

MEMBERS' NEWS

JANUARY 2018

JOHN
MUIR
TRUST



Chair's welcome

I am pleased to announce that, having signed a lease on behalf of the John Muir Trust late last year, we have taken on the management of Glenridding Common in the Lake District until October 2020.

I am confident that now we have our boots on the ground we will be able to show the additional skills our staff, members and supporters can bring. These will become clear as we continue to build relationships with local people and organisations.

I know we are all relishing the opportunity to get involved and make a difference at our newest property. Do consider joining us for the Trust's AGM in Glenridding on May 11 and 12 to find out more.

I am also delighted that we've been able to immediately demonstrate our ability to bring new investment to this part of Cumbria. We've been awarded a grant from the Patsy Wood Trust for £268,000 towards conservation management around Helvellyn - to enable wildlife to thrive and to continue to ensure high quality access within the traditionally managed landscape of the Lakes. This first financial award for this property will be spread across the next three years. It's a good start, but we will need to continue to raise funds to deliver the conservation and partnership work we are envisaging.

I am honoured to have been asked by my fellow Trustees to serve another term as Chair, subject to reappointment by the members. Thinking ahead is a key part of the work of the Trustees and staff team at the moment. We've recently started a process to draft the next corporate strategy for the organisation. I know we do that building from a position of strength.

I've been particularly proud of the path work completed last year. The Suliven path is now



PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN LELLAND

vastly improved thanks to our partnership working with the Assynt Foundation. The next tranche of path work on Skye is now underway and later this year we'll also be spending time on path repairs at Sandwood Bay.

The latter is part of an 18-month funded project that sees us joined by two part-time engagement officers based in the North West Highlands. They will be working with our wider staff team on a project at Sandwood Bay looking to increase the amount of conservation work happening in the area while enhancing the visitor experience and engaging the Trust with a broader group of people.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our Keep it Wild call for letters to MSPs/the Minister in the run-up to publication of Scotland's Planning Bill. There is still work to be done.

As you read this we'll be edging closer to another landmark date in the Trust's history. We'll be celebrating the 21st anniversary of the John Muir Award in February. I'd encourage you to have a look on the website at johnmuirtrust.org/award21 and read about some of the lives that have been transformed through participation in the Trust's main engagement initiative.

Peter Pearson

Members wanted to help shape the Trust

Six Trustee places become vacant on our Board in 2018. Any member is welcome to stand. Being a Trustee is a way of helping to shape the work of the Trust, and of contributing your skills and knowledge to areas of work from conservation and lobbying government to financial management.

The Board of Trustees needs a wide range of skills, but we would particularly welcome interest from: younger people; women; members with interest in our campaigning work; people with experience of charitable income generation (membership development/engagement, retail, merchandising) and in particular fundraising.

Potential Trustees are asked to complete a nomination form, sign the Code of Conduct declaration and return with a 300-word statement and photo. Nominations should be received by Monday 5 March midday. Find out more at johnmuirtrust.org/trustee-call

2018 AGM

Our 2018 AGM and Members' Gathering is in Glenridding from 11-12 May. See the booking form or visit johnmuirtrust.org/agm2018

Scottish Planning Bill published

Draft legislation now set for scrutiny

The Trust wishes to thank our many members and supporters who responded to our Keep it Wild call for letters to MSPs/the Minister in the run-up to publication of the newly published Planning Bill.

Our immediate impression is that the Bill as it currently stands appears to move Scottish planning regulation even further away from providing adequate landscape and environmental protection.



Keep it Wild

The three-stage process of scrutinising the Bill will start with the Local Government and Communities Committee,

which will issue a call for the public to comment.

Updates on how you can support our campaign during this important process will be available through our website, enews and social media.

If you do not have online access to our website or newsletter, please contact Mel Nicoll, Campaigns Co-ordinator, in our Pitlochry office (01738 470080) for more information.



PHOTOGRAPH: PLANNING DEMOCRACY/BSCG

Community and environmental campaigners outside the Scottish Parliament



PHOTOGRAPH: MARK HANBLIN/2020VISION

Trust backs driven grouse licensing and hare culling moratorium

The Trust has welcomed the Scottish Government's establishment of an independent group to examine the sustainability of grouse moor management.

We have also backed the calls for a system of effective regulation to be put in place to ensure that grouse moors are managed responsibly in the public as well as the private interest.

