

MEMBERS' NEWS

JANUARY 2011



JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES

Chairman's welcome

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr Dhuibh Uile! A good New Year to you all.

The John Muir Trust certainly had a good – and busy – 2010 having launched our new Vision, agreed the linked Strategic Plan, and committed to a five-year rolling budget to help support its implementation.

For my own part, I also spent time raising awareness of the Trust's work while holidaying in the US. While there, I again met with representatives of the Sierra Club as well as senior parties from both the Nature Conservancy and Wilderness Society – all much larger organisations than our own, but with whom we nevertheless share a common philosophy.

Back on home turf, our staff reorganisation is almost complete, although there have been some goodbyes, including Andrew Campbell, Head of Land Management, who has served the Trust with distinction for 13 years. We send him every good wish for the future. We are fortunate throughout the Trust to have very enthusiastic and effective staff and, in recognition of their valued contribution over the past year, I wish them all well for the New Year.

I would also like to record our appreciation of Sue Hopkinson and Bob Aitken who both stood down as Trustees during the year. Each has contributed greatly to our strategic direction over many years. Also on this page, you will see the annual call for Trustees. We are looking for five in total and would particularly encourage female members and those from England and Wales to come forward.

As many of you will know, 2011 has been designated as the European Year of Volunteering. According to the European Union website, almost 100 million citizens of all ages invest their time, talent and money to make a positive contribution to their community through volunteering.

Here at the Trust, we simply could not do without our cohort of regular volunteers who give of their time to us. These volunteers and the 20,000 plus John Muir Award participants who carry out conservation work each year make a very tangible difference and I would like to thank each and every one of them. If you would like to get involved in volunteering in 2011, turn to page five for a host of opportunities.

Turning now to our appeals over the past 12 months, our members and supporters have once again been overwhelming in their support. When we launched our Sandwood Footpath Appeal in June, we initially asked for £20,000, but you provided £48,000 – while the additional gift aid takes the amount to £58,748.

Thanks to your kind donations and the hard work of people on the ground, a long stretch of path leading down to the shore of Loch a' Mhuilinn has now been completely rebuilt, with much more to follow over the coming year. Likewise, support for the Wild Land Campaign appeal continues to gather momentum. More details on progress to date can be found on page two.

Over the past year, I was also very pleased to attend member meetings in Glasgow, London and Bristol and hope to join many more such get-togethers in 2011. Our main gathering, of course, will be the AGM in June when we move the event south to the Rheged Centre near Penrith, Cumbria. I very much hope to see you there – please book early.

And, as we enter 2011, it is worth considering some words from the man who continues to inspire everything that we do here at the Trust:

"Take a course in good water and air; and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, alone; no harm will befall you." John Muir

John Hutchison
Chairman



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PICKEN

CALL FOR TRUSTEES

Nominations are being sought for new Trustees, with a deadline of 28 February. We have five positions to fill on our total board of 15 and we especially encourage female members and those from England and Wales to step forward as we look to achieve the best possible overall balance.

Following further assessment of the collective experience and skills base of current Trustees, we would particularly benefit from more experience in the fields of education, farming and youth development. Members are urged to propose suitable candidates.

Of course, becoming a Trustee is a big step and involves a three-year-term commitment to helping move our organisation forward. The board meets four or five times a year, usually in Edinburgh or Pitlochry, with one weekend in the Highlands close to one of our estates. Nomination forms for Trustees can be downloaded from our website, or obtained from the Pitlochry office on 01796 470 080.

→ www.jmt.org

Strong response to Wild Land Campaign

Our Wild Land Campaign continues to gather pace as people sign up to help us achieve our goal of gaining adequate protection for wild land. Petition signatures have been collected at events around the country and now total more than 3,000 for the Scottish Parliament petition and slightly less for the UK petition.

In addition, we have also collected £15,000 from our ongoing Wild Land Campaign appeal – vital funds that will allow us to take exhibition stands at public events and defend wild land in key planning cases.

