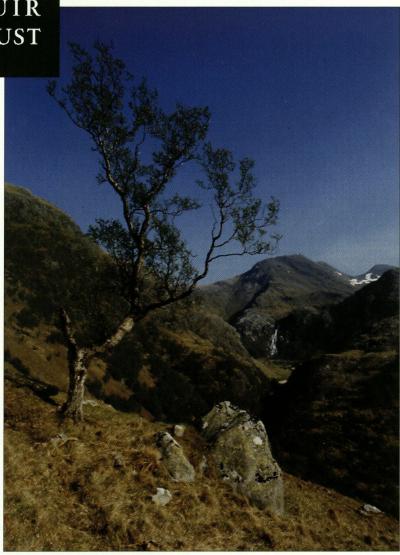
Journal & News

No. 29 Summer 2000

JOHN MUIR TRUST



The Ben Nevis Estate

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The views and opinions stated in this membership journal are not necessarily those of the John Muir Trust.





The two newly-elected trustees are Donald Thomas (3rd from left front row) Trustees at their May meeting at Letterewe. and Will Williams (3rd from left middle row).

Director's Notes

Ben Nevis Estate



We have got off to a very good start over Ben Nevis in what is a very important project for the Trust.

The response of members to the purchase of the

estate has been very encouraging, with contributions and messages of support coming in every day.

By late May a total of £181,235 had been raised with the figure increasing every day. 1252 members had responded with a total of £84,597 (an average of £67 each); non-members had contributed £20,286 and nine charitable trusts and companies £56,550. Gift aid added another £19,800 to the total.

This is an excellent position at this early stage of the £1 million appeal, with most charitable trusts and companies yet to have meetings to consider supporting us. The appeal leaflet is being widely distributed through magazines, by the Mountaineering Council for Scotland, and across the country by many different means. We are very grateful to everyone who has been working very hard to make the appeal a success.

I would like to record thanks to the

Chris Brasher Trust for being first off the mark with a grant of £10,000 and an interest free loan of £40,000 repayable only if we exceed our appeal target of £1 million. This got us off to a great start.

Another very positive aspect of the purchase has been the welcome the Trust has been given in Fort William and Lochaber. This is very important to us as we are committed to working with local people for whom the Ben is very much their mountain.

We have joined the Nevis Working Party, which brings together a wide range of local and national interests, and is focusing on issues relating to the wider Nevis area and developing management strategies. The working party has been doing an excellent job in addressing key issues such as visitor pressure, mountain management, public access, path maintenance and, on the lower ground, traffic management and the kind of facilities appropriate to the area. This is a fascinating exercise and we shall report more fully on it in subsequent journals.

The working party and the Highland Council organised a public meeting in Fort William when we were able to give a presentation on the Trust's involvement, the background to events and, importantly, our commitment to working with the working party and local interests in the future.

Arthur McCourt, Chief Executive of The Highland Council, has written to say:

"The purchase of the Ben Nevis Estate has been warmly welcomed both by the Lochaber Area Committee of The Highland Council and by the broader community in Lochaber. We are aware of the John Muir Trust's enthusiasm to work with the community and we have welcomed the Trust into the Nevis Working Party which includes such community representatives".

A ceremony was held at Fort William on the Longest Day of the Year - 21 June - to mark the transfer of the estate from Mr Duncan Cameron Fairfax-Lucy, whose family has owned it for more than 170 years, to the Trust.

Legend has it that the Ben will only change hands when there is no snow on the top. The Cameron owners used to send men to the summit in the summer to place straw to protect remaining snow - and a snowball was brought down to prove continuing ownership.

You can see on page 7 how we surmounted this challenge!

Mr Fairfax-Lucy handed over the title deeds and we presented him with a beautiful and evocative painting specially done by local artist and climber David Wilson, showing the descent from the Ben at "The End of the Day".

The Trust is grateful to Mr Fairfax-Lucy for asking us to secure the longterm future of the Ben with its neighbouring peaks, and part of beautiful Upper Glen Nevis with its native woodlands and spectacular gorge, and for agreeing a below-valuation price of £450,000.

A painting of the Ben was also presented to Councillor Olwyn Macdonald, Convener of the Lochaber Area Committee of the Highland Council, marking the partnership and co-operation between the Trust and the people of Fort William.

Also recognised were the remarkable fundraising efforts of *Daily Record* writer Bob Shields, who made a 100-mile sponsored walk from his local, the Ben Nevis Pub in Glasgow, to the top of the Ben, and gave huge publicity to the appeal in Scotland's top selling daily newspaper. We are extremely grateful to Bob for his mountainous efforts and to his editor Martin Clark for so wholeheartedly supporting the Trust and the appeal.

Skye

The Management Plan for the non-crofted parts of Strathaird Estate - a massive piece of work by Keith Miller with help from his colleagues - has now been completed and is being discussed with Scottish Natural Heritage. The plan has taken five years to complete and is based on a diverse range of studies and surveys and the huge amount of information which has been assembled

about the area. This has been a fascinating exercise which greatly increases knowledge of the extensive natural and cultural heritage of the area, and will inform future management. We intend to report on the plan in future editions of the Journal, and to feature it on the web site.

A key issues group, working to the vision and strategy outlined in the plan, is now focusing on operational aspects. Trustees will be considering their report in October, and taking major decisions about conservation management of the non-crofted parts of Strathaird. This extends from the cultural landscapes of East Strathaird, with its agriculture and woodlands, to the summit of Bla Bheinn and the heart of the wild area at Loch Coruisk.

The AGM and members' conference on Skye was a resounding success with good representation of members, both local and from further afield, and a very good engagement between them. The glorious weather helped with the walks and visits and put a smile on everybody's face. We are very grateful to the Strathaird Management Committee and local staff, and to Katie for working so hard to make this a memorable weekend.

Knoydart Foundation

The Knoydart Foundation has agreed to start the process for the sale of Inverie House.

Selling agents have been appointed with instructions to secure a purchaser who will be sympathetic to the needs of the community and the environment of the area. The sale particulars will include the Foundation's hopes for its future use, and offers will be judged not only on price but also on future intentions.

The sale will remove a major liability from the Foundation in the need for repairs estimated at £500,000 to £1 million. At the same time it will bring in important funding, which will be invested in the repair of the hydroelectric system and the upgrading of the hostel complex for workers and visitors.

A difficult decision is arising over plans for replacing the pier with a new slipway which could accommodate the newly launched Small Isles car ferry Loch Nevis (replacing the Loch Mor) – although she will not run regularly to Inverie and the loch of her name.

There are local fears that the slipway will change the character of Knoydart and that it is not appropriate for the kind of small boats which serve the peninsula. There are also concerns about the size of the slipway and its position away from the heart of the village.

However, an enormous effort has been made by Highland Council to have Inverie included in the present public funding programme for piers, and Councillor Charles King, chairman of the Foundation, has warned that it will take a long time before alternative

Li and Coire Dhorrcail

The newly formed local committee chaired by Len Morrison of Arnisdale met at Li in May, and saw the newly completed woodland exclosure on the Li face.

This has been a major project and greatly extends the area where woodland and other ground vegetation can thrive without the pressure of grazing deer.

Our woodlands - and flowers - in the earlier exclosures are flourishing, and are a great success story from the days of the infant Trust at our first acquisition.

funding can be found for a replacement pier at Inverie. The present pier is deteriorating and its replacement would be a major financial burden on the Foundation.

The Council has offered to provide the community with more information before a decision is taken.

Schiehallion

An independent report looking at access to and on East Schiehallion as a whole, and presenting options for the main path, was being delivered in late June and will be the subject of full consultation with the local committee, trustees and other interests. Margaret Thomas, the consultant, had been asked to review past and present access, assess

future opportunities and consider the existing Braes of Foss route as part of an overall approach to East Schiehallion.

It is hoped to reach agreement on the best way forward by early autumn, and to be in a position to start work on the ground when the snows clear next spring.

At the same time the local committee is discussing the vision for the area, looking at the mountain in holistic terms and taking account of all its considerable natural and cultural heritage as well as its visitor interest. The committee represents a very wide range of interests in the area and there has been great enthusiasm for securing the future of the mountain and for preparing plans for managing it sensitively.

Membership

Membership is continuing to increase and (at late May) we had 6799 members (3785 individual; 1550 family; 486 student/unwaged; 825 life; 28 joint life and 125 tenant). An increase of 59 in 12 days showed that the Ben Nevis Appeal was starting to impact on recruitment.

We have great hopes that the appeal will boost our membership considerably, creating a firmer base for the Trust and our work across all our activities.

Nigel Hawkins

Ben Nevis Handover

21 June 2000

On the longest day of the year, Duncan Fairfax-Lucy handed over the title deeds of the Ben Nevis Estate to the Trust, at a ceremony in Fort William. Legend has it that the Ben should not change hands when there is still snow on it. Andrew Thin was despatched to the top of the Ben in the morning and returned with a

snowball. Nigel Hawkins explained that the mountain could still change hands, as Mr Fairfax-Lucy was a JMT member and as the Trust belongs to its members, you could say he still 'owned' it. Also, it is the local community who have always 'owned' the Ben and with JMT taking over, they carry on 'owning' it as before.



Andrew Thin (JMT Chairman), Councillor Olwyn Macdonald (Convener of Lochaber Committee of Highland Council), Mr Duncan Fairfax-Lucy (previous owner of Ben Nevis)



Rob Bushby (left), with Darren and Stevie (all involved in the John Muir Award)



Above: Bob Shields (*Daily Record*) and Alison McGachy, JMT Development Manager. Right: Andrew Thin, JMT Chairman with snowball from Ben Nevis



Knoydart Foundation - Wanted: JMT Appointed Director

The Knoydart Foundation is a partnership involving the Knoydart Community Association, the Highland Council, the Chris Brasher Trust, the John Muir Trust and the neighbouring Kilchoan Estate. The Foundation is constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status (like the JMT), and operates much of the estate through a subsidiary trading company (as does the JMT for some of its operations). The aims of the Foundation are to:

- Encourage land use in harmony with the environment
- Seek, encourage and facilitate the repopulation of cottages and crofts in Inverie and along the coastline of Loch Nevis, the Sound of Sleat and Loch Hourn
- Promote, procure and provide opportunities for private initiative, investment and enterprise by members of the local population
- Conserve the land and natural character of Knoydart and enable members of the public to enjoy access to the special qualities of the area.

The John Muir Trust has the right to appoint a director to both the Knoydart Foundation Ltd and also the Knoydart Trading Co. Ltd, and is looking for a suitable person who is sympathetic to the aims of the JMT - probably a JMT member. The Foundation and the Trading Company each meet several times a year, in Knoydart. It is possible for two different people to sit on the Foundation and the Trading Company Boards respectively.

If you have some spare time, some relevant commercial and/or land management experience, and would like the opportunity to contribute to this exciting new venture in Knoydart, please contact the John Muir Trust.

For more details of what is involved, ring the Edinburgh office, 0131-554 0114.

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A Deer Management Plan for Knoydart

Rory Putman

Rory Putman describes his work, part funded by the Trust, on deer stocks and management in Greater Knoydart. The Knoydart Estate, and the other estates in the peninsula, have accepted his recommendations.

HEN THE KNOYDART Foundation finally acquired ownership of the Knoydart Estate in the spring of 1999, to them also passed the responsibility for the estate's herds of red deer and roe.

The deer had previously been managed primarily as a sporting asset, with the stalking of stags and some hinds leased to paying guests. In support of this, numbers are high, with an average count of 725 stags, 660 hinds and 240 calves over the period 1994/8; most recent figures available (1997/8) show a return of 1891 animals (741 stags, 842 hinds and 308 calves). In practice the deer have unrestricted access over various privately owned "enclaves" within the estate boundary, and also over the John Muir Trust's wholly-owned adjacent lands at Li and Coire Dhorrcail - a total area approaching 8000 ha. These figures thus equate to an effective density of 23.5 deer per 100 ha.

Management of deer on any piece of land cannot be undertaken completely in isolation. Deer of most species are highly mobile; not only do the deer of the Knoydart Estate range widely over the entire estate and adjacent lands of the Li face, there is also much exchange of animals with other estates of the peninsula, such as Barrisdale, Kilchoan, and Camusrory. Such movements are particularly noticeable amongst stags, which may move from wintering grounds on one estate to spend the summer, and perhaps establish rutting areas, some distance away from the winter range. As a result, for it to be effective, management of any deer population must be a collaborative effort between all land-holdings within the population's biological range. Thus, for the purposes of the management and stewardship of its deer, the Knoydart Estate is part of the larger Knoydart Deer Management Group: a consultative body consisting of all the estates of the wider Knoydart peninsula, which provides a forum for discussing and agreeing a joint strategy for management of all its deer herds.

In 1998 the Management Group decided that, against a background of changing patterns of land use, and the emergence

of different priorities in the management of the land, there was a growing need to reconsider deer management in its area and develop a formal management policy for the future. For the Knoydart Estate itself, this was a timely move given changing objectives of land management following its acquisition by the Knoydart Foundation.

With the adoption of the proposals of the Forestry Project, involving the reestablishment and restoration of native broad-leaved woodland over extensive areas, and a greater emphasis on the natural heritage values of open hill communities of moorland and heather, it was clear that there might develop a new balance between the deer and the land.

I was fortunate enough to be asked at that time to undertake a review of deer stocks and deer management on all estates of the Knoydart Deer Management Area, assess the impact of deer on the vegetation of woodland and open range, and make recommendations as to future management of the peninsula's deer populations. My remit was extensive: charged in effect with assessing the condition both of deer and vegetation, reconciling the needs to maintain healthy deer populations on private estates managed for sporting or stalking revenues, with the need to control numbers at levels consistent with land of high ecological and conservation value.

