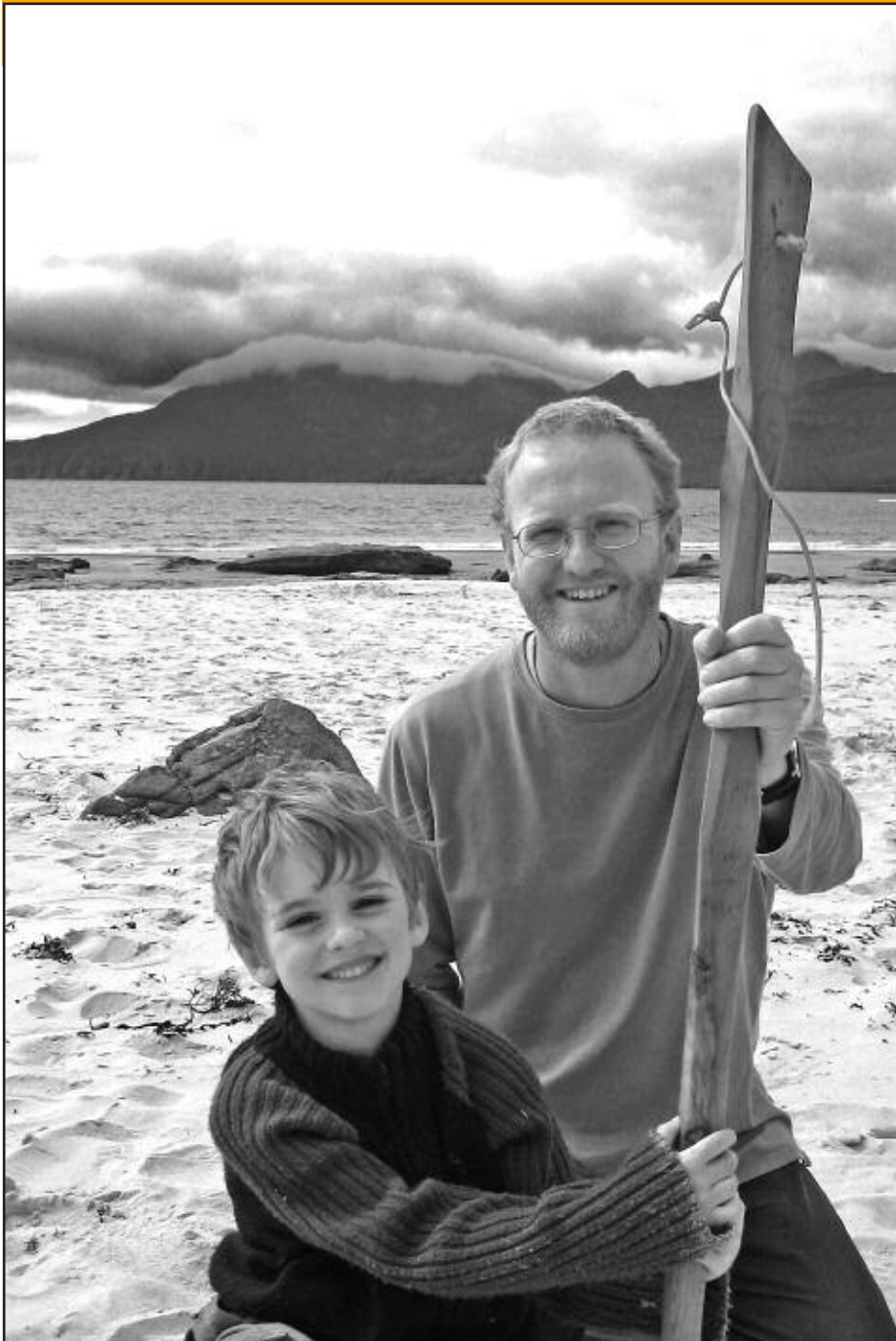


# JOHN MUIR TRUST

## ANNUAL REPORT *for* 2006

JOHN  
MUIR  
TRUST

wild land - wildlife  
education - adventure



THE JOURNEY *for the* WILD

Front cover pictures:  
background Alastair Cooper  
in Fisherfield; foreground  
Duncan and Angus Miller on  
Eigg Dave Picken.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES, I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the John Muir Trust for 2006. The Director and staff report fully on the year's achievements, and on behalf of all trustees I express our sincere thanks to them. I would however like to use these words to introduce a concept that was important to the Trust in 2006, and in my opinion will grow in importance in the years to come.

**B**IODIVERSITY, wherever it exists, is precious to all of us. We as individuals have an enduring love of wild land; this may be based on spiritual or academic grounds, or just the sheer joy and experience we gain when we taste it. What is it that draws us to invest our time and resources to ensure such places remain, are enhanced, and hopefully will be expanded?

For me, privileged to live in a highland village where a short walk brings me to eagle country, it is the knowledge that no matter how often or at what times I take this short walk, I know it will reveal new wonders of the natural world.

In owning and managing some of the finest wild places in Britain, we as members of the JMT have a responsibility and a challenge to ensure they are cherished and nurtured for the benefit of the land, its wild species, its people and all those that care to visit.

Recent funding, acknowledged elsewhere in these pages, will enable biodiversity action plans to be prepared for each of our properties.

*What objects will the plans have?*

Although each will have a consistency grounded in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, there will be differences due to location and habitats. On our wild lands we will be considering:

- ◆ Minimising human impacts
- ◆ Having regard to the local and global environment
- ◆ Increasing knowledge through monitoring
- ◆ Maintaining dialogue with local and national interests
- ◆ Managing habitats for the benefit of all species.

*And what is our vision for the next 20 years?*

- ◆ Through exemplary management all those who visit JMT properties will enjoy the wild land, appreciate the biodiversity, and leave inspired and with a desire to return.

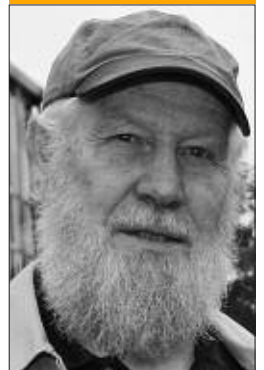
As Chairman I would value your comments on these suggestions.

Predicting the future for wild land and wild creatures is difficult, and sometimes a 'window into the past' can be useful. I was greatly struck when I read Richard Jefferies' words from 1883 (overleaf) and hope that they will have resonance for you too.

Practising and encouraging biodiversity management are progressive. They help prepare for a future that is by no means certain, for climate change and the threats imposed by carbon emissions are real and inevitable. We can and we must practise mitigating action in everything we do for future years.

***Dick Balharry***

Welcome!



Dick Balharry  
Chairman, John Muir Trust

## A WINDOW ON THE PAST

### *changing concepts of biodiversity*

IN 1883, Richard Jefferies records in the *St James Gazette*:

One creature at least, the pine marten, has been exterminated over southern England and is now only to be seen – in the stuffed state – in museums. It may be roughly described as a large tree weasel and was shot down on account of its habit of seizing pheasants at roost. The polecat is also practically extinct, although occasional specimens are said to occur. These two animals could not be allowed to exist in any preserve...

Twenty creatures, furred and feathered, have undergone severe persecution since the extension of pheasant-covers and of these the first nine have more or less succumbed – namely pine-marten, polecat, eagle, buzzard, falcon, kite, horned owl, harrier and raven. The remaining eleven have survived – namely stoat, weasel, rat, crow, kestrel, sparrow hawk, brown and barn owl, jay, magpie and woodpecker.

