



# John Muir Trust Annual General Meeting 2014

Members are cordially invited to attend the Thirty-first Annual General Meeting at 11.30am on Saturday 3 May 2014 at Dunbar Parish Church, Dunbar, East Lothian EH42 1LB

## Agenda and resolutions

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minute of the Thirtieth Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minute
4. Chairman's report
5. Financial report and annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013
6. Reappointment of auditors, Messrs Scott-Moncrieff
7. Election of Trustees
8. Other relevant business

## Draft Minute 2013

Thirtieth Annual General Meeting of the John Muir Trust, held at The Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Pitlochry on Saturday 4 May 2013

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

John Hutchison (Chairman) welcomed 159 members and staff to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He also welcomed special guests Allison Chin and Richard and Doris Cellarius from the Sierra Club.

Apologies had been received from:

Jane Anderson, Mike Brown, David W Burd, John Foster, Mrs E A Hansen, R F Jenkinson, Sir John and Lady Anne Kerr, Mrs Nanette Lawrence, Mike McKendrick, Arthur and Anita Stokes, Alan M Thompson, Robert Watt, Rhona Weir and Will Williams.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minute of the 29th Annual General Meeting, held on 5 May 2012, was approved.

### 3. Matters Arising from the Minute

None

### 4. Chairman's Report

John Hutchison reported positively on the Trust's achievements over the previous 12 months, commending the stable membership rate and the success of the newly opened Wild Space which is reaching out to new audiences. He pointed out how the Trust's campaigning work had brought about a better understanding of the term 'wild land' both generally and at governmental level and how the John Muir Trust's name had become synonymous with 'wild'. The power of social media and the impending re-launch of the Trust's website will assist our ambition to grow our membership.

In respect of our deer management policy, he stated the need to address the diverse interests of landowners and shooting estates whilst striving to achieve our long term aim for favourable wild land.

John said that the Trust was in 'acquisition mode' and that there would be one or two appeals in 2013 to assist with land purchase.

He closed by stressing that the battle for conservation goes on and that the John Muir Trust would continue to play a part in that battle.

The Annual Report was approved.

## 5. Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012

Walter Semple (Treasurer) made his last presentation at the end of his term of office as a trustee. He said that the receipt of legacies and steady membership subscriptions had funded results in land management, policy and also political achievements. He gave thanks to the Trust's excellent management team and acknowledged the generally growing concern to save the planet for future generations and increased attention on the Trust's work. The opening of the Wild Space contributed to a successful year.

Walter gave thanks to Alison Russell, recently resigned as Director of Resources, who had produced the company accounts. Her successor, Fiona Kindness, presented the accounts to the members at the AGM.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

Full company accounts are available on the Trust's website or downloadable from Companies House.

## 6. Special Resolution:

"To amend the Articles of Association of the John Muir Trust by inserting additional paragraphs after Article 14.5, by replacing the existing Article 47 and be adding a phrase to interpretation within Article 48, all as detailed on pages 3 and 4 herein".

The revision to Article 47 is intended to define the process of proxy voting, whilst the amendment to Article 48 aims to extend to members the ability to propose amendments to the Trust's Memorandum and Articles. John recommended the special resolution to the members and they agreed its adoption.

John gave thanks to the support of the Governance Working Group for their work in reviewing the Trust's Memorandum and Articles.

## 7. Re-appointment of Auditors, Messrs Scott-Moncrieff

Messrs Scott-Moncrieff were re-appointed as auditors.

## 8. Election of Trustees

Donald Thomas stated that there were more candidates than vacant places, resulting in an election this year.

The election produced an 11% turnout with 1091 votes received.

Candidates elected are:

3 year term - Gill Bond, Rob Mc Morran, Jo Moulin, Will Williams, Bill Wright

2 year term - John Hutchison

1 year term - Jim Gibson.

Thanks were given to the two unsuccessful candidates - Simon Gershon and Jeremy Prall.

Thanks were also given to Linda Coupar, Jane and Keith Anderson and the Electoral Reform Society for assisting with the election.

John Hutchison congratulated the newly elected trustees whilst commiserating with Simon and Jeremy. He also gave thanks to Patrick Bonnett who had stood down during 2013 and paid tribute to retiring trustee Mike Brown. Tribute was also paid to Donald Thomas, who has now stepped down as Company Secretary, for his long years of service to the Trust in various capacities.

## 9. Other Relevant Business

Sierra Club connection - John stated how pleased he was to have representatives of the Sierra Club present at the AGM. Alison Chin, the Sierra Club's 55th President, congratulated the Trust on its 30th anniversary and the opening of the Wild Space. She stressed the importance of working collaboratively and engaging partners in our work; to inspire but stay true to our focus. She thanked John for proactively invigorating the relationship between the two organisations. Richard Cellarius (an ex-president of the Sierra Club) and his wife Doris are life members of the John Muir Trust and also spoke warmly about the relationship between the two organisations.

## Vote of Thanks

The meeting closed with thanks to the Trust staff, to members for their support and to the meeting organisers and the Chairman. Particular thanks were given to Fiona Mackintosh and the membership department for organising the AGM and Members Gathering.

To be approved ..... May 2014