For Knoydart Estate itself, there were particular complexities. There is a significant local community centered on the village of Inverie; in addition, much of the original estate has been sold off over the years to private ownership. While many of the properties sold are little more than house sites, there are a number of more significant holdings, and a small crofting tenancy at Airor. In all cases, stalking rights are retained by the estate until 2006/2007; however, reconciling the estate's interest in the deer with the legitimate interests of private owners poses some potential difficulty.

As a separate issue, a number of the private owners and crofting tenants farm sheep which share the open hill grazing with the deer. Sheep and deer have very similar foraging habits; the presence of significant numbers of sheep thus alters the number of deer that a given area of ground may support. In addition, as noted, the proposals of the Knoydart Forestry Project for native broad-leaved woodland would also require fencing to exclude deer and sheep while the trees were vulnerable - even though the intention is ultimately to remove the fences. Conservation and preservation of the natural heritage were in general higher on the agenda of the Knoydart Foundation than they had been under previous owners, with a declared wish to decrease grazing pressure on open-hill communities to allow regeneration of degraded moorland and blanket bog communities.

All these factors might seem to indicate a very significant reduction in numbers of deer to be sustained. Yet at the

same time, deer are an integral component of the wider biodiversity of the open hill, worthy of conservation in their own right. Deer are also part of the "wildlife experience" of visitors to Knoydart; indeed are one of the major "draws" for visitors, and thus a significant asset in developing tourism - essential to the estate's economy.

For the time being at least, leased stalking also provides revenue which cannot simply be ignored by a large estate trying to make ends meet. In the same context, given the movement of animals between Knoydart Estate and neighbouring properties, and the key position held by the estate in the peninsula, good-neighbourliness also demands that no radical changes in management are embarked on too precipitately; changes should be relatively gradual, while the impact on the sporting interests of adjacent stalking estates is carefully monitored.

Finally, it would not be appropriate to reduce grazing pressures too rapidly or too drastically. Some level of grazing is required to maximise the value of openhill communities which, in the absence of any grazing, may become invaded by scrub and at best become rather uniform. Some level of grazing maintains their open nature and provides spatial heterogeneity within the sward - in reflection of a more general phenomenon that maximum levels of biodiversity are attained at intermediate levels of ecological disturbance.

As always in such situations, it is a

matter of balance.

In practice, however, stocking rates of deer at 1998 levels were higher than required even to support the stalking "quota" established at that time of 80 stags. It was not possible to let all available stalking in recent years, and in any case - in common with many other estates - Knoydart was supporting more hinds on the ground than the number required to deliver the number of mature stags to stalk. As numbers of animals increase (and available ration of food per individual thus declines), reproductive rates of hinds shows a marked decline, and survival rates of both young calves and older animals also show significant reduction. When overall stocking rates are reduced, hinds start to breed (reach puberty) at an earlier age, and a significantly higher proportion of them breed in any one year; at the same time, survival of calves increases. The net result of all this is that on a sporting estate it may prove possible to produce the same number of stags to shoot at maturity from a smaller, but consequently more productive, hind population.

Indeed, using current rates of recruitment of calves (the observed ratio of calves to hinds at the end of winter) and known mortality rates of yearlings and older animals within managed populations of red deer, it is possible to calculate that for Knoydart, a stag quota of 70 would be met by a stable population of 560 stags, 550 hinds and 200 calves (already substantially lower than current

populations - and indeed returning more to numbers estimated in the early 1990s). A total population of 1100 (480 stags, 460 hinds and 160 calves) would support an annual cull of 60 stags, while maintenance of a stable spring population of 400 stags, 390-400 hinds and 140 calves would support a regular cull of 50 stags, 56 hinds and 26 calves.

Given the increasing emphasis on conservational schemes; a likely reduction in the longer term of the number of stalking lets; and the fact that numbers were in any case higher than required even for the present level of stalking, some phased reduction of red deer numbers seemed appropriate and practicable. But what should that level be? In the light of:

- general reductions of grazing pressure on open-hill communities;
- the increased area of the estate to be fenced for commercial woodland production or woodland restoration;
- yet a need to maintain deer populations for general tourism and in the development of eco-tourism;
- and finally, a need to consider the interdependence of Knoydart with neighbouring estates:

I suggested to the Knoydart Foundation's Land Management Committee that it would seem appropriate to aim in the first instance towards the middle level of 1100 (as 480 stags, 460 hinds and 160 calves) with an ultimate objective of reduction in the longer term to the lower figure of 400 stags, 390 hinds and 140 calves, to support thereafter a

stalking quota of 50 stags.

Whatever the final figure, a phased reduction is clearly required, since to achieve a reduction of numbers from current levels to even that middle point (480 + 460 + 160) will require a number of years of heavy culling.

As noted at the beginning, however, red deer are not the only deer of Knoydart.

With a planned expansion of woodland, the estate's (currently) small population of roe deer is a significant problem-inwaiting. Roe deer as a species are particularly associated with young and developing woodlands - where they may cause very significant damage. Although fencing to exclude roe deer as well as red incurs more initial expense, experience suggests it is a sound investment. I know of a number of estates who fenced woodland areas against red deer, not knowing there were any roe; once woodlands reached thicket-stage, they were colonised by the non-existent roe, which have proved impossible to remove from such dense areas where shooting is extremely difficult.

Knoydart's responsibilities in management of its deer are only just beginning.

Professor Rory Putman was for 20 years head of the University of Southampton's Deer Management Research Group.

He now works in Scotland as a freelance wildlife management and ecological consultant.

Expeditions with a Projector

Katie Jackson

VE DONE IT in hotels, church halls, living rooms, university lecture theatres and even in a tent (once to 80 old men). Given talks about the Trust, that is. There is a steady demand for illustrated talks about the work of the Trust from audiences such as student societies, hillwalking clubs and natural history groups.

Venturing out to give talks has been one of the most enjoyable areas of my work with the Trust over the last few years. I've travelled the country from east to west and even overseas - the Isle of Bute (and the USA), developing a strong left arm carrying the Kodak carousel between means of transport. On one memorable evening my transport to the talk involved a car, an AA breakdown lorry, a train and finally a taxi - and I was only going to Kilmarnock.

No two "talk experiences" are the same, or two audiences. There are the octogenarians who lull you into a false sense of security with cups of tea and home baking, then ask questions such as "And what is the Trust's policy on aerial spraying of bracken with isopolychlorylphenolic acid?" Or my favourite "mature" groups - the Probus Clubs (retired professional and business men), who always have an excellent PA system for the hard of hearing and usually pre-

cede the talk with a report on who has died since the last meeting. The best refreshments come with the ladies' church groups but you might have to sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" first.

The point of this ramble is not to offend anyone, but to let all members know that we have slide sets which we can lend out if you would like to talk to your local walking group, Rotary Club etc. The sets cover the story of John Muir and his work, and many shots of the JMT lands. They are currently being revamped to include photos of Schiehallion and Ben Nevis.

The sets come with full notes, and we can send extra background information as well if requested. We are very grateful to the members who have already made use of the slide sets.

Giving interesting, well-illustrated talks is a great way to entice potential new members, and, with our raised profile, should be of interest to more and more audiences. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who can make use of a slide set or who would like to be added to our list of local speakers whom we can call upon.

• Please contact Katie Jackson, (Edinburgh office 0131-554 0114 / 1324).

Sequoia Initiatives

Trust Director Nigel Hawkins congratulated President Bill Clinton on his recent initiative to safeguard vital remnants of giant sequoias by declaring a 400,000 acre Sequoia National Monument.

Nigel said: "All peoples of Scotland and the United Kingdom who care deeply about our natural world and who have been inspired by the vision of John Muir fully support you in your courageous actions, and are greatly inspired by you and what you are trying to achieve.

The giant sequoia are truly a marvel of our world, and must be protected for their own sake and for the benefit of future generations. You have the unique opportunity to leave the giant sequoia protected for all time as a legacy of your Presidency. People in the United States, the United Kingdom and across the world will be eternally grateful to you."

Scottish Environment Minister Sarah Boyack met 12 children from Bonnington Primary School in the John Muir Grove of giant sequoias at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Guests included Cathy L Hurst, the American Consul in Edinburgh, Professor Stephen Blackmore, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, and, from the Trust, Maude Tiso (trustee), Nigel, and Dave Picken, (John Muir Award). It was the conclusion of the children's John Muir Award project, which included learning about the Muir's role in protecting the trees.

Graham White, Director of the City of Edinburgh Environment Centre, organised the event – and also the planting of a giant sequoia seedling as part of the first Dunbar John Muir Festival on April 21st, John Muir's birthday.

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The Reverend Neville Maskelyne, Schiehallion and the Force of Gravity

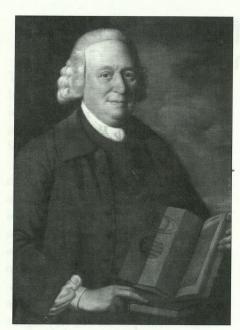
Schiehallion is a special hill for scientists as well as hillgoers. *Ian S Hughes* explains why

EVILLE MASKELYNE was a remarkable man. Born in London in 1732, he graduated from Trinity College Cambridge in 1754 with high honours in mathematics. He went on to become a clergyman, becoming a Bachelor of Divinity in 1768 and a Doctor of Divinity in 1777. These distinctions, however, had nothing to do with Maskelyne's uncomfortable stay on Schiehallion in 1774, which was the result of his other career as an astronomer. Indeed his work as an astronomer came to dominate his life following the solar eclipse of 1748, and in 1765 he was appointed to the distinguished position of Astronomer Royal.

In order to understand Maskelyne's work on Schiehallion we have to look to one of the great discoveries of the previous century, the law of universal gravitation, proposed by Isaac Newton in 1666. Newton's law of gravity was supposed to be "universal", that is, it applied to the force between all masses. Newton had demonstrated that the law gave an excellent account of the motion of the planets. Maskelyne's measurements on Schiehallion showed convincingly for the

first time that Newton's law of gravity holds for matter on the Earth as well as in the heavens, and gave the first reasonably accurate value for the mass of the Earth itself

If the Earth was a perfectly smooth sphere, a plumb line would point exactly down towards the centre of the Earth due to the force of gravity on the bob. Now imagine a bump such as a mountain, a short distance to the side of the plumb line. The gravitational attraction of the mountain should pull the bob very slightly to the side. In principle this may sound like a very straightforward measurement to make, but there are two problems. The first is that we cannot move the mountain around to see what difference it makes to the plumb line or, looked at another way, we do not have an absolute method of knowing exactly the direction of the centre of the Earth. The second problem is that the effect of the mountain on the plumb line is expected to be very small. Our day-to-day experience suggests that gravity is a strong force, but this is only because the gravitational force that we experience is due to the very great mass of the Earth. The deflection of the bob effectively measures a quantity proportional to the ratio of the mass of the mountain to the mass of the Earth, and in Maskelyne's experiment we



Portrait Neville Maskelyne in 1779, aged 47, by John Dowman. By kind permission of the National Maritime Museum.

expect the mountain to deflect the plumb line only 6 seconds of arc off the true vertical. This is the angle subtended by about the diameter of a 5p piece at 600 m.

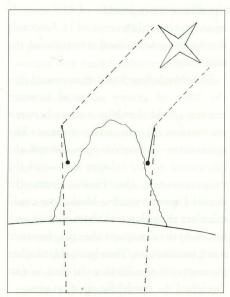
To measure the direction and deflections of a plumb line as used by Maskelyne, what we need is a reference frame outwith the Earth, and of course we do have such a frame in the directions of the stars – hence the interest of the astronomers, and the arrival of the Astronomer Royal, Neville Maskelyne, on Schiehallion on the last day of June 1774 (having obtained leave from his master, King George III, to be absent from the Royal Observatory). The equip-

ment for the observations, including a ten foot zenith sector, had been sent ahead by ship to Perth and thence overland to the hill. The first "observatory" was set up at 2363 feet above sea level on the Southern side of the mountain. Schiehallion had been carefully chosen as the best site for the measurements, due to its comparative isolation from other peaks and to its form and orientation - a ridge of fairly symmetrical cross section running East-West. A flat area was cut in the hillside and a circular wall built with a moveable conical roof for the astronomical quadrant. A tent was erected for the zenith sector and a bothy was built for Maskelyne's "residence".

The weather was bad and Maskelyne was only able to start his observations in the middle of July. The first task was to determine the direction of the meridian. the line of longitude passing through the observatory. As the Earth rotates, the stars cross the sky attaining their maximum altitude as they cross the meridian. The zenith sector, a big circular arc with the telescope fixed to a moveable radial arm, was then set up with its plane in the meridian. The apparent vertical was set by a precision plumb line suspended from the top of the zenith sector. This set the zero of the circular scale and allowed the angular altitudes of the stars to be determined. With admirable persistence in what must have often been fairly uncomfortable conditions, Maskelyne made 169 measurements of the altitudes of stars crossing the meridian to the North, in

Cassiopea, the Plough and other constellations, by the middle of August.

While on the South of the hill, the plumb line was deflected to the North by the gravitational attraction of the mountain, thus decreasing the apparent altitudes of the stars. Maskelyne's plan was to make a similar set of observations from the North side of the hill, where the plumb line would be pulled towards the South, thus increasing the apparent altitudes. The difference between the two sets of readings could then be used to find the effect of the gravitational pull of the mountain.



Plumb bobs to the North and South of the hill are displaced from the true vertical in opposite directions, thus increasing and decreasing the apparent altitude of a star.

Thus all the instruments had to be moved to the North face, where a new platform was prepared at an altitude of 2090 feet. "This was a work of great labour and difficulty as everything was carried over the ridge on men's shoulders, and some of the packages were very weighty; it employed the labour of twelve men for a week". As usual, the weather was bad, and the first clear night on which observations were possible was the 4th of September. A further fifty nights passed before the work on the North side of the hill was complete, with 168 measurements involving 43 different stars. Thus on the 24th of October, after four months living and working on Schiehallion, Maskelyne's programme of measurements was complete.