This warfare in its fiercest form may be roughly said to be coeval with the invention of the percussion gun, and to have raged now for over half a century. The resistance therefore of the various species has been fairly tested, and we may reasonably conclude that no further disappearance will take place, unless by the destruction of woods themselves.

Curiously in this article Richard Jefferies makes no reference to the otter, badger, fox or wildcat. Although it is likely the wildcat was extinct in Southern England by the early 1800s when this persecution began.

Less than 100 years after the above article was written the pine marten was a rarity in the U.K. By 1950 the marten's only breeding strongholds were in remote areas of North-West Scotland.

With the banning of gin traps, a greater awareness and interest in wildlife and an expansion of woodlands established by the Forestry Commission providing an ideal habitat network, marten populations staged a recovery.

In 1983 this still rare UK species was given full legal protection. In 2007 it occupies most of the suitable habitats in Scotland and its legal protection is now being questioned by the sport shooting



industry.

The otter suffered a similar persecution to the marten, as a perceived threat to trout and salmon. Populations fell, and on many rivers this iconic mammal was no longer recorded. It too was given protection and today it enjoys a high interest as a live animal to anglers, gamekeepers and landowners despite the fact that salmon and trout still feature in its diet.

Buzzards have made a remarkable recovery, mainly due to the cessation of the use of baited poison-laced carcasses. The buzzard and the harrier are two species that the sporting guns would also like to see come under 'control'.

The osprey with its dramatic increase as a breeding species throughout Scotland commands the respect of angler and gamekeeper although it continues to enjoy a diet of game fish.

Combining the management of a sport shooting estate and respecting the life of predators is not an easy task, and as long as sporting guests are prepared to pay serious money for the privilege of killing gamebirds this is a practice that is likely to continue.

On JMT properties all furred and feathered predators enjoy a safe haven at all times with one exception. Should a predator (most likely to be a fox) be killing lambs of a near neighbour or grazing tenant, with appropriate evidence the JMT property manager can decide the fate of these particular animals.

Deer are controlled on JMT properties to levels that allow sustainable habitats and natural native tree regeneration.

Biodiversity is the variety of life; it also provides all of us with the natural services that are so vital to our health and well being. ■



### Variety of life

Pine marten, golden eagle, eagle soaring over deer  
Dick Balharry.

## OVERVIEW OF 2006 *by* NIGEL HAWKINS, DIRECTOR

*'The aim of the Journey was to move wild land up the political agenda'*

### The Journey for the Wild

OUR BIG EVENT IN 2006 CAPTURED SO MUCH of what the Trust is all about and what we are trying to achieve.

It reflected our vision for wild places to be valued by all sectors of society and for wild land to be safeguarded for its own sake and the benefits it brings to human beings.

People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds took part in and supported the Journey which crossed many of the finest wild areas of Britain. Local communities took part enthusiastically, other participants came from near and far and there was a high level of public awareness helped through excellent media coverage of the event.

This 2500 mile journey on land, sea, lochs and rivers, starting from the Scilly Isles, Shetland, St Kilda and the North Sea and coming together at Ben Nevis, certainly caught the public imagination. And the final leg taking the batons across Scotland to John Muir's birthplace at Dunbar and then to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh encouraged politicians to take note.

We are very grateful to everyone who supported the Journey by taking part, organising events or by sending messages of support, and we very much appreciate the tremendous financial support given by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage. Journey co-ordinator Sam Baumber and special project manager Dave Picken did a superb job in organising a very complex event.

The aim of the Journey was to move wild land up the political agenda – and the way to do that was to show that wild land matters to many people and is an integral part of the health and well being of the nation. The participants showed that every step of the way.

Trustees believe that if we are to influence decisions relating to wild land we must demonstrate that there is huge public support for it. The Journey for the Wild certainly achieved that goal.



### Journey's end

At Holyrood, above L–R: Peter Wright, journeyer, Sam Baumber, Journey coordinator, Dave Picken, Nigel Hawkins, director, Xander McDade, journeyer, George Reid MSP, Presiding Officer, Scottish Parliament, Dick Balharry, JMT chairman, Sophie Wynne-Jones, journeyer.

Above L: Dick Balharry fills the quach in a toast to the four Journey batons with (L–R) Sophie Wynne-Jones, Nigel Hawkins, David Picken and Alison Devey Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

### Musical mystery



Volunteers Paul Nelson and Andrew Hunter from Glasgow with the piano near the top of Ben Nevis Don Marley.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT the conservation of wild areas arose without any planning – and yet it achieved undreamed of levels of publicity. It was the discovery of a piano in a cairn near the summit of Ben Nevis – a find made by one of our conservation activity groups clearing cairns and litter from the mountain.

The mystery – later solved – of how the piano came to be there caught the interest of the world's media with articles and interviews across all the continents. In many ways it was a bit of light relief from the usual doom and gloom dominating the news but it gave us an exceptional opportunity to highlight the problem of litter on our mountains and wild places and the need for people to take personal responsibility for this.

*Continued overleaf*

OVERVIEW OF 2006 *continued*

Bill Wallace, Tom Weir and Paul van Vlissingen, who died in 2006.

## Securing the financial base

for the Trust is one of our priorities. The Trust is a very aspirational and ambitious organisation but it always faces the risk of over-stretching both in personal and financial terms.

Considerable work was done in 2006 in working on projects which help to secure our foundation while at the same time enabling us to do the things we want to do to benefit wild land and places.

An excellent example is the new Biodiversity Project aimed at increasing the range of plants, animals, birds, fungi and insects on our land. Three trusts – the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and the Tubney Charitable Trust – and Scottish Natural Heritage are supporting the £677,000 initiative over three years.

The project begins in 2007 with the appointment of three wild land conservers/rangers covering all our properties supported by a biodiversity data collector. The conservers/rangers will work to improve the habitat for UK Biodiversity Action Plan species through effective management of the grazing pressure.

Recording baselines and monitoring change are even more important in a time of climate change, when it is vital we know what is happening to our environment. Explaining the project to visitors will also be an important role.

The Trust continued its support for local communities managing some of our finest areas of wild land. Volunteers carried out conservation activities in Knoydart, North Harris and Assynt and we hope to be able to continue with this in the future. There was superb enthusiasm from the volunteers – and a great welcome to them from local people showing that this is a way that JMT really can help.

A new partnership was entered into at the Galson Estate in North Lewis where the Trust assisted Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, the community trust, to buy the estate which covers a wonderful area of wild land extending up to the Butt of Lewis.

The 48,000 acre estate is part of the site proposed for a major onshore wind turbine development heralded as one of the biggest in Europe. There is strong opposition to this locally, where most would prefer a far smaller scheme owned by the community. This approach would be welcomed by JMT who have objected to the large-scale North Lewis wind turbine project.

If the large scheme does go ahead JMT will have the option of withdrawing from its partnership at Galson, but if it doesn't go ahead then the £10,000 loan provided to help close the funding gap for the purchase will be converted into a grant. JMT partnership manager Mick Blunt who lives on Lewis has been helping the community and giving advice on a range of matters.

The first community meetings were held at Quinag, the mountain estate which JMT purchased towards the end of 2005. Despite heavy snowfall at the end of March there was an excellent attendance at the first meeting held at Kylesku, and another big turnout for a further meeting held at Inchnadamph.

This huge interest in the management of the mountain is most encouraging and is providing a great pool of local knowledge and expertise which will guide the future management of the estate.

The John Muir Award goes from strength to strength with 12,609 Awards being presented across the UK in 2006, an increase of 23% on 2005. The Award is aimed at everyone and it is gratifying to note that a quarter of the awards were achieved by people from socially excluded backgrounds. Team members worked with almost 500 organisations up and down the country in delivering the Award.

