



## Chair's welcome

While drafting a talk for an Edinburgh City Council meeting recently, I recalled a Muir quote inscribed on the Canongate wall of the Scottish Parliament: 'The battle for conservation will go on endlessly. It is part of the universal battle between right and wrong'. They are words that are particularly appropriate for the summer ahead.



As I write, we await the decision on our judicial review against the Scottish Government's decision to approve Stronelaig, while further decisions on three wind farms in Area 34 of the Wild Land Map will severely test the commitment to a map approved by the Government only last year. Please respond to our Area 34 Under Threat campaign (see page five) and help apply as much pressure as possible.

I have been greatly heartened that other important NGOs have now put their heads above the parapet on these issues: the Mountaineering Council of Scotland has continued its campaign; the National Trust for Scotland has made some strong public statements and received important publicity; while the RSPB has taken up a judicial review against four off-shore wind farm decisions, which would impact several key seabird colonies. All in all, it could be a momentous summer – one in which we will now also consider the implications of the UK Government's decision to end subsidies for onshore wind from April 2016, and of the Scottish Government's new Land Reform Bill.

In other news, I am pleased to say that we saw a large number of excellent candidates

stand in the recent Trustee election. A total of 14 members stood for 6 places – a very positive situation for the Trust. I would like to welcome three new Trustees, Patricia Jordan, Duncan Macniven and Chris Townsend, plus two returning former Trustees: Deirdre Wilson and Steve Green. I look forward to working with them all.

On a very sad note, the Trust – and the entire conservation movement – lost a great supporter in Dick Balharry, who died in April. It is with pride that I can announce, with Dick's agreement, that the Trust will instigate a Dick Balharry Award in the coming year (see page three).

A theme which runs through this edition of Members' News is our commitment to engaging with a broad section of society. The John Muir Award is central to this process, introducing new folk to our philosophy at an annual rate of 30,000 people a year – and a total number of 250,000 on the horizon. It's a remarkable achievement. Of this number, some 25 per cent are 'inclusion' participants – people who come from disadvantaged areas, or with particular disabilities or special needs.

On a slightly different tack, we are also planning a major new series of events entitled *The Spirit of John Muir*, beginning with television presenter Chris Packham talking about his love of wildlife later in the year (see page eight).

With summer having finally arrived, I hope you enjoy the long days over the coming months, whatever your interest in the outdoors.

Peter Pearson

## Music school launches special wild land CD

Young musicians from the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music performed a special concert at Birnam Arts Centre on 17 June – an occasion that also saw the launch of a new CD in honour of the range of wild landscapes managed by the Trust.

The album – titled *The Snow is Melting into Music*, from a Muir quote – has a strong Perthshire dimension, while other areas celebrated on the album include Knoydart, Sandwood Bay, Assynt and the Borders. The tracks include songs and a variety of original instrumental arrangements featuring accordion, clarsach, guitar, fiddle,



bagpipes, piano and whistle.

"It's a magnificent and inspirational piece of work by some of Scotland's most talented young traditional musicians," said Mike Daniels, the Trust's head of land management.

"The Trust is honoured to have worked alongside them."

The CD is available from the Trust on 01796 470080 (£10 including postage).



# Warm welcome for all in Wales

The Trust's recent AGM and Members' Gathering – held in Wales for the first time – was a lively and enjoyable event that combined official business with some excellent trips and discussions

Speaking in Welsh and English, Dr Will Williams, Trustee and Chair of this year's AGM proceedings, welcomed more than 100 members, staff and guests to a sunny Caernarfon in mid-May.

Chief executive Stuart Brooks began the staff reports by stressing that the Trust could not achieve its mission from a single base, and that it would start a working group in Wales to "forward our ambitions" there.

And as Phil Stubbington, John Muir Award manager for Wales, explained when he provided an overview of the work of the Award, the Trust's presence in Wales is already considerable – with participation growing some 60 per cent over the last four years.

