‘In every walk with nature one receives far more than one seeks.’

John Muir
THE WORK OF THE TRUST progressed very positively during a year of change in our senior management team. The Board is confident that, with our new recruits, the roles continue to be occupied by people with the expertise and experience to further strengthen and develop our work.

The finances of the Trust are complex and raising general funds for on-going operations is always a challenge. In 2017 general fundraising was successful and we also raised large sums towards new projects. However, much of that money, including a very generous £1 million donation, is restricted to specific purposes and we continue to need the support of members and others to maintain core activity and plan for uncertainty.

We continued to work with others when making the case for the protection and management of wild land. The need to see deer numbers reduced to ecologically acceptable levels has been an issue for 30 years. We were therefore delighted when the Cabinet Secretary in the Scottish Government set up an independent review panel to recommend changes to deer management. We will have to wait another year for the report, but after three decades of pressure - much coming from the Trust - we are more confident now that changes will be made.

We continued to keep our eye on the impact of Brexit, although so much remains uncertain. The UK government’s 25 Year Environment Strategy gave us some positive clues, but there may well be economic impacts that have a negative influence on income.

Perhaps the best news of the year was signing a three-year lease with the Lake District National Park Authority for Glenridding Common. We hope to demonstrate that our principles, honed in Scotland, can deliver real community, public and land benefits within the new Lake District World Heritage Site.

I am delighted to submit a very positive annual report. The Trust remains in a strong and influential position. For their contribution to this, I want to thank John Finney, Jim Gibson and David Maclehose who stood down as Trustees in 2017.

Peter Pearson
Chair
John Muir Trust
Chief Executive’s report

AS THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE it is a great privilege to report that the Trust continues to be an effective champion of wild places and for everyone’s right to be able to enjoy the experience of wildness.

In a world where development pressures are universal we know that change is inevitable, but we continued to challenge inappropriate proposals that diminish the wild resources of the landscape. In 2017 we provided evidence at two local inquiries and prepared cases for two others. We launched the ‘Keep It Wild’ campaign to further raise awareness of our mission and will promote that message more and more in time.

Strategic partnerships remained key to our approach. The Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership at Schiehallion saw us working with partners to re-establish native woodland at a significant scale. In NW Scotland we employed an additional two staff as part of the Coastal Communities programme, working to ensure that conservation and community benefit go hand in hand. On Skye we continued with a major woodland restoration scheme and repaired footpaths. Timely and environmentally sensitive sensitive footpath work on Suilven, in partnership with the Assynt Foundation, was completed this year.

In 2017 the John Muir Award worked with over 1500 Award Providers creating 36,000 recipients. We were successful in sharing the importance of conserving wild places and encouraging others to carry forward the message of the value of wildness.

All our work depends on the loyalty of members and the support of donors. In 2017, we began the huge task of preparing for the new data protection regulations. These set out the ways in which we must work with our supporters to ensure that their communication preferences are fully taken into account – something we have always taken seriously.

We continued to meet with and talk to policy makers and decision takers so that they understood our aims. We are helped greatly when others speak up for wild places too. I am committed to ensuring that the Trust continues to speak up for the experiences, things and places that are important to all of us as we strive to achieve our vision.

Andrew Bachell
Chief Executive
John Muir Trust
More people are enjoying the outdoors, but footfall and rainfall can turn paths into deep scars, blemishing the places we love to visit. We’re helping these beautiful places recover from the Patsy Wood Trust to help manage Glenridding Common.

In addition to woodland restoration on Skye, we also launched the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership – a collaboration between the Trust and five neighbouring community, conservation, public and private landowners at Schiehallion – with the aim of linking and expanding existing woodland to create a rich, vibrant landscape in Highland Perthshire.

