

MEMBERS' NEWS

JANUARY 2012



JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr Dhuibh Uile!

A Good New Year to you all!

And thank you! Now that's a good way to start the New Year, with a thank you. John Muir Trust members have shown solid support for our work with a strong response to October's Glenlude appeal. We've exceeded our target, which is great news. It's really encouraging for staff and trustees to know that we have such support for protecting and enhancing our wild places.

On another positive note, our chief executive Stuart Brooks and I recently met our Patron, the Prince of Wales, at Birkhall. It was good to learn just how familiar with our work he is, especially with regard to deer management and energy policy. He was keen to ensure that I passed on his good wishes to our membership and staff.

We've also been meeting people living in the communities surrounding our estates. We began a series of open meetings with Schiehallion in October, and Sandwood and Nevis following early in 2012. While our work has strong support, I believe it is important to keep open channels of communication between us and those who want to ask questions or air disagreements. Quite often there is more common cause between organisations and individuals than argument and we have to build on this.

This issue of Members' News goes out with the annual call for five trustees. If you think you might be interested in taking up a role on our board you should read what Deirdre Wilson and Richard Fraser Darling have to say about their experiences as trustees on the next page. I hope they inspire you to consider such a role or even to attend this year's AGM at Ardlui in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park where members will vote for the new trustees and consider recommendations for changes to our Articles of Association following our Governance Review.

On a different note, in September I met Dick Gaughan, the Scottish folk singer, when he played in Fort William. Dick was brought up in the same street as my father and was interested in my links with John Muir. He and the writer Brian McNeil deserve great credit for the powerful song 'Muir and the Master Builder', which asks the question often in my own mind that, had Muir not left Scotland, would he "have done the same for Scotland ... your home and your father's?" It's an evocative presentation of an interesting question as we approach the centenary of John Muir's death in 2014.

Sadly, there are still threats to our valuable landscapes and it is our job to remind people why wild places matter. The character Neytiri in the film Avatar said: "Nature, our Great Mother, does not take sides; she protects only the balance of life". John Muir's response to her might have been: "God has cared

for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools".

Welcome to 2012 – we have a job to do!

John Hutchison
Chairman



☐ PROMISING SIGNS FOR JOHN MUIR AWARD

Heritage Lottery Fund support could see the John Muir Award expand its work in England

The Trust is delighted to have received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to expand the John Muir Award. The project aims to support 90,000 Award participants in England over five years, helping people in some of the most densely populated parts of the UK to connect with wild places.

Rob Bushby, John Muir Award manager, said: "This is great news for us. If we get the full HLF grant, we'll be able to create three new posts over five years and take the Award into parts of England where we know there's huge demand. We look forward to refining our plans and rolling out this project next spring should we get full HLF support."

Drew Bennellick, head of landscapes and parks at HLF, said: "We at the Heritage Lottery Fund are pleased to support the John Muir Award and help bring their vision a step closer to reality. The John Muir Award has been a great success in Scotland and Wales and has great potential to do the same in England, helping local people learn about and enjoy their natural environment. We are looking forward to seeing plans progress over the coming months."



Award participants ghyll scrambling in the Lake District

Trustee tales

Two current trustees reflect on their roles and the challenges involved

Dr Deirdre Wilson

Trustee for three and a half years. Member of the Trust since 1994.

What made you want to be a trustee?

I've had a lifelong interest in wild places and been actively involved in many of the Trust's activities as a volunteer – from conservation work parties to recruitment events. In a way, becoming a trustee seemed a natural progression; a way of becoming more deeply involved and contributing to its future development and a way of increasing my commitment towards the protection of wild land.

What do you enjoy about the role?

Bringing my knowledge and experience as someone who has worked in ecology and conservation to the board, being involved in the evolution of the Trust, giving something back to wild land and the organisation, and the range and variety of activities that I've been involved in as a trustee – from board meetings and specialist working groups to recruitment events and work parties.

What are the biggest challenges of being a trustee?

As a research ecologist many of the business aspects within the role of trustee were new to me so it was a steep learning curve at the start. There are also challenges in rationalising time commitments, especially with a demanding full-time job. It definitely helps if you can read and assimilate board papers quickly.

What advice would you give anyone thinking of standing as a trustee?

I'm not sure I can offer advice but I'd say if you have the time to give and you like to be challenged at times then go for it.

Trustees listen to a point being made by Mike Daniels, head of land and science, during a recent visit to Corroun

Richard Fraser Darling

Trustee for two and a half years. Member of the Trust since 2002.

What made you want to be a trustee?

I became aware of the Trust on purchasing a property adjacent to Trust land in 2002. Wild land is something I grew up with and I have been fortunate enough to have experienced it in diverse parts of the world. I am a passionate believer in the robust application of conservation principles to wild and derelict land in Scotland and saw becoming a trustee as a means of contributing to this aim. My long experience in the Foreign Office dealing with conflict resolution, strategic planning, public presentation and so on might also have something to contribute.

What are the challenges? What do you enjoy?

