

Annual Report for 2004



Message from Dick Balharry, Chairman

'We do not need a John Muir, we need hundreds of John Muirs.'



Eric Meadows

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Cover photograph, Cuillin from Elgol, by David W Robertson.

THE WILD LAND CONFERENCE held in Pitlochry in October was a special event for JMT. Preparing for, organising and staging such a major gathering demanded special people. Our sponsors and benefactors, JMT staff, Trustees, volunteers, artistes and speakers, theatre and hotel staff all contributed to this truly memorable occasion. I extend a very warm thanks to all involved.

Those who attended, witnessing the passion and intellect demonstrated by delegates, were moved and inspired by the experience. From the youngest to the most elderly, the comments and levels of appreciation gave a true testimony of what our Trust has achieved and even more important what it needs to do in the future. The Declaration (opposite) summarising the wish of Conference has now been discussed in the Scottish Parliament with Lewis Macdonald MSP, Deputy Minister for the Environment and Rural Development.

These issues are important and relevant now and for the future. Have our best efforts made a difference? That is a judgement still to come.

The conference may have helped us deliver our main aims, but sterling work has continued on all fronts of our busy conservation/education programme, as the Director's report makes clear.

What then are our strategic priorities for the next three years? In no particular order, they are:

- Develop a secure financial base.
- Respond strategically to threats that affect wild lands.
- Inspire people to value wild places.
- Raise the profile of JMT.
- Consolidate and assess our land management and work with partners.

The last point is based on developing Best Practice guidance for wildland conservation management. By using our own properties as an exemplar, our aspiration is to encourage managers and owners of wildland wherever it exists to use such practice for the benefit of people and all that is wild.

In 2004 we came of age. Bob Aitken, speaking at Conference about a visit to Dunbar in the early 70s, said 'I could find no one who had heard of John Muir'. Today Dunbar is the focus for all who have an interest in John Muir. In California a quarter-dollar has been specially minted with John Muir's profile indicating their appreciation of a man who inspired a President and left a legacy that is a living memorial for all of us.

He was a visionary with literary gifts that inspired, educated and aroused public opinion. By dint of using his name, the founding fathers of JMT displayed visionary wisdom, and bestowed on all of us a responsibility to deliver.

In 2004, Linda Macmillan from Yosemite said at the Wild Land Conference 'We do not need a John Muir, we need hundreds of John Muirs'. How true! Your help is needed to encourage more people to join us in supporting the ethos so well espoused by this son of Dunbar in Scotland.

Director's report

Craig McMaster



'Suilven, rising triumphantly out of a wild landscape and surrounded by a myriad of lochs and lochans...'

Nigel Hawkins
Director



2004 WAS A MILESTONE YEAR FOR THE JOHN MUIR TRUST AS WE CELEBRATED OUR 21ST ANNIVERSARY. The activities of the year very much reflected an organisation which has now come of age but which continues to strive to be dynamic and youthful and very much looking forward to the challenges of the future. This is, though, a good time to take stock of what has been done. The 21-year timeline throughout this report sets out a message of steady progress in our development – and this was again very much the order of the day for the year 2004.

HIGHLIGHT of the anniversary year was undoubtedly the Sustaining Wild Land Conference held at Pitlochry Festival Theatre in October, and attended by over 250 people from this country and overseas. The conference was chaired by Dick Balharry, the driving force behind the event, ably assisted by Alison McGachy, our former development manager, and Allison Lock, our new fundraiser.

The conference considered all aspects of wild land and its importance to society and ended with a ringing Declaration for the Wild (on the inside front cover) calling for wild land to be firmly placed on the political agenda throughout the UK. The declaration was supported by other conservation organisations – with a membership totalling nearly 500,000 – and delivered to Government.

Our Patron HRH Prince Charles sent a special message in which he said that increasing energy generation from renewable resources was vital – but that this should not be

done in a way which impacts on our finest wild landscapes. And he called for more investment in developing technologies for tidal generation.

The Prince said that the John Muir Trust had made significant progress in wild land management in its 21 years and that The John Muir Award has been of enormous importance in introducing young people to a wealth of new experiences that they will never forget.

It was appropriate that the Prince referred to the award, because in 2004 a record 6250 people received one, meaning that over 18,000 have done so since its inception.

The conference was the scene for the presentation of the Trust's Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr Adam Watson, widely regarded as the greatest living authority on the Cairngorms. Adam is a fierce proponent of wild land and has worked tirelessly for his beloved Cairngorms throughout his lifetime. He is a former Trustee and Honorary Adviser to the Trust. Adam – and his wife Jenny – received a prolonged standing ovation when his old friend Dick Balharry presented the award.

It was only the second time that the award has been presented – the other recipient, the writer, broadcaster and mountaineer Tom Weir who received the award in the millennium year, sent his personal congratulations to Adam.

The conference marked a step-change for the Trust in becoming more of a campaigning and lobbying organisation. Trustees felt the time was right to build on a solid foundation of land management, to work with communities, and in winning hearts and minds to the cause of wild land,

Top: Inverpolly and Suilven, from 'Elements' by Craig McMaster, published by Mercat Press in association with the JMT.

Adam Watson (L), and Trust chairman Dick Balharry, with Adam's Lifetime Achievement Award.



1983

John Muir Trust formed by Chris Brasher, Nigel Hawkins, Nick Luard and Denis Mollison.

and to promote the cause more loudly. The conference was the perfect springboard for this.

Communities

Our work with local communities continued to evolve with a strengthening of our present partnerships and development of new ones. There is clearly a role for us in supporting and encouraging people to become guardians of wild land taking on the ownership of the land they live and work on or near to.

The Trust's interest is of course in wilder, remoter land. After our support for the Knoydart Foundation and the North Harris Trust, it was natural for us to be interested when the Glencanis and Drumrunie estates came on the market during the summer of 2004. They cover 44,000 acres of some of the finest land in this country – the spectacular peaks of Cul Mor, Cul Beag, Suilven and Canisp, rising triumphantly out of a wild landscape and surrounded by a myriad of lochs and lochans.

Local communities expressed an interest in exercising their right to buy under the new Land Reform Act and, aided by the Community Land Unit of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, took steps to commission feasibility studies and secure funding.

Discussions were held with representatives of the communities about possible Trust involvement and we gave a presentation at public meetings in Lochinver in December and Achiltibuie early in 2005. Excellent progress was being made towards possible community buyout of this outstanding area as the year ended.

The Trust was also invited by the small community at Orbost on the Isle of Skye to consider joining in a community buyout, this time of land purchased by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in 1997 to benefit the community. This is being carefully considered by the Trust.

The Trust can help with environmental management and by bringing in its experience from working with communities elsewhere. We have a growing track record of bringing conservation and community interests together. We can concentrate on helping to bridge funding gaps and apply resources to land management. That is not to say that the Trust won't buy land itself again in the Highlands and Islands in the future – Trustees wish us to be in a position to move positively when the right opportunity arises – but partnerships do offer a very effective way forward.

A new kind of co-operation has arisen in the Cambrians in Mid-Wales where a farmer, Adam Besterman, has bought two hill farms and invited the Trust to work with him in maximising environmental benefit. This is an interesting challenge and is in accord with our flexible and creative approach whilst also offering us a new role in Wales. We are very grateful to Adam for giving us this innovative opportunity.

We did add to our land portfolio during the year thanks

to a remarkable gift of land at Glen Lude in the Scottish Borders where the owner, the inspirational Sheila Bell, has been carrying out a woodland project aimed at creating a wild land reserve. Sheila retains life rent of the property meaning that she will manage it and have responsibility for it during her lifetime. But she wanted to secure the land in safe hands for the future and gifted it to the Trust now.

Policy Papers

The Trust produced policy papers during the year on Wild Land and the Impact of Renewable Energy. These will be important in guiding our response to renewable energy developments which affect areas we are interested in. We support green energy but will oppose developments in the core of wild land, and we have criteria for assessing proposals on the periphery of wild land, looking at scale, design, local support and other issues.

We were heartened when the Scottish Executive turned down proposals for a hydro-electric scheme at Shieldaig-Slattadale near Loch Maree. We invested considerable time in consultation before preparing a comprehensive submission to the Executive opposing this proposal.

With limited resources, we will be selective about making responses, but Trustees decided to object formally to plans for a major wind farm on Lewis with over 230 turbines because of scale and impact on adjoining wild land.

Membership

The membership of the Trust continued to grow steadily with 545 new members during the year, and by the end of 2004 membership was tantalisingly close to the 8500 figure – at 8497. Once again we had a very high retention rate although we know that we must always work hard both to retain present members and to recruit new members.

Trustees

Peter Tilbrook and John Purser stood down as Trustees in 2004. Peter, who was formerly head of SNH in North Scotland, served as a Trustee from 1998, and John, a musicologist and broadcaster, and also a crofter at Drinan on Strathaird Estate, had served since 2001. In their different ways they made a distinctive contribution to the work of the Trust and we are very grateful to them for giving us the benefit of their wide experience and exceptional thinking.

For the second year running we did not have a contested Trustee election, because the number of candidates equalled the number of vacancies. We welcomed Steve Green, an enthusiastic member of our Aberdeen Members Group and work party volunteer, as a new Trustee. Steve brings business experience and skills which will be very helpful to the Trust and he also represents a younger generation.

Ecologist Professor Paul Jarvis and John Mackenzie, President of the Mountaineering Council for Scotland,



Steve Green—joined the Trustees in 2004.

Director's report
Continued



John Thurso, MP for Caithness and Sutherland, made a visit to the Trust's Sandwood estate to meet local people, discuss local issues and see what is happening on the ground. He is pictured with (right) Cathel Morrison, the estate's conservation manager, at the Blairmore car park at the start of the Sandwood Bay path.