Our focus on repairing and maintaining the 120km of paths we look after continued, thanks to funds from our ongoing Wild Ways appeal and other sources.
The joy of volunteering

In 2017 our volunteers took part in 30 work parties on the land we manage as well as with our partners (Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape project, Knoydart Foundation and the North and West Harris estates and Corrour). 140 volunteers donated 649 days during which they helped:

- maintain and repair over 1,100 metres of path including resurfacing, building cross drains, anchor bars, pitching and drainage
- remove rubbish from beaches - Sandwood (Sandwood Bay, Polin, Dromin and Oldshoremore) also White Shore and area in Culag Woodland as well as beaches on Tanera Mor and Harris (Huisinish & Traigh Mheillin) – and mountain tops (10 bags from Ben Nevis)
- plant 1500 trees at Clasmol on Harris, 250 trees on Tanera Mor, 1500 trees on Corrour, 1000 at Glenlude, more in two fenced exclosures by the tourist path up Ben Nevis, 150 scots pine by road to Airor with Knoydart Foundation - and weed 10,000 trees at Li & Coire Dhorrcail and tree nursery at Inbhir Dhorrcail
- monitor mountain ringlet butterflies and water voles at Nevis, red squirrels, adders and vegetation at Glenlude and erect two owl boxes in Glen Nevis in a project with the Nevis Partnership.

Native woodland covered less than three per cent of Li and Coire Dhorrcail in Knoydart, when we purchased it in 1987. Thirty years on we are starting to see natural regeneration of birch and hazel among others and our Scots pine trees have been registered as an official seed source.

Restore and enrich

We strive to restore and enrich wild places working with others to return habitats to a more natural state. The process of rewilding is about re-establishing natural processes and ecosystems and about giving nature a chance to flourish alongside communities and visitors.

We look after some of the best wild landscapes in the UK including Ben Nevis, Schiehallion, Sandwood Bay and parts of Assynt, Skye and Knoydart.

In these areas, and elsewhere in partnership with others, we work to restore and protect habitats, repair footpaths, bring back lost species and improve the ecological health of the land.

Help us increase wildness and restore wild places by enabling us to:

- increase the number of wild places that are managed sustainably and progressively, using the Trust’s rigorous Wild Land Management Standards as key measures
- implement a sensitive upland path repair programme, in response to increased erosion on popular routes
- encourage natural regeneration of woodlands, planting native trees where necessary
- introduce landscape-scale initiatives with landowners and communities, positioning the Trust at the forefront of conservation in the future.

Sandwood and Quinag: As well as annual maintenance, contractors were employed to repair several short peaty sections of the Quinag path as part of the Coigach Assynt Living Landscape project, funded by the Heritage Lottery fund.

Skye: Further work was completed on the Druim Hain path in March as part of the second year of the major Heritage Lottery funded Skye footpath projects involving the employment of local staff, contractors, volunteers and students from Broadford and SRUC Elmwood Campus.

Nevis: Repairs to Steall path following rockfall and continuing maintenance on the upper section of the Ben Nevis path completed.

Schiehallion: Students from SRUC Elmwood Campus and trainees from Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust visited to learn about the path and hear what the path project involved.

Suilven: Contractors completed their first year of major path fixing, thanks to Coigach Assynt Living Landscape, Heritage Lottery, European Outdoor Conservation Association and John Muir Trust members’ appeal.
Protecting wild places

The Trust’s campaign for long-term legal protection for wild land in Scotland received a boost in 2014. However our work to watch over wild places continues.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS AWARDS recognised the John Muir Trust’s outdoor campaigning work - for the fifth year running. We were nominated for progressive deer management, our legal challenge to the Stronelairg wind farm, our sensitive management of properties in beautiful locations and the UK wide engagement of people with nature and active conservation work through the John Muir Award.

Our ongoing campaign to have Scotland’s wild land recognised and protected received a boost in January 2017 when we welcomed Scottish Natural Heritage’s detailed descriptions of the 42 Wild Land Areas (WLAs). However, while the 2014 WLA Map continues to improve the chances for wild land it does not guarantee protection. Last year’s decision to consent the Creag Rhiabhach wind farm in WLA 37 Altnaharra has left the status of wild land in doubt.

