

# MEMBERS' NEWS

JANUARY 2010



## John Muir Trust supports International Year of Biodiversity 2010

2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations. The aim is to engage an increasing number of people in understanding the value of biodiversity, and to encourage organisations and individuals to take direct action to reduce the constant loss of biological diversity worldwide.

So, what are the John Muir Trust doing to benefit biodiversity, and how can members get involved? The Trust's approach is to manage land at the landscape or ecosystem scale, and we are now in the third year of our Wild Land Biodiversity project. Our vision is for healthy habitats, supporting a variety of wildlife from sea level to summit ridge. It is a long term strategy, and changes will happen slowly.

The main management tool is reducing deer numbers in order to allow key habitats to flourish. There are already encouraging signs that tree seedlings are showing some growth with reduced browsing. Our team of three Wild Land Rangers and other conservation staff are out all year round recording the wildlife they see. The project has established baselines of habitat and species information that will allow comparison in future years. Our records centre now includes a digital mapping system, allowing us for the first time to digitally map key habitats on the properties.

Active engagement of members is supported through our work parties, and through the John Muir Award, which promotes biodiversity engagement and action across the UK. Communicating the message that we are all part of the amazing diversity of life, and managing our land for the benefit of biodiversity is an exciting challenge for the Trust. Look out for more details in 2010 about the ecological health of our properties and the final report on the Wild Land Project.

→ [www.jmt.org/wildland-project.asp](http://www.jmt.org/wildland-project.asp)

### Do one thing for the diversity of life

- Report your sightings of flora and fauna on Trust properties to our Biodiversity Officer, Liz Auty - [elizabeth@jmt.org](mailto:elizabeth@jmt.org)
  - Help improve habitats on conservation work parties (page 5)
  - Celebrate biodiversity and share your favourite wild place on YouTube (see page 3)
  - Donate to our Biodiversity Fund
- [www.jmt.org/thriving-landscapes.asp](http://www.jmt.org/thriving-landscapes.asp)
- International Year of Biodiversity
- [www.biodiversitylife.net](http://www.biodiversitylife.net)



### CALL FOR TRUSTEES

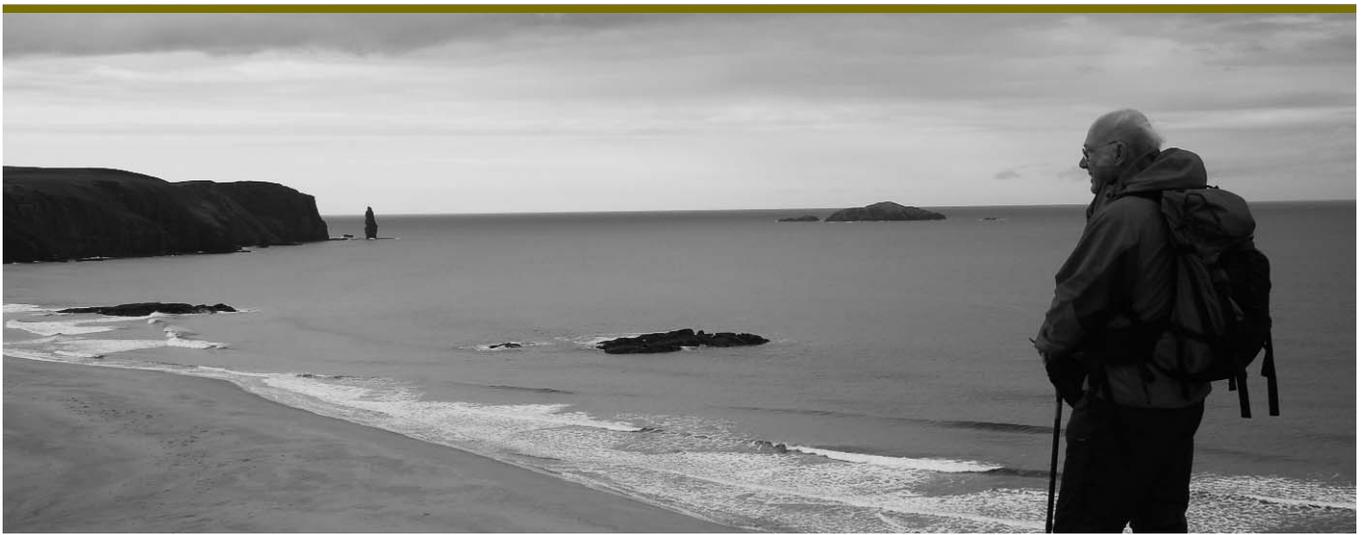
Nominations for new Trustees are being sought with a deadline of 5th March.