Top right: Glen Green, age 3, helps with ditching at Strathaird on Skye. Below, L-R: Scott Williamson (finance), Allison Lock (corporate relations fundraiser), Ian Proudler (development).

were re-appointed for a second consecutive term, and our stalwart Denis Mollison who has been a Trustee since 1986 and is a founder of the Trust, was returned again.

Writer and broadcaster Cameron McNeish, who was co-opted to the board in 2003 and fully appointed in 2004, stood down towards the end of the year because of pressure of other commitments. Cameron gave us wonderful support and encouragement over the wild land conference and Trustees and staff are very grateful for his great efforts.

Former Chairman

It was with great sadness that we learned shortly after he had completed a remarkable 21 years as a Trustee, of the death of Nick Luard. Nick was a founder of the Trust in 1983 and served as chairman between 1991 and 1997. He made an outstanding contribution to the formation and development of the Trust and this was rightly recognised in the many tributes paid to him nationally and internationally.

Fit for the Future

The 21st anniversary provided an opportunity for the Trust to look to the future, consider its vision and ensure its structures were right for taking the organisation forward.

Trustees had a brainstorming session at North Harris in the summer and produced a long-term vision and 10-year aims for the Trust. These are ambitious but achievable and set the framework for the production of a new three-year strategy for 2005-2007. Both are available on www.jmt.org, or through the Edinburgh office.

A review of senior staffing resulted in the John Muir Award Manager Rob Bushby being promoted to a senior post as a member of the management team. David Picken takes on a new post as Manager (England and Wales) and will be exploring and considering ways for developing the Trust in those countries and building membership and support there. Dave will be consulting widely, and the views of members will be especially helpful.

Two senior managers departed during the year. Gavin Stewart, who was our finance manager for four years, retired and Alison McGachy, development manager for five years, left to take up a senior post with the Edinburgh International Festival.

Gavin was a steady hand in charge of our day to day finances and Alison brought an enthusiastic and hard working approach to fundraising and development. They



Steve Green

both made a great contribution to the development of the Trust and we wish them all the best for the future.

Also towards the end of the year Donna Mackenzie, our administration manager and stalwart of the Leith office for more than four years, departed for pastures new taking with her the best wishes of all her colleagues and the huge number of people who came into contact with her through her work with volunteers and merchandising.

Scott Williamson joined us in the summer as our new finance manager and in the autumn Ian Proudler took over as development manager. Allison Lock joined as fundraiser, succeeding Clive Fairclough who was called to the ministry in the Church of England.

These appointments have brought new thinking into the management of the Trust and colleagues all look forward to working closely with the newcomers in the challenging times ahead.

I would like to thank all the Trust's staff for the great work they do – their commitment and enthusiasm seems to have no bounds. Our great army of volunteers again played a crucial part in our work – where would we be without them? Our partners in local communities and elsewhere are now integral to our success and we are very grateful for having the privilege of working with so many local people in different parts of the country.

Our Trustees continue to give a huge amount of their time and of themselves and no praise can be strong enough. Very special thanks are due to Dick Balharry who as chairman has been truly inspirational.

Thanks are also due to all our many supporters and funders for having the confidence to give us the means to carry out our work.

And finally, a big thank you to all our members for your continued support throughout the year. It is you, our members, who give the Trust its independence, verve and viability. In a very real sense you ARE the Trust.

Together we look forward to the next 21 years of the John Muir Trust.



Land & property management

Reporting on the management of the Trust's properties (excluding Ben Nevis)

Andrew Campbell
Land & Property Manager

THE YEAR 2004 for the Land & Property Department was the first full year since taking on additional staff and responsibilities. One of the main priorities was to draw up work plans and programmes through new and existing management plans and revised woodland plans. This has largely been completed, with Schiehallion and Sconser being the only areas now not covered by an approved management plan.

Li & Coire Dhorrcail The draft management plan referred to in the 2003 report has been finalised and approved. This details our aims, objectives and work programmes for the period 2004–2008 inclusive. 6 ha of native broadleaved species and Scots pine were planted within the Coire Odhar Woodland Grant Scheme enclosure, completing our planting programme on Li & Coire Dhorrcail.

Schiehallion Although there is evidence of reduced grazing pressure to vegetation, due to the overall reduction in sheep numbers, the current pressure is viewed as restricting habitat development and consequently further work is required to address it. The grazing problem is coming from two quarters – deer and sheep. The situation regarding the incursions of sheep is still to be fully resolved and a stock fence along part of our boundary is being considered. Deer numbers appear to be increasing, probably due to the improved grazing potential with the reduction in sheep numbers. The realigned path has received favourable comments and progress is being made in revegetation and restoration of the ground of the old path line.

Sandwood A revised management plan for Sandwood estate has been produced in consultation with SNH, detailing our aims, objectives and work programmes for 2004–2008. Sandwood Conservation Manager Cathel Morrison has been working to this plan, carrying out a range of activities including marram grass planting, various survey and monitoring works, footpath works and crofting administration duties. The proposed interpretative facility with toilets at Blairmore car park hit a stumbling block with one of the main funding applications being unsuccessful. Plans have however not been dropped, and further applications will be made during 2005.

Skye properties Support from the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust has enabled us to successfully complete the first year of our Skye Coastal Woodland project. Within the Strathaird conifer woodlands, a Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme was approved detailing the second 5-year phase of woodland work. This includes the felling and restructuring of a further 25 ha of conifers. This programme of work has now started with approx 2.5 ha of trees felled and 15,000 native tree seedlings planted during 2004.

Skye is the only area where the JMT has full deer man-



Douglas Halliday

agement rights along with a sizable resident deer population. During the 2003/2004 stalking season a total of 77 deer were culled representing 28% of the estimated population. Culls of this level should have the effect of reducing the overall population, which will help achieve the Trust's objectives relating to habitat improvement.

One notable achievement during 2004 was the removal from Glen Scaladale (Strathaird) of the mountain of coastal litter collected over the years by volunteers. With assistance from a local JMT member and his boat, along with several volunteers, we removed the litter from the glen. The amount removed equated to approximately 1200 full bags.

Also along the coastal area of Strathaird a group of palaeontologists made an interesting and unusual find – a virtually intact turtle fossil, thought to be one of the best turtle fossils found in Britain.

All the work we do within the department is only achievable due to the commitment and dedication of staff and volunteers as well as having a pool of good reliable contractors. I would like to thank all those who helped out during 2004.



Aian Scott

Top, felling conifers at Faoilean in Strathaird. Right, Knoydart in May 2004, the upper fence of enclosure 3 at Li and Coire Dhorrcail, looking East over Loch Hourn.

Major but unsuccessful efforts to purchase wild land in Knoydart and the Cairngorms.

Trust's first purchase - Li and Coire Dhorrcail, Knoydart. Membership starts to rise.

1987

Conservation



Clach Glas and Blaven from Garbh-Bheinn / ALAN SCOTT

Reporting on surveys, monitoring, pathwork and conservation activities

Keith Miller

Senior Conservationist

DURING 2004 the survey and monitoring work, which informs and guides the Trust's land management, was consolidated and on several estates expanded. The programme of work involves staff, members, other volunteers, contractors and students.

On the Isle of Skye the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) coverage of unenclosed land was completed by Ben & Alison Averis when they surveyed the eastern part of Torrin Estate. This presents an outstanding picture of the vegetation present on the Trust's landholdings there.

Elsewhere on Skye the Strathaird habitat monitoring programme was continued by Viv Halcrow, with tall herbs, alpine calcareous grassland and the interplay between these two habitats being recorded for the second time. A transect across the Cille Mhaire glen was recorded and two transects

Sandy Maxwell, Conservation Activities Co-ordinator

2004 was yet another successful year for the programme of **conservation activities** on JMT properties. Despite some terrible weather all of the 12 events were well attended with a good mixture of new faces and regulars. In total 154 people (up 23 on 2003) donated around 3000 hours of their time, which along with other activities such as the BP work parties on Schiehallion contributes substantially to the conservation management of the JMT estates and gives many people a chance to 'learn about the Trust at work'.



Douglas Halliday

Dyke rebuilding at Keppoch, Strathaird

to record responses of tree seedlings were established across Druim an Fhuarain. With a wide range of factors impacting on vegetation and varying between habitats and sites, clear response to changing management is often slow. So far there are indications of responses to changing grazing, but these are not uniform and are being treated tentatively. The next series of repeat recording are likely to be more indicative.

As part of her MSc studies, Ailsa Gibson looked at the impact of red deer on the regeneration of the broadleaved woodlands of Strathaird; her thesis provided fresh information and a different perspective on the subject. Studies by Stephen Moran and Philip Entwistle also provide additional information on the invertebrates of Strathaird.

At Li & Coire Dhorrcail volunteers Dot Levison and Ailsa Gibson established several quadrats in areas where large numbers of small tree seedlings exist but cannot develop due to red deer browsing. Currently the Li & Coire Dhorrcail red deer population is too great for tree seedlings to grow above surrounding vegetation height, other than inside the deer enclosures or on steep ungrazed ground. Data from these quadrats will supplement details from established transects and improve monitoring of the impacts of red deer.

Archaeological survey work has continued at East Schiehallion, with Clare Thomas preparing scaled drawings of many of the significant sites. As elsewhere, vegetation monitoring continued with tree regeneration transects being recorded by volunteers and quadrat recording being repeated by Ruth Atkinson. Results of the breeding bird survey were disappointing as none of the two target species, Ring Ouzel and Twite, were recorded on East Schiehallion by Ron Youngman. The former species is known to have declined in Scotland and this negative result may be a further manifestation of this decline – time will tell – but the lack of Twite is currently unexplained.