Members then enjoyed a short film showing a range of work at Glenlude in the Scottish Borders – the first of several new films being produced for each Trust property, and which will soon be available on our new website.

Sheila Wren, UK advocacy officer, outlined a number of policy initiatives and coalitions, noting that even with limited resources the Trust's positive reputation has made it not only a valued partner but one that has also been able to increase its impact significantly. Sheila also reported that the Trust is involved in the formation of a new charity called Rewilding Britain and is represented on its board.

Alison Austin, Nevis conservation officer, provided an overview of work on Trust properties, with a particular focus on Ben Nevis. She said we are seeing "significant increase in tree seedling height at Nevis and Knoydart" and "healthy populations of water voles at Nevis and Sandwood".

Former Trust chairman, John Hutchison, then started the formal AGM proceedings. He stressed that while our decision to take action on Stronelairg still involved levels of uncertainty, it was important that the Trust continued to act as a conservation organisation with social justice and human rights at its core.

After paying tribute to his predecessor and friend Dick Balharry, who recently lost his battle with cancer, John concluded by commending new chairman Peter Pearson to the membership.



PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE DANIELS

Members enjoy a walk at Cwm Idwal

Unfortunately, Peter was unable to attend in person due to a long-standing engagement, but a video was played to the audience in which he expressed his thanks for being elected to serve as chair and emphasised the importance of continued input from members.

Jim Gibson, Trustee and convenor of the Trust's finance committee, reported on the Trust finances. A special resolution to increase membership fees was put to the members and passed by a unanimous vote without abstentions.

In the afternoon, Trust staff and members enjoyed discussions on policy work plus a variety of trips, including walks along the Menai Strait and at Cwm Idwal, as well as exploring Llyn Padarn by open canoe.

The day finished with local photo artist Glyn Davies presenting a series of Welsh landscape images and discussing what they meant to him.

## Next stop Inverness...

The Trust's 2016 AGM and Members' Gathering will be held in Inverness. Further details available soon!

## Berghaus staff get stuck in at Glenlude

In April, a group of five employees from Berghaus – a long-standing Gold Corporate Member of the Trust – took a day out to help regenerate native woodland at our Glenlude property in the Scottish Borders.

A key aspect of the Trust's work at Glenlude is re-wilding the area by replacing 50 hectares of exotic conifers with native broadleaf trees.

After a lesson in tree-planting 101 from Karen Purvis, Glenlude property manager, the team set to work planting birch, rowan, aspen, and oak saplings on an area covered with bracken. After a solid day's work the team planted more than 100 trees – a fantastic contribution, and significant step forward in the re-wilding process. Well done Berghaus, and thank you!



Berghaus staff planting trees at Glenlude

PHOTOGRAPH: KAREN PURVIS

# Obituary – Dick Balharry

Mike Daniels, the Trust's head of land and science, pays tribute to a giant of the conservation world who passed away in April

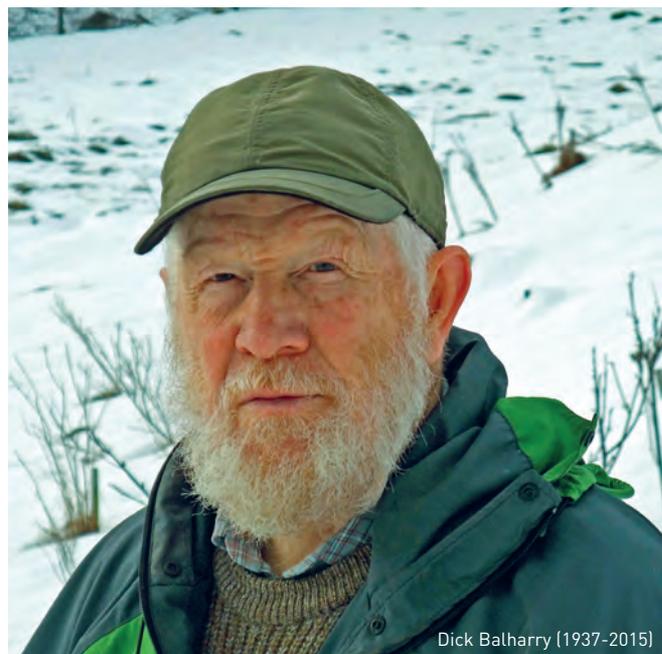
Dick Balharry was a once-in-a-generation phenomenon. Proud, passionate, enthusiastic, encouraging and committed, he single-handedly achieved a culture shift in conservation management in over half a century of work in Scotland's countryside.