We have five positions to fill on our total board of fifteen. Some very experienced Trustees will leave the board at the AGM in May. We recently assessed the collective experience and skill base of Trustees and we would benefit from more experience in any of the following: financial and change management; marketing; fundraising; communications and public relations; outdoor learning and education; 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 and a three-year term commitment would give unique and valuable experience in taking our organisation forward. Members are urged to propose suitable candidates. A large number of members come from England and Wales, so it would be good if there could be greater representation from there on the board.

The board meets on a weekday, four or five times a year, usually in Pitlochry or Edinburgh with one weekend in the Highlands close to one of our estates. Nomination forms can be downloaded from our website, or obtained from the Pitlochry Office by calling 01796 470 080.

→ [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)



## ▮ The Chairman's view

At the end of October I visited Sandwood (above) and Cuinneag (Quinag) and had the opportunity to see first-hand the work carried out by our dedicated staff and partners. Cathel Morrison, Sandwood Estate Manager, and Sandy Maxwell, Conservation Activities Co-ordinator, are examples of the calibre of people that we rely on to represent the Trust and we are grateful for their dedication.

Wondering about the apparent anomaly of the name Sandwood I learned that its derivation is from the Norse, sand-vatn, 'sandy lake', which made immediate sense. This reminded me of a time in Iceland when I walked close to Myvatn, 'midge lake', which also made immediate sense, the Icelandic midges being much bigger than ours! Similarly, a knowledge of Gaelic place-names brings our geography alive and maps then confirm the topography. A few meetings ago your Trustees approved the outline of a Gaelic policy, which will ensure that we give the language its appropriate place in our publications as the Award does with Welsh.

**WE ALL TRAVEL THE MILKY WAY TOGETHER, TREES AND PEOPLE; BUT IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME UNTIL THIS STORM-DAY, WHILE SWINGING IN THE WIND, THAT TREES ARE TRAVELLERS, IN THE ORDINARY SENSE.**

JOHN MUIR

Being in Assynt reinforced the importance of working in partnerships and our last Journal focussed on Eigg and Knoydart, highlighting the work being done in those communities with which I am also privileged to be associated. In mid January Eigg will learn the outcome of the Big Green Challenge, a project that is very close to the Trust's approach on energy efficiency as a more tangible response to climate change.

Great things have been achieved by communities under the Land Reform movement; we have come a long way since 'The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil', in 1974. On 11 March I will be chairing a 'Community Buyout Debate' at the Glasgow Members' meeting, for which a very experienced panel is being assembled to debate problems and achievements. I also hope to visit other members' groups over the next year and look forward to learning of your planned activities.

Members and volunteers are the backbone of the Trust and the Trustees meeting in Assynt coincided with a life-members' visit to Cuinneag. It was beneficial for us to meet with them and hear their views; the goodwill towards the Trust that I encounter can be overwhelming.

At the time of writing we await the Government's decision on the Beauty-Denny line. Even at the eleventh hour we were very grateful for impact of the support of the Sierra Club in this, expressed in a letter from Richard Cellarius, International Vice President, who is also a life-member of our Trust.

This Members' News carries a call for volunteers to stand as Trustees and I encourage you to consider this. Our Trust has grown quite a bit over the years and now needs expertise and careful thought as we put together our strategy for the future.

Details of the AGM are also included and I hope that you will consider coming to Aviemore this year. I am receiving suggestions of venues in the North of England for our 2011 AGM and we will consider these shortly.

"Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile!"  
I wish you a Happy New Year!

## ▮ FOREVER WILD

At the end of last year the John Muir Trust launched our 'Forever Wild' legacy campaign. Whilst talking about legacies is not an easy subject to broach, we wanted to raise awareness of other ways of helping the John Muir Trust in our work of safeguarding wild land. Over the years the John Muir Trust has received a large number of gifts through Wills and we have always felt very moved that people trust us to keep the wild land and wild places they love safe for future generations.