Driven grouse shooting currently takes place in at least five Wild Land Areas. The Trust is increasingly concerned at the ecological and visual impact of management practices associated with ever-intensifying commercial driven grouse shooting, such as the proliferation of bulldozed vehicle tracks, and inappropriate burning.

Meanwhile, as part of a coalition of 10 environmental and outdoor organisations, we have urged the Scottish Government to introduce safeguards for mountain hare populations.

The group has asked for a temporary ban on all mountain hare culling on grouse moors until measures have been put in place to ensure that their numbers can remain at an acceptable and sustainable level.

Wild land recognised in new energy strategy

The new Scottish Government energy strategy (Dec 2017) has promised that any further expansion of onshore wind should be “done in a way that is compatible with Scotland’s magnificent landscapes, including our wild land areas”.

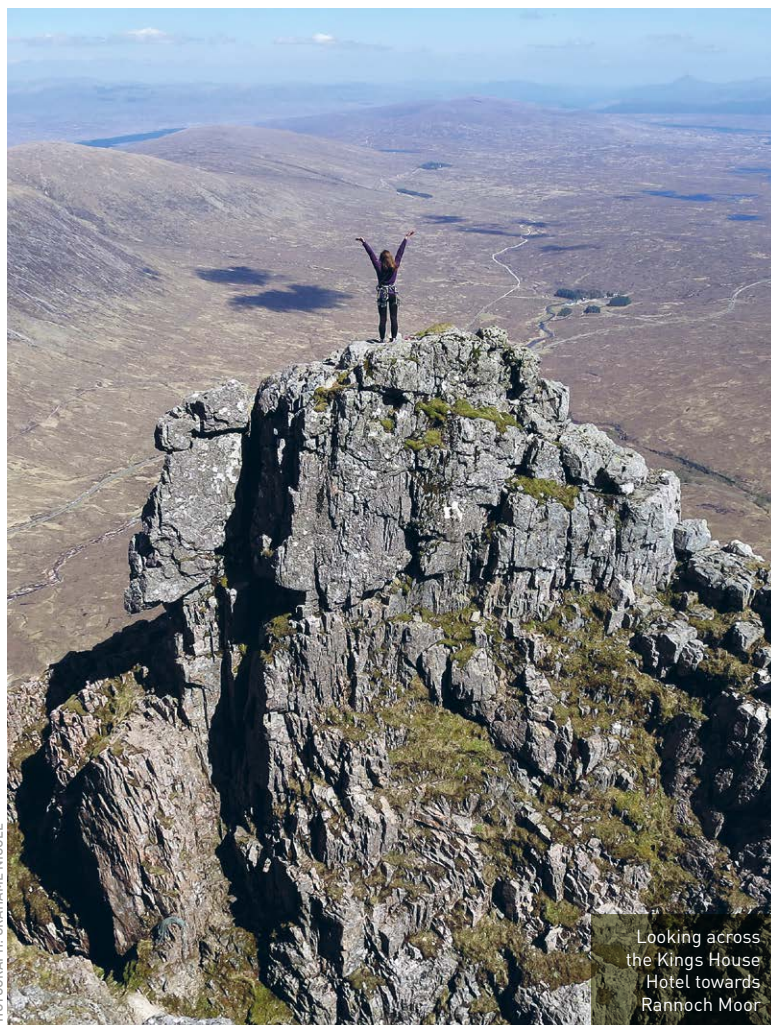
The Trust welcomed the statement and has now asked for a meeting with Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse to discuss how positive ambitions for renewables can be matched with a commitment to protect nature and wild places.

“We hope this marks a shift away from recent decisions to give the

go-ahead to major wind farms in and around wild land,” said Chief Executive Andrew Bachell.

Recent decisions have been contradictory, with Scottish Ministers refusing the Crossburns application in Highland Perthshire, while consenting the Cairn Dubie wind farm on Speyside and Whitelaw Brae in the Borders.

The Trust is now preparing for a conjoined Public Local Inquiry in February into proposed wind farms at Limekiln and the East Halladale Flows, both of which will impact on Wild Land Areas in Caithness.



Looking across the Kings House Hotel towards Rannoch Moor

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM NICOLL

Trust objects to Glen Coe ‘blemish’

The Trust has objected to a new proposal to redevelop the historic Kings House Hotel at the eastern end of Glen Coe into a 60-bedroom hotel.

