

# MEMBERS' NEWS

JULY 2010



JOHN  
MUIR  
TRUST

FOR  
wild LAND &  
wild PLACES

## Nevis: a decade of ownership

The John Muir Trust is celebrating a decade of ownership of the Nevis Estate – an area of wild land that is about much more than just the UK's highest peak. Acquired in June 2000, the Nevis Estate is the highest profile of all Trust properties, thanks in large part to the thousands of people who come to scale Ben Nevis each year.

Yet even with the crowds that aim for the summit, there are still many areas of wild land and secret places to be enjoyed. Stretching from the Water of Nevis to the summit of the Ben, the estate encompasses a variety of terrain from semi-permanent snow-beds to remnant Caledonian pine forest. In between, areas of upland grassland, blanket bog, wet heath and other important habitats host a rich assemblage of life, including rare arctic-alpine plants and iconic wildlife.

Led by our exceptional rangers, a great deal of the Trust's work over the past decade has been co-ordinated through the Nevis Partnership, a charitable company that includes organisations such as the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Highland Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.

As elsewhere, raising awareness of the area's natural riches – working closely with schools and local communities – is a key aspect of the Trust's work. Such education and interpretation is crucial given the immense pressure placed on the landscape by so many visitors. Tackling the problem of litter plus the constant need for path maintenance remain ongoing challenges. Charity events, in particular, bring phenomenal footfall and the Trust is working hard to help reduce their impact.

The issue of litter was highlighted again in May when the first litter clearance work party of the year battled through summit snow to collect six bin bags of rubbish and a further five bags on the way down. Much of the litter comprised the usual banana skins – the subject of a much publicised recent campaign – and plastic bottles.

Volunteers form an integral part of the conservation programme, both in terms of litter collection and bringing specialist knowledge to bear on habitat and species monitoring. With their help, the Trust has established transects to monitor the grazing impact of deer; undertaken biodiversity projects that examine the

health of dwarf shrubs, blanket bog and tall herbs; and conducted detailed studies of important populations of water vole and mountain ringlet butterfly.

The Trust's work is also not without controversy – as evidenced by the decision to remove many of the additional cairns that have appeared on the mountain down the years. A similar stance was taken on the sensitive issue of plaques and memorials placed on the mountain. Most have now been removed with additional memorials discouraged. In their place, a riverside garden of remembrance has been built close to the visitor centre in Glen Nevis.

It is all part of the wider effort to reduce human impact, safeguard and enhance the area's wild land character and promote the wild land message to the many thousands of people who visit this special place.

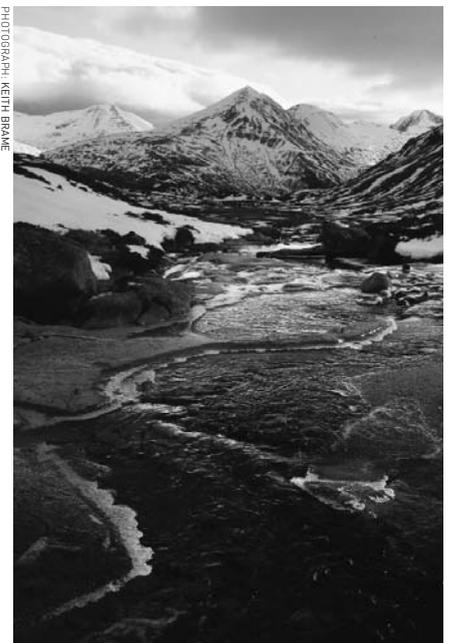
→ [www.jmt.org/ben-nevis-estate.asp](http://www.jmt.org/ben-nevis-estate.asp)

### NEVIS PARTNERSHIP

Ben Nevis is close to our Chairman's heart as he lives within sight (most days!) of the mountain and has been closely involved in its protection down the years. He was instrumental in setting up the Nevis Partnership, a body on which Fran Lockhart serves as our nominated director. At the time of writing, the Partnership is unclear about its future and, unless the funding position changes, its board has decided to cease operation during 2011. The Trust will continue to work closely with the Partnership over the next few months.