In response to the 'Forever Wild' pack we have had numerous requests for further information on how to leave a Will and how to include a charitable gift within it. We have also been very pleased to have a large number of supporters and members get in touch to tell us that they have already named the John Muir Trust as a beneficiary in their Wills. Many thanks to everyone who has taken the time to contact us.

If you would like any further information on leaving a gift to a charity in your Will please contact Sara McCarter on 0131 554 0114 or [fundraising@jmt.org](mailto:fundraising@jmt.org)

PHOTOGRAPHER KEITH BRADIE



## Members' land days

Last year saw the first series of 'Land Days'. Throughout the year the Trust held days in which we welcomed our Life Members to come and visit John Muir Trust property, with a local ranger acting as a guide for the day. There was a huge variety in what took place, from a small group walking the Knoydart peninsula in early summer to our largest group being accompanied across a wind-swept Quinag at the end of October. The days were an opportunity to see how the John Muir Trust is acting to safeguard and manage our wild land and gave the chance for life members to see the results of this work first hand.

Thank you very much to all those who took part in the days, and also to those who took the time to feedback on their experience. The days were a great success for both our life members and also the Rangers who enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone.

"I had a great time – and I really hope you hold similar days in the future, as I would love to see some of the other John Muir Trust estates. I came away with a sense of gratitude that there are such dedicated John Muir Trust staff working on the Glen Nevis estate on our behalf".  
Life Member

### Now open to all members

We are very pleased to be able to open up these days to all members for next year, although places are limited so will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in joining the John Muir Trust on the land next year, please book your place with Sara McCarter on 0131 554 0114 or e-mail [fundraising@jmt.org](mailto:fundraising@jmt.org).

### Dates for 2010

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Schiehallion | Saturday<br>24th April    |
| Quinag       | Friday<br>21st May        |
| Skye         | Friday<br>11th June       |
| Quinag       | Saturday<br>4th September |
| Sandwood     | Monday<br>6th September   |
| Nevis        | Friday<br>24th September  |

### NEW JOHN MUIR AWARD CHANNELS ON YOUTUBE

Members can now view a showcase of Award participants' activity online on YouTube.

→ [www.youtube.com/JohnMuirAward](http://www.youtube.com/JohnMuirAward)

A channel has also been created to view and share a collection of films about favourite wild places. You can contribute too. Tell us about or show us your favourite wild place. Short and sweet is best. Contact [info@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:info@johnmuiraward.org). Watch its first video - 'Close Encounters':  
→ [www.youtube.com/myfavouritewildplace](http://www.youtube.com/myfavouritewildplace)



Top: Wild Land Ranger Don O'Driscoll guides group discussion, and above, finding fungi for identification while exploring the sheltered woodland gullies of the Quinag estate.

### FOR THE WET & WINDY WEST

Congratulations to Anna Welti from Ullapool, who won our Christmas prize draw for a North Face jacket worth £160, kindly gifted by Tiso.

"I'm delighted to have won", said Anna, "I spend a lot of time outdoors on wet and windy hillsides on the west coast looking for bronze age round houses, so a new jacket will be great!"

Four thousand members and supporters now receive our monthly e-message. Encourage your friends to sign up over the next six months by emailing [membership@jmt.org](mailto:membership@jmt.org) before 15 June 2010 and quoting "e-message whisky draw", and your membership number, and you will both be entered for our 2010 prize draw. Six bottles of whisky have been donated as a prize from the Scotch Whisky Experience in Edinburgh, home to the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky.

→ [www.tiso.com](http://www.tiso.com)

→ [www.scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk](http://www.scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk)

### TRUST MEMBERS RECRUIT CORPORATES

Two members have recruited Gold Corporate Members to the Trust. Active member Gordon Jackson met and inspired Highlander Chief Executive Baram Golzari to join while on a Shiehallion work party. Hamish Dunn, Brand Director for Mountain Equipment is also a Trust member and saw the value in his company putting something back to wild land. Our thanks to both members, and a warm welcome to both companies.

→ [www.highlander-outdoor.com](http://www.highlander-outdoor.com)

→ [www.mountain-equipment.co.uk](http://www.mountain-equipment.co.uk)

## Royal Geographical Society hosts London members

Livingstone's compass which guided him across Africa, Mallory's sun goggles retrieved from Everest, and Captain Scott's sketch plans for his fateful expedition to the South Pole, were just some of the treasures on display from the collections of the Royal Geographical Society for London Members in October.

