



John Muir Trust members invited to contribute to the 'View from 2050'

Lifestyles in 2050 will be radically different. But will our wild landscapes and their biodiversity – and our relationships with them – also be radically different? 2050 might be more than half a lifetime away but it is a reference point we'll be hearing far more of in the next few years.

The ambition of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15) in December is for a binding global climate agreement to include as many countries as possible. If the world's nations are to decide upon a new agreement to enter into force

before the Kyoto Protocol expires, 2009 is the final opportunity to do so. Our government has already set a target of an 80% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions from their 1990 levels. Achieving this will require radical social and political decision-making, re-thinking industrial processes, and will impact on all our daily lives. It will involve unprecedented individual, national and global action.

In its role of 'promoting informed debate on public policy issues', The David Hume

→ page 2

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN POST

Stuart Brooks has been appointed Chief Executive of the John Muir Trust with effect from 1 March 2009, following the retirement of Nigel Hawkins.



Stuart joins us from the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) where he has been Director of Conservation since 2002 with responsibility for land management, policy and communications, as well as being the main account manager for key grants. He has been responsible for overseeing major projects across their reserves, developing their operational plans and the 'SWT Vision'. He has worked for the SWT since 1993, initially on a European lowland peatland project when, gaining experience from countries across northern and eastern Europe, he co-authored the *Bog Management Handbook* in 1995. He went on to develop and manage numerous multi-million pound wildlife reserve and wider countryside projects until taking up the post of Head of Conservation. He had previously worked for the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, after graduating from Newcastle University.

Stuart has also served on a number of national committees and is the vice convener of Scottish Environment LINK biodiversity task force. In 2005 Stuart received the Christopher Cadbury Medal for services to Nature Conservation in the British Isles and has recently joined the UK Executive Committee of the IUCN and the Commission for Ecosystem Management.

NEW TRUSTEES SOUGHT TO FILL SKILLS GAPS

Nominations for new Trustees are being sought with a deadline of 9 March 2009. We will have five positions to fill on our total board of fifteen.

Some very experienced Trustees will leave the board at the AGM in May and, with the aim of building as robust a board as possible, the collective experience and skill base of the remaining Trustees was examined, bearing in mind our main activities.

Although this was a fairly subjective review, it became apparent that the main gaps were biodiversity; the management of outdoor activities; public relations; marketing; entrepreneurship; woodland management; farming and managing volunteers.

The expertise within our staff covers many of these areas well but, in the interest of building a complementary board with broad experience, it is useful to highlight these needs at this time.

Becoming a Trustee is an important step but the three-year term appointment will give unique and valuable experience in taking our organisation forward. Members are urged to watch out for suitable candidates.

The board meets on a weekday, five times a year, usually in Pitlochry or Edinburgh with one weekend in the Highlands close to one of our estates.

The closing date for applications is 9 March and nomination forms can be obtained from the Pitlochry office by calling 01796 470080 or from the website www.jmt.org

John C Hutchison, Chairman-Elect

→ from page 1

Institute (DHI) has produced a report: 'Reducing Carbon Emissions – the View from 2050'. It asked a variety of authors to consider themselves as being in 2050, with the government target having been met.

- How did this come about?
- What was the journey?
- What were the consequences?

The DHI report benefits from a broad canvas of contributions from business people, politicians, academics, energy companies, youth, environmental specialists, consumers and economists. The full report can be seen via the 'View from 2050' link on www.jmt.org

Everyone is being invited to join this discussion. Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland, says: "This major David Hume Institute report is exciting, timely and captures some of our best thinking from the wise to the provocative. It is the catalyst for debate and that is what all good thinking thrives upon. I hope as many people as possible are stimulated by the essays and use the ideas to create their own imaginative pathways to 2050." Jeremy Peat, DHI Director, says: "Your views would be welcome. This topic will remain with us for a while!"

What role will our natural landscapes - and, by implication, the John Muir Trust - play in this scenario? Will it be as a mitigator or accelerator, for utilisation as a resource with which to tackle climate change, as the backdrop for man-made low carbon energy production, as a natural indicator of transformations as they occur, or as a symbol of our individual stances on climate change issues?