John Low, Policy Officer for the Trust, said: “We had no problem with the original application to upgrade the hotel, but this revised proposal is double the size and will create a huge barracks-style, block-designed blemish on the landscape.”

In brief

Five in a row for Trust at TGO Awards

The Trust was Highly Commended in the Outdoor Campaigner of the Year category of the annual The Great Outdoors Awards – the fifth year in a row we have either won or been highly commended. This year, first place went to Fix the Fells – congratulations to the team of rangers and volunteers that carries out path repairs and maintenance in the Lake District.

New wind farm plan for Monadhliaths

The new owners of the Fort William aluminium smelter and the surrounding land have submitted a scoping application for a 40-turbine wind farm immediately south of the Stronelaig site, just north of the Corrieyairack Pass in the Monadhliaths. Pending a full planning application, the Trust will take time to consider the potential landscape impact of the proposed development.

Argyll residents call for new designations

The Trust has supported a call from Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Campaign for National Parks for the Scottish Government to consider a new Coastal and Marine National Park in the region.

Meanwhile, a local community council – Avich and Kilchrenan – has asked the Scottish Government to review the process for designating National Scenic Areas, whose boundaries have never been revised in the 40 years since they were established.

Blowing in the wind

Following the Scottish Government’s 2015 rejection of a 22-turbine wind farm on the Sallachy estate near Lairg, the developers have applied to retain a meteorological monitoring mast at the site.

The Trust has objected to the proposal, questioning why there should be any need to gather further wind speed data on a site which has been deemed unsuitable for a major wind development and that, as a redundant artefact of a failed application, the existing mast should be removed.

Zip wires across Thirlmere

Friends of the Lake District have been campaigning to stop a proposal for eight zip wires across Thirlmere. As the new land manager of nearby Glenridding Common, the Trust has assessed the potential impact of the plan on Helvellyn, and has lodged an objection. The deadline for objections was 12 January.

John Muir Day 2018

To commemorate John Muir’s 180th birthday on 21 April 2018, we are planning a week’s worth of celebratory activities. Sign up to our monthly eNewsletter to stay in touch with plans and find out more: johnmuirtrust.org/newsletter

John Muir Award turns 21

Dunbar to become focus for milestone birthday celebrations

Plans for celebrating the anniversary of our main engagement initiative – the John Muir Award – on 26 February 2018 are well underway. This date was picked to commemorate the official launch by Environment Minister Lord Lindsay pictured here at the Dunbar Leisure Centre on the same date in 1997, 21 years before.

Dunbar will once again host our celebrations, with a mix of formal and informal events taking place in the Leisure Centre, at the John Muir Birthplace Museum and, treading in John Muir's footsteps, on the beach – tides permitting.

We are keen to invite as many of the original attendees as we can find – if you



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

were present, please send an email to rob.bushby@johnmuirtrust.org. And look out for John Muir's Birthplace's request for Award participants as far back as the late 1990s to get in touch.

Read about the Award 21 Celebrations – including a *Journal* piece on the origins of the John Muir Award, and what it means to Providers and supporters – at johnmuirtrust.org/award21

Charter for Trees

The John Muir Trust was one of 70 organisations supporting a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. This people-powered movement, led by the Woodland Trust, has defined 10 principles for a society in which people and trees can stand stronger together.

As a signatory to the Charter, the Trust endorses its principles. We work with partners to care for and create woodlands such as the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership, and work to develop native woodland on our own properties, including the award-winning Li and Coire Dhorrcail on Knoydart.

We also encourage people to take action for woodland through our work parties, collaborations such as the Phoenix Forest at Glenlude in the Scottish Borders.

We also do extensive work via the John Muir Award: in 2015, 21 per cent of Award Conserve activity took place in woodlands and 12,533 trees were planted by 3,819 participants.

Find out more at treecharter.uk



Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership update

At East Schiehallion, our plans are progressing to plant native trees and transform existing patches of shrub and rows of non-native conifers into healthy forests full of birch, rowan and Scots pine, where wildlife can flourish.

In January, contractors started felling trees in our 50-year-old conifer plantation (pictured here), and installing a sensitively-sited fence to allow trees to grow without being damaged by grazing animals.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Heart of Scotland Appeal.