## We were greatly saddened

by the death in February of **Bill Wallace**, our long standing Hon Treasurer and Secretary. Bill epitomised the voluntary ethic – doing a huge amount of work for the Trust over 16 years looking after our finances, often working up to three days a week on an entirely voluntary basis. He truly merited the MBE which he received five years ago.

Bill's contribution to the Trust was so outstanding that we wanted to make a lasting tribute to him and so we launched the annual Bill Wallace Grant with the theme 'Go – and Do It!' capturing the adventurous spirit of the man. The grant will help people do projects in the wild and mountainous parts of the world with an emphasis on adventure, education and 'putting something back' in terms of conservation. We have had many applications and hope to announce the first recipients at the Annual General Meeting in May.

We are grateful to the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, the Tiso family, the Andrew Thin Charitable Trust and others for supporting the grant scheme. The donations given at Bill's funeral have all gone towards the project. We are also very grateful to Bill's wife Maureen for the tremendous support she gave to Bill and to the Trust over so many years.

Another sad loss during the year was **Tom Weir**, first recipient of the Trust's Lifetime Achievement Award. Tom was a true 'Man of the Mountains' who communicated his passion beautifully through his writings in *The Scots Magazine* and his television programme *Weir's Way*.

Both Tom and his wife Rhona were keen supporters of the Trust and donations at his funeral near to his home at Gartocharn were for the Trust. We deeply appreciate the great encouragement Tom and Rhona gave to the Trust.

During the year we also lost **Paul van Vlissingen**, owner of the Letterewe and Fisherfield Estates – one of the wildest areas of Scotland – and a good friend to the Trust. His partner Caroline

## Baseline

Volunteers in Knoydart learning about vegetation monitoring using a transect Alan Scott.





Tisdall Mackenzie served as a Trustee and she and Paul often welcomed Trustees and staff at their estate – and enjoyed engaging in passionate discussion about the management of wild land. They produced the Letterewe Accord on access to their estates and it became a forerunner to the legislation on public access.

**Bill Scott**, who served as chairman of our Schiehallion Group also passed away during the year. Bill was a doughty character who brought great knowledge of the area to the benefit of the group.

**Financially, 2006** was reasonably satisfactory. However, Trustees are well aware of the risks of over-stretching and of the need to ensure we have funding which covers all our activities in the future. The Hon Treasurer reports more fully on this in his report.

During the year the Trust received several donations including a donation of £126,000 from Mrs J B S Murray's Charitable Trust and a donation of £26,000 from the Bill and Margaret Nicol Trust. We are very grateful for these donations which show a tremendous faith in the Trust and the work we are doing.

Two stalwarts of the Trust, Donald Thomas and Rob Collister stood down as Trustees. Donald though is continuing in his role as Hon Secretary ensuring the returns are made to Companies Office and carrying out other duties. He is also continuing as our webmaster, a job he has done with great enthusiasm for many years.

Rob has given tremendous help to the John Muir Award and to the Trust more generally in Wales and is continuing to do so after stepping down as Trustee. We are very grateful to Donald and Rob for serving as Trustees and for maintaining their support for the Trust.

This year we welcomed two new Trustees, Alison McGachy and Robin Noble. Alison is a well known face in the Trust having been our first development manager, a role she fulfilled with great gusto for five years. She brings first class knowledge of fundraising and marketing to the benefit of the board.

Robin lives on Quinag, the Trust's most recent purchase, and has a wealth of knowledge of – and a real passion for – the natural and cultural history of the area. His experience of living in the

North West of Scotland where JMT has considerable interest is of enormous value to the board.

We did not have a Trustee election in 2006 because there were five candidates for five vacancies. Re-appointed for a further three year term were John Donohoe, Keith Griffiths, our Hon Treasurer, and Will Williams all of whom are continuing to do sterling work for the Trust.

I would like to thank all our Trustees who give of their time, knowledge and expertise so willingly to the Trust and who, under the inspired chairmanship of Dick Balharry guide the organisation through constantly changing and challenging times.

We also saw changes in Trust staff during the year. Kirsty Leitch left with all good wishes following her marriage, and we welcomed her replacement as partnerships manager Fran Lockhart, who brought in exceptional knowledge and skills to the job of working with local communities.

Scott Williamson, our finance manager for two years, left to take up a post with StreetWork, a charity in Edinburgh. Replacing him as our new head of finance and administration was Alison Russell who has a background of strategic financial management planning.

Towards the end of the year Ian Proudler, our development manager for over two years, resigned to pursue an opportunity of establishing a new fundraising business consultancy. David Picken, our manager for special projects including our work in England and Wales, was appointed as the new development manager.

Michelle Donoghue and Jonathan Walkingshaw moved on from their posts as regional manager and development worker with the John Muir Award in Cumbria. They did a tremendous job for the Award and the Trust in Cumbria. Kate Simpson, East of Scotland manager for the Award also moved to pastures new during the year. I would like to thank all our staff and volunteers for their great work for the Trust during the year.

**Our members** are our greatest asset and I am pleased 903 new members joined the Trust during 2006 bringing us tantalisingly close to the milestone figure of 10,000. A big thank you is due to all our members for their support and encouragement. ■

## Disembark

The 2006 AGM and members' weekend was held at Drymen in Stirlingshire and was the best attended for several years. Glasgow & West of Scotland Group planned the events programme, which included water (below) and land-based activities in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Brian Pollard. Top: modern shielings at Cuidhsidar on the Galson Estate Mick Blunt



## REPORT *on* THE WORK OF 2006

by the JMT Management Team



### Glendhu

Glendhu (above R) near Kylestrome in Sutherland is the location of a proposed hydro scheme about which the Trust has serious concerns. Staff visited the glen and loch after a meeting at Inchnadamph. Keith Miller.

Top picture: wind turbines  
Liz Miller.

Below: Dick Balharry and Sandwood conservation manager Cathel Morrison at the Blairmore toilet and interpretation building; coastal woods on Strathaird.



### POLICY

The Trust Policy Officer, Helen McDade, became Convenor of Scottish Environment LINK's Landscape Task Force at the beginning of 2006. Link is the umbrella body for environmental organisations and the Trust's involvements in groups like the Landscape TF allows us to have input to government thinking through joint working and responses. It also allows smaller organisations like ourselves to gain from specialist expertise elsewhere whilst giving us a bigger platform. As Convenor, Helen became one of the two Link representatives on the Scottish Landscape Forum, which was established in June.

The Forum, which was attended by the Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, encouragingly shows increasing recognition by the Scottish Executive of the value of Scottish landscapes. The Forum is looking at the implementation of the European Landscape Convention. This Convention was ratified by the UK government late in 2006 and is a very welcome tool to help us advocate better protection for our landscapes. The Forum will report back to ministers in the spring, and it is the Trust's hope that the Forum will be continued as a place where varied groups with an interest in landscape can gather information and formulate ideas to increase awareness and enhancement of our landscapes.

The Trust put some effort into influencing decision makers on the new Planning Bill which completed its passage through the Scottish Parliament. Unfortunately, we remained unhappy about some key aspects, particularly whether members of the public will be able to influence major proposals such as road schemes. Proposals of national importance will go into the National Planning Framework which will not go to public scrutiny. However, we were pleased to be involved in an amendment which will allow National Scenic Areas to be re-invigorated.