Alasdair Macleod, Head of Collections at the RGS, treated the gathering to an inspiring special viewing in the Foyle Reading Room (pictured), and was equally inspired to join the Trust himself! Our thanks to Joanna Wells and all at the RGS for hosting the evening in such a historic building, which is undergoing a great transformation as the home of geography and geographical learning.

The gathering coincided with John Beatty (pictured) on his Wild Vision tour, which is still going strong with seven dates across the country in January & February 2010. We are grateful to Rohan, and Rebecca Varley and Andy Kirkpatrick from Speakers from the Edge for supporting the Trust throughout the tour.

For more details of the Royal Geographical Society

→ [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)

Wild Vision tour dates and venues

→ [www.wild-vision.com](http://www.wild-vision.com)



## MUNRO ROUND RECORD ATTEMPT

Keen fellrunner and Trust member Stephen Pyke has set himself the challenge of completing a continuous round of all the Munros early next summer. Hamish Brown was the first to climb all the Munros continuously when he completed the feat entirely on foot in the summer of 1974. Since then there have been a number of continuous rounds. The fastest round was set by Charlie Campbell who climbed all 284 Munros in just 48 days, 12 hours! Stephen's aim is to complete a round of the Munros under his own steam (on foot, cycling and paddling) averaging more than 25 miles and 10,000ft of climbing a day to see if he can challenge Charlie's incredible record.

The round is in the early stages of planning. As well as working out the best route, there is the huge logistical task of organising the vital back-up support needed to keep the attempt on track. Stephen will have the support of friends who will accompany him in the mountains or provide support from the roads and at overnight stops.

Working with the Trust, Stephen will be setting up a blog to provide further details and hopes to see some Trust members out on the hills in April and May. He is keen to promote the work of the Trust through his efforts and has set up a webpage for donations.

→ [www.justgiving.com/spykes-munro-round](http://www.justgiving.com/spykes-munro-round)



## RUNNING WILD

Our 2010 Virgin London Marathon places have all been filled in record time! George Hay, Fabien Lammoth, Kirsty Scott, and father and son team Patrick and Jack Gray are running to support the Trust. We wish them all the best of luck! Thank you to all the members keen to support the Trust through marathons and personal challenges. If you are interested in taking part in a challenge event to raise funds for the John Muir Trust, please contact Maggie Briggs, Membership Officer, on [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org).

To set up your own fundraising page for donations from a personal challenge or other event for the Trust, visit - [www.justgiving.com/jmt](http://www.justgiving.com/jmt)

## View from 2050 response

Chris Loynes, Senior Lecturer at the University of Cumbria, and Trust Member, comments here on the most recent John Muir Award Newsletter.

"Congratulations on your recent View from 2050 newsletter. I am currently undertaking a review of educational initiatives that are offered out of doors and address the question of environmental sustainability. This is part of a Sustainable Development Commission backed initiative 'Breakthroughs for the 21st Century' and is called 'Natural Values'. So far I have found a good deal taking place that aims to connect people with the natural world, a good and necessary first step. I have found much less that explores the connections between our lifestyles and values and the harm that is being done by us to nature. I expected to find users of the John Muir Award exploring this latter issue. So I was delighted to find more.

One of the issues that is surfacing in the review is the need for education for sustainability to extend beyond schools into the community and especially the adult population. We do not have time to sow seeds with young people and leave it to them to

sort things out. As a result adult education is imperative. So one aspect of the 2050 Newsletter I particularly liked is that it reaches out to John Muir Award leaders and John Muir Trust members as well as young people. It also sets a positive and optimistic note and addresses the need for values change as well as new technologies. It approaches the issue in an engaging variety of ways, encourages people to get involved and emphasises the social issues.

This has clearly impressed other people too. I have received it from a number of sources all recommending it and have found myself in debates with various people inspired by its content. My colleagues and I will be using the newsletter in our teaching at the School of Outdoor Studies. It is tremendous to see the John Muir Trust leading the way in this work with such vision and creativity. What next?!"