Whatever our personal views, a major political response to the perceived scale of the climate change issue is on its way. There are threats and opportunities, epitomised

in two contrasting quotes from contributors to the DHI report, looking back from the perspective of 2050:

- "They [environmentalists] realised that climate change threatened everything – and the arguments of some of their own, to oppose all wind farms as 'blots on the landscape' for example, became untenable."
- "Positive action came when leading politicians put forward a compelling message that economic prosperity depended on environmental stewardship."

The relevance of organisations like the John Muir Trust – and the extent to which our biodiversity and landscapes are valued – will depend on meaningful engagement with this debate. That is why, starting with this edition of Members' News, all Trust members are being invited to engage in an informal dialogue about the role of our small environmental organisation in the journey towards 2050.

The Trust can benefit greatly from a broad-based consideration of its relevance to this topic, potentially increasing its social and political influence. It's an opportunity to take stock of what we're already doing and consider the potential of our current activities to contribute positively to the discussion, and to attaining specific targets.

Everyone has a part to play in this. Elsewhere on this page, Will Williams, one of our Trustees, presents his reflections from 2050 and we suggest a number of ways in which you could join in the debate.

In November 2009 the John Muir Trust will:

- produce a document that captures the essence of contributions
- create a simple summary of 'The view from 2050 – a John Muir Trust members' perspective'
- hold a networking event to summarise, take stock, and think ahead.

A Trustee's perspective from 2050

We are inviting all members to participate in the exercise of envisaging the successful attainment of environmental targets in 2050 and describing how that might have been achieved. Will Williams, a John Muir Trust trustee, takes up the challenge.



"My term as a Trustee ended in 2009, just as the debate was hotting up, and one of my final contributions was to urge the John Muir Trust to think more about its position in the context of inevitable climate change. In establishing itself in 1983, the John Muir Trust was unique in promoting a holistic approach to protecting wild land. But the political and public concern 25 years on had moved on to include the need for clean air and water, healthy soils and vibrant biodiversity for natural systems as being critical for sustainable development. Once the dust had settled on the 'credit crunch', we found ourselves immersed in the 'eco-crunch' (or 'nature-crunch'?). Climate change adaptation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity restoration, sustainable energy sources, and putting a value on natural capital were some of the big issues of 2010-2020.

Although small scale, the John Muir Trust's positive contribution to these issues as they became increasingly mainstream was a stepping-stone to greater appreciation of the role of landscape and its biodiversity. Working collaboratively, a raft of environmental NGOs forged a wider role, beyond one that was sometimes perceived very narrowly in terms of the management and restoration of specific areas of wild land.

Local communities became increasingly engaged in understanding the value of their local landscapes. Models of good practice emerged, despite initial tensions as cultural perspectives and established practices took time to coalesce and focus on common goals. The community energy initiative on Skye and the joint working with the North Harris communities on small scale renewable energy schemes pointed the way towards low carbon lifestyles more in tune with local environments.

The work of the John Muir Award across the whole spectrum of society (as well as schools-based schemes: Eco-Schools, Forest Schools and Grounds for Learning) had increasing currency. Politicians recognised the need for nature in daily lives and

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE 'VIEW FROM 2050'?

- Visit www.jmt.org and contribute to an online discussion group
- Write in to the John Muir Trust with perspectives, comments, questions
- Contribute to Local Group discussions
- Look out for screenings of climate change film *Age of Stupid* – see www.ageofstupid.net
- Attend the AGM and Members' Gathering
- Look out for updates in the Journal/Members' News/e-bulletins
- Help to manage and promote this discussion and take it forward in your own groups, with friends, at the pub, on the hill . . .

the importance of greater engagement and understanding between people of all ages. The ethos of Muir found increasing favour and relevance – “everybody needs beauty as well as bread”. It was seen that the spiritual inspiration and creativity that emerges from this programme is the kind of nurturing that restores the interdependence of ourselves and nature. That the John Muir Award also increased social cohesion by engaging directly with socially deprived and ethnic minorities was also key to this success.

In increasing numbers, people sought opportunities to ‘put something back’, and derive the ‘feel good’ factor from making a practical contribution when so many of the environmental problems seemed insurmountable. Such engagement with nature, fostered through the John Muir Trust’s conservation work parties, became the norm, with environmental volunteering becoming more popular than watching football by 2015.