Towards the end of the year, our policy work became heavily focused on the proposed Beaulay-Denny 400 kV electricity transmission line and the associated Public Local Inquiry which will run from February to December 2007. The Trust is convening a group of six environmental organisations who are opposing the line – mainly on landscape and visual grounds, but with the assistance of expert witnesses on economics, the technical side and on sustainable development.

We also objected to a number of proposed large scale onshore wind turbine developments which we consider will impact

adversely on key areas of wild land.

During 2006 the Cairngorms National Park Authority consulted on their draft Park Plan. An analysis of how key issues (for JMT) were dealt with in this draft was undertaken, and this was used as background information for the preparation of JMT's submission. These issues included wild land, vehicle hill-tracks, red deer, montane habitats and vegetation.

### LAND MANAGEMENT

2006 saw no let up in the Trust's programme on Skye and Li & Coire Dhorraic, with much of the work focusing on deer management and woodland regeneration and restructuring.

To support a growing demand for local firewood, a new Palax Combi firewood processor was purchased in January to improve efficiency and allow us to meet an ever-increasing workload generated by conservation work on Skye.

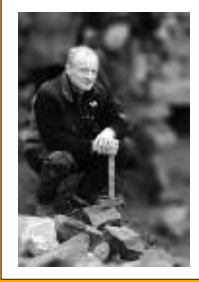
2006 marked the completion of the JMT's Millennium Forest for Scotland project, Coille Srath na h-Airde (Strathaird and Torrin estates), whose legacy is the creation of new native woodlands, the safeguarding and regeneration of existing woodland remnants and a wide range of social benefits. Building on this, work to promote native woodland expansion and the restructuring of conifer plantations is set to continue under funding from the Peter de Haan Charitable Trust and grant aid provided by the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.

Progress continued with the Collie & Mackenzie Sculpture Group at Sconser where milestones were reached in terms of securing planning permission, hiring a resource worker and obtaining a commitment to underground the power lines which are very much in view from the bridge at Sligachan. The group's next major challenge is to raise funds to complete the project.

The long awaited Blairmore toilet and interpretation facility was completed and opened in time for a Trustees' visit to Sandwood estate in May. Locally this facility has been very well received.

Ben Nevis was in the public eye on several occasions. The unearthing of the remains of a piano near the summit is mentioned elsewhere. The process of cataloguing and removing memorial plaques and other memorabilia from the summit began. For the time being these are being held at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre, giving the opportunity for those that placed them on the mountain to reclaim them. In order to discourage further memorial plaques being left on the Ben, the Nevis Partnership has





## Huisnish

Conservation volunteers on the beautiful shoreline of Huisnish, North Harris Estate. The 2006 programme included partners' land as well as JMT estates Alan Scott.

Top pictures: conservation volunteer and fence Alan Scott; dyking work at Strathaird Estate on Skye.



established a Site of Contemplation at the foot of the Ben and a memorial website.

Also at Ben Nevis, a Nevis conservation officer, Alison Devey, was appointed and undertook a series of very successful field events for schools and groups along with ecological monitoring, footpath maintenance, and the drafting of a management plan for Ben Nevis. Much of this work was carried out in conjunction with Highland Council rangers based in Glen Nevis. This post is co-funded by the JMT, the Nevis Partnership and LEADER +.

In July JMT expanded its partnership work in the Western Isles to help the Galson community buy their 48,000 acre estate in the north and west of Lewis. The Trust will be providing conservation advice and practical assistance to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn, the community group behind the buyout.

This has only scratched the surface of our land management activities over the past year, none of which would be possible without the help and dedication of staff, volunteers and contractors.

**Conservation** Our annual monitoring of vegetation in relation to the impacts of grazing continued on several properties and started on Quinag. This work was undertaken by staff, members and contractors. In general the results indicate that outwith deer-fenced exclosures the impacts of red deer browsing remain too great to enable significant tree seedling growth to occur. As noted elsewhere the Trust won funding to significantly increase management, one aim of which is to deal with grazing and browsing pressure.

Vegetation surveys were undertaken on Sandwood Estate (completing coverage of the common grazings) and the southern part of Quinag. A lichen survey on the summit plateau of Ben Nevis recorded 70 species of lichen including 20 nationally scarce and nationally rare, two Red Data Book (RDB) near threatened and one RDB vulnerable species.

Two UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species were the target of successful surveys on Sandwood Estate. The great yellow bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) is now confined in the UK

to NW Scotland and was recorded on Sandwood Estate in 1999 and 2000. A small but strong breeding population was confirmed on the coastal dunes and machair. It is estimated that in the UK the water vole suffered a 94% population decline during the latter half of the 20th century. Like the great yellow bumblebee the water vole had been recorded on Sandwood Estate but only limited areas were searched in 1998 and 1999. In 2006 definite signs of water vole occupancy were found at four sites and possible signs at another four.

Development proposals such as windfarms required a considerable amount of work in assessing their potential impact on wild land, landscape, habitats and wildlife, and in reviewing developers' information.

**Volunteer** work parties saw changes in their duration, timing and even location. In 2006 we again ran 14 events but only six were for the traditional two days and the rest ranged from three one-day events to one that lasted a week. The other major change was the inclusion of work parties on partnership properties – those of the North Harris Trust, and the Knoyard and Assynt Foundations. Outside the work parties we started to establish a group of volunteers working independently to monitor the woodland regeneration transects on all the JMT properties.

An unexpected amount of publicity was generated for the Trust by a piece on the BBC TV Adventure Show about a Schiehallion work party, and the coverage (mentioned elsewhere) of the Ben Nevis piano.

During 2006, 121 volunteers donated over 450 days of work (as compared to 390 days in 2005 from 148 individuals). The average work party size dropped slightly from 14 to 13. In 2006, 23% of participants (up on 19% in 2005) came along to at least two work parties and one person went to six! 43% of participants were female (a slight drop from 46% in 2005) and as has been relatively consistent for several years around 80% were resident in Scotland.



*Bombus distinguendus*, the great yellow bumblebee found at Sandwood Estate Bill Neill.

*Continued overleaf*

## THE WORK OF 2006 *continued*

### ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

The main focus of this year's programme was the Journey for the Wild, in celebration of 10 years of the programme.

Seven trips were organised to reflect the diversity of people and place of the 118 trips run over the decade. They included young people on Hoy, families on Eigg, sea kayaking in the Summer Isles, a descent of the Spey, a woodland earth skills course and conservation in the Cairngorms. We continued to provide safe, high quality trips with 98% of participants rating their trip 8/10 or above. The educational experience gained by participants would not have been possible without our key partners in these wild areas and the expertise of our leaders.

**The Journey for the Wild** with its 90 individual legs linked many people and places involved with the Trust. It led to encounters with basking sharks and killer whales; views from the summits of Munros and Corbetts; dives with sea life and a swim to a crannog; biking through valleys and walking urban wildlife corridors; crossing mountain ranges, hopping bogs, rowing rivers and contouring coastline.

The batons passed through the hands of school children and youth groups; rangers and wardens; mountaineers, climbers, runners and ramblers; kayakers, canoeists, divers, sailors and oarsmen; families and friends; MPs, MSPs, Assembly Members and Lords. With 1500 people involved in passing the batons, an equal number giving their support, and over 60 items of press coverage, the Journey inspired thousands of people.

The legacy of their effort includes a website archiving the story of the Journey; a mobile exhibition of artefacts, images, maps and stories and a DVD capturing the magical qualities of the people and places involved. The task now is to use this legacy to gain support for the Trust and to inspire more people about the importance of wild places.