### FAST FACTS

- The Nevis Estate includes the summits of Ben Nevis (1,343m), Carn Mor Dearg (1,220m), Aonach Beag (1,234m) and Sgurr Choinnich Beag (963m)
- Between them, Ben Nevis and Glen Nevis receive more than 150,000 visitors each year
- In 2009, volunteer work parties collected 22 bin liners full of rubbish
- Volunteers and partners have repaired more than three kilometres of footpaths on Trust land



PHOTOGRAPH: KEITH BRANK



## Chairman's View

On 3 April 2000, I landed at Glasgow Airport having returned from a holiday in the US. While driving north, I switched on the radio to learn that Ben Nevis had been sold. Had it been 1 April, I would have thought no more of it! At the time, I was secretary of the Nevis Working Party and wondered what had happened while I had been away. There were no prior rumours of the sale at all.

Once I knew that the John Muir Trust was the new owner, I called [then Chief Executive] Nigel Hawkins to offer the Trust a seat on the Working Party. The rest, as they say, is history and this edition of Members' News celebrates our achievements on the Nevis Estate since then – many in conjunction with the Nevis Partnership.

I am pleased that the London Members' Group will feature Nevis at its September meeting (*see page eight*) and I look forward to meeting local members then. I will also attend the Bristol Members' gathering in November and hope to receive invitations from other groups.

An earlier bulletin mentioned the likelihood of the Model T Ford Register of Great Britain (Club) lifting a vintage car to the top of the Ben by helicopter in May next year to commemorate the centenary of the first ascent in 1911. Although we recognise the historical importance of the event, our staff and Trustees were clear that the project could not be supported on environmental grounds. The Club has decided not to go ahead but local parties may still carry a Model T to the summit, piece by piece, more faithfully re-enacting the original six-day ascent. Like it or not, the event is part of the social history of the mountain in our care and members may wish to support this, should it go ahead. I certainly will.

During Scotland Week, I was a guest of the Scottish Government at a commemoration of John Muir in San Francisco during which I planted a redwood alongside Mike Russell, Education Minister, and Bruce Hamilton of the Sierra Club. This provided an opportunity to speak about our work, drawing parallels between the Beauty-Denny campaign and John Muir's role at Hetch Hetchy.

We have just had another successful AGM and Gathering at which we reported progress with the Vision and Strategic Review. The latter includes governance – in particular, doing business in a way that allows proper scrutiny and encourages member involvement – plus some staff restructuring. Our Chief Executive, Stuart Brooks, outlines this in more detail at the bottom of this page.

We are keen to hear and share members' views and this issue carries a letters section for the first time. I hope you will contribute in future. In the coming months, we will also build a dynamic new section into the website.

Observant members will notice that our Annual Accounts have been consolidated with the John Muir Trust Anniversary Foundation. For various reasons the Foundation has been wound up and funds transferred to the Trust. I am very grateful to the Foundation Trustees for their support over the years.

Finally, I would like to thank those who re-elected me as a Trustee in May. I also thank all who stood and congratulate Walter Semple, Bill Wright, Mike Brown and Will Williams on their own appointments as Trustees. Dick Allen, Will Boyd Wallis and Steve Green have given loyal service and deserve our thanks. And, as I write this in June, I am reminded:

*"There is no night at all now; only a partial gloaming; never, even in cloudy midnights, too dark to read"* John Muir

**John Hutchison, Chairman**



## STRATEGIC REVIEW

With the arrival of a new Chief Executive and Chairman last year and a significant turnover of Trustees it seemed sensible to take stock of the Trust and give considerable thought to our future operational planning. With the Trust's current operational plan running through to 2011, we have a year to carry out this thinking. Although much of this activity may appear to be happening in the 'back office', it does have significant implications for the future of the Trust.

We set out to do three things: produce a long-term Vision; develop a new corporate strategy with supporting business plan; and undertake a staff restructure. The overall aim is for the organisation to move forward with confidence in our actions and with a degree of financial security.

The specific purpose of the Vision is to make absolutely clear what the Trust is about, explain our values for wild land and wild places and confirm how we plan to meet our objectives. We want the Vision to be inspirational, but also encourage others to join us. It will set long-term goals and provide the context for a new corporate strategy that outlines key actions for the next five years.

Given the significant foundation role of the Vision, we consulted with the membership via our e-broadcasts as well as with partners and key supporters. We shared a preview of the Vision at the recent AGM and Gathering and plan to launch it later this summer.

In addition, with major biodiversity and policy projects coming to an end and an anticipated reduction in funding due to the economic downturn, we recognise

the need for cut-backs if we are to live within our means and avoid reactionary cuts in the future. As such, we are embarking on a consultation with staff that may result in changes next year, particularly in the land management department which has been the main beneficiary of recent project funding. Every effort is being made to avoid compulsory redundancies and our dedicated and skilled staff are working with us to find solutions.