In 2017, we took two approaches to defending WLAs from large-scale infrastructure. We participated in Public Local Inquiries (including Caplich WLA 34 in NW Sutherland and Culachy WLA 19 near Fort Augustus) and we launched our Keep it Wild campaign to ensure that the proposed Planning (Scotland) Bill includes protection for WLAs, as well as National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

The Keep it Wild campaign launch was boosted by the results of a YouGov poll which found that 4 out of 5 Scots back wild land protection.
"The mountains are fountains not only of rivers and fertile soil, but of men."

John Muir

The need for protection

Britain’s finest landscapes are under threat from inappropriate development, including energy schemes, large-scale house-building, commercial forestry, moorland burning and bulldozed tracks.

The biggest threat in recent years has come from large-scale, inappropriately sited wind farms. The Trust believes that government targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved without destroying valuable wild places.

We need to act now and give wild places a voice.

Help us protect wild places across the UK by enabling us to:

> protect wild places from environmentally damaging or large-scale developments
> bid (sometimes at short notice) for properties that require safeguarding through ownership and partnership in Scotland, England and Wales
> promote policies to encourage protection for wild places and value the benefits that they bring to people and wildlife.

Important action to defend Scotland’s wild land from industrial development at Stronelaig came to a conclusion when we agreed to pay Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) £50,000 and the Scottish Government £75,000 in final settlement of legal fees. The Trust is grateful to everyone who supported the campaign. It strengthened our reputation as a serious organisation prepared to stand up for what we believe in.

The year ended on a positive note, when the new Scottish Government energy strategy promised that any further expansion of onshore wind should be: “done in a way that is compatible with Scotland’s magnificent landscapes, including our wild land areas”.

Further afield, we were delighted to hear that the plans for the North West Coast Connections transmission lines in Cumbria have been put on hold. In the same location the Trust, working alongside other environmental bodies, objected to an application at Thirlmere, below Helvellyn, for an extensive zipwire attraction.

2017 saw a stronger commitment to tackling the environmental damage caused by deer in Scotland. In May there was the first full debate in the Scottish Parliament on deer management. This was followed the next month by the Cabinet Secretary announcing specific measures to tackle the problem. We also welcomed the Scottish Government’s establishment of an independent group to examine the sustainability of grouse moor management.

Since the Trust helped persuade the Scottish Government to recognise wild land in the national planning policy through the Wild Land Areas map in 2014, six out of seven proposed applications for windfarms in these areas have been rejected.
The John Muir Trust’s main engagement scheme, the John Muir Award, works with organisations across the UK to encourage people of all backgrounds to value and care for wild places in a variety of settings. Thanks to them, since the scheme was launched in 1997 over a third of a million Awards have been achieved.

During 2017, we worked with 1,570 Award Providers – approximately 1,000 of which are schools or educational establishments. This led to 36,715 Awards being achieved during the year – a 5% UK-wide annual increase.

Since launch, at least 25% of take-up has been with participants from ‘inclusion’ backgrounds including prison inmates and ex-offenders, at-risk families and those with drug or alcohol addictions. We exceeded this target in 2017, with 29% (10,771) Awards achieved by people who experience disadvantage.

Gender and age ratios remain consistent. We maintained a fairly even 52% male to 48% female gender split. While Award engagement is largely youth focused (50% is with under 11 year olds; 37% is with 12-16 year olds) there is significant involvement (12%) from adults aged 17 and above.

Strategic partnerships continue to be important. All 15 National Parks use the John Muir Award to varying degrees, with Cairngorms, Lake District and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs all hosting...
‘I care to live only to entice people to look at Nature’s loveliness.’

John Muir

Growth in support

Local members’ group meetings and events spanned the length and breadth of the country with events taking place in North West England, South West England, North East Scotland and central Scotland. In Edinburgh more than 120 people attended the Edinburgh Members’ Gathering to hear guest speakers talk about land reform. Membership of the Trust grew by 2% to 11,110 in December 2017.

Award staff and extending their partnership arrangements. A base was established in the Peak District head office and new links made with outreach roles. We’re part of a new three year London Wildlife Trust-led consortium to create a project involving hard-to-reach audiences in London’s nature and wild places, and East Ayrshire Council is funding a dedicated 18-month role to explore how outdoor learning and the John Muir Award can contribute to pupil attainment outcomes.