In this initial phase of the campaign, we have been 'setting out our stall' – launching our Vision, sharing findings from mapping wild land and talking to like-minded organisations about the urgent threats facing our landscapes. As a result, a UK Landscapes Campaign Group has been established and the Trust will be working with other groups to jointly highlight some of our major campaign issues. There will be an opportunity to hear from Friends of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales Society at the policy discussion at our AGM.

What is clear is that 2011 will be a crucial year for highlighting our message. With elections for the Scottish Parliament as well as some English unitary authorities, all of which have a strategic planning role, we have an excellent opportunity to highlight our concerns about the impact of badly-sited developments on wild places.

For the campaign to be a success, it is essential that our members also raise these issues with election candidates, preferably with a relevant local example. For guidance, please see our campaign webpage for sample letters that can be sent to electoral candidates or your local newspaper. And don't forget to encourage community councils to hold local election 'hustings' where candidates can be quizzed on how they plan to safeguard wild places for future generations to enjoy.

For more information, see www.jmt.org/wildland

Further questions on our Wild Land Campaign can be directed to Mel Nicoll, Campaigns Coordinator on **01796 484936**, or campaigns@jmt.org



PHOTOGRAPH: KETH BRANK



PHOTOGRAPH: LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

SHEILA BELL OF GLENLUDE



PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS MOLLISON

We are sad to report the death on 14 November of Sheila Bell, who gave Glenlud – a hill farm in the Tweed Valley – to the Trust in 2004.

Sheila (pictured above with Crispin Agnew and Nigel Hawkins at Glenlud in 2004) was born in Uganda in 1943, the youngest of three children of Beatrix and Sydney Laws. As a child she set her heart on flying. However, in her social background, career options for girls were very limited so she trained first as a secretary, working for UNICEF and East African Airways as she saved the money needed for flying lessons.

Qualifying in her mid-20s, she worked as a pilot flying all over Africa, even managing her own company, Coast Air. Marrying an agricultural consultant, she worked with him for a time as his pilot.

Sheila moved to England, after her marriage ended, to look after her father and found a new career as a computing specialist. Finally, after his death, she concentrated on a love she had always had, of nature. Intelligent and a perfectionist in all she did, Sheila set out to create her own reserve for wild land and wildlife, and to live on it in the most environmentally friendly way.

Sheila bought 400 acres of hilltop south of Innerleithen in the Scottish Borders, half of it covered in forestry plantation, and set out to convert it into natural woodland, meanwhile living in temporary accommodation on site while she designed her dream green home.

Although one of the most self-sufficient of people, she was both practical and thoughtful in helping others, whether family, friends or neighbours. Sadly, the hard life on her hill-top home took its toll on her health, though to the end she was indomitable and ambitious in her conservation work and plans.

But Sheila knew her project would take more than her own lifetime, so she approached the John Muir Trust to act as long-term guardians of Glenlud. In 2004, the Trustees accepted her generous gift under an agreement whereby she would continue to manage the property during her lifetime.

The warmth and inspiration Sheila showed was reflected in the ceremony of her funeral at Glenlud (pictured above), where she now lies buried in the place that she loved. We hope that the Trust can fulfil her vision for this wild hill.

With thanks to Denis Mollison

PLANNING UPDATE

The Trust is pleased that plans for a gold mine below Ben Lui in Glen Cononish (pictured left) were rejected by the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. We submitted a conditional objection to the plans because we were not satisfied by claims that tonnes of waste extracted from the mine would have no impact on the landscape.

We were joined by other groups, including the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, which shared our concerns about the potential impacts of the mine, including halting ice climbing on Beinn Udlaidh, and providing walkers on the West Highland Way with an industrial welcome to Strathfillan.

We welcomed the decision as confirmation that environmental issues have priority

within the National Park. However, at the time of going to press, the developer Scotgold Resources has lodged an appeal with the Scottish Government.

Elsewhere, the Trust has also taken the opportunity to review the amended planning application for the Viking wind development in Shetland. We are disappointed that despite strong arguments against the size, scale and environmental impact the development would have on the wild character of Shetland mainland, the developer has only reduced the proposal by 23 turbines.

We have significant concerns over planned construction of the remaining 127 turbines – some in areas of deep peat bog. As a result, the Trust has chosen to maintain its objection to the proposal, as have RSPB Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.



