

MEMBERS' NEWS

JULY 2011



Political impacts

The next five years is likely to determine the long-term future of our wild landscapes

Decisions taken by governments across the UK can have a profound effect on the future of our wild landscapes and how people engage with them. This includes relatively small changes in public funding that can be felt at a landscape level for decades to come.

A prime example was the tax and incentives regime that supported expansion of commercial forestry in the 1980s. Relatively blunt fiscal instruments set seed to huge swathes of countryside planted with exotic conifers. Some of these forests are now fantastic places for people to enjoy the outdoors, and add to rural economies. But many were planted in the wrong place, such as important peatlands, and have done considerable harm to our native biodiversity.

Now, future energy production and transmission is the policy issue of the day, and the consequences of getting this wrong will have an even more profound effect on the future of our landscapes. We need governments to recognise the importance of landscapes and make decisions that will protect them for future generations.

"Our landscapes help to define us, providing beautiful scenery that can inspire and nourish, as well as making an essential contribution to our economy," says Stuart Brooks, Trust chief executive.

"The stakes are high but we mustn't repeat the mistakes of the past and burden future generations with the obligation to put things right.

"We have a choice. We can choose to accommodate expansion of renewable and other energy production in a responsible way, which does not compromise our

most valuable landscapes. The best way to do this is to improve statutory protection for our landscapes. This will ensure our best wild land, our nation's finest assets, are not squandered but cherished and promoted to benefit us all.

"We are making this case on behalf of you, our members. I hope you'll continue to show your support and do what you can to send this message to our decision makers. The next five years will be crucial – they will determine the future of our wild landscapes for decades to come."

We will be delivering our UK petition calling on statutory protection for wild land to the House of Commons later this year. Remember to add your name, and ask others to add theirs.

→ www.jmt.org/wildland-petition.asp

WELCOME

As I write this welcome, I am just back from our AGM in Cumbria and heading for Harris.

Na Hearadh (Harris) has played an important role in my understanding of the struggle faced by fragile rural communities. I was 19 when I first went to Reinigeadal as an officer on a Schools' Hebridean Society expedition. In 1974, I returned leading a group of 20 boys and undertook surveying work to find a potential road line to this community that had only foot access.

Around 15 years later, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar built the road in from Maaruig, on my line. Here, although I didn't understand it at the time, was the dilemma of land use – wild land versus development. There is no easy answer. Had the road not been built then Reinigeadal would have died and

the subsequent resettlement of nearby Molinginish would not have happened. Now this area is part of the thriving North Harris Trust, one of our partners.

Our AGM in Cumbria was a huge success with members and trustees enjoying the mix of business, discussion and socialising. Our staff did an excellent, professional job in setting the correct atmosphere from the outset. Trustees have sound feedback to reflect on and we will now be doing so. Next year the AGM will be in the Glasgow area, so start planning now.

I emphasised at the AGM that we are not an 'anti' organisation; we are pro wild land and pro local communities working adjacent to our land. We are pro retaining our outstanding landscape and scenery and will defend it against any threat, resolutely. As Stuart points out (see above), our landscapes help to make us who we are and are crucial to our wellbeing.

More about this in the News as well as updates on our newest property, Glenludde, John Muir Award achievements and a whole host of other Trust-related news. Please enjoy and share it with others.

John Hutchison
Chairman



John climbs Helvellyn with members of the Trust

Forward thinking around Glenlude

Trust considers options for carrying on a challenging legacy in the Borders

Following the late Sheila Bell's gifting of Glenlude to the Trust, we have now taken on management of this 400 acre property in the Tweed Valley. At the moment, this mostly consists of taking stock and looking at potential ways to increase its natural value.

"We should be in a position to discuss options in 2012," says Sandy Maxwell, conservation officer for Glenlude, "but in the meantime we're sizing up jobs that need to be done, like further habitat surveys and dry stone walling. Hopefully, we'll be able to run our first volunteer work party on the property quite soon."

A Phase One vegetation survey has been started to classify the various habitats present on the property, which is almost evenly split between plantation forestry and open ground, with small emerging areas of planted willow. Some deer control has taken place on the property since native trees planted in recent years have suffered from heavy grazing.

Some of the species recorded on Glenlude so far include crossbills, bullfinch, skylark, emperor moth and garden tiger moth caterpillars. A series of ponds created by Sheila Bell team with frogs during the spawning season, and between the forested areas there is damp grassland with valerian, cuckoo flower, and water avens.

