



Welcome from our new Chair

I wish you all a very Happy New Year! It's a great honour to write this first welcome message, having been elected by my fellow Trustees to succeed John Hutchison as Chair of the John Muir Trust. As many of you will be aware, John recently came to the end of his six-year tenure – a period that has seen the Trust grow and become a



much more influential organisation. He has shown great commitment to the job and will be a hard act to follow.

John's term culminated last year with the adoption by the Scottish Government of the Wild Land Areas Map. This was a major collective achievement for which we can all be proud. Speaking as a chartered town planner, I am still struck by how successful we were with our Wild Land Campaign – a great example of the Trust punching above its weight.

So what else have we been up to recently? The most high-profile issue at the moment is the judicial review, due in February, of the Scottish Government's decision to approve the giant wind farm at Stronelairg without a public inquiry. Pursuing a judicial review was a tough decision to make because of the potential costs involved if we lose the case. Fortunately, we have already raised a considerable sum to help with such a possible outcome. And while more is still needed, this demonstrates a fantastic level of support – and confirms that our decision is in tune with the wishes of our members.

And it is our bold campaigning to defend

wild land that is one reason why the Trust was recently voted Outdoor Campaigner of the Year by readers of TGO Magazine (see page 8). Such an award reflects a further characteristic of the Trust that appeals to me: we are prepared to stick our head above the parapet.

Another area of work that excites me is the new

rewilding policy agreed at the Trustees' autumn meeting. Rewilding may not be the most elegant of words, but the ideas that it encapsulates go to the heart of what the Trust stands for: that of helping create the conditions for nature to flourish. Rewilding encourages the reintroduction of native creatures such as the beaver and perhaps, in future, other keystone species such as the lynx. The thinking behind it also opens up great potential for working with other landowners and NGOs along the lines of initiatives we are already involved in such as the Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape project.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues on achieving the 100,000th Award in Scotland. Read about this and our first John Muir Award appeal on page 4.

Finally, whether you are walking, climbing, skiing, or simply admiring them from afar, enjoy the hills this winter. It's always my favourite season.

Peter Pearson

Read more about Peter at www.jmt.org/trustee-pearson.asp

Call for Trustees

If you've ever wanted to be more involved in the running of the Trust, now's your big chance! The Trust is run by its members via a board of 15 Trustees, supported by the chief executive and staff. Offering valuable skills and experience, our Trustees help establish policy and steer the strategy of the Trust.

This year, we have six vacancies to fill. John Hutchison stood down as Chair. John Thomas, Richard Fraser-Darling, Heather Alexander and Peter Pearson will all come to the end of their second consecutive, three-year terms, while there is also an additional, existing vacancy. Our rules allow Peter Pearson to stand again to enable him to complete his term as the Chair. Ideally, we would like a board that is broadly representative of age, gender (more women needed!), skills and geography (UK-wide, and especially the Highlands). If interested, or you just want to learn more, please give Stuart Brooks a call at the Pitlochry office.

If we receive more than six nominations, we'll have an election. But don't let that put you off – our staff will help you through the process. You can download a nomination form at www.jmt.org/trustee-noms.asp, or call Linda Coupar on 01796 470080. Nominations must be received by 9 March.

2015 AGM & Members' Gathering

This year's AGM and Members' Gathering will take place in Caernarfon, North Wales from 15–16 May. All very welcome! For further information, see the enclosed booking form, or visit www.jmt.org

The Monadhliath Mountains
– site of the proposed
Stronelairg wind farm



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

United front

With a judicial review on the horizon, the Trust was delighted to receive heavyweight backing for our campaign to stop construction of the Stronelairg wind farm

In August 2014, the Trust initiated a judicial review challenging the Scottish Government's approval of the Stronelairg wind farm and asking the Court to quash the decision. We hope that by taking legal action we can stop the Stronelairg development, which is proposed for an area of the Monadhliath Mountains between Loch Ness and the Cairngorms, and have it reinstated on the Wild Land Areas Map.

