



JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES

E-MESSAGE PRIZEWINNER ANNOUNCED



Felicity Norman (above), a keen caver and hill walker from Hertfordshire, is one of 750 members who have signed up for our monthly e-message since February. Now she has won a £500 sea kayaking course in our prize draw.

"I was thrilled and surprised because I never win anything!" said Felicity. "My friend is so jealous because she was already a member and had convinced me to join the Trust!"

Polly McClure from Wilderness Scotland said: "Our congratulations to Felicity. We look forward to welcoming her on to our award-winning Introduction to Sea Kayaking course."

Monthly e-messages keep you up to date on Trust activities across the UK. Sign up before 1 December 2009 and you could win outdoor equipment from Tiso in a Christmas draw.

If you already receive the e-messages, get a friend to join and quote your membership number when signing up and you can join the draw too. Simply e-mail membership@jmt.org

Members' views wanted on footpath policy

The John Muir Trust is preparing a footpath policy and is inviting members to contribute their views. Any policy will have to address the contrasting goals of enabling people to access wild places while protecting the wild nature of the place.

Although the Trust does not yet have a specific footpath policy, there are numerous references to paths within existing plans and statements. For example the Quinag Plan, in referring to paths, speaks of "minimising their visual intrusion into the landscape".

The Declaration for the Wild published by the Trust in 2004 says: "The core recreational values of wild land relate to a sense of mental and physical well-being, especially the spiritual values of tranquillity, solitude and freedom. Therefore, access for visitors to unenclosed land is not promoted or facilitated, but informal access is open to all who out of their natural inclination wish to visit for quiet recreation or study, subject only to minimised, explained limitations to safeguard conservation interests or for essential management."

In the Wildland Policy - Access section 6.8, the Trust states that "Whilst always remaining freely and openly available, wild land should not be 'tamed' by way-markers or by path improvements that serve only to speed up access. There is a need for self-reliance in wild land which should be accepted on its own terms. The sensitive, low-key maintenance of existing paths can prevent excessive wear and erosion of surrounding habitats and minimise visual intrusion. The Trust does

not advocate the construction of new paths in or into wild land."

On buying each of its properties the Trust has inherited responsibility for paths. Sometimes, as in the case of Schiehallion, this meant addressing major erosion problems. In others, such as Ben Nevis, the Trust has had to work with a number of other landowners and agencies. It is never suggested that visitors to an estate should restrict themselves to paths although in some locations most visitors do so of their own accord.

Maintenance of the paths has been undertaken by the combined efforts of staff, contractors and volunteer work parties and has included constructing diversions around eroded ground, renewing old paths, or simple pre-emptive repair and maintenance.

As was evident at the footpath discussion session at this year's AGM in Birnam, our members hold a wide range of views on the issue, ranging from those who would like to see clearer signage to those who would welcome the elimination of constructed paths from wild land. If you would like to share your views on a footpath policy, contact Andrew Campbell, Head of Land Management, by e-mail at landmanagement@jmt.org or by writing to him at the Pitlochry address on page 8.

The Chairman's view



Jamie Grant

Last month I was privileged to meet Jean Balfour, one of our original Trustees from 1984, when 29 former and present Trustees met for dinner at the Scottish Parliament on 14 August. Former Trustee Larry Downing, an ex-President of the Sierra Club who played a pivotal role in our early years, addressed us that evening and Denis Mollison paid tribute to Trustees who have passed on.

This gathering reminded me of two things: first, the debt and responsibility that we owe to our forebears and, second, with the event being held beside Holyrood Park where I played as a boy, the importance of wild places in towns and cities.

The park was still known as the 'King's Park' (or 'the Kingie') when I was a boy, even though a new Queen had just arrived, and this was where we played games, sledged in the winter and slid down the hills on cardboard in the summer! We also explored there, building confidence, imagining we were far afield and I had experiences that would remain with me for many years. Later I graduated to organising expeditions to

the Pentlands, the Borders, the Highlands and Islands, the Alps and elsewhere.

Many of our members will have travelled on a similar journey to mine and that is why we need to recognise the importance of wild places as well as wild land, in the personal journeys followed by young people today.

Over 3000 participants carried out their Conserve challenge across the UK in April and May and we have just received an audit of that activity. This demonstrated that the Conserve challenge of the John Muir Award is a 'substantial and integrated part' of the experience of the participants. The Award is the strongest element of our remit to educate and plays a large part in encouraging our future active conservationists, whether they will be campaigners, practical project workers, scientists, artists or writers.