The property also provides excellent cover and food for black grouse. John Muir Trust Trustee, John Thomas, who lives in the Borders, has taken part in a Black Grouse survey co-ordinated by the Southern Upland Partnership to monitor some of the lek sites on adjacent property to Glenlude. In general it has been a good year for Borders black grouse, with over 300 cocks observed so far.

"Sheila Bell had an ambitious and admirable vision to try and create a natural woodland in the Scottish Borders," says Stuart Brooks, Trust chief executive. "By passing on her land to the John Muir Trust she has set us a challenging legacy but we look forward to working hard to bring her vision of a new natural habitat to life."

The Trust will be launching an appeal for funds towards Glenlude's future in October. Full details will be in the Autumn Journal.



Glenlude represents a vision to bring a new natural habitat to life

TRUST STAFF ON A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

Practicing what they preach, seven members of the John Muir Trust staff based at Pitlochry are currently pursuing their John Muir Award Discovery award. Taking woodlands as a theme, the group has been exploring the woodlands of Perthshire, with projects including the tracking of bumble bees and fence work on Schiehallion (see page 3). The Award requires a minimum of four days involvement but the group will be pushing beyond that. Next up – an investigation of the rivers of Highland Perthshire (and their riparian habitats) by canoe.

AWARD JOINS WITH LAKE DISTRICT NPA

Having enjoyed eight successful years hosted by Cumbria Youth Alliance, the John Muir Award in Cumbria is now integrated into the Lake District National Park Authority's Learning Service. This offers exciting opportunities to work with the Learning Service team, and to highlight the special qualities of the Lake District National Park - the lakes, fells, and woodlands in a truly diverse and beautiful landscape accessible to all Cumbrians. Graham Watson, John Muir Award regional manager for Cumbria can now be contacted at Blencathra Centre, Threlkeld, Keswick CA12 4SG

→ 01539 792 653
→ cumbria@johnmuiraward.org

FIGHTING THE FIRES OF ASSYNT Trust helps to get helicopter water drops over the flames

More than 7,000 acres of land around Inverkirkaig, Assynt have been affected by a wildfire that tore through the area at the start of May. The hottest April on record led to incredibly dry conditions that caused large fires to break out on open ground across the UK.

The John Muir Trust, Assynt Foundation, Eisd Brachaid, Inverpolly estate, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Wildlife Trust all contributed to the costs of fighting the fire within the Coigach and Assynt area. Together they raised the £10,000 needed to pay for helicopter water drops to control and ultimately put out the fires.

Mike Daniels, the Trust's head of land and science said: "John Muir Trust land wasn't directly affected but we were happy to be part of the fire-fighting effort. Now, we're working with the other landowners to see what ecological impact these fires have had. We've also agreed to create a joint plan to ensure we're well prepared to deal with any wildfires that occur in Assynt in the future."

Many of the landowners who pulled together to raise funds are involved in a wider partnership – the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape project, which was launched in Lochinver on 11 June. This will be one of the largest ecosystem restoration projects in Britain and aims to bring woodland connectivity, species-rich flora and fauna, and economic prosperity to the Scottish uplands.



The fire-fighting helicopter in action over Assynt

A grand weekend get-together

From policy discussion and paddling to networking and new trustees, this year's AGM and Members' Gathering in Penrith had something for everyone

This year's John Muir Trust AGM & Members' Gathering in Cumbria took place on the 4th and 5th June at the Rheged Centre in Penrith, Cumbria. It brought together over 200 members, staff and colleagues from local organisations giving members the opportunity to meet with staff and Trustees and to find out more about the work of the Trust.

The Gathering highlighted the importance of the Trust's partnership with the Lake District National Park through the John Muir Award, as well as the special relationship that we have with an array of organisations in Cumbria.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of the John Muir Trust," said Stuart Brooks, Trust chief executive. "With Glendude coming under our management, the continuation of our Wild Land Campaign, and the John Muir Award going from strength to strength, we have a lot to celebrate.

"It's great that that so many of our members came to hear about these developments and to share their views on our current direction."

The Gathering provided updates on the Trust's activities and members took full advantage of the open forums to ask questions. During the general meeting, the result of the election of Trustees was announced and a proposal to allow electronic voting in future was approved by members.

Excursions and events took place on Saturday and Sunday, enabling members to choose from a range of activities including a policy discussion, visits to some of the inspiring projects in the area, and a paddle on Ullswater courtesy of the Outward Bound Trust. Sturdier members even climbed Helvellyn while others got their hands dirty dry-stone walling in Dentdale.