It must have been a hard stint, but it is worth noting that he was not without interesting visitors, including the Lord Privy Seal, the professors of astronomy, natural philosophy and moral philosophy from the University of Glasgow, the professor of natural history from Edinburgh and the eminent cartographer, Colonel Roy.

The completion of the work on the hill was celebrated by a party in the Northern observatory, a keg of whisky having been carried up the hill. Unfortunately during the merriment the bothy was set on fire and Duncan Robertson, a local man and an accomplished performer on the fiddle, lost his instrument in the blaze. Maskelyne, contrary to the impression given in the book *Longitude*, was a caring

man, and he arranged for a replacement fiddle to be sent up from London, in response to which Duncan composed a song, *The Yellow London Lady*, in praise of the new instrument. The replacement fiddle is now to be seen in the Clan Donnachie museum at Bruar.

While Maskelyne was at work on astronomical measurements, an equally-important series of measurements was being made on and around the hill by the surveyors Mr Burrow and Mr William Menzies. This work had two objectives: one was to determine as precisely as possible the small difference in latitude between the Southern and Northern observatories, and the other to make an accurate map of Schiehallion and the nearby hills from which could be determined their volumes and relative positions.

This work involved an immense number of theodolite measurements, as well as the laying out of two accurate base lines, one to the South in the flat land by the river in Gleann Mor, and one to the North in land now flooded by Dunalastair Water. In fact, though the survey was largely completed the next year, 1775, further work was needed in 1778 to finish the job.

The very considerable work of analysis of the survey data was done by Charles Hutton. In order to establish the gravitational effects of Schiehallion and the nearby hills on the plumb bob, he divided the landscape into series of vertical pillars around the observatories. In the course

of this analysis he invented the concept of contour lines, an early example of what we would now call a very useful practical spin-off from pure research.

With most of his data to hand, Maskelyne was able to report on the success of his work to the Royal Society in July of 1775. He had found an average difference in the altitude of the same stars as measured at the South and North observatories of 54.6 seconds of arc. His data for the various stars measured are very consistent and allow one to check today that his measurement accuracy was about 0.3 seconds of arc. The survey measurements gave a difference due to the difference in latitude of 42.9 seconds of arc leaving a difference of 11.7 seconds due to the gravitational attraction of the mountain.

Thus Maskelyne had demonstrated that the force of gravity operated between masses on the Earth as well as between the bodies of the solar system. The quantitative deflection also allowed the calculation of the relative masses of the mountain and the Earth. From the detailed survey results, Maskelyne could calculate the volume of the mountain and, knowing the density of the rock, he could work out its mass. Thus he could calculate the mass of the Earth – he had in fact "weighed the Earth" for the first time.

Since the size of the Earth was already fairly well known, he could then work out the density of the Earth, which was found to be almost double that of the mountain, a result in quite good agreement with modern measurements. We now understand this result as arising from the very high density of the Earth's iron core. In Maskelyne's day this was a new and important result, since there were "some naturalists who supposed the Earth to be only a great hollow shell of matter; supporting itself from the property of an arch, with an immense vacuity in the midst of it".

Maskelyne gained considerable reputation and honours for his work on Schiehallion. He married aged 53 in 1785 but does not appear to have changed his workaholic lifestyle, and died in the

Royal Observatory in 1811 aged 79.

Ian Hughes is Emeritus Professor and former head, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Glasgow University. An early member of the Trust, he completed the Munros with his wife in 1985, and lives in Pitlochry.

Quotations are from Maskelyne's papers in The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society Vol LXV p495 and 500. Hutton's work is reported in Vol LXVIII p689.

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Use your surfing time to help the JMT

Keith Anderson explains about online giving

If you haven't looked at the website for a while, you may be interested to know that we can now accept online credit and debit card donations via Care4free's secure payment server. CAF CharityCard holders can also make online donations via CAF's own secure server.

We were able to offer this facility just in time for the start of the Ben Nevis Appeal, and in the first several weeks received donations totalling £1000 from all over the world. Pointing your browser to www.jmt.org/memb/don.html will take you straight to our donation page.

Care4free do not charge any commission on donations processed on our behalf, and we avoid our own bank's charges for conventional "plastic" transactions. This means we receive 100% of the amount donated online.

Currently all online payments are being allocated to the Ben Nevis Appeal, but if you would like a payment to be allocated to another fund or used for membership all you have to do is e-mail membership@jmt.org with a note of your payment receipt number and requirements.

● You can also use Care4free as an Internet Service Provider (ISP). There is no monthly fee, and all access is via a local rate phone number. Using Care4free as your ISP will benefit all the charities on their list, and if you nominate JMT as your favourite cause we benefit even more. Full details at www.care4free.net. ■

The John Muir Award

by the John Muir Award Team

What is the John Muir Award?

The John Muir Award is a national conservation award focused on wild places. The Award encourages the discovery and conservation of wild places in a spirit of adventure and exploration. It is non-competitive and open to everyone, regardless of age, sex, race, class or ability.

One of the main aims of the Trust is to engage with society so as to promote the importance of wild places. The Award is one way of doing it. Initially the Award's targets are young people and those from disadvantaged backgrounds for whom "wild places" often seem unimportant and distant. However, we are keen to involve all members of society.

The Award programme is designed to be flexible, so that it can be adopted and used by a range of organisations and people. It has three levels that are progressively more challenging (see table below).

At each level participants complete the

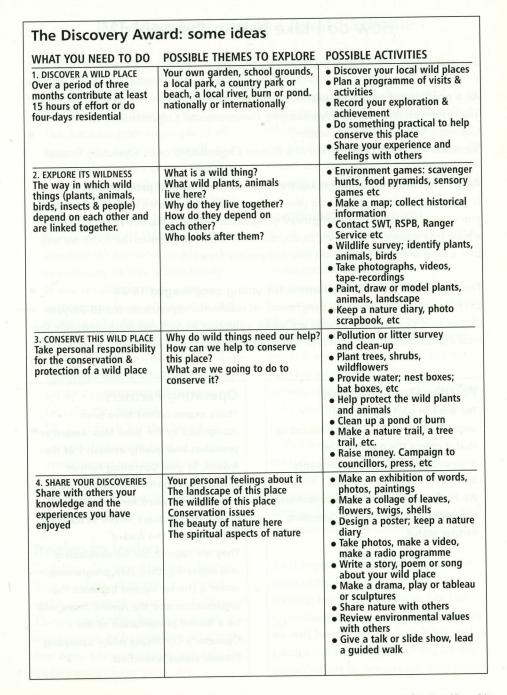
four challenges:

- 1. Discover a wild place.
- 2. Explore its wildness.
- 3. Help to conserve it.
- Share your experiences with others.

These four challenges offer a natural progression. We believe that people need to discover, explore and understand a place before they can help conserve it; and that the value of any practical conservation work is immeasurably enhanced by an appreciation of the wider issues relating to wild areas. Finally, by encouraging participants to share their experiences – with friends, parents, colleagues, through the local press or direct to the public through a display or presentation – we ensure that their work, and the threats to wild places are appreciated.

John Muir stressed the importance of experiencing wild places; investigating their nature; taking practical action "to make the mountains glad" and sharing the experience.

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GREEN	SILVER	GOLD
Discovery Award	Explorer Award	Conserver Award
Introductory level	Intermediate level	Advanced level
15 hours over 3 months or 4 days residential	30 hours over 6 months or 8 days residential	60 hours over 12 months or 12 days residential



How do I take part in the Award?

There are many ways to participate in the Award.

As a participant or leader within an organisation

These may include: Youth Organisations, Environmental Organisations, Local Councils, Schools, Outdoor Centres

We work with each organisation as a Partner Organisation or an Operating Partner.

As an individual or small group through our self-guided programme

If you want to design your own project as an individual or with a group of friends you can participate in our self-guided programme. Fill in a Project Proposal Form. which asks what you are going to do, and how. When you return the form, we will find a local mentor to help you take the project forward.

Through our Summer Programme for young people aged 16-24

Every summer we organise a programme of residential experiences for 16-24-yearolds in wild places. The projects are led by volunteer leaders and work alongside the local community. Participation in the programme leads to a Discovery Award.

Partner Organisations

We work in partnership with organisations to develop the Award so that it meets the needs of the organisation, is fun for participants and fulfils the Award criteria.

We hope that all Partner Organisations will eventually progress to Operating Partner status.

Operating Partners

These organisations have been recognised by the John Muir Award as providers and quality assessors of the Award. To gain Operating Partner status, organisations will have been running the Award for a while and have a proven track record in meeting the criteria of the Award.

They are responsible for developing and delivering their JMA programme, under a charter agreed between the organisation and the Award. There will be a formal presentation of the Operator's Certificate when Operating Partner status is reached.

IMT Members and the Award Scheme

As a Trust member, this is your award scheme. There are many ways for you to be involved and to spread the message of John Muir and the Trust:

- The Award is open to people of all ages, so why not try it yourself, as an individual or with a group? You'll be surprised how much interest and goodwill can be generated (see Rob Collister's article in Journal 27, Summer 1999). If JMT conservation activities are too far away, this is your opportunity to take action locally.
- If you are already working or volunteering in an organisation that could use the Award, why not try to introduce it into your programme?
- If you have an expertise in one of the categories below, you could help us set up a community of interest to take the idea forward.
- We need funds for the Award to sustain the present level of commitment and expand into new areas. You can help raise funds through donations, legacies and sponsored events.

Training for leaders

To deliver the Award successfully to large numbers of people, the Award needs committed leaders and facilitators. These people may already be active in an organisation, or be volunteering for the first time. Our training programme for leaders ranges from a one-day

introduction to a six-day wilderness experience. The courses enable leaders to develop skills in environmental education, leadership and wilderness ethics, and ensure a high quality of experience. We encourage leaders to attend our courses, but training is not a prerequisite for leading.

Communities of interest

We are on the verge of diversifying the award scheme by working through award panels representing "communities" such as farming, business, science, expeditions, film and photography, landowning and conservation, that would spread good practice and nominate people in their field for recognition. The spread of interests reflects John Muir's versatility.

As an example, the "writer and artist" panel might seek to:

"Acknowledge and reward an outstanding individual who has celebrated wild land in literature, poetry, painting, music or sculpture; and develop links between the artistic and environmental communities".

As it happens we are honouring one outstanding individual from the writing world this autumn. On the recommendation of the JMT Trustees, we will be presenting Tom Weir with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in conserving wild places.

The John Muir Award: The year so far

The Award was launched in February 1997. Since then, 45 organisations and 20 groups and individuals have achieved 2500 Awards. Participants aged from 10 to 70 were from all over the UK. Projects have been local, national and international in their scope – as this survey of the year so far shows.

With 365 certificates awarded in the first five months, 2000 is proving a bumper year. More important than numbers are the range of projects tackled, and the level of new participants. Six new organisations have completed Award projects, and we field more enquiries every week from youth groups, schools and individuals.

■ The largest providers of the Award remain our "Operating Partners".

North Lanarkshire Council Ranger Service have continued their sterling work in engaging a variety of groups. Several primary schools have continued with the Award scheme, and two new groups have taken it up with encouragement from the Ranger Service. The Eco Warriors group in Viewpark and Bellshill are teenagers who have spent the year cleaning the whole of the South Calder river, and members of the Toss Theatre Group are planning a play about John Muir for the next level of their Award. In Glasgow, Kennyhill Special School's long-standing environmental programme in Strathclyde Park is now linked to the scheme.

We are delighted to be in the process of signing Scotquest as a partner. They have been busy working with groups of disadvantaged young people at Wiston Lodge in the Borders, carrying out tree planting and creating ponds in the grounds.

BP got involved in the Award for the first time when a group of its staff visited the Isle of Arran with eight kids from Tower Hamlets in London, and spent a weekend clearing invasive rhododendron from the grounds of Brodick Castle. Two teams of Scottish Wildlife Trust trainees visited the Isle of Handa and spent a week exploring the island and doing conservation.

A training course at the Towers
Outdoor Education Centre has led to
several projects in Snowdonia. Coppice
Community High School from
Wolverhampton carried out the Award
from the centre, exploring the
surrounding area, planting trees and
shrubs, and clearing litter.

The John Ruskin School, a provider for several years, travelled to Morocco, with a project to compare the impact of tourism in the Atlas and Coniston. They climbed Jebel Toubkal, the highest mountain in the range. Another school,

Lambrook-Haileybury in Bracknell, has been working closer to home with projects in the school grounds and North Wales.

- The early part of the year is our main training time, with courses in Scotland, England and Wales. All these weekends were well attended by enthusiastic leaders keen to introduce the Award to the groups they are working with. We also held one-day in-service courses for Venture Scotland, Glasgow Ranger Service, the Iona Community and Lothian youth clubs.
- This year we have run our first explorations for Trust members: the first, a journey in open canoes down the river Spey carrying out survey work for the RSPB, the other sailing around the Small Isles and nearby JMT properties. More about these in the next Journal.
- esidential opportunities for 16-24-yearolds has taken on a life of its own. It's managed by a volunteer committee working with Kate Hedges, our parttime programme co-ordinator. For the first time this year we are venturing abroad, with a two-week trip to the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain. Other trips are to the Isle of Hoy, North Wales, the Lake District and the River Spey, and we're visiting Eigg for the first time. The programme is now fully booked, with 14 participants and

three leaders on each trip. All of our leaders are experienced volunteers. We are always looking for new people to lead in future years.

■ Though numbers are small, it is heartening that we still attract individuals who set up their own Award projects.

Furthest travelled was Myles
Farnbank, who was awarded his
certificate in Glasgow after a talk to the
local members' group. Myles' project
involved an arduous sea kayak around
Baffin Island in the Arctic. We've also
had Chris Monahan from Gordonstoun
School who visited Tanzania and tackled
the Award by exploring Kilimanjaro and
doing conservation work at a primary
school in Karanga.