Starting as a gamekeeper and then a deer stalker, Dick had the practical knowledge to back up his beliefs which, combined with his immense knowledge of Scotland's wild places and wildlife, helped guide the Deer Commission, Nature Conservancy, John Muir Trust, National Trust for Scotland and others at crucial stages during their histories and his career.

More importantly perhaps was the personal inspiration and encouragement he gave to so many individuals of all ages and backgrounds across the country. For his love of nature was matched by his love of people from all walks of life. Whenever Dick encountered anyone in the wilds in any situation his first words would always be 'Well hello, how are you!' and he would engage them in a chat about what a beautiful day it was or a fantastic place they were in.

Physically, and in his lifetime achievements, comparisons with John Muir – the Scot who energised the American and ultimately the world's national parks movement – are easy to make. Both men were extremely passionate. Both loved being outdoors in wild places and yet both were able to communicate their passion eloquently and persuasively to the general public, as well as those in positions of power and influence.

Dick's talks (illustrated with his own stunning photographs) and guided walks were entertaining and educational and given to audiences ranging from local natural history groups to international conferences. He also appeared on TV and radio, and wrote prolifically. Throughout all, his infectious enthusiasm crackled, engaging and often persuading his audiences with his



love of nature and the need to respect its wise use.

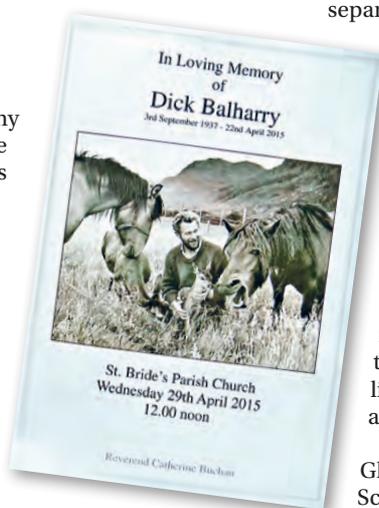
It is perhaps though his perspectives on deer and natural woodland regeneration that is his greatest legacy. He turned the telescope 180 degrees around from the traditional deer stalkers' focus of looking at how many deer you want to shoot, to thinking about what would be best for the habitat, the deer and society more generally. In a deeply rooted culture, this was highly controversial. In the heat of battle, when an angry landowner demanded to know "how many deer are you going to kill?" Dick answered straight back, with a twinkle in his eye, "I'm not counting deer, I'm counting trees".

His experiences from Beinn Eighe, Inshriach, Creag Meagaidh and Glenfeshie convinced him that deer fences were a failure of land management and that deer and woodland, rather than being separated, needed each other to thrive. It was

therefore extremely fitting that he chose Glenfeshie to launch what was to be his last initiative, A Vision for Land Use in Scotland (see <http://bit.ly/1IGznpm>)

While receiving The Royal Scottish Geographical Society's prestigious Geddes Environmental Medal just days before he died, Dick chose not to dwell on his own remarkable achievements, but instead to honour the immense success produced by the owner and managers of Glenfeshie in regenerating the ancient native pinewoods there against all the odds. As he put it: "I have lived to see an impossible dream come true – and that is very special."

He advocated that the approach taken at Glenfeshie should be the model for land use in Scotland. The challenge for those of us who follow is to make his vision a reality.



In Dick's memory, the Trust has instigated a new annual award to recognise those who have made a significant contribution to the conservation of wild places. The first award will be presented at our 2016 AGM and Members' Gathering to be held in Inverness.

