Hume Institute.

'It reaches out to John Muir Award leaders and John Muir Trust members as well as young people. It sets a positive and optimistic note and addresses the need for values change as well as new technologies. I have found

myself in debates with various people inspired by its content.' Chris Loynes, senior lecturer in Outdoor Studies, University of Cumbria; Director of Threshold Consulting.

We've now concluded this exercise, summarized in a 'View from 2050' leaflet.

A range of articles that were produced have been collated into a single pdf download, available at [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org). Take a look at: 'the view from a [YHA] hostel window', what outdoor courses at Glenmore Lodge might look like, the role of bryophytes, the part the organizations like the John Muir Trust might play, Outdoor Learning in 2050...There's also a list of what people wanted to put into a time capsule to capture what we valued about our relationship with wild places and nature in 2009-10.

The web pages that held contributions and suggestions will be kept at [www.jmt.org/jmaward-2050.asp](http://www.jmt.org/jmaward-2050.asp).

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Cover image: Tomas Saraceno, Endless Series, 2006. Courtesy Studio Saraceno, Andersen's Contemporary, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery and pinksummer contemporary art.