



## John Muir Trust membership hits 10,000

The John Muir Trust's membership reached the 10,000 mark at the beginning of June. HRH the Prince of Wales, the Trust's Patron, presented a commemorative certificate to the Brickell family, the John Muir Trust's 10,000th member, while on a visit to John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar.

The Brickells, from Perthshire, have a strong affinity to the outdoors which is why Andrew and Leesa and their sons, Archie and Cameron, have taken up family membership of the Trust. "As a family, we're drawn to wild and beautiful places," says Andrew. "I am a keen hillwalker - only 11 Munros to go - and spend as much time as possible with friends and family outdoors. Our boys love to go camping and exploring wild places which I am sure provides them with something that they just can't get anywhere else."

Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive of the Trust, welcomed the Brickells and added: "We would like to thank each and every one of our members for helping the UK's leading wild land conservation charity reach this important milestone. From humble origins, our achievements - often in the face of considerable odds - are a tribute to the sheer commitment and determination of our members, volunteers and staff."

The John Muir Trust has always been a strong membership organisation with 95%



Robert Hill, East Lothian Courier

HRH the Prince of Wales, Patron of the Trust, presents a commemorative certificate to Leesa, Andrew, Archie and Cameron Brickell whose family membership brought the Trust's total up to 10,000. Trust Chairman John Hutchison looks on.

of those who join up staying loyal, often bringing in new members themselves. Keith Anderson, for example, one of the Trust's early members, started volunteering in 1987 and is now an IT consultant for the Trust. He persuaded Jane to become the Trust's 1,000th member in 1990, the year before they were married. She is now the Trust's Membership Secretary and together they have recruited many friends and relatives. The Trust relies on its existing members to recruit new members, strengthen the

resource base of the Trust and widen its influence and authority.

Many existing members have friends or family who share their enthusiasm for wild places. Now, as never before, it is important to harness their interest and encourage them to join the Trust.

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Recruitment leaflets are readily available from 0131 554 0114 or e-mail: [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org)

# The Chairman's view



Jamie Grant

John Hutchison, the Trust's new Chairman, addresses his first AGM.

In my first column since starting to serve you as Chairman, I pay tribute to Dick Balharry's excellent record over nearly six years. He has been a great communicator for the Trust, both at a personal level and at meetings and events. He has encouraged us all by his leadership and in being able to demonstrate how we are making a difference. He was a great protagonist for the Wildland Biodiversity Project, our biggest ever land management project. It

**I FEEL VERY MOVED BY HOW JOHN MUIR, WITH HIS PRACTICAL MIND, MADE HIS DISCOVERIES AND, WITH A POET'S SOUL, TOLD PEOPLE ABOUT THEM . . .**

**JOHN HUTCHISON**

was a great first privilege for me to be able to make the presentation to him at the AGM on behalf of the Trustees and I am grateful to Will Williams for his paintings of both Dick and Nigel [pictured on this page].

I also warmly thank the other Trustees who stood down at

the AGM: John Donohoe, Will Williams and Robin Noble and welcome the five new Trustees. Our AGM in Birnam enjoyed an excellent atmosphere and the issues arising will be taken forward to the next Trustees' meeting.

My fundamental role, along with our Chief Executive, Stuart Brooks, will be to spend a short time reviewing how we do business and clarifying our strategic direction to allow us to put out a clear message to politicians and public alike.

I found one of the natural heritage indicators published recently by Scottish Natural Heritage quite shocking; "... between 2002 and 2008 the extent of Scotland unaffected by any form of visual influence declined from 41% to 31% ...". Those developing these new intrusions tell us that they haven't built in Designated Areas – which is hardly the point . . . .

Scotland's wildlife and scenery are huge national assets, synonymous with our identity. They underpin our prosperity in all sorts of ways. Recent research suggests that they contribute more than £17bn a year to Scotland's economy and support nearly one in seven of all full-time jobs.

## Irvine Butterfield

Irvine Butterfield, a founder member of the John Muir Trust, one-time Trustee, and holder of the Trust's 'Lifetime Achievement Award', died on 12 May 2009.

His contribution to the Trust and wild places was immense. Using his talents as a writer and photographer, he inspired a generation to cherish and care for wild places. His books on our high mountains, enriched by hundreds of his own superb photographs, have

John Cleare



been a mighty inspiration to walkers and climbers, leading them to share Irvine's passion.

A full obituary will appear in the next Journal.



Jamie Grant

The departures of Chief Executive, Nigel Hawkins, and Chairman, Dick Balharry, were marked at the AGM by presentations of paintings by artist and former Trustee, Will Williams (right).

We will continue to highlight the worth of wild land for recreation, health and the economy.

So at last we have achieved our target of 10,000 members! Andrew Campbell, Head of Land Management, and I were in Dunbar on 3 June to introduce the Brickell family, holders of the 10,000th membership, to our Patron when he visited the John Muir Birthplace. Now we need to set our next target!

I feel very moved by how John Muir, with his practical mind, made his discoveries and, with a poet's soul, told people about them and inspired civic leaders in the United States. I also feel humbled and embarrassed that Scots barely know him. Such a perception of emigrants is not unusual – but surely we have no excuse in the case of a man of his stature and we all

need to keep trying to correct this and promote his name.

At the time of writing, I am getting ready to walk in the Cascade Range in the Pacific Northwest with friends who live in that area. Not traditional John Muir country, I know, but nevertheless where I first had a taste of the huge variety of trees, birds, flora and fauna that he experienced in his discoveries in the US.