Find out more at johnmuirtrust.org/heartofscotland

Crofting
and Countryside
Skills students take
a break



PHOTOGRAPH: HEATHER MCNEILL

Skye pathwork project continues

Students from West Highland College UHI have begun a further year of footpath training on Trust properties

This autumn a new group of students from the West Highland College UHI are back working with local footpath expert Donald MacKenzie as part of the 'Skye's Wild Ways: Path Repair and Conservation Skills' project. They have already hit the ground running

The Broadford-based students, who are doing a Crofting & Countryside Skills course, met with Trust staff in the autumn to talk about the project – funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund – before getting stuck into four days of path work at the start of the Sligachan Gateway.

Donald said: "In November, we worked on over 80 metres of footpath: building five cross drains and a couple of water bars, as well as surfacing and re-vegetating. They are a great group!"

This winter will see our contractors concentrate on three technical sections of Skye footpath. They will continue work at Druim Hain, tackle a boggy moorland section at Allt Daraich and return to a tricky section of the Bla Bheinn path for further maintenance.

"Last year's work at the top of Druim Hain will continue, going all the way to the big burn crossing at the bottom, plus there will also be some consolidation work carried out on the higher, steep section of the Bla Bheinn path," said Donald.

"Both jobs will be worked on from January to April 2018 by our contractors Arran Footpaths.

"The new work at Allt Daraich involves contractors ACT Heritage Ltd fixing the spread over the bog in the enclosure by creating a new 670 metres path – from the gate at the top to the entry gate at the bottom, with a loop around the top moraine. The result, by the time it's finished at the end of February, should be a nice circular walk, with fine views up the glen."

In the spring, a new group of students from the SRUC, Elmwood Campus, are coming to Skye for a week of path work as part of their Conservation course.

Donald and the team will also be working with our regular conservation volunteers during a work party from 6-8 April 2018, as well as a day of training skills for volunteers on 18 May. Contact sarah.lewis@johnmuirtrust.org for details. See a full list of our 2018 conservation work party dates at johnmuirtrust.org/workparties2018

The Lost Words finds a receptive audience across all ages

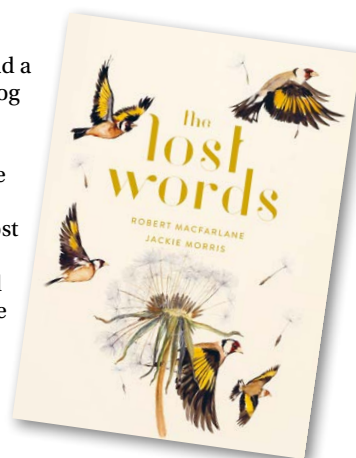
Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris' beautiful illustrated book *The Lost Words* is re-engaging young and old in the delights of the natural world.

To help promote its important message, the Trust is web-hosting a specially produced Explorer's Guide with activities relating to each of the words featured, from Acorn to Wren.

Find out more about this and other related activities – including a Crowdfunder campaign to raise £30,000 by 26 January to provide a copy to every Scottish primary, secondary and special school – at johnmuirtrust.org/thelostwords

There you can also read a beautiful and moving blog from our Scotland Education Manager Rebecca Logsdon, where she describes how she rediscovered her own lost words on a 'wild day'.

If you are in or around London in early 2018, we recommend you check out an exhibition of *The Lost Words* artwork and 'spells' at the Foundling Museum in Brunswick Square, on show until 8 May.



Scotland's colleges benefiting from wild places

Colleges in Scotland have seen over 400 students and staff achieve a John Muir Award during the 2016-17 academic year, with 84 per cent of these Awards being achieved by people facing some form of disadvantage.

Across Scotland, further education colleges are using the John Muir Award to give structure to programmes; support the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence; build skills for learning, life and work; and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for both young people and adult learners.



College students help fix a path

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

Adopt an Acre

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who adopted an acre of one of our mountain properties in 2017 to help support essential conservation work

We've seen a tremendous response to our Adopt an Acre initiative since we launched it in 2016, with nearly 900 acres adopted last year, including 108 on Ben Nevis, 258 on Schiehallion and 280 on Blà Bheinn.

For Christmas 2017 we also introduced Ladhar Bheinn in Knoydart (pictured right), where 245 acres were adopted by late December.

Proceeds from your Adopt an Acre gifts are helping to care for and enhance these wild mountain landscapes, including restoring native woodland, protecting native species, monitoring wildlife and repairing paths.