Change can be unsettling and difficult, but my hope and intention is that we are putting in place the necessary building blocks that will enable the Trust to remain a vibrant, successful organisation that can continue to meet the many challenges facing our precious wild land and wild places.

**Stuart Brooks, Chief Executive**

## Launch of Wild Land Campaign

The Trust's Wild Land Campaign has moved up a gear with the launch of online petitions aimed at the UK and Scottish Parliaments calling for a new environmental designation for the best areas of wild land in Scotland, and improved protection for wild land elsewhere in the UK.

It is vital that we gather as many signatures as possible as we prove to decision makers that there is strong public demand for greater protection of the UK's wild land – as evidenced by more than 90% of objectors to Beauy-Denny citing their concern about landscape impact.

By continuing to highlight the passion that exists for wild land we can create better decisions for wild land in the future. You can strengthen the case for greater protection by adding your name to the petition which is now available on the Trust website.

And as part of wider efforts to generate public support for the campaign we are in the process of recruiting several high-profile ambassadors, including the mountaineer, lecturer and acclaimed author Simon Yates (*pictured right*).

"I am happy to support the John Muir Trust in its Wild Land Campaign," commented Simon. "Wild places have defined how I have grown, developed and learned, and continue to do so. As the pace of development quickens and the remaining areas of wild land contract what remains become increasingly significant and valuable on many different levels."

For more information, see [www.jmt.org/wildland](http://www.jmt.org/wildland)

Further questions can be directed to Mel Nicoll, Campaigns Coordinator on 01796 484936 or [campaigns@jmt.org](mailto:campaigns@jmt.org)



PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON YATES

### SIGNING UP

The John Muir Trust is delighted that the Cairngorms National Park Authority has signed up to continue its involvement with the John Muir Award. The signing ceremony, held at the recent AGM in Aviemore, signalled a mutual commitment to support each others' aims, setting out practical arrangements for a new era of collaborative working. The official signing was conducted by Trust Chairman John Hutchison and Cairngorms National Park Authority Board Member Duncan Bryden (*pictured below*).



PHOTOGRAPH: SAM BAUMBER

Among the first decisions of the newly formed Cairngorms National Park Authority Board in 2003 was to approve the appointment of a dedicated manager to run the John Muir Award as a project within the Park. This role has since been extended to become the permanent post of Outdoor Learning Officer.

To date, nearly 10,000 John Muir Awards have been achieved within the Cairngorms. It is delivered as part of the core curriculum in schools, has been cited as an exemplar in Parliamentary debates on National Parks and forms the foundation of the EUROPARC Junior Ranger Project in the Cairngorms.

### MUIR SPOTTED AT BOTANICS

The life and times of John Muir were brought back to life in April when the John Muir Award hosted a special weekend of events to celebrate the conservation pioneer's 172nd birthday at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh.

Visitors to the John Hope Gateway were invited to follow in the footsteps of the man himself – played by actor Robert Williamson – as they explored the Gardens. "I'm not only marking my birthday but also celebrating the milestone of 100,000 John Muir Awards being achieved, and the fact that we're in the midst of the International Year of Biodiversity," explained Muir.

When asked by Muir whether they knew who he was, one couple commented: "Well, we know who you're supposed to be – we're John Muir Trust Life Members! We were aware of the John Muir Award, but hadn't realised how many people have been involved."

→ [www.jmt.org/jmaward-home.asp](http://www.jmt.org/jmaward-home.asp)



PHOTOGRAPH: ROBB BUSHBY

### MEMBERS' LAND DAYS

There are still places left on the three remaining Members' Land Days for 2010. A great opportunity to find out what the Trust is doing in particular areas, each day is led by a local ranger who guides the group across a particular property, with plenty of time for discussion and debate on local issues. To find out more about the Land Days or to sign up for a group, please contact Sara McCarter on 0131 554 0114 or [sara.mccarter@jmt.org](mailto:sara.mccarter@jmt.org)

Remaining 2010 dates

**Quinag**

Saturday, 4 September

**Sandwood**

Monday, 6 September

**Nevis**

Friday, 24 September

"An excellent, stimulating and very enjoyable day"

John Finney, John Muir Trust member (after a Land Day on Quinag)



## ▮ Cape crusaders

In the summer of 2000 a remarkable event took place – the Island Race, a round-Britain relay of some 4,200 miles which was to be completed in 100 days. Those who participated will never forget the breathtaking coastal scenery and the impact the event had on local communities.