After the successful realignment of the path onto the east ridge of Schiehallion the natural (ie unassisted) vegetation response along the old eroded path line was eagerly awaited. It proved to be excellent with considerable evidence of colonisation of previously bare ground especially on the mineral soils of the middle and lower sections. To deflect water off the lower damaged zone of the old path, and thus minimise future water damage, volunteers built several turf mounds.

Following a survey of the vegetation of the large Ben Nevis SSSI for Scottish Natural Heritage, Ben & Alison Averis prepared a specific report covering the Trust's Nevis Estate. Information on the breeding birds of the corries in 2004 was provided by a survey undertaken by Mary Elliott.

1988

Public launch of Trust outside John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar on his 150th birthday. First survey and workparty – Li and Coire Dhorrcail. First employee – Terry Isles, part-time director. Membership reaches 700.

Policy & partnerships

Reporting on the development of Trust policy and partnerships

Will Boyd-Wallis
Policy & Partnerships
Manager

Policy

IN FEBRUARY, Trustees agreed our first comprehensive and publicly available Wild Land Policy. By clarifying what we mean by wild land and wild places, this greatly strengthens almost every aspect of our work.

The raging debate of 2004 has been the impact of the renewables industry on the landscape. In early October, after a lengthy discussion, Trustees adopted the JMT Policy on Renewable Energy Developments. Alongside the Wild Land Policy, this has already proved essential in clarifying our position in relation to new developments.

Just before Christmas, we opposed plans to develop a 234-turbine wind farm, adjacent to two important wild land areas, in Lewis, Western Isles. We also lodged a holding objection to a 133-turbine scheme in Eisgein, overlooking Loch Shiphoint and North Harris. In both cases it is the scale of the schemes that is most disturbing, but their potential serious impact on birds in European designated sites is also a concern.



Sandy Maxwell

Partnerships

With others in the Nevis Partnership, the highlight of the year for us on Ben Nevis was the removal of the dilapidated orange shelters from Carn Dearg and Coire Leis. This followed a long period of consultation and discussion with safety experts. (NB There are no plans to remove the summit shelter.)

We have arranged a new memorial site in Glen Nevis to take pressure off the Ben summit, continued development of the proposed native woodland regeneration scheme in Glen Nevis, developed detailed plans to reduce footpath erosion at Steall Meadows and begun the production of a new booklet on the flora of Ben Nevis.

JMT volunteers have again cleaned up the summit and removed old fencing from upper Glen Nevis. We searched for the rare mountain ringlet butterfly in Glen Nevis, this year without success; but we now know that the Glen contains two other important species: a bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) and the chequered skipper butterfly.

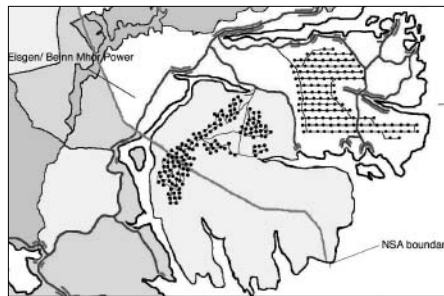
On Knoydart, the best means of managing the wild deer population continues to be debated. Our contribution to the new Knoydart Foundation ranger based at Inverie has paid dividends, with monitoring work underway and facilities for visitors continuing to improve.

The North Harris Trust has also had a busy year. Negotiations are underway with Scottish Natural Heritage to obtain a management agreement and a native woodland scheme is being considered for Glen Langadail. The North Harris community have taken a considered and sensitive approach to developing proposals for a small-scale renewable energy scheme.

We are looking at working closely with a number of other communities and private landowners. All being well, we may be able to report more fully on exciting developments on that next year!



Eric Meadows



We continue to work closely with other conservation organisations on a wide range of issues through Scottish Environment LINK. We have drafted a concordat on Caring for Scotland's Wild Places with Scotland's conservation agency Scottish Natural Heritage, which we hope will be signed in early 2005.

We have responded to a range of consultation documents. Of particular significance were: Scotland's Future Landscapes? (Scottish Natural Heritage); the Western Isles Transmission Lines (Scottish and Southern Energy); Vehicle Hill-tracks (Cairngorms National Park Authority); the Rights of Appeal section of the Planning Bill (Scottish Executive).



Will Boyd-Wallis

From top: Will with volunteers and Northern Eggar Moth caterpillar; Ardvourlie, North Harris; diagram of the nearby Eisgein wind farm proposal; liftoff for Ben Nevis's Coire Leis shelter.

John Davies takes over as chairman.

First post-graduate study undertaken on a property (The Relict Woodland of Li and Coire Dhorraicail).

1989

Education

Reporting on our educational activities, including the John Muir Award

David Picken

Education Manager

Rob Bushby

John Muir Award Manager

John Muir Award

2004 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH for the John Muir Award. Significant progress was made in raising awareness, partnership working, profile within the John Muir Trust, confidence and stature – as well as a 50% increase in the number of Award recipients.

350 organisations have been involved in delivering John Muir Awards to 6250 participants. This represents a cross-section of society including Prince's Trust volunteers, primary school pupils, youth projects and pensioners, and plays a valuable part in extending the Trust's message beyond its current membership. The John Muir Award is now firmly established throughout the UK. Whilst a couple of regions didn't quite fire on all cylinders in 2004, all now have a strong staff base and an excellent network of providers and supporters.

During the year we were pleased to welcome Wales Administrator Helen Berry and East Lothian 'Gapper' Ruth Zawinski.

Activity in Wales has gone from strength to strength, with more outdoor centres and field studies centres formalising their status as Award providers than ever before, and the first Awards presented by the Welsh-speaking Urdd centre near Bala.

In the first year of our partnership with Cumbria Youth Alliance, the interest in the John Muir Award in the county has been nothing short of phenomenal, evidenced by the range of partnerships already in place. The hardworking team has also supported growing interest in England, in the absence of full-time staff here. In Northern Ireland the Ulster Wildlife Trust has promoted the Award to housing associations and youth community groups, with Shannagh More and Gortatole outdoor education centres integrating it into their own programmes.

Partnerships with East Lothian Council and Cairngorms National Park Authority enable staff in these areas to focus on local initiatives. A Rank Foundation funded



'Gapper' is now in post in East Lothian, and the Award was used as a means of engaging Grantown-on-Spey Primary School pupils in the Cairngorms Moorland Project and Biodiversity Action Plan. Staff in Scotland have supported a spread of activity from Kinlochberrie High School near Cape Wrath to the Wilton Centre in Hawick.

Increasingly, the John Muir Award is being used to set a 'bigger picture' context for environmental and heritage initiatives. Responsible outdoor access often features in the challenge of 'Conserving a Wild Place' – minimum impact approaches are encouraged – and biodiversity action plans are utilised for resources, contacts and ideas. Congratulations to teacher Jackie McBurney of Sandbank Primary School, who won Argyll and Bute's individual biodiversity award in June.

Key statistics for 2004 include an even male/female split (52% to 48%), and a wide age range of involvement (45% aged 11 and under, mainly upper primary pupils, 32% 12–16 year olds and 23% over 16). The proportion of participants from socially excluded backgrounds rose from 26% to 30%, showing the benefit of longer term partnership work with key organisations.

We now have a research basis to confirm the impact of involvement on individuals. An independent evaluation by Sally Chalmers of Per Sensum Communications highlighted benefits including increased awareness of wild places (and John Muir), and being given the chance to do something for wild places.

- 96% *doing a John Muir Award gave me the chance to do something for wild places.*
- 92% *doing a John Muir Award made me more aware of wild places.*
- 91% *learned about John Muir.*
- 83% *learned about myself and others.*
- 74% *changed the way I behave towards the environment.*

Support for organisations and individuals has con-



Ulster Wildlife Trust

This page, from top: Fire in a cave in a bushcraft wilderness experience with John Muir Award provider Islay Birding.

In a ceremony afloat, the first John Muir Awards in Northern Ireland were presented to 12 young people from the Beechmount area of Belfast. They had studied the environment of the River Lagan from source to sea. Participants in a training course at Wiston Lodge.

George Sim



1990

Native woodland regeneration work started on Li & Coire Dhorrcail

1991

A Bruce Thomson



tinued to progress. A free new video, produced by Tim Fitzpatrick, has proved to be a popular and effective way of introducing the Award and stimulating discussion. 'Gatherings', networking events to share experiences and ideas, were attended by over 120 people across the UK – 'an educational and inspiring day – thoroughly worthwhile'.

Over 300 participated in John Muir Award training, including 23 bespoke courses for organisations.

'The course opened my mind to the wide range of ways the natural environment can be used to engage people in conservation, as well as to broaden their understanding of it' (primary school teacher).

Staff and supporters contributed to the Wild Land Conference, with a display gallery representing UK-wide activity, the creation of a new digital tv station JMTV, a yurt and a fire sculpture. The presentation of a John Muir Trust Lifetime Achievement Award to Adam Watson provided a moving and inspiring finale to the event:

I have never sought awards, and colleagues who chase knighthoods and official honours are regarded as ridiculous. But I regard this honour as a real one, not phoney like those other ones. If it does something to help towards better protection of wild places and wild life then this has achieved something more important than me and any of us.

The John Muir Award is now recognised and supported at all levels within the Trust as the main tool to engage people in valuing wild places. The Award team should be congratulated on their hard work, dedication and inspiration over the past year. But without the commitment of our partners, Award providers, and individual leaders we would be struggling to win hearts and minds to the cause of conserving wild places. For their contribution and support we are very grateful.