Although only 25 years ago, the environmental world in which our early Trustees worked was quite different from the fast-changing world of today, which is why we need to regularly update our Vision. In conjunction with the Chief Executive and staff, Trustees are working at refreshing our Vision and this, together with the Strategic Review, will be important matters for the next AGM in Aviemore on 8 and 9 May. Trustees have discussed the advantages of holding an AGM in northern England and our plan is to do so in 2010. I am keen to hear views on this, with suggestions for suitable venues.

John Hutchison

I HAD NOT REACHED THE MOST DIFFICULT PORTION OF THE CANYON, BUT I DETERMINED TO GUIDE MY HUMBLED BODY OVER THE MOST NERVE-TRYING PLACES I COULD FIND; FOR I WAS NOW AWAKE, AND FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE LAST OF THE TOWN FOG HAD BEEN SHAKEN FROM BOTH HEAD AND FEET.

JOHN MUIR

TRUSTEES' DINNER



A dinner for past and present Trustees was held at the Scottish Parliament in August, hosted by Jim Hume MSP, Liberal Democrat environment spokesman, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first meeting of Trustees. The dinner was organised by Denis Mollison with help from Maude Tiso and Nigel Hawkins. Most of the 29 past and present Trustees who attended are pictured on the stairway in the Parliament building.



Denis Mollison

Dr Jean Balfour in conversation with former chief executive, Nigel Hawkins. Dr Balfour was the only Trustee present who had attended the first meeting in April 1984.

Members and the international environment

The next edition of the John Muir Trust Journal will have an international theme, looking at the work of the Trust and its members in the global context. Many Trust members are involved in environmental concerns at the international level and we would be interested to hear from them. Some 300 members live overseas and we would particularly welcome news from them of environmental campaigns and projects in which they are involved.

Please do not, in your enthusiasm, rush to produce full-scale articles at this stage since space will be limited but please do contact the Journal editor, Mike Brown, at journal@jmt.org with an indication of your area of interest. We hope to feature some of these in the spring 2010 edition of the Journal and also provide a resumé of activity in a future Members' News.

Becoming a Trustee in 2010

In the next Members' News we will be calling for candidates to fill Trustee vacancies in 2010. Trustees play a vital role in the work of the John Muir Trust. Becoming a Trustee is an important step but the three-year appointment gives unique and valuable experience in taking our organisation forward. The Board meets five times a year, on a week day, as well as holding one weekend close to one of our estates.

Members are encouraged to offer their services as a Trustee or to identify potential candidates among fellow members. Full details of the application process will be published in the winter edition of Members' News.

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED TO CATALOGUE IRVINE'S BEQUEST



One of the images from Irvine Butterfield's collection: Hoodoos (tall stacks of sedimentary rock capped with harder stone) in Monument Valley, Arizona.

When Irvine Butterfield, a life-long supporter of the Trust, died earlier this year, he left his collection of photographs taken in North America to the Trust.

The images capture the wide range of natural heritage across the continent - from the snowy peaks of Vancouver to the stunning Monument Valley. The Trust is looking for a volunteer to catalogue the slides. If you are interested in helping to organise Irvine's collection, contact the Communications team in Pitlochry on 01796 484 936, or e-mail rory@jmt.org

Glen Nevis star site for night-sky gazing

The area around Glen Nevis Visitor Centre is one of two locations in Scotland named as Dark Sky Discovery Sites, the first such designations in the world. The identification of the sites marks 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy.

The two sites, the second is at Newbattle Abbey College in Dalkeith, are relatively free from light pollution and tall buildings and relatively easy to access. The Glen Nevis site was named following a winter of community astronomy activities led by the John Muir Trust, Highland Council rangers and the Forestry Commission.

"Many people visit Glen Nevis from developed areas with lots of light pollution and are often amazed to see shooting stars, the Milky Way and entire constellations at night in Scotland's wilder places," says Alison Austin, the Trust's Nevis Conservation Officer who worked on the winter programme of events.

Stamp collectors wanted

It's not philatelists that the Trust is looking out for but anyone willing to collect used stamps to help with our fund raising. These are sold by the kilo but we do need to have a bin-bag sized stash to take to the dealer. Foreign and more unusual stamps attract more money.

Please send your used stamps (left on their backing paper, with a border of about 4mm to 8mm left around the stamp) to Linda Coupar at the Pitlochry office (address on the back page).

Finding your way in Gaelic

With a basic grasp of the Gaelic language, the Scottish landscape can really come alive. A Gaelic awareness course, organised by The Nevis Partnership and run by Ruairidh MacIleathain, proved an effective way of stripping down the puzzling Gaelic (and anglicised) names commonly encountered when enjoying the outdoor environment.