**John Hutchison**

## NEW TRUSTEES

There were five nominations for the five Trustee vacancies with the result that the following were appointed Trustees at the 2009 AGM:

Heather Alexander, Rohan Beyts, Richard Fraser-Darling, Peter Pearson and John Thomas



Jamie Grant

Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive of the Trust, welcomes members to the AGM

## Record turn-out for 2009 AGM

Over 170 people attended across the weekend of the Members' Gathering and AGM, making it the largest for the Trust to date. "We are thrilled that so many members made the effort to join us for the weekend and want to be actively involved in the life of the Trust," said Sam Baumber, Membership Manager.

Members, supporters and friends travelled from across the UK to Birnam, Perthshire, where they enjoyed excursions to the Loch of the Lowes, the Hermitage, a walk of the River Tay, and a historical tour of Dunkeld. Discussions and debate preceded the AGM, at which five new Trustees were appointed.

The event marked an important time of change with Dick Balharry handing over the chairmanship to John Hutchison. Presentations were made to both Nigel Hawkins and Dick Balharry, with impromptu contributions from members adding to this touching moment.

The Spirit of Wild Places lecture, sponsored by Ben Nevis Distillery, was given by John Beatty, combining powerful photography and music with John's personal experiences of wild places. Sunday provided further chances to explore Perthshire with a visit to Ben Lawers, a paddle on the Tay and an excursion and work party on Schiehallion.

A summary of the consultation session feedback is available online at [www.jmt.org/gathering09.asp](http://www.jmt.org/gathering09.asp) We look forward to seeing more members next year!



Jamie Grant

## LANDSCAPES, BIODIVERSITY AND REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS: the view from 2050

In an AGM discussion session, around 80 members 'imagineered' themselves into the year 2050 and a low carbon society where the government's 80% emission reduction target had been met. Continuing the process launched in the last Members' News, they looked back to 2009 to see how land and nature had contributed to this achievement. Some approached their task with pessimism: "Man is the greatest predator on earth, 41 years is too short to change behaviour" – some through spectacles of slightly rosier tint. The following reflects the balance of views expressed:

John Muir Trust members in 2050 recognise the importance of changing **Behaviour and Values**. 2009 was seen to be a seminal time. The first recession of the century provided a point of change away from capitalist values towards a moral framework and nature-based spirituality; activism initiated in 2009-10 encouraged a change of direction away from amoral consumerism. An increase in co-ordinated, worldwide thinking led to larger scale actions and commitments. At the same time, heightened individual and community concern forced a

change in attitudes, raised awareness of nature-related values and generated a refreshed moral framework. The new sense of community became increasingly important in building resilience while organisations played an important role in protecting wildlife and habitats and raising awareness of their value.

The role of nature in **Learning and Education** has been fundamental in achieving the shifts in society's values necessary to achieve reduction targets. It seems obvious now that participation in nature is a fantastic way to help develop children's wholeness, but this wasn't the case in the early 2000s. Certainly the new Scottish Curriculum for Excellence (as it was in 2009) encouraged teachers and children to think for themselves. Children were able to, and were encouraged to, GET OUT! This provided a natural classroom to discuss species and plants – and how they'd changed over the decades since the turn of the century.

As the climate changed, so our **Landscape** adapted. Trying to 'preserve' it was quickly recognised as futile. **Farming** became more intensive and locally focused. Councils adopted 'food plans' to ensure planned use of land, reduced food miles, and less meat-eating. Valuing water catchment areas and managing them better reduced flooding.

In 2015, by placing proper value on **Natural Capital**, we gave monetary worth to landscape and ecosystem services when making land-use decisions and in

recognising their contribution to climate change mitigation. As a result, from 2020 natural systems featured more significantly in decisions on land use and development.

Two key roles emerged for the **John Muir Trust**: to promote a change in values and to protect habitats. For members in 2009, the Trust was 'a beacon of hope'. Work at that time now seen as important includes generating scientific data (monitoring and recording baseline information), woodland regeneration, soil protection and deer management – all of which took time to have an impact. Increasingly, these practices were replicated elsewhere, often through partnership and collaborative work. The Trust held more work parties and attracted more young people. Its policies were based on pragmatism rather than nimbyism. It began to exploit web and other technological opportunities to promote sustainability approaches and raise awareness which led to better protected and improving habitats, wildlife corridors, more personal action and better understanding of the fundamental role of landscapes and natural environment in our journey to 2050.

### Rob Bushby

If you'd like to respond to any of the comments, extend any of the discussion points, plug any gaps or just be contentious, e-mail [viewfrom2050@jmt.org](mailto:viewfrom2050@jmt.org) or visit

→ [www.jmt.org/2050.asp](http://www.jmt.org/2050.asp)



## Political support for John Muir Award work with schools

## RUN FOR THE HILLS!

Once again, six John Muir Trust members and supporters completed the Flora London Marathon to raise vital funds for the Trust. We are very grateful to Patrick Gray, Stuart Smith, Alice Hall, Karen Shepherd, Stewart Barnett and Jonathan Effer for the dedication given to training, fundraising and, of course, completing the 26 miles on the day. Sponsorship money is still coming in but so far their efforts have raised a fantastic £5,000.

Keep on running – we have places in the 2010 London Marathon. If you're interested, please contact the membership team on 0131 554 0114 or [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org)

If you're raising money for the Trust, an easy way to collect and forward sponsorship is through

→ [www.justgiving.com/jmt](http://www.justgiving.com/jmt)

### Re-introducing once-native species

Following widespread consultation with members and other interested parties, the Trust has adopted a policy on the re-introduction of once-native species. The following is the conclusion of the policy document. Full details are available on the Trust's website or from Mike Daniels, Chief Scientific Officer, on 01796 470 080.