INTERPRETATION

To raise the profile of the Trust, encourage appreciation of wild land and help deliver management objectives we have started to develop interpretation plans for JMT properties. We are in the process of consulting with all stakeholders. We aim to promote interpretation delivered person to person, by local people where possible, and to maintain the quality of the wild land experience. The further development of interpretation on JMT property will be managed by the Land and Property department.



Keith Brame

John Muir Trust Activities Programme

The formula for the first year of the new Activities Programme worked well. The Discovery trips for adults, specialist courses, and the Summer Programme for young people attracted nearly 200 participants and leaders. We successfully piloted new courses on photography, geology, family explorations and cutting edge expeditions on land and sea for people with physical disabilities. Volunteer leaders and our partner organisations make this programme a success. Without their commitment and expertise the participants would not have such a meaningful encounter with the wild.

'The sense of beauty I found quite overwhelming and you did feel that you were actually becoming part of the sea and land instead of just living on it' (participant, Summer Isles).

The Activities Programme is run on a not-for-profit basis with 86% of the income spent with businesses and local communities in wild places. We have had another safe year and passed the Adventure Activities Licence Authorities inspection. Clare de Mowbray carried out a major overhaul of the programme's website, www.jmt.org/programmes. This has become our main promotional tool.

Sam Baumber, after a successful first year, has the opportunity to grow the Activities Programme and continue developing cutting edge expeditions for people of all abilities, as well as increasing membership participation and volunteering.



Sam Baumber

This page from top: A spectacular sunset over Sandwood Bay inspires one group on the 2004 Activities Programme.

The opening of Scotland's first fully accessible trail orienteering course in Glenmore Forest. Pictured: Eric Langmuir, Jim Gillies and Karen Darke (the inspiration behind the design and creation of the course). Beautiful weather and tranquil seas blessed the Activities Programme sea kayaking journey amongst the Summer Isles in June 2004.



Daniel Start

Firstcrofting estate, Torrin, Isle of Skye, purchased. Appointment of first conservation officer Andrew Thompson. Nicholas Luard becomes chairman.

Trust's first conference 'Wilderness With People' held at Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

1992

Development

Reporting on fundraising, membership recruitment and involvement

Ian Proudler
Development Manager

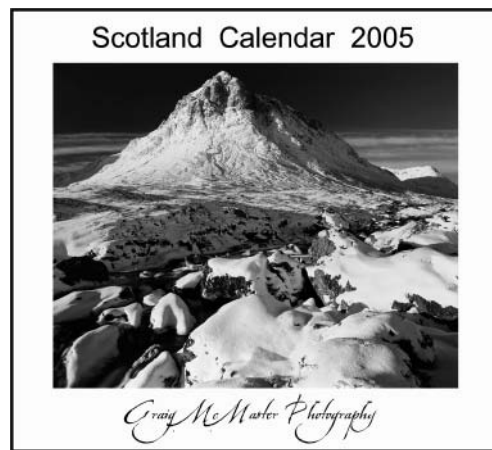
WITH THE 21st ANNIVERSARY of the Trust to celebrate, 2004 was certainly an exciting year. Driven by the vision for 'a gathering of speakers, both international and British, who could explore and debate the issues surrounding wild land and its value', the Development team rose to the challenge of organising a major Sustaining Wild Land Conference in Pitlochry. The results were engaging speakers, nearly 300 delegates and support from the Trust's Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, clear proof that the Trust can rise to the occasion and punch significantly above its weight.

In addition, a fundraising dinner, music concert, ceilidh and two wild land walks were organised. The culmination of the conference was the Declaration for the Wild (inside front cover), a pledge that will take the Trust further forward in its mission to raise awareness of the urgent need to campaign to protect wild places.

2004 also saw changes of staff. Most notable, the departure of Alison McGachy who spearheaded the planning of the 21st Anniversary celebrations. Allison Lock joined as Corporate Relations Fundraiser, working closely with Katie Jackson, Promotions and Publicity and Donna Mackenzie, Office Administrator, to make the conference a reality. During this time I joined the team as their new Development Manager. Finally, at the close of the year the Trust saw the departure to Cumbria of Donna, a very popular team member.

Corporate support remained high and the Trust were hugely indebted to all the sponsors of the conference week particularly our principal sponsor ScottishPower, along with BP, Scottish Forest Alliance, Scottish Natural Heritage, Ramblers Scotland, Highland Spring, Tiso and SmartWool.

BP continued supporting the work on East Schiehallion with two footpath-volunteering weekends. The Bank of Scotland supported our activities programme while collaboration with Enlightenment Media saw the Trust promoted on the 'Mountains of Scotland' DVD. Corporate



Membership also continued to provide valuable funds.

Over the year the Trust retained 95% of its members. This percentage is comparable to previous years and says a lot about the commitment of our members. In addition we welcomed 545 new members and membership totalled 8,497. Income from Direct Debit increased to £118,000 while Gift Aid from membership increased to almost £48,000. This allows more of each contribution to go straight towards the Trust's work and saves time. The member & supporter database of 11,200 people is administered by our membership secretary Jane Anderson who does a wonderful job.

Members joined in activities all over the country – holding walks and meetings, running in the London Marathon, giving talks, organising local conservation work, and helping at events like mountain film festivals and environment fairs. We are very grateful to all the local group organisers for such enthusiastic activity.

The many members purchasing merchandise increased sales to £54,000, with the new calendar by photographer Craig McMaster being particularly popular. Thanks again to stalwart volunteers Douglas and Helen Lamont, John Harrison, Jenny Pond, Dave Duncan, Maureen Wallace and Elspeth Webb for their hard work in packing and processing orders from July to December. Thanks also to regular Edinburgh office volunteer David Stevenson.

Finally, the 21st Anniversary Appeal raised £41,151 (including Gift Aid) with 940 people contributing including one person who donated £50 on Hogmanay!

Thank You!



Anticlockwise from top: Craig McMaster's calendar; Andrew Harrison's portrayal of John Muir at the Wild Land Conference; an expert panel fields questions at the conference. Conference photos Rob Thomson.



1993

Sandwood Estate (NW Sutherland) purchased. Membership reaches 2000.



Will Boyd-Wallis

Finance & administration

Scott Williamson
Finance Manager

THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT for Scottish Charities has changed significantly in the last year. Following public consultation, the Bill that will extensively reform charity law in Scotland has been introduced in the Scottish Parliament.

As part of this process, the new regulator, OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator), is in consultation mode too with its pilot monitoring programme. The John Muir Trust was selected as one of the sample of 300 charities to assist in this programme. I consider the Trust to be well prepared to adapt to the new reporting formats, having already gained a 'live' insight into how the system will work.

Besides the more complex issues surrounding external reporting, however, the more mundane (but nevertheless vital) aspects of bookkeeping and accounting continue as before. The new Finance Assistant, Nicola Wylie (left), is capably undertaking these tasks and the Trust has also been privileged to secure the continuing assistance of Bill Wallace in these areas.

IT systems have also been extensively upgraded during the course of the year and it is now possible to provide, from the same accounting database, reports that meet the information requirements of both budget holders and external users of the accounts. These are challenging times for the

charitable sector and it is vital that detailed, regular budget monitoring be part of the system of assessing the Trust's progress towards meeting its goals and safeguarding its assets.

I am pleased to report that the Trust has appointed Messrs Scott-Moncrieff C.A. to act as Financial Advisers and Auditors and I look forward to working closely with them in negotiating the regulatory hazards that face the Trust in the years ahead. Scott-Moncrieff already have an extensive client base of prominent charities, some operating in fields very similar to our own. I am sure their advice will be invaluable in the future development of the Trust.

A large part of the Finance function continues to be that of the timely claiming of grants from bodies such as the Heritage Lotteries Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and various private donors. This activity is most important at a time of growth and expansion for the Trust.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Gavin Stewart without whose assistance it would have been a hugely more difficult task to assume the role of Finance Manager. I would also like to thank Keith Griffiths, the Hon Treasurer, for invaluable advice and assistance during this time of transition and change for the Trust.

Joined in 2004 – Nicol Wylie



Legacy giving to the JMT. Just a few words.

IT

WORKS.

In 2004 we used income from legacies to oppose large-scale wind farms on **Lewis** — and to complete our native tree-planting programme at Li and Coire Dhorrcail in **Knoydart** — and to ship out a mountain of coastal litter from Glen Scaladale on **Skye**.

For information about supporting the John Muir Trust through your will, please contact Scott Williamson, Finance Manager, at our Edinburgh office.

41 Commercial St, Edinburgh EH6 6JD. 0131 554 0114. finance@jmt.org



Strathaird Estate, Isle of Skye, purchased. Dunbar John Muir Association established

David Robertson

1994



At Belhaven beach near Dunbar. Robert Hunter.

2004 AGMs

Minutes of the Twenty First Annual General Meeting of the John Muir Trust, held at the Hallhill Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar, on Sunday 16 May 2004

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mr Dick Balharry, the Chairman of the Trust, welcomed approximately 50 members.

Apologies had been received from:

John Allen, Martyn Berry, Patrick Bonnett, Eric Gendle, Eve Gilmore, Robert Hall, Margaret Hall, Nick Luard, Mike Merchant, Julian Noble, Ian Porteous, John Purser, Angela Soper, Ian Tegner, Peter Tilbrook, Bill Wallace, Peter Willimott and Will Williams.

2. Minutes

The Honorary Treasurer indicated a typographical correction to the 2003 Minutes (in Section 5 to show the trading company loss as £8365). With this correction, the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2003 were approved. Approval proposed by Denis Mollison and seconded by Guy Hindley.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman invited Denis Mollison and Nigel Hawkins as two of the Trust's founders to reflect on the 21 years. They drew out the early connections with the National Trust for Scotland and the Mountain Bothies Association, the focus on communities (with the first purchase in Knoydart), and outlined the development and vision of the John Muir Trust.