The first day was an introduction to Gaelic; its everyday greetings, the language and its cultural existence. The second day allowed for a deeper understanding and awareness of the true meanings of hill names and other notable places that have a tale to tell within the Scottish landscape.

For anyone with an interest in the history or identity of a peak, burn or similar feature then this course is a good starting point. The likes of 'Spidean Mialach' becomes the 'Lousy Pinnacle' and 'Stob a' Choire Odhair' (Knoydart) translates as 'Peak of the Dun Coloured Coire', providing an insightful and rather more animate glimpse into the history behind the name of a place. If it is enticing to know a hill as 'the milk pail' (Chuinneag) then a whistle stop tour of the Gaelic language could be the key.

Sarah Lewis, Nevis Conservation Officer

Bilingual Wildlife Dictionary

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

→ www.snh.org.uk/gaelic/dictionary

Eight steps to a footpath policy

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Sandy Maxwell, the Trust's Conservation Activities Co-ordinator whose responsibilities include path maintenance work parties, has identified a number of issues which a paths policy could usefully cover. Members may wish to suggest their own criteria.

■ **Users of paths** – Taking into consideration the number and distribution (over seasons) of users, their destinations, impact, and the fitness and wellbeing benefits they are seeking.

■ **Habitat & wildlife** – Impact on areas of designation.

■ **Visual intrusion** – How any existing path or planned work would sit within its environment and affect the wild land experience of visitors.

■ **Safety** – How risks or hazards would be affected by path management. This can be problematic as evidenced by the current debate on Nevis summit cairns.



Rory Syme

Members and supporters regularly volunteer to maintain footpaths, taking the weather as it comes.

■ **Archaeology** – Impact on archaeological remains by proximity of walkers. Also avoid reuse of archaeological materials in path repair or construction.

■ **Navigation** – If the path is to be access-neutral, will it encourage a significant number of visitors to proceed further than previously intended or go to different areas?

■ **User enjoyment** – What importance should be given to the path's contribution to the visitor's enjoyment or appreciation of wild places and what impact any works will have on it?

■ **Promotion of paths** – How should the Trust promote or seek to influence how other parties promote paths on Trust properties?

1 On the paths themselves – Waymarking and other objects such as cairns are already against Trust policy and should be removed where there is no historical or significant safety reason to retain them.

2 Access points – Information boards, signposts, rights of way notices and requirements of funders for recognition.

3 Off the ground – Through internet and print; discussions with wild land tourist organisations that regularly lead groups across our properties; in supplying information to other websites and publications featuring our properties.

CREDIT CRUNCH AND GREEN TOURISM

There has been much speculation on the impact of the recession on companies offering green alternatives. Wilderness Scotland is a specialist ecotourism company, one of many businesses which support the John Muir Trust. Members' News interviewed Stevie Christie, director of Wilderness Scotland.

Members' News (MN): Is ecotourism a 'luxury' that people are sacrificing at a time of belt tightening?

Stevie Christie (SC): Our experience is that people value holidays so much that this will be one of the last things they will sacrifice. They may choose to spend a little less on their holidays - but ecotourism holidays are not always expensive! More and more people are basing their holiday and travel choices on ethical



Stevie Christie of Wilderness Scotland: Benefiting from being outwith the Eurozone

and environmental grounds so we have noticed an increase in interest in our range of eco-friendly adventure holidays this year, despite the economic climate.

MN: Is the recession changing the customer profile?

SC: Only in terms of where our clients are coming from. Many are from the UK and Scotland is a great destination this year as it is close to home and they can avoid expensive trips to the Eurozone. However, as the Euro is now very strong against the pound, we are seeing more Europeans join our holidays in Scotland.

MN: If ecotourism is attracting more people to Scotland, is there increased pressure on fragile destinations? What is the tipping point at which a wild land destination becomes so popular it ceases to deliver the wild land experience?

SC: I don't believe that the recession makes ecotourism more attractive but it certainly makes Scotland a more attractive destination for UK residents. As people are saving by not spending money on flights, we have found that they are prepared to pay more than normal. There is a responsibility on companies which offer trips into wild places to ensure that they don't become over-used. Any ecotourism company should be on top of this and will have trained its guides to leave no trace, to not always camp in the same locations etc. The tipping point where such destinations lose their wild land qualities would generally not be because of an influx of commercial groups but is more likely to be influenced by improved access to and/or improved services in that area. For example, if Calmac began running ferries to Knoydart, or if a large hotel opened up on Rum, you could reasonably expect the number of visitors to these wild areas to increase drastically, impacting on its wild land qualities.