To top the day on Saturday, adventurer Vicky Jack gave a wonderful and thought-provoking Spirit of Wild Places lecture. She told the story of her journey to become the first Scotswoman to climb the Seven Summits – the highest peak on each continent – finishing on top of Mount Everest in 2004. Our thanks go to Ben Nevis Distillery for continuing to sponsor this lecture.

A huge thank you to all our members who attended and made the weekend such a success.



PHOTOGRAPHER: MIKE DANIELS



PHOTOGRAPHER: RORY SYME



PHOTOGRAPHER: FIONA MACKINTOSH

Trustee, John Thomas, tackles dry stone dyking while other attendees take to the Cumbrian hills

▮ FUN WITH FENCES

Armed with an assortment of hammers, spades and fencing pliers, a group of John Muir Trust staff spent a rainy day in May taking down a deer fence in East Schiehallion. The fence was built in the early 90s to protect an area of native woodland from grazing animals, including sheep and deer. With the woodland established, it was time for the fence to go.

"The work consisted of taking staples out of the poles, cutting the wire at the ends, gathering it up and then pulling the posts

out," said Rory Syme, the Trust's press and communications officer. "Pulling out the posts was the worst bit. Some of the posts are thicker than your arm, very heavy, and at least two feet deep in the ground. You have to dig down and get movement on it before heaving it out. It's hard work."

The wire from the fence was gathered into 30 to 40 metre rolls, some of which will be going to Quinag to form small enclosures to demonstrate how the environment would change if there was no grazing pressure.



PHOTOGRAPHER: RORY SYME

Trust staff Sandy Maxwell, Liz Auty, Alison Russell and Lester Standen get wired up

▮ NEW TRUSTEES ELECTED

The result of the election of Trustees was announced during the Annual General Meeting. Denis Mollison and Deirdre Wilson were re-elected and Patrick Bonnett, John Finney and David MacLehose were elected for their first term. Thanks to the members who took the opportunity to vote in the election, and to the Trust's Honorary Secretary Donald Thomas, who co-ordinated the election.

Trust chairman, John Hutchison, said: "The Trustees are the voice of our members. I'm pleased that we have a board that reflects a wide range of skills and backgrounds, and that so many of our members took the opportunity to have their say in the election. I would also like to pay tribute to the unsuccessful candidates in the election, Elizabeth Radford and Anke Addy, and encourage them to try again in the future."

Planning response and policy update

What the John Muir Trust is currently keeping an eye on

Planning Applications

Allt Duine – The Trust has objected to this 31-turbine wind farm development on the grounds of unacceptable level of impact to wild land in the area - individually and cumulatively with other built or consented wind farms in the area.

Glenlyon Hydro – The Trust objected to two of the four run-of-river hydro schemes proposed for within Glen Lyon. While the schemes themselves are small (< 1 megawatt each), the supporting infrastructure and buildings would have a dramatic negative impact on the wild characteristics of the local landscape.

Cononish gold mine – The Trust is monitoring the forthcoming planning application for a gold mine at Cononish near Tyndrum. The original application was rejected and a new proposal has significant improvements to the visual impact of the scheme. However, we await the planning application to determine the full impact of mitigation and restoration proposals before determining a position.

Consultations

General Permitted Development Order – as part of the wider consultation on Permitted Development Rights, the Scottish Government is considering changes to the way that hill tracks can be constructed and maintained. Its main concern appears to be with a change of use, from non-vehicular tracks to vehicular roads and ways. The Trust is considering a response, which will be based on our Briefing Note on Hill Tracks, produced for the Parliamentary debate on Hill Tracks in 2010.

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wildness – this document aims to provide guidance on identifying and evaluating potential impacts to the wildness of areas of the Cairngorm's National Park. While the overall aim of the guidance is sound, the Trust's response noted areas where the structure, content and definitions can be improved to make it a more valuable planning resource.

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Onshore Wind Energy – Highland Council is currently consulting on new planning guidance relating to onshore wind energy. The general principles set out in the document are sound. However, we're concerned that further guidance is likely to be produced specifically for wild land that will seek to safeguard its qualities but in such a way that changes within wild land are accommodated.

Code of Practice on Deer Management – the overall purpose of this Code, which Scottish Natural Heritage is developing, is to support land owners and managers in delivering the sustainable management of wild deer on their land. The Trust will consider the proposals before responding.