The John Muir Trust works to enhance habitats and natural processes, both on land it manages (in ownership or partnership) and through influencing wider wild land management. The Trust believes that robust wild landscapes, produced as a result of allowing natural processes to prevail, should sustain healthy populations of native wildlife. Robust wild landscapes will also maximise 'ecosystem services' such as carbon sequestration, flood mitigation and climate change adaptation for the benefit of wildlife and people.

The John Muir Trust recognises there is a paradox in attempting to achieve robust wild landscapes through natural processes where once-native species are missing. Therefore, while the Trust works on habitat enhancement, it also supports re-introductions where the habitat and ecosystem can support the re-introduced species, particularly when the re-introduction will help wild land restoration. Re-introductions must follow relevant guidelines and best practice in relation to biology, local community support, socio-economics, legal requirements, planning, preparation and post-release monitoring.

Julia Harrison, Real World Learning/RSPB



First Minister, Alex Salmond, at the Holyrood event with Beeslack Community High School teacher Jake Perry and pupils Linda and Campbell along with Real World Learning Partnership Co-ordinator, Joyce Gilbert, and John Muir Award Manager, Rob Bushby (left),

45 cross-party MSPs have signed up to the 'Real World Learning' Mission Statement to support outdoor learning promoted by the Real World Learning Partnership of 14 groups including the John Muir Trust.

"We are delighted that this has such cross party support," commented John Muir Award Manager, Rob Bushby. "Outdoor learning is a great way of inspiring future generations to explore and care for our wild places."

Four Scottish schools helped the Real World Learning Partnership promote the value of learning outdoors in urban and rural settings to MSPs. Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik, Midlothian, demonstrated how a whole week of lessons based in school grounds

and local woodlands had been framed around the John Muir Award and had contributed directly to Curriculum for Excellence results.

Afterwards, First Minister, Alex Salmond, wrote: "The Scottish Government welcomes the initiatives that the John Muir Trust is taking with schools and young people . . . Bringing these messages to young people is particularly important so they can learn more about the world and Scotland's place in it."

■ The John Muir Award has secured funding to develop two new partnerships: a 3-year post with OASES (County Durham's Outdoor and Sustainability Education Service) and an 18-month post with YHA (England and Wales).

## Travel company aids Trust through ECO scheme

Travellers are able to have a positive impact on the environment through the innovative ECO scheme (Environmental Charity Offering) operated by John Muir Trust Gold Corporate Member, Haggis Adventures, Scotland's leading youth travel company. £1,266 has been raised for the Trust by customers donating as they book their trip online. Every pound donated is matched by the company to support leading environmental charities.

The John Muir Trust is one of four charities to benefit from fundraising through the scheme and an additional £2,256 was raised for the Trust this year through Haggis Adventures' annual Festive Charity Raffle. In recent years the company has donated over £18,000 to varied causes including the Mountain Rescue Service. "We are delighted to be able to give something back to the areas in which we operate," commented Pete Duncan, Chair of the Haggis Adventures Charity Committee. Haggis Adventures

is Scotland's leading tour company for independent travellers, with its distinctive fleet of yellow midi-coaches. They offer a wide range of 1-7 day trips throughout the Highlands and Islands, where the company's drivers also help promote the John Muir Trust as they travel through the wild landscapes we protect.

David Picken, Development Manager for the John Muir Trust, added "We are most grateful for this support from Haggis Adventures' ECO-scheme and its drivers. This is a great model for companies wanting to ensure their products have a positive impact on wild lands, and help promote the Trust to their customers".

For details of Haggis Adventures and the ECO-scheme, visit

→ [www.haggisadventures.com](http://www.haggisadventures.com)

If you are interested in linking your business with the work of the Trust, contact Sam on 0131 554 0114 or [recruit@jmt.org](mailto:recruit@jmt.org)

## VOLUNTEER TREE-COUNTERS GATHER FOR GLEN NEVIS WEEKEND

Many Trust members provide valuable assistance by regularly monitoring transects of land on Trust estates. Thirty-five transect volunteers, along with six staff members, spent an April weekend in Glen Nevis, learning more about monitoring and its purpose and sharing their experiences. Rohan Beyts provides a volunteer's perspective while Liz Auty, the Trust's Biodiversity Officer, explains the importance of monitoring. If you would like to help by joining a transect group, contact Sandy Maxwell on 07766 380 663 or [conservationactivities@jmt.org](mailto:conservationactivities@jmt.org)

### Willow worries: a volunteer's view

This was distinctly different from the usual work party but then again, what is a typical work party? I attended to find out more about the various types of monitoring over Trust land, to share positive experiences of monitoring in the tree transects and to find out how to overcome various problems encountered (willow clumps being one common to all!).

A group of 12 of us were camping near, or staying in, the Steall Hut on Friday night. Then on Saturday morning, after a warm-up crossing the

Steall hut bridge, we joined the others (who had been staying locally). After introductions (who, apart from Sandy, can name everyone else?), we split off into three groups. One group went with Becks Denny to look for water voles in the upper Steall and another with Sandy to start the tree transect on the slopes of Meall Cumhann.

I joined Mike Daniels' group to look at monitoring methods for blanket bog and upland heath. He showed us what to look for in terms of browsing

damage and how to distinguish between deer and hare browsing. This was really useful. He explained how monitoring has changed over the years from concentration on single species to habitats through to landscapes and the importance of monitoring in terms of relative change.

In the afternoon, I went with the tree transect group. For me this was very useful as, despite being lead person on a transect, I have been unable to go on any of the full training sessions. Fortunately, apart from the dreaded willow clump (is it one, two or how many trees?), I haven't been getting it too far wrong with relative change being the most important measure.

The sun continued to shine and after the session there was a reluctance to head for home. Anyone who wanted was

invited to a communal meal at the hut. In the event it was the resident 12 who cooked up a tasty meal with the wonderful food provided by Sandy. Great discussions continued while the water took an age to boil.