If you are thinking of doing the Award as an individual, don't be put off by these exotic examples: you can do it all close to home, as Steven Evans showed when he gained his Discovery Award by exploring and helping conserve wild areas in the Welsh border hills. Rachael Jones also set a great example when she investigated bumble bee habitats, and built bee "condominiums" to enhance the habitat in a field near Llanidloes, Powys.

■ All these groups and individuals are out there completing the Award and furthering John Muir's vision, while at the same time having a great time. Why not join them? ■

A Day in the Life of ... Alison McGachy

Alison is the Trust's Development Manager. We asked her to write about her typical working day. But it wasn't as simple as that...

HEN ASKED TO WRITE about my typical day, I began to panic. Sometimes the whole day is very much the same, if I am working on a large application to the Lottery boards or to a landfill operator. Other days I would be working on a dozen, completely diverse projects. So I felt that I would tell you about the main areas I look at every day or two.

My main workload at the moment is centred on two applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The first is for the John Muir Award and it has



Alison presents a silver quaich to Bruce T Macmillan, president of the St Andrew's Society of San Francisco, and his wife Paulette.

taken about a month to compile due to the amount of additional information needed by the HLF trustees. Some of the things they asked about, such as environmental, education and equal opportunity policies, were informal, and needed to be overhauled and approved. With three copies of everything, the final parcel sent to the HLF weighed over 3 kilos! The second application is for ongoing management and path repair at Schiehallion. Again, the level of detail needed by the HLF trustees is mind-boggling, with comprehensive survey details and the names of adjacent landowners and what they use their land for.

Lottery boards, if applications are successful, could provide a large part of our funding, with a National Lottery Charities Board application for the development of the Award in England and Wales, the New Opportunities Fund for Green Spaces and Land Fund, and the Heritage Lottery Fund for any future land purchases. I keep up with changes in funding criteria via their websites and through workshops and seminars.

Sharing of information is a key part of my job and I am a member of the FORGE group (Fundraisers for ORGanisations in the Scottish Environment). I link with 15 other environmental organisations to share infor-

mation, lobby funders, and complete joint funding applications, This is valuable, as funders do like to see partnership approaches to projects.

A presence at events is important, and I've been working with Katie and Claire on events across the UK that members could attend on behalf of the Trust. At the Dalesbridge conference, local organisers called for more support and information from the Trust, and we hope to supply information boards and panels for events like county shows or environment fairs. An actual example is in Glasgow where, in Tiso's new Outdoor Experience shop, Maude Tiso has given us an area for display. We asked Glasgow members to help with the stand and chat to customers about the work of the IMT; so far we have had 10 offers of help.

Members keep us informed in many ways. For example, John Donohoe from the Glasgow local group emailed me about a beer called Schiehallion! Having found details for the brewery, I can now approach them for a joint promotional event. Please keep suggestions coming! (See p 28)

Raising the profile of John Muir and the Trust is part of my work. The "Infinite Storm of Beauty" exhibition last year in Edinburgh helped enormously with this aim, when I was lucky enough to meet Liz Hanna, John Muir's great-great-granddaughter. I remain friends with Liz and visited her last year in San Francisco. I also met up with the Sierra Club, set up by John Muir in 1892, and



Outside John Muir's home in Martinez. From L: Alison, Liz Hanna, Ross Hanna (Liz's grandfather and John Muir's grandson), and Gladys Hanna (Ross's wife).

we attended a Gala Ball as guests of the St Andrew's Society of San Francisco.

I also visited John Muir's home in Martinez with Ross Hanna (John Muir's grandson) and had a wine tour of Napa Valley with 92-year-old grandson John Hanna. It was fantastic to visit their home and see old photographs and hear all the stories about John and his grandfather. In September, I hope to represent the Trust at a number of highland games and the John Muir Memorial Association gala auction.

By playing the Scottish card and the John Muir connection, surely some impact can be made on the modern philanthropists, not just in the USA but in Canada, New Zealand and other countries where Scots emigrated to. Of course all this takes time, as we must ensure that companies and private donors have faith in our work, and confidence in our ability to manage both our properties and the money they may donate.

24 hours for Shiehallion

"Give me a tenner and I'll shut up!" was how it started. Roderick Manson, our man with a can at the checkout explains what took him there and offers some tips for JMT fundraisers.

The surprising and gratifying thing about standing in a supermarket with a collecting tin is just how many people will drop money in, just like that. Of course, if you have a big (10ft by 6ft), glossy and highly impressive display courtesy of the JMT, that does help. Even if you're standing in a supermarket foyer (in this case, Crieff Road Tesco's in Perth) in the middle of the night, reading Adamnan's *Life of St Columba* to fill in the interminable gaps between the three or four customers each hour. If the aim is to get publicity for a 24hr solo non-stop can shake, such episodes are difficult to avoid.

The inspiration for the idea was Irvine Butterfield's impromptu bucket-shake at the 1998 Dundee Mountain Film Festival for the Knoydart Appeal. In 1999, the Schiehallion Appeal was the new attraction, so I took up the idea, although it was somewhat disconcerting, when I shouted "Give me a tenner and I'll shut up", that two people almost immediately did. However, as the episode also saw me cashiered into the ranks of the Schiehallion Group, I felt something more was needed to justify elevation to the elect.

Having for years stood outside in less than clement weather, rattling a can for the Scottish Wildlife Trust amongst others, I reckoned that supermarket collections were preferable for at least three reasons. Firstly, you need fewer bodies on the ground at any one time – one or two will suffice. Secondly, it's dryer and warmer. Thirdly, you make more money: a detail not unrelated to the fact that you can often get a display up to attract interest and raise awareness.

DO NOT shake a can at them though, as a punch in the face often offends!

We fixed on two collections for Schiehallion: the 24hr collection in Perth and Blairgowrie, a mere nine and a half hours solo. Tesco were most accommodating. A word of advice, though – make sure you allow plenty of time in advance, so you can appeal for assistance through the *Journal* or *Members' News*. I had to beg assistance from a variety of sources, notably Perth Scottish Wildlife Trust activists, whilst Margaret Fenna of the Schiehallion Group came down from Killin and Irvine himself made several extended visits to base camp.

Both collections were pleasingly successful financially, raising some £1100, while a good deal of favourable publicity was generated, and a few new members welcomed into the fold.

The point of this narrative, though, is

that with the Ben Nevis appeal up and running, collections of this sort can be extremely useful in generating revenue and increasing public awareness. As a result of the Perth collection, for example, we received an offer for a collection at Scottish Hydro-Electric. It's very easy to organise a supermarket collection, and dis-

plays and collecting tins are available from the JMT.

All you have to do is give your time, and the JMT gets the money. Why not give it a go?

• Contact Roderick on 01250-875360, evenings only, for advice.

Cold Christening for Schiehallion

Ten runners from the Lomond Hill Running Club met at Braes of Foss on a bitter day in January to launch Harviestoun Schiehallion, the new bottled ale from the Harviestoun Brewery, Dollar. Their aim was the summit of Schiehallion. Ewan McIlwraith continues: After the first small summit we found ourselves on an icefield. This made running very difficult. It was at this point that Ken and Ingrid Brooker, the Harvieston owners who were walking up, decided to stop. The wind had picked up and it was very, very cold.

It is difficult to get a sense of what you are doing when your head is down and you are battling into a strong wind, with very little visibility. The main focus for us all at this point was to keep our balance and not injure ourselves.

Running over the boulderfield towards the top was relatively easy as the snow had filled the gaps and frozen.

At last we reached the summit. Time for the photo shoot! We toasted Ken & Ingrid in their absence, and after a snowball fight collected all our rubbish and



Summit group includes: world 100km champion Helen Diamantides (back row 2nd left) Ewan (back row left) and his wife Lesley (front right).

headed back down the hill.

• The Lomond Hill Running Club meets every Tuesday. Harviestoun Schiehallion is available in Scottish Safeway and Sainsbury stores, and from July in UKwide Safeway. Find out more at www.beers-scotland.co.uk.

The Scottish Mountaineering Trust's donation of £10,000 to Schiehallion was received as the Journal went to press, and takes the appeal through the £200,000 barrier.

The Last Fairy

E J Yeaman

This story won the Angus Writers'
Circle Radio Short Story prize in
January 2000. It was judged by Julie
Butt of Radio Scotland.

In the Highlands of Scotland, spirits were believed to live in hills, especially conical ones. "Schiehallion", for instance, means "fairy hill of the Caledonians". But these fairy spirits are not necessarily cheerful, or female...

ISTEN TO THEM! Just listen to them!

Squelch squelch squelch.

Tramp tramp tramp. They march up to the top of the hill. Then what do they do?

Tramp tramp tramp. Squelch squelch squelch. They march down again. Just like the ruddy noble duke of York!

How can I get any rest, with that lot trampling up and down my hill - all day and every day?

I blame that fool Munro. He was the idiot that listed all the Scottish hills above three thousand feet. Why the hell did he have to be so smart?

Of course, Schiehallion was on his list. Before then, it was a pleasant hill to live in. But afterwards, it's been hell! Like living under Sauchiehall Street! They trample all over it in summer; they trample all over it in winter. By day, by night. In mist, rain and snow.

And talk! They never stop talking. In English. French. German. Australian. American. Oh, American! Spanish. Japanese. Oh, I can't go on. It's too utterly depressing.

And they don't care if there might be someone inside the hill, trying to get a bit of peace. Of course, they don't believe that we exist. Despite all the evidence. Despite countless reports, throughout the centuries. No. We don't exist. They're far too enlightened to believe in fairies. Old sightings were just primitive superstition. Recent ones are put down to imagination - or intoxication. Which may be right at times. But sober, sane, sensible folk don't see fairies.

We can't let them. We daren't. For if we're clearly seen by a human, we're doomed. Finished. We simply fade away. To nothing.

I've never really understood why. A few centuries ago, someone tried to explain it to me. Something about energy neutralisation. I think. It's not hard to imagine. These humans are so clumsy, so... earthy, so... material. It's hardly surprising that contact with them would destroy our ethereal spirit.

So now it's difficult to go out. Almost impossible. We used to be out every day. Danced in the sunlight. Danced in the

moonlight. But now, now you can't stick your head above ground without coming across a batch of clowns with rainbow fleeces and backpacks.

I wouldn't mind - well, I wouldn't mind so much - but we have to go out once a year. You see, we need rowan berries, fresh from the tree, to keep us alive.

Fresh rowan berries are special. Oh, that bunch don't think much of rowan berries. They're just little round red things, hanging on a tree. Pretty enough, but not even edible. They don't suspect the life essence in them. We must have rowan berries, just a handful, every year, to restore our life force. With a few rowan berries every year, we're immortal. Without them, we're..... not immortal.

"The open ground would give less cover for wolves."

It used to be easy. A thousand years ago, the flanks of Schiehallion were covered in native woodland. Covered. Oak, birch, alder - and rowan! Thousands of rowans! We could go out any time we wanted and take our fill. At our leisure. No hassle. The locals never bothered us. They had better things to do than wander about on our hill.

The last Saturday in September was our Berry Day. We would all go out together and wander in the woods, eating the berries. Then we'd have a party to celebrate our renewed vigour. And what a party! We danced. We sang. We celebrated for a whole day. Those were cheerful, carefree times.

You know, there were two hundred and eighty-four spirits living in Schiehallion at that time. Yes - two hundred and eighty-four. It was an idyllic life. We didn't realise how lucky we were. We took it for granted.

Till they cut down the trees. At first, we hardly noticed. A few trees here, a few trees there. What did it matter? But, in less than a hundred years, Schiehallion was bare. Bare! They claimed that the open ground would support more people. They claimed that the open ground would give less cover for wolves. Personally, I'd have been happier with fewer people and more wolves. But they never asked me. That's one of the problems when they don't know you're there. Mind you, they probably wouldn't have asked anyway.

Of course, our numbers plummeted. Plummeted. There were very few rowans left, and they were miles away from our hill. We had to sneak out on a moonless night, and make a long, hard journey, seeking the occasional tree. Some set out, but never returned. We hoped they'd found sustenance and shelter, perhaps in a more hospitable hill. But we feared the worst.

Others simply gave up. The thought of being out in the open country for hours, always fearful of discovery by wandering humans, was too much for them. Too much. In their weakened state, they didn't have the resolution to make the effort. They just lay there, in the hill. And faded away in front of our eyes.

By the start of the eighteenth century, our numbers were down to twenty. Twenty! There was respite for one year -1745, I think it was - because all the Highland men went away for some reason. But it was even worse the next season because, when they came back, they seemed to spend their nights creeping about on the hills. Three..... we lost three more in that year alone.

We did what we could. We started the myth among the natives that cutting down a rowan tree would bring misfortune. At that time, they would believe such stories. Maybe that stopped us losing one or two rowans, but no new ones were planted. Conditions got worse. One by one, our numbers continued to fall.

We tried spreading the rumour that a rowan tree would keep evil spirits away from a house. That was a better plan. They actually planted one or two rowans beside remote cottages.

It was true, in a way. On a suitable night, dark and murky, we would come out of the hill and trudge several miles over bog and heather. If we found a cottage with a rowan tree outside, we were grateful. We would help ourselves to a few berries then withdraw, unsuspected.

But if the beggars hadn't bothered to plant a rowan, we felt annoyed. We would let them know that malignant spirits had been around - tip their kettles into the fire, or drop a cow-pat in their porridge, or chuck around a few cups and plates.

Maybe it slowed our decline, but not much. By the middle of the nineteenth century, we were down to three - Ziski, Kospa and me. We would sit through the interminable days, reminiscing about the old times, when the hill rang with cheerful chatter.

In 1890, we lost Kospa. It was partly my fault. I ventured out alone on a dark, misty night, and discovered a new rowan tree. It was close to a large farmhouse. I started feeding, trembling with apprehension all the time. Before I had finished, the door suddenly opened and a man came out - a big man in a hairy jacket and plus fours. I fled, but he caught a glimpse of me. He gave a shout and I felt the sudden drag as some of my life force drained out. I fell into a ditch. That probably saved my life, because I was out of sight. I lay there in terror. I hadn't enough energy left to make it back to the friendly cover of my hill, and I daren't go back to the house because I could hear him blundering about and see the occasional yellow flash from his lamp.