John Muir Award milestones

In November, a pupil from Ballater Primary School became the 10,000th person to achieve a John Muir Award in the Cairngorms National Park. Michael Mitchell (pictured) who is in Primary 7, was presented with his award by Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Minister for Environment, who commented: "Learning in the outdoors can make significant contributions to literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. The John Muir Award plays an important part in this by motivating people to get outdoors and make the most of their natural environment."

The John Muir Award is undertaken in many schools in the National Park, including Ballater Primary School, which was presented with its own special certificate to mark the occasion. Head Teacher Louise Duckworth said: "I am delighted both for Michael and the school to receive this award. It acknowledges the hard work by all involved – pupils, staff and parents. It also underpins not only the John Muir Award work undertaken in the school as part of our core curriculum but also our wider eco-school strategy."

Earlier in the year, two teenagers became the first people from the West Highlands to achieve the highest level of the John Muir Award. Donald Nixon, 16, from Dornie and Scott Kitson Jones, 17, from Plockton, were presented with their John Muir Conserver Awards by Trust Chairman John Hutchison at an event to recognise young people's commitment to wild places around Skye & Lochalsh.

Donald and Scott achieved their Awards through expeditions to the Cairngorms National Park and Knoydart, as well as working in partnership with the Forestry Commission at Balmacara and the John Muir Trust's Strathaird estate. Donald and Scott have also taken extra responsibility for helping lead others through the John Muir Award.

Hosted by Highland Council Youth Development Service, the event celebrated the achievements of 33 young people from or with connections to Skye and Lochalsh who all completed their John Muir Award through a variety of programmes based around the Torrinn Outdoor Centre.

PARTNERSHIP ROLES

Funding has now ended for our eight-year partnership with Cumbria Youth Alliance, which has hosted a John Muir Award Regional Manager (Graham Watson) and Inclusion Co-ordinator (Miranda Morgan) over that period. The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) will take on this partnership from April, integrating the John Muir Award into its Learning Service.

LDNPA will cover the costs for the Trust to employ Graham as Regional Manager for a year, at which point this hosting arrangement will be reviewed. Graham will adopt a part time 'holding role', employed by the Trust, from January to March. In the meantime, we continue to seek funding to restart the Inclusion role in 2011. For now, Miranda is part of the Award team managing our England activity for two days per week.

In other news, Amy Boud has completed a two-year contract with the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) to manage the John Muir Award, primarily as part of the YHA Do it 4 Real Summer Camps. YHA no longer has funding to employ a dedicated John Muir Award Manager, although management of our working relationship will be integral to a new national YHA Activity Manager post. This will create a staffing model with exciting potential to build on Amy's exemplary work and extend the reach of the Award within YHA.

Those of you who have had the pleasure of working alongside Graham, Miranda and Amy will know that they have all been terrific ambassadors for the John Muir Trust in these partnership roles.

FUNDRAISING THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who fundraised for the John Muir Trust in 2010. From car boot sales to mountain challenge events, our members and supporters raised more than £20,000 during the course of the year.

Some of the great challenges undertaken included Spyke's record-breaking Munro Round; Andrew Underdown's 1,200-mile trek from Cape Cornwall to Cape Wrath; Roger Marsden's 12-day cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats; and Kevin Beck and Stuart Welsh's 'Great UK Mountain and Cycling Challenge' (pictured below on Scafell Pike).

Clearly, imagination – in addition to stamina – is not in short supply when it comes to fundraising, with everything from sock exchanges to Wild Nature Diary recycling schemes undertaken to raise funds throughout the UK.

We would also like to thank Sue Hopkinson and all those involved in the Ullapool Gathering for their fundraising again

this year, while we are very grateful to corporate members Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival and Tiso which both ran raffles on our behalf in October.

Finally, the Trust would also particularly like to thank all the friends and families who fundraised in memory of their loved ones in 2010.