There was some discussion about the Trust's campaigning role. People's viewpoints varied, in part depending on the definition of terms. It was suggested that the overturning of the Shieldaig hydro proposal was a turning point and the partial achievement of an ambitious vision for the Trust.

Dick Balharry then added to his published report. He urged the need to extend our influence. To this end he gave details of the forthcoming Wild Land Conference and the closing Declaration for the Wild. He hoped this would both heighten the Trust's profile and increase membership.

5. Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003

The Honorary Treasurer opened his remarks by saying that the Trust's current wishes outstrip our current resources.

In the Trust accounts Keith drew attention to the 9% rise in subscription income. Currently the Trust has 8450 members with 20 new Life Members in 2003. Membership income represented 25% of total income, making us over-reliant on other sources. A donation of £100,000 to the North Harris Trust had been possible because of high Legacy Income in 2003. Such income cannot be relied on in future years. Overall the Trust accounts showed a £98,000 surplus, further increased by a modest rise in Investment Income.

The Trading Company accounts showed a healthy surplus on merchandising. The year also marked the end of direct involvement in farming at Strathaird, with the writing off of the last quotas.

Keith then described a balanced budget for 2004, with a 10–20% increase in turnover to £1.25 million. He emphasised the need for more members, increased subscriptions, and a general appeal with no property purchase.

In replying to a question about 'ethical investment' Keith indicated that most of the Trust's investments were in investment funds, with a proportion in a fund held with Jupiter. At times there may be donated shares.

Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003 was moved.

The Trust:	Proposed Paul Jarvis Seconded Steve Green
Trading Company:	Proposed Keith Griffiths Seconded Maude Tiso

6. Reappointment of Auditors

The reappointment of the auditors, Messrs Bryce Wilson & Co was approved. Approval proposed by Denis Mollison and seconded by Cameron McNeish.

1995

Feasibility study carried out into the establishment of the John Muir Award. First Summer Programme trip to Hoy. Nigel Hawkins appointed first full-time director.

1996

7. Election of Trustees

Steve Green, Paul Jarvis, John Mackenzie, Cameron McNeish and Denis Mollison were elected to serve a 3-year term as Trustees.

The Chairman particularly thanked the retiring Trustees, Nick Luard (1983–2004), John Purser (2001–2004) and Peter Tilbrook (1998–2004) for their service to the Trust. Their help was much appreciated and they would be much missed.

He welcomed Steve Green as the only new trustee and introduced the other trustees who were present. Once again it was hoped to have more candidates, from wider backgrounds, in future years.

8. Director's Report

The Director expanded on the item in his published report on the Cuillin Main Ridge. He outlined the proposal that land be gifted to the nation in return for a funding package for Dunvegan Castle. There might be two new charitable trusts to manage the castle and the land. JMT were a partner in the informal consortium (including HIE) which was exploring how to take the options forward. Once a consultant's report had been received there was to be a period of consultation with the communities of interest.

The Director's Report was then formally approved.

The Chairman thanked Nigel Hawkins for his very hard work on behalf of the Trust. Will Boyd-Wallis proposed a vote of thanks to the spouses of staff and trustees. This was unanimously approved.

9. Setting of Subscription Rates for 2005

The proposal to increase membership subscriptions from 1st January 2005 was approved:

Category	Old Rate	New Rate
Individual	£20	£24
Family	£30	£36
Unwaged	£10	£12
Life	£500 or £140 x 4 years	£550 or £150 x 4 years
Joint Life	£750 or £210 x 4 years	£825 or £230 x 4 years

Two new membership categories were also approved:

Friends membership £50 – for school groups, Award providers, sole traders, societies, and so on.

Guardian membership £50 – for members who wish to donate more to the work of the Trust.

10. Other Relevant Business

In reply to a question about the use of reserves to 'urbanise' Schiehallion by the construction of the new path, Paul Jarvis stated that there had been little change in access. The path was as well used as ever. Work was concentrated in one area and was viewed as increasing the 'wildness' of the remainder – our reasons for the original purchase. The money used for the repairs had been provided for the repair of the land and was not available for other land purchase.

There was discussion about land purchase in England and Wales, with 2:1 being in favour of a suitable acquisition. This was not to be 'tokenism' and we need to be able to demonstrate that we can 'make a difference'. The return of the Golden Eagle might be a marker. There is perhaps more opportunity for re-wilding in England and Wales,

and the work might be possible through a partnership.

The possible use of Conservation Burdens under the Title Conditions Act to pass on land for management and release staff time was discussed, but met little support. This was a possible role for a local members group, with no financial gain to the Trust. Maude Tiso stated there was no serious proposal to sell off existing land and that would only be possible where discussion had taken place before purchase. Nigel Hawkins reminded the meeting that we are bound by conditions of grants and by the expectations of donors. The Chairman emphasised that the management of land we own should be exemplary and used to demonstrate to others best practice for wildland management.

Vote of Thanks

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

JMT TRADING COMPANY LTD

Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the JMT Trading Company Limited, held at Tarbert, Isle of Harris, on 12 June 2004

Present:	Keith Griffiths (in the Chair) Dick Balharry Nigel Hawkins John Mackenzie Gavin Stewart
Apologies:	Crispin Agnew

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 October 2003

Approval: the minutes were approved.

Matters arising: none.

2. Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003 and the report of the Directors and Auditor thereon were received, considered and adopted.

3. Auditors

The Auditors, Messrs Bryce Wilson & Co were reappointed and their remuneration agreed.

4. Directors

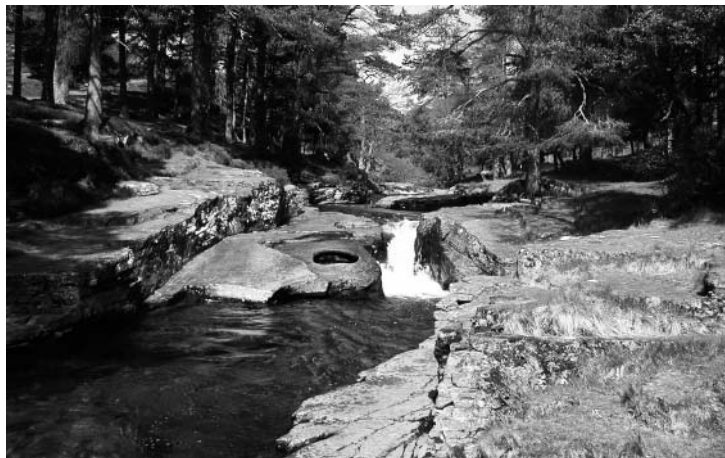
The resignation of Andrew Thin at 31 August 2003, and the appointment of Dick Balharry, as of the same date, were noted.

5. Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

2005 AGM, Braemar

Photos | Jennifer Cook, North-East Mountain Trust



The Punchbowl on the Quoich

Members are cordially invited to attend the Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting, at 11am on Sunday 8 May 2005, in Braemar Village Hall.

DONALD THOMAS
Honorary Secretary

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004
 - a) The John Muir Trust
 - b) JMT Trading Co Ltd
6. Re-appointment of auditors, Messrs Scott-Moncrieff
7. Election of Trustees

The following Trustees are retiring and seek re-election: Dick Balharry, Maude Tiso

The following Trustees are retiring and do not seek re-election:

Crispin Agnew, Ken Crocket, Malcolm Slessor

The following members of the Trust have been nominated as

Trustees: Neil Birnie, Morton Shaw, Richard Allen, Sue

Hopkinson, Paul Ramsay.

As there are 5 vacancies and 7 candidates, there will be an election by postal ballot, and ballot results will be announced at the AGM.

8. Director's Report
9. Other Relevant Business

Members' weekend, Braemar area, 7–8 May

Come to the members' weekend – a programme of walks, visits and entertainment. Details are in the April Members' News and on www.jmt.org.

1999

East Schiehallion purchased. John Muir's birthplace, Dunbar, purchased by John Muir Birthplace Trust. Carrifran Valley, Southern Scotland, purchased by Borders Forest Trust. Knoydart Estate purchased by Knoydart Foundation.

JMT Annual Report for 2004

This is the Annual Report for John Muir Trust ('JMT') for the year ended 31 December 2004.

It is prepared to include compliance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities: 2000 Edition (SORP) and is the fourth Annual Report of JMT prepared in this format.

This report should be read in conjunction with the full accounts of JMT for the same period, to which reference should be made. The accounts contained in this report are extracts of those full accounts, copies of which are available from the registered office. This Annual Report has been approved by the Trustees of JMT.

Legal and SORP Requirements

The information required by paragraphs 30 and 31 of SORP is as follows:

Legal and Administrative Information

John Muir Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital incorporated under the Companies Acts in Scotland under that name (registered number 81620) and has its registered and principal office at 41 Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JD. It uses the name John Muir Award in respect of some of its activities.

JMT is a Scottish Charity, Number SC 002061.

The governing document of JMT is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the current version of which was adopted at the AGM in April 1997.

The Trustees of JMT who served during 2004 were:

Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw
 Richard Balharry
 Rob Collister
 Ken Crocket
 John Donohoe
 Stephen Green (appointed 16 May 2004)
 Keith Griffiths (Treasurer)
 Professor Paul Jarvis
 Nick Luard (retired 16 May 2004)
 Professor Denis Mollison
 John Mackenzie
 Cameron McNeish (resigned 10 December 2004)
 Dr John Purser (retired 16 May 2004)
 Prof Malcolm Slesser
 Dr Peter Tilbrook (retired 16 May 2004)
 Maude R Tiso
 Donald Thomas (Company Secretary)
 Dr Will Williams

The Trustees are generally elected by the Members of JMT by postal ballot.