The first stage in the legal process was to apply for a Protective Expenses Order (PEO) to minimise legal fees. Unfortunately, in a decision made at the end of October last year, the Court of Session refused to grant the PEO. It was a disappointing decision given that the Trust does not have access to the same resources as the Scottish Government or the wind farm developer, SSE.

However, having carefully considered the implications of the ruling, and the generous public financial support received for this case, the Trust decided to continue with the judicial review, due to be held in the Court of Session in Edinburgh in mid-February.

It was against this background that the Trust was delighted when the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Scotland's largest conservation charity, asked its 320,000 members to support our Stronelairg campaign – adding to support already given by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland and the Scottish Wild Land Group. NTS support has proved a fantastic boost, helping raise vitally-needed funds, and generating valuable media coverage across Scotland and beyond.

The Trust would like to thank everyone who has already donated to help us with our legal challenge. And if you have yet to contribute, we would greatly appreciate your financial support.

We would also ask you to help raise awareness of our legal action, which is designed to protect precious areas of wild land from inappropriate development. Guidance on writing to the press and politicians is available on our website, together with a short film that outlines the case against the Stronelairg wind farm development.

www.jmt.org/stronelairg.asp

Westminster briefs

- The Trust recently signed up to Landscapes for Everyone – a joint initiative by a variety of landscape NGOs, coordinated by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. The initiative's 'manifesto' will launch formally early in 2015.
- The regulatory environment for species reintroduction has been improved following negotiations with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), led by the Trust, RSPB and Zoological Society of London. As a result, the barn owl and capercaillie, along with native species now extinct in Britain, are no longer classified as 'non-native' in the Infrastructure Bill. Discussions with DEFRA are ongoing, however, as the Trust still has concerns about how the Bill might enable certain native animals to be controlled.
- The Trust recently signed up to a five-point plan to protect peatland in the uplands and urged the UK Government to make a financial commitment to restoring peatlands, and ensure public policies that enhance rather than degrade them.
- We are now a supporting partner on the Nature and Wellbeing Bill initiative – a campaign, led by the RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts, for Westminster legislation that will halt the decline in nature across the UK.

Defending wild land

In June 2014, Scottish Natural Heritage published its Wild Land Areas Map, which highlighted those parts of the country recognised as 'areas of significant protection' from wind farm development under new Scottish planning policy. However, the Trust continues to oppose a flurry of applications for development in and around these areas (in addition to Stronelairg, see opposite). Here's a summary of the main cases we are involved in:

Allt Duine. In 2012, the Trust participated in the Public Local Inquiry into the proposed 31-turbine Allt Duine wind farm on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park – an area subsequently included in the Wild Land Areas Map. Consequently, the Scottish Government has invited further submissions about the scheme's likely impact on wild land.

Glencassley & Sallachy. These two proposed wind farms lie entirely within a Wild Land Area (Reay-Cassley, Sutherland). In 2013, Highland Council decided against objecting to the two proposals, but following publication of the Wild Land Areas map, and new planning guidelines, the Scottish Government requested further comment on the proposals. Unfortunately, despite strengthened government planning policy, Highland Council declined to submit further comment. We await a decision by the Scottish Government.

Crossburns. The Trust has objected to a proposed 25-turbine wind farm at Crossburns near Aberfeldy which would essentially serve as an extension to the consented Calliachar wind farm. It would also add significantly to the visual impact on the surrounding landscape, Wild Land Areas and Schiehallion. Much of the site lies on an area of land that was refused permission by the Reporter at the Public Local Inquiry into the original Calliachar application, and subsequently by the Scottish Government.

Talladh-a-Bheithe. This proposal for a wind farm of 24 turbines above Loch Rannoch in Highland Perthshire falls wholly within a Wild Land Area (Rannoch–Nevis–Mamores–Alder). If approved, it would adversely affect views from 30 Munros and Corbetts, including Buachaille Etive Mor and Schiehallion. Local councillors will consider the application and make their views known to the Scottish Government later this year.

Cumbria transmission line upgrade. The proposed National Grid North West Coast Connection (currently out to public consultation) will potentially impact on a nationally-designated landscape in northwest England, including the Lake District National Park and Solway Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Trust has endorsed the consultation response submitted by Friends of the Lake District, plus added further information based on our experience of considering the costs, technical case and impact of the Beaulieu-Denny transmission line.