Sunday saw us heading for the comfort of the Ben Nevis Inn. The results of transect monitoring to date were presented by Liz and Mike, informing the direction of future monitoring to produce the most useful data.

We discussed some of the transect problems (those willow groups again). Finally, other possible areas for monitoring - birds, peat depth, invertebrates etc - were discussed before a soup and sandwiches lunch and more informal talking, always a great part of Trust weekends.

**Rohan Beyts**

### Why monitoring matters to the work of the Trust

By acquiring and sensitively managing key wild areas, the John Muir Trust sets out to show that the damage inflicted on the wild over the centuries can be repaired; that the land can be conserved on a sustainable basis supporting human and other animal and plant communities which share it; and that, at the same time, the great spiritual qualities of wilderness, tranquillity and solitude, can be preserved as a legacy for those to come.

With ownership comes responsibility, and the John Muir Trust sees its role as a sustainable land manager. This means management should take account of a broad range of issues from carbon to deer and visitors to woodland.

Management should also be evidence-based and this is where monitoring comes in: monitoring what is there and assessing its condition or quality. Information from both of these areas then feeds back into the management activities for the land.

We hope that the land management strategy being

pursued will lead to an improvement in the quality of habitats over time, despite any potential detrimental effects caused by climate change. Monitoring is essential to establish a baseline for habitat condition and species present, and show any subsequent change.

The Trust's Wild Land Biodiversity project is a team effort involving land management staff and three Wild Land Rangers. They carry out wildlife monitoring work as well as deer control, feeding data to our biodiversity office at the Trust's records centre in Pitlochry. Here data collection, analysis and feedback to management is overseen by me as Biodiversity Officer, with input from Chief Scientific Officer, Mike Daniels.

The aim of our biodiversity management and monitoring in the short term is to:

- maintain any features of protected areas that we manage in favourable condition;
- reduce the damaging impacts (grazing and



Keith Brame

Right: Mike Daniels demonstrates vegetation monitoring in a transect.

trampling) on vegetation of an unsustainable number of browsing animals;

- observe and record responses in vegetation condition as a result of changes in management.

Our longer-term aims (beyond the next five years) are to:

- encourage more natural processes;
- improve the condition of habitats, restore species diversity and natural altitudinal gradients, from sea or glen to summit (eg natural tree lines);
- expand and improve the quality of native woodlands;

- gather data to demonstrate the effectiveness (or otherwise) of our approach to others.

What we hope to demonstrate is that sustainable land management for biodiversity is the best way not only to enhance wild land quality for future generations, but it is also essential to mitigate the effects of climate change. By encouraging natural processes and robust native ecosystems, the environment is best placed to adapt to change as well as regulate flows of air, water and carbon. Thus protecting our wild land also protects us.

**Liz Auty, Biodiversity Officer**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## for our members

### SELF-CATERING

**ABOYNE & ACHILTIBUIE** 4-star s/c for 2 and 3-star 3-bedroom house overlooking Summer Isles. No pets; children 7+yrs welcome. Mrs J H Strachan, Dorevay, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire AB34 5BT. 01339 886 232 / joanna@hubblebubble.org / www.holidayfreedomscotland.com

**ANDALUCIA** Small house in the mountains with private pool, panoramic views, remote rural situation, 45 minutes from Malaga Airport. Good bird watching, walks; Natural Park 10 minutes drive. £175-250 pw. jimfdstott@yahoo.co.uk / www.las-fincas.co.uk

**APPLECROSS** Airdanar Cottage. Croft cottage, sleeps 4. Situated on the coast overlooking Skye, Raasay and Rona. 01520 744 320 / www.applecross-coast.co.uk

**ARDNAMURCHAN** Croft by the shore of Loch Shiel. Comfy s/c cottage, sleeps 6, secluded & unspoilt location, mature garden. Excellent views, walking, beaches, rich in wildlife. £250 to £350 pw. 0131 557 2657 / www.dalileacroft.co.uk

**ARRAN** Millhouse at Pirnmill. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4, 3 bedrooms, 3\*. Spacious accom with spectacular views and secluded garden. £310-400 pw; 10% JMT discount. 0131 667 2267 / alison.kilpatrick@southmorningside.edin.sch.uk

**ARRAN** Whiting Bay, comfortable cottage with large secluded garden and amazing views. Handy for golf course and walking. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4-6. £315-450 pw. Contact Heather Alexander. 0141 636 0542 / heather.alexander@btinternet.com

**ASSYNT**, Sutherland, Fully equipped STB 4\* cottages (inc Sky TV & Wi-Fi) with stunning mountain and coastal views. Sleeps 4 - 6. Close to Quinag and convenient for Sandwood Bay. Open all year. 01571 855277 / www.cathairdhubh.co.uk

**AULTBEA** 4\* highland lodges in Aultbea village. Perfect for Assynt, Torridon, Inverewe - or aromatherapy at the Perfume Studio! Sleep 4/5. 10% discount for JMT members, subject to availability and excl peak season. www.aultbea-lodges.co.uk

**AVIEMORE** Luxury 2-bedroom cottage; sleeps 4. Discount for JMT members. 01738 550 412 / george.henderson@mdgltd.co.uk / www.aviemore-self-catering.org

**AUCHTERMUCHTYNE, FIFE** Superb lodge in quiet rural setting. STB 4-star. The perfect self-catering hideaway. One king/en-suite; one twin/large bathroom. Contact Liz or Brian. 01337 828 386 / www.baincraiglodge.co.uk