### EDUCATION

12,609 John Muir Awards were presented across the UK, a 23% increase on 2005, with a quarter of these achieved by individuals from socially excluded backgrounds. Our staff team worked with almost 500 organisations to deliver this activity. These varied from schools and alternative curriculum groups to countryside ranger services and the Forestry Commission, retired couples to university expeditions.



Our activity in England doubled, we are working with Welsh-speaking community and youth groups, and growth in Scotland was achieved despite being understaffed for much of 2006. These achievements reflect the dedication and hard work of the Award team and their commitment to the aims of the Trust.

We enjoyed continued support from Cumbria Youth Alliance and Cairngorms National Park Authority, both of which host staff to manage the John Muir Award and use it to achieve their own aims. East Lothian Council helped us to promote close ties with John Muir's Birthplace, and its ranger service and Learning Partnership. Ten years of investment from the Rank Foundation into youthwork through the Award in East Lothian ended in 2006; we are very grateful for their support.

Funding from Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Council for Wales enabled us to revamp resources: a new Handbook, Record Book, certificates and leaflets were well received and are being produced in Welsh bilingual format. We also presented the outcomes of our 2005 Gatherings (on the theme of conserving wild places) in a 'Make a Difference' leaflet to prompt activity and discussion. The Gatherings – networking events for Award providers – were attended by over 100 people and focused on ways to share experiences of wild places.

Award providers indicated that they value their relationship with the Trust, by joining under the new Group Membership

### Calendar

Main picture: Rhona Brankin, deputy minister for the environment and rural development, visited the John Muir Award in Glen Tanar estate, Aberdeenshire, where she is pictured with participant John Skinner (L) and John Muir Award manager, Cairngorms, Alan Smith. They're looking at a calendar of the old celtic year Anke Addy. Right: new John Muir Award certificates. Below: The Summer Isles were used to great effect Myles Farnbank.





category. We are well on the way to our target of 50 providers as Group Members within a year.

A feature of 2006 was the extent to which the John Muir Award was used to engage people in wider initiatives. This included: involving groups in the Cairngorms 'Park for All' concept; contributions to local biodiversity action plans through Award activity; promoting the Care, Respect and Responsibility themes of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and contributing to Sharing Good Practice events; presenting case studies to Learning and Teaching Scotland's 'Outdoor Connections – Taking Learning Outdoors' development programme; being recognised as a 'Recorded Outcome' youth work indicator; and contributing to National Curriculum requirements. The year ahead presents opportunities to significantly develop such connections.

We were extremely proud to celebrate Doug Scott's Lifetime Achievement Award at an event in Cumbria, with inspiring presentations from Doug, Paul 'Tut' Braithwaite, Leo Houlding, Community Action Nepal and local Award groups.

2007 is our 10th birthday. We look forward to celebrating the 50,000th John Muir Award, and the contribution the Award has made to the work of the Trust.

## RESOURCE GENERATION

The successful funding application for the management of Trust land for biodiversity is noted elsewhere.

We ran our first appeal based upon the potential threats to wild land of large scale, industrial wind turbine developments across the Highlands and Islands. This enabled people to make monthly donations above subscriptions. The outcome was good and we are encouraging all supporters to donate monthly.

Efforts to increase membership resulted in 903 new members. With a good retention rate of 96% the overall membership of the Trust grew by 530. New initiatives included Gift membership and Group membership for organisations. Thirty three John Muir

Award providers joined the Trust in this way.

Corporate giving grew steadily through the corporate membership scheme as well as through other methods including in-kind donations. Tiso was very supportive as were many others listed within this report. The Trust was particularly grateful for companies who sponsored key events and activities including Scottish & Newcastle, Berghaus, DMH Baird Lumsden, Mackie's of Scotland and Scotsman Publications.

Charitable trusts and individual givers are listed elsewhere and we thank them all for their support which has enabled the Trust to make such a difference to the environment.

A wider range of merchandise was developed in 2006 including crafts from local suppliers and new prints. Some of the Christmas cards sold out, and we thank our customers for being so patient in accepting alternatives.

The website was treated to a complete makeover and thanks must go to the Image Scotland team for their part as well as one particular volunteer, Annie Shimmin, who helped devise the new structure. The process took the best part of the year.

The John Dunn Autumn lecture, film festivals and local events raised the profile of the Trust. Our local members' groups were active, with the Glasgow group running the members' weekend, Aberdeen carrying out local conservation activities and members in the South of England meeting at Stonar.

Once again the Trust is indebted to a small but committed group of volunteers who help with development work. Without their input many initiatives would take considerably longer.

**In addition to three offices,** the Trust has a number of staff working from locations from Wales to the Western Isles. This makes for a complex IT infrastructure which nevertheless has evolved over the years with simplicity and reliability in mind.

We installed three new networks in the main offices in 2006 and centralised anti-virus and anti-spam systems for the whole organisation. This enabled staff to concentrate more on core activities and less on day-to-day administration. With improved remote support facilities we have reduced the need for on-site technical support and training, saving much in time and travel costs. Although our IT systems have expanded greatly in the last few years they are still managed by one person working part-time. This improved infrastructure will generate cost savings in excess of £20,000 in 2007 and beyond. ■



## Connecting

Top: an 1895 panorama of the view from Ben Nevis was made available to us by a member for reproduction and sale as a limited edition copy. Main picture: 120 George Watson's College pupils were presented with the John Muir Discovery Award by Arctic explorer John Dunn (on the ice, below) who also delivered the Trust's Autumn lecture in Edinburgh. Above: leaflet for the appeal focusing on the wind turbine and pylon threat to wild land.



## JMT ANNUAL REPORT *for* 2006

This entire document (taken with the full Accounts mentioned below) is the Annual Report for John Muir Trust ('JMT') for the year ended 31 December 2006.

It is prepared to include compliance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities 2005 Edition (SORP) and is the sixth Annual Report of JMT prepared in a SORP format (the first required to comply with the 2005 Edition format).

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

The information (so far as applicable) required by paragraphs 41–59 of SORP 2005, insofar as not contained in other parts of this Annual Report, is as follows:

### Reference and Administrative Details

John Muir Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital incorporated under the Companies Acts in Scotland under that name (registered number 81620) and has its registered and principal office at Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5AN (until 1 February 2007 it was at 41 Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JD). It uses the name John Muir Award in respect of some of its activities.

JMT is a Scottish Charity, Number SC 002061.

The governing document of JMT is the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the current version of which was adopted at the AGM in April 1997. The Articles were modified following a resolution in August, 2002.

### Structure, Governance and Management

JMT is governed by Trustees who are Directors in terms of the Companies Acts. They are offered induction and training which is appropriate to them given their personal qualifications and experience and the particular role they are to play within JMT. The Trustees are responsible for policy setting and strategic decisions, and the duties imposed by statute.

Day to day management is delegated to the Chief Executive, Nigel Hawkins (known as the Director of JMT) in which he is assisted by other employees, the Management Team ('MT'), composed of various of the senior employees of JMT.