Being a trustee presents a number of challenges in that you have to get up to speed quickly on the issues the Trust deals with. Learning something new brings a reward of its own and I enjoy that. I've met a number of people whose company I enjoy and whom I respect. That has been a dividend. The slight surprise has been the time commitment (if you decide to take an active part, but if you don't why do it?) but this is a soluble issue. You just have to be organised.

Have you had any problems finding the time for it?

Living where I do, getting to meetings (four hours to Pitlochry, five to Edinburgh or Glasgow) means effectively two or three days per meeting. Fortunately, I have been able to dovetail Trust commitments with travel overseas from either of the latter. For someone in more constrained employment it might be a bigger issue.

What advice do you have for aspiring trustees?

I am somewhat diffident about giving advice to aspiring trustees but would emphasise the importance of making sure one has the time to commit to the Trust's affairs and the commitment/ability to master some complex briefs and issues, sometimes at short notice. Successful candidates should aim to acquaint themselves at first hand with all of the Trust's properties.

CALL FOR TRUSTEES

If you'd like to get more involved with the Trust, and help us towards future success, please consider standing as a member of the board. Find out more and download a nomination form at www.jmt.org/trustee-noms.asp or call the Pitlochry office on 01796 470080. Nominations must be received by 24 February.



Generous support for Trust appeals

Trust members and supporters have contributed generously towards reviving Glenlude and maintaining footpaths on Sandwood and across Trust land

The Trust is delighted to report that we've exceeded our target of £25,000 for October's Glenlude appeal (which now stands at around £47,000) and work can now begin on developing our management plan for the property. We also intend to employ a part-time volunteer coordinator to begin the ecological restoration work as soon as possible.

The generous response has enabled our Land Management Endowment Fund to get off to a good start. The current balance – thanks to the appeal – now stands at £22,000. This fund ring-fences money for work on our properties, ensuring the land we own can be maintained and enhanced into the future. If you are interested in donating (through a gift or legacy) specifically towards the Trust's land management, please contact Kate Barclay, kate.barclay@jmt.org

Elsewhere, members and supporters have also raised £92,000 for the Sandwood footpath appeal over the last two years. "This has been a truly amazing response" said Mike Daniels, the Trust's head of land and science. "After using the money planned for repairs on Sandwood, Quinag and Schiehallion, we are now aiming to use the remainder to adopt a new proactive approach to all of our footpaths. The plan is to employ a full-time footpath officer who will lead a dedicated footpath team to survey all paths on our properties and do regular remedial repair work – to

stop problems before they happen. This will be a more efficient way of maintaining access to our important wild places."

The Scottish Mountaineering Trust – a grant-making charity founded in 1964 that helps people enjoy and appreciate mountain environments in Scotland and throughout the world – is making a generous donation towards the setting up of this team, which will comprise young trainees, contractors and Trust volunteers.

"We're thankful to the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and to all the charitable trusts that make such a valuable contribution to our work," said Kate Barclay, head of fundraising. "We're delighted to have just received a generous pledge from Brown Forbes Memorial towards the essential costs of path improvements on the Steall Gorge Path. We're at the early stages of fundraising for this path, which needs some urgent attention to help maintain access for the 40,000 annual visitors to this stunning gorge."

WANTED: SHIPPING CONTAINER

Sandy Maxwell, the Trust's conservation activities coordinator, is keen to hear from anyone who might be able to help source a 20ft shipping container free of charge! He is hoping to find one to make a tool store at Glenlude. Contact Sandy at sandy.maxwell@jmt.org

HELP US RECRUIT

If you have a business or somewhere suitable to distribute the Trust's membership leaflets and other literature, please get in touch with Maggie Briggs who can send a supply for giving out to customers and other interested people. Contact maggie.briggs@jmt.org, or call 0131 554 0114.

MEET AND GREET

Trust working on first exhibition, gallery and retail wild space

The Trust has taken over the shop premises below its Tower House offices on Pitlochry High Street with the intention of creating an exhibition, gallery and shop space. "This is the first public engagement project for the Trust so it's hugely exciting," said Stuart Brooks, chief executive. "We want to make creative and innovative use of the space to share our love of wild places and help people connect with our natural landscapes."

The project, which is intended to help make the Trust more visible to the public, is being funded primarily through a generous donation by the Reece Foundation. "We're extremely grateful to Dr Reece and his support for the principle of improving our visibility, and we look forward to welcoming our first visitors in early 2013," said John Hutchison, chairman. The project will also offer the opportunity to make key environmental improvements to the office space.



The Trust's Stuart Brooks and Linda Coupar outside the Tower House shop premises

PHOTOGRAPHER: RORY SWINE

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers on the Trust's annual programme of conservation work parties clocked up a record 5,600 hours of work in 2011. More than 150 volunteers took part in 24 work parties which took place right across Scotland from the Western Isles to the Borders, as well as a week at Skalanes, Iceland.