For Wilderness Scotland, see → www.wildernessscotland.com

Wet weather map for Knoydart

Harveys, the people who make maps you can use in the rain, have extended their range to cover Knoydart and Kintail. This, the 7th in their series, has the usual high quality print and clarity of detail plus useful features such as different coloured typefaces for Munros, Corbetts and Grahams and detailed descriptions of terrain. Perhaps less welcome is Harveys' eccentric practice of inscribing contour lines at 15 metre intervals. The reverse of the sheet includes the bonus of a map of Glen Affric plus intriguing maps of the underlying geology and the ice age glaciers - excellent diversion while hanging out in the bothy. The map is priced at £12.95.

MB

John Beatty's Wild Vision tour



Internationally acclaimed photographer, and editor of the John Muir Trust Wild Nature Diary, John Beatty, will tour the UK this autumn and winter with his captivating lecture show, *Wild Vision*, presented by Speakers from the Edge and sponsored by Rohan.

With over 20 years of assignments to his name, John's work has taken him from the peaks of all the greater ranges to the American deserts, to the teeming wildlife of East Africa and the wonder of the Galapagos Islands. As John explains, his work aims to capture "the timeless rhythms of the natural environment, its beauty and simplicity, and man's place within it". In support of the Trust, John's fantastic audio-visual presentation will leave audiences infused with energy and wonder at the beauty of our planet.

Tickets and 20 tour dates from the Isle of Wight to the Isle of Lewis are available on

→ www.speakersfromtheedge.com

Can you volunteer to represent the John Muir Trust on a stall at one of John's talks? Please contact Sam Baumber, Membership Manager, on 0131 554 0114 /recruit@jmt.org

Scotch Whisky Experience raises funds for the wild



An inclusive 'reverse auction' has generated free promotion for the Trust and a donation of £235 from the Scotch Whisky Experience, in partnership with *The Scotsman* newspaper.

The event marked the formal re-opening of the award-winning visitor attraction in central Edinburgh after a £3 million refurbishment. "In addition to raising funds, we were delighted with the opportunity to draw attention to the link between the Scotch whisky industry and Scotland's natural environment," said Julie Trevisan Hunter, Marketing Manager at The Scotch Whisky Experience. "This was a great, fun activity for us but with a serious element underlying, and we look forward to working more with the Trust."

Above: Julie Trevisan Hunter (Marketing Manager, The Scotch Whisky Experience) presents Sam Baumber of the John Muir Trust with a cheque after the reverse auction.

Gram by gram, sculpture makes progress



Artist Stephen Tinney's image of the statue.

The Collie Mackenzie Sculpture Group has launched an imaginative plan inviting supporters to buy bronze, by the gram, in order to create a statue of a famous mountaineering duo on Skye.

The group aims to commemorate the huge contribution made to the early history of climbing on the island by Sconser man John Mackenzie and his internationally renowned climbing companion, Norman Collie, as well as promoting the local landscape and the Gaelic culture.

Phase one is now complete having secured planning permission, influenced a major change in the landscape with the removal of electricity poles

from the site, registered as a charity and gained the support of local community groups and others, including the John Muir Trust. The group has now launched the next phase, raising money for the 1.5 times life size bronze statue of the two men which will weigh 400 kilos. Funds are being raised by selling certificates in multiples of £10, each £10 donation buying 10 grams of bronze.

The artist is Stephen Tinney who studied at Glasgow School of Art and has lived on Skye for 16 years. The statue will be erected on the Sconser estate, close to the entrance gate to the Coruisk path.

For further information, visit → www.skyesculpture.com

New media gives new insight on Trust's activities

Social networking sites are an increasingly important way for organisations such as the John Muir Trust to keep in touch with members and get their message across to the wider world.



Join the debate.

If you use our Facebook page you can find out what the Trust is up to, share your photos and discuss key issues. 400 people have signed up already and more are joining daily.



Tune in to the latest issues.

Sign up to our Twitter feed and we'll send you short news alerts to keep you up to date on planning decisions and threats to wild land.



Read in-depth accounts of our work.

Find out what's happening on our estates and the latest on our communities project by reading the blogs which Trust staff are regularly writing about their work.



See our wild estates.

We have also been touring the Trust's estates, shooting short videos and posting them for everyone to watch on YouTube.

Online Journal & Members' News

Save paper and postage – e-mail membership@jmt.org

Access our new media through www.jmt.org

Trust's views sought in Pennsylvania

Helen McDade, the Trust's Head of Policy, has been invited to be a guest speaker at a day-long panel discussion organised by the Program on Law, Environment and Economy at the University of Pennsylvania in September. Helen has been asked to discuss comparisons with the unintended effects of 'green subsidies' in Britain and describe the Trust's experiences of the regulatory system here.

Will the group you joined join us?