The Lakes to Dales Landscape Designation Project – this project has been looking at ways of creating better links between the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks, increasing the size of each and developing linking corridors between them. The Trust is considering the potential impacts and benefits of these proposals, as well as the potential for their wider application, which fits with the call-to-arms in the UK petition.

A THOUSAND PEOPLE, A HUNDRED WILD PLACES

In the north-east of England a thousand people have engaged with a hundred wild places through the John Muir Award over the past 18 months. Johnathan Stewart, from North Shields, was the 1000th person in the area to receive the John Muir Award since the launch of a regional partnership with Durham County Council funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.



Johnathan Stewart, a 1000th award achiever

Together with four friends, he worked with local residents to create a wild garden in a community allotment. It was part of Community Space Challenge, a national scheme aimed at enabling young people to transform run down and forgotten wild places into green spaces for people to use and enjoy. See Johnathan in action in a short video at <http://bit.ly/iVyXtT>

A PIECE OF THE WILD IN A BEACH HUT IN LONDON

Yes, you read it right. Those in the south east of England can catch a glimpse of the far north west of Scotland in an exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Festival of Britain. A jarful of sand from Sandwood Bay, part of the Trust's Sandwood property, is currently exhibiting in one of 14 customised beach huts stretching along Queens Walk, opposite the Royal Festival Hall in central London. It joins other items on display reflecting the UK's coastline, such as vintage beachwear, a shell grotto and a slot machine. The exhibition runs from now until Sunday 4 September at the South Bank Centre. More information at <http://bit.ly/jRDHbE>

A FOND FAREWELL

After 16 years working with the Trust, Dave Picken is leaving for adventures new

Dave Picken joined the John Muir Trust in 1995 to help find ways to engage more people in conservation and the Trust's work. He was instrumental in setting up an innovative programme of residential activities that ran for 10 years and created life-changing outdoor experiences for hundreds of young people and volunteer leaders. It culminated in the Journey for the Wild in 2006, a multi-legged relay of hundreds of individual journeys that created a unique celebration of wild places.

Dave's lasting legacy is perhaps the John Muir Award, which the Trust launched in Dunbar in 1997. The fact that the Award is unchanged from the model piloted by Dave 15 years ago reflects not only his visionary thinking but his ability to interpret the aims and ideals of the Trust.

Dave's influence has helped the John Muir Trust to broaden its outlook and have a relevant role in society. More recently, he has been overseeing our development work including membership and fundraising.

We all wish him the very best for the future and thank him for his immense contribution to the work of the Trust.



Still smiling after 16 years with the Trust

ARTISTS PROMOTE THE TRUST

Two members gave the Trust a boost this May during Dumfries & Galloway's 'Spring Fling', the region's annual arts festival when around 100 galleries, studios and workshops open to the public. Artists Malcolm Davies and Suzanne Stuart-Davies, whose work is inspired by wildlife and wild places, displayed John Muir Trust promotional material in their studios for passing visitors to pick up and peruse. See their work at muirhillarts.co.uk.

Winds of change

The Trust is about protecting wild land and wild places, not being 'anti-wind' or 'anti-renewables', explains Trust policy officer, Steven Turnbull

In recent months, the John Muir Trust has been accused of being an 'anti-wind' organisation, one that campaigns against projects that will help tackle climate change. But is the Trust really 'anti-wind' or 'anti-renewables'?

The answer is most definitely not. The more high profile objections we've made to wind development proposals, such as Muaitheabheal on Lewis and Viking Energy in Shetland, have been driven by our primary objective – to protect wild land and wild places.

Trustees adopted a policy on Renewable Energy Developments in 2005 that supports small-scale, sensitively sited schemes close to existing settlements, which can be sourced without significantly impacting on wild land. This policy has led to fewer than 20 objections made against renewable energy schemes, all based on their potential impact on areas of wild land.

However, responding to planning applications is too reactive and doesn't prevent inappropriate development from being proposed or approved. So we have adopted a more pro-active approach of late, responding to consultations from the UK and Scottish Governments, the National Park Authorities and Local Authorities as far as possible, to aim to secure protection for our remaining wild land.

The Trust also continues to engage with MSPs of all parties in an effort to develop strategic plans and policies that will not only deliver a sustainable future, but which will also deliver the Trust's vision for the future of wild land in the United Kingdom.