→ [www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/breakthroughs.html](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/breakthroughs.html)

The View from 2050 exercise will be concluded in February. Visit our website to view the newsletter and click on the 2050 button to browse contributions and ways to get involved.

→ [www.johnmuiraward.org](http://www.johnmuiraward.org)

## Great progress on Quinag path

As well as being one of Sutherland's finest peaks, Quinag is also one of its most accessible, and the impact of tens of thousands of boots over the years has taken its toll on some of the mountain's footpaths.

The Trust's approach to path work is always one of minimum intervention – our first priority is to protect the wild qualities of our properties, and we do not set out to create new paths or make access easier. Our low key approach focuses on the maintenance of existing drainage systems, and subtle use of traditional techniques to keep paths in good condition.

Sometimes, however, the visual scarring and damage to surrounding vegetation has reached such levels that more intensive work is needed. This was the case on Quinag, hence this autumn a team of local path trainees, under the supervision of our own Sandy Maxwell, could be found working in all weathers, repairing and rerouting a badly damaged 250 metre section of the main path.

Great care was taken to ensure that repairs were carried out as sensitively as possible. All work was done by hand, and the 80 tonnes of surfacing needed were helicoptered to the work site (pictured) to minimize damage to the surrounding terrain. The team, with invaluable help from the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust and trustee Bob Aitken, have done an excellent job, and deserve great credit for working in such challenging conditions.

High quality path work is labour intensive, and is never cheap. The Trust gratefully acknowledges the support provided for this project by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Browne Forbes Foundation.

The second phase of this project – putting in place an alternative route to the eroded track leading to the base of the Spidean Coinich ridge – is planned for the spring.

PHOTOGRAPHER: IAIN ROY



### FIRST CORROUR WORK PARTY

New for 2010 a conservation work party will take place on the Corrou Estate, which has had a relationship with the Trust since 2008. The post of the John Muir Trust Chief Scientific Officer, Mike Daniels is funded by a Trust set up by the owners of Corrou and he acts as a consultant advisor on the conservation management of the estate. Many of the aims of the estate concur with the vision that the John Muir Trust has for its own properties. This is an excellent opportunity to observe what they are doing (and get some Munro bagging in if that is your want!). We plan some work on the path from Lock Ossian to Rannoch and some woodland work, as well as cleaning up rubbish left by irresponsible wild campers at the head of Loch Treig.

See the table opposite for details

→ [www.corrou.co.uk](http://www.corrou.co.uk)

### 2010 conservation work parties

Another full year of conservation work parties are planned for 2010 for both John Muir Trust members and non members to learn about activity on our own and partners properties. Dates listed are the actual work days. More work parties are likely to be listed in the course of the year.



| Dates of work              | Location                        | Proposed activity   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 06-March                   | Schiehallion                    | Path maintenance  |
| 25-27 March                | Sandwood                        | Beach cleaning, path work and general activity                            |
| 2-6 April (Easter weekend) | Strathaird (Skye)               | Beach cleaning  |
| 6-13 April                 | Inverie (Knoydart)              | Rhododendron removing, knotweed eradication and beach cleaning            |
| 15-18 April                | Li & Corrie Dhorrcail           | Pathwork & fence removal  |
| 19-24 April                | Corrou                          | Pathwork, woodland & rubbish collection                                   |
| 25 April                   | Schiehallion                    | Path maintenance  |
| 30 April-3 May             | Quinag                          | Pathwork  |
| 8-9 May                    | Schiehallion                    | Path maintenance and repairs  |
| 15-16 May                  | Skye                            | General activities  |
| 28-31 May                  | Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart) | Pathwork & fence removal  |
| 31 May                     | Ben Nevis                       | Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns                      |
| 31 May-3 June              | North Harris & Galson (Lewis)   | Beach cleaning, pathwork and fence removal                                |
| 26 June                    | Ben Nevis                       | Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns                      |
| 16-18 July                 | Glen Nevis                      | Pathwork & fence removal  |
| 31 July-1 August           | Schiehallion                    | Path repairs  |
| 15 August                  | Ben Nevis                       | Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns                      |
| 26-28 August               | Sandwood                        | Pathwork  |
| 30 August-3 September      | North Harris                    | Gunnera eradication   |
| 10-13 September            | Strathaird (Skye)               | Rhoddie bashing, pathwork, woodland work, beach cleaning and general work |
| 25 September               | Ben Nevis                       | Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns                      |
| 9-10 October               | Schiehallion                    | Path maintenance and path repairs   |

The usual programme of activities will go on throughout the year with an extra visit to North Harris in August to help with a planned programme of Gunnera eradication. At Quinag volunteers will carry on the work done last autumn on repairing and improving the stalkers path.