100 organisations including schools, walking and mountaineering clubs, national parks and other environmental charities are now group members of the John Muir Trust. By joining together, the Trust and our group members can strengthen the voice for wild land and wild places.

Over the last three years most new group members have been John Muir Award Providers that have seen the value in supporting the Trust to keep the Award open to all. Rae Lonsdale, from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, said: "Our group membership is a matter of principle – the John Muir Award is a fantastic element of our programme and enables really genuine discovery of the Yorkshire Dales, so we believe in putting something back to support the Trust."

This autumn the Trust is promoting group membership more widely to walking, climbing and sailing clubs and other outdoor groups which want to help protect the wild places they enjoy.

If a group you belong to has a newsletter, e-mail broadcast or website and could mention the Trust, or perhaps would include our leaflets in a mailing, please contact Sam Baumber on recruit@jmt.org / 0131 554 0114.

Find out more or sign your group up now on:

→ www.jmt.org/group-membership.asp

New staff at the Trust

■ Maggie Briggs has replaced Hannah Stace as Membership Officer.

■ Sara McCarter (Fundraiser - Major Donors) will be covering for Kate Barclay during Kate's maternity leave.

■ Katy Standish has been appointed John Muir Award Manager for North East England, employed by Durham County Council as part of their Outdoor and Sustainability Education Service.

■ Steven Turnbull has joined on a 12-month contract as Policy Officer, replacing Richard Hill.

CLASSIFIEDS

for our members

HOTELS, B&B ETC

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

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

DOUNE, KNOYDART Pine lodge: groups of up to 12. Excellent food. Fast launch to access Knoydart coastline & Small Isles for walking, wildlife, photography etc. Doune, Knoydart, Mallaig, PH41 4PL. 01687 462 656 / liz@doune-knoydart.co.uk / www.doune-knoydart.co.uk

HIGHLAND 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

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

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

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

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

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

SELF-CATERING

ABOYNE & ACHILTIBUIE 4-star 5/c for 2 and 3-star 3-bedroom house overlooking Summer Isles. No pets; children 7+yrs welcome. Mrs J H Strachan, Dorevay, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire AB34 5BT. 01339 886 232 / joanna@hubblebubble.org / www.holidayfreedomscotland.com

ANDALUCIA Small house in the mountains with private pool, panoramic views, remote rural situation, 45 minutes from Malaga Airport. Good bird watching, walks; Natural Park 10 minutes drive. £175-250 pw. jimfdstott@yahoo.co.uk / www.las-fincas.co.uk

APPLECROSS Airdanair Cottage. Croft cottage, sleeps 4. Situated on the coast overlooking Skye, Raasay and Rona. 01520 744 320 / www.applecross-coast.co.uk

ARDNAMURCHAN Croft by the shore of Loch Shiel. Comfy s/c cottage, sleeps 6, secluded & unspoilt location, mature garden. Excellent views, walking, beaches, rich in wildlife. £250 to £350 pw. 0131 557 2657 / www.dalileacroft.co.uk

ARRAN Millhouse at Pirnmill. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4, 3 bedrooms, 3*. Spacious accomm with spectacular views and secluded garden. £310-400 pw; 10% JMT discount. 0131 667 2267 / alison.kilpatrick@southmorningside.edin.sch.uk

ARRAN Whiting Bay, comfortable cottage with large secluded garden and amazing views. Handy for golf course and walking. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4-6. £315-450 pw. Contact Heather Alexander. 0141 636 0542 / heather.alexander@btinternet.com

ASSYNT, Sutherland, Fully equipped STB 4* cottages (inc Sky TV & Wi-Fi) with stunning mountain and costal views. Sleeps 4 - 6. Close to Quinag and convenient for Sandwood Bay. Open all year. 01571 855277 / www.cathairdhubb.co.uk

AULTBEA 4* highland lodges in Aultbea village. Perfect for Assynt, Torridon, Inverewe - or aromatherapy at the Perfume Studio! Sleep 4/5. 10% discount for JMT members, subject to availability and excl peak season. www.aultbea-lodges.co.uk

AVIEMORE Luxury 2-bedroom cottage; sleeps 4. Discount for JMT members. 01738 550 412 / george.henderson@mdg ltd.co.uk / www.aviemore-self-catering.org

AUCHTERMUCHTYNE, FIFE Superb lodge in quiet rural setting. STB 4-star. The perfect self-catering hideaway. One king/en-suite; one twin/large bathroom. Contact Liz or Brian. 01337 828 386 / www.baincraiglodge.co.uk