VisitScotland awarded the John Muir Trust its first ‘Iconic Scotland’ award in 2015, recognising the value of protected landscapes not only for tourism but for national and cultural identity. With its growing contribution to Gross Value Added, through land and woodland management, deer culling, path repairs, fencing etc, this was a significant contribution to the sustainability of rural economies. But so much more than this was the acknowledgement of ‘natural capital’ as a more prominent economic indicator. Wild land became interpreted in financial terms, with significant value placed on its provision of security (eg reducing downstream flooding), its contributions to climate change adaptation, tourism, and provision of healthy natural systems.”

Back here in 2009, in what is being variously termed ‘the age of excess’, ‘the age of denial’, and ‘the age of stupid’, we should all be asking:

■ How much more could be done to sustain nature and natural systems for the way it underpins quality of life?

■ Will people in 2050 be able to recognise the contribution that the John Muir Trust will have made to the way that wild land and wild areas are valued and integrated into sustainable use and development for future generations?

Agree? Disagree? . . . Let us know what you think.

→ www.jmt.org

Trust completes five-year cairn sweep on Ben Nevis

In November the Trust announced that volunteer work parties had completed a gruelling five-year programme of removing more than 120 unsightly cairns from the summit of Ben Nevis. Around 20 cairns have been left along the main path close to the summit.

The John Muir Trust, the owner of Ben Nevis since 2000, has cleared these cairns to preserve the wild and remote feeling at the top of Britain’s highest mountain. The cairns were also being used as rubbish bins and their proliferation could give people a false sense of security which is no adequate replacement for map reading skills necessary in poor weather conditions.

The cairns, most of them only a few feet high, had been randomly built up over the years by walkers. They are often started by a collection of stones to cover up litter left on the summit. As they are built up over time by passing walkers, more and more rubbish is stuffed into their nooks and crannies. John Muir Trust work parties dismantling these cairns also picked up hundreds of bags of litter from Ben Nevis. Their excavations famously even uncovered a piano and wheelchair.

Cairns and memorials on Scotland’s hills are a source of intense controversy among walkers and conservationists. The Trust has removed these cairns in line with its wild land policy to “remove redundant non-archaeological structures”.

There are historic reasons for keeping the remaining cairns on Ben Nevis. They were built as part of the pony track that wound up to a Victorian Observatory, constructed on the summit in 1883. The observatory, funded by private donors, provided constant meteorological data for 20 years before being abandoned in 1904. Near the ruins of the observatory is the world-famous peace cairn. Dedicated to universal world peace, the cairn was erected on VJ Day in 1945.

2009 AGM & MEMBERS’ GATHERING

The 2009 AGM and Members’ Gathering will be held Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 May at the Birnam Institute, near Dunkeld, Perthshire. This is an opportunity for Members to meet John Muir Trust Trustees and staff and discover more about the major issues facing wild land and the Trust.

The 2009 ‘Spirit of Wild Places Lecture’ will be delivered by John Beatty, international photographer and editor of our Wild Nature Diary. A booking form is enclosed with this mailing.

New Area Manager roles

Fran Lockhart and Mick Blunt, previously Partnership Managers in the Land Management Department, have been redesignated Area Managers, reflecting the way their roles have evolved in recent years.

Mick Blunt will have management responsibility for all Trust land management activities within the Western Isles, Assynt area (including Quinag) and Skye and Lochalsh. He will also have responsibility for liaison and joint grant management with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Fran Lockhart will have management responsibility for all Trust land management activities within the Sandwood, Knoydart, Lochaber, Schiehallion and Argyll areas. She will also be Project Manager for the Wild Land Biodiversity project.

Both Fran and Mick will be involved in policy work, as required, in their areas.

e-messages

3,000 of our members now receive a monthly e-mail from the John Muir Trust. Keep up to date with special offers, what’s on, work party updates and the latest stories. To subscribe, simply e-mail membership@jmt.org



Help find new members

By increasing our membership, we can increase the ability of the Trust to protect wild land and promote the value of wild places. Here are some ideas of how you can help us recruit more members:

Clubs and groups

Are you involved in any clubs or societies whose members may also be interested in protecting wild land? We can provide you with copies of the Trust's new membership leaflet to distribute, perhaps with a newsletter or at a meeting.