## SRUC students return to Sandwood once more

A dozen students from Scotland Rural College's (SRUC) Elmwood Campus in Fife travelled to Sandwood recently to gain valuable hands-on work experience while helping the Trust's footpath officer Chris Goodman make essential repairs to the path.

Work involved resurfacing a section of path, constructing new drainage features, digging ditches and landscaping trampled ground. The week also counted towards the students' John Muir Award.

The Trust is delighted to continue strengthening our excellent relationship with SRUC's Elmwood Campus, with this being the third year that students have made the long journey north to Sandwood.



PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS GOODMAN

Elmwood students working hard at Sandwood

## Exploring Quinag

To celebrate 10 years of managing Quinag, (pictured below), our conservation officer Romany Garnett has devised a fascinating programme of walks that explore different aspects of the land on and around the dramatic Y-shaped range of peaks. The series of walks, each led by Trust staff, will run throughout the summer and autumn. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1Bjsj21>



PHOTOGRAPH: FRAN LOCKHART



11-year-old Ryan from Alloa celebrates his second trek to the summit of Schiehallion

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT PERRY COURTESY OF YORKHILL CHILDREN'S CHARITY

# Mountain magic

In what was a memorable day for all involved, the Trust recently teamed with a Glasgow children's hospital to celebrate a shared connection with a famous Scottish mountain

Saturday 9 May proved a very special day for 100 patients, family and staff from the Schiehallion Unit of Glasgow's Yorkhill Children's Hospital who took part in a family day out on Schiehallion – the mountain that inspired the name of a unit that specialises in childhood cancers and blood disorders.

Organised by the Yorkhill Children's Charity with the support of the Trust, the day out was a huge success. Children and adults alike were captivated by the beautiful setting and range of outdoor activities on offer.

Some intrepid adventurers joined mountain guides to trek up the 10km path to the summit – for many the most serious hill they had ever climbed. "It wasn't easy, but it was well worth it, with gorgeous views from the top," commented Louise from the hospital's pharmacy department. "The kids that came up were brilliant."

One young lad who made the trek, Ryan from Alloa, who is currently undergoing treatment, had already climbed Schiehallion once before, raising thousands of pounds for the hospital. After completing his second trip to the summit, the brave 11-year-old, flanked by his proud parents, told us: "It was hard at some bits, but I'm glad I did it again. It's been a great day and the view from the top was brilliant."

Down in the foothills, two local

organisations – Wild Sparks and Do-It-Outdoors – held bushcraft workshops on fire-lighting and shelter-building. Orla from Lanarkshire and her friend Sophia from Glasgow were spellbound. "I've never been to places like this before," said Sophia, "but I've loved it. We made a fire with just bits of grass and cotton wool. They showed us how to rub special sticks together to make the first spark. Then we toasted our marshmallows on the fire."

Orla added: "Now we're making shelters for small animals with twigs and moss. I loved the tree-planting too which is great for the environment."

The tree-planting took place at Dún Coilich and was organised by the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust.

"This means a lot to the children," said Yorkhill staff member Adele. "When they get well they'll be able to bring their friends and remind themselves of the lovely day they had here. And for those who don't make it, this is a peaceful place for their families to come back to and remember good times."

"The courage of the children and their families, and the dedication of the Yorkhill staff, is truly inspiring," said Liz Auty, the Trust's land manager at Schiehallion. "We're honoured to have been part of this memorable day, and would be delighted to work with the Schiehallion Unit to organise future family events."

# Campaign to save Wild Land Area 34

On this page we highlight our latest policy work, including a new campaign film that focuses on the threat posed to an important area of wild land in Sutherland

The Trust has launched a campaign to save Wild Land Area 34 in Sutherland, where three separate large-scale wind farms are awaiting decisions. Together, the three applications potentially threaten the Reay-Cassley Wild Land Area with a total of 65 turbines, plus tens of miles of access roads and other infrastructure.