For full details of all work parties (including any changes or additions), reports & pictures of previous years, and answers to frequently asked questions about what to expect - [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

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 email: [conservationactivities@jmt.org](mailto:conservationactivities@jmt.org)

# Classifieds

## For our members

### SELF-CATERING

#### 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

#### MORAY

Secluded, comfortable, well equipped Moray farmhouse (sleeps 8) available for rent year round. Excellent all year round walking. Availability - throughout 2010.

→ a.r.wallace@btinternet.com

#### 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.yrhfenelin-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

#### PERTSHIRE

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@btinternet.com  
→ 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  
→ alii@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

#### 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.highlandholiday  
lodge.co.uk

#### SUMMER ISLES, by Ullapool

Cottages on beautiful Isle of Tanera Mór. No roads or television; stunning scenery and wildlife. Boat hire, sailing school, residential courses, working holidays.

→ 01854 622 252.  
→ www.summer-isles.com

#### SUTHERLAND

Comfortable cottage on coast near Lochinver, Assynt (NC 053 264). Close to Quinag, Sulven 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

#### S-W LAKES

Remote cottage with stunning views; sleeps 2 to 6.

→ nicholassimpson@aol.com

#### 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

#### 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

### SERVICES

#### FINE HARPSICHORDS

spinets and virginals. Making since 1969. Also harpsichord hire. Repairs and restoration, spares. CD and brochure with our compliments. Robert Deegan Harpsichords, Lancaster.

→ 0152 460 186  
→ harpsichords@hotmail.com  
→ www.deeganharpsichords.com

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→ www.chester.ac.uk/  
flash.magazine

#### 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

Naturally reared, professionally jointed, vacuum packed, couriered fresh and freezer-ready. Available Dec-Feb, whole or half. Members' orders earn JMT £3. Iain & Jo Wilson, Invergusrain Farm, Knoydart, Mallaig PH41 4PL.

→ 01687 462 844  
→ calannaboard@knoydart.org

#### 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

#### ROB COLLISTER MOUNTAIN GUIDE

Six day introduction to alpine mountaineering and ecology of the Alps. 22- 29 August 2010, Bemese Oberland, Switzerland. Run by IFMGA Guide Rob Collister and Ecologist Dr Rod Gritten.

→ 01492 582 448  
→ rob.collister@btinternet.com.

## SCOTLAND'S WILD PLACES IN WATERCOLOUR

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

→ [www.paullynnpaintings.co.uk](http://www.paullynnpaintings.co.uk)  
and click on Gallery 3.

## SCOTTISH OUTDOOR

Photo prints. Loch Eil, Knoydart etc. Special offer – 2 prints mounted for £40 (reg. £35 each). Size 8x12 approx, mounted to 11.5x15 approx. Offer includes postage within UK.

→ [www.lawsidegraphics.co.uk](http://www.lawsidegraphics.co.uk).

## SHIFLIN BOBBINS CEILIDH DANCE BAND

For all events, central Scotland and beyond. We call and sing. Contact Helen Ross.

→ 01786 832 439  
→ [h.e.ross@stir.ac.uk](mailto:h.e.ross@stir.ac.uk)  
→ [www.shiflinbobbins.co.uk](http://www.shiflinbobbins.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](mailto:info@skyakadventures.com)  
→ [www.skyakadventures.com](http://www.skyakadventures.com)

## SKYE

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

→ 01471 822 209  
→ [snakesalive@skyeserpentarium.org.uk](mailto:snakesalive@skyeserpentarium.org.uk)  
→ [www.skyeserpentarium.org.uk](http://www.skyeserpentarium.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.

## 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](http://www.aberfeldywatermill.com)

## WILDERNESS

First aid training, Health and Safety first aid training. First aid supplies catering for remote/ lone/outdoor workers. National Navigation Awards training. 10% JMT discount.