After an hour, the noises stopped. Had he gone in, or was he lying in wait? I had no choice. I had to creep back to that house, to restore my strength at the rowan. I wasn't disturbed again. Just before dawn, I crept back to the hill, utterly drained.

I warned Kospa. I'd been spotted. No doubt the story was already going round, of a strange beast roaming the district. And these Victorian squires had one motto - "If it moves, shoot it." But

Kospa's need for the rowan was too strong. Three nights later, he decided that he had to make the attempt. I knew it was wrong. I knew it. Though I still felt weak, I went with him part of the way, and waited out on the exposed hillside, my eyes and ears straining into the gloom, while he crept down to the house.

Suddenly, a light shone out through the darkness. A gun thundered through the silence. Of course, a mere lump of lead couldn't harm Kospa, but had he been caught in the beam? With his weakened constitution, he wouldn't have a chance. I waited, out on that hillside, for as long as I dared. More than three hours. But he never returned.

By 1950, the nearest rowan tree we knew was down at Tummel Bridge. It meant a full night of nerve-aching activity, struggling down there and back, senses continuously straining for any signs of humans. Ziski and I went down together. The company helped to keep our spirits up. A little.

One of the most hazardous parts was crossing the road - the stretch of bare tar with always the risk of an unexpected probing headlight. Everything was quiet, but Ziski was nervous. He told me he sensed danger. I went ahead, to check. I dashed across the road and dived under a bush. Ziski was following when a beam of bright light stabbed the night. It must have come from a car, stopped by the roadside. I saw Ziski, caught in the beam. For a moment. Then he was gone. Gone.

A man and a woman came out of the

car. I have no idea what they were doing there, in the dark. They wandered around in the beam for a few moments, gabbling about what they'd seen and where "it" had gone, then they went back to the car and drove off.

"I waited, out on that hillside, for as long as I dared."

I don't know how long I lay there, before I found the courage to move. But I knew I didn't have to go farther. For, in the beam, I'd spotted that I'd been hiding under a young rowan tree. A rowan tree that we hadn't known about.

So now I'm on my own, the last resident spirit in Schiehallion. Left with my dreams and memories. I still go out once a year, on the darkest, wettest, most miserable night in September. But every year it gets tougher. Last year, I nearly ran into a loony who was trying to climb all the Munros in the dark and the rain.

I still go down to that same rowan tree, beside the road. I think of it as Ziski's tree. When I've eaten, I pause, leaning against its trunk, and think of Ziski - and Kospa - and all my other lost friends. I remember our old carefree Berry Days and parties.

Then I return to my lonely hill. With the eternal tramp tramp overhead. How long can I go on? Ziski's tree is growing old. Its berries are fewer every year. I'll soon have to search for another one. Is it worth it? The temptation is there. One year, I simply won't go out.
(Pause)

There go another lot. Chatter, chatter, chatter, as usual. What's that they're saying? Someone new has bought Schiehallion. The John Muir Trust. What difference will that make? They'll repair the path. Big deal! That'll be a great help. They'll put a causeway of stones over the boggy bits. Then, instead of squelch squelch squelch, tramp tramp tramp, it'll be tramp tramp tramp, tramp tramp tramp. That'll really help to improve my rest!

And what else? On the lower slopes, they'll do some planting. Planting what? Don't tell me - I bet it's banks of wild flowers and ranks of Sitka spruce.

No! He said ... he said - they're planting native woodland! ■

• JMT member Eric Yeaman has recently retired, giving him more time for his hobbies which include hillwalking and writing. He claims not to be a Munrobagger, and doesn't wear a bright fleece, but does admit to having climbed Schiehallion in wind, rain, mist and even sunshine.

Work party changed my life!

Awarding the JMT the status of a dating agency is probably the last thing on members' minds. However, it was through the Trust that I met my future husband Mark Davies, on an activity week on Skye.

Those who were at Torrin in May 1998 may remember Mark and myself, from Surrey and Sheffield respectively. To cut a long story short, friendship bloomed while we were dismantling an old fence, we kept in contact, and tied the knot this February in Sheffield, where we live.



As someone who has always promoted and believed in the rewards of voluntary work, I can say that on this occasion we received more than we bargained for!

Seriously though, I felt that it was a real privilege to take part in the work, and look forward (day job permitting) to lending a hand with this year's activities. If you do spot us on any of these, or around the Peak District crags, then come and say hello—it's always good to meet more likeminded folk!

Laura Steen

On the Road again

Irvine Butterfield looks back at the "Magic of the Munros" roadshow last winter and spring, and the teams who made it all happen.

HE PREVIOUS DAYS had been a whirl of activity – recollections of Edinburgh's memorable evening had long since been overtaken. We had now established a routine and were getting into our stride. But it was clear that we had set ourselves an ambitious target with a punishing régime. Bill Smith had christened it "The Magic of the Munros Roadshow", but I wasn't sure that at my age I was up to being a roadie.

The second morning had seen a dash from Perth onwards to the north-east ... a frantic push through the unfamiliar and chaotic one-way systems of Aberdeen to arrive breathless for a book-signing at Ottakar's. George Cruickshank's reassuring presence ... a snack, and then into the "Magic of the Munros" show routine once again.

Thoughts of Roderick Manson's plug for Schiehallion at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival had prompted me to go for it, and at every venue a similar plea to support Schiehallion would be made. An empty box, a brief appeal, a promise to look after the mountain, and the members and friends did the rest.

Pounds and pennies were adding up. A real membership team effort – we were on song!

We talked late into the evening, or was it night? George was most reassuring: the Aberdeen members had enjoyed every moment, and had enthusiastically supported our latest appeal. He had his own ideas for fundraising, and it was becoming clear that many of the hopes of the membership meetings at Dalesbridge could be tried. As a catalyst, the show was encouraging members to "do their own thing" in support of the Trust.

Another early rise, hurried breakfast, and, with adrenalin pumping, another dash for Thin's in Inverness. Back then to grabbing a bite to eat, and into the packing and unpacking of screen and equipment.

A big night was planned for the conservation staff who had been invited along. The promise to contributors that royalties from the book would be used to further the conservation effort was much in my mind. Surprises for the Skye team, Len and Sheila from Arnisdale, Andrew Thompson and Bill Smith – the first prints of Paul Craven's Ladhar Bheinn. A big crowd, and the message was potent: do something to make the mountains glad.

Chairman Andrew Thin seized the moment offered, and captured the spirit

of our whole enterprise to perfection. Quite the best speech I have ever heard in praise of the Trust's work and vision. "Inspired" was a word on most lips as people drifted homewards.

Emotions had run full flood that night. Although we thought we were divorced from the actual audio-visual, Ian Evans and I could not escape the effects of the atmosphere created. It did move us too – sometimes uncomfortably so. Our involvement was total.

The tea revived our spirits. As always, a review of what we had done.

Thus far, Schiehallion had been vigorously promoted. The membership committee had seen this particular purchase as a major opportunity for promotion of the Trust: it was an icon.

I was very conscious of Ian's long hours of patient endeavour behind the scenes, piecing together the audio-visual. Contributors had been generous with further images, and his audio-visual message was exceedingly moving. A part of this was Ian's tribute to his Sherpa friends and the part they had played in helping him get the many images in the sequences on the Himalaya.

"Did the Sherpas have a special mountain like Schiehallion?" The icon idea was buzzing away in my head again.

"Yes, Machhapuchhare." Ian went on to tell me about Jimmy Roberts, a Gurkha officer, who settled there and started a project to save the forest and pheasants on the mountain's eastern slopes. The local people had decided to protect their mountain so that it will never be climbed. They could make lots of money from climbing permits, but instead had chosen Jimmy's conservation ideas. Though Jimmy has since died, the project lives on, and is now administered through Jimmy's second-in-command Robin Marston, who works out of Kathmandhu.

In my mind's eye, the germ of an idea. Two icons ... Schiehallion and Machhapuchhare. Our tour was promoting the idea that we should view mountains not as objects of conquest, but as objects of beauty, to be revered for their own sake.

Here was that idea writ large. ■

- Members' groups who haven't seen Irvine and Ian's show can still contact Irvine (well in advance!) with a view to arranging a date.
- Also in Perthshire, the Clan Donnachaidh Museum at Bruar (on the A9 between Blair Atholl and Calvine) now has JMT display boards.

Please contact the editor by the end of October if you'd like to contribute to the Winter 2001 Journal.

Dunbar Poems

These poems are the winners in a competition by the John Muir Birthplace Trust in Dunbar. Young folk from Dunbar were asked for poems about wild places or their favourite place.

MY ROCKPOOL

The seaweed sways with the turning of the waves, Little fish dart when they see my shadow Big and small crabs scurry along the rocky bottom Sea anemones catch tiny creatures with their tentacles Hermit crabs hide in their shells when my hand

Hermit crabs hide in their shells when my hand touches the water

Limpets cover rocks like a lumpy carpet.

Limpets cover rocks like a lumpy carpet My rockpool is an underwater world. Katie Panton (age 10)

THE HARBOUR

A wild wet place with the crashing of the waves The walls of the harbour keep us dry and safe Dashing through the spray, the excitement makes my day It is dangerous and silly at this wild wet place

The waves reach a very high height
This is a really magnificent sight
The swish and the swash and crash of the waves
makes me really laugh

The fishing boats are tied up well to protect them from the enormous swell The wind is whistling and the chains are clanging as the tide goes out and a new day is dawning. Kirsty Buglass (age 11)

MY FAVOURITE WILD PLACE

(copied exactly as written) I have lots of favourite places but my favourite place would have to be north berwick law. I have just climbed it today. I found it quite interesting. When we started to climb it it was quite sunny but when we got up a little bit more into the middle it started to get cold but it got sunny in the end. There was a lot of gorse bushes but the most exciting part was when we got to the top and we saw the whales jaw. It was huge. There was lots of rabbit poo. There was lots of rocks and I kept climbing on them and my mum told me to get off there your brother will copy you. When I touched the whales iaw it felt like wood. It was worth all the effort of climbing to the top because you could see allof north berwick and the sea. Katherine Duguid (age 6)

The John Muir Trust and the Cuillin of Skye

A statement by the Trustees, May 2000

The Cuillin of Skye are one of the UK's most important environmental, recreational and (in a local context) economic assets. For this reason the JMT has owned part of the Cuillin, and has been involved in working with local communities to protect and develop the public value of this area, since 1991.

The JMT is concerned about potential implications arising from the proposed sale on the open market of the main ridge of the Cuillin. In particular the JMT considers that the circumstances of the sale, including the lack of community and public consultation, and the excessive price being sought, could lead to future ownership and management of the Cuillin that would not be in the public interest. The JMT is not confident that existing statutory powers are sufficient to guarantee the long-term public interest in the Cuillin. Examples of the public interest in areas of national importance being damaged by inappropriate actions of private owners are numerous.

The JMT is not, in the current circumstances, interested in seeking to buy the Cuillin itself. However, the JMT is strongly of the view that the long-term interests of the local community, and of the public at large, would be best served if ownership were to be transferred to community, public or other appropriate ownership whose primary purpose was to secure the long-term public interest in the Cuillin.

The JMT considers that the Cuillin sale also raises, once again, the inadequacy of current statutory powers to protect the public interest in areas of wild land. While welcoming proposals contained within the forthcoming land reform legislation, the JMT remains of the view that further change is likely to be required, supported in some circumstances by appropriate fiscal incentives, so that in the long term the public can be confident that private ownership of wild land is at all times compatible with the public interest.



Bla Bheinn

What Price Mountains?

"Why then, one might ask, could anyone have reservations about the John Muir Trust owning a significant part of Ben Nevis?" Nick Kempe invites debate.

EN NEVIS is the single most important mountain in the British Isles. It is our highest mountain, a symbol as well as a major tourist asset. It is more important than any other in terms of the quality of the recreational resource, particularly for its ice climbing which is world class, but also because even the simple walk up the tourist path involves significantly more effort in terms of height ascended than any other mountain. For many nonmountaineers it is the hardest walk they do in their lives. It is important for conservation, particularly in terms of Arctic-Alpine plant communities, and as such part of it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The scenery of its North face is superb, particularly under snow, and offers the nearest we have to an Alpine landscape, while on clear days the summit offers stupendous views.

At the same time, Ben Nevis is under some pressure as a result of human impacts and there are significant issues relating to the paths - particularly the tourist track - to the proliferation of memorials and cairns on the summit

plateau, and to litter, as well as more local issues such as human waste disposal around the CIC climbers' hut. There is no doubt in my mind that the mountain needs a reasonable amount of investment and needs to be managed according to best conservation principles. Why then, one might ask, could anyone have reservations about the John Muir Trust owning a significant part of Ben Nevis?

WHO should OWN our most important mountain?

While it is undoubtedly a step forward that a significant part of the Ben has passed from an individual private owner without resources to a conservation body with some resources, and that certain risks associated with private ownership have been removed, this still leaves some questions about whether ownership by the JMT is the right solution for the Ben.

First, within an international context, private ownership of mountains is an oddity. Most ownership abroad is either communal or by the state. People, whether individuals or communities, do own the lower ground but not the "mountain wastes". This is partly because historically people had no interest in owning ground which had no productive purpose. Scotland was probably very similar to other countries with

mountains - as is illustrated by the current dispute about whether there has ever been a title deed to the Cuillin - until the advent first of sheep and then deer forests. However, the last thirty years has seen a fundamental shift away from our mountains being places for private recreation and profit to being places for public enjoyment and recreation. This should raise questions about the most appropriate forms of ownership and management of our mountain wastes.