Our concern is that if these developments are given the go-ahead, the entire Wild Land Areas map, agreed by the Scottish Government in June 2014, could be undermined. Two of the applications – at Glencassley and Sallachy – currently await a decision by Energy Minister Fergus Ewing, while the third, Caplich, has still to be considered by Highland Council before eventually going to the Scottish Government.

The campaign includes a short film that can be shared online, plus information that can be included if writing to your MSP or Scotland's Energy Minister.

[www.jmt.org/wla-34.asp](http://www.jmt.org/wla-34.asp)

We would like to thank all those who have already taken action in support of the campaign.



Photomontage showing proposed Stronelairg wind farm

## Key wind farm casework updates

There is still no news on the outcome of our legal challenge against the Scottish Government's decision to consent the Stronelairg wind farm in the Monadhliath Mountains, while we also await a decision from the Scottish Government on the Allt Duine wind farm development in the Monadhliath. We wrote to the Energy Minister in March urging him to make the right decision for Allt Duine, Glencassley and Sallachy, but there has been no response to date.

Meanwhile, Trust policy officer John Low gave evidence in April at the first stage of the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the Strathy South wind farm in the Flow Country – a landscape of striking natural beauty and international ecological importance now threatened by a further 39 turbines, each up to 135 metres high. John will also appear at the Carn Gorm PLI at the end of June.

In other news, we were extremely disappointed that the Calliachar North development was approved on Appeal

in March, with costs awarded against Perth & Kinross Council. We have also raised concerns via the media about the cumulative impact of development around the Cairngorms National Park. Helen McDade, the Trust's head of policy, addressed a public meeting about the Macritsch wind farm which has been proposed for a site near the southern boundary of the park.

Elsewhere, there is no further news on when the application for the Talladh-a-Bheithe wind farm north of Loch Rannoch will be considered by Perth & Kinross Council. Further north, the developer of the proposed Glenmorie wind farm near Bonar Bridge is seeking a judicial review following the Scottish Government's decision to refuse consent in 2014. Meanwhile, in Caithness, a decision is still pending following last year's PLI into the proposed Limekilns wind farm.

For more details on these and other key cases, see [www.jmt.org/wind-farms-wild-land-areas.asp](http://www.jmt.org/wind-farms-wild-land-areas.asp)

## Policy briefs

- In April, the Trust joined a group of 130 people representing a wide range of environmental and community organisations at Glasgow Trades Hall for a special conference called by the campaigning charity Planning Democracy. The conference focused on the growing clamour from communities and environmental charities for an overhaul of the Scottish planning system to allow for Equal Rights of Appeal.
- We were pleased to be invited to submit evidence in connection with two public petitions being considered by the Scottish Parliament. The first of these is on a strategy for designating more national parks for Scotland, while the second relates to the Save Loch Ness campaign, which aims to draw attention to the risks of wide-scale wind farm development in the area.
- The Trust has added its voice to a campaign involving 100 voluntary organisations across the UK that have come together to encourage the public to lobby the EU on the dangers of weakening the Birds and Habitats Directives – special designations that exist to protect the most important wildlife species and habitats across Europe. At the time of writing, almost 300,000 people from across Europe have added their voice to the EU REFIT campaign through Nature Alert e-action [www.naturealert.eu/en](http://www.naturealert.eu/en)
- We recently responded to three important consultations about issues which influence development decisions impacting on wild land: a submission to the Western Isles Council (Comhairle) Call for Issues for the Comhairle's Local Development Plan Review and associated review of the Supplementary Guidance for Wind Energy Development; a submission to the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy & Tourism Committee on issues relating to electricity security of supply in Scotland; and a joint submission, alongside a number of private estates, on the Highland Council's Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Energy.
- The Trust is supporting a campaign by the Sustainable Energy Association which calls for a new White Paper that promotes and accelerates cost-effective energy measures, including the more efficient use and production of energy in and from buildings.