→ 07881 427 507  
→ [www.rubiconfirstaid.com](http://www.rubiconfirstaid.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](mailto:welcome@anamcara.org)  
→ [www.anamcara.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paddy@blavenguiding.co.uk)  
→ [www.blavenguiding.co.uk](http://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](http://www.alpineexploratory.com)

### 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](mailto:info@skyakadventures.com)  
→ [www.skyakadventures.com](http://www.skyakadventures.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](mailto:info@vilayatours.com)  
→ [www.vilayatours.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:stevie@wildernessscotland.com)  
→ [www.wildernessscotland.com](http://www.wildernessscotland.com)

## HOTELS, B&B ETC

### ABOYNE

4-star one bedroom wing of country house set in 3 acres of wild garden overlooking Dee Valley, near Cairngorm National Park. Mrs J H Strachan, Doreway, Aboynie, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5BT.

→ 01339886232  
→ [Joanna@hubblebubble.org](mailto:Joanna@hubblebubble.org)  
→ [www.holidayfreedomscotland.com](http://www.holidayfreedomscotland.com)

### BALNAGUARD, PERTHSHIRE

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](http://www.balbeagan.com)

### BORROWDALE

Traditional Lake District walker's hotel. Hearty home cooking, open fire & cosy bar. Special rates available. Royal Oak Hotel, Rothwaite, Keswick CA12 5XB.

→ 01768 777 214  
→ [www.royalokhotel.co.uk](http://www.royalokhotel.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](mailto:liz@doune-knoydart.co.uk)  
→ [www.doune-knoydart.co.uk](http://www.doune-knoydart.co.uk)

### HIGHLAND PERTHSHIRE

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](http://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](mailto:gillian@staffahouse.co.uk)  
→ [www.staffahouse.co.uk](http://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.isteofskye.me.uk](http://www.isteofskye.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](mailto: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](mailto:tiralainn@btinternet.com)  
→ [www.visitskye.com](http://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](http://www.overscaig.com)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Wild Land Recruitment & Awareness Staff

The Trust is looking for keen outdoor enthusiasts to venture out from March to October to raise awareness on John Muir Trust lands at Ben Nevis, Schiehallion, Quinag, Sandwood and Skye; and at public locations throughout the Highlands. Part-time casual contracts. You will ideally live close to one of the above estates.

If you are confident in the outdoors, can inspire others about the work of the Trust and motivate them to join, contact: [recruit@jmt.org](mailto:recruit@jmt.org) / 0131 554 0114 for details or to apply by 15th February 2010.

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

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

## Forthcoming events

### Edinburgh Members Group

Sunday 21st February

Join us and help with tree planting on our partner's land at Carrifran Wild Wood.

We aim to run a visit, activity or talk once a month throughout 2010. For details visit [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org) or contact Iain Lee-Bapty 0131 315 4117 or Mary Inglis 0131 553 7967.

### Glasgow and West of Scotland Group

Thursday 11 March

"Community Buy-Outs - A Worthwhile Exchange?"

Come along to hear an objective assessment of the economic benefits derived and plans for future developments. Panelists include a representative from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Lukas Lehmann from the Isle of Ghiga and Dr George Callaghan from the Open University. John Hutchison, Chairman of John Muir Trust will chair the debate and afterwards there will be time for questions.

Thursday 22 April

The evening will start with our AGM followed by Vicky Jack and Anna Magnusson. Vicky was the first woman to climb the highest summits on all seven continents and Anna captured Vicky's fascinating experiences in the book "The Sky's the Limit".

Venue for both events: Caledonian University Cowcaddens Road George Moore Building Room M126 at 7.00pm

Admission free but donations to the Trust would be appreciated.

### London Members Group

Wednesday 17th February

Members in London and the South East are planning an exciting calendar of events for 2010, and are meeting for a social evening at the Caledonia Club to plan the year ahead. The group are planning to meet on a quarterly basis and we promise the chance to discuss the business of the John Muir Trust, the opportunity to influence the Trust's presence in London and the South East, and a pleasant social evening!

If you would like to be part of this opportunity to shape London Group activities please contact Sara McCarter on 0131 554 0114 or [fundraising@jmt.org](mailto:fundraising@jmt.org) by 30th January.