This was no more so than on Day 93 when the race reached the far northwest tip of Scotland and the small community of Durness in Sutherland. It was decided that such a special area deserved an equally impressive stage and so the Cape Wrath Challenge, a 27-mile run from Durness to the lighthouse at the end of the Cape and back, was designed. A truly amazing run, the route to the most north-westerly point on the Scottish mainland included unpopulated areas of genuine wilderness, with two ferry crossings thrown in.

The concept of a regular Cape Wrath Challenge was born – although we didn't stop there. In addition to the run out to the Cape itself, the plan was to make this a multi-race event to include at least three or four other runs on different days, interspersed with a range of social activities. Today, the third week in May has become an established date for the Cape Wrath Challenge.

This series of moorland and coastal runs take in some unbelievable scenery and the kind of tranquillity that can only be found in such remote areas. The Cape may be short on people and cars, but is full of history, wildlife and air as crystal clear as the surrounding waters.

And with two-, three- and five-person teams able to participate, there is something for every level of competitor. During the week, short and long options are offered, including a fancy dress beach run when the local schools also join in. Of course, the final night ceilidh has become as significant as the actual runs with a well-stocked buffet that is the equal of many top-class restaurants.

## ▮ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome feedback on items appearing in Trust publications and will publish a highlight of correspondence received in our new Letters to the Editor section.

Correspondence should be sent for the editor's attention at [journal@jmt.org](mailto:journal@jmt.org)

We also encourage members to participate in further discussion on Facebook and Twitter – access via [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

Dear Sir

I was interested in the Classic Texts feature [*I Return to Scotland*, SPB Mais] in the Autumn 09 issue of the Journal. I certainly remember SPB Mais and wonder how many of your readers do, too?

SPB was well known as the author of a number of walkers' guides sponsored by the railway companies. Those were the days of ramblers' trains, branch lines, rural stations and Sunday operation – a whole vanished infrastructure.

If *Southern Rambles* [first published in 1931] is typical of SPB's writing, the walker would be ill-advised to follow his directions alone. One comment in particular sticks in my mind: "The walker should not make the mistake I did and ... etc". Of course, SPB entirely omits to tell us the way the walker should go!

In his review, I think Justin Busbridge's phrase "rambling confusion" neatly sums up SPB as a walker, as well as a writer. Interestingly, however, some of the views SPB so evocatively describes during his walks in Kent are still recognisable, despite the massive encroachment by housing in the area.

Another oddity is his envy of women who have the choice of walking in a skirt – obviously his idea of an ideal walking outfit, though many women would not agree! Did he perhaps wear the kilt on his travels in Scotland?

I'm looking forward to the next classic text.

Regards

Mary Elisabeth Arnold, Dundee

The special feel of the event was summed up perfectly by Iain Morrice from Balerno who completed his first Cape Wrath Challenge Marathon this year: "The organisation and the friendliness will stay with me forever. The other runners were all cheery and it seemed that everyone was enjoying themselves. I have many highlights of the area, but the best was stopping at the bridge at 20 miles and watching two cuckoos in courtship as they flew over a golden sandy beach, the hills ablaze with yellow whin and blue skies above. Life does not get much better than that. Thank you so much for an unforgettable experience." *With thanks to Ronnie Lansley*

The Trust is very happy to support the Cape Wrath Challenge each year. The 2011 event (15-21 May) will see the 10th Anniversary of the event. Early entry is advised to avoid disappointment.

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

PHOTOGRAPHY: RONNIE LANSLEY/DEVIN ARROWSMITH



## Skye hosts bryology apprentice

Oliver Moore (*pictured right*) carried out a placement with the Trust on our Skye estates in early-spring as part of his British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) Natural Talent bryology apprenticeship.

The first of the project's two elements involved searching for two scarce liverworts previously found in the area and which are listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Oliver was able to report that a population of Wilson's Pouchwort (*Acrobolbus wilsonii*) continues to do well in a sheltered ravine, but was unable to re-find the globally rare Atlantic lejeunea (*Lejeunea mandonii*), last recorded here in the 1970s.

The second part of his work involved establishing monitoring plots to examine the health of bryophyte populations on the Strathaird estate and, in particular, the rare liverwort community known as the northern Atlantic mixed-hepatic mat.

"Oliver produced excellent work during his placement and brought expertise that we don't have in-house," commented the Trust's Biodiversity Officer, Liz Auty. "We now have confirmation that an important Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species is still present on our property and an excellent baseline survey that can be revisited in the future."