John Muir said that 'everybody needs beauty as well as bread', and it's true that there is clearly a balance to be struck between protecting landscapes and delivering renewable energy, with potential sacrifices required from both sides to ensure we have a healthy, functioning environment in years to come.

We don't consider this to be an 'anti-wind' or 'anti-renewable' stance, but a 'pro-wild land' position. And it's a position we will continue to take as we consider the potential impact that new consultations and planning applications might have on wild land and wild places across Scotland.

For more information on why the Trust cares about onshore wind, see jmt.org/faq-wind-power.asp

RARE ARACHNID SIGHTING

Our eagle-eyed conservation officer Don O'Driscoll recently found a pseudoscorpion lurking on Quinag. It's not a rare species, but at under a centimetre in length it's definitely a rare sighting.



A pseudoscorpion enjoys some sun on Quinag

GOING BANANAS IN NEVIS

Banana skins continue to blight Ben Nevis so Trust conservation officer, Sarah Lewis, has decided to try a new tactic to educate littering walkers. At the time of going to press, she was planning to don a banana suit for much of the month in July to highlight this very human problem to visitors to the Ben.

THANK GOD FOR JOHN MUIR

Thank God for John Muir, a play by Andrew Dallmeyer, tells the story of how John Muir came to regain his sight after an industrial accident and at the same time open his eyes to his future life as a vocal campaigner for wilderness. It was performed at Oran Mor in Glasgow as part of its 'a Play, a Pie and a Pint' season, where Muir was exquisitely brought to life by actor Garry Collins and musician Annie Grace.

Oran Mor has been an enthusiastic supporter of the John Muir Trust for many years, and the venue features a restaurant named the John Muir room. The Trust was invited to have a stall at the venue during the week, and we successfully recruited a number of members.

SPOTTING HEN HARRIERS ON SKYE

A hen harrier nest has been discovered on the Trust's Skye property. By the time you read this, the eggs should have hatched. Hen harriers are one of the most persecuted birds of prey in the UK and only have a short lifespan. The right habitat and good feeding opportunities encourage them to nest, a compliment to the patch of land on Skye on which they chose to settle.

TELLING BIODIVERSITY STORIES

'People will not care for the natural world unless they realise the joys and delights that come from it,' said David Attenborough. During 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, people from a wide range of backgrounds engaged with biodiversity through their John Muir Award activity. Their stories and experiences have been collated into an inspiring leaflet that can be downloaded from the John Muir Award website johnmuiraward.org (click on the Biodiversity Stories button). Hard copies are available on request from the Leith office.

PHOTOGRAPHER: KETHA BRANE



Protecting the UK's landscapes and remaining wild land is the primary focus of the John Muir Trust

2011 CONSERVATION WORK PARTIES

Here's a list of work parties planned for the rest of 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
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

ACHILTIBUIE

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

→ www.summer-isles.com
→ 01854 622252

ACHILTIBUIE, Ross-shire

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

→ www.quinagcottage.com

AULTBEA

4* highland lodges in Aultbea village. Perfect for Assynt, Torridon, Inverewe - or aromatherapy at the Perfume Studio! Sleeps 4/5. 10% discount for John Muir Trust members, subject to availability and excluding peak season.

→ www.aultbea-lodges.co.uk

AUCHTERMUCHTY, Fife

Superb lodge in quiet rural setting. STB 4*. The perfect self-catering hideaway. One king/en-suite; one twin/large bathroom. Contact Liz or Brian.

→ 01337 828 386
→ www.baincraiglodge.co.uk

BALNAGUARD, Perthshire

4* B&B in the tranquil village of Balnaguard in Highland Perthshire. Wonderful range of breakfasts, friendly hosts and great walking.

→ Ann Croft: 01796 482 627
→ www.balbeagan.com

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

BLAVEN, Isle of Skye

Sympathetically restored crofting cottage in the shadow of Blaven. Unforgettable landscape. Access to main Cuillin ridge on foot from Strathaird or by boat from Elgol. Sleeps 4.

→ 01259 781 221
→ www.theblavencottage.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

SOUTH LOCH NESS, Errogie

Ballindalloch Cottage. Isolated traditional cottage, wild moorland setting, foothills of Monadhliath. Comfortable, well equipped, log fire. Secluded garden, fine views. Sleeps 4. Price £395 - £550 p/w.