**BALLATER** 2 newly completed 4\* luxury self-catering apartments in heart of village. Perfect base for hiking and biking. Tullich apartment (£350-500 pw) sleeps 4, Gairn (£500-750 pw) sleeps 6. Both also have sofa beds. 0141 353 3839 / www.ballaterlodge.co.uk

**Between BEN NEVIS & GLENCOE** Inchree Centre. Self-catering chalet & hostel accommodation. On-site pub & restaurant with good food, real ales and open fire. 01855 821 287 / www.inchreecentre.co.uk

**CAIRNGORMS** 2 comfortable chalets or Dinner, B.& B.in a modernised 19C. croft house. Dogs welcome. Rural position near the Spey and Whisky Trail. Aviemore, 10 miles. 01479 821 062 / david@mondhuie.com / www.mondhuie.com

**CAIRNGORMS** Traditional croft, 1000ft up on the Braes of Abernethy. Spectacular views overlooking Abernethy forest and the Cairngorms. Walk or bike from doorstep, birdwatching, peace and quiet. Well-equipped, comfortable, woodburning stove. Sleeps 5. 01479 810 214

**CAITHNESS** Curlew Cottage. Superb views, attractive garden, STB four-star. Otters, wildcats, seals, ospreys, puffins, wild coastline and flow country all near. Sleeps 4+cot; sorry, no pets. £300-475 pw. 01847 895 638 / www.curlewscottage.com

**COIGACH, ROSS-SHIRE** Remote, cosy, traditional croft house, beautifully situated on wild mountainous coastline beneath Ben Mor Coigach, 5 miles from Achiltibuie. Sleeps 6. Recently refurbished. £300-£450 pw. 01434 220647 / www.173culnacraig.com

**DUNALASTAIR, PERTHSHIRE** Secluded and unique cottages in Highland Perthshire overlooked by Schiehallion. Four-posters, log fires, fishing. Pets welcome. Rare wildlife. Central for touring. Contact Melanie. 0845 230 1491 / cottages@dunalastair.com / www.dunalastair.com

**GALLOWAY** Comfortable self-catering in Laurieston village, ideal for exploring Scotland's beautiful southwest. Hillwalking, forest walks, lots of wonderful wildlife. Sleeps 8 at a pinch, terms reduced for small numbers. Full brochure available. 01224 595 561 / a.c.paterson@abdn.ac.uk

**GLEN AFFRIC** Cosy, well-equipped cottage, sleeps 4 in the conservation village of Tomich. Ideal for walking, birdwatching, biking, fishing. Open all year. C/H, wood-burning stove, garden, dogs welcome. 01721 723 339 / dfpeck@btinternet.com

**GLENCOE** Two 4\*STB self-catering cottages in the heart of Glencoe's mountains. Cottages are fully equipped and sleep up to six people. Open all year, pets by arrangement. David and Chris Baker. 01855 811 598 / www.glencoemountaincottages.co.uk

**GLENELG** Traditional cosy cottage, sleeps 4. Ideal for Skye (summer months) and Knoydart, as well as Glenshiel hills. Contact Robert. 02089 463 319 / Robinsonrobt@aol.com

**GLENRINNES, DUFFTOWN** The Smithy Croft Self-Catering, sleeps 2-6 people. Situated below Ben Rinnes, near The Speyside Way, The Cairngorms, Grampians and on the Whisky Trail. 01466 793 768 / www.thesmithycroft.co.uk

**HIGHLANDS** 2 charming cottages, sleep 4, CH, open fires, lovely views. Cnoc Eoghainn: Kinloch Rannoch village, near Schiehallion and Loch Rannoch, STB 3\*. Ballindalloch Cott., Erroglie: isolated Monadhliath moorland setting, South Loch Ness. 01456 486 358 / corinne@wildernesscottages.co.uk

**HIGHLAND PERTHSHIRE, LOGIERAIT** Character 2-bedroom cottage overlooking River Tay and hills, near Pitlochry, Aberfeldy and close to Schiehallion and Glen Lyon Munros. Dogs welcome. 01952 242 088 / aligrier@hotmail.com

**IONA** Independent Hostel, STB 4\*, on working croft at N end. Self-catering, sleeps 21. Stunning views to Rum and Skye; minutes walk from beach. £17.50/night (£12.00 under 10s). Booking recommended. 01681 700 781 / www.ionahostel.co.uk

**ISLE OF SKYE, STAFFIN** Pair of 2-bedroom bungalows to let. Views of sea/mountains; sleep 4; pets by arrangement; no smoking. Open all year, £210-£375pw. Paul & Helen Webster. 01470 562 419 / enquiries@staffinbaycottages.co.uk / www.staffinbaycottages.co.uk

**LAKE DISTRICT** Lorton-Buttermere valley. 3 well-equipped cottages in former hill farm; sleep 2/5/8; ETB 3-star. Ideal for family reunions. Stunning views. Walk or bike from door. 5 lakes within seven miles. 0190 085 206 / www.highswinside.demon.co.uk

**LOCHAVICH, ARGYLL** Warm, comfortable courtyard cottage in isolated but accessible glen 18 miles south of Oban. Miles of walking and stunning scenery on doorstep. £250-£360 pw fully inclusive. Mrs Georgina Dalton. 01866 844 212 / maolachy@firenet.uk.net

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**MORZINE, HAUTE SAVOIE** Modern 2-bedroom apartment, sleeps 4-6. Located close to GR5 trail in unspoilt Alpine valley, 1 km from village centre. Huge variety of walking and mountain biking. Geneva airport 80 mins. 01223 290 565

**MULL** John and Sery would like to invite you to Argyll House where they have aimed at creating centrally located excellent-value self-catering accommodation to suit the outdoor visitor. 01680 300 555 / info@argyll-house.co.uk / www.argyll-house.co.uk