Cameron McNeish was appointed by the Trustees under article 35.

The details of other relevant organisations or persons are:

Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland, St Andrews Square, Edinburgh

Solicitors: Turcan Connell, Princes Exchange, 1 Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh EH3 9EF

Auditors: Scott-Moncrieff, 17 Melville Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7PH

Investment Managers: Rossie House Investment Management, Forgandenny, Perth PH2 9EH.

The investment powers of JMT are general ones conferred by JMT's Memorandum of Association.

Narrative Information

The objects of JMT are set out in the Memorandum of Association and are:

- *To conserve and protect wild places with their indigenous animals, plants and soils for the benefit of present and future generations*
 And in particular:
- To conserve wild places and their landscapes, both for their own sake and for the sustenance and the inspiration they give to humanity
- To protect existing wild places so as to conserve their natural processes, and their indigenous animals, plants and soils
- To renew wild places, where they have been damaged, by encouraging natural processes
- To work with local communities and to encourage them to live in harmony with wild places
- To promote an awareness and understanding of wild places for their own sake and for their value to the benefit of humanity
- To stimulate public support to help protect wild places
- To encourage voluntary participation in the conservation and renewal of wild places

JMT is governed by Trustees who are Directors in terms of the Companies Acts.

Day to day management is largely devolved to the Director, Nigel Hawkins, and other employees, the Operational Management Team ('OMT'), composed of various of the senior employees of JMT.

The activities of JMT during 2004 are reviewed in the reports from the Chairman, Director, Treasurer and certain employees of JMT. These appear elsewhere in this Annual Report and also comment on future plans of JMT.

JMT's policies on reserves and investments are dealt with in the Treasurer's Report later in this Annual Report.

JMT does sometimes make grants to other bodies for purposes in support of JMT's objectives; any significant grants made in 2004 are referred to elsewhere in this Annual Report. JMT also gave various smaller individual grants to John Muir Award participants, and for community support at Sconser and Torrin.

The Trustees and staff of JMT have during 2004 identified and reviewed the major risks to which JMT is exposed and have established systems and policies to mitigate those risks.

Date of Approval: 14 March 2005.

Treasurer's Report for 2004

I WOULD LIKE TO START BY RECORDING MY THANKS to the Trust's staff. I am particularly grateful to our two Finance Managers during the year, Gavin Stewart and Scott Williamson. Gavin's retirement and Scott's arrival are mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report, and I echo others' comments. Can I also thank former Hon Treasurer and Trustee Bill Wallace for his continued regular assistance in the office, particularly useful with the transition. I would also like to record my thanks to Messrs Bryce Wilson & Co CA, who have decided to retire as auditors after several years service.

THE TRUST

These are the fourth set of Accounts presented in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice (2000) for charities - SORP. The primary document is the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), although the Income and Expenditure Account used in previous years is still available within the full set of accounts, as required by Scots Law.

2004 was an indifferent year for the John Muir Trust in financial terms. We have continued to struggle to make a step change to a higher level of reliable recurring income. To stress the obvious, a substantial increase in membership numbers is viewed as the best way of securing the long-term ability of the Trust to do the things its members value, and such an increase remains one of my own main goals for the Trust.

The Trust had an actual 'raw' surplus of almost £51,500 before financial adjustments, after which the final overall surplus was £93,552. The main factors 'below the line' related to JMT Trading Company Limited (negative) and the Trust's investments (positive), which are commented on below.

The figures for income and the surplus were both boosted by Glen Lude, and this is shown in the SOFA as required by SORP (featuring as £80,000 'Gift in kind' under Income, and the equivalent amount in transfers from wider trust funds to Trust Properties).

Other than Glen Lude being transferred to Trust Properties at cost, the other significant transfer between funds related to the Knoydart designated fund, which is the main reason for the significant fall in designated funds. The Trustees have decided to transfer back to general funds the sum of £50,000 from the Knoydart designated fund. In the past, assistance has been given to conservation projects on Knoydart – the Knoydart native woodland project is a good example – but the take-up has not been as great as expected. The Trust has entered into partnerships with other communities elsewhere and anticipates the need to have funding available for conservation activities there. The Trust will continue to support conservation projects on Knoydart estate and is fully committed to participating in the Foundation along with the community and other stakeholders.

If one ignores Glen Lude then the overall surplus was only £13,552, and if one also ignores the net positive factors 'below the line' then the Trust experienced a deficit of just under £38,000.

This was the outcome from a balanced break-even budget set by Trustees for 2004. In fact income was down overall (ignoring Glen Lude) on 2003 by approximately 21% and expenditure by approximately 11%. The main reasons are explained below.

Our income from subscriptions and donations has increased mod-

estly from 2003 by approximately 21%. In fact this represents an increase of almost 50% in donations/tax recovered (helped by the General Appeal which raised approximately £40,000) partly offset by a decrease of almost 4% in subscriptions; although we had a slight increase in membership during 2004, there were markedly fewer new life members than in 2003.

The highlight of the 2004 income was once again legacies. The figure of £140,000 is one third down on 2003, but still a very much higher figure than the Trust have either normally experienced or budgeted for. The Trust is always extremely grateful to members and supporters who support the Trust through their wills, but the Trust does need to increase the amount of support received from live members and supporters (and we always like to be able to thank donors in person!). The Trust continues to take steps to secure a significant and sustainable increase in membership, and have in 2004 invested in a larger membership support and fundraising capability.

Grants to the general funds from charitable trusts and corporate donations decreased by over 50%, due to a combination of factors, the main ones being staff transition and the increasing preference of such bodies to give project sponsorship rather than general support.

As before we have achieved important grant income from public bodies and charitable trusts, and I would add my personal thanks to the recognition given to them elsewhere in this Annual Report.

These 2004 accounts show a slightly different presentation and categorisation of the expenditure figures from 2003, intended to reflect current good practice in Charities Accounts. The comparable figures for 2003 have been restated to allow direct comparison.

I said above that the expenditure of the Trust was 11% lower in 2004 than in 2003. Most of the overall decrease is accounted for by the much lower expenditure on the Schiehallion footpath project, and the absence of a direct equivalent to the donation in 2003 of £100,000 to North Harris Trust. For Schiehallion the Accounts show an excess of expenditure over grant income of just over £1,600.

Expenditure on the John Muir Award has increased significantly by about one third, and additional staff have been recruited to assist in membership support and development and fund-raising.

The new Pitlochry offices were not purchased until January, and therefore don't feature in these accounts (other than a note in the full accounts mentioning this as a later transaction, and a small amount of expenditure in survey fees which has been capitalised under fixed assets in the Trust balance sheet).

The Trust's staff and Trustees continue to monitor carefully the Trust's expenditure and commitments. The Trustees remain very conscious that the Trust has very limited financial and human resources and must avoid over-commitment or unsustainable expansion.

For 2005 both income and expenditure are budgeted at approximately £1M. Increasing income from charitable trusts and corporate bodies will be a key priority.

I will comment on the financial adjustments in the lower lines of the SOFA.

As last year, there has been a reduction (this year a slightly more modest one of £8,579) in the valuation of the Trust's 100% shareholding in JMT Trading Company Limited. This has been written down to the

2000

Ben Nevis estate purchased. First Lifetime Achievement Award – Tom Weir.



net asset value of the Trading Company as at 31 December 2004. The direct farming operations of the Trading Company at Strathaird ceased in 2001, but certain woodland activities are carried on through the Trading Company and these resulted in a loss of £8,579. The write-down should be viewed in the context of the £27,253 contribution by gift to the Trust from the Trading Company of the surplus on merchandise sales for the year, so the net benefit to the Trust is approximately £18,700.

With respect to the Trust's investments and cash deposits, the income has held up well, and the performance of the Trust's investments in capital terms has resulted in a small realised deficit of £756 (as a result of the sale of some bond holdings) and unrealised gains of £51,488 (approximately 12% on the year). The Trustees remain satisfied with the performance of the investment managers Rossie House Investment Management. Following their appointment in 2002 Rossie House restructured the investments. With a view to achieving a more broadly based portfolio, all of the shares in individual companies were sold and the proceeds reinvested in a combination of collective funds, including funds investing in bonds. Of the figure for quoted investments of £482,285 given in the balance sheet, approximately 75% is now invested in equities rather than in government stock and other bonds.

The Trustees would repeat the assurance given to members in my three previous Reports that their investment policy is conservative and not speculative. SORP requires the Trust formally to state its Investment Policy. This remains the same as last year. The Long Term Financial Reserve mentioned below is the only part of the Trust's reserves which at present is invested in equities (and then only in part), and the Trustees do not consider that will alter in the short term. The Trustees' overall objective is to maximise the return on the Trust's investments, consistent with an acceptable level of risk. The minimum objective is to maintain the real value of the assets over time.

SORP also requires the Trust formally to state its Reserves Policy, and this remains as follows :

(N.B. for the purposes of this policy, Reserves are treated as being only the quoted investments and cash deposits / bank accounts of the Trust, and therefore other assets such as the Trust Properties, other fixed assets, the interest in JMT Trading Company Limited and the remaining net current assets are not taken into account, although the new Pitlochry offices may well be treated as part of the reserves in the future.)

1. A Long Term Financial Reserve to hold funds available to cover possible future income deficits in the medium to long term and also the greater part of the restricted funds which the Trustees do not consider will require to be expended in accordance with their purposes in the short term. In the immediate future the Trustees consider the long term reserve should ideally be at three months anticipated annual expenditure plus long term restricted funds. *Based on current restricted funds and the 2005 budget this would equate to approximately £600,000, and the actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2004 was approximately £550,000. The corresponding figures for 2003 were £580,000 and £420,000.*
2. A Capital Financial Reserve of up to £500,000 (or higher in the event of donations or legacies given for that purpose) available at not more than 3–4 months' notice for the purchase of a property, or other major capital projects, within the terms of the Corporate Plan and Acquisition Policy.

The actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2004 was approximately £170,000, compared with approximately £175,000 at the end of 2003.

3. A Current Financial Reserve available to absorb peaks and troughs in income and expenditure in the course of a year. The Trustees would generally wish to ensure that this is set at a sum equating to at least four months expenditure on the general fund.

Based on the 2005 budget this would be approximately £350,000, and the actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2004 was approximately £350,000. The corresponding figures for 2003 were £420,000 and £380,000.

In summary the Reserves Policy dictated that the desired total reserves as at 31 December 2004 were £1,450,000, against an actual figure of £1,070,000 or approximately 74% (the corresponding 2003 figures were £1,500,000 desired and £975,000 actual or approximately 65%). The improvement in the reserves position is due mainly to a lower budget for 2005 than 2004 and to an increase in the value of the investments.

The Trustees remain of the view that the present Reserves Policy is prudent taking account of the Trust's objects and 2005 budget. However at present the Trust's reserves are significantly less than the Trustees consider desirable. As in previous years the main shortfall relates to the Capital Financial Reserve, so the Trust has very limited scope for property purchase without an appeal. The investment mentioned above in the Trust's fundraising capability is intended largely to address this point and to ensure that the actual level of reserves is restored to a level consistent with the Policy.

As usual I would draw attention to the capitalisation of the purchase of the Trust Properties. The Trust Properties were shown for the first time in the 2001 Accounts as Tangible Fixed Assets (although the properties and their individual year of purchase and purchase price had always been detailed in one of the Notes to the full accounts, which remains the case). This was done to comply with the requirements of SORP. This did not and does not indicate any change in the objectives or policy of the Trust. As the Trust Properties were acquired by the Trust for long term retention in furtherance of its objectives the Trustees do not consider it either appropriate or cost-effective to have the Trust Properties revalued, and they are shown in these Accounts at cost. Glen Lude is an addition in 2004 (as a gift it is shown at value).

JMT TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

The Trading Company is no longer directly involved in farming at Strathaird, following the transfer in June 2001 of the farm management to the Strathaird Farming Partnership, a limited partnership, in which the Company as limited partner invested £1,000. Under this arrangement, the livestock remain in the ownership of the Company but are leased to the Partnership. Following the significant write-down in 2001 of the values relating to the livestock it is considered by the Trustees that the present valuation does not at this time require further adjustment. As mentioned above a loss was incurred in 2004 on the woodland activities.

The merchandising operation continues to provide a reasonable profit to be gifted to the Trust. As before many purchasers took the opportunity to make additional donations to the Trust when making merchandise purchases.

Keith Griffiths
Treasurer

2001

First employee outwith Scotland – John Muir Award
Manager for Wales Hugo Iffla. Strathaird Management
Plan.

Schiehallion footpath project
begins.

2002

John Muir Trust: Statement of Financial Activities year ended 31 December 2004

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	2003
	General	Designated			
INCOMING RESOURCES					
General income from supporters					
Subscriptions	148,185			148,185	153,745
Donations & tax recovered	194,778		9,647	204,425	137,797
Legacies	140,023			140,023	217,267
Corporate donations	9,452			9,452	33,862
Grants from charitable trusts	18,592			18,592	35,900
Grants					
Properties	27,015		66,854	93,869	101,143
Schiehallion footpath project	29,907		-	29,907	194,012
Education	39,348		28,500	67,848	144,799
Development	7,429			7,429	8,503
Policies & partnerships			-	-	13,000
Income from activities					
Fundraising activities	73,964			73,964	6,045
Properties	-	14,204		14,204	10,923
Activities & conservation programmes	33,397			33,397	23,164
Lectures and functions	1,366			1,366	1,315
Other income					
Investment income and interest received	15,159		13,426	28,585	33,506
Covenant from Trading Company	27,253			27,253	22,583
Farm and other rents	4,255			4,255	2,896
Gift in Kind	80,000			80,000	
Total incoming resources	850,123	14,204	118,427	982,754	1,140,460
EXPENDITURE					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Property management	99,217	11,183	75,746	186,146	155,451
Schiehallion footpath project	31,514	-		31,514	262,338
Education	174,454		28,500	202,954	152,565
John Muir Award programmes	50,714			50,714	39,821
Policy & partnerships	40,161		-	40,161	38,753
Donations to North Harris Trust	-			-	100,000
Support costs					
Fundraising costs	146,419			146,419	62,344
Publicity & promotion	22,623			22,623	21,806
Journal & other publications	32,625			32,625	20,453
Lectures & functions	1,670			1,670	2,103
Other expenditure					
Management & administration	200,984			200,984	157,604
Development in Wales	-			-	8,768
Fees	15,545			15,545	20,227
Losses on realisation of assets				-	
Total resources expended	815,926	11,183	104,246	931,355	1,042,233
Net incoming resources before transfers and realised gains					
	34,197	3,021	14,181	51,399	98,227
Transfer to general funds	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	-
Transfer to Trust properties	(80,000)	80,000			-
Net incoming resources before realised gains	4,197	33,021	14,181	51,399	98,227
Realised gains/(losses) on investments	(756)	-	-	(756)	1,675
Surplus for the year	3,441	33,021	14,181	50,463	99,902
Revaluation of investment in Trading Company	(8,579)	-	-	(8,579)	(10,567)
Unrealised gain on other investments	51,488			51,488	36,406
Net movement in funds	46,350	33,021	14,181	93,552	125,741
Fund balances at 1 January 2004					
Trust properties	-	1,889,611	-	1,889,611	1,889,611
Other funds	609,076	205,101	335,265	1,149,442	1,023,701
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2004	655,426	2,127,733	349,446	3,132,605	3,039,053

John Muir Trust: Balance Sheet year ended 31 December 2004

	2004	2003
FIXED ASSETS		
Trust properties	1,969,611	1,889,611
Tangible assets	<u>19,888</u>	<u>11,893</u>
	1,989,499	1,901,504
INVESTMENTS		
Quoted investments	482,285	421,458
Trading subsidiary	<u>23,067</u>	<u>31,646</u>
	505,352	<u>453,104</u>
LOANS		
Crofting communities	5,000	5000
CURRENT ASSETS		
Prepayments	89,587	173,988
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>591,836</u>	<u>552,580</u>
	<u>681,423</u>	<u>726,568</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and Accruals	45,501	46,955
Loans: general funds	<u>168</u>	<u>168</u>
	<u>45,669</u>	<u>47,123</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	632,754	679,445
NET ASSETS	<u>3,132,605</u>	<u>3,039,053</u>
<i>Represented by</i>		
Unrestricted funds		
General	655,426	609,076
Designated	158,122	205,101
Designated – property purchase	<u>1,969,611</u>	<u>1,889,611</u>
	2,783,159	2,703,788
Restricted funds	349,446	335,265
	<u>3,132,605</u>	<u>3,039,053</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 14 March 2005 and signed on their behalf:

R BALHARRY, Trustee.

K GRIFFITHS, Trustee.

JMT Trading Company Limited: Profit & Loss Account year ended 31 December 2004

	Woodlands	Merchandising	Total	2003
TURNOVER				
Merchandising		60,725	60,725	64,006
Woodlands – sales of wood	2,702		2,702	1,560
– grants	6,191		6,191	16,039
	8,893	60,725	69,618	81,605
COST OF SALES				
Merchandising		-30,352	-30,352	-42,944
Woodlands – project costs	-10,835		-10,835	-11,019
	-10,835	-30,352	-41,187	-53,963
REDUCTIONS IN QUOTA VALUE				
Quotas – cattle			-	-8,000
Quotas – sheep			-	-2,267
			-	-10,667
OTHER COSTS				
Other fixed costs	-878	-2,182	-3,060	-15
Audit fee	-312	-938	-1,250	-1,200
Depreciation	-5,447		-5,447	-3,844
Profit/(loss) on fixed assets			0	100
	-6,637	-3,120	-9,757	-4,959
(Deficit)/Surplus on Trading for the year	-8,579	27,253	18,674	12,016
PAYMENTS TO:				
JOHN MUIR TRUST				
FOR: Donation under Gift Aid		-27,253	-27,253	-22,583
Deed of Covenant				
Interest				
	-8,579	-	-8,579	-10,567

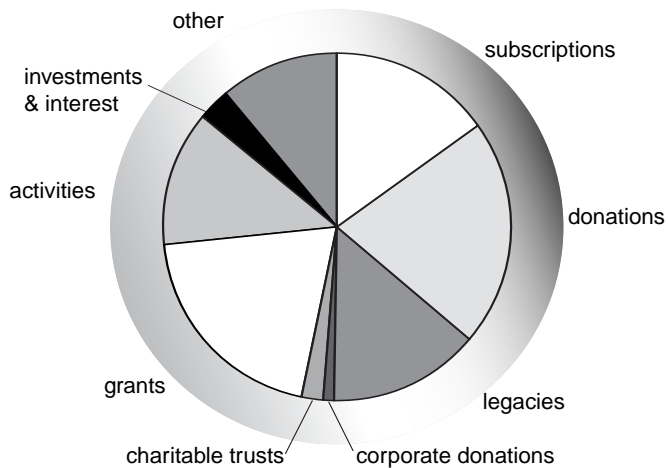
JMT Trading Company Limited: Balance Sheet year ended 31 December 2004