If you have an idea for raising funds in 2011, or would like to take part in a challenge event on behalf of the Trust, contact Maggie on 0131 554 0114, or promotions@jmt.org



PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN BECK/STUART WELSH

WIN A PAINTING FROM SKYE

Artist Shazia Mahmood has very kindly donated one of her recent paintings of a scene from the Isle of Skye for a raffle to help raise funds for the John Muir Trust. The painting, Loch Eishort from Drumfearn (pictured below, 40x100cm, RRP £1,580), is typical of the style of an artist for whom the West Coast of Scotland has become a regular source of inspiration.

If you would like to own this superb painting, raffle tickets are now available

from the Cambridge Contemporary Art Gallery. Tickets cost £5 each and the winner will be drawn on 30 April during the preview for Shazia's solo show at the gallery. The exhibition will run until 22 May. All proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will go to the John Muir Trust.

For further information, contact Cambridge Contemporary Art Gallery.

- 01223 324 222
- info@cambridgegallery.co.uk
- www.cambridgegallery.co.uk



Spotlight on biodiversity

As many of you will know, 2010 was designated as the United Nations (UN) International Year of Biodiversity – a global effort to bring nature conservation issues to a wider audience.

In the UK, the message about the value of biodiversity was delivered by more than 450 organisations, including the Trust. Unfortunately – although perhaps unsurprisingly – the UN's wider target for halting biodiversity loss was not met, though there were some notable achievements including a proposed new Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Meanwhile, in October, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity partners met in Nagoya, Japan to determine the next steps for biodiversity conservation globally. These are summarised in the resulting Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 which essentially produced more targets to be developed at a European and country level in an attempt to halt biodiversity loss.

At the forefront of current thinking is conservation at the ecosystem and landscape level – something that the Trust has advocated for some time. Such an approach recognises that healthy ecosystems are vital for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and also provide goods and services that benefit people.

These so-called 'ecosystem services' can be grouped into four categories: provisioning, such as the production of energy and food; regulating, such as carbon sequestration; supporting, such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination; and cultural, such as inspiration and recreation.

Individual countries in the UK are now formulating their response to the new UN targets and exploring how they can be implemented at the national level.

As a landowner that focusses on landscape-scale management, the Trust is well positioned to contribute to new targets for healthy ecosystems and will continue to work hard to that end.

For much more on the Trust's work in this area, visit www.jmt.org/biodiversity.asp

MEMBERS' LAND DAYS

We are delighted to announce the dates for our Members' Land Days in 2011. These days are a fantastic opportunity to see the Trust's work at first-hand as well as enjoy the scenery found in some of Scotland's most stunning and remote wild land. All the days are guided by a local ranger who is on hand to explain points of interest and answer questions about what the Trust is doing in the area.

2011 dates

Schiehallion

Monday, 11 April

Sandwood

Sunday, 22 May

Quinag

Monday, 23 May

Li and Coire Dhorrcail

Saturday, 11 June (£50 per person)

Schiehallion

Sunday, 16 October

Glen Nevis

Monday, 17 October

With the exception of Li and Coire Dhorrcail (which includes a boat trip) the days are free to members, and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Members are welcome to book more than one day, for example combining Schiehallion with Glen Nevis. To book or for more information, contact Sara on 0131 554 0114, or sara.mccarter@jmt.org



PHOTOGRAPH: KEITH BRAMB



PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD KOWALEWSEN STAUDEN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome feedback on items appearing in Trust publications and will publish a highlight of correspondence received. Here, two members comment on our coverage of the Cape Wrath Challenge in the July 2010 edition of Members' News

Dear Sir

Thank you for the latest members' newsletter and some interesting articles – especially Spyke's record run. However the phrase *shaving [off]* nine days seems inappropriate. It should be more like shattered!

There are also other words which could be better used. *Breathtaking* is a bit over-the-top – we all know what wonderful scenery there is in the UK, especially in Scotland. When the summit of a mountain or a cliff top is reached, we are usually so out of breath that we rarely appreciate the view.

I'm not sure that I like the idea of a regular marathon to Cape Wrath. I've walked there a couple of times and I think it's better to leave the area wild.

Regards
Roger Legg, Bromley, Kent

Dear Sir

Spyke's achievement on the Munros was truly amazing, but am I alone in being a bit uneasy at the Trust promoting this sort of activity? There is inevitably a flavour of conquering the mountains and we are surely looking to nurture a non-dominant view of our relationship with the wild.