Copies of all Trust objections, comments and submissions can be found at www.jmt.org/responses-to-issues.asp

Sadly, the purchase of Carreg y Saeth Isaf is not to be



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LINTERN

No go in Wales (for now)

Although we remain as committed as ever to protecting wild land in Wales, the Trust is unable to pursue the planned purchase of Carreg y Saeth Isaf

As reported in the last issue of Members' News, the Trust's determination to purchase a wonderful area of wild land in Snowdonia was hit when the owner of Carreg y Saeth Isaf changed his plans to sell the land. There have been various twists and turns in recent months with the owner having first withdrawn from the original agreement to sell the land then deciding to market the property as a whole, only for the property to then not actually appear on the market.

As a result, the Trust is currently no longer in a position to pursue the purchase of this area of wild land. However, we were greatly encouraged by the support on what is a continuing journey to protect wild land in Wales. The Trust remains committed to working in Wales, and across the UK, and are pleased that the 2015

AGM and Members' Gathering will be held in Caernarfon (see page 1).

So, while this is an undoubted blow to our efforts to gain more of a presence in Wales, the Trust is far from absent there; the John Muir Award sees almost 6,000 participants a year in Wales, while we are also involved in a number of initiatives to help protect wild places through work with all three national parks, liaising with Natural Resources Wales, and with groups such as Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

In the meantime, the Trust has written to all those who kindly donated to our Carreg y Saeth Isaf appeal to ask about the best way to use their donations (currently held in a restricted fund). If you made a donation but have not received this letter, please send an email to kate.barclay@jmt.org, or call Kate on 0131 554 0114.

Trust launches first Award appeal

The Trust has launched its first ever appeal for the John Muir Award – our engagement initiative that continues to make a difference for people from all walks of life

One of the Trust's key aims is to bring people and wild places together, so that everyone can discover the value of wildness in their own lives. Our engagement initiative – the John Muir Award – works with organisations, families and individuals to encourage people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

Over the past year, some 30,000 people, in partnership with over 1,200 organisations, participated in the Award, from Cornwall to Kirkwall. The Trust is proud that the John Muir Award is provided for free, encouraging people from all parts of society to have a positive connection with nature.

The Award is particularly relevant to people who may not normally be connected in any way with wild places. People like Holly, who had a very tough start in life. Holly was very disengaged from school and struggles with self-esteem. But her participation in the John Muir Award has been key to boosting her confidence and achieving success.

As Holly's youth worker, Jan, explains: "Her involvement in the John Muir Award is one of the very few positives for Holly just now. It gives her something to commit to, to focus on. She's found an enthusiasm for spending time in nature; it's helping keep her on track."

Like all our work, we couldn't run the Award without support from our members and supporters. Demand for the Award is growing, as is the need for meaningful connections with nature. We need your help to provide more opportunities for people from all walks of life to connect with wild places on their own doorsteps and beyond.



To donate, find out more and view our new short film:

- Visit johnmuirtrust.org/connect
- Call 0131 554 0114
- Text* MUIR01 £5 to 70070

*You can make the following donations: £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 and £10, up to a maximum of £30 per month. Donations will be charged to your phone bill, or deducted from your pay-as-you-go credit.

Celebrating the 100,000th Award in Scotland

The 100,000th John Muir Award to be achieved in Scotland was presented to Sarah Oswald, a senior pupil from Balfron High School in Stirlingshire in November. "I really enjoyed doing the Award," Sarah commented. "My favourite wild place was Aberfoyle in the National Park. It was just so different and peaceful."

NHS Forth Valley delivers the Award in a range of settings and helped to organise and run the school's week-long peer education residential in the Trossachs. "I'm delighted for Sarah, and I'm really proud to see all the pupils gain a nationally recognised certificate," commented health promotion officer, Elaine Cochrane.

"We've gained an appreciation for wildlife on our doorstep and understand better how we can help look after it. Taking part in the John Muir Award has helped build teamwork as well as increase pupils' self-confidence and communication skills."