Second, why JMT rather than some other conservation organisation such as the National Trust for Scotland or Scottish Natural Heritage? Or indeed why not a Nevis Trust or the nation, so long as management was according to best conservation principles and people with an interest in the mountain, particularly mountaineers and local people, were given real power in the way it was managed? At the moment who owns what owes more to the lottery of the "market" than to any rational considerations. All the conservation organisations need to start considering their role in relation both to each other and to the conservation needs of Scotland as a whole.

WHO should PAY FOR our highest mountain?

Ben Nevis is so important that I do not think it should be left to the generosity of individual members of the public to secure its future. It is a national asset and there should be a national responsibility to ensure it is conserved, protected and managed properly. There is even a strong argument for this in conventional economic terms: the Ben attracts 70,000 plus visitors a year to its summit, yet employed until recently the equivalent of one full-time person (far fewer than any museum attracting that number of visitors). Our failure to invest in our mountains should be a national issue.

If we cannot get the government to act to protect and invest in our most important mountain, we are hardly likely to do so for other less important mountains such as the Cuillin. The simple fact is that the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) cannot afford to buy all, or even a fraction of, our important mountain land - or even certain key areas, as we saw when the most recent sale of Glen Feshie took place while conservation bodies were trying to get funding together. If NGOs step in and buy land where we might just have a chance of getting government to do so, we are actually weakening the conservation position overall.

It is worth noting that the last major government land purchase was Creag Meagaidh in 1985, and that by a government committed to non-intervention. We now have a government in Scotland ostensibly committed to land reform but with no strategy for it. The fact that the NGOs have stepped forward as government has stepped back is not just a coincidence. We need a national strategy on mountain issues, which includes the role of the NGOs.

I therefore believe that the time has

come for the NGOs to make quite clear that they cannot and will not fundraise to buy other important land, and that it is time for government to become involved again. The JMT could kick-start this process by making clear that it does not intend to purchase the rest of the Ben because of the resources required, and by supporting calls for government involvement. This would leave open the question of whether the JMT might use its expertise to manage any land purchased by the state.

For those sceptical about influencing government, just consider the effect if every person who gave to Ben Nevis appeal (or all the other appeals by the JMT, NTS, RSPB) also wrote or visited their MSPs or MPs. We would be a major lobbying force. Securing the future of the rest of Ben Nevis would be an ideal place for us to start.

HOW MUCH should we pay for our highest mountain?

The £450,000 that the JMT is paying for the Fairfax-Lucy estate appears cheap compared to the £10m asking price for the Cuillin and a real snip compared to what the National Trust paid for part of Snowdon. However, this does not necessarily mean there are no questions to be asked.

I have already referred to the world phenomenon that mountain wastes tend not to be in private ownership, partly because they have so little commercial value. A significant part of the estate comes into that category, the land above the 2500 ft contour being not capable of supporting any activity except outdoor recreation. The lower ground is also rocky and is of limited value. There appears to be no appreciable stalking on the estate while the sheep grazing has been, I understand, let for £3000 a year. A minimal 2.5% return on capital would indicate a value of around £120,000.

So, how does land with so little current commercial value get to be valued as £450,000? The answer is by indepedent valuation, although it is not at all clear what criteria the valuers used – or indeed what criteria we should use to value mountains.

In terms of current valuation practices the Fairfax-Lucy estate is not cheap. The JMT has bought 4185 acres of Ben Nevis and neighbouring hills for £450,000, or £110 an acre. In other recent estate sales, researched by Andy Wightman, costs have ranged from £174 to £18 an acre. However, almost all these estates include substantial stalking, forestry, buildings and even farms in the price. Even then the cost of Mar Lodge in 1996 worked out at only £70.98 an acre and Knoydart last year went for only £41 an acre.

The only arguments I can see for paying £450,000 are social cachet (on the lines that estates close to Balmoral might go for more as they make you a neighbour of the Queen); or to stop a developer getting it.

It is hard to see the social cachet factor applying to the Ben, with its 70,000

visitors a year.

This leaves the developer argument. It is only a few years since David Michels, as head of the leisure group Stakis, suggested a railway to the summit, and I am sure advertisers would pay a fair whack for billboards along the tourist path - but could these things ever happen? The answer is: not if we pressured governments to implement strong planning laws (or mechanisms like national parks) to protect our mountains and wild land. What price then the land? It is hard to avoid asking the question whether the NGOs are not now propping up land prices in the Highlands.

This question is important because, whether government or the voluntary sector pays it, every £1 spent on buying mountains is potentially £1 less available for their management.

Ownership and management

There is a clear distinction to be made between management according to conservation principles and actual ownership. The problem is that over the last 10-15 years the two have become increasingly equated, and, instead of pressing for national solutions to the needs of wild land, there has been a tendency to solve problems by buying it. Paradoxically the result has been that conservation has become marginalized to areas owned by NGOs rather than becoming part of mainstream policy and practice. We need public debate on these issues, including

the role that NGOs should play, and we need to pressurise government into taking a much greater interest than it does at present.

Future Management of Ben Nevis

Meantime consideration of these wider issues should be combined with consideration of the current needs of Ben Nevis. Much of the Ben remains outwith conservation ownership or management, notably all the main access paths up to 2500ft, the whole of the North face, and the Polldubh crags. While JMT is trying to raise, on top of the purchase price, a further £550,000 to manage the Fairfax-Lucy land, this implies that a further £1 million is needed for effective management of the rest of the mountain. Without investment in the rest of Ben Nevis, and indeed the surrounding area, there is little hope of any effective overall management of the mountain and the efforts of the JMT are likely to be undermined.

It is time therefore that we pressed the Government to make a significant financial contribution to the needs of what is one of our greatest national and natural assets.

Nick Kempe was President of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland 1994-98, and has had a strong interest in issues relating to the management of Ben Nevis since The MC of S approached Highland Council to set up a Nevis Forum.

Grey Owl, an Early Ecologist

Alec Gilmore previews a new film about a kid with a dream of the wilderness

UST ABOUT THE TIME John Muir returned to this country and began many of his European travels, an illegitimate 13-year-old kid with a dream of the wilderness was growing up, with two maiden aunts, in Hastings. One wonders whether the concerns of Muir were even on his horizon.

Probably not. This lad was just mad on Red Indians. He read everything he could about them. He learned their habits, played their games, practised their skills in the fields and the woods, and then at the age of 17 set sail for Canada to get close to them.

Thirty years later, his Sussex background totally unknown in his new world, he had achieved world-wide recognition as an Indian chief, with five books to his name including his own story which he came back to Britain to launch in 1935. Everywhere he went he was followed by adoring crowds, and in a day when you scarcely saw a non-white face on the streets this impressively tall figure with his huge head-dress was a

sight to behold. The press loved him.

Crowds queued and jostled to get into his meetings and buy the book, including two youngsters in Birmingham, Dickie and David Attenborough, aged 12 and 9. Now Dickie (Lord Attenborough) has made a film about Grey Owl, based on his life, and presenting him as an early ecologist with a message of conservation.

In a special showing at Sussex University, prior to general release, he introduced the film and afterwards engaged in discussion with the audience. He told how he and David bought a copy of the book and how it is still a treasured possession in the family, with more than a few arguments as to ownership.

Why did he make it? Partly, no doubt, because of the impression Grey Owl made upon him as a boy, but also because, film-maker that he is, it is a good story. An English lad from a poor home who crosses to a relatively unknown and rejected community, makes it to the top, and discovers a message of intense relevance for the world at the time, but only beginning to be appreciated 60 years later.

It is a good love story. Grey Owl falls in love with an Indian who is becoming westernised and saves her from it. But she also saves him from trapping beaver when she prevents him shooting a couple of orphans and insists that they rear them.

There is tension between the two of them over nature, between a man who cannot see beyond his ideals and a wife who knows that some concessions to practicality have to be made, and between a reluctance to meet the tourists and talk conservation, and the realisation that the tourists need the message.

The scenery is superb, the handling of human relationships sensitive, and the commitment to the earth and environment unquestionable. In one speech, Grey Owl explains how excessive beaver trapping is destroying the countryside. Beaver are crucial to the ecology. They make the dams, which in the thaw break down gradually and release the water in a controlled fashion.

In discussion, Lord Attenborough was asked about his casting. Why Pierce Brosnan of James Bond fame in the lead role? Because it called for a tall impressive figure, a damn good actor, an athlete, and somebody who could at least look as if he knew what it was like to struggle through the snow and across the ice.

Some of the audience fell in love with Annie Galipeau, the leading lady. She had to be an Indian and she was a novice in her first major role. He spotted her in a minor part in a Canadian soap. She came to see him with her mother, and he realised he had made a mistake. She was about 14. He apologised and sent them

away, but funding delayed the film and some five years later, he did, and she got the part.

So why was there a funding problem? Not enough shooting, sex, blood and thunder to be judged commercially viable. In Attenborough's own words, it just paddles along. Fortunately he didn't have to finance it himself, but there seemed no doubt that he had to do the fund-raising.

Somebody asked him how it compared with his film on Gandhi. At first, he said not at all, but then while speaking he remembered a shot at the beginning of the Gandhi film. Gandhi and a black man, in the street in South Africa, instinctively stand aside for a couple of South African whites. Gandhi said afterwards he could never understand how anyone could believe that they were being honoured when causing one of their brothers to be humiliated. Grey Owl might have said the same.

Of course he was not a natural Indian, he was Archie Belaney from Hastings, and, not surprisingly, there were many to denounce him as a fake when the truth came to light. In the film, Lord Attenborough allows Grey Owl to come clean in a concluding speech, saying that, whatever they think of him, he hopes they will never forget his message: the importance of preserving the wilderness and appreciating the interdependence of the natural order. It is a message which might have come from Muir himself. Nobody asked him about John Muir. I wish I had.

Letters

All these letters were prompted by Joyce Tombs' comments (Winter 2000) on the Trust's Schiehallion purchase. For space reasons, the majority were shortened. Thanks to all writers for a well-informed debate. – Editor.

Three cheers

Twenty years ago I would have agreed with Joyce Tombs, because then attempts at footpath repair were disastrous: either flat stones placed on the path by well meaning but incompetent "conservation volunteers", which only lasted until the first winter rains, or over-ambitious civil engineering projects out of sympathy with the environment, like the Miners' Track above Llyn Glaslyn on Snowdon.

But, as we all know, wonderful manmade footpaths, constructed entirely of local materials, and sensitively contoured and landscaped, do exist throughout Britain. The Highlands are criss-crossed with magnificent stalkers' paths, and England has its ancient packhorse trails of well worn sandstone slabs.

In an attempt to improve the standard of footpath repair in Britain, about 10 years ago the British Upland Footpaths Trust (BUFT) was founded and has provided funds, organised conferences and workshops, published books and leaflets and laid down criteria for sensitive and professional footpath repair.

Research on different methods of footpath repair has been going on for many years by the National Parks, the National Trust and other bodies.

Anyone who has regularly walked the Yorkshire Three Peaks Circuit will have noticed experimental sections of duckboarding, stone slabs, carpet, plastic membrane, gravel and clay. Not all these experiments have worked, but the experience gained has been invaluable.

BUFT has been running a competition every year for the best stretch of repaired footpath A recent winner was the Jenny Brewster section of the Cleveland Way in North Yorkshire.

The consultant for this winning stretch was Margaret Thomas, who used professional local contractors, and different materials for the varying gradients of the path: slabs of sandstone on level sections, stone slabs and pitched boulders for slopes, and aggregate for a section used for vehicles.

Other notable paths, entirely constructed from natural materials on site, are the Fox Tarn path on Scafell, the Liathach path from Glen Torridon and the path round into Coire Mhic Fhearchair on Ben Eighe.

I last climbed the appalling

Schiehallion path last May when, below the quartzite summit ridge, it had degenerated into a 200-metre wide motorway of black quagmire. It is a horrible eyesore, but one which will recover with sensitive management, and equally frightful eroded paths have been successfully restored elsewhere.

Ben Lomond was going the same way as Schiehallion, with 31,000 people using the eroded path every year. Now the NTS have embarked on a 10-year programme of reconstruction that must be extremely sensitive, since the area is designated SSSI, NSA and ESA. If the NTS can do the job on Ben Lomond, so can a professional team funded by the JMT on Schiehallion.

Three cheers for the JMT for taking on the responsibility of repairing this noble and historic peak.

Richard Gilbert, York

Not what Muir had in mind

The John Muir Trust has dedicated itself to making Muir's message a reality within the United Kingdom. There are two main strands to this message.

Firstly, and most important to Muir, is the vision of wilderness to be preserved as "pristine" and unpeopled for all time. In some countries today, such as America and New Zealand (my country), where pristine public lands still survive, wilderness is a strictly defined land category, which is protected as such by meaningful legislation.

Clearly, this vision cannot be applied to Britain.

The second strand of Muir's message is his vision of managing the already "changed" and settled environment, sympathetically on a sustainable basis, including restoration of past damage where appropriate and possible, for the human, animal and plant communities which share it: the declared purpose of the John Muir Trust here in Britain.

In his letter to members of August 1999 on the purchase of Schiehallion, Nigel Hawkins explained that "the purchase – and the challenge it presents to us – is another major step forward in the development of the John Muir Trust".

Like Joyce Tombs, I (another early member) believe that the Trust has missed its way with this purchase. John Fowler in *The Herald*, commented most appositely, in my opinion, when he wrote: "Why should the Trust, which to now has been concerned with wilder, remoter areas, become involved in a popular and accessible mountain like Schiehallion?"

I do not think that repairing footpaths to facilitate increased usage by the public is the sort of thing John Muir had in mind when he made his charge: "do something for wildness and make the mountain glad". It certainly does not make me glad, and surely not Schiehallion either.

Eric Bennett, Rothesay, Isle of Bute

A trophy purchase

I must disagree with Joyce Tombs on the restoration of paths. In many other places, this has proved successful in minimising damage to surrounding areas by channelling walkers into narrow strips of land. Sensitively repaired paths eventually blend into the hill, just as stalkers' paths have over time. They don't increase usage, they make it less obvious. I've seen some savage scars reduced to wrinkles in this way.