Tell your friends

The passion our members have for wild places is contagious! Many of our current members joined because a friend enthused them about the work of the Trust and the lands in our care. Keep spreading the word about the Trust among your friends and acquaintances.

Give a gift

If they haven't already joined the Trust, you can start a friend off and mark a special occasion with a Gift Membership, which includes a copy of our Wild Nature Diary.

Events

A third of the new members we recruited last year joined the Trust at events. Let us know if there are any fairs, festivals, exhibitions or gatherings near you where we could promote the Trust. If you are good at talking to people and can lend a hand on the stall, help is always welcome.

Promotional opportunities

Do you run a business or organisation through which we can reach new audiences? Displaying leaflets or posters in your shop or office or in

reception areas or lounges would be a great start, and may lead to greater things. You may also like to consider joining our Corporate Member scheme to enhance the environmental impact and credentials of your business.

Talks

We are always in need of good speakers to present talks about the Trust. If you enjoy talking to groups of people, please get in touch!

Pass it on

If you have enjoyed your John Muir Trust Journal, pass it on and spread the word. Give it to a friend or leave it somewhere others will read it. An amazing number of people have found out about the Trust while reading in waiting rooms across the country.

Go for a walk

If you are out enjoying a day in wild places safeguarded by the Trust and speak to other walkers, do mention the Trust and explain how they can be part of something special and make their contribution.

Work parties

If you are taking part in one of our conservation work parties, why not bring a friend? This is a very effective way of introducing people to the work of the Trust.

Share your ideas

Have you another suggestion for generating interest among potential members? Please let us know and we will share the ideas with others.

Meanwhile, to all the members who have spoken proudly about the Trust and have regularly encouraged others to join over the years – "thank you!"

For more information, contact 0131 554 0114 or promotions@jmt.org

SIX EVERYDAY WAYS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE JOHN MUIR TRUST

1 Payroll giving

Payroll giving is a system of regular giving, similar to Direct Debit, but takes place directly through your salary. Simply authorise your employer to deduct regular donations to the charity of your choice from your pay. The donation is deducted before tax, increasing its benefit. Some companies will even match your giving.

2 Company match funding volunteering

Make your volunteering even more worthwhile. If you volunteer for the John Muir Trust and your employer operates a match funding programme for volunteering, you can nominate the John Muir Trust as a beneficiary.

3 Everyclick

Everyclick is an online search engine which allows you to raise money for your favourite charity. Every time you search the web using Everyclick, a small donation is made to the charity of your choice at no cost to you. So far, the John Muir Trust has raised nearly £800 from Everyclick. To help raise funds for the Trust, sign up on www.everyclick.com and select the John Muir Trust as your chosen charity.

4 Sell over eBay

You can sell an item on eBay and donate from 10% to 100% of the final sale price to help us protect wild land for nature and people.

So far over 170 items have been listed. To support the Trust, register your item on eBay and select the 'John Muir Trust' under charities you can support: www.ebay.co.uk

5 The 118 310 Directory Enquiry Service

The Trust also has a Directory Enquiry Service which sees us benefit from a percentage of the cost of the call. Calls are charged at 40p with 9p being donated to the John Muir Trust. To make it easy, keep the number - 118 310 - by the phone.

6 Recycling

The John Muir Trust has a partnership with The Recycling Factory to help raise vital funds by recycling old printer and fax cartridges and mobile phones. This yields a minimum donation of £1 per item.



Bringing potential members along on conservation work parties is a good way to introduce them to the Trust (Photo: Alan P Scott)

Next edition

JOHN MUIR TRUST MEMBERS' NEWS will be published in July 2009. Please send news items to Mike Brown by 5 JUNE 2009.

E-mail: journal@jmt.org or post to: 'Drumcreel', Kirk Road, New Galloway, Castle Douglas DG7 3RS

WILDERNESS SCOTLAND

The John Muir Trust benefits from the support of a variety of commercial companies, among them Scottish adventure travel company, Wilderness Scotland, which is enabling clients to support the Trust among a number of charities. Wilderness Scotland received its most important accolade to date when it became the first Scottish company to be included in *National Geographic Adventure* magazine's definitive list of the 'Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth'. Wilderness Scotland was ranked 16th overall in a list of 250 companies from around the world. A key element of the judging was based on the company's sustainability credentials – something which is going to benefit the John Muir Trust, as director Stevie Christie explains:

"Our new Conservation Contribution Scheme will raise funds for our selected charities including the John Muir Trust. Our new scheme means that an optional donation to the charities is included when people book a trip. Clients can opt out of this payment but, if they agree to it, we are going to match-fund their donation. We hope that this will increase the funds we raise for these charities and will also engender a greater buy-in to wilderness conservation by our clients."