Toby Clark, John Muir Award Scotland Manager, reflected: "This tremendous milestone would never have been reached without all the amazing teachers, community workers, volunteers, rangers and youth leaders who have invested their time and energy in working together with the Trust. This includes our long-term supporters Scottish Natural Heritage, and both Cairngorms and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authorities."



Sarah Oswald with her milestone Award

It's Our World

The Trust is delighted to be an education advisor to It's Our World – a mass participation arts project that aims to create the UK's largest online collection of artwork celebrating the environment.

Children and young people aged 4–19 are encouraged to create artworks that bring their local landscape, coastline or neighbourhood to life, and to speak out for positive environmental action.

We're promoting involvement on and around our properties, through the John Muir Award, and with our partners.

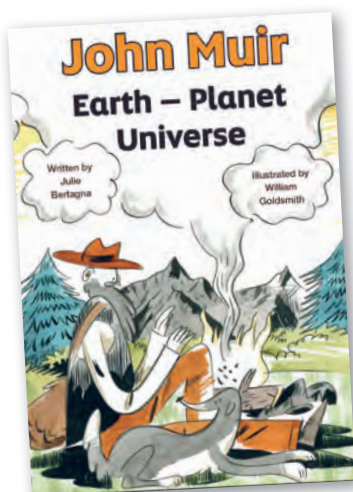
www.jmt.org/its-our-world.asp



Welsh language milestone for Trust

We're celebrating a decade of John Muir Awards that have been completed entirely through the medium of Welsh. Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Wales' largest Welsh medium charity, began using 'Gwobr John Muir' in 2004, and Call of the Wild started in 2005. We've since run training for Welsh-speakers and translated a range of materials – from information handbooks to certificates – so that this involvement is fully supported in Welsh.

"I would like to thank the John Muir Trust for its continued commitment and contribution to the Welsh language and participants' engagement in the John Muir Award through the medium of Welsh," commented Sion Lloyd, Swyddog Ieuenctid Awyr Agored (outdoor education officer) at The Urdd. "The Award is a fantastic framework to connect participants with wild places, the wonderful Welsh countryside and its heritage."



Muir's life story in a graphic novel

John Muir: Earth – Planet, Universe, produced by the Scottish Book Trust as part of Year of Natural Scotland, is a graphic novel that vividly captures Muir's life story. Trust staff contributed to an initiative that has seen free copies placed in every secondary school in Scotland. Groups and families involved in the John Muir Award are making great use of it to explore Muir's legacy and relevance. It's available as a free download, with Teachers' Notes – just search **Scottish Book Trust John Muir**.

Survey flags positive impact of Award

Throughout the winter, the John Muir Trust has been involved in a pilot of 'How Good is Our Third Sector Organisation?' – Education Scotland's new framework for helping charities evaluate themselves. A key part of this has been to learn about the impact of using the John Muir Award on participants, leaders and organisations who are involved.

We have seen a fantastic response so far, with over 10 per cent of our 580 partners in Scotland providing valuable feedback, including:

- 89% said the Award helps the people they work with put something back for nature
- 80% said the Award helps their participants be more healthy

As one teacher commented, participating in the John Muir Award has really helped open pupils' eyes: "They now look with wonder at the natural world. They appreciate what's on their doorsteps and their knowledge is greatly enhanced. Children wouldn't necessarily have had these opportunities otherwise."

Another teacher was equally enthusiastic: "Pupils commented that they had slept well the night they had been at the woods, and enjoyed the peace and calm away from all the noise of the school."

The Award is also "a reason to tie conservation into the bigger picture – it brings out the inner boy scout", added one countryside ranger.

The Trust will conclude this survey in the spring. The information gathered will then contribute to Education Scotland's efforts in this area and influence and help improve the way we work, supporting more people to effectively connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

Wildlife Trust partnerships on the rise

Together, the Wildlife Trusts are the largest UK voluntary organisation dedicated to protecting wildlife and wild places. Of the 36 individual Trusts in England, over half used the John Muir Award in 2014 across a diverse range of groups, including schools, adult learning, and community volunteers.

Dr Edward Tripp of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust said: "It provides structure and focus to the project and furnishes the students with a tangible award that rewards their participation."