A core grant funding relationship with Scottish Natural Heritage has been continued, with a funding for England activity from Heritage Lottery Fund continuing until the end of 2018.

Next generation

We help people connect with wild places. If people care about the natural world, they are more likely to protect and restore wild places. That’s why we need to invest in the next generation of conservationists.

Since 1997, the John Muir Award has helped thousands of people from all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature to help people and wildlife thrive. Today over 1,500 organisations across the UK help us involve over 30,000 people a year in the John Muir Award.

Help us connect with people to promote the value of wild places by enabling us to:

- increase uptake of the John Muir Award across Britain so that more people (over a quarter from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds) connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.
- create a step change in attitudes towards outdoor and environmental learning, through the value of wild places featuring within public policy initiatives, including health, wellbeing and education.

‘I feel on the road to recovery. Making things grow and growing as a person, is amazing.’ Fiona, a participant in our John Muir Award.
Financial report

I AM PLEASED TO present the accounts for 2017 and to record our appreciation to Kerry Ross and her colleagues for their work in producing them.

The 2017 budget prudently anticipated a deficit of £844,000 but we are very pleased to report that the out-turn was much more positive at a surplus of £1,654,000. The major factors in this welcome improvement are noted below with the two greatest a much appreciated one-off donation of £1,000,000 towards the purchase of land and, once again, a high level of legacy income. The Trust continues to be well supported by charitable trusts with donations of various sizes and focus, testament to the salience of the Trust’s aims for a wide spectrum of donors.

The general fundraising environment continues to be challenging for charities and the General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect in May 2018 could impinge further on our ability to generate and diversify income streams. That said, we welcome stronger regulation in this area. Every donation should be considered a privilege and we are happy to adopt the revised principles to ensure that our communication with supporters continues to be lawful, fair and transparent.

Total income in 2017 was £3.9 million compared to £2.9 million in 2016. The significant constituents of which were:

- anonymous donation from an individual couple towards any future purchase of Glenridding Common, falling which it will be applied to land acquisition in the North of Scotland, of £1 million plus a further £19,000 towards our work on Quinag from the same donor;
- a grant of £96,000 (2016: £96,000) from SNH to support our work with the John Muir Award in Scotland;
- legacy income of £802,000 (2016: £914,000) from 33 (2016: 23) individuals;
- membership subscriptions of £326,000 (2016: £319,000), an increase of 2%;
- appeal income of £89,000 for the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership, £46,000 for our Keep it Wild campaign, and £27,000 towards the ongoing Wild Ways appeal;
- £268,000 from the Patsy Wood Trust in respect of the management of Glenridding over the projected 3 year lease;
- £100,000 from the Reece Foundation;
- harvesting income of £72,000 (2016: £nil); and
- Coastal Community Fund grant of £51,000 – towards engagement at Sandwood.

Total expenditure in 2017 was £2.35 million, up from £2.16 million in 2016, due to increased resourcing to support and promote charitable activities. £1.9 million of this expenditure (including allocated overheads) (2016: £1.7 million) was spent directly on charitable activities with £90,000 (2016: £105,000) (including allocated overheads) on our membership team and £210,000 (2016: £192,000) (including allocated overheads) on our fundraising team. The JMT Trading Company made a profit of £44,000 (2016: loss of £63) which comprised trading income of £166,000 (2016: £105,000) offset by merchandising costs and the recharge of certain salary costs from the Trust. 2017 turnover included £72,000 from the sale of Skye timber, a new activity through JMT Trading Company in the year. Due to the nature of this specific timber selling process, very low costs were incurred, resulting in an improved gross margin of 63% (2016: 43%).

We have ended 2017 with free reserves of just over £2 million, which equates to nine months of the budgeted expenditure for 2018. This is significantly higher than the Trust’s policy of holding four to six months of budgeted expenditure as free reserves. Several factors have led to this, including an increase in staff time being spent on funded project activities, a cost review which increased financial efficiency, additional unrestricted Charitable Trust donations and extra free reserves from the sale of timber through the Trading Company. Efficiency initiatives will continue through 2018. Post year end, the Board has designated £300,000 of these free reserves to support Award activities in England and Wales in order to ensure the continued support, retention and attraction of skilled staff to this area of the Trust’s work. The revised corporate strategy will see the application of these free reserves towards strategic priorities.