Wilderness Scotland has also just launched a new self-guided walking holiday based around John Muir, which visits locations associated with him and includes several John Muir Trust properties. The trip fee includes a donation to the Trust which means that anyone who books this trip is helping to contribute to the work which John Muir inspired.

For details of Wilderness Scotland's holidays, please visit www.wildernessscotland.com or call 0131 625 6635 to request a brochure.

The John Muir Odyssey

The John Muir Odyssey is a programme of events which John Muir's Birthplace and the Scottish Seabird Centre are delivering in partnership for the Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrations (see Journal 46 page 4). These will include:

- John Muir's Dunbar. Available as a guided or self-guided walk. (All year)
- Journeys in the footsteps of John Muir. Organised by Wilderness Scotland. (All year)
- 20-26 April: 'The Big Picnic' A John Muir Birthday event for schools.
- 21 April: Publication of *John Muir: a Scotchman Comes Home*.
- 24-26 April: Great Scots Walking Festival.
- 1 May: The Shindig. A real Scottish ceilidh at North Berwick Harbour.
- 1-4 May: 'Muir's World by Land and Sea'. Spectacular seabird and wildlife trips.

■ 2-4 May: 'Our Wee Planet'. Wildlife and environment festival.

■ 25 June–13 December: 'A Scotchman Comes Home – John Muir's Homecoming Journey 1893'. Exhibition at John Muir's Birthplace, Dunbar.

■ 24-26 July: 'Creative Visions of Nature'. Art and sculpture exhibition at the Scottish Seabird Centre.

To find out more about these and other John Muir Odyssey events, call 01368 865899 or visit www.jmbt.org.uk

Bilingual Wildlife Dictionary

Scottish Natural Heritage has launched an online Gaelic/English wildlife dictionary, with a large database of Gaelic words for trees, plants, animals and more with audio included for pronunciation.

→ www.snh.org.uk/gaelic/dictionary

John Muir Trust work parties in 2009

All members and their friends are welcome to take part in conservation work parties on the properties of the John Muir Trust and partner organisations. Dates listed are the actual work days. More work parties are likely to be listed in the course of the year. Watch the Trust website for updates.



Date	Location	Notes
12-14 March	Assynt	Blocking drains to create bog
14 & 15 March	Carrifran	High level tree planting weekend
2-4 April	Sandwood	Beach cleans, path work etc.
18 & 19 April	Carrifran	High level tree planting weekend
25 & 26 April	Glen Nevis	Transect volunteer group meeting
1-4 May	Quinag	Pathwork (4 May is May Day holiday)
16 & 17 May	Carrifran	High level tree planting weekend
22-25 May	Li & Coirre Dhorrcail	Pathwork, transects & general work (25 May is Spring Bank Holiday)
30 May	Ben Nevis	Cairns & rubbish removal
1-6 June	North Harris	Beaches, fences & pathwork
9-12 June	Galson	Details to be confirmed
27 June	Ben Nevis	Cairns & rubbish removal
16-19 July	Glen Nevis	Surveying Mountain Ringlets, Water voles etc.
20-28 July	Inverie	Mass Rhodie bash, ragwort pulling & beaches
15 August	Ben Nevis	Cairns & rubbish removal
27-29 August	Sandwood	Pathwork, possibly camping at Sandwood House
9-18 September	Skalanes	Iceland trip (fully booked with waiting list)

■ Carrifran (Borders Forest Trust, near Moffat) also run groups on Sundays 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June and most Tuesdays

■ Friends of Knoydart are planning another volunteering holiday similar to the one they ran in June last year. Dates tbc.

■ Friends of Nevis are still planning 2009 events.