London Wildlife Trust sees the Award as a key engagement tool and provides staff capacity to help manage Award delivery across a number of its reserves. According to Jane Clarke: "[The Award gives] an opportunity to dig deeper into the beauty of the nature reserve for individuals and helps leave an even deeper sense of wonder of this place, and awareness of how to conserve it."

A number of Wildlife Trusts are looking forward to increasing this partnership work in 2015.



Wild Ways path progress

Despite challenging conditions at times, the specialist pathwork contractor has now completed repairs to the Bla Bheinn path

Work on the Bla Bheinn path began at the end of September when path contractor Upland Access spent a week bagging up 110 tonnes of stone from nearby boulder fields and preparing the site ready for the airlift. The airlift of stone went ahead in October, with blustery weather creating challenging flying conditions.

The contractor has constructed the stone features (steps and cross drains) in a more 'organic' style, so that the work blends in with the natural surroundings and feels less man-made (see before and after pictures, at <http://bitly.com/1zcyjNW>). Another tactic has been to use the loose cobble exposed by erosion to create natural-looking scree patches that define the line of the path and, again, help it blend in with the surroundings.

The work on Bla Bheinn has been made possible thanks to generous donations to our Wild Ways Path Appeal. The fund also enabled us to respond rapidly when heavy rain in October washed away the outside edge of part of the Steall Gorge path in Glen Nevis.

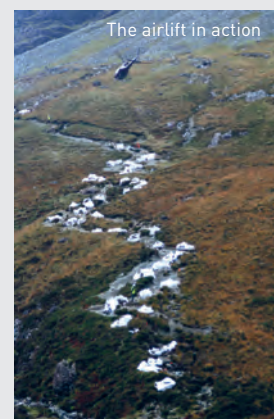
A local path contractor, Stonescape, was commissioned to carry out emergency repairs to this very popular path. Stonescape has

since returned and repaired the section more substantially with large stones to build up the edge of the path.

The Trust would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our ongoing Wild Ways Appeal – which includes a generous grant from the James & Patricia Hamilton Charitable Trust – plus all who voted for us to gain support from the European Outdoor Conservation Association. Your help towards keeping our upland paths accessible is invaluable.

You can still donate to our Wild Ways Path Appeal in one of the following ways:

- Online at www.jmt.org/wildways.asp
- Call on 01796 470080, or text MUIR14 £10 to 70070
- By post to: Wild Ways Path Appeal, John Muir Trust, Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS GOODMAN



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

A recent book signing by Jim Crumley

Wild Space in 2014

It's been another busy year at the Trust's Wild Space visitor centre in Pitlochry, with more than 30,000 visitors and almost 100 new members signing up at reception.

Many visitors stay and chat, eager to learn more about the work of the Trust and how they can be a part of it. We love engaging with visitors who share our passion for Muir and the work of the Trust.

Meanwhile, the ever-popular Alan Reece Gallery held eight wonderful exhibitions in 2014, all of which generated an excellent response from visitors. We'll be doing it all again in 2015, with an exciting programme of exhibitions that cover a range of media, from photography and oil painting to watercolours and acrylic. Here's what's coming up during the first half of the year:

February

A watercolour exhibition by Gareth Watson, entitled *The Moor – Isle of Lewis*

Book readings by Jim Crumley and Ruary Mackenzie-Dodds, plus a talk by Gareth Watson about his collaboration with writer Robert MacFarlane (part of Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Winter Words)

March

A selection of Hebridean landscapes by Rhod Evans in watercolour, acrylic and inks

May

An exhibition of Keith Salmon's bold Scottish mountain landscapes in acrylic and pastels

A celebratory reception

Former Labour Culture Secretary Chris Smith was among a number of past and present Trustees who attended a special chairman's reception at the Wild Space visitor centre in November. Other guests included the two surviving founder members of the Trust, Nigel Hawkins and Denis Mollison.

The reception was held in part to celebrate the work of the Trust during the John Muir centenary year, but also to introduce former Trustees to the Wild Space, announce and introduce the new Chair of the Trust, Peter Pearson, and acknowledge the role that volunteers play in the Trust.