The last newsletter also had a plug for the Cape Wrath Challenge and appeared not to notice the irony of mentioning "the kind of tranquillity that can only be found in such remote areas". Not on that day I fear. Meanwhile our Chairman mentioned the problems of charity events on Ben Nevis and our effort to reduce human impact. Somewhat mixed messages, it seems.

I'm not suggesting we should obstruct those who want to test themselves in wild country, but I doubt we should be publicising and implicitly encouraging these activities. Nor should we be guiled by the fundraising – the same effort directed differently might raise just as much if not more, without the 'beating nature' connotations or the extra motoring that these events tend to involve. Indeed, I feel we should be true to our principles and refuse any funds raised by such means.

Regards
Bill Ball, Nettleham, Lincs

Correspondence should be sent for the editor's attention at journal@jmt.org

We also encourage members to participate in further discussion on Facebook and Twitter – access via www.jmt.org

Busy year for conservation work parties

With a total of 135 people donating more than 600 days of volunteering, 2010 was another outstanding year for conservation work parties. In all we ran 21 work parties that included for the first time a very productive week on one of our partner's properties, the Corrou Estate.

Familiar tasks and locations were not forgotten, however, with more than 500 bin bags of rubbish removed from 10 beaches – including a massive push at Camasunary on Skye that resulted in a letter of congratulations from Prince Charles!

Elsewhere, fences were repaired and one very significant milestone was reached when volunteers removed around 600 metres of deer fence erected following our purchase of Li & Coire Dhorrcail in the 1980s. Happily, the trees there are now tall enough to fend for themselves without the need for fencing.

Work parties are free, open to all and a great opportunity to learn about the conservation management of our own and partners' properties. The following account of participating in a work party at Sandwood by Trust member Gill Allen provides a flavour of what to expect:

"I had travelled from urban south London, almost the diagonal length of Britain, to join a diverse group of volunteers at Sandwood Bay for my first John Muir Trust work party. In a way, I had already been to the area. Growing up in Australia in the 1970s, I remember listening to the clipped tones of the Shipping Forecast on the BBC's Home Service around the time when my English mother would listen to the Goon Show. Having heard the names of end-of-the-world places such as 'Cape Wrath', little did I know that some 40 years later I would be helping repair a stretch of footpath near the same faraway place.

As a group, we observed where water had formed into pools fed by the myriad of mini-estuaries that trickled from the peatlands, leading walkers to deviate from the path and inadvertently add to its erosion. I became an engineer, digging channels to help with drainage and transplanting blocks of

heather and stone to recreate a natural boundary to guide walkers into staying within the confines of the path.

After two days, we had progressed ever closer to what many of us had come to see, and our Trust mentor Sandy Maxwell announced it was time to head to the beach itself. After walking another mile in the mist, we gazed awestruck at Sandwood Bay. We took lunch sitting on huge dunes of delicate, pink-white sand, collectively silenced by the beauty and wildness of the place.

In the fading light, our final gesture as temporary guardians: a beach sweep which saw a seemingly forensic clean-up of mostly plastic, multi-national flotsam and jetsam. For me, it was a 2010 version of the Shipping Forecast. We had in some ways played our part in its presence, so it was therapeutic to also play a part in its removal."



AUTUMN PATH WORK UPDATE

Following our efforts the previous autumn, we headed back to Quinag in October to continue with path work – again with consultant Chris Goodman and staff from the Culag Community Woodland Trust.

This year, we successfully completed three projects: constructing 100 metres of new path linking the slab route from the stalkers' path to the shoulder of Spidean Choinich; the start of high-level work on the path up Sail Gharbh; and construction of new water bars on the lower sections of the stalkers' path.

The team then moved on for a further three weeks to tackle one of the worst sections of the Sandwood track – a 275-metre stretch of path down to Loch a' Mhuilinn. Previous attempts to confine the path had failed, with the result that the peat on either side had worn away, leaving the path to sprawl up to a width of five metres in places.