Adopt an Acre gifts make unique and meaningful presents for birthdays, weddings, Valentine's Day, anniversaries or gifts in memory of a loved one. When you adopt two or more acres, you can now choose to include with your personalised certificate either an exclusive enamel pin badge or a beautiful mountain print.

You can order Adopt an Acre gifts online at johnmuirtrust.org/adoptanacre



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS TOWANSEND

Data protection tightened

In a society that is increasingly driven by data, it's important that we do our utmost to protect your privacy.

The existing requirements of the Data Protection Act are being superseded by new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018.

With this in mind, we are working with advisors to ensure we continue to collect, use and store your personal information in a compliant way. We may get in touch to discuss your preferences for future communications.

Find out more at johnmuirtrust.org/gdpr

Forestry Commission funds training

Four of our regular Glenlude volunteers will receive chainsaw training in January thanks to the Forestry Commission's Community Funding Grant Scheme. The funds will cover a

four-day training course as well as protective clothing and chainsaw hire.



2018 London Marathon

The Trust has a small number of charity places available each year for this world renowned running event. Please support the six runners who are taking part in the next race on 22 April 2018. Please email Daisy Clark at daisy.clark@johnmuirtrust.org if you'd like to be added to our Reserves list, or if you're interested in running the London Marathon for us in 2019.

Partners in wild land get together

November saw the first meeting in Edinburgh for John Muir Trust Partners. This new initiative aims to connect members more closely to the Trust through small group events, wild land visits and regular impact reports. These enable Partners to learn more about wild land conservation work and provide essential support for projects they care about.

Some of the key people who originally helped to set up the John Muir Trust have become Founding Partners. Nigel Hawkins, Maude Tiso, Sir Charles Fraser and Denis Mollison attended our first event, and enjoyed an evening of conversation and debate with fellow Partners. We look forward to future occasions to meet next year.

If you would like more information or are interested in joining, email partners@johnmuirtrust.org or visit our web page johnmuirtrust.org/partners



PHOTOGRAPH: CELIA BRADY

Left to right: Nigel, Maude, Sir Charles, Denis and Andrew Bachell



Looking south west towards Ladhar Bheinn

Wild Moment

A picture showing the mysterious wall on Suilven in the Trust's Journal prompted Robin Perry to dig out an old photograph of his own:

"I have only once been up to Caisteal Liath summit and that was in 1956. The wall existed, but only sheep could comfortably pass. When Moira Bradley (a young lady also staying at Achmelvich youth hostel) and I reached it, we had to assume ovine dimensions and crawl through.

"Her picture shows the wall and passage, with Meall Meadhonach beyond. We didn't venture that far. Regrettably I haven't found a picture of Moira. I believe she came from around Dumfries."

Share your own stories and poems about wild places at johnmuirtrust.org/wild-moments



PHOTOGRAPH: MOIRA BRADLEY



Formation of Suilven path

...ing someone said: 'It was a big job. I'm really grateful I got the opportunity to be involved with the work and really proud to have had my work on Suilven'.

Work began on the Suilven path in 2014, after the project - which had been mentioned in the Budget on behalf of the Trust and the Royal Foundation - topped an international online poll worth £16,000. The Trust went on to raise a further £50,000, which in turn triggered further funding, bringing the total to £100,000.

Meanwhile, space is sought for Arden Footpaths team member Alice McMillan, who, over the course of the contract, walked 470

Conservation work party dates 2018

Choose from a fantastic line-up of conservation work parties this year

Date	Location	Proposed activity
8 February – early December	Glenlude (Thursdays)	General work every Thursday
1-3 March	Glenlude	Tree planting and general
18 March	East Schiehallion	Path work and general
23-25 March	Li & Coire Dhorrcail, Knoydart	Tree planting and general
6-8 April	Skye	Path work
9-11 April	Li & Coire Dhorrcail, Knoydart	Tree planting (requires wild camping)
16-20 April	Knoydart Foundation (Inverie)	Rhoddies and path work
23-27 April	Corrour Estate	Woodland and general
30 April– 4 May	Western Isles	Path work, beach cleaning and general (requires wild camping)
19-20 May	East Schiehallion	Path work and general
11-13 May	Sandwood	Beach cleaning and general
9 June	Ben Nevis	Summit clean up and path work
25-29 June	Quinag & CALL project	Nursery, path work and general
6-9 July	East Schiehallion	Path work and general
13-15 July	Glen Nevis	Monitoring & path work
16-20 July	Western Isles	Path work, beach cleaning and general
27-29 July	Glenridding (England)	Summit path work and general
3-6 August	Sandwood	Path work, beach cleaning and general
20-24 August	Quinag & CALL project	Nursery, path work and general
25 August	Ben Nevis	Summit clean up and path work
3-7 September	Western Isles	Path work, beach cleaning and general
14-16 September	Glenridding (England)	Summit path work and general
22 September	Ben Nevis	Summit clean up and path work
24-28 September	CALL partnership on Isle Martin	Path work, dyking, woodland and general
29-30 September	East Schiehallion	Path work and general
4-6 October	Glenlude	Tree planting and general
22-24 November	Glenlude	Tree planting and general