Chris, who now sits in the House of Lords as Baron Smith of Finsbury, was first elected as a Trustee more than 20 years ago. "The John Muir Trust is a very special organisation, which I view as being about three things," he told the audience. "First, stewarding some of the most precious bits of wild land in the country and ensuring it remains wild forever; acting as an encouragement to others, and spreading good practice; and advocating and arguing the case for wild land, and carrying out a rich amount of campaigning work."

A highlight of the event was the very first presentation of a special Volunteer's Award to Pat and Ian Evans in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the conservation of wild places in Scotland, particularly in the recording of the vegetation of Assynt.



Pat and Ian Evans receive their award from Denis Mollison

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

Taking a break during a recent Wild Day in Knoydart



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

Wild Days 2015

Wild Days are special member-only events that offer a chance to learn how we look after land on our properties. In 2015, our property managers will lead three fascinating Wild Days:

Monday, 27 April – Schiehallion

Liz Auty, the Trust's biodiversity officer and Schiehallion property manager, has planned an early morning visit (5.30am) to watch a black grouse lek – the first time this opportunity has been offered as a Wild Day. Numbers limited to five.

Wednesday, 27 May – Glen Nevis

Visit Glen Nevis with Sarah Lewis, the Trust's Glen Nevis conservation officer. Sarah will provide an overview of the Trust's work in Glen Nevis and explore the flora and fauna of Steall Gorge.

Friday, 10 July – Sandwood Bay

Enjoy a day exploring this wonderful coastal area with Don O'Driscoll, the Trust's conservation officer for Sandwood – with the chance to spot seabirds, other activity and just stroll through the machair.

If you would like to attend a Wild Day, please contact Linda Coupar on 01796 484934, or linda.coupar@jmt.org

Although there's no charge for Wild Days, donations are always welcome! If you would like a guided look at any of our properties but are unable to make these dates, please get in touch and we'll see if we can accommodate your request.

Leaving a legacy to the Trust

Legacies are vital to the work of the Trust, with over a third of our income coming from gifts in wills. One long-time supporter, Keith Lawson, explained why he has decided to support the Trust in this most special way: "I have left a legacy to the Trust because I believe that wild places should be preserved for all future generations to marvel at. I know that the money I am leaving will be used wisely to protect this land for others to enjoy."

If you would like to discuss the possibility of leaving the Trust a gift in your will, please contact Adam Pinder on 0131 554 0114, or adam.pinder@jmt.org

Come and roll your sleeves up!

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

Date	Location	Proposed activity
27 February–2 March	Glenlude	Tree nursery, planting and general
14–15 March	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Planting, path work and other tasks
21 March	East Schiehallion	Path maintenance, ring barking
28–30 March	Glenlude	Woodland and general
14–19 April	Knoydart Foundation (Inverie)	Rhoddie control, path work, beach clean/general
24–26 April	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Planting, path work and other tasks
8–10 May	East Schiehallion	Path work
11–15 May	Western Isles	Electric deer fencing, paths, general
16 May	Glenlude	Family work party
18–19 May	Wild Ennerdale	Project tour then working with volunteers
23–25 May	Sandwood	Path work, beach cleaning and general
30 May	Ben Nevis	Summit litter clean, path maintenance
6–7 June	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Tree weeding (bracken cutting) and other tasks
15–19 June	Quinag & CALL (Coigach & Assynt)	Quinag – fence removal and path maintenance; CALL project members – general
26–29 June	Glenlude	General maintenance
4–5 July	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Tree weeding (bracken cutting) and other tasks
10–13 July	Nevis	Monitoring in Glen Nevis, path work, summit litter clean
1–2 August	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Tree weeding (bracken cutting) and other tasks
4–8 August	Sandwood	Path work, beach cleaning and general
11–16 August	Glenlude	General maintenance
22 August	Ben Nevis	Summit litter clean, path maintenance
26–29 August	Quinag & CALL (Coigach & Assynt)	Quinag – Path maintenance; CALL project members – general
7–11 September	Western Isles	Path work, beach cleaning timed to coincide with North Harris Mountain Festival
19 September	Ben Nevis	Summit litter clean, path maintenance
21–25 Sept	Tanera Mor (CALL)	General maintenance
26–27 Sept	East Schiehallion	Path maintenance, brash hedges, thinning
3–4 October	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Path work, fence maintenance

Find out more at www.bit.ly/jmtcwp

To keep up-to-date with volunteer work parties, join our email listing at workparties@jmt.org

Lively autumn for members' groups

The autumn months saw a range of local group activities across the UK, from annual gatherings to weekend work parties.