BALLATER 2 newly completed 4* luxury self-catering apartments in heart of village. Perfect base for hiking and biking. Tullich apartment (£350-500 pw) sleeps 4, Gairn (£500-750 pw) sleeps 6. Both also have sofa beds. 0141 353 3839 / www.ballaterlodge.co.uk

Between BEN NEVIS & GLENCOE Inchree Centre. Self-catering chalet & hostel accommodation. On-site pub & restaurant with good food, real ales and open fire. 01855 821 287 / www.inchreecentre.co.uk

CAIRNGORMS 2 comfortable chalets or Dinner, B. & B. in a modernised 19C. crofthouse. Dogs welcome. Rural position near the Spey and Whisky Trail. Aviemore 10 miles. 01479 821 062 / david@mondhuie.com / www.mondhuie.com

CAIRNGORMS Traditional croft, 1000ft up on the Braes of Abernethy. Spectacular views overlooking Abernethy forest and the Cairngorms. Walk or bike from doorstep, birdwatching, peace and quiet. Well-equipped, comfortable, woodburning stove. Sleeps 5. 01479 810 214

CAITHNESS Curlew Cottage. Superb views, attractive garden, STB four-star. Otters, wildcats, seals, ospreys, puffins, wild coastline and flow country all near. Sleeps 4+cot; sorry, no pets. £300-475 pw. 01847 895 638 / www.curlewcottages.com

COIGACH, ROSS-SHIRE Remote, cosy, traditional crofthouse, beautifully situated on wild mountainous coastline beneath Ben Mor Coigach, 5 miles from Achiltibuie. Sleeps 6. Recently refurbished. £300-£450 pw. 01434 220647 / www.173culnacraig.com

DUNALASTAIR, PERTHSHIRE Secluded and unique cottages in Highland Perthshire overlooked by Schiehallion. Four-posters, log fires, fishing. Pets welcome. Rare wildlife. Central for touring. Contact Melanie. 0845 230 1491 / cottages@dunalastair.com / www.dunalastair.com

GALLOWAY Comfortable self-catering in Laurieston village, ideal for exploring Scotland's beautiful southwest. Hillwalking, forest walks, lots of wonderful wildlife. Sleeps 8 at a pinch, terms reduced for small numbers. Full brochure available. 01224 595 561 / a.c.paterson@abdn.ac.uk

GLEN AFFRIC Cosy, well-equipped cottage, sleeps 4 in the conservation village of Tomich. Ideal for walking, birdwatching, biking, fishing. Open all year. C/H, wood-burning stove, garden, dogs welcome. 01721 723 339 / dfpeck@btinternet.com

GLENCOE Two 4*STB self-catering cottages in the heart of Glencoe's mountains. Cottages are fully equipped and sleep up to six people. Open all year, pets by arrangement. David and Chris Baker. 01855 811 598 / www.glencoemountaincottages.co.uk

GLENELG Traditional cosy cottage, sleeps 4. Ideal for Skye (summer months) and Knoydart, as well as Glenshiel hills. Contact Robert. 02089 463 319 / Robinsonrobt@aol.com

GLENRINNES, DUFFTOWN The 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

HIGHLANDS 2 charming cottages, sleep 4, CH, open fires, lovely views. Cnoc Eoghainn: Kinloch Rannoch village, near Schiehallion and Loch Rannoch, STB 3*. Ballindalloch Cott., Errogie: isolated Monadliath moorland setting, South Loch Ness. 01456 486 358 / corinne@wildernesscottages.co.uk

HIGHLAND PERTHSHIRE, LOGIERAIT Character 2-bedroom cottage overlooking River Tay and hills, near Pitlochry, Aberfeldy and close to Schiehallion and Glen Lyon Munros. Dogs welcome. 01952 242 088 / aligrier@hotmail.com

IONA Independent Hostel, STB 4*, on working croft at N end. Self-catering, sleeps 21. Stunning views to Rum and Skye; minutes walk from beach. £17.50/night (£12.00 under 10s). Booking recommended. 01681 700 781 / www.ionahostel.co.uk

ISLE OF SKYE, STAFFIN Pair of 2-bedroom bungalows to let. Views of sea/mountains; sleep 4; pets by arrangement; no smoking. Open all year, £210-£375pw. Paul & Helen Webster. 01470 562 419 / enquiries@staffinbaycottages.co.uk / www.staffinbaycottages.co.uk

LAKE DISTRICT Lorton-Buttermere valley. 3 well-equipped cottages in former hill farm; sleep 2/5/8; ETB 3-star. Ideal for family reunions. Stunning views. Walk or bike from door. 5 lakes within seven miles. 0190 085 206 / www.highswinside.demon.co.uk