Volunteers from Wilderness Scotland get in the spirit at East Schiehallion

PHOTOGRAPHER: BEN THORBURN, WILDERNESS SCOTLAND

Our Local Members' Groups also got their hands dirty in 2011. The North East Scotland group organised monthly work parties at Glen Tanar in Aberdeenshire, while the Glasgow and West of Scotland group returned to the island of Gigha for a work party in July. In August, the Yorkshire members' group celebrated its tenth year of conservation work in the Yorkshire Dales, and the newly established Scottish Borders members' group has met regularly at Glenlude (see page five for more details).

Staff from two of our Corporate Members also came out to do some work on our properties. In July, Berghaus removed conifer seedlings on Skye, while Wilderness Scotland helped out with path work at East Schiehallion in September.

Volunteer achievements in 2011 included:

- 654 bags of rubbish collected from coastal beaches and inshore lochs
- 20 bags of rubbish cleared from Ben Nevis
- 2.5 kilometres of deer and stock fence removed at East Schiehallion, Li & Coire Dhorrcail and Glenlude
- More than 20 kilometres of path maintained and repaired
- 3,600 non-native self-seeded conifers removed at Strathaird and Corroul
- Two deer exclosures built at Quinag
- 20 metres of dry stone wall repaired at Glenlude
- Non-native invasive plants such as rhododendron, gunnera, and Himalayan balsam cleared at Sconser, Inverie, North Harris and Glenlude

Wild Days 2012

Formerly known as Land Days, we've given our property visits a name makeover to reflect their wildness. Our 2012 Wild Days are an opportunity for members and supporters to find out how the John Muir Trust is realising its vision for wild land. Each day is led by the conservation officer, who guides the group across a Trust property, allowing plenty of time for questions, discussion and debate on issues faced by each individual property. The days are usually free of charge, but donations are always welcome.

To find out more, or to book a place, please contact David Lintern on **0131 554 0114**, or david.lintern@jmt.org

20 April

Glenlude Discover Glenlude

Visit the Trust's newest property in the Scottish Borders and hear our ideas for turning it into one of our most exciting demonstrations of managing wild land.

7 May

Glen Nevis Take a walk through Glen Nevis

Among the spring birds and wildflowers, discover and discuss the Trust's approach to managing one of our most accessed – and accessible – routes through Steall Gorge.

8 June

Knoydart Celebrate 25 years in Knoydart – on our new boat!

Take a trip across Loch Hourn on the Trust's new boat, and see the results of our woodland and habitat regeneration work in Knoydart.

9 June

Skye Summer in Skye

See how the Trust's vision is beginning to take shape on our Skye estates.

12 August

Schiehallion Celebrate the 'glorious 12th' in the style of the John Muir Trust

Visit Schiehallion to learn about its biodiversity and our vision for its future.

14 September

Quinag Species spotting at Quinag

Attempt to see ring ouzels and water voles amongst other key species at Quinag.

15 September

Sandwood Sandwood in autumn

See how members have made a difference at our Sandwood estate and learn about the Trust's plans for future sustainable path management.

LEARN ABOUT OUR WILD LAND MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

The Trust has launched a new website showcasing our wild land management standards. We hope to use the site as a tool to inspire and encourage other landowners to adopt our management principles, which have developed from our own experiences in managing wild land. Take a look at www.wildlandmanagement.org.uk

HIGH DAYS OUT WITH A HIGHLANDER RUCKSACK

Adam Butler was the lucky winner of our prize draw for a rucksack kindly donated by Gold Corporate Member Highlander (Scotland) Ltd. Adam told us that he was very pleased with the rucksack and only a couple of weeks after having received it, put it to good use on walks in East Lothian and the Ochil Hills. Happy walking Adam.

POLICY, PETITIONS AND PEOPLE

The policy team has been engaging with policy makers, radio listeners, consultations and more

The policy team took the Wild Land Campaign to a number of UK and Scottish political conferences in 2011, engaging in lively debate with hundreds of delegates and opinion formers across the political spectrum, including Ministers and shadow spokespeople.

The Trust's head of policy, Helen McDade, is in need of a rest after a string of public speaking events. She spoke at the British Mountaineering Council seminar on energy at Llanberis in September, the CATS wind conference in Ayr in November and on Call Kaye on BBC Radio Scotland. She has also been asked to take part in a roundtable discussion at the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee as a precursor to an inquiry in 2012 into the Scottish Government's 2020 targets for renewable energy.

Meanwhile, at the time of press, the Wild Land petition was due to return before the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee with Scottish Natural Heritage's Wild Land mapping work forming an important backdrop to this. Thanks to all our members and supporters who have helped by taking time to write to their local MSP on this issue.

In other news, the policy team is monitoring developments with respect to Allt Duine, the proposed wind development in the Monadhliaths on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park, and the Calliachar wind farm in Perthshire where the application to increase turbine height was expected to come before Perth & Kinross Council by Christmas. The team has also responded to relevant national and local consultations and planning applications for areas such as Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms National Parks, Comhairle nan eilean Siar (Western Isles) and the Scottish Borders.

In 2012, the message continues to be that action is desperately needed to protect our remaining wild land. You can keep up-to-date with policy news and other Trust news through our monthly e-news (subscribe at www.jmt.org).