We created new drainage, added more than 200 metres of ditching and constructed a new path, just 1.5 metres wide, using a base of broken stone covered with locally excavated surfacing material. We also placed stepping stones at the burn where the path meets the loch, while the whole area was extensively landscaped to help blend the track into its setting.

Funding for both pieces of work came from Scottish National Heritage, the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, the Brown Forbes Foundation and you, our members.

2011 CONSERVATION WORK PARTIES

The following is a draft list of work parties planned for 2011. There may yet be some changes so do keep an eye on www.jmt.org, or contact Sandy Maxwell on 0141 576 6663, conservationactivities@jmt.org, Top Right, 69 Hyndland Street, Glasgow G11 5PS

Dates of work	Location	Proposed activity
27 March	E Schiehallion	Path maintenance
5 – 10 April	Inverie (Knoydart)	Rhododendron control, beach cleaning & wood carving
15 – 18 April	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Fence removal, path works & beach cleaning (walk in & wild camping required)
21 – 23 April	Sandwood	Path landscaping, marram grass transplanting & beach cleaning
24 April	Quinag	Path maintenance
29 April – 2 May	E Schiehallion	Path works and fence maintenance
6 – 9 May	Strathaird (Skye)	Woodland, beach cleaning and general tasks
27 – 30 May	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Fence removal, path works & beach cleaning (walk in & wild camping required)
6 – 11 June	North Harris & Galson (Lewis)	Beach cleaning, path maintenance & general tasks
20 – 25 June	Corrou	Woodland and path work
26 June	Ben Nevis	Summit litter clean and cairn removal
2 July	E Schiehallion	Path maintenance
8 – 11 July	Quinag	High level path works (weather permitting)
15 – 18 July	Glen Nevis	Fence removal, path works and water vole survey (weather permitting)
25 – 30 July	North Harris & Galson (Lewis)	Gunnera eradication, beach cleaning and general tasks
5 – 8 August	Strathaird (Skye)	Woodland, beach cleaning and general tasks
11 – 13 August	Sandwood	Pathwork, beach cleaning & general tasks
20 August	E Schiehallion	Path maintenance
27 August	Ben Nevis	Summit litter clean and cairn removal
9 – 12 September	Strathaird (Skye)	Woodland, beach cleaning and general tasks
24 September	Ben Nevis	Summit litter clean and cairn removal
1 October	E Schiehallion	Path & fence maintenance

Classifieds For our members

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

ACCOMMODATION

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, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5BT.

- 01339 886232
- joanna@hubblebubble.org
- www.holidayfreedomscotland.com

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 540209/07929485324
- bothbarrels69@hotmail.co.uk

APPLECROSS

Airdanar Cottage. Croft cottage sleeps 4. Situated on the coast overlooking Skye, Raasay and Rona.

- 01520 744 320
- www.applecross-coast.co.uk

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

ARDNAMURCHAN

Croft by the shore of Loch Shiel. Comfy s/c cottage, sleeps 6, secluded & unspoilt location, mature garden. Excellent views, walking, beaches, rich in wildlife. £250 to £350 pw.

- 0131 557 2657
- www.dalileacroft.co.uk

ARRAN

Millhouse at Pirnmill. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4, 3 bedrooms, 3*. Spacious accommodation with spectacular views and secluded garden. £310-400 pw; 10% John Muir Trust discount.

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

ARRAN, Whiting Bay

Comfortable cottage with large secluded garden and amazing views. Handy for golf course and walking. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4-6. £315-450 pw. Contact Heather Alexander.

- 0141 636 0542
- heather.alexander@btinternet.com

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.cathairdhubb.co.uk

AVIEMORE

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

- 01738 550 412
- george.henderson@mdg ltd.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

Traditional croft, 1000ft up on the Braes of Abernethy. Spectacular views overlooking Abernethy forest and the Cairngorms. Walk or bike from doorstep, bird-watching, peace and quiet. Well-equipped, comfortable, woodburning stove. Sleeps 5.

- 01479 810 214

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% to John Muir Trust. 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. Contact Jean Mills.