The Trustees of JMT who served during 2006 were:

Richard Balharry (Chairman)

Richard Allen

Neil Birnie

Rob Collister (retired 7 May 2006)

John Donohoe

Stephen Green

Keith Griffiths (Hon. Treasurer)

Susan D Hopkinson

Professor Paul Jarvis

Professor Denis Mollison

John Mackenzie

Alison McGachy (appointed 7 May 2006)

Robin Noble (appointed 7 May 2006)

Paul Ramsay

Maude R Tiso

Donald Thomas (retired as Trustee 7 May 2006, but continues as Company Secretary)

Dr Will Williams

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

Management Team members other than Nigel Hawkins are currently:

Rob Bushby	John Muir Award Manager
Andrew Campbell	Head of Land Management
Helen McDade	Policy Officer
Dave Picken	Development Manager
Alison Russell	Head of Finance and Administration

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

The details of other relevant organisations or persons are:

Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh  
Solicitors: Turcan Connell, Princes Exchange, 1 Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh EH3 9EF

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

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

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

### Objectives and Activities

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

- ◆ *To conserve and protect wild places with their indigenous animals, plants and soils for the benefit of present and future generations*

And in particular:

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

The activities of JMT towards those objectives during 2006 are reviewed elsewhere in this Annual Report in the Chairman's Welcome, the Director's Overview, and the reports from the JMT Management Team and Treasurer.

JMT does sometimes make grants to other bodies for purposes in support of JMT's objectives; any significant grants made in 2006 are referred to elsewhere in this Annual Report. JMT also gave various smaller individual grants to John Muir Award participators, and for community support.

### Achievements and Performance/ Financial Review/ Plans for Future Periods

These aspects of JMT's activities during 2006 are reviewed elsewhere in this Annual Report in the Chairman's Welcome, the Director's Overview, and the reports from the JMT Management Team and Treasurer, which also indicate JMT's plans for the future.

**Date of Approval** 12 March 2007.

DONORS *and* SUPPORTERS

We are extremely grateful to all those individuals, companies, charitable trusts and other organisations that support and fund the work of the John Muir Trust. Listed below are some that contributed during 2006.



For supporting areas of the Trust's work including volunteering and the Autumn lecture.

### SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

CAE Fund for the John Muir Award in North Wales.



The Countryside Council for Wales, for bilingual resources in Wales

### CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK

PAIRC NAISEANTA A MHONAIDH RUADH

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



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

### ESMÉE FAIRBAIRN FOUNDATION

For supporting the Biodiversity Project.



Wesley Bradd and Jen Edwards, Rank Foundation Gap Scheme workers in East Lothian.



### PETER DE HAAN CHARITABLE TRUST

For ongoing project support for the Skye Coastal Woodland Project, the John Muir Award and the Biodiversity Project.

### Heritage Lottery Fund



The Heritage Lottery Fund, for support for the Journey for the Wild, the Schiehallion path and the John Muir Award in Wales.



Highlands and Islands Enterprise Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

For supporting our work with communities.

### Miss AGNES H HUNTER'S TRUST

For support to further extend the John Muir Award scheme in Edinburgh, particularly to involve socially excluded groups.



### Image Scotland

For providing valuable office system support, web redesign, and for managing JMT merchandise orders.



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



### East Lothian Council

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

### D M H BAIRD LUMSDEN

For sponsorship of the Journey for the Wild postcard campaign.



Mackie's of Scotland, for supporting the Journey for the Wild and the corporate schemes.

### Mrs J B S MURRAY CHARITABLE TRUST

For their significant donation to the Trust's land projects, in particular for Ben Nevis.

### BILL AND MARGARET NICOL CHARITABLE TRUST

For work on Skye.

### LISBET RAUSING TRUST

For supporting the Trust's wild land campaigning work.

### SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

For John Muir Award head office costs.

### Scottish & Newcastle

Scottish & Newcastle plc for Ben Nevis and Glen Nevis project support.

### SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE



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

### ELIZABETH FRANKLAND MOORE AND STAR FOUNDATION

For funding for JMT conservation work parties.



Graham Tiso, for providing free office accommodation, financial, and many other forms of support and sponsorship.

### THE tubney CHARITABLE TRUST

Tubney Charitable Trust, for supporting the Biodiversity Project.

Anatom  
Applegreen Trust  
Atholl Palace Hotel  
Avenbris  
Ben Nevis Distillery  
Blythswood Associates  
Borders Woodschool  
Brodiess LLP Solicitors  
Buccleuch Charitable Foundation  
Richard Budenberg Charitable Trust  
CALA Group  
Carsten  
Flieger.Fotographie  
Citidata Ltd  
Copley Charitable Trust  
Colony  
Cottage & Rural Enterprises  
Cruden Foundation Ltd  
A & N Daniell Charitable Trust  
Dewar's World of Whisky  
Dickson Minto Charitable Trust  
Do Good Advertising  
Evelyn Drysdale Charitable Trust  
Leslie & Helen Duff Charitable Trust  
Dunard Fund  
EEFP Trust  
Emap Active (Trail Magazine)  
Enlightenment Media  
Ethcom Ltd  
F & C Asset Management  
A G R Findlay Charitable Trust  
First Group  
First ScotRail  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Richard Fraser Charitable Trust  
Jean M F Fraser's Charitable Trust  
Gatliff Trust  
Gunter Charitable Trust  
Haggis Adventures  
Hay Nisbet Press  
Heart of the Lakes  
Miss E C Hendry's Charitable Trust  
HF Holidays  
Highland Adventure Safaris  
P H Holt Charitable Trust

Jane Street Printing Company  
JLT Management Services  
JTH Charitable Trust  
Kenmore Hotel  
Legal & General  
John Lewis Partnership  
Lyddon Trust  
Ian Mactaggart Trust  
Maurice Fry Charitable Trust  
John Muir Country Store  
J W Muir Group plc  
Music Scotland  
The I F & M B Noble Charitable Trust  
Northwood Charitable Trust  
Pacerpoles  
A M Pilkington's Charitable Trust  
Profitmaster Systems  
Prudential  
Radical Travel  
Russell Trust  
Simpson & Brown Architects  
Stitching Teuntjeanna Fund  
Talteg Limited  
Tay Charitable Trust  
Thompson Corporation  
Anthony Walker Charitable Trust  
Miss W H S Wallace's Trust  
West Coast Outdoor Leisure  
Whitley Trust  
Wilderness Journeys  
J & J R Wilson Trust  
John Wood Group  
Eric Young & Co  
J W H B Younger Charitable Trust  
Bill Wallace Grant:  
Scottish Mountaineering Trust  
James Thin Charitable Trust  
Maude Tiso  
Colin Wood  
Employer volunteer match funding:  
Astra Zeneca  
BP  
Scottish & Southern Energy

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2006 *by* KEITH GRIFFITHS, Hon. TREASURER

I WOULD LIKE TO START BY RECORDING MY THANKS to the Trust's staff. I am particularly grateful to our new Head of Finance and Administration, Alison Russell, and her assistant Nicola Wylie.

### THE TRUST

These are the sixth set of Accounts for the Trust presented in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities – SORP, and the first set required to be prepared in accordance with SORP 2005. The primary document is the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), which incorporates the Income and Expenditure Account required in Scotland. The major accounting change from 2005 is that these Accounts are consolidated, so they show the total activities of the Trust and JMT Trading Company Limited together (although the balance sheet shows separately figures for JMT alone ('the Company') as well as JMT plus the Trading Company ('the Group')). This means the SOFA shows the Trading Company's gross income and expenditure rather than any Gift-Aid payment or revaluation of shareholding. Additionally some lines in the SOFA appear under different groupings and some smaller categories have been amalgamated (and gain on disposals of investments now appears 'below the line'). However the SOFA changes are limited, and other than mentioned no material prior year figures have had to be restated. As last year what would previously have been referred to as administration expenditure is allocated to the charitable activity which it supports, on a headcount basis.

2006 was a curate's egg in financial terms. It was a rather less unusual year than 2005 given the absence of major events such as the Suilven Appeal and the purchase of Quinag, and so both income and expenditure totals (if one includes the Quinag purchase cost in 2005 expenditure) are less than in 2005. However the underlying levels of income and expenditure are respectively just over and just under their highest ever levels.