## National Park tales shared

A special John Muir Award sharing event hosted recently by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park saw more than 20 organisations come together to hear first-hand accounts of people enjoying and connecting with the National Park's special qualities.

Themed as 'Tales from our Wild Park', the audience heard from diverse organisations using the John Muir Award including two schools, an outdoor centre, an adult learning group and a nature conservation charity. There was also a chance to get hands-on by joining OPAL – a UK-wide citizen science project – on a Soil and Earthworm survey on the lawn of the Park head office.

## Hanna on Hannah

On 28 May, Hannah Norton completed an extraordinary feat – spending at least 23 'wild' minutes every day for a whole year as she worked towards her Conserver Award, the highest John Muir Award level.

Hannah shared her daily experiences on Facebook, with her posts revealing that, in addition to writing 13 poems, she spent 502 hours and 48 minutes of wild time; visited 153 different locations, including nine national parks; told at least 295 people about John Muir and the Award; and gathered 89 faithful followers on Facebook.

The Trust brought Hannah's milestone to the attention of Muir's great-great-grandson Robert Hanna, in California, who sent the following message: "Your commitment to 'Do something wild every day' is inspiring and I thank you so much for continuing my great-great-grandfather's vision through your own work and dedication. Keep up the awesome work and thank you for being an incredible example for everyone to be inspired by and follow."

Read much more about Hannah Norton's adventures at <https://www.facebook.com/wildeveryday>

## Inspiring novel

Research by the University of Edinburgh has found that the graphic novel *John Muir, Earth – Planet, Universe*, which uses Muir's life story as a basis to combine environmental studies with literacy in a way not done before in Scotland, has created a statistically significant shift in pupils' attitudes towards the natural world.

Free copies of the book were sent to every secondary school in Scotland last year, with a download version also freely accessible. Although originally intended to help pupils aged 11 to 14 develop a deeper understanding of the natural environment and value of wild places, it has gained a much wider readership, attracting upper primary schools, adult learners, outdoor educators and family audiences.



Local MP Rory Stewart presents Penrith Home Education Group participants with their John Muir Award certificates

# Personally speaking

The Trust's John Muir Award has encouraged people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places since 1997. Here, some of those who participate and help to deliver the Award share what it means to them

A Dundee-based Award participant and peer leader, who has depression, anxiety and ME, said: "Getting outdoors and doing something physical with a group helps me feel better. I have gone from living my life behind closed doors to getting out and engaging with people. If I had not done my John Muir Award, I would not have built the confidence to lead other groups."

Getting outside has other benefits for participants too – it has helped people like Daniel, who became involved through YHA Do it 4 Real summer camps, "feel closer to nature". It's a connection echoed by Stephen, heritage officer for the Caledonian Canal with Scottish Waterways Trust: "Conservation flows easily once a deep connection with nature is made ... that's what the John Muir Award is all about – igniting a spark that takes flame and burns steadily through people's lives."

This lifelong love for nature will help protect wild places – like Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. "The John Muir Award helps us to share what's great about the Park, and it supports people to enjoy it in a way that looks after our landscape and habitats for future generations," explained Bridget Jones, the Park's head of visitor management.

And the Award's influence across society is increasingly recognised by politicians UK-wide. Rory Stewart, MP for Penrith and the Border, is a great admirer of the Trust and its John Muir Award scheme, which he described as "a marvellous recognition of our connection to the landscape and its manifold benefits to us all, whether we live in rural or urban areas".

Read more testimonials at [www.jmt.org/testimonials.asp](http://www.jmt.org/testimonials.asp)

## Help us to do even more

You can help this work by making a donation at [www.jmt.org/connect](http://www.jmt.org/connect), or by calling 0131 554 0114. Please be assured that your entire donation will go towards engagement work that inspires more people to look after wild places. You can also help by sharing the short John Muir Award film ([www.jmt.org/jmaward-film.asp](http://www.jmt.org/jmaward-film.asp)) and stories of people involved on our website as well as via Facebook and Twitter (#JohnMuirAward).