→ 01835 822 277
→ www.unique-cottages.co.uk

DUNALASTAIR, PERTSHIRE

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

HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE

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 offers a warm welcome. Spacious, comfortable B&B. Views of Sound of Iona and Ben More; walking, wildlife, beaches, boat trips. Delicious meals using local/organic products where possible. Open all year.

→ 01681 700 677
→ gillian@staffahouse.co.uk
→ www.staffahouse.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 7 miles.

→ 0190 085 206
→ www.highswinside.demon.co.uk

BACK BRAE LODGE

Self-catering holiday accommodation in central Tobermory, by the Mishnish buildings. Suitable for a couple or a small family.

→ Kenny - 0777 976 9003
→ kenny@mull.co
→ www.mull.co

OLDSHOREMORE

Caravan on Sandwood Estate, sleeps 6, open April-October.

→ Anne Mackay: 01971 521 335

PERTSHIRE

4* holiday house close to Loch Tay, Rannoch and Aberfeldy. Sleeps 6-8, 2 en-suite double rooms, 2 twin. Detached house with stunning views and open fire.

→ www.highlandperthshire-holidayhomes.com
→ 07887 926347/01887 820754

SANDWOOD AREA, Rhiconich

Gull Cottage, sleeps 4, and the Barn, sleeps 2. Both fully equipped and open all year. Graham or Lynn, Gull Cottage, Achriesgill, Rhiconich, Lairg IV27 4RJ.

→ 01971 521 717

ST FILLANS, Perthshire

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

PERTSHIRE

Peaceful 4* self-catering accommodation, north shore Loch Tay adjacent to Ben Lawers NNR and Trossachs NP. Ideal for couples. Excellent hill-walking base, summer and winter, 35 Munros within 20 miles.

→ 01567 820 527
→ www.morenishmews.com

PLOCKTON

Comfortable well-equipped cottage, sleeps 6, set in crofting fields and on NTS coastal walk midway between Kyle of Lochalsh and Plockton. Good access to Skye, Glen Sheil and Torridon.

→ www.stationcottage.com

POOLEWE

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

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

SANDWOOD

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, Kinlochberrie IV27 4RS.

→ 01971 521 729

SANDWOOD

Lovely croft house near Polin beach by Kinlochberrie; sleeps 7/8. £175-300 pw.

→ jude_cook@btinternet.com

SOUTH BRITTANY

House near Quimperle; 5 beds - comfortably sleeps 7 adults; large garden. £500 pw. On estuary, with small fishing port, cliff walks, coastal path, beaches. 10% discount for John Muir Trust members.

→ 01344 845 395 evenings

SECLUDED SNOWDONIA

Self-catering rooms, bunkhouse, yurt, camping in upland valley overlooking Conwy valley; panoramic views of Snowdonia. Good base for your John Muir Award project, advice available. Contact Del Davies.

→ 01492 640 906
→ del.davies@virgin.net

SEDBERGH

Self-catering and B&B in fabulous Victorian house, foot of Howgills. Sleeps 6 or 8, double/twin rooms, 3 bathrooms, shower. Open fire/stove, CH. Aga in kitchen, utility room, garden.

→ 01539 620 360
→ ali@interact.co.uk

SKYE, Sligachan and Carboist

Two comfortable, well equipped, traditional cottages sleeping max 8. Either makes ideal base for exploring or climbing. Details, including availability calendar, interior and exterior photos available on-line.

→ 01478 640 218
→ peppe@glendrynoch.co.uk

SKYE, Trotternish

STB 4* traditional croft house, sensitively modernised. Totally unspoilt situation. Panoramic views of sea, islands, mountains - Torridon, An Teallach, Kintail etc. Sleeps five; two bathrooms. Mature garden. Contact David Hudson.

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

SKYE

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

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

SOUTH OF FRANCE

Two bedroom house in picturesque village with vineyards and wooded hills. Huge variety of walking and cycling from the door. Caroux gorges and mountains nearby. Béziers airport 30 minutes. From £375 pw.

→ www.faugeresrental.com

STRATHGLASS, nr Beaulay

Beautiful holiday lodge, sleeps 4. Lovely, peaceful location. Log fire to keep you warm on those winter evenings. Contact Sue & Keith Walker.

→ 01463 782 931
→ www.highlandholidaylodge.co.uk

SOUTH-WEST LAKES

Remote cottage with stunning views; sleeps 2 to 6.

→ nicholassimpson@aol.com

SUTHERLAND

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

→ 01604 647343

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

SUTHERLAND

Spacious 3-bedroom bungalow in Assynt, on the Stoer peninsula. Extensive views, close to variety of walks and beaches (NC040317). Lochinver 9 miles. Sleeps 6; no pets/smoking. £300-600 pw.