The budget for 2018 assumes expenditure of £2.7 million to fund extensive work on footpaths and other improvements to our properties, fencing works under the Heart of Scotland partnership, the full-year impact of staff recruited in 2016 and an IT upgrade to support compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations, effective from May 2018.

The Trust continues to work towards increasing stable, secure income streams but still remains heavily reliant on legacy income. To manage the unavoidable unpredictability of this key funding source, we have again been prudent and budgeted for total income of £2.3 million in 2018. On this basis the 2018 budget shows an anticipated deficit of over £430k. This deficit would be met from funds already raised within reserves (restricted or unrestricted).

Douglas Wynn
Finance Committee Convenor
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities incorporating Income and Expenditure Account (extract)
for the year ended 31 December 2017

2017 2016
£’000 £’000

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:
Donations and legacies 3,103 2,007
Charitable activities 493 624
Other trading activities 186 139
Investments 55 65
Other 15 16
Total income 3,852 2,851

EXPENDITURE ON:
Raising funds 436 414
Charitable activities:
Land 781 666
Awareness 853 797
Policy 283 281
Total expenditure 2,353 2,158

Net gains on investments 155 76
Net income 1,654 769
Fund balances brought forward 6,978 6,209
Fund balances carried forward 8,632 6,978

Consolidated Balance Sheet (extract)
as at 31 December 2017

2017 2016
£’000 £’000

Tangible assets 487 539
Heritage properties 2,573 2,573
Investments 2,763 1,672
Current assets 2,945 2,393
Current liabilities (136) (199)
Total net assets 8,632 6,978

Unrestricted funds

Free reserves 2,017 1,481
Designated reserves * 1,221 1,338
Heritage properties 2,573 2,573
Total 5,811 5,392

Restricted funds * 2,821 1,586
Total funds 8,632 6,978

* Three funds have an objective of property purchase
with a total value of

1,874 849

This information is a summary of the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet
derived from the group financial statements, which received an unqualified audit report
from Scott-Moncrieff and were approved by the Board on 26 March 2018. It may not contain
sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity.
The group’s statutory financial statements are available free of charge on the Trust’s website
(www.johnmuirtrust.org) or by writing to the Director of Resources, John Muir Trust, Tower
House, Station Road, Pitlochry PH16 5AN. The group financial statements have been submitted
to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.
Looking ahead to 2018
The work of the Trust in 2018 will focus on these areas:

**Protection of wild places.** Through advocacy and campaigns to protect areas of wild land, the management of our land and by working in partnership with others on land use issues, we will seek to ensure that the wild land resources across the UK are given effective recognition and management is improved. In particular we will continue to monitor and comment on significant developments that impact on wild land and other wild areas. We will contribute to land use policy areas such as management of grazing and moorland in the uplands, post-Brexit rural reform and we will set out our policy agenda for wildness. We will put in place our first management plan for Glenridding Common.

**Partnership and outreach.** We will sustain work on the John Muir Award and in particular we will seek to consolidate the expansion of the Award to new areas. Working with all UK Governments, we will seek to embed the Award in outdoor educational delivery and in well-being and inclusion work. We will continue to boost our profile and raise awareness of the value our work gives to society.

**Fit for the future.** The Trust needs to be a modern and efficient organisation. To achieve this we will take stock of governance and regulatory issues and in particular we will ensure compliance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulations and lobbying legislation. We will be preparing a new corporate strategy within which we will set out a three year programme of work and longer term priorities. We will continue to develop our supporter and member base, creating more opportunities for people to connect with and get behind our work on behalf of all wild places.

**Thank you**
The support from our members and friends, our community fundraisers and volunteers, and from all our donors is invaluable. We cannot name each individual, but a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you.