Find out more at johnmuirtrust.org/workparties2018

To keep up to date with work parties, join our email listing at workparties@johnmuirtrust.org, or contact **Sandy Maxwell**, Top Right, 69 Hyndland Street, Glasgow G11 5PS

Quinag guided photography walk

Nick Hanson, last year's winner of the Trust-sponsored Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year, will lead a guided walk and talk in Assynt on Monday 3 September. Cost: £25. Interested? Email kevin.lelland@johnmuirtrust.org

Trust member recognised as 'Volunteer of the Year'

Many congratulations to James Brownhill, who was named Volunteer of the Year – Cairngorms National Park by The Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland in early November. A super-active member of the John Muir Trust in North East Scotland, James names path fixing as one of his favourite conservation tasks.

"It's great to go back a couple of years later and see that all the scarred bits are growing back. Everyone who has been walking there has stuck to your path rather than wandering off and damaging vegetation and wildlife habitats. You realise – wow, it's worked, and it's probably going to work for the next 10 – 20 years!" he said.



Local Members' Group Gatherings

The John Muir Trust hosted a variety of inspiring talks across the length and breadth of the country this autumn

The North West of England group received an update about the Trust's plans for Glenridding Common by Chair, Peter Pearson, and local 'man-on-the-ground' Pete Barron. The group was also visited by Mike Innerdale from the National Trust. Despite efforts from Hurricane Brian, a hardy group joined Pete the next day on the common to explore the area.

Members in North East Scotland huddled together on a wild and stormy evening to hear Andrew Bachell's thought-provoking inaugural presentation as Trust Chief Executive, focusing on the challenges of wildness and nature in public practice and private policy.

Soon after, Andrew visited Bristol to meet members and supporters from the Southern Members' Group. The group heard from a number of conservation bodies to learn about a pine marten recovery project, the ongoing efforts to restore Woodchester Park, and work at Bennett's Patch and White's Paddock.

The Trust's final gathering of 2017 was held in Edinburgh, attended by more than 120 people. Based around the question Land Reform – What does it mean? speakers included Andrew Thin (Chair of the Scottish Land Commission), Graham Pyatt (author of Nature of the Manor), Duncan Macniven (John Muir Trust Board of Trustees) and Liz Auty (Schiehallion Property Manager).

Sign-up to our newsletter to keep up-to-date with local member group activities for 2018.

Membership offers

We're delighted to provide a range of fantastic member offers. However, to ensure that more of your contribution goes directly to protecting wild places, we do not provide membership cards. Find out more about taking up our member offers at johnmuirtrust.org/member-offers-detail or email membership@johnmuirtrust.org

Members' News to lose pounds

We are keen to funnel as many of our precious funds as possible towards our work for wild places. Following feedback from our Members' Research Panel (MRP), the next edition of Members' News will be printed on lighter paper and folded to fit in a smaller envelope. It will continue to meet our strict environmental credentials while saving us money on paper and postage. If you'd like to discuss this change contact our Head of Development and Communications by e-mail at kevin.lelland@johnmuirtrust.org

Sign up for the MRP at johnmuirtrust.org/mrp

Tell us your news!

What have Trust members and local groups been up to? We want your news and stories. Email membership@johnmuirtrust.org

The John Muir Trust Members' News is printed on Cocoon offset, which is an FSC-certified recycled grade paper, containing 100% post consumer waste and manufactured at a mill accredited with ISO14001 environmental management standard. The pulp used in this product is bleached using an Elemental Chlorine Free process. We use a Scottish printer with excellent environmental credentials.



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