The two Davids  
on the summit  
of Ben Nevis

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LINTERN

# Tops and tailwinds ... an epic adventure

Trust supporters David Lintern and David Hine recently completed a challenging 15-day journey across Scotland by packraft and on foot, raising funds for the John Muir Award appeal

The coast to coast journey saw the two Davids travel from the most westerly point of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula to Spey Bay, with the added challenge of climbing all nine of Scotland's 4,000-foot peaks along the way (four in Lochaber, and five in the Cairngorms). The packrafts (portable inflatable boats) were used for around a third of the distance on rivers and a variety of lochs, starting with Loch Shiel and ending with a paddle down the River Spey.

As David Hine writes in his trip blog (see link at end), the heavy late-season snowfalls caused some pre-trip concern, but the pair managed to come through unscathed – albeit not quite being able to summit all nine of the targeted peaks following some wild weather in the Cairngorms.

As is so often the case with big adventures in the wilder parts of Scotland, the trip saw a mix of weather, wonderful vistas, whisky, enjoyable encounters and huge amounts of satisfaction. As David writes in his blog, 'There is good reason for the coast to coast challenge to become a classic for packrafting in Scotland, and I fully expect to hear about other similar trips in the future.'

The Trust would like to extend hearty congratulations and huge thanks to both for their fundraising efforts. For a full account of the trip and to donate, see <http://bit.ly/1Bjya8>

## Additional award resource in England

The John Muir Award team is delighted to welcome Ruth Boys as maternity cover for the England education manager, Anna Hormigo, who will return from maternity leave in July. The combination of Anna and Ruth will provide additional resource to support schools, colleges and other education groups in England. This is a key focus for the year as we look to build on existing momentum and continue to develop Award activity across the country. If interested in using the Award, or for more information, please contact [England@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:England@johnmuiraward.org)

## A marathon effort

The Trust would like to offer its thanks and congratulations to four supporters who ran the Virgin Money London Marathon on our behalf in April. Joining a field of 38,000 runners, Patrick Gray, Edward O'Beirne, Bridget Pollock and Rory Webster tackled the gruelling 26.2-mile route and raised thousands of pounds for the Trust in sponsorship. We well appreciate the effort that goes into both training and fundraising – we hope that it was a day to remember, and any blisters have now healed!

Special mention must go to our fastest finisher Rory, who completed the course in 3 hours 19 minutes, and to Patrick, who was running for the Trust for a remarkable ninth time. He's already planning to run again next year to make it 10.

We have a very limited number of charity places for the 2016 race – if interested in running for the Trust, and can commit to a minimum £1,000 sponsorship target, please contact [adam.pinder@jmt.org](mailto:adam.pinder@jmt.org)

## Wild Space draws visitors by their thousands

Now in its third full year of operation, the Wild Space visitor centre in Pitlochry continues to enjoy fantastic footfall as thousands of visitors come to enjoy the outstanding exhibitions, well-stocked shop and excellent interpretation of the Trust's work.

It has also proved an excellent recruitment tool. Many of these new members have young families, so enabling us to reach the next generation of potential members (an effort that continues through our work with a local Brownie group and John Muir Award



David Paterson's *Out of Time (Memories of the Neolithic)* is now on display at the Wild Space

participants from Pitlochry High School).

With the arrival of exciting new stock alongside already popular items, we've

seen a good start to the year's sales. Books continue to dominate, with some fantastic summer reading available.

Meanwhile, the programme for the Alan Reece Gallery has been confirmed for the next year, with a mix of photography and painting from both established and up-and-coming artists. The most recent display, an exhibition of landscape paintings by partially-sighted artist Keith Salmon, has proved very popular, and we're sure of a similar response for a new exhibition by David Paterson, now on display. [www.johnmuirtrust.org/wildspace](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/wildspace)



PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL CARTER

Naturalist, nature photographer, television presenter and author Chris Packham in the New Forest

# Chris Packham to open event series

Naturalist Chris Packham will be the first high-profile speaker to set out his vision for nature at the inaugural Spirit of John Muir event to be held at the Royal Geographical Society in London in September.