NEW FACES AT BIRTHPLACE TRUST

John Thomas, trustee, and Susan Wright, the Trust's head of communications, have taken positions on the board of the John Muir Birthplace Trust in Dunbar. They replace Trust supporters Adam Gillingham and Robert Russell who have been long-serving members.

John Hutchison, chairman, said: "I would like to thank Adam and Robert for giving their time and serving us so well on the board of the Birthplace Trust. Susan and John will be able replacements and we look forward to continuing strong links between the two Trusts in the years ahead."



The home page of the new website



Prize winner Adam sets out for a walk in East Lothian

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ADAM BUTLER

GET INVOLVED

We need people to help at Trust events in 2012. If you are interested in getting out and talking about the work of the Trust, please contact Fiona Mackintosh on **01796 484970**, fiona.mackintosh@jmt.org

Back with a bang

Members' groups have been extremely active in 2011 – not least the North East of Scotland Group

The North East of Scotland Group was brought out of hibernation over 12 months ago and since then has seen a good level of activity. Steven Pyke (Spyke), who completed a round of Scotland's Munros on foot, bicycle and by kayak in a recording breaking time of 39 days, 6 hours, gave the first talk in what is hoped will be an annual event of invited speakers to the northeast.

Spyke's talk proved very popular, with the evening a sell-out and great interest shown by the local walking, running and climbing community. Spyke gave more than a passing tribute to Hamish Brown and seemed delighted that the great man himself made a point of meeting up with him on the round. Spyke's almost casual, but safe approach to such a mammoth physical and logistical challenge left some of us breathless in contemplating his achievement both daily and over the whole five and a half weeks of the challenge. His love of the mountains also shone through.

John Muir Trust chief executive Stuart Brooks and Mike Daniels, head of land and science, also gave talks about the Trust itself, which enabled members and friends to learn much about the organisation, its history, current policies and plans for the future. It is planned



PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES BROWNHILL



Volunteers of all ages enjoy some construction work high up Glen Tanar on the footpath leading to Mount Keen (top); Glen Tanar Head Ranger Eric Baird (second from left) answers questions about the estate from the volunteer group (bottom)

to hold further discussion evenings with key people from within the Trust talking about all aspects of the Trust's work.

In other news, local member James Brownhill has taken responsibility for organising (and attending all) monthly conservation work parties at Glen Tanar, resurrecting an informal arrangement that had remained dormant for a couple of years. Head ranger Eric Baird and the estate have many similar values to the Trust and appreciate the work performed by volunteers who are all keen to "give something back" to the hills and glens that continue to provide so much pleasure.

Work has varied from nest box building in the comfort of the visitor centre in the snowy depths of last winter, to tree and footpath maintenance high on the foothills of Mount Keen in the summer. Only the June event, one week before Midsummer's Day, had to be curtailed due to inclement weather – just 9 degrees celsius and continuous rain.

The work parties will continue through 2012 and will benefit from a greater supply of tools funded through a generous donation to the Trust by one of the regular volunteers. Other opportunities for volunteer work with additional partners are currently being explored and if any local members have contacts with suitable projects that could benefit from a group of enthusiastic (and skilled!) volunteers please get in touch.

Finally, trustee Rohan Beyts planned a personal challenge to cycle from Ellon to Jura, climb the Paps of Jura and swim across the Corryvreckan – the world's third largest natural whirlpool – to Scarba before cycling home. Rohan was pleased to complete the 1.1km swim in 30 minutes, raising over £2,200 for the John Muir Trust in the process.

James Brownhill

Contact:

Rohan Beyts, r.beyts@btinternet.com;
James Brownhill, james@brownhill.us

▣ BORDERS GROUP BUSY AT GLENLUDE

In recent months, the Scottish Borders Local Group has joined other Trust volunteers from across the country at Glenludde to tackle some much needed ground work. Tasks included restoring the march dyke to keep out marauding sheep, removing fences and clearing away an old shed. At the same time we have campaigned against inappropriate wind farm applications, lobbied local MSPs and commented at length on the local authority's proposed new landscape designations.

We look forward to developing the management plan for Glenludde in 2012 and beginning its implementation. Trustee John Thomas will be arranging local work parties for most months next year. Glenludde will also be included in Sandy Maxwell, the Trust's conservation activities coordinator's, work parties programme for 2012 (see page four).

John Thomas

Contact:

John Thomas, j.p.r.t@btinternet.com

▣ TENTH ANNIVERSARY IN YORKSHIRE



PHOTOGRAPHER: JOHN PAGE

Yorkshire group members and rangers take a breather while working in Upper Wensleydale

Over the weekend of 13–14 August, Yorkshire region members and friends celebrated the tenth anniversary of conservation activities in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We revisited the original task that was undertaken ten years ago to the month which was to remove overgrown turf on a flagged path that runs from Burtersett to Hawes in the Upper Wensleydale region. We had obviously not done the job well enough in the first place!