### Perthshire Members Group

Thursday 25th February

John Muir Trust Head of Land Management Andrew Campbell will be our first speaker for 2010, delivering a talk about the land management practices of the Trust. 7pm at Muthil Village Hall, off Willoughby Street PS5 2AB. In April we will learn more in the field with a guided walk on Shiehallion, and then join Shiehallion work parties. We will hold more events in venues around the County throughout the year. [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

## COME TOGETHER

We've received growing interest in local members' group activity across the country. If you're interested in running or attending talks or activities in any of the following areas, please contact the members listed directly:

Aberdeen - Ingrid Taylor - [ingrid974@hotmail.com](mailto:ingrid974@hotmail.com)

Stirling - Dick Clark - [dickk.clark@virgin.net](mailto:dickk.clark@virgin.net)

Cumbria - Sam Baumber - [recruit@jmt.org](mailto:recruit@jmt.org) - Meet at John Beatty's Wild Vision talk, the Brewery, Kendal, 3 March 2010

## NEW JOURNAL EDITOR

Our thanks to Mike Brown for his excellent editorship of the John Muir Trust Journal and Members' News since Autumn 2008. Mike has now moved on from this role and we are pleased to welcome Richard Rowe as Editor of the John Muir Trust Journal from Spring 2010. Please send items for consideration to [journal@jmt.org](mailto:journal@jmt.org)

## JOURNEYS IN THE WILDERNESS

A new John Muir Reader is being published, providing a rounded portrait of Muir, his inspirational life, and visionary writings in passionate defence of 'everything that is Wild'. Introduced by Graham White. Available now from [www.birlinn.co.uk](http://www.birlinn.co.uk) £12.99 ISBN: 9781841586977



## SOUTH OF BRITAIN GATHERING IN BRISTOL

Our largest gathering of members outside Scotland took place in Bristol in November. New Chief Executive Stuart Brooks led the bill of speakers with an overview of the Trust's position in 2009, and took the opportunity to hear the views of members on the future of the Trust. Dr. Mariano Devoto returned with results of his study of pollination and the restoration of ecosystems in the Caledonian pine forests of the Cairngorms. Scotland's watershed was then the subject of an enthusiastic account of the solo exploration of this 'Ribbon of Wildness' by Peter Wright MBE.

There is enthusiasm amongst members in the south to develop this gathering into a full weekend event including excursions in the wild places of the area. Local members Brian & Sue Pollard continue to do a great job coordinating this event on behalf of the Trust, and are preparing an interesting line up for 2010.

Diary Date: 6 & 7 November 2010 for the first 'full weekend' South of Britain Members Gathering, including Saturday excursions. More details to follow in the July mailing.

## 2010 AGM & MEMBERS' GATHERING

Join us for an exciting weekend of excursions in the Cairngorms National Park, with presentations and social events based at the Hilton, Coylumbridge, Aviemore, Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 May.

Book now via the enclosed form / online [www.jmt.org/2010AGM](http://www.jmt.org/2010AGM)



## NEXT EDITION

JOHN MUIR TRUST MEMBERS NEWS will next be published in July 2010. Please send news items to our membership team by 4 JUNE 2010.

e-mail: [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org) or post to: John Muir Trust, 41 Commercial St, Edinburgh, EH6 6JD

## Keep in touch

- Sign up to our monthly e-message, email - [membership@jmt.org](mailto:membership@jmt.org)
- Keep up to date on events and local activities online - [www.jmt.org/events.asp](http://www.jmt.org/events.asp)
- Join our discussion groups on Facebook / receive updates on Twitter - access via [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)
- You can also receive your Journal & Members News electronically - email [membership@jmt.org](mailto:membership@jmt.org)

The John Muir Trust Members' News is printed on Revive100 Uncoated which is a recycled grade paper, containing 100% post consumer waste and manufactured at a mill accredited with ISO 14001 environmental management standard. The pulp used in this product is bleached using an Elemental Chlorine Free process (ECF). We use a litho print process using vegetable-based inks, and a local printer, Woods of Perth, who have excellent environmental credentials. If you would rather receive your publications from the John Muir Trust electronically, simply email [membership@jmt.org](mailto:membership@jmt.org). Editor: Sam Baumber Design: Various Creative Print: Woods of Perth

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Front cover image: Bla Bheinn, Isle of Skye  
Photographer: Gordon Stainforth