LOCHAVICH, ARGYLL Warm, comfortable courtyard cottage in isolated but accessible glen 18 miles south of Oban. Miles of walking and stunning scenery on doorstep. £250-£360 pw fully inclusive. Mrs Georgina Dalton. 01866 844 212 / maolachy@firenet.uk.net

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

MORZINE, HAUTE SAVOIE Modern 2-bedroom apartment, sleeps 4-6. Located close to GR5 trail in unspoilt Alpine valley, 1 km from village centre. Huge variety of walking and mountain biking. Geneva airport 80 mins. 01223 290 565

MULL John and Sery would like to invite you to Argyll House where they have aimed at creating centrally located excellent-value self-catering accommodation to suit the outdoor visitor. 01680 300 555 / info@argyll-house.co.uk / www.argyll-house.co.uk

NEWTONMORE Two-bedroom steading in the Cairngorms National Park. Ideal location for a huge range of activities. Fully furnished. Contact Martin. 0131 336 3466 / www.balvatincottages.com

NORTH WALES Cynwyd Activity and Mountain Centre. Sleeps 30 in main centre plus cottage that sleeps 6. At the foot of the Berwyn Mountains. Excellent rates. Brochure available. 01604 813505 / www.yrhenfelin-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

SANDWOOD Lovely croft house near Polin beach by Kintlochberrie; sleeps 7/8. £175-300 pw. jude_cook@btinternet.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 dyking, sweat lodges, meditation, holistic detox, Yoga. 01463 711 702 / welcome@anamcara.org / www.anamcara.org

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

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

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

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

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

SELF-GUIDED walking holidays in UK and Alps. Tour du Mont Blanc, West Highland Way, Swiss Alps, French Alps, Julian Alps, Tatra, Lakes, Skye. Follow our routecards to explore by yourself. Plus guided programme. 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, Sleat, Isle of Skye. 01471 833 428 / info@skyakadventures.com / 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 / www.vilayatours.com

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

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

☐ SERVICES

EDINBURGH MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL 16-18 October 2009. Films, lectures and exhibitions. Fundraising raffles in aid of the John Muir Trust. Photography competition now open - all entries welcome. www.edinburghmountainff.com

FINE HARPSICORDS, 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.deeganharpichords.com

FLASH: THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT-SHORT STORY MAGAZINE Quality stories and reviews of up to 360 words. Published April and October. To order an issue, subscribe, or submit stories, visit www.chester.ac.uk/flash.magazine

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, Dillwyn, 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, Inverguserrain Farm, Knoydart, Mallaig PH41 4PL. 01687 462 844 / calannaboat@knoydart.org

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

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.

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

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 next edition of Members' News.

☐ Yorkshire Region work party report

Once again regular stalwarts from around Yorkshire and beyond turned out for another August working weekend despite dire weather forecasts - no surprises there then. There were 15 of us including four new recruits - three of whom had just completed the John Muir Award.

At our work site in West Stonedale, James Lamb, Yorkshire Dales National Park Access Ranger for Swaledale, and his colleagues Ian and Paul had set up a shelter and had tea brewing. The task was to clear a drainage ditch and to rebuild a long stretch of revetment wall which had collapsed above the track. Good progress was made with completion of the task in sight for the following day.

Part way through the day the rain stopped but this relief was short lived as the midges now appeared and the feasting began. A conversation with a local confirmed that the Scottish beasts were now a regular visitor to the Dales and had come to stay!

A merry evening was had in the local pub - the 'Green Dragon' at Hardraw. Sunday promised more of the same - more drainage ditch clearing, more revetment wall construction, more rain or more midges.

John Page

☐ Mountain Film Festivals

Look out for the Trust's stall and merchandise at events throughout the Mountain Festival season:

Dundee Mountain Festival: 28-29 November 2009
www.dundee-mountainfilm.org.uk

Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival: 16-18 October 2009
www.edinburghmountainff.com

Fort William Mountain Festival: 2010 dates tbc
www.mountainfilmfestival.co.uk

Glasgow Mountain Film Festival: 2010 dates tbc
www.super-7.co.uk/events

Kendal Mountain Festival: 19-22 November 2009
www.mountainfest.co.uk

Keswick Mountain Festival: 19-23 May 2010
www.keswickmountainfestival.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Edinburgh Members' Group

Sunday 18 October: Help to restore the wildwood with the Borders Forest Trust at Carrifran near Moffat. Meet at 10am at the car park. Please contact Ian or Mary for further details and booking (essential), and to co-ordinate transport, or see www.carrifran.org.uk

Saturday 21 November: An evening get-together in Edinburgh, including a meal. Details to be confirmed nearer the time.