To repair the past damage done on Schiehallion is laudable. However, was it really necessary to purchase half of the hill to do it? At last year's AGM it was said that the future work of the JMT was probably to enter into partnership with other organisations, rather than in outright purchase. Coming on the heels of the Knoydart purchase, this seemed an excellent idea to quite a few of the many members I spoke to. So why have the trustees changed their minds so quickly?

The main reason I joined the Trust was the commitment to working with local communities for our mutual benefit. I don't see much benefit for the local community in the Schiehallion purchase. On reflection, I tend to agree with a member I was talking to before Christmas who suggested that this looked like a "trophy purchase".

Mick Furey, Rotherham

A clear winner

Whilst it would be wonderful to live in a world with no fences, the harsh reality is that Scotland's beautiful outdoors is becoming ever more popular and accessible. Eventually there will be a human impact everywhere. The Munros in particular are being loved to death. To suggest that man-made damage to Schiehallion is natural (because mankind is a part of nature), and therefore should be left alone to get worse and worse, is a bit like saying a doctor shouldn't treat a patient with an open wound from a rock fall!

I compare this gloomy and negative letter with the cheerful, upbeat and positive message in the Winter 2000 Director's Notes about "Making the mountain glad".

The campaign thus far is already a clear winner, not just because of what Schiehallion is, but as a result of what it represents - the heart of Scotland. Widely known and well loved and therefore easy to associate with - especially for prospective new members. Furthermore, its Munro status is a huge plus for the campaign.

I quote a very hard-working and active JMT member: "If JMT can't rise to a challenge like Schiehallion, then it shouldn't be in the conservation business!"

I would also suggest that the present day message of the JMT is not conservation, but "community and conservation". If any further justification is needed that JMT is right to tackle Schiehallion, the Director's Notes mention that membership has gone up directly as a result of the Schiehallion campaign.

There have been a dozen other spinoffs, all helping to raise funds for JMT; the Magic of the Munros book, "Munro Magic" greeting cards and prints - and even a truce between two feuding distilleries (or so it is rumoured). Finally, wonderful tales are coming to light about sightings of the faeries of Schiehallion! (but that's another story).

I'm 100% behind the first aid being given to restore this magical place, and I'm sure that the JMT will prove to be saviour rather than "overbearing nanny"!

Paul Craven, Dundee

Joyce Tombs raises important issues

The JMT was established, essentially to safeguard wilderness and wild land, in Scotland in particular. This original objective (or, at least, the operations of the trust) gradually has broadened.

The question arises, whether this increasing breadth of activity detracts from the long-understood focus of the Trust's concerns?

It is not immediately obvious that footpath building and consolidation is a good thing, even if, currently, it is a fashionable environmental activity. The Footpath Trust is making Stac Pollaidh a high priority project. The National Trust

is spending vast sums (and effort) across the UK – Brecon Beacons, Lake District, Snowdonia – on the laying down of permanent paths.

There surely is a limit to the viability of artificial pathways – environmentally, philosophically and financially. They require large financial resources, and considerable physical effort. Questions of access, of tourism, and the tourism industry, arise. And, in essence, they are an apparently obvious solution to what is, now, a quite fundamental question in the whole conservation/environmental field.

Personally, I am not at all sure that they are an alternative way of getting away into the open high lands.

Derek Robbins, Cardiff

The Wild is in us

Having climbed Blaven well over a hundred times, I have had plenty of opportunity to observe the effects of erosion. The repairs to the usual route from the head of Loch Slapin have indubitably reduced the damage, which had made quagmires out of many areas now returning to the state I recollect from some 30 years ago.

To accept human erosion as a "natural phenomenon", and yet exclude the human desire to repair that erosion, seems an arbitrary application of laissezfaire. From our earliest beginnings, we have been making and repairing paths.

We are crofting in a landscape in

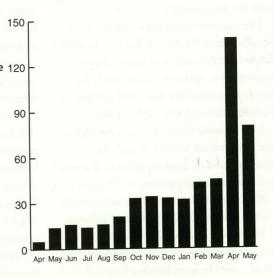
which the traces of bronze and iron age activity on a considerable scale are so obvious that it is hard to imagine what might have been the state of the landscape before it was "spoiled", and the ancient system of transhumance must have brought our ancestors and their sheep and cattle well up into the mountains as well. We love the beauty of the wild - but the wild is in us, too, and we are a reciprocating part of the environment.

However, Joyce Tombs is right to point an accusatory finger at the use of bulldozers and JCBs on Scottish estates, and I have no doubt the Trust is equally concerned. But if it were to allow erosion to continue to cause the kind of deterioration that was so clearly visible on its own land on Blaven, the Trust's advice to others would gain little respect.

John Purser, Drinan, by Elgol, Skye

The John Muir Trust Web site

The John Muir Trust web site has been running on its own domain (www.jmt.org) for a year. The site 120 is currently receiving 3500 hits each week from something like 500 people. The level of activity increased dramatically with the announcements about the Black Cuillin and Ben Nevis. The graph shows traffic in MB per month. The site provides information about the Trust and all its activities. It can be updated faster than traditional published



• Please let Donald Thomas (d.thomas@zetnet.co.uk) have your ideas about what you would like to see on these pages.

Book Reviews



Torrin Past & Present

Na Torran An-dè 'S An-diugh (Torrin Past & Present). Video, £12.

Torrin Management Committee, supported by the John Muir Trust, has produced a video of the life of Torrin over the last century.

The narrator is Torrin's oldest resident, Iain Anderson. He was born in Torrin in 1916, in the shadow of the Cuillin, next to Loch Slapin. Here he attended school and lived and worked as a crofter through the 20th century.

In his native Gaelic tongue, Iain tells the story of Torrin and its people accompanied by photographs of the past and scenes of the present.

The video is a permanent reminder of a unique lifestyle, language and culture.

The video runs for 25 minutes and has English subtitles. It is available from the Trust - see the merchandise list.

Proceeds to Torrin Management Committee.

History of Knoydart

Knoydart – A History by Denis Rixson. Birlinn, £7.99. ISBN 1 84158 019 8

At last year's Independence Day celebrations at Inverie, I suggested to Dave Smith of Airor that somebody should write a history of Knoydart. I hastened to add that it wouldn't be me; I felt it needed somebody connected with the community. Denis Rixson teaches at Mallaig High School, and already has a booklet on the depopulation of the peninsula (Knoydart: 1750-1894), so he's well qualified. This latest work is a more detailed account, including the Pictish, Norse and Gaelic influences, and some conclusions as to its future.

The book is a hard-eyed look at life in general, and some people in particular. Rixson dismisses any romantic views of the clan system, and highland life, so this is not a book for simple-lifers or misty-eyed neo-Jacobites. Knoydart men had earned a bad reputation as savage thieves long before the oppression after Culloden. Coll Macdonald of Barrisdale, in particular, seems to have been an incorrigible rogue and blackmailer.

Even from the earliest times, Knoydart can never have been really prosperous, so it's strange that it actually became over-populated in the late 18th century. People migrated throughout the centuries; unfortunately, those who left by choice were usually those with capital or skills. It was on those left behind that the Macdonnell clearances fell most heavily.

Surprisingly, Rixson ends the factual history after the land raid of 1948. Nothing is said about the half-century since. To me, these are the most interesting times, even by the Chinese definition of "interesting times". I would have liked his views on Philip Rhodes, who split up the old 55,000-acre estate and enabled the purchase of smaller areas. The scandal of the Titaghur/KPL years is not mentioned at all. Perhaps there's scope for a book on those years alone?

Rixson rightly concludes that there is no real future in agriculture on Knoydart. When farmers in the good lands of Perthshire find it hard to make a reasonable living, it's doubtful if the thin poor soil of Knoydart could provide even subsistence. I hope he is being deliberately provocative when he suggests that perhaps the best that can be done is "...public subsidy; allowing the rich and charitable to have holiday homes; tree-planting; and cossetting wildlife".

As he says, "the old history of Knoydart is over". Now there's a chance for the people to start a new history, from March 1999. This book is a worthwhile aid to understanding the past so that we can plan for the future.

Mick Furey

Crofting Law

By Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw Bt, QC. T&T Clark, 274pp, £70 hardback. ISBN 0567 00547 X

The Highlands & Islands are often referred to as "the crofting counties". The land holdings of crofters were given special status in 1886 and their location was the principal identifying factor.

Crofting law is different from the general law of Scotland. It serves the occupiers of remote and distant land, and protects the land itself. There is a dedicated Crofters Commission in Inverness and a peripatetic Land Court to carry out these duties.

Notoriously complicated law since its inception, few solicitors claim expertise, and even fewer advocates. At present Sir Crispin is the principal exception, and he has dedicated this work to the John Muir Trust. (He has been a Trustee since 1989.)

In addition to useful chapters on specific topics, the author has sought to make the current law accessible by annotating the up-to-date text of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993, and providing by way of appendices other useful matters, including the rules of the Commission and the Land Court.

It will be an indispensable volume to anyone advising on or grappling with the subject. It is an expensive book, but highly recommended.

Derek Flyn

Earth spirituality

Edward P Echlin, *Earth Spirituality. Jesus at the Centre*, 182 pp, £5.99, Arthur James, New Alresford, 1999. ISBN 1-85608-445-0

There is plenty in the Bible and the Christian tradition about the wilderness, both as a physical reality and spiritual experience, but we have never been very good at bringing the two together. Spiritual people find their spirituality in the church. Wilderness people prefer the outdoors. And even those who patronise both tend to keep them in separate compartments. Echlin brings them together to provide a mix of sound theology and fascinating ecology.

Echlin grew up in a community of Catholics, Protestants and Jews within reach of the Great Lakes. He attended a Jesuit school and became a Jesuit priest. His father and two uncles were conservationists in the wilderness tradition of John Muir, from whom he learned that "God's love covers all the earth as the sky covers it, and also fills it in every part. And this love has voices heard by all who have ears to hear." (John Muir).

He was much moved by Muir's remark that in all his studies of wild life he had never found any animal created for somebody else's enjoyment and not its own, and when he says that we encounter God in the natural world, quietly and always in mystery, one feels that John Muir would have said Amen.

Echlin believes the Bible is full of ecological wisdom and wants an interpretation which begins by asking inclusive questions, reflects on much that is implicit, particularly about animals, and introduces a more ecological and imaginative way than most specialists ever have. Not surprisingly, therefore, he finds sound conservation teaching in Deuteronomy 22: 6-7 and genuine compassion in Psalm 145: 9, compares the sensitive creations of the migratory birds to the arrogant rebelliousness of humans (Jer 8: 7), and regards Psalm 8 as a reminder that humans may rule the earth's creatures as in a garden, but only provided they remember that it is not a garden of their own possession.

Jesus he sees as an early ecologist, a man within the soil community of Palestine. We may not know too much about him, but we might know more if we came to him through his relationships with other beings, or possibly if we went to the Holy Land, as Echlin did, and contemplated whether the birds, trees and animals he saw were the descendants of those in the time of Jesus.

Further chapters cover Teilhard de Chardin, the family, extra-terrestrials and sustainable development, and the book concludes with a brief collection of Bible readings and prayers.

This is a book in which care for the earth and spirituality connect. Echlin firmly believes we all need to be closer to nature if we are to bring *shalom* to the whole earth community in which holy mystery is present and living.

Alec Gilmore



In the Shadow of Cairngorm by William Forsyth. 432pp. Lynwilg Press. £35, P&P £5.

For most of us who enjoy the hills as an escape from urbanised Britain, the mountain areas are sought out for their wildness, their solitude and opportunity for adventure. We may be familiar with the height of hills, the grade of climbing routes or the names of birds, but many of us know little about the people of the area, their history and culture. This is a serious gap in our understanding of the wild places we love. The hills do not exist in isolation. They have both shaped and been shaped by the people who live "in their shadow".

The republication of the Rev Dr Forsyth's book (first published by subscription in 1900, and long out of print) gives us an opportunity to appreciate the culture that the hills are an integral part of.

Also financed by subscription, largely

from local people, it was brought to completion through the efforts of a resident, Johnny Campbell, himself a Gaelic speaker, whose mother was raised on a farm in the area.

As Dr Adam Watson says in his introduction, "It is a tribute to one of the finest parts of Scotland, and to folk who are also among Scotland's finest".

Forsyth was born in Abernethy, and returned there as parish minister.

Though writing in English, he was a Gaelic scholar and poet. He developed a deep knowledge of local life, history and the natural environment. His book became a cherished part of local culture.

One 90-year-old resident remembers having a copy in her farm home while she was growing up, and says this was true for most households in the area.

Among the book's 50 chapters are ones on folklore and legends, important historical events, wildlife and local characters. In "A day on Cairngorm", Forsyth dispels the myth that local people had no interest in the high hills. The appendices range from Gaelic songs and poems (in the original and English) to rent rolls. The new hardback edition, completely reset, includes all the original text, and several contributions to update Forsyth's work on placenames and local history.

In an area that has seen waves of incomers over the years, from timber and railway workers to ski instructors, hotel and outdoor education staff, and retired people fleeing the city, it is vital

to know what came before.

In Johnny Campbell's words, "We would encourage the main text being copied and circulated freely for educational purposes, in memory of the author by whose labour of love all who read this book may be enriched, and as a reminder that the need for community does not diminish with time."

Bonnie Vandesteeg

• Available through booksellers or directly from Lynwilg Press, Lynwilg Farm, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1PZ. 01479-811876. A cheaper paperback edition is planned: check with the press on progress.

New challenge in the glens?

Scottish Hill Tracks. The Scottish Rights of Way Society, 24 Annandale St, Edinburgh EH7 4AN. £16 including map and postage.

This fine little book forms a comprehensive list of some 350 hill tracks from the Border to the North coast, and from Berwickshire to Skye.