**NEWTONMORE** Two-bedroom steading in the Cairngorms National Park. Ideal location for a huge range of activities. Fully furnished. Contact Martin. 0131 336 3466 / www.balvatincottages.com

**NORTH WALES** Cynwyd Activity and Mountain Centre. Sleeps 30 in main centre plus cottage that sleeps 6. At the foot of the Berwyn Mountains. Excellent rates. Brochure available. 01604 813505 / www.yrhfenfelin-cynwyd.co.uk

**THE OA, ISLAY** Superb 3-bedroom house in peaceful seclusion. Sleeps 6. Open fire, well-stocked bookcase, vintage record collection, fishing permit. Near RSPB reserve. No pets. Open all year. Couples discount. 0131 553 1911 / www.islay-cottage.co.uk

**OLDSHOREMORE** Caravan on Sandwood Estate, sleeps 6, open April-October. Contact Anne Mackay. 01971 521 335

**PERTHSHIRE** Peaceful 4\* self-catering accommodation, north shore Loch Tay adjacent to Ben Lawers NNR and Trossachs NP. Ideal for couples. Excellent hill-walking base, summer and winter, 35 Munros within 20 miles. 01567 820 527 / www.morenishmews.com

**PLOCKTON** Comfortable well-equipped cottage, sleeps 6, set in crofting fields and on NTS coastal walk midway between Kyle of Lochalsh and Plockton. Good access to Skye, Glen Sheil and Torridon. www.stationcottage.com

**POOLEWE** Ideal base to explore Ross-shire. Loch-side croft, stunning views towards Great Wilderness. 30 mins S to Slioch



and Beinn Eighe NNR. Fully modernised cottage, 3 bedrooms, sleeps 6. 01445 781 307 / seasidehouse@dialstart.net / www.seasidecroft.co.uk

**SANDWOOD AREA** Rhiconich: Gull Cottage, sleeps 4, and the Barn, sleeps 2. Both fully equipped and open all year. Graham or Lynn, Gull Cottage, Achriesgill, Rhiconich, Lairg IV27 4RJ. 01971 521 717

**SANDWOOD** Lovely croft house near Polin beach by Kinlochbervie; sleeps 7/8. £175-300 pw. jude\_cook@btinternet.com

**SANDWOOD** Self-catering family bungalows at Oldshoremore. 3 bedrooms; sleep 5 & 6. STB 3\*, 4\*. Own field centre, wonderful beaches, hill-walking, peace. Dilys & Michael Otter, Smithy House, Oldshoremore, Kinlochbervie IV27 4RS. 01971 521 729

**S. BRITTANY** House near Quimperle; 5 beds – comfortably sleeps 7 adults; large garden. £500 pw. On estuary, with small fishing port, cliff walks, coastal path, beaches. 10% to JMT. 01344 845 395 evenings

**SECLUDED SNOWDONIA** Self-catering rooms, bunkhouse, yurt, camping in upland valley overlooking Conwy valley; panoramic views of Snowdonia. Good base for your JM Award project, advice available. Contact Del Davies. 01492 640 906 / del.davies@virgin.net

**SEDBERGH** Self-catering and B&B in fabulous Victorian house, foot of Howgills. Sleep 6 or 8, double/twin rooms, 3 bathrooms, shower. Open fire/stove, CH. Aga in kitchen, utility room, garden. 01539 620 360 / ali@interact.co.uk

**SKYE** Sligachan and Carlost: Two comfortable, well equipped, traditional cottages sleeping max 8. Either makes ideal base for exploring or climbing. Details, including availability calendar, interior and exterior photos available on-line. 01478 640 218 / peppe@glendrynoch.co.uk

**SKYE** Trotternish: STB 4\* traditional croft house, sensitively modernised. Totally unspoilt situation. Panoramic views of sea, islands, mountains - Torrion, An Teallach, Kintail etc. Sleeps five; two bathrooms. Mature garden. Contact David Hudson. 01449 760 428 / www.freespace.virgin.net/david.hudson5

**SOUTH OF FRANCE** Two bedroom house. In picturesque village with vineyards and wooded hills. Huge variety of walking and cycling from the door. Caroux gorges and mountains nearby. Béziers airport 30 minutes. From £350/week. www.faugeresrental.com

**STRATHGLASS, nr BEAULY** Beautiful holiday lodge, sleeps 4. Lovely, peaceful location. Log fire to keep you warm on those winter evenings. Contact Sue & Keith

Walker. 01463 782 931 / www.highlandholidaylodge.co.uk

**SUTHERLAND** Comfortable cottage on coast near Lochinver, Assynt (NC 053 264). Close to Quinag, Suilven and other fine hills. Local walks and unspoilt sandy beaches. Sleeps 5. £240-400 pw. 0131 665 2055 / jennymollison@yahoo.co.uk

**SUTHERLAND** Ardmore peninsula, accessible by boat/footpath. 2 comfy cottages. Stunning scenery, otters + seals. Most northerly wood W.coast mainland. Far from noise of traffic. Sea kayaking and climbing available. Contact Marie Christine Ridgway. 01971 521 229 / www.johnridgway.co.uk

**SUTHERLAND** Spacious 3-bedroom bungalow in Assynt, on the Stoer peninsula. Extensive views, close to variety of walks and beaches. NC040317. Lochinver 9 miles. Sleeps 6; no pets/smoking. £300-600 pw. 01571 855 360 / www.achardholidaylets.co.uk

**SUTHERLAND** 2-bedroom bungalow between Tongue and Bettyhill, overlooking Torrisdale Bay. Modern conveniences. Sleeps 4-6. Excellent for walking, fishing and wildlife. Idyllic beaches. £200 p.w. + electricity costs. Contact Pamela Clarke. 01604 647 343