Oliver also thoroughly enjoyed his placement. "It gave me a great opportunity to see a diverse assemblage of bryophytes against a spectacular backdrop of mountains and coast," he said. "When I looked beyond my hand-lens, I even got to see otters and eagles."

→ [www2.btcv.org.uk/display/naturaltalent](http://www2.btcv.org.uk/display/naturaltalent)



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHNNY MACDONALD

## MARATHON MAN

Congratulations to Trust member Stephen Pyke – better known as Spyke – who recently completed the fastest ever round of Scotland's 283 Munros, raising funds and awareness for the John Muir Trust along the way.

Forty-five-year-old Spyke (*pictured below*) from Staffordshire completed his round at the summit of Ben Hope, Sutherland in just 39 days and nine hours – shaving more than nine days off the previous record. Spyke's journey, which began on Ben More, Mull, saw him run, cycle and kayak his way across the country, covering a marathon and an average of 10,000 feet of ascent each day.

"We are extremely proud to count Spyke as one of our members, and I am delighted that he chose to use this challenge to raise money and awareness for our work," commented John Hutchison, Trust Chairman.

Spyke is raising money for the John Muir Trust at [www.justgiving.com/spykes-munro-round](http://www.justgiving.com/spykes-munro-round)

For the full story, see Spyke's blog at [munros2010.blogspot.com](http://munros2010.blogspot.com)



PHOTOGRAPH: RORY SWINE

## WORK PARTY UPDATE

It has been a busy first half of the year for work parties, with one highlight being the removal of some of the deer fencing on Li & Coire Dhorrcail that was put up by the Trust when it first bought the property in 1987.

The fence removal heralds the success of re-growth in the area and good deer management. It also pays tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who have planted and tended thousands of trees on this beautiful and remote property over the years.

Of course, work parties have also been active at additional sites together with partners such as Galson, North Harris and Knoydart. Tasks have ranged from further path work on Quinag to the usual litter collecting on Ben Nevis (recently featured on the BBC) and a massive beach clean at Camasunary (*pictured right*) which resulted in a letter of congratulations from Prince Charles.

We will continue to run a full programme of work parties until the end of October. This includes a second visit of the year to North Harris to tackle the invasion of Gunnera around Tarbert, plus path and fence maintenance at Schiehallion. Please do join us – all are very welcome.

→ [www.jmt.org/activities-conservation-work-parties.asp](http://www.jmt.org/activities-conservation-work-parties.asp)



PHOTOGRAPH: RORY SWINE

## CORPORATE SUPPORT

We are pleased to welcome two new corporate members on the back of the recent AGM in Aviemore. Peter Cairns has come onboard with Northshots, a nature and conservation photography company, while Mike Shepherd from the Ski and Snowboard School has signed up as a Silver member.

In other news, Anatom – a long-standing Gold member – has launched a new range of footwear, known as Tri.aria. The company adopts a cradle-to-grave environmental approach, with the opportunity for all boots to be recycled via soles4souls. The Trust features prominently in Anatom's brochure including an introduction to our work, images from our properties and a membership leaflet enclosed with every box sold.

If you are a company director or could influence your company to support the work of the Trust, please contact Fiona Mackintosh on 0131 554 0114 or visit [www.jmt.org/corporate-benefits.asp](http://www.jmt.org/corporate-benefits.asp)

## FUNDRAISING CHAMPIONS

A huge thank you to George Hay, Fabien Lammoth, Kirsty Scott and father and son team Patrick and Jack Gray for taking part in this year's London Marathon on behalf of the Trust. Between them, they raised a fantastic £5,492.60. We are very grateful for all the effort they put in to make this a successful fundraiser for us.

Are you an enthusiastic runner? Do you think you can raise more than £1,000 by taking part in next year's London Marathon? If interested in one of our five places for the event, please contact Maggie Briggs, Membership Officer on 0131 554 0114 or [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org)

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

hf holidays is offering members up to 30% off its holidays

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

# Classifieds

## For our members

### ACCOMMODATION

#### ABOYNE

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

→ 01339 886232  
→ joanna@hubblebubble.org  
→ www.holidayfreedom.scotland.com

#### ANGUS GLENS

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

→ Contact w/end  
01575 540209, 07929485324  
→ bothbarrels69@hotmail.co.uk

#### ACHMELVICH, NR LOCHINVER

Bunkhouse-type wooden cabin sleeps up to 5. Beaches, walks, fishing all nearby.