If you would like further information, or to book a place on a work party, contact Sandy Maxwell **by post**: John Muir Trust Conservation Work Parties, Top Right, 69 Hyndland Street, Glasgow G11 5PS, **by phone**: 0141 576 6663, mobile 07766 380 663 or **by e-mail**: conservationactivities@jmt.org

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, Doreway, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire AB34 5BT. 01339 886 232 / jo.strachan@virgin.net / 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 Airdanair 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 accommodation 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

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@mdg ltd.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. crofthouse. 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. £290-465 pw. 01847 895 638 / www.curlwecottage.com

COIGACH, ROSS-SHIRE Remote, cosy, traditional crofthouse, 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

DUNKELD, PERTHSHIRE Beautifully refurbished 2-bedroom 1st-floor flat in village centre; lovely views over river to Birnam Hill. 01350 727 782 / www.holidaydunkeld.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 Smyth 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.thesmthycroft.co.uk

HIGHLANDS 2 charming cottages, sleep 4, CH, open fires, lovely views. Cnoc Eoghainn: Kintoch Rannoch village, near Schiehallion and Loch Rannoch, STB 3*. Ballindalloch Cott., Erroglie: isolated Monadliath 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 nr KENDAL Converted barn, sleeps up to 5. Ideal base for Lakes, Howgills, and North Lancashire. Just bring your boots, or phone for brochure. 01785 665 834

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

LOCH KATRINE, STRONACHLACHAR Beautifully equipped cottage in L. Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Sleeps max 6, C/H, log-burning stove. Ideal for walking, biking, birdwatching, wildlife. Contact Carol & Alan. 0141 942 8299 / enquiries@hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk / www.hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk

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 Carbot: 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

TORRIN, SKYE Clover Hill. STB 4* comfortable, well equipped cottage. 3 bedrooms, sleeps 6. Idyllic burnside location. Magnificent view of Blaven across Loch Slapin. £295-£535 pw. 01471 822 763 / cloverhilltorrin@aol.com / www.cloverhill-torrin.co.uk

TYWYN, MID-WALES On edge of small village at southern edge of Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Wonderful area for walking and other outdoor interests. Good rates for JMT members. 07973 278 297 / bathcover@hotmail.co.uk

HOTELS, B&B ETC

BALNAGUARD, PERTSHIRE 4-Star B&B in the tranquil village of Balnaguard in Highland Perthshire. Wonderful range of breakfasts, friendly hosts and great walking. Contact Ann Croft. 01796 482 627 / www.balbeagan.com

BORROWDALE Traditional Lake District walker's hotel. Hearty home cooking, open fire & cosy bar. Special rates available. Royal Oak Hotel, Rosthwaite, Keswick CA12 5XB. 01768 777 214 / www.royaloakhotel.co.uk

DOUNE, KNOYDART Pine lodge: groups of up to 12. Excellent food. Fast launch to access Knoydart coastline & Small Isles for walking, wildlife, photography etc. Doune,

Knoydart, Mallaig, PH41 4PL. 01687 462 656 / liz@doune-knoydart.co.uk / www.doune-knoydart.co.uk

HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE Coshieville House B&B offers a warm family welcome, comfortable night and hearty breakfast. Nearest B&B to Schiehallion. Guest lounge with wood-burning stove. Open all year. 01887 830 319 / www.aberfeldybandb.com

ISLE OF MULL Staffa House offers a warm welcome. Spacious, comfortable B&B. Views of Sound of Iona and Ben More; walking, wildlife, beaches, boat trips. Delicious meals using local/organic products where possible. Open all year. 01681 700 677 / gillian@staffahouse.co.uk / www.staffahouse.co.uk

ISLE OF SKYE Bed & Breakfast, Mrs Nancy Wightman, Inveralavaig, Penifiler, by Portree IV51 9NG. East shore of Loch Portree NG 488423. 01478 612 322 / www.isleofskye.me.uk

LAKES Lonscale s/c hostel, detached, stone-built, at Threlkeld on slopes of Blencathra. Excellent base for groups. Sleeps 22, c/h, common room, drying room, showers, toilets, kitchen, 9 bedrooms (2 en-suite). Contact Janet Elliott. 01768 779 601 / enquiries.bl@field-studies-council.org

SKYE Double & family en-suite, single with private facilities. £28-£35 pp/pn. 4-course evening meal (£20) by arrangement. Ron & Pam Davison, Tir Alainn, 1/2 of 8 Upper Breakish, Skye IV42 8PY. 01471 822 366 / tiralainn@btinternet.com / www.visitskye.com