	2004	2003
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	11,090	5,627
Investment	1,000	1,000
	<u>12,090</u>	<u>6,627</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	32,903	32,903
Debtors	21,075	22,396
Bank and Cash	685	265
	<u>54,663</u>	<u>55,564</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>43,686</u>	<u>30,545</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>10,977</u>	<u>25,019</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	23,067	31,646
NET ASSETS	<u>23,067</u>	<u>31,646</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Called up Share Capital	173,448	173,448
Profit and Loss Account	-150,381	-141,802
SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS	<u>23,067</u>	<u>31,646</u>

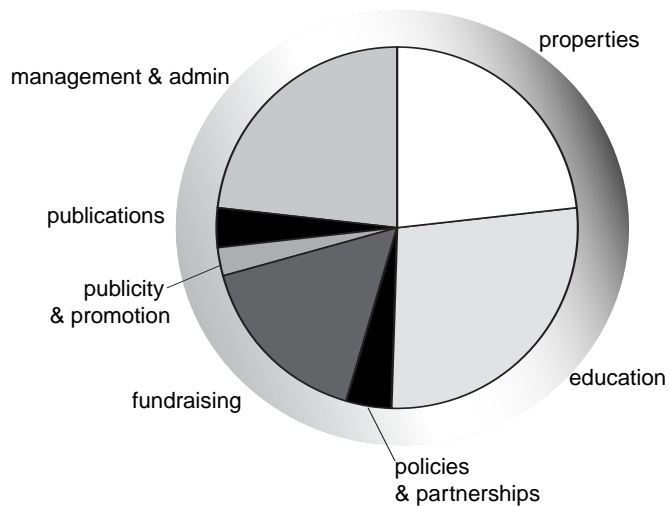
*Approved by the Board of Directors on 14 March 2005 and signed on their behalf:
KEITH GRIFFITHS, Chairman.*

Income and expenditure for 2004

Income



Expenditure



▼ Tree planting in Keppoch, Strathaird

WORK RATE: Richard Law and Rob Bushby ran the London and Edinburgh marathons for us; orders of the day for Knoydart volunteers; shipping out coastal litter; on an Aberdeen Group work meet in Glen Tanar.

Photos Keith Brame, Alan Scott, Douglas Halliday, Steve Green and others

2003

10,000th John Muir Award certificate presented. John Muir's Birthplace re-opened as visitor centre. Assisted North Harris Trust estate purchase. Re-alignment of Schiehallion footpath completed. Dick Balharry becomes chairman.

Trustees, staff, partners, offices

Trustees

at 31 December 2004

Sir Crispin Agnew, Dick Balharry (Chairman), Rob Collister,
Ken Crocket, John Donohoe, Steve Green,
Keith Griffiths (Treasurer), Professor Paul Jarvis,
John Mackenzie, Professor Denis Mollison,
Professor Malcolm Slessor, Donald Thomas (Secretary),
Maude Tiso, Dr Will Williams

Honorary Advisers

Larry Downing, Andrew Currie

Staff

Director, Nigel Hawkins, director@jmt.org
Personal assistant, Linda Coupar, linda@jmt.org

Development

Development Manager, Ian Proudler
development@jmt.org

Membership and Events Officer, Katie Jackson
promotions@jmt.org

Corporate Relations Fundraiser, Allison Lock
fundraising@jmt.org

Journal Editor, Mike Merchant (*self-employed*)
journal@jmt.org

Development, England & Wales

David Picken, education@jmt.org

Education including John Muir Award

Education Manager, David Picken
education@jmt.org

John Muir Award Manager, Rob Bushby
rob@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Trust Activities Manager, Sam Baumber
programmes@jmt.org

Administrator, Clare de Mowbray
info@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, West Scotland, Toby Clark
toby@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, East Lothian, George Sim
george@johnmuiraward.org
Rank Foundation Gapper, Ruth Zawinski

John Muir Award Manager, Wales, Hugo Iffla
hugo@johnmuiraward.org
Administrator, Wales, Helen Berry
helen@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, Cairngorms, Alan Smith
Employee of Cairngorms National Park Authority
cairngorms@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, Cumbria, Michelle Donoghue
Development worker, Cumbria, Jonathan Walkingshaw
Administrator, Sadie McGlone
In partnership with and hosted by Cumbria Youth Alliance
cumbria@johnmuiraward.org

Finance & Administration

Finance Manager, Scott Williamson
finance@jmt.org

Finance Assistant, Nicola Wylie
nicola@jmt.org

Membership Secretary, Jane Anderson (*self-employed*)
membership@jmt.org

IT, Keith Anderson (*consultant*)
it@jmt.org

Land & Property

Land & Property Manager, Andrew Campbell
landmanagement@jmt.org

Assistant Land Manager, Douglas Halliday
douglas@jmt.org

Sandwood Conservation Manager, Cathel Morrison
sandwood@jmt.org

Schiehallion Path Project Manager, Chris Cairns
schiehallion@jmt.org

Estate worker, Skye, Alasdair MacPherson

Estate worker, Skye, Willie Robertson
In partnership with Highland Council

Skye crofting, Ian MacKinnon (*consultant*)

Conservation Activities Co-ordinator, Sandy Maxwell
(consultant) conservationactivities@jmt.org

Policy & Partnerships

Policy & Partnerships Manager, Will Boyd-Wallis
partnerships@jmt.org

Senior Conservationist

Senior Conservationist, Keith Miller,
conservation@jmt.org

Partner organisations

We nominated directors (*and alternates*) in 2004 as follows.

John Muir Birthplace Trust Adam Gillingham, Robert Russel

Knoydart Foundation Will Boyd-Wallis (*Douglas Halliday*)

Nevis Partnership Will Boyd-Wallis (*John Donohoe*)

North Harris Trust Nigel Hawkins (*Will Boyd-Wallis*)

Offices

Main office

41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD
Tel 0131 554 0114, Fax 0131 555 2112
admin@jmt.org

Director's office

Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry PH16 5AN
Tel 01796 470080, fax 01796 473514

Education Department including John Muir Award

41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD
Tel & fax 0845 458 2910
Activities tel 0845 456 1783

Membership

FREEPOST, Musselburgh EH21 7BR
Tel 0845 458 8356

Land management office

Clach Glas, Strathaird, Broadford,
Isle of Skye IV49 9AZ
Tel 01471 866336

Funders, charitable trusts, corporate donors

We acknowledge with thanks the support of these funders for major projects and partnerships during the year.



Bank of Scotland, for sponsorship of the 2004 Activities Programme and the Trust's education activities.



Graham Tiso, for providing free office accommodation, financial, and many other forms of support, including delegate bags for the Conference.



Scottish Natural Heritage, for supporting many areas of the work of the Trust and the John Muir Award in Scotland.



With volunteering assistance from staff, and financial support from BP, the East Schiehallion footpath restoration project was completed.



Cumbria Youth Alliance, for funding and supporting the John Muir Award in Cumbria.



Rank Foundation and East Lothian Council, for funding and supporting the John Muir Award in East Lothian.



Cairngorms National Park Authority, LEADER+ and SNH for funding and supporting the John Muir Award in the Cairngorms.



The Heritage Lottery Fund, for support for projects in Scotland and Wales.



Image Scotland, for providing valuable office system support.

The Wild Land conference and fundraising dinner

The conference was made possible by our principal sponsor, ScottishPower, and key supporters BP, Scottish Forest Alliance, Scottish Natural Heritage, Ramblers Scotland and SmartWool.



ScottishPower



Scottish Forest Alliance
WOODLAND FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE



www.scottishforestalliance.org.uk

We are also grateful for the support of these other charitable trust and corporate donors in 2004.

Accenture Foundation	£250
Actual Reality Learning & Leadership Co Ltd	£75
Sylvia Aitken Charitable Trust	£1400
Anatom	£1000
CARE International Ltd	£1000
Hamish & Doris Crichton Charitable Trust	£300
Cruden Foundation Ltd	£300
Robert O Curle Charitable Trust	£1000
A & N Daniell Charitable Trust	£200
Peter de Haan Charitable Trust	£58,364
Evelyn Drysdale Charitable Trust	£500
Leslie & Helen Duff Charitable Trust	£200
E & H N Boyd and J E Morland Charitable Trust	£150
Exel Foundation	£2625
Experian	£158
Carsten Flieger. Fotografie	£350
Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust	£1000
Gatliff Trust	£167
William Haddon Charitable Trust	£250
Hay Nisbet Press Ltd	£250
Heart of the Lakes & Cottage Life	£1000
E C Hendry's Charitable Trust	£1200
P H Holt Charitable Trust	£250
Agnes H Hunter's Trust	£4000
Mackintosh Foundation	£500
McCorquodale Charitable Trust	£250
The Miller Consultancy	£30
Millenium Forest for Scotland Trust	£4580
MusicScotland	£250
Product Line Services Ltd	£113
Profitmaster Systems Ltd	£530
Rathbones	£1000
Rock Lodge Charitable Trust	£2000
Rycklow Charitable Trust 1992	£500
Sealgair Trust	£1000
Sheppard Moscow	£500
Talteg Limited	£500
Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd	£100
Tay Charitable Trust	£2000
The Hon Michael J Samuel Charitable Trust	£250
Thomson Corporation Charitable Trust	£600
Turcan Connell Solicitors	£700
Miss W H S Wallace's Trust	£950
Garfield Weston Foundation	£2000
J & J R Wilson Trust	£1000
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	£3000

And to all friends and supporters not mentioned by name...

The John Muir Trust is greatly indebted to all the individuals, clubs, associations and other organisations who are so generous with the funds that enable us to continue the conservation work of John Muir's legacy. To you all—a heartfelt THANK YOU.