**S-W LAKES** Remote cottage with stunning views; sleeps 2 to 6. nicholassimpson@aol.com

#### SERVICES

**EDINBURGH MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL** 16-18 October 2009. Films, lectures and exhibitions. Fundraising raffles in aid of the John Muir Trust. Photography competition now open – all entries welcome. www.edinburghmountainfilm.com

**FINE HARPSICORDS**, spinets and virginals. Making since 1969. Also harpsichord hire. Repairs and restoration, spares. CD and brochure with our compliments. Robert Deegan Harpsichords, Lancaster. 0152 460 186 / harpsichords@hotmail.com www.deeganharpsichords.com

**ON & OFF THE TRAIL OF JOHN MUIR**, book by Tony Hobbs. A humorous account of his attempt to walk the trail. £5.95 (inc p&p) from Tony Hobbs, 1 Karen Court, Dillwyn, Hereford, HR4 8HU.

**ORGANIC KNOYDART LAMB**. Naturally reared, professionally jointed, vacuum packed, couriered fresh and freezer-ready. Available Dec-Feb, whole or half. Members' orders earn JMT £3. Iain & Jo Wilson, Inverguserrain Farm, Knoydart, Mallaig PH41 4PL. 01687 462 844 / calannaboat@knoydart.org

**SCOTTISH OUTDOOR** photo prints. Loch Eil, Knoydart etc. Special offer – 2 prints mounted for £40 (reg. £35 each). Size 8x12 approx, mounted to 11.5x15 approx. Offer includes postage within UK. www.lawsidegraphics.co.uk.

**SHIFTIN BOBBINS CEILIDH DANCE BAND** for all events, central Scotland and beyond. We call and sing. Contact Helen Ross. 01786 832 439 / h.e.ross@stir.ac.uk www.shiftinbobbins.co.uk

**SKYE** Serpentarium Reptile World, award-winning exhibition, breeding centre & refuge. Frequent handling sessions. Excellent coffee shop with gifts. Easter-Oct. Old Mill, Harrapool, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ. 01471 822 209 / snakesalive@skyeserpentarium.org.uk www.skyeserpentarium.org.uk

**WATERMILL BOOKSHOP, ABERFELDY** We stock a wide range of walking, cycling and outdoors books including Lotte Glob's 'Floating Stones'. Also coffee shop after a day on Scheihallion and art gallery. 01887 822 896 www.aberfeldywatermill.com

**WILDERNESS** first aid training, Health and Safety first aid training. First aid supplies catering for remote/lone/outdoor workers. National Navigation Awards training. 10% JMT discount. 07881 427 507 / www.rubiconfirstaid.com

Advertising is offered (subject to space) for members' business ventures. No charge is made but donations or in-kind support welcome. 35-word max. Please notify changes to promotions@jmt.org

The number of members taking up the offer of free advertising means that we are unable to publish all the adverts submitted. It is our intention that those omitted from this edition will be carried in the autumn edition of Members' News.

#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**SCHIEHALLION SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** to engage with visitors to the estate, promote the Trust and carry out regular conservation tasks on the hill including surveys and footpath maintenance.

We are looking for a regular volunteer for afternoons and weekends. For more details contact: Andrew Campbell, 01796 484 939 / landmanagement@jmt.org by 31 July.

**FREELANCE JOB OPPORTUNITY** The John Muir Trust is attending over 20 events across the year to raise awareness and recruit new members.

We are seeking a freelance sales person for mostly evenings and weekends, to attend promotional events throughout the autumn and winter including film festivals, retail fairs and other venues. Hourly rate: tba.

For more details contact: Sam Baumber, recruit@jmt.org / 0131 554 0114 by 7 August.

#### Wild Writing Competition

The John Muir Trust is encouraging both aspiring and professional writers to pen stories about Scotland's landscapes and wild places for the 2010 Wild Writing Competition. Now in its fourth year, the competition is free and open to all and there are prose, poetry, Gaelic and children's categories.

Further information

→ [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

#### New staff at the Trust

We welcome the following new members of staff:

**Amy Boud** is managing our partnership with the Youth Hostels' Association (England & Wales), based in Cumbria.

**Sarah Lewis** has rejoined the Trust to cover for Alison Austin, Nevis Conservation Officer, who is on maternity leave.

**Kim McIntosh** is providing maternity cover for Rebecca Logsdon as John Muir Award Regional Manager for the East of Scotland.

**Miranda Morgan** is the new John Muir Award Inclusion Co-ordinator within the Cumbria John Muir Award team.

**Rory Syme** has joined the Trust as a part-time Communications Officer.

#### Beef Tub purchase

Borders Forest Trust (BFT) has met the deadline to raise £700K to buy the famous Devil's Beef Tub and the surrounding Corehead area. BFT has thanked the John Muir Trust and its members for their support.

#### Communities blog

'Energy without costing the Earth' is part of the John Muir Trust project 'Climate Change and Sustainable Communities' and aims to help communities living on, or close to, wild land to become more resilient in the future. You can now keep up to date with the project via its blog site: [www.jmtcommunities.blogspot.com](http://www.jmtcommunities.blogspot.com)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### New Local Members' Groups

By popular demand, new groups are forming in London and Highland Perthshire (further details below). If you would like to be involved in running either group, please get in touch with Sam Baumber on 0131 554 0114 or [recruit@jmt.org](mailto:recruit@jmt.org)

### Edinburgh Members' Group

Since relaunching in September 2008, we have run a varied series of events through the year to try and establish some momentum and provide opportunities for the Edinburgh members' group to meet up and get to know each other. Recent events included the joint walk and canal litter clear-up around Rough Castle and the Falkirk Wheel in snowy and sunny March, an informative talk from John Mayhew on the work of Scottish Environment Link in April, and practical conservation work in the late-May heatwave with the Friends of Roslin Glen. Thanks to all who have supported, partnered and hosted these events, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

**Thursday 1 October:** Evening talk in Edinburgh.

**Sunday 18 October:** Conservation work with Borders Forest Trust at Carrifran.

**Saturday 21 November:** Social event in Edinburgh.

For further information, or to suggest events or join our circulation list: Ian Lee-Bapty on 0131 315 4117 or [bappers@supanet.com](mailto:bappers@supanet.com), Julie Catto on 07882 029 772 or Mary Inglis on 0131 553 7967.