→ 01571 844 315  
→ jennymollison@yahoo.co.uk

#### ANDALUCIA

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

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

#### ARGYLL, nr Oban

Melfort Village for rent/sale week 39 - 25/09/2010. 3 bedroom cottage (sleeps 8). £450 p.w. / £3,500 sale. Excellent facilities on site and walking. 2 dogs allowed.

→ 01330 860452

#### ARRAN

Millhouse at Pirnmill. Non-smoking. Sleeps 4, three bedrooms, 3\*. Spacious accommodation 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

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

→ 01571 855277  
→ www.cathairdhubh.co.uk

#### 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

Two 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

#### BALNAGUARD, PERTSHIRE

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

#### CAIRNGORMS

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

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

#### 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 and comfortable with wood-burning 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.curlewcottage.com

#### CEVENNES

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

→ 01527 541360.

#### COIGACH, ROSS-SHIRE

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

→ 01434 220647  
→ www.173culnacraig.com

#### DOUNE, KNOYDART

Pine lodge: groups of up to 12. Excellent food. Fast launch to access Knoydart coastline & Small Isles for walking, wildlife, photography etc. Doune, Knoydart, Mallaig, PH41 4PL

→ 01687 462 656  
→ liz@doune-knoydart.co.uk  
→ www.doune-knoydart.co.uk

#### 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, bird-watching, 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. Contact David and Chris Baker.

→ 01855 811 598  
→ www.glencoemountaincottages.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\*. Ballinalloch Cott., Errigie: isolated Monadhliath moorland setting, South Loch Ness

→ 01456 486 358  
→ corinne@wildernesscottages.co.uk

#### HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE

Coshievill 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

#### HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE, 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 north end. Self-catering, sleeps 21. Stunning views to Rum and Skye; minutes walk from beach. £17.50/night (£12.00 under 10s). Booking recommended.

→ 01681 700 781  
→ www.ionahostel.co.uk

#### ISLE OF 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

#### 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

#### LAKES

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

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

## LOCH KATRINE, STRONACHLACHAR

Beautifully equipped cottage in Loch 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](mailto:enquiries@hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk)
- [www.hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk](http://www.hillviewholidaycottage.co.uk)

## SANDWOOD AREA

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

- 01971 521 177

## SANDWOOD

Self-catering family bungalows at Oldshoremore. 3 bedrooms; sleep 5 & 6. STB 3\*, 4\*. Own field centre, wonderful beaches, hill-walking, peace. Dilys & Michael Otter, Smithy House, Oldshoremore, Kinlochbervie IV27 4RS

- 01971 521 729

## SECLUDED SNOWDONIA

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

- 01492 640 906
- [del.davies@virgin.net](mailto:del.davies@virgin.net)

## SEDBERGH

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

- 01539 620 360
- [ali@interact.co.uk](mailto:ali@interact.co.uk)

## SKYE

Sligachan and Carbost: 2 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](mailto:peppe@glendrynoch.co.uk)

## SKYE

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

- 01449 760 428
- [www.freespace.virgin.net/david.hudson5](http://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](mailto:tiralainn@btinternet.com)
- [www.visitskye.com](http://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/week.

- [www.faugeresrental.com](http://www.faugeresrental.com)

## STRATHGLASS, nr BEAULY

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

- 01463 782 931
- [www.highlandholidaylodge.co.uk](http://www.highlandholidaylodge.co.uk)

## SUTHERLAND

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

- 01604 647343.

## SUTHERLAND

Overscaig House Hotel: a great base to explore the North Highlands. Near Assynt, Sandwood Bay, NW Geopark. Peace and tranquillity with a warm Highland welcome. Contact Jan & Martin.

- 01549 431 203
- [www.overscaig.com](http://www.overscaig.com)

## SUTHERLAND

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

- 0131 665 2055
- [jennymollison@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennymollison@yahoo.co.uk)

## S-W LAKES

Remote cottage with stunning views; sleeps 2 to 6.

- [nicholassimpson@aol.com](mailto:nicholassimpson@aol.com)

## TORRIN, SKYE

Clover Hill. STB 4\* comfortable, well equipped cottage. 3 bedrooms, sleeps 6. Idyllic burnside location. Magnificent view of Blaven across Loch Slapin. £295-£535 pw.