The **deficit** for 2006 across the Trust's various funds (before financial adjustments) was **£20,065**, and that is the key figure for performance assessment as it is the figure corresponding to the Trust's budget.

The one negative financial adjustment arose from the sale to the tenant of the house at Li on Knoydart with a small parcel of ground. The net sum received was £8,928, of which £1,462 was repaid to the National Heritage Memorial Fund, who had provided a grant towards the purchase price. The other adjustments were positive and arose from the Trust's investments, which are commented on below. After these adjustments the final **surplus** for 2006 across the Trust's various funds was **£51,900**.

The unadjusted 2006 deficit of **£20,065** compares with a budgetted deficit on a comparable basis of £185,000 (ignoring adjustments such as gains on investments but allowing for drawdown from the Suilven Appeal), and so looks at first sight to be a very favourable outcome. In my last Report I explained: 'This [the 2006 budget] has been approved by Trustees on condition that 2006 is used to expand JMT's resource base going

forward; such a deficit can be accommodated by current reserves, but must be a one-off. Increasing membership numbers and support levels and income from charitable trusts and corporate bodies will be a key priority.'

In relation to the long term health of the Trust, I have a concern that we have not quite made the strides we hoped for during 2006 in expanding the resource base. I comment below on components of income and expenditure, but the apparently favourable 2006 outcome does rely on a small number of significant donations from charitable trusts (mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report) for designated or restricted purposes. These are welcome, and derive from the good work the Trust has done in the past, but aren't a reliably recurring source of income to meet core expenditure.

Indeed the overall unadjusted position hides a deficit of **£141,341** on General Funds before any gains from investments, almost offset by the carried forward net surpluses on designated and restricted funds, and that general fund deficit was somewhat higher than budgeted and does limit the Trust's freedom of action in the future. That general fund deficit is partly offset by the release of £50,779 from designated funds which the Trustees felt were no longer required for the designated purpose in the near future.

It can be difficult to try to establish underlying trends in the Trust's finances, but (if one ignores major non-recurring items in each of 2005 and 2006), underlying income in 2006 was up overall on 2005 by about 2.75% and underlying expenditure was down by about 1.5%.

Income from subscriptions and personal donations to general funds have both increased from 2005. Subscription income increased by 21% thanks to record member numbers (including a doubling of new life members) and better take-up of Gift-Aid (including just over £12,000 for previous years from new retrospective declarations, which is unlikely to be repeated), and donations increased by 33%, thanks mainly to the first few months of the monthly giving initiative.

We do still need a substantial increase in membership numbers as the best way of securing the long-term ability of the Trust to do the things its members value, and the encouraging uplift in member numbers in 2006 was only the first step on a long road.

Donations to general funds from charitable trusts and businesses declined by 21% from 2005, although donations from such trusts to designated or restricted funds was one of 2006's highlights at £164,311.

2006 was in a sense a disappointing year for legacies. The sum received of £56,299 was in large part only received at the very end of December, and is down by about 60% from both 2005 and 2004. I said 'in a sense' disappointing, as the Trust would prefer its members and supporters to stay among the quick!

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

I said above that the underlying expenditure of the Trust was

slightly down. This is mainly due to steady staff numbers across the different areas of Trust activities, with some gaps during the year while posts were being refilled. Some costs can be absorbed by restricted and designated funds, helping to reduce the deficit on general funds.

Journey for the Wild will, once outstanding grant is received, have covered its costs thanks mainly to grant support mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report, with a modest contribution to general funds from participant fundraising.

This year there has been a write-down (of £2,049) in the valuation of the Trust's 100% shareholding in JMT Trading Company Limited. This is due to that amount of retained loss on woodland activities in the Trading Company for 2006. The direct farming operations of the Trading Company at Strathaird ceased in 2001, but there were livestock sales and a subsidy payment was received in 2006, and agricultural activities contributed £10,076 to profit. Merchandising contributed £11,025 in profit. The total of the latter two amounts will be Gift-Aided to the Trust.

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

For 2007 income and expenditure are, as promised in my Report for 2005, budgeted to break even, at approximately £1.32M. The substantial increase from 2006 (once one strips out one-offs in 2006) is primarily due to the impact of grant income for and expenditure on the Biodiversity Project mentioned elsewhere in this Annual Report.

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

With respect to the Trust's investments and cash deposits, the income has held up well, and in capital terms there has been a realised gain of £10,323 and unrealised gains of £63,103. The overall return (after fees) on the investment portfolio has been about 14.5%. The Trustees remain satisfied with the performance of the investment managers Rossie House Investment Management. Of the figure for quoted investments of £632,121 given in the balance sheet, 17.5% is now invested in government stock or bond funds, and the balance is in various collective funds, investing mainly in equities but also in property.

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

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

(N.B. for the purposes of this policy, Reserves are treated as being only quoted investments, cash or bank balances, and the Pitlochry offices, and therefore other assets (such as the wild land properties, other fixed assets, the interest in JMT Trading Company Limited and the remaining net current assets) are not taken into account.)

1. *A Long Term Financial Reserve* to hold funds available to cover possible future income deficits in the medium to long term and also the greater part of the restricted funds which the Trustees do not consider will require to be expended in accordance with their purposes in the short term. In the

immediate future the Trustees consider the long term reserve should ideally be at an amount equivalent to three months' budgeted expenditure plus long term restricted funds.

Based on current restricted funds and the 2007 budget this would equate to approximately £688,000, and the actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2006 was approximately £650,000. The corresponding figures for 2005 were £615,000 and £600,000.

2. *A Capital Financial Reserve* of up to £500,000 (or higher in the event of donations or legacies given for that purpose) available at not more than 3–4 months' notice for the purchase of a property, or other major capital projects, within the terms of the Corporate Plan and Acquisition Policy.

The actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2006 was approximately £97,000, compared with £170,000 at the end of 2005.

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

Based on the 2007 budget this would be approximately £440,000, and the actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2006 was approximately £440,000. The corresponding figures for 2005 were £410,000 and £410,000.

In summary the Reserves Policy dictated that the desired total reserves as at 31 December 2006 were £1,628,000, against an actual figure of £1,187,000 or approximately 73% (the corresponding 2005 figures were £1,525,000 desired and £1,180,000 actual or approximately 77%). The slight deterioration in the reserves position is due to the higher 2007 budget and an increase in restricted funds.

The Trustees remain of the view that the present Reserves Policy is prudent taking account of the Trust's objects and 2007 budget. However at present the Trust's reserves are significantly less than the Trustees consider desirable. As before the main shortfall relates to the Capital Financial Reserve, so the Trust has very limited scope for property purchase without an appeal.

As usual I would draw attention to the capitalisation of the Trust's wild land properties ('Heritage Properties'). These wild land properties are required by SORP to be shown as Tangible Fixed Assets (and the properties and their individual year of purchase and purchase price are disclosed in one of the Notes to the full accounts). This required accounting treatment does not indicate any change in the objectives or policy of the Trust. As these Heritage Properties were acquired by the Trust for long term retention in furtherance of its objectives the Trustees do not consider it either appropriate or cost-effective to have them revalued, and they are shown in these Accounts at cost (as adjusted only for the sale of Li mentioned above). Tower House, Pitlochry is not included in this figure, as it is included in Tangible Fixed Assets as Property.

## JMT TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

The main points are commented on above. The Company remains limited partner in the Strathaird Farming Partnership, which leases the Strathaird farm. The livestock remain in the ownership of the Company but are leased to the Partnership.