SUTHERLAND Overscaig House Hotel: a great base to explore the North Highlands. Near Assynt, Sandwood Bay, NW Geopark. Peace and tranquillity with a warm Highland welcome. Contact Jan & Martin. 01549 431 203 / www.overscaig.com

HOLIDAYS

ANAM CARA retreat centre in Scottish highlands. Wide range of day events, and residential week/ weekend retreats. 'Time for Trees' work weeks, bushcraft, flint knapping, stone dykeing, sweat lodges, meditation, holistic detox, Yoga. 01463 711 702 / welcome@anamcara.org / www.anamcara.org

ANDEAN TRAILS South America adventure travel specialist. Group tours or tailor-made itineraries. Trek, climb, raft or mountain-bike trips; Andes to the Amazon rainforest; Galapagos cruises and sea-kayaking. 0131 467 7086 / www.andeantrails.co.uk

BEALLICH A health and activity provider near Grantown-on-Spey. Yoga, mountaineering, massages in a stunning setting. Silver Green Tourism Scheme, supporters of 'Leave No Trace'. Contact Patrick or Abby Harrison. 01807 510 242 / www.beallich.com

NORDIC WALKING courses in beautiful Ross-shire with a qualified instructor. Small, friendly groups to suit any level of fitness. Guided walks, instruction and hire of equipment; just come and enjoy. 01997 414 376 / hazelnut1@tesco.net

PEAKDISTRICT self-guided walking holidays. Millstone uplands, limestone valleys, attractive country towns & villages. Varied routes include lesser used paths. Walk directions, maps, background information provided, luggage transport & accommodation arranged. info@drystonewalks.co.uk

RICHARD McGUIRE Skye guiding since 1995. Skye Munros, scrambles and climbs with an experienced local guide. Winter skills and rockclimbing instruction. 5-day courses or private guiding. 01478 613 180/07796 467 886 / paddy@blavenguiding.co.uk / www.blavenguiding.co.uk

SELF-GUIDED walking holidays in UK and Alps. Tour du Mont Blanc, West Highland Way, Swiss Alps, French Alps, Julian Alps, Tatra, Lakes, Skye. Follow our route cards to explore by yourself. Plus guided programme. www.alpineexploratory.com

SKYKADVENTURES Sea kayak expeditions, courses and guiding. BCU level 5 coach. Unique sea kayaking experiences in a world-class location. Gordon & Morag Brown, Sleat, Isle of Skye. 01471 833 428 / info@skykadventures.com / www.skykadventures.com

VILAYATOURS based in Chachapoyas, Northern Peru, the richest archaeological and biodiverse area of South America. Hotel-based and camping treks throughout the region arranged to suit. info@vilayatours.com / www.vilayatours.com

WALKDEESIDE LTD offer guided walking holidays in Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms; NNAS mountain navigation courses; Cairngorm Munros, W Highland Way, Speyside Way. Quality hotels, local, experienced leaders. Contact Alan Melrose. 01339 880 081 / alan@walkdeeside.com

WILDERNESS Scotland adventure holidays in the Highlands & Islands. Wilderness walking, sea-kayaking, sailing, canoeing, mountain biking, winter walking, ski mountaineering trips. Also specialist family adventure holiday service. 0131 625 6635 / stevie@wildernessscotland.com / www.wildernessscotland.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 contact on P4.

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 summer edition of Members' News.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Joint meeting

Sunday 8 March: The Glasgow and West of Scotland Group and the newly formed Edinburgh Group are having a get-together with lunch in a pub. This will give us a rare opportunity to socialise.

Further details from Mike Gray on 01360 550962.

Yorkshire Region

Saturday & Sunday 14 & 15 March: Conservation Weekend

We will be holding another conservation weekend for Trust members and friends. The venue, as usual, is Upper Wensleydale with overnight accommodation on 13 and 14 March in the Harris House Bunkhouse in Hardraw or in the YHA in Hawes (to be decided). The tasks are not all known at this point but will include some coppicing work. Any help is welcome - do not feel that it is necessary to commit to the whole weekend. Tools and hot drinks are provided. You just need packed lunches and preferably old, but warm and waterproof, clothing.