Sunday February 21: Carrifran, with same details as for 18 October.

For further information, or to suggest events or join our circulation list: Ian Lee-Bapty on 0131 315 4117 or bappers@supanet.com, Julie Catto on 07882 029 772 or Mary Inglis on 0131 553 7967.

Glasgow & West of Scotland Group

Thursday 22 October: 'Carrifran Wildwood and restoration of the Ettrick Forest', an illustrated talk by Philip Ashmole. Carrifran is re-creating an extensive tract of wild and wooded land in the Borders - a haven for a rich variety of native flora and fauna and an inspiration to visitors. It celebrates its 10th anniversary in January. 7pm Room W119, Hamish Wood Building, Glasgow Caledonian University. No admission charge but donations welcome.

Thursday 26 November: Professor Stuart Monro, Scientific Director of Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Time and place as for 22 October.

Thursday 11 March: Debate on community buyouts. Details in next Members' News.

Thursday 22 April: Anna Magnusson will interview Vicky Jack, the oldest British woman to reach the summit of Everest. More details in the next Members' News.

Further information: Heather Willimott on 01360 311 304 or heatherwillimott@valleyfield.fsbusiness.co.uk

London Members' Group

Thursday 22 October: Join us at the first meeting of the new London Members' Group. Members can find out about the RGS and meet John Beatty, before enjoying his 'Wild Vision' presentation at 7pm. We need more people interested in running the group to get involved and help co-ordinate four gatherings a year in interesting venues across the city.

6pm Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore. Members' group reception - spaces limited to 30 - tickets free but RSVP essential to ensure a place: promotions@jmt.org or 0131 554 0114.

7pm 'Wild Vision' presentation. Tickets (£12) should be bought separately from Speakers from the Edge: www.speakersfromtheedge.com or 0114 250 8048.

Perthshire Members' Group

If you would like to help run the Perthshire Members' Group and plan future events, please contact Sam Baumber on 0131 554 0114 /recruit@jmt.org

South of England and South Wales

Sunday 15 November: Members' Gathering. The 19th all-day gathering for members and friends in the South of England and South Wales will be held in Bristol at Jury's Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol, BS1 4QF.

The speakers will be Stuart Brooks, the Trust's Chief Executive, who will give an update on the Trust's year, followed by an open forum; Peter Wright MBE recounting his 'watershed epic' walking the 'ribbon of wildness' that

is the watershed of Scotland; and Mariano Devoto returns to share the results of his research into the pollination webs underlying the regeneration of Caledonian pine forests.

Further information: Brian Pollard on 0117 942 4951 or on pollardjmt@talktalk.net

Ullapool

Friday 23 October: Events at the Macphail Centre, Ullapool

4pm John Muir Trust Members' Forum: exchange of news and views.

5pm 'Meet the Trust' over tea and sandwiches.

6pm Lecture by Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive, on 'Scottish peatland: a global perspective'. (Jointly with Lochbroom and Assynt Field Clubs)

7.30pm Glass of wine.

Cost: lecture - £3, refreshments - £5 payable on the door.

Further information: Sue Hopkinson on 01854 612 756 or hopkinson.rhue@virgin.net

At 8pm there is the opportunity to attend a Homecoming Event in Ullapool Village Hall - 'Flight of the Arctic Tern' by Mark Sheridan, a dramatisation of the Clearances through the eyes of one young migrant, Alexander Gunn.

If you would like to be involved in running a John Muir Trust members' group in your area, please get in touch with Sam Baumber on 0131 544 0114 / recruit@jmt.org

Diary date

The John Muir Trust AGM and Members' Gathering in 2010 will be held in Aviemore on 8 and 9 May.

Edinburgh Members' Group report

Visit to Crystal Rig Windfarm

On 27 June, in rather dreich weather, the Edinburgh group, plus a strong contingent from the Glasgow group, met for a picnic at Whiteadder reservoir in the Lammermuir Hills. This was followed by a visit to the nearby Crystal Rig Windfarm. Phase I has been generating electricity for several years. Phase II, to add a further five turbines, is now in construction. Gareth Edwards, from the developers Jones Brothers, gave a guided tour of some of the existing turbines. We all learned a lot about the construction and operation of these giant windmills. This particular development does not appear to have harmed plant and animal life in the area. In fact, Gareth suggested that the reverse had happened with the clearance of part of the conifer plantation for access roads and turbine sites.

Thanks to Gareth and to Jo Doake and Nick Morgan for organising the visit.

Mary Inglis

Next edition

JOHN MUIR TRUST MEMBERS' NEWS will be published in January 2010. Please send news items by 13 NOVEMBER 2009 to:

Mike Brown, Editor

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

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