In October, the newly formed North West England group met for the first time and had a lively discussion about wild land issues and the potential role of a local members' group. There was great enthusiasm for establishing a new group, with meetings and conservation work parties now being planned for 2015. Earlier in the day, the group joined forces with the Forestry Commission to participate in a woodland restoration project underway in the Duddon Valley, Cumbria.

Meanwhile, the North East Scotland group hosted a talk about restoration of upland woodland by National Trust for Scotland ecologist Shaila Rao. Members also got their hands dirty with regular conservation work parties at a number of locations, including Glen Tanar, Mar Lodge Estate and Portlethen Moss.

Elsewhere, the Yorkshire Members' Group teamed with local rangers for a weekend work party in the Yorkshire Dales National Park where they built boardwalks in the beautiful setting of upper Wensleydale.

November also saw both the Edinburgh and Southern Members' Gatherings, featuring a range of fascinating speakers. The Southern Gathering welcomed back Bertie Gregory, a talented wildlife photographer and 2020VISION Young Champion, who gave an inspiring presentation based around some of his latest images. The Edinburgh Gathering, meanwhile, hosted a talk by Peter Wright based around his recent book, *Nature's Peace*.

Music school pupils have begun work on creating new tracks inspired by Trust properties



PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE DANIELS

Pupils to create property tunes

The Trust is involved in an exciting new project together with pupils from the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music, based in Plockton. Over the next six months, 10 final year students will research traditional music associated with Trust properties and produce a CD with a track about each one.

"We are honoured that pupils will produce a CD of music inspired by our land," said Mike Daniels, the Trust's head of land and science. "We look forward to the final product, which we hope will be of great interest to our members."

For more on the school, visit www.musicplockton.org

MEMBERS' GROUPS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Yorkshire

31 January-1 February, Conservation weekend – path maintenance in Upper Wensleydale. Contact: john.page31@btinternet.com

North East Scotland

21 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, Glen Tanar work parties. Contact: jamesbrownhill@sky.com

24 March, 7.30pm, Talk by Alan Rowan, Munros by Moonlight. Taylor Building, University of Aberdeen. Contact: r.beyts@btinternet.com

Edinburgh

21 November, Annual Gathering, speakers to be confirmed. Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Contact: rellis.consultancy@virgin.net

Tell us your news!

What have Trust members and local groups been up to? Tell us your news and stories. Call Iona on 01796 470080 or email promotions@jmt.org

The John Muir Trust Members' News is printed on Revive 100 Uncoated which is an FSC-certified recycled grade paper, containing 100% post consumer waste and manufactured at a mill accredited with ISO 14001 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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MOUNTAIN HARE IN WINTER
COAT, LUKE MASSEY/2020VISION

Trust wins award

Following a public vote, the John Muir Trust was delighted to win Outdoor Campaigner of the Year at The Great Outdoors Awards 2014 ceremony, held in Kendal in November. The magazine's acting editor, Daniel Nielson, presented the award to Jeremy Prall from the Trust's fundraising team.

"It's a great tribute to a very busy and highly successful year of campaigning," commented Helen McDade, the Trust's head of policy.

The Trust and its partners were also lauded at the RSPB's third annual Nature of Scotland Awards, again in November. Congratulations to our partners the Green Team, which won the Youth and Education Award, as well as the Communities Along the Carron Association (Falkirk), which scooped the Community Initiative Award. Well done also to the John Muir Award team for being shortlisted as a finalist in the Youth and Education category.



PHOTOGRAPH: TGO MAGAZINE

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- Sign up to our monthly e-newsletter by emailing membership@jmt.org
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