- 01859 540 319

GLENELG

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

- 02089 463 319
- Robinsonrobt@aol.com

GLENRINNES, DUFFTOWN

The Smithy Croft Self-Catering, sleeps 2-6 people. Situated below Ben Rinnes, near The Speyside Way, The Cairngorms, Grampians and on the Whisky Trail.

- 01466 793 768
- www.thesmithycroft.co.uk

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

ISLE OF SKYE

Bed & Breakfast, Mrs Nancy Wightman, Inveralavaig, Penifiler, by Portree IV51 9NG. East shore of Loch Portree NG 488423.

- 01478 612 322
- www.isleofskye.me.uk

LAKES

Lonscale s/c hostel, detached, stone-built, at Threlkeld on slopes of Blencathra. Excellent base for groups. Sleeps 22, c/h, common room, drying room, showers, toilets, kitchen, 9 bedrooms (2 en-suite). Contact Janet Elliott.

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

LOCHAVICH, ARGYLL

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- maolachy@firenet.uk.net

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PERTSHIRE

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

LOCH KATRINE, STRONACHLACHAR

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

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

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

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- 01680 300 555
- info@argyll-house.co.uk
- www.argyll-house.co.uk

NEWTONMORE

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- 0131 336 3466
- www.balvatincottages.com

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- 01604 813505
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- Eileen - 0131 447 9911
- www.trinityfactors.co.uk/holiday/holiday.php

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- 0131 553 1911
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Charming s/c cottage, a minute's walk from Loch Earn. Sleeps 6, woodburning stove. Beautiful mature garden in peaceful location, heating/linen included. Excellent walking, watersports, rich wildlife. Great central location for exploring the Highlands. Price from £200pw.

- mail@paulinecameron.co.uk

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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.net
→ www.seasidecroft.co.uk

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

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

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% to John Muir Trust.

→ 01344 845 395 evenings

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

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Double & family en-suite and single en suite. £37.50 pp/pn. 4-course evening meal (£27.50) by arrangement. Ron & Pam Davison, Tir Alann, 1/2 of 8 Upper Breakish, Skye IV42 8PY.

→ 01471 822 366
→ tiralainn@btinternet.com
→ www.visitskye.com

SUTHERLAND

Comfortable cottage on coast near Lochinver, Assynt (NC 053 264). Close to Quinag, Suliven and other fine hills. Local walks and unspoilt sandy beaches. Sleeps 5. £240-400 pw.

→ 0131 665 2055
→ jennymollison@yahoo.co.uk

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→ 01571 855 360
→ www.achardholidaylets.co.uk

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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

SOUTH-WEST LAKES

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→ nicholassimpson@aol.com

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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:

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→ calannaboat@knoydart.org

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→ 01360 550537
→ annechambers730@
btinternet.com

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,
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→ www.lawsidegraphics.co.uk

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→ 01786 832 439
→ h.e.ross@stir.ac.uk
→ www.shiftinbobbins.co.uk

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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

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. Contact Adrian Thornton:

→ 01865 880359
→ www.cnp.org.uk

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

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→ 07881 427 507
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→ welcome@anamcara.org
→ www.anamcara.org

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A health and activity provider offering yoga, mountaineering and massage near Grantown-on-Spey. Silver Green Tourism Scheme, supporters of 'Leave No Trace'. Contact Patrick or Abby Harrison.

→ 01807 510 242
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→ 01997 414 376
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→ 0131 625 6635
→ stevie@wildernessscotland.com
→ www.wildernessscotland.com

Any additions and amendments for the John Muir Trust Members' Classifieds Online should be submitted by 30 May 2011 to allow for inclusion in the July Members' News and the online update in June. For any urgent changes, please contact Maggie on 0131 554 0114 or email promotions@jmt.org.