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

SUMMER ISLES

Flora, fauna and foraging: weekend and week-long courses on Tanera Mòr with experienced tutor Viv Halcrow. Other courses in art, weaving, writing, kayaking. Also cottages, café, boat hire, sailing school.

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

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

TYWYN, MID-WALES

On edge of small village at southern edge of Snowdonia National Park. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Wonderful area for walking and other outdoor interests. Good rates for John Muir Trust members.

→ 07973 278 297
→ bathcover@hotmail.co.uk

ULLAPOOL

Self-catering studio. Bright and comfortable, fully equipped – sleeps 2. Sea views over Loch Broom and to the mountains. Direct access to hill tracks. Wi-fi. From £335 pw. John Muir Trust Members' Discount 10%.

→ 01854 613325
→ www.braesstudio.weebly.com

WANTED**Unfurnished Detached HOUSE**

Retired diplomat (John Muir Trust Member) and wife seek unfurnished detached house, Argyll or elsewhere on West Coast, for long term rent. 3-5 bedrooms, open fire, sea or loch views.

→ alasdairmacdermott@gmail.com

SERVICES**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.

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→ 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

LIFESIGNS GROUP

Deliver high quality bespoke First Aid training for those working in remote locations as well as HSE First Aid training. Also overseas Expeditions for schools, adults and overseas project-based expeditions. Working throughout the UK.

→ 01483 810785
→ www.lifesignsgroup.co.uk

ORGANIC KNOYDART LAMB

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

→ 01687 462 844
→ calannaboat@knoydart.org

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).

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

MOUNTAIN AND VILLAGE PICTURE POSTCARDS

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

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

RED SQUIRREL PRINT

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

→ 01360 550537
→ annechambers730
@btinternet.com

SCOTLAND'S WILD PLACES IN WATERCOLOUR.

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

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

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

SKYE

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

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

ROWAN IN THE ROCK

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

→ geordieali@btinternet.com
→ 01786 825 598

SPEAKERS' SERVICE

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

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

'Walking the John Muir Way'

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

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

WATERMILL BOOKSHOP, ABERFELDY

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

→ 01887 822896
→ www.aberfeldywatermill.com

HOLIDAYS**ANAM CARA, retreat centre in Scottish highlands.**

Wide range of day events, and residential week/weekend retreats. 'Time for Trees' work weeks, bushcraft, flint knapping, stone dykeing, sweat lodges, meditation, holistic detox, Yoga.

→ 01463 711 702
→ welcome@anamcara.org
→ www.anamcara.org

ALPINE EXPLORATORY

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

→ 01729 823 197
→ www.alpineexploratory.com

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

C-N-Do SCOTLAND

The experts in small group, low impact walking and wild land journeys since 1984. Memorable and evocative walks, Outer Hebrides, Sutherland, Skye, Road to the Isles. GTBS Gold holder.

→ 01786 445703
→ dorothy@cndoscotland.com
→ www.cndoscotland.com

MERCANTOUR National Park

A wide range of guided walking and adventure holidays, in the Mercantour and beyond. A week from £470 – fully catered. Vegetarians welcome. Also accommodation only.

→ www.space-between.co.uk
→ liz@space-between.co.uk
→ 00 33 (0)4 93 02 48 57

PEAKDISTRICT

Self-guided walking holidays. Millstone uplands, limestone valleys, attractive country towns & villages. Varied routes include lesser used paths. Walk directions, maps, background information provided, luggage transport & accommodation arranged.

→ info@drystonewalks.co.uk

SKYKADVENTURES

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

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

Advertising is offered (subject to space) for members' business ventures. No charge is made but donations or in-kind support welcome. 35-words max.

Any additions and amendments to the Members' Classifieds should be sent in by 7th November 2011 to allow for inclusion in the January Members' News and the online update in December. For any urgent changes, please contact Maggie on 0131 554 0114 or email promotions@jmt.org.

Please note that due to the number of members taking up the offer of free advertising 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 the Members' News.

Forthcoming events

Local Members' Groups

North East of Scotland

Conservation Work Parties

The North East of Scotland Group is running regular conservation work parties at the Glen Tanar Estate. Members and non-members welcome. Check online for current activities or contact James Brownhill at james@brownhill.us.