Hosted by the Trust, the keynote presentation marks the first in a series of events across the UK that will examine the legacy of the pioneering explorer, conservationist and writer who died in 1914. Chris will talk about his passion for nature and set out his vision of a wilder world in which ecosystems are restored for the benefit of wildlife and people.

"We are delighted to have someone of Chris Packham's expertise and stature deliver the first Spirit of John Muir event," commented Trust chief executive Stuart Brooks. "One hundred million acres of protected wilderness testify to Muir's legacy in the US, but on this side of the Atlantic he is less well known.

"At a time when our wild places are under threat and our species disappearing, it is heartening that we have people like Chris communicating to millions the benefits and wonders of the natural world."

For booking details, visit <http://bit.ly/1MHazy3>

## Trust membership cards and offers

We're pleased to provide a range of fantastic member offers. However, to ensure that more of your contribution goes directly to protecting wild places, we're no longer producing membership cards. For more on taking up our range of offers, contact [emma.cessford@jmt.org](mailto:emma.cessford@jmt.org), our new membership officer who is now working alongside Iona Sutherland.

### Tell us your news!

What have Trust members and local groups been up to? Tell us your news and stories. Call Emma on 01796 470080 or email [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org)

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

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COVER BANNER IMAGE: QUINAG IN SPRING, FRAN LOCKHART

## MEMBERS' GROUPS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Edinburgh

**21 November**, Edinburgh Members' Gathering, 2.30–5pm at Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Contact Richard at [rellis.consultancy@virgin.net](mailto:rellis.consultancy@virgin.net), or call 0131 447 4124

### North East Scotland

**14–15 September**, Assist with conservation tasks on the Mar Lodge Estate. To volunteer, contact [james@brownhill.us](mailto:james@brownhill.us), or call 01224 897273

**18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 14 November, 6 December**, Assist with conservation tasks at Glen Tanar. Contact [james@brownhill.us](mailto:james@brownhill.us)

### North West England

**10 October**, North West Members' Gathering, 2–5.30pm, University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus. Followed by a work party on the Sunday morning. Contact Dominick at [D.V.Spracklen@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:D.V.Spracklen@leeds.ac.uk)

### Southern England

**20 September**, Guided walk at Craig-y-Nos Country Park. Meet 10am, Craig y nos Country Park on the A4067 to the north of Ystradgynlais. For queries, please contact [southernmembersgroup@jmt.org](mailto:southernmembersgroup@jmt.org)

**14 November**, Southern Members' Gathering, 10.00am–5.00pm, Broadmead Baptist Church, Whippington Court, Bristol. Followed by evening pub supper and an optional activity on the following Sunday morning. Contact [southernmembersgroup@jmt.org](mailto:southernmembersgroup@jmt.org)

Visit our website for further details of all events!

## Deer fence down at Glen Tanar

With the North East Scotland members' group's monthly conservation Saturday at Glen Tanar in May coinciding with the Cairngorm Nature Festival week, rangers brought together five Trust volunteers with an equal number of Cairngorms National Park Authority Junior Rangers. The task was to remove an old deer fence in a remote part of the Glen Tanar National Nature Reserve. Having performed its role well over the decades – there was clear evidence of mature rowan and birch inside, while on the outside the hill was dominated by older Scot's pine – the fence offered little resistance to ten enthusiastic conservation volunteers. This allowed time for a relaxed lunch break, a nature walk and even a game of hide and seek! Email [james@brownhill.us](mailto:james@brownhill.us) to join the Glen Tanar volunteers.

## Keep in touch

- Sign up to our monthly e-newsletter by emailing [membership@jmt.org](mailto:membership@jmt.org)
- Keep up-to-date on events and local activities at [www.jmt.org/events.asp](http://www.jmt.org/events.asp)
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