Burtersett was the industrial centre of Wensleydale in the 19th century, although now it can only be regarded as a hamlet. It boasted a flagstone quarry at that time with the stone being exported from the dale to be used mainly for roofing. To allow inhabitants to reach the nearby village of Hawes, some of the flagstone was used to lay a path almost a metre wide which linked the two centres. The path first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851.

A total of 21 Trust members and friends took part over the course of the weekend. We were even joined by the same National Park rangers who led us ten years ago: Matt Neale, Upper Wensleydale area ranger and Michael Briggs, now Swaledale area ranger. The ages of participants varied but all showed great enthusiasm and determination to get the job done.

The original competition to produce the longest complete turf was revisited and a joint effort resulted in a turf that took six people to hold. However, time had clearly taken its toll as we struggled to finish the length of path cleared previously. Matt said that he would find a younger group to complete the task!

Despite not quite finishing, everyone had a great time and vowed to return in 2021 to do it all again. It is hoped that everyone's memories hold out.

Two or three weekends are organised every year, with new blood always required and very welcome.

John Page

Contact:

John Page, john.page31@btinternet.com, or call 01904 425175.

▣ TELL US YOUR WILD STORIES!

Are you a Group Member of the John Muir Trust? Why not share your news in Members' News! We'd love to hear about your visits to wild places, conservation activities and John Muir Award projects that you are involved in. If your group has a story they'd like to share, please email maggie.briggs@jmt.org with details.

Classifieds For our members

See more classifieds at
www.jmt.org/classifieds.asp

ACCOMMODATION

ABOYNE

4* one bedroom wing of country house set in 3 acres of wild garden overlooking Dee Valley, near Cairngorm National Park.

- Mrs J H Strachan: 01339 886232
- joanna@hubblebubble.org
- www.holidayfreedomscotland.com

ACHILTIBUIE

Self-catering cottages on a beautiful wild island: Tanera Mòr, Summer Isles. No cars or television; plenty of peace and space and astonishing views. Cafe, boat hire, sailing school.

- www.summer-isles.com
- 01854 622252

ACHILTIBUIE

Ross-shire luxury contemporary holiday house on the Coigach peninsula with views of the Summer Isles. Unique location with excellent walking, watersports, wildlife and beaches. Open plan with woodburning stove. Sleeps 8. Easy access. Dogs welcome. 10% discount for John Muir Trust Members.

- www.quinagcottage.com

ANDALUCIA

Small house in the mountains with private pool, panoramic views, remote rural situation, 45 minutes from Malaga Airport. Good bird-watching, walks; National Park 10 minutes drive, £195 to £275 pw.

- www.las-fincas.co.uk
- jimfdstott@yahoo.co.uk

ANGUS GLENS

Beautiful farmhouse with glorious Strathmore views. Surrounded by social and natural history sites. Perfect for house-parties, families and small conferences. Sleeps 16, self-catering, housekeeper, manager and cook available upon request.

Contact Wend:

- +44 (0)1575 540209/
07929 485324
- bothbarrels69@hotmail.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% John Muir Trust discount.

- 0131 667 2267
- alison.kilpatrick@southmorningside.edin.sch.uk

ASSYNT

Sutherland - Fully equipped STB 4* cottages (inc. Sky TV & Wi-Fi) with stunning mountain and coastal views. Sleeps 4 - 6. Close to Quinag and convenient for Sandwood Bay. Open all year.

- 01571 855277
- www.cathairdhubh.co.uk

AVIEMORE

Luxury 2-bedroom cottage; sleeps 4. Discount for John Muir Trust members.

- 01738 550 412
- george.henderson@mdgltd.co.uk
- www.aviemore-self-catering.org

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

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

CAIRNGORMS

2 comfortable chalets or Dinner, B&B in a modernised 19th century croft house. Dogs welcome. Rural position near the Spey and Whisky Trail. Aviemore 10 miles.

- 01479 821 062
- david@mondhuie.com
- www.mondhuie.com

CEVENNES

Mediterranean climate, mountains, superb walking/river-swimming. Roman Provence/ Rhone vineyards. Two spacious apartments in stone "mas", sleeping 8 & 5/6. Shady gardens/boulodrome. Available separately but very suitable for groups. 10% for John Muir Trust members. Easy access.

- 01527 541360

COIGACH

Ross-shire - Remote, cosy, traditional croft house, beautifully situated on wild mountainous coastline beneath Ben Mor Coigach, 5 miles from Achiltibuie. Sleeps 6. Recently refurbished. £300-£450 pw.

- 01434 220647
- www.173culnacraig.com

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

EILEAN SCALPAIGH

Western Isles - Not a regular B&B but often available for John Muir Trust members. English spoken. Use of kitchen by arrangement. Guided walks possible.

- Jean Mills: 01859 540 319

GLENELG

Traditional cosy cottage, sleeps 4. Ideal for Skye (summer months) and Knoydart, as well as Gleshiel hills.

- Robert: 02089 463 319
- Robinsonrobt@aol.com

GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY

A cosy, modern, fully equipped self-catering cottage for 4 persons. 2 double bedrooms (1 en-suite), bathroom, breakfasting kitchen and lounge. Ideally located to escape to the wonderful Cairngorms or explore beautiful Strathspey.