### Glasgow & West of Scotland Group

**Thursday 22 October:** 'Carrifran Wildwood and restoration of the Ettrick Forest', an illustrated talk by Philip Ashmole. Carrifran is re-creating an extensive tract of wild and wooded land in

the Borders - a haven for a rich variety of native flora and fauna and an inspiration to visitors. It celebrates its 10th anniversary in January. 7pm Room W119, Hamish Wood Building, Glasgow Caledonian University. No admission charge but donations welcome.

**Thursday 26 November:** Professor Stuart Monro, Scientific Director of Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Time and place as for 22 October. Further information: Heather Willimott on 01360 311 304 or [heatherwillimott@valleyfield.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:heatherwillimott@valleyfield.fsbusiness.co.uk)

### London Members' Group

**Thursday 22 October:** London Members are invited to meet for drinks, and attend a talk by adventure photographer John Beatty at the Royal Geographical Society. Further information: [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org) / 0131 554 0114.

### Perthshire Members' Group

**Thursday 17 September:** 7-9pm. Launch of the new Highland Perthshire Group at the Watermill Bookshop, Aberfeldy. Speakers on Wild Writing and on the work of the Trust. 10% discount on books at the event. Further information: 0131 554 0114 or [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org)

### South of England and South Wales

**Sunday 15 November:** Members' Gathering. The 19th all-day gathering for members and friends in the South of England and South Wales will be held in Bristol at Jury's Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol, BS1 4QF.

The speakers will be Stuart Brooks, the Trust's recently appointed Chief Executive, who will give an update on the Trust's year, followed by an open forum; Peter Wright MBE, recounting his 'watershed epic' walking the 'ribbon of wildness' that is the watershed of Scotland and Mariano Devoto returns to share the results of his

research into the pollination webs underlying the regeneration of Caledonian pine forests.

If you'd like to come and did not receive a booking form with this Members' News, contact Brian Pollard on 0117 942 4951 or on [pollardjmt@talktalk.net](mailto:pollardjmt@talktalk.net)

### Ullapool

**Friday 23 October:** Events at the Macphail Centre, Ullapool

4pm John Muir Trust members' forum: exchange of news and views.

5pm 'Meet the Trust' over tea and sandwiches.

6pm Lecture by Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive, on 'Scottish peatland: a global perspective'. (Jointly with Lochbroom and Assynt Field Clubs)

7.30pm Glass of wine.

Cost: lecture - £3, refreshments - £5 payable on the door.

Further information: Sue Hopkinson on 01854 612 756 or [hopkinson.rhue@virgin.net](mailto:hopkinson.rhue@virgin.net)

At 8pm there is the opportunity to attend a Homecoming Event in Ullapool Village Hall: 'Flight of the Arctic Tern' by Mark Sheridan, a dramatisation of the Clearances through the eyes of one young migrant, Alexander Gunn.

### Yorkshire Region

**15 & 16 August:** Conservation Weekend. Another weekend of fun has been organised. The work will almost certainly be path-related and will either be in Wensleydale or Swaledale. Accommodation will be available in Harris House in Hardraw, Wensleydale. For hardy souls there is also a campsite at Hardraw. All tools, gloves, training and hot drinks are provided. Bring your own lunch, old (waterproof) clothing and boots.

Participants are welcome for the whole weekend or any part of the weekend they feel they can manage.

Further information: John Page on 01904 425175 or [john.page31@btinternet.com](mailto:john.page31@btinternet.com)

## Knoydart celebration in London

Over one hundred members gathered at the SW1 Gallery on 6 May to view Ullapool artist James Hawkins' new collection, 'The Chronicles of the Straight Line Ramblers Club'. The evening celebrated the ten years since the community buyout of the Knoydart Estate. Many of the works were of Knoydart, and prints of four paintings were offered for sale by the artist in aid of the Knoydart Foundation.

Angela Williams, Development Manager for the Foundation, said: "It was a great opportunity to meet with friends outside of Knoydart. We would like to thank James and Flick Hawkins for their generosity and for hosting such a wonderful event. We are extremely grateful for the support of Friends of Knoydart and members of the John Muir Trust who have helped us raise £1,500 from print sales so far."

Guest speaker for the evening was Nigel Hawkins, the Trust's outgoing Chief Executive.

Prints are still for sale at

→ [www.knoydart-foundation.com](http://www.knoydart-foundation.com)

## John Beatty on tour

If you missed the presentation by adventure photographer John Beatty at the 2009 AGM you can catch up with him on his forthcoming Wild Vision Tour of the UK. Details at

→ [www.speakersfromtheedge.com/lecture-tours](http://www.speakersfromtheedge.com/lecture-tours)

## Next edition

JOHN MUIR TRUST MEMBERS' NEWS will be published in October 2009. Please send news items by 17 AUGUST 2009 to:

**Mike Brown, Editor**

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- Sign up for our monthly e-broadcast, **e-mail** - [membership@jmt.org](mailto:membership@jmt.org)
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