Further details from John Page on 01904 425175 or at john.page31@btinternet.com

Glasgow and West of Scotland Group

Tuesday 21 April (John Muir's birthday): The group's AGM will be followed by a short presentation from Dr Richard Mitchell on the 'Health Impacts of the John Muir Award'.

Our main speaker, Will Boyd Wallis (pictured), will deliver a talk, 'Fountains of life: An exploration of Yosemite National Park in California and Cairngorms National Park in Scotland'. A recent climbing trip to Yosemite National Park in California gave Will the chance to contemplate afresh the Trust's role in spreading John Muir's message to "do something for wildness". Are we getting it right in Scotland? Are they getting it right in Yosemite? This talk is for anyone with an interest in maintaining a healthy, long-term relationship with nature.



7pm Caledonian University George Moore Building Room M402. Further information from Heather Willimott heatherwillimott@valleyfield.fsbusiness.co.uk or Mike Gray mike@mgray3.freerve.co.uk

Edinburgh Members Group

Thursday 16 April (evening event): John Mayhew of Scottish Environment LINK (www.scotlink.org) will talk to the Edinburgh members group about the joint campaigning work of LINK. Venue - 14 Jordan Lane, EH10.

Sunday 31 May: Joint conservation activity day with Friends of Roslin Glen. For more details of the above events, please see the 'What's On' section of Trust's website, or contact Ian Lee-Bapty 0131 315 4117 or bappers@supanet.com or Julie Catto 07882 029772 or Mary Inglis 0131 553 7967.

South of England and South Wales Members' Gathering

Sunday 15 November: The South of England and South Wales Members' Gathering will be held at Jury's Hotel Bristol. Speakers will include a senior officer of the Trust updating us on its work and Dr Mariano Devoto revealing his research findings on the flora of Caledonian pine forests.

Further information: Sue and Brian Pollard, e-mail: pollardjmt@talktalk.net

London

Wednesday 6 May: SW1 Gallery, Victoria - Special commission by artist James Hawkins to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Knoydart Foundation.

Evening reception for local members, public viewing during weekdays.

Dynamic lecture in Ullapool

On 3 October, a 100-strong audience, invited by local members of the Trust with the support of the Lochbroom and Assynt Field Clubs, welcomed Professor Stuart Monro, Scientific Director of Dynamic Earth and geological adviser to the Trust, to the Macphail Centre in Ullapool.

This was part of a busy programme for Stuart who also introduced a group of Ullapool High School students to some of the more spectacular incidents in the earth's history and contributed to the John Muir Trust Forum. Trust members had travelled from as far afield as Ardgay and Tain to learn at first hand from staff about the pioneering work in biodiversity at Sandwood Bay and on Quinag, and about the Trust's current initiative researching sustainable development for communities. Our thanks go to Don O'Driscoll and Mick Blunt for their expert input and to Sam Baumber and Hannah Stace who took the opportunity to forge relationships with members and sign up a few more.

The highlight of the day was Stuart's illustrated lecture, 'Scotland's journey told through the rocks', in which he used stunning images of the Highland and Lowland landscapes to take us through geological time and then, using computer graphics, gave us a tantalising glimpse of Scotland's probable future on the edge of a great landmass in the Arctic. His knowledge, enthusiasm and generosity made for a memorable evening and created a real buzz in the village. Thank you, Stuart, and we hope to welcome you to the North West again soon!

Sue Hopkinson

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The return of the beavers

On 26 November, the Glasgow and West of Scotland Group enjoyed an excellent talk from Simon Jones of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) on the re-introduction of beavers in Knapdale, Argyll. The SWT and Royal Zoological Society of Scotland are proposing a trial reintroduction now that the Scottish Government has given consent for up to four beaver families to be reintroduced after six months' quarantine. Simon outlined how the Scottish Beaver Trial could see beavers living in the wild in Scotland for the first time since they were hunted to extinction in the 16th century. He also explained that by bringing these useful creatures back to their native environment, we will have the chance to restore a missing part of our wetland ecosystems where beavers play an important role, having a positive effect on both environmental and woodland management, and on the wider biodiversity of the area in which they live. They can also encourage wildlife tourism, with positive spin-offs for local communities.

Heather Willimott