- fi.cumming@gmail.com

IONA

Independent Hostel, STB 4*, on working croft at North 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

INVERNESS-SHIRE

Ardersier, ideal for dolphins, bird watching, golf and touring. NS self catering cottage, 1 double bedroom, short winter breaks available. Pets welcome. From £225 per week, £25 John Muir Trust Members' Discount on web prices.

- Lynn: 07989 870228
- www.dolphin-view.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

KENTALLEN

The Old Schoolhouse, 3 bedroom s/c cottage. Ideal base for exploring the West Coast. Large lounge with loch views and wood burning stove. Close to Loch Linnhe cycle path. £500 - £800 pw.

- 07713 251 192
- euafionia@yahoo.com

LAKE DISTRICT

Lorton-Buttermere valley, 3 well-equipped cottages in former hill farm; sleep 2/5/8; ETB 3*. Ideal for family reunions. Stunning views. Walk or bike from door. 5 lakes within 7 miles.

- 0190 085 206
- www.highswinside.demon.co.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).

- Janet Elliot: 01768 779 601
- enquiries.bl@field-studies-council.org

LOGIERAIT

Highland Perthshire - 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

MORAR

Self catering cottage in converted croft building, near the Road to the Isles. Stunning views over quiet & beautiful Loch Morar. Perfect retreat for 2 on working croft for a romantic and unforgettable holiday.

- 01687 462 235
- www.lochmorarsselfcatering.co.uk

MORAY

Secluded, comfortable, well equipped Moray farmhouse (sleeps 8) available for rent year round. Excellent all year round walking.

- a.r.wallace@btinternet.com

NEWTONMORE

Two-bedroom steading in the Cairngorms National Park. Ideal location for a huge range of activities. Fully furnished.

- 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

NORTH UIST

Delightful 2/3 bedroom cottages at Lochportain near Lochmaddy. 3* VisitScotland. Fully equipped e.g. dishwasher, Freeview, iPod docks! Brilliant trout & salmon fishing, walking, watersports, beaches, horse-riding, golf.

- Eileen - 0131 447 9911
- www.trinityfactors.co.uk/holiday/holiday.php

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

LOCH KATRINE

Stronachlachar - beautifully equipped cottage in Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Sleeps max 6, C/H, log-burning stove. Ideal for walking, biking, bird-watching, wildlife. Contact Carol & Alan.

- 0141 942 8299
- enquiries@hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk
- www.hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk

POOLEWE

Ideal base to explore Ross-shire. Loch-side croft, stunning views towards Great Wilderness. 30 mins South to Slioch and Beinn Eighe NNR. Fully modernised cottage, 3 bedrooms, sleeps 6.

- 01445 781 307
- seasidehouse@adialstart.net
- www.seasidecroft.co.uk

SANDWOOD

Lovely croft house near Polin beach by Kinlochberrie; sleeps 7/8. £225 - £400 pw.

- tony.cook13npt@btinternet.com

SECLUDED SNOWDONIA

Self-catering rooms, bunkhouse, yurt, camping in upland valley overlooking Conwy valley; panoramic views of Snowdonia. Good base for your John Muir 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. Sleeps 6 or 8, double/twin rooms, CH. 3 bathrooms, shower. Open fire/stove, Aga in kitchen, utility room, garden.

- 01539 620 360
- ali@interact.co.uk

SKYE

Sligachan and Carbost. 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 - Torridon, An Teallach, Kintail etc. Sleeps five; two bathrooms. Mature garden. Contact David Hudson.

→ 01449 760 428
→ www.freespace.virgin.net/david.hudson5

SKYE

Double & family en-suite and single en suite. £37.50 pp/pn. 4-course evening meal (£27.50) 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

SOUTH 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% discount for John Muir Trust members.

→ 01344 845 395 evenings

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 £375 pw.

→ www.faugeresrental.com

SOUTH-WEST LAKES

Remote cottage with stunning views; sleeps 2 to 6.

→ nicholassimpson@aol.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

2 bedroom bungalow between Tongue and Bettyhill, overlooking Torrisdale Bay. Modern Conveniences, sleeps 4-6. Excellent for walking, fishing and wildlife. Idyllic beaches. £200 pw + electricity costs. Contact Pamela Clarke.

→ 01577 861 728/07774 022 856

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

ULLAPOOL

Self-catering studio. Bright and comfortable, fully equipped - sleeps 2. Sea views over Loch Broom and to the mountains. Direct access to hill tracks. Wi-fi. £350 pw less John Muir Trust Members' Discount 10%.

→ 01854 613325/07876 588084
→ www.ullapoolselfcatering.com

FLASH SERVICES**FLASH:****THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT-STORY MAGAZINE**

Quality stories and reviews of up to 360 words. Published April and October. To order an issue, subscribe, or submit stories, visit:

→ www.chester.ac.uk/flash.magazine

HOUSE SITTING

Keen walker and amateur archaeologist is willing to house and pet sit while you are away. No fee involved. Contact Bob.