Now in its fourth edition, the first being way back in 1947, it has been brought right up to date. It covers Roman roads, drove routes, military roads and many other types of hill path.

The format is simple. Routes are laid out by geographical section and given a number that corresponds to the accompanying map. Each route description is in a clear format, with the route number and name in bold, followed by the distance in metric and imperial units, then the OS 1:50 000 sheet number and the six figure grid reference of the start and finish points.

The route descriptions of often only one or two paragraphs have just enough information to whet your appetite!

Some routes have the occasional historical reference, which make for interesting reading.

The book has a number of nice photographs. But this is by no means a glossy "coffee table" book; rather a small pocket guide, which could be carried on your walks or plotted over during long winter evenings.

I have walked a couple of the routes over the last few weeks, and have generally been favourably impressed by the accuracy. The only slight criticism is that the price seems a little on the high side for a book of this size. To counter this I must also add that the money is going to an organisation which is doing good work, and deserves support; and that, with 350 routes described, the cost per route is remarkably low!

In these days when "bagging" Munros has become so common, perhaps here is a splendid challenge for people who enjoy the wilds without always heading for the high tops. Indeed, to walk every route and variation in this book would be a much greater undertaking than a round of the Munros, given the distances to cover and the linear nature

of most of the routes. (There's a challenge for someone!)

If you are interested in walking in Scotland, particularly in the hills and the high countryside, then this book should be of interest to you. It neatly presents good, basic, factual information for a whole host of possible walks of all standards, from short routes to major undertakings like the Lairig Ghru in the Cairngorms.

Neil Spalding

The Province of Strathnaver, Editor John R Baldwin, Scottish Society for Northern Studies, £12 + £1.50 post. ISBN 0 9535226 0 1.

Chapters explore the history of this part of Sutherland, from souterrains to big hooses, Norse burial and placenames, seaweed and the clearances. While Sandwood is not covered, the book should contribute to a fuller understanding of the area's past. Distributor: Scottish Book Source, 137 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH11 1BG. 0131-229 9070 SSNS: c/o School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, 27 George Sq, Edinburgh EH8 9LD.

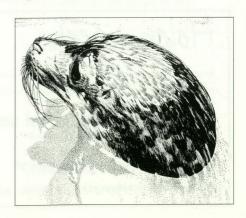
The Saga of Ring of Bright Water by Douglas Botting, Neil Wilson Publishing, £10. ISBN 1-897784-85-6

Republication of the excellent 1993

biography of Gavin Maxwell concides with the opening of the Bright Water Visitor Centre in Kyleakin on Skye. The centre is the starting point for a limited number of boat trips to Eilean Ban, Gavin Maxwell's last home, and now under the guardianship of the Eilean Ban Trust (a partnership between the local communities of Kyle and Kyleakin and the Born Free Foundation). It aims to help visitors discover more about the work of this man, and the history and natural history of the island.

Rondo One-Eye – A Seal's Story Niall McKillop, Crowhill Books, £14.95. ISBN 0-9538048-0-1

Rondo is an epic tale that weaves a seal's story with ancient lore, environmental decay and Scottish West Coast to bring a taut, gripping message that is both inspiring and moving. Many books ask you to look at the world in a different way. Most fail. Rondo doesn't.



Ron Limbaugh

Ron Limbaugh has retired as director of the John Muir Center for Regional Studies at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

Visitors to the John Muir collection at the Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections at the UOP library will remember Ron as one of the few people able to read the worst of John Muir's handwriting. He brought all his historical detective's skills and intimate knowledge of Muir's manuscripts and library to his investigation of Muir's book *Stikeen*, published as "Stickeen" and the Lessons of Nature (University of Alaska Press 1996, ISBN 0-912006-84-6).

In this elegant work of scholarship, he traced the records of Muir's oral performances of the story of his little dog's companionship on the glaciers of Alaska, to the reading that went into the preparation of the first draft, to a

brilliant analysis of the philosophical sgnificance that underlies this seemingly charming little tale.

As always with Muir, the apparently innocent was actually the result of long and deep experience. Anyone curious about Muir's methods of developing his ideas would find Ron Limbaugh's work fascinating.

In January 2001, the new director of the John Muir Center will be Bonnie Gisel, who has completed a PhD at Drew University, New York, on Jeanne Carr, Muir's major correspondent and mentor.

Terry Gifford

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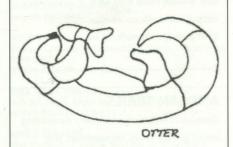
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MRS R MACLEOD Kerrysdale, Viewfield Road, Portree Isle of Skye IV51 9EU 01478 613170 £18-£20

MRS PM THORPE Jacamar, Achachork Road, Portree Isle of Skye IV51 9HT 2.5 miles from Portree £15-£18, DB&B £24-£27

MRS JAN SCOTT 1/2 of 2 Lower Allach Braes, Portree Isle of Skye IV51 9LJ 01478 650301 £17 Traditional cottage with stunning views. Own sitting room.

NC CORRY Tianavaig, Camastianavaig Braes, by Portree Isle of Skye IV51 9LQ 01478 650325 £16.50

MRS M DEAS Gramar, Skeabost, by Portree Isle of Skye 01470 532271 £15-£18

ANGUS MCGHIE Stein Inn, Waternish Isle of Skye IV55 8GA 01470 592362 £19.50

MRS M GILMOUR Myrtlebank, Achachork, Portree IV51 9HT £16 / £18 (standard / en suite) Tel/fax 01478 612597

SELF CATERING - ISLE OF SKYE

MRS J COPPING 1/4 of 10 Torrin, Caravan at Torrin (sleeps 4) £80-110 / week + daily rates Jemima.copping@isleofskye.net www.isleofskye.net/10torrin 01471-822669 (daytime weekdays)

S WARD Cottage at Elgol, Isle of Skye Sleeps 7-8, £186-£510 / week 01229 716777 (Cumbria)

MRS M JAGGER Loch Aluinn, 7 Sconser Isle of Skye IV48 8TD 01478 650288 1 apt. slps. 4, £160-£300/wk

MRS ELIZABETH BUSHNELL Clover Hill Holiday Cottage 1/2 of 6 Torrin, Broadford Isle of Skye IV49 9BA 01471 822763 1 cottage, slps. 6, £160-£395

MR & MRS KUBALE Strathaird House, by Elgol Isle of Skye IV49 9AX 01471 866269 1 cottage, slps. 4-6, £150-£230/wk Also B&B from £25

MR & MRS NORMAN STODDART Kilbride House, Kilbride, By Broadford Isle of Skye IV49 9AT 01471 822245 1 chalet (slps 4), 1 apt. (slps. 3) £120-£160 / wk

MRS ANNE MCHATTIE 10 Waterloo, Breakish Isle of Skye IV42 8QE 01471 822506 1 cottage, slps. 5-6, £150-£290 / wk

FOSSIL BOTHY INDEPENDENT HOSTEL 13 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye IV42 8QA 01471 822644 (day) 01471 822297 (eve/weekend) £7.50 per night

MRS PAT ANDERSON
4 Heaste, Broadford, Isle of Skye, IV49 9BN
01471 822388
1 apt., slps. 5, £120-£200/wk
1 cottage, slps 4, £200-£300/ wk

MRS S PARRY 2 Harrapool, Broadford Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ 01471 822498 1 apt. slps. 4, £190/wk

MRS FERGUSON Tormichaig, Sconser Isle of Skye IV48 8TD 01478 650205 Fax 01478 650214 1 apartment, sleeps 4 £210-£240 VICTOR & RUTH DANIELS Waterloo, by Broadford 01263 740230 Fax 01263 740343 1 cottage, sleeps 4, £240-£385 On shore with stunning views

MR P THOMAS
7 Portnalong, Isle of Skye IV47 8SL
01478 640254
1 cottage, slps. 4, £150-£220 / wk

MRS C MACKINNON 6 Camus Cross, Isle Ornsay, Isle of Skye IV43 8QS 01471 844249 (day) 01471 833285 (eve) 1 cottage, 3 bedrms, slps. 5 £150-£300 per wk

MRS MACKINNON Myrtlebank, Portnalong Isle of Skye IV47 8SL 01478 640346 1 cottage, slps. 4, £180-£250 / wk

MRS J D BENGOUGH Cottage at Gedintailor, The Braes, by Portree 01395 597214 (Devon) Comfortable updated crofthouse with panoramic views, slps. 6

ARMADALE CASTLE GARDENS & MUSEUM OF THE ISLES The Clan Donald Centre, Armadale, Sleat Isle of Skye IV45 8RS 01471 844305 web:www.cland.demon.co.uk 20,000 acre estate, 40 acre garden 7 Cottages available, from £300/wk

MRS A MACDONALD Cottage at Camusmore, Isle of Skye Sleeps 5, £250-£300 / wk 0141 772 5642 (Glasgow)

MRS MACDONALD Isle of Raasay 01463 831333 I cottage, sleeps 4-6 £200-£300

PAUL BARTER Cottage at Carbost, Isle of Skye Sleeps 6, £160-£385 / wk 01626 852 266 (Devon)

MRS MAIRI STEELE Cottage at Carbost, Isle of Skye Sleeps 6, from £200/wk 01224 823154 (Aberdeen)

MRS M. MUNRO 5 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye IV42 8QA 01471 822 431 cottage in Broadford area Modern bungalow, sleeps 6

Contacts

I need more information but who do I contact?

Before contacting the Trust please read the notes below to determine who can best handle your enquiry. We can often answer your questions quickly over the phone or by e-mail. This cuts down on paperwork and postage costs.

Bill WallaceSecretary & TreasurerTrust finances and accounts; legacies

■ Katie Jackson
Information & Promotions Manager
Trust meetings and events; Book and
card orders; General enquiries not
covered below

Alison McGachy,Development Manager

Leith Office, 41 Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JD © 0131 554 0114 or 554 1324 Fax 0131 555 2112 e-mail Bill: Treasurer@jmt.org Katie: promotions@jmt.org Alison: Development@jmt.org

■ Jane Anderson

Membership Secretary

Membership Applications & Renewals.

Changes of Address.

Direct Debit Enquiries. Deed of

Covenant Enquiries. Donations & Gift

Aid Scheme. (please quote your

membership number)

FREEPOST, Musselburgh EH21 7BR
(a stamp on the envelope reduces our costs)

© 0131 665 0596
e-mail Membership@jmt.org

Nigel Hawkins

Director
Questions or comments about the
Trust's aims, objectives and policies or
any other aspect of our work.

1 Auchterhouse Park, Auchterhouse,
Dundee DD3 0QU

© & Fax 01382 320252

Conservation Management of Trust properties, Surveys, Projects and Access.

e-mail NigelHawkins@jmt.org

■ Keith Miller

Conservation Manager

Sconser, Strathaird & Torrin Estates;

Knoydart

Bla Bheinn, Strathaird, Broadford, Isle
of Skye IV49 9AX

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Fax 01471 866238

e-mail Skye@jmt.org

- Andrew Campbell **Woodland Manager** Sconser, Strathaird & Torrin Estates Fearnoch, 1/2 16 Torrin, Isle of Skye **IV49 9BA** © 01471 822717 e-mail Woodlands@jmt.org
- Ian MacKinnon **Estate Manager** Strathaird Estate Creag Ard, Elgol, Isle of Skye **IV49 9BL** © 01471 866236 Fax 01471 866238 e-mail lanMacKinnon@imt.org
- Will Boyd-Wallis **Conservation Manager** Sandwood Estate Raven Cottage, 144 Oldshoremore, Rhiconich, Lairg IV27 4RS © 01971 521459 e-mail Sandwood@jmt.org
- Journal Editor Articles, letters etc. intended for publication in the Journal & News. 34 Stockcross, by Newbury, Berkshire RG20 8JX © 01488 608672; 0793 9537909 (m) e-mail Journal@jmt.org

■ Bill Smith **Conservation Activities** Co-ordinator

First point of contact for conservation activities. (If you have indicated an interest but cannot attend please let Bill know as soon as possible). 81 Overton Avenue, Inverness **IV3 8RR**

e-mail ConservationActivities@jmt.org

David Picken John Muir Award Development Officer

Enquiries relating to the John Muir Award; offers of assistance, or interest in participating in the Award. John Muir Trust, Leith Office, 41 Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JD © 0131 624 7220 e-mail JohnMuirAward@jmt.org

John Muir Award, East Lothian Enquiries relating to the award in East Lothian Council Buildings, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3HA © 01620 827 628 Fax 01620 827291 e-mail JohnMuirAwardEL@jmt.org

■ Mandy Calder

John Muir Trust Gallery

These strictly limited edition prints are from paintings by David Bellamy and Paul Craven. Proceeds from the Schiehallion print go to the Schiehallion Appeal. Dimensions include a narrow white border. Please order from IMT, 41 Commercial Street, Leith EH6 6JD. Cheques payable to JMT Trading Co. Ltd. Credit card payments acceptable (0131 554 0114). Costs include postage in a strong tube.



Schiehallion, 16" x 14" £50, by Paul Craven





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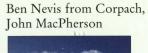
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Glen Nevis, John MacPherson

■ Mike Merchant

The John Muir Trust

John Muir, born in the small Scottish port of Dunbar, emigrated with his family as a child to the USA. There in his adopted homeland he became a founding father of the world conservation movement, and devoted his life to safeguarding the world's landscapes for future generations. Since 1983, the John Muir Trust, guided by Muir's charge to "do something for wildness and make the mountains glad", has dedicated itself to making Muir's message a reality within the United Kingdom. By acquiring and sensitively managing key wild areas, the Trust sets out to show that the damage inflicted on the world over the centuries can be repaired: that the land can be conserved on a sustainable basis for the human, animal and plant communities which share it; and the great spiritual qualities of wilderness, of tranquillity and solitude, can be preserved as a legacy for those to come.

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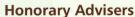
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