- 01471 822 763
- [cloverhilltorrin@aol.com](mailto:cloverhilltorrin@aol.com)
- [www.cloverhill-torrin.co.uk](http://www.cloverhill-torrin.co.uk)

## TYWYN, MID-WALES

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

- 07973 278 297
- [bathcover@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bathcover@hotmail.co.uk)

## ▮ SERVICES

### C-N-Do Scotland

The experts in small group, low impact walking and wild land journeys since 1984. GTBS Gold holder

- 01786 445703
- [www.cndoscotland.com](http://www.cndoscotland.com)

## 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](mailto:calannaboat@knoydart.org)

## RED SQUIRREL PRINT

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

- 01360 550537
- [annechambers730@btinternet.com](mailto:annechambers730@btinternet.com)

## ROB COLLISTER, MOUNTAIN GUIDE

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

- 01492 582 448
- [rob.collister@btinternet.com](mailto:rob.collister@btinternet.com)

## SCOTLAND'S WILD PLACES IN WATERCOLOUR

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

- [www.paullynnpaintings.co.uk](http://www.paullynnpaintings.co.uk)

and click on Gallery 3.

## SKYE SERPENTARIUM REPTILE WORLD

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

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

## WATERMILL BOOKSHOP, ABERFELDY

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

- 01887 822896
- [www.aberfeldywatermill.com](http://www.aberfeldywatermill.com)

## WEB CONSULTANCY

Make your charity shine online. Workshops, expert advice and support on all aspects of using the web and social media. Options for all budgets, specialising in not-for-profit organisations.

- [www.whitecherry.co.uk](http://www.whitecherry.co.uk)

## WILDERNESS FIRST AID

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

- 07881 427 507
- [www.rubiconfirstaid.com](http://www.rubiconfirstaid.com)

## ▮ HOLIDAYS

### NORDIC WALKING

Courses in beautiful Ross-shire with a qualified instructor. Small, friendly groups to suit any level of fitness. Guided walks, instruction and hire of equipment; just come and enjoy.

- 01997 414 376
- [hazelnut1@tesco.net](mailto:hazelnut1@tesco.net)

### 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](mailto:info@drystonewalks.co.uk)

### RICHARD McGUIRE

Skye guiding since 1995. Skye Munros, scrambles and climbs with an experienced local guide. Winter skills and rock climbing instruction. 5-day courses or private guiding.

- 01478 613 180/07796 467 886
- [paddy@blavenguiding.co.uk](mailto:paddy@blavenguiding.co.uk)
- [www.blavenguiding.co.uk](http://www.blavenguiding.co.uk)

### SUFFOLK WALKS

Self-guided walks and B&B packages in the Stour Valley & Dedham Vale. Explore the classic English landscapes and historic buildings of Constable Country at your own pace.

- [www.blueskywalks.co.uk](http://www.blueskywalks.co.uk)

### SKYAK ADVENTURES

Sea kayak expeditions, courses and guiding. BCU level 5 coach. Unique sea kayaking experiences in a world-class location. Gordon & Morag Brown, 29 Lower Breakish, Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8QA. 01471 820002

- [info@skyakadventures.com](mailto:info@skyakadventures.com)
- [www.skyakadventures.com](http://www.skyakadventures.com)

### VILAYATOURS

Based in Chachapoyas, Northern Peru, the richest archaeological and biodiverse area of South America. Hotel-based and camping treks throughout the region arranged to suit.

- [info@vilayatours.com](mailto:info@vilayatours.com)
- [www.vilayatours.com](http://www.vilayatours.com)

### WILDERNESS SCOTLAND

Adventure holidays in the Highlands & Islands. Wilderness walking, sea kayaking, sailing, canoeing, mountain biking, winter walking, ski mountaineering trips. Also specialist family adventure holiday service.

- 0131 625 6635
- [stevie@wildernessscotland.com](mailto:stevie@wildernessscotland.com)
- [www.wildernessscotland.com](http://www.wildernessscotland.com)

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

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

## Forthcoming events

### Local Members' Groups

If you would like to be involved in any of our local groups, please get in touch with the Membership Manager on 0131 554 0114 or [recruit@jmt.org](mailto:recruit@jmt.org)

#### Edinburgh

See online for forthcoming events from the Edinburgh Group. To get involved, contact Mary Inglis at [inglis\\_mary@hotmail.com](mailto:inglis_mary@hotmail.com)

#### Glasgow & West of Scotland

The Glasgow & West of Scotland group continues to meet regularly, with events currently being organised for autumn. Details to follow online and by email. For more information, contact Moya Taylor at [moyamtaylor@aol.com](mailto:moyamtaylor@aol.com)