→ bobrob59@yahoo.co.uk

MOUNTAIN AND VILLAGE PICTURE POSTCARDS

Scotland, England and worldwide, 1900-2011. John Muir Trust donation with every sale. Chad Neighbor, 8 Dalgarno Park, Hillside, Montrose, Angus, DD10 9JF

→ c.neighbor@virgin.net
→ 01674 832 823

ON & OFF THE TRAIL OF JOHN MUIR

Book by Tony Hobbs. A humorous account of his attempt to walk the trail. £5.95 (inc. p&p) from Tony Hobbs.

→ 1 Karen Court, Dilwyn, Hereford, HR4 8HU

ORGANIC KNOYDART LAMB

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→ 01687 462 844
→ calannaboat@knoydart.org

OUT IN THE HILLS

Enjoy the Natural Highs: guided walks and wilderness camping trips in the Cairngorms, in the company of a knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide with over 20 year's experience mountain walking in the Highlands.

→ www.outinthehills.co.uk
→ info@outinthehills.co.uk

OVER THE HILL (£13.50)

Final book of a series by Graham Wilson and published by Millrace. Covers a variety of mountain related topics from nature of climbing to our environmental responsibility.

→ Details: gp.books@hotmail.com

RED SQUIRREL PRINT

Limited edition of 100 prints, red squirrel portrait by award-winning artist, mounted ready for framing, £33 inc. p&p. Print A4, mount 14in x 17in, please contact Anne Chambers for sample image.

→ 01360 550537
→ annechambers730@btinternet.com

ROWAN IN THE ROCK

Songs of Love, Land and Nature - by Alison McMorland, Geordie McIntyre with Kirsty Potts. Enjoy this great CD (which includes The Ballad of John Muir) for just £10.50 (inc. P&P).

→ geordieali@btinternet.com
→ 01786 825 598

SCOTLAND'S WILD PLACES IN WATERCOLOUR

Fine original paintings by artist and John Muir Trust member Paul Antony Lynn. 20% discount for members, plus 20% to John Muir Trust funds.

→ www.paullynnpaintings.co.uk, click on Gallery 3

SKYE

Serpentarium Reptile World, award-winning exhibition, breeding centre & refuge. Frequent handling sessions. Excellent coffee shop with gifts. Easter-Oct. Old Mill, Harrapool, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ.

→ 01471 822 209
→ snakesalive@skye-serpentarium.org.uk
→ www.skyseserpentarium.org.uk

SOUVENIR SCOTTISH BANKNOTES

Four mint Royal Bank £1 notes commemorating European Summit, Scottish Parliament, R.L. Stevenson and A.G. Bell. £10 cheque secures delivery and 20% donation to John Muir Trust.

→ A. Balsillie, 5 East Milton Grove, G75 8SN

SPEAKERS' SERVICE

Volunteers for the Campaign for National Parks offer illustrated talks on the National Park movement; they can reach groups in almost any city, town or village in England & Wales.

→ Adrian Thornton: 01865 880359
→ www.cnp.org.uk

WALKING THE JOHN MUIR WAY

An illustrated 58-page guide book by Robert Russel describing a 73km walk along the East Lothian coast. Proceeds go to Friends of the John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar. £3.50 + p&p.

→ John Muir's Birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar
→ 01368 865899

WATERMILL BOOKSHOP, ABERFELDY

We stock a wide range of walking, cycling and outdoors books including Lotte Glob's 'Floating Stones'. Also coffee shop after a day on Scheihallion and art gallery.

→ 01887 822896
→ www.aberfeldywatermill.com

WILDERNESS

First aid training - Health and Safety first aid training. First aid supplies catering for remote/ lone/outdoor workers. National Navigation Awards training. 10% John Muir Trust discount.

→ 07881 427 507
→ www.rubiconfirstaid.com

HOLIDAYS**ALPINE EXPLORATORY**

Walking holidays in UK and Alps. Tour du Mont Blanc, West Highland Way, Walker's Haute Route, Julian Alps, Pennine Way, Coast to Coast. Join our guided treks or follow our route cards self-guided.

→ 01729 823 197
→ www.alpineexploratory.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

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→ 01478 613 180/07796 467 886
→ paddy@blavenguiding.co.uk
→ www.blavenguiding.co.uk

SKYAKADVENTURES

Sea kayak expeditions, courses and guiding. BCU level 5 coach. Unique sea kayaking experiences in a world-class location. Gordon & Morag Brown, 29 Lower Breakish, Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8QA.

→ 01471 820002
→ info@skyakadventures.com
→ www.skyakadventures.com

SOUTH WEST FRANCE

Writer's charming retreat. Sleeps 4 adults. Bergerac airport 30 mins. Wonderful guest reviews.

→ www.maison-bb.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.

→ 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

We're sorry to advise we will be discontinuing Members' Classifieds after this issue of Members' News. We will also be removing the Members' Classifieds from the website from the end of January. We would like to thank all of you who have contributed to this section in the past and wish all our members' pursuits the best of luck.