Forthcoming events

Local Members' Groups

If you would like more information about Local Members' Groups in your area, contact Maggie Briggs, Membership Officer on 0131 554 0114, or promotions@jmt.org

Aberdeen

Work party, Saturday, 19 February

Join the newly-reformed Northeast Scotland Members' Group work party at Glen Tanar for winter footpath maintenance. Contact James Brownhill on 01224 897273, or james@brownhill.us

Members' Forum, Thursday, 24 February, The Sportsman's Club, Aberdeen

An opportunity to meet with the Trust's Chief Executive Stuart Brooks followed by 'Around the Highlands in 40 Days', a talk by Munro Round record-breaker Stephen Pyke. For tickets (£4.00 each), contact Rohan Beyts on 01358 711750, 07887637058, or r.beyts@btinternet.com

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Members' Group is organising its schedule of events for 2011. If you would like to know more about the events or get involved with the group, contact Ian Lee-Bapty on bappers@supanet.com

Glasgow

Local Group AGM and Talk, Thursday, 14 April, Partick Burgh Hall

Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive of the John Muir Trust, will give a talk on a topic to be confirmed. The AGM of the group will then follow. For further information, contact Moya Taylor on moyamtaylor@aol.com

London

If you would like to hear about Local Members' Groups in the urban wilderness, contact Sara McCarter on 0131 554 0114, or sara.mccarter@jmt.org

Coming to an area near you

Local Members' Groups are forming all over the UK! If you'd like to know more about groups in the Scottish Borders, Cumbria and Southwest England, visit www.jmt.org/local-member-groups.asp

Also make sure that you're signed up to receive e-mail broadcasts, including all the latest Local Members' Group event news, by emailing membership@jmt.org

Members' Groups Events

Our members held three large gatherings in 2010. In Ullapool, Sue Hopkinson organised a well attended dinner and talk by Hamish Brown; in London, John Hutchison gave a talk about Ben Nevis to over 70 members; and Brian and Sue Pollard organised another successful Southern Members' Gathering in Bristol in October. For more member info, visit www.jmt.org/participate.asp

NON-TRUST EVENTS

Fort William

Fort William Mountain Festival, 11-15 February

The John Muir Trust will again have a presence at this excellent festival, including running our children's Wild Poetry Competition. www.mountainfilmfestival.co.uk

LOOK OUT FOR OUR FACEBOOK GIVEAWAYS

There is now more reason than ever to follow the Trust on Facebook. On a chosen Thursday every month we will give away a fantastic prize to one lucky winner. We'll advertise the competition on the Facebook page the day before. All you have to do is sign up to the page and guess the answer to our question between 10am and 4pm on the day. Previous questions have included the number of bags of litter cleared from wild beaches and the number of species recorded on our properties through the Wild Land project.

Our next giveaway, with the chance to win a John Muir Trust T-Shirt, will start at 10am on Thursday 13 January and close at 4pm the same day.

→ www.facebook.com/johnmuirtrust

NEW BORDERS MEMBERS' GROUP UNDERWAY

The first meeting of the John Muir Trust's Borders Group took place in Galashiels on 10 November. The Group was delighted to welcome Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive, to set the scene with a stimulating and wide-ranging talk on the Trust's Vision and its implications.

A lively discussion followed on wild land mapping and why the Borders, along with the southwest, receives less recognition than it merits; the growing damage to the landscape from the open season on wind farm developments; and the need to support the economies of local communities living near wild land.

This was a great start with 13 members attending – almost half of the Borders members who expressed support for establishing a Group. The next meeting, the date for which has yet to be confirmed, will focus on identifying and protecting wild land and the implications of the draft Borders supplementary planning guidance on wind energy. Suggestions for possible topics for future meetings are very welcome.

For further information, contact John Thomas, j.p.r.t@btinternet.com, or Fiona Mackintosh, JMT Membership, recruit@jmt.org

EDINBURGH MEMBERS' GROUP

On 31 October, the Edinburgh Members' Group took part in the monthly volunteering day at Carrifran Wildwood in the Borders. It was a beautiful autumn day and the Carrifran Valley looked absolutely stunning. Ten volunteers were led for the day by Philip Ashmole, planting a mix of hazel, birch and oak. It was estimated that the group planted well over 200 trees.



PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON BROOKE

NEXT EDITION

The next issue of Members' News will be published in July. News items and letters should be sent to the editor by 3 June. Contact journal@jmt.org or post to: John Muir Trust, 41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD

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- Sign up to our monthly e-message, email – membership@jmt.org
- 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