#### London

##### Wednesday, 15 September, 7.30pm

To celebrate 10 years of guardianship of Ben Nevis, the London Members' Group will hold an open evening at Truckles of Pied Bull Yard, a traditional ale and port house in the centre of London. Come and hear Trust Chairman John Hutchison provide a cultural and historical perspective on the mountain. The event is open to all, so please bring along any interested friends. Admission is free, but donations to the Trust would be appreciated. Contact Sara McCarter on 0131 554 0114 or [sara.mccarter@jmt.org](mailto:sara.mccarter@jmt.org)

#### South of England and South Wales

##### Members' Gathering, Sunday, 6 November

Now in its 20th year, this all-day gathering for members and friends in the South of England and South Wales will be held at The Bristol Hotel, Bristol. Guy Hagg, Policy Officer from the Ministry of Defence Estates, will speak on 'Butterflies, Bullets and Bombs', Trust Chief Executive Stuart Brooks will outline developments within the organisation and Andrew Campbell, Head of Land Management, will offer an update on land management issues on our estates. John Hutchison, Chairman, will facilitate the Open Forum. If you would like to attend and did not receive a booking form with this issue of Members' News, contact Brian Pollard on 0117 942 4951.

#### Macphail Centre, Ullapool

##### Friday, 24 September

5pm, Members' forum

6pm, Buffet supper to 'Meet the Trust'

7.30pm, A Celebration of Scotland by Hamish Brown, lecturer and photographer

Lecture: £3.00 for Trust and Field Club members, £5.00 to all others. Buffet supper: £7.50 each (includes a glass of wine)

For further information, contact Sue Hopkinson on 01854 612 756 or [hopkinson.rhue@virgin.net](mailto:hopkinson.rhue@virgin.net)

## COMMUNITY BUY-OUT DEBATE

In March, the Glasgow and West of Scotland group enjoyed a lively debate on the topic of 'Community buy-outs – a worthwhile exchange?' Chaired by Trust Chairman John Hutchison, the event saw three panellists present their views on the merits, drawbacks and economics of community buy-outs.

Dr George Callaghan, an economist with the Open University, talked about land ownership and the power it gives; Lukas Lehmann, from the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, provided an insight into how the community has tackled its own buy-out since 2002; and Neil Gerrard, from the Highlands and Islands Community Land Unit (CLU), spoke about the unit's role as a key facilitator for communities pursuing buy-out plans.

As Neil explained, more than 400,000 acres of land across the Highlands and Islands are now owned or managed by local communities.

The evening concluded with a question and answer session. The group is indebted to the speakers who all gave a very 'worthwhile exchange' of views.

## AVIEMORE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL AGM

Members, supporters and friends from across the UK descended on Aviemore for the AGM & Gathering in May. With the Cairngorms on the doorstep and plenty of sunshine, the 215 attendees enjoyed a full weekend of excursions, presentations and talks.

There was cause for celebration on day one as the Cairngorms Partnership was signed, signalling the continuation of educational links between the John Muir Award and Cairngorm Ranger Service (see page three). Before the AGM, Stuart Brooks gave a preview of the Trust's new Vision document, while Helen McDade introduced our new Wild Land Campaign which calls for improved statutory protection of the UK's last remaining wild landscapes. The AGM saw three new Trustees appointed and all official business approved.

Following an evening BBQ, Peter Cairns delivered the Ben Nevis Distillery-sponsored Spirit of Wild Places lecture. Speaking on the topic of 'New Frontiers', Peter's vibrant presentation detailed the many journeys involved in his photography, including the Wild Wonders of Europe project he is currently involved in.

On day two, members enjoyed excursions to the Cairngorm plateau (pictured below), the RSPB's Insh Marshes reserve, Highland Wildlife Park, Glen Feshie estate and even a paddle down the Spey. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's event!

The 2011 John Muir Trust AGM & Gathering will be held at Rheged Centre, Penrith, Cumbria on 4th and 5th June.



PHOTOGRAPH: SAM BAUMBER

## NEXT EDITION

The next issue of Members' News will be published in January 2011. Please send news items to the membership team by 12 December. Contact [promotions@jmt.org](mailto:promotions@jmt.org) or post to: John Muir Trust, 41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD

## Keep in touch

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

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#### Front cover image:

Pine tree in Nevis Gorge, upper Glen Nevis.

Photograph: Keith Brame

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