Forthcoming events 2012

Local Members' Groups

Scottish Borders

Forestry policy: Its implications for wild land and conservation, presentation by David Henderson-Howat

Date & time: Thursday, 16 February, 7.30pm

Venue: Philiphaugh Suite, Selkirk Rugby Club

As the government sets its targets on increasing forest cover in Scotland by almost half (from 17% to 25%), forestry is a key issue for the future of wild land and wild landscapes. David Henderson-Howat, head of policy at Forestry Commission Scotland, will speak on the implications of more forestry for conservation and wild land.

Contact: John Thomas, j.p.r.t@btinternet.com

Glasgow and West of Scotland

Measuring mountains – their quality and height, presentation by David Batty

Date & time: Friday, 3 February, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Partick Burgh Halls, Room 10, 9 Burgh Hall Street, Partick, Glasgow

David Batty is an Exec member of The Munro Society and very much involved in their Munro Quality Indicator project. He is also a member of their 'heighting' team which has been measuring the height of mountains which the OS have recorded as being just above or just below 3000 feet.

Ribbon of Wildness, presentation by Peter Wright

Date & time: Thursday, 19 April, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Partick Burgh Halls, Room 10, 9 Burgh Hall Street, Partick, Glasgow

Author Peter Wright will talk about his book 'Ribbon of Wildness' – an account of walking Scotland's watershed, the long divide that separates the catchments of the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. This will be followed by a short AGM of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Group.

If you have any questions about the Glasgow Local Group events, please contact group secretary Moya Taylor at moyamtaylor@aol.com

South West Group

A joint walk with Bristol Ramblers. Details tbc

Date: Sunday, 25 March

Venue: Chartist Cave, Llangynidir

A joint walk with Avon Outdoor Activities Group. Details tbc

Date: Sunday, 20 May

Venue: Sapperton Tunnel, Daneway, Cotswolds

A weekend of exploring the Undercliffs Natural Nature Reserve with Donald Campbell, John Muir Trust and Natural England

Date: Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 June

Venue: Undercliffs Natural Nature Reserve (Seaton-Lyme Regis)

If you would like to know more about the South West Group, please contact SouthernMembersGroup@jmt.org

North East of Scotland

Ribbon of Wildness, presentation by author Peter Wright

Date: Thursday 8 March, 7.30pm open forum. 8.15 presentation

Venue: Aberdeen Grammar School Former Pupils Club, 86 Queens Road, Aberdeen

Tickets £3.00 on the door. Contact Rohan Beyts r.beyts@btinternet.com or 01358 711750.



Stewart Stevenson chats with Trust chairman John Hutchison while at Schiehallion

SCIEHALLION DATE FOR MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament Stewart Stevenson, minister for environment and climate change, visited Schiehallion in October with the Trust's chief executive, Stuart Brooks, and head of policy, Helen McDade, to learn more about deer management issues and our campaign for better protection of wild land.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIE MCELROY

Julie McElroy, a determined adventurer from Glasgow who has overcome severe disabilities to achieve the John Muir Conserver Award, the highest level of the John Muir Award, received recognition for her achievements from presenter and broadcaster Dougie Vipond on 18 November.

Julie, 25, was born with cerebral palsy which has resulted in walking difficulties and speech impairment along with manual dexterity problems. She is also profoundly deaf and wears two hearing aids, but has refused to let these disabilities stop her completing her John Muir Conserver Award.

In the course of meeting the four challenges of her Award, Julie trekked in the Himalayas, joined the Lomond Mountain Rescue Team on manoeuvre, climbed Helvellyn, paddled the length of Loch Shiel and led other disabled people on a three-day expedition on Arran.

"I wanted to experience a totally new existence and challenges that are different from the ones I experience in everyday life," commented Julie. "Being in the wild allows me to establish myself more as a person."

"The buzz of the outdoors began for me when I was a child and I now want to unleash opportunities where other disabled people can climb a mountain, get involved in taking responsibility for the natural environment and most importantly enjoy the fun, adventure and exploration of the wild."



Dougie Vipond (left), Julie McElroy and Toby Clark, John Muir Award Scotland manager, at Julie's John Muir Conserver Award presentation

Broadcaster and presenter Dougie Vipond, who presented Julie with her certificate at the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Headquarters in Balloch, said: "Adventure is important, it challenges and stimulates us, and can lead us to wonderful wild places we perhaps wouldn't normally visit."

"Julie's achievements are a reminder to us all that experiencing adventure and challenge in Scotland, and further afield, should be open to all, regardless of age, ability or background."

TELL US YOUR NEWS

What have John Muir Trust members been up to? We'd love to find out. Share your news and stories with us and we'll publish a selection in the next Members' News. We'd particularly like to hear from any group members and their projects. Let Maggie know on 0131 554 0114 or email maggie.briggs@jmt.org. Thank you.

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- Keep up-to-date on events and local activities online – www.jmt.org/events.asp
- Join our discussion groups on Facebook/receive updates on Twitter – access via www.jmt.org
- You can also receive your Journal & Members' News electronically – email membership@jmt.org