**LEGACIES**
- James Napier Alison
- Lawrie Bagnall
- Robert Gordon Bartholomew
- Rosalind Burgess
- Thomas Kinloch Crombie
- Thomas William Dunmore
- Iain Findlay
- Jennifer Allard
- Kathleen Garthwaite
- James Andrew Glasgow
- Elsie Catherine June Hill
- Graham Stuart Lewis
- Alastair Neil Macandrew
- Owen Nigel Mather
- Mona Margaret McDonald
- Peter Anthony McGrory
- Finlay McIntosh
- Susannah Holditch Read
- Leila Shaw
- Dr Michael Jessop Flew
- Edith Margaret Telfer
- Iain David Spence Thomson

**PARTNERS**
- Robert Brown
- Goff Cantley
- Peter Charlton
- Val Crookes
- Brian Fletcher
- Sir Charles Fraser
- Tony Gladstone
- Nigel Hawkins
- Nick Howard
- Denis Mollison
- Carol Pudsey
- Tim Raffle
- Ena Robertson-Black
- Jen Ross
- Dr David Seddon
- Callum Sword
- Andrew Telfer

**CHARITABLE TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS**

**SILVER**
- Sally Westmacott
- William Whaley
- John Young

**GOLD**
- John Ellerman Foundation
- JTH Charitable Trust
- Kestrelman Trust
- Lizandy Charitable Trust
- Maple Trust
- Margaret Murdoch Trust
- Mint Fund
- Mintaka Trust
- Miss EC Hendry Charitable Trust
- Miss WHS Wallace’s Settlement Trust
- Patsy Wood Trust
- Psalter Foundation
- Reece Foundation
- Richard Dunbar-Charitable Trust
- Richard Fraser Charitable Trust
- Robert Haldane Smith Charitable Foundation
- Robert O Curle Charitable Trust
- Robertson Trust
- Robert O Curle Trust
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Mountain Environment Trust
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Sir James Miller Edinburgh Trust
- Stella Symons Charitable Trust
- Stirling Teuntie Anna (TA Fund)
- Taliedo Trust
- Tay Charitable Trust
- Tekoa Charitable Trust
- Vivienne & Sam Cohen Charitable Trust
- Walter PM Lawrie Trust
- Welsh Family Trust
- Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation

**BRONZE**
- Absolute Escapes Ltd, Alpine Exploratory, Connect Communications, Heart of Scotland Tours, Hot Aches Productions, Mickleford Travel Ltd, Mini Mountain Marathon, NGM Accountants, Room in the Wood, The Scotch Whisky Experience

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND SUPPORTERS**

**Argyll Walking Holidays,**
- Berghaus, Original Mountain Equipment, Tiso,
- CASTANAS TRUST
- CJ Cadbury Charitable Trust
- Dr Elizabeth Calder Memorial Trust
- Dunclay Charitable Trust
- Etrick Charitable Trust
- Four Winds Trust
- Gamnochy Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Gatilff Trust
- Gibson Graham Charitable Trust
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- Gunter Charitable Trust
- Guy Heritage Trust
- Heritage Lottery Fund
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**CORPORATE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS**

**PEAK PARTNERS**
- Mountain Equipment, Tiso, Wilderness Scotland
- GOLD
- Berghaus, Original Mountain Marathon
- SILVER
- About Argyll Walking Holidays, Glasgow Vein Clinic, Kings Manor Hotel, Wandel Vakantie

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- Scottish Government
- Scottish Mountain Environment Trust
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Sir James Miller Edinburgh Trust
- Stella Symons Charitable Trust
- Stirling Teuntie Anna (TA Fund)
- Taliedo Trust
- Tay Charitable Trust
- Tekoa Charitable Trust
- Vivienne & Sam Cohen Charitable Trust
- Walter PM Lawrie Trust
- Welsh Family Trust
- Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation

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- Mountain Equipment, Tiso, Wilderness Scotland
- GOLD
- Berghaus, Original Mountain Marathon
- SILVER
- About Argyll Walking Holidays, Glasgow Vein Clinic, Kings Manor Hotel, Wandel Vakantie

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