Talks

For forthcoming talks and events contact Rohan Beyts at r.beyts@btinternet.com or call 01358 711750.

Borders

If you're interested in getting involved with the Borders Local Members' Group, please contact John Thomas at j.p.r.t@btinternet.com.

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Group is looking for volunteer organisers to help create a programme of talks, work parties and social activities for autumn 2011 and 2012. To get involved, please contact promotions@jmt.org.

Glasgow & West of Scotland

See online for forthcoming events in the Glasgow & West of Scotland area. If you would like to get involved with the group's activities, please contact Moya Taylor at moyataylor@aol.com.

North West of Scotland

Ullapool Members' Gathering: Michael Scott OBE 'Scotland and its Wild Flowers'

When: Friday 28 October – Members' Forum 5pm | Supper 6pm | Talk 7.30pm

Where: MacPhail Centre, Ullapool

Cost: Supper (inc. glass of wine) £7.50 | Talk £5 (£3 Field Club & Trust Members'). All profits to the John Muir Trust.

Join the Ullapool Members' Gathering for a talk by Michael Scott on 'Scotland and its Wild Flowers'. Michael is a Wester Ross-based natural history writer, broadcaster and author of Scottish Wild Flowers with a particular interest in arctic and alpine wild flowers. He is a former Deputy Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage and a former Chairman of Scottish Environment Link. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the wild plant conservation charity, Plantlife International. In 2005, he was awarded an OBE for services to biodiversity conservation in Scotland. The talk will be preceded by a Members' Forum, giving members of the Trust the opportunity for open discussion with Trust chief executive, Stuart Brooks.

For more information and booking, please contact Sue Hopkinson at hopkinson.rhue@virgin.net or call 01854 612756.

South West

Southern Members' Gathering

When: Saturday 12 November, 10am–5pm. For those who will be in or near Bristol the evening before, there will be an optional informal dinner on the Friday evening.

Where: The Bristol Hotel, Bristol

Cost: £18 (does not include dinner on 11 November).

Join the Southern Members for presentations from Trust chief executive Stuart Brooks, followed by guest speaker Patrick Holden CBE, Director of the Sustainable Food Trust, and a former Director of the Soil Association. This year a hot buffet lunch will be provided on site during which there will be an opportunity to engage with Trust staff and a range of environmental organisations based in the South West. It's hoped this 'open space' will generate engagement, energy, and discussion. Afterwards there will be an afternoon presentation from Mick Blunt, Area Manager, Western Isles, John Muir Trust, and an open forum facilitated by Chairman John Hutchison.

Contact Dave Stewart, South West Local Members' Group, dave@curious-coaching.com or call 07776 153 428.

BE A VOLUNTEER, AND HELP US GROW THE TRUST

The Trust is attending a number of events over the next six months to raise awareness about the Trust and recruit new members. If you're interested in volunteering at any of the following events, please contact Maggie Briggs, Membership Officer, on 0131 554 0114 or e-mail promotions@jmt.org.

Thursday 4 August

Black Isle Show, Mannsfield Showground, Muir of Ord

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4 September

SNH Photography Fair, Battleby Centre, Perth

Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 October

Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival, George Square Theatre, Edinburgh

Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 October

Scottish Outdoors Show, SECC, Glasgow

Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 October

Scottish Canoe Show, Bells Sports Centre, Perth

Thursday, 17 – Sunday 20 November

Kendal Mountain Festival, Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal

Saturday 10 – Sunday 18 December

Edinburgh Ethical Christmas Fair, Castle Street/Princes Street, Edinburgh



PHOTOGRAPHER: RORY SYME

Members visit Glenlude in the Borders, the Trust's newest property

TELL US YOUR NEWS

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

- 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

The John Muir Trust Members' News is printed on Revive 100 Uncoated which is an FSC certified recycled grade paper, containing 100% post consumer waste and manufactured at a mill accredited with ISO 14001 environmental management standard. The pulp used in this product is bleached using an Elemental Chlorine Free process (ECF). We use a litho print process using vegetable-based inks, and a local printer with excellent environmental credentials.

Editor: Susan Wright
Thanks to: Maggie Briggs, Rory Syme, Steven Turnbull, Rob Bushby, Mike Brown
Design: Various Creative
Print: J. Thomson Printers
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Front cover image:

Sea thrift, Sandwood
Photographer: Keith Brame
Published by the John Muir Trust, Charitable Company Registered in Scotland. Registered Office: Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN. Charity No. SCO 02061, Company No. SCO 81620