Because of the consolidation of Accounts the abbreviated Accounts for the Trading Company are not reproduced in this Annual Report, but copies of the Accounts will be available at the AGM.

Keith Griffiths Hon. Treasurer

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating Income & Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 December 2006

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	Total
	General	Designated		2006	2005
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income from supporters					
-Subscriptions	254,127	-	-	254,127	209,651
-Donations	110,744	17,413	46,247	174,404	616,534
-Legacies	51,299	-	5,000	56,299	142,506
-Corporate and major donors	29,585	-	-	29,585	40,439
-Grants from charitable trusts	17,695	126,096	38,215	182,006	18,297
Income from activities for generating funds					
-Fundraising activities	6,642	20,905	-	27,547	324,731
-Lectures and functions	3,462	-	-	3,462	8,497
-Income from trading activities	99,395	-	-	99,395	77,351
Investment income and interest received	10,208	-	13,709	23,917	24,786
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Land management	380	49,390	109,823	159,593	126,686
Schiehallion footpath project			3,948	3,948	71,781
Activities Programme	20,688	-	-	20,688	35,332
Journey for the Wild	12,812	-	80,000	92,812	-
Education	12,663	-	111,120	123,783	150,335
Policy			2,850	2,850	8,750
Other incoming resources	6,653	1,162	-	7,815	555
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>636,353</b>	<b>214,966</b>	<b>410,912</b>	<b>1,262,231</b>	<b>1,856,231</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising costs	150,848	-	-	150,848	156,556
Publicity & promotion	44,197	-	-	44,197	20,453
Journal & other publications	38,417	-	-	38,417	36,060
Lectures & functions					2,852
Costs of trading activities	80,343	-	-	80,343	77,492
Investment management costs	6,612	-	-	6,612	5,871
Charitable activities					
Land management	155,236	100,665	142,657	398,558	344,744
Schiehallion footpath project	-	-	4,848	4,848	31,406
Education	136,906	-	130,751	267,657	326,466
Activities Programme	18,107	-	5,094	23,201	37,608
Journey for the Wild	16,473	-	80,000	96,473	-
Policy	84,962	12,737	2,850	100,549	100,898
Donation to Assynt Foundation	-	15,000	-	15,000	65,000
Donation to Galson Trust	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Governance costs	44,921			44,921	47,915
Other resources expended	672	-	-	672	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>777,694</b>	<b>138,402</b>	<b>366,200</b>	<b>1,282,296</b>	<b>1,253,321</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>					
	<b>(141,341)</b>	<b>76,564</b>	<b>44,712</b>	<b>(20,065)</b>	<b>602,910</b>
Funds transfers	50,779	(50,779)	-	-	-
Part disposal of heritage property (Li, Knoydart)	-	(8,928)	7,467	(1,461)	-
	<b>(90,562)</b>	<b>16,587</b>	<b>52,179</b>	<b>(21,526)</b>	<b>602,910</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Realised gains on investments	10,323	-	-	10,323	5,652
Unrealised gain on investments	63,103	-	-	63,103	80,648
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(17,136)</b>	<b>16,857</b>	<b>52,179</b>	<b>51,900</b>	<b>689,210</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2006					
Heritage properties	-	2,582,370	-	2,582,370	1,969,611
Other funds	669,048	264,435	305,962	1,239,445	1,162,994
<b>Fund balances carried forward 31 Dec 2006</b>	<b>651,912</b>	<b>2,863,662</b>	<b>358,141</b>	<b>3,873,715</b>	<b>3,821,815</b>



## Consolidated Balance Sheet

Consolidated and Parent Company Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2006

	GROUP		PARENT COMPANY	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Heritage properties	2,573,442	2,582,370	2,573,442	2,582,370
Tangible assets	229,260	231,741	224,043	220,943
Partnership investment	1,000	1,000	-	-
	<u>2,803,702</u>	<u>2,815,111</u>	<u>2,797,485</u>	<u>2,803,313</u>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>				
Quoted investments	632,121	574,530	632,121	574,530
Trading subsidiary	-	-	13,576	4,073
	<u>632,121</u>	<u>574,530</u>	<u>645,697</u>	<u>578,603</u>
<b>LOANS</b>				
Crofting communities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock	21,378	21,887	-	-
Debtors & prepayments	117,989	97,846	125,592	112,535
Cash at bank and in hand	370,814	426,454	368,344	420,466
	<u>515,181</u>	<u>551,187</u>	<u>498,936</u>	<u>538,001</u>
<b>CREDITORS:</b>				
<b>amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Creditors and Accruals	77,121	118,845	68,235	97,934
Loans: general funds	168	168	168	168
	<u>77,289</u>	<u>119,013</u>	<u>68,403</u>	<u>98,102</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>437,892</u>	<u>432,174</u>	<u>430,533</u>	<u>439,899</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>3,873,715</u></u>	<u><u>3,821,815</u></u>	<u><u>3,873,715</u></u>	<u><u>3,821,815</u></u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General	651,912	669,048	651,912	669,048
Designated	290,220	264,435	290,220	264,435
Designated: heritage properties	2,573,442	2,582,370	2,573,442	2,582,370
	<u>3,515,574</u>	<u>3,515,853</u>	<u>3,515,574</u>	<u>3,515,853</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<u>358,141</u>	<u>305,962</u>	<u>358,141</u>	<u>305,962</u>
	<u><u>3,873,715</u></u>	<u><u>3,821,815</u></u>	<u><u>3,873,715</u></u>	<u><u>3,821,815</u></u>

Approved by the Trustees on 12 March 2007 and signed on their behalf:  
 R BALHARRY, Trustee.                      K GRIFFITHS, Trustee.

## Trustees, Staff *and* Offices

### John Muir Trust

SC081620, Charitable Company Registered in Scotland

[www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

Chairman	Dick Balharry
Hon Secretary	Donald Thomas
Hon Treasurer	Keith Griffiths
Director	Nigel Hawkins

#### Trustees

at 31 December 2006

Dick Allen  
 Dick Balharry (Chairman)  
 Neil Birnie  
 John Donohoe  
 Steve Green  
 Keith Griffiths (Hon. Treasurer)  
 Sue Hopkinson  
 Professor Paul Jarvis  
 John Mackenzie  
 Alison McGachy  
 Professor Denis Mollison  
 Robin Noble  
 Paul Ramsay  
 Maude Tiso  
 Dr Will Williams  
 Honorary Advisers  
 Larry Downing  
 Andrew Currie  
 Dr Stuart Monro

#### Staff

Management Team at 31 December 2006

Nigel Hawkins  
 Director  
 Rob Bushby  
 John Muir Award manager  
 Andrew Campbell  
 Head of land management  
 Helen McDade  
 Policy officer  
 Dave Picken  
 Manager (England & Wales)  
 Ian Proudler  
 Development manager  
 Alison Russell  
 Head of finance and administration

#### Offices

Registered office

Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN  
 Tel 01796 470080, fax 01796 473514  
 for Director, Head of finance and administration, Head of land management, Policy officer

Edinburgh office

41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD  
 Tel 0131 554 0114, fax 0131 555 2112, [admin@jmt.org](mailto:admin@jmt.org)  
 for Development, new membership and general enquiries  
 Tel & fax 0845 458 2910, [info@johnmuiraward.org](mailto:info@johnmuiraward.org)  
 for the John Muir Award

Tel 0845 456 1783, [programmes@jmt.org](mailto:programmes@jmt.org)  
 for the Activities Programme

Tel 0845 458 8356  
 for enquiries about existing membership

Skye land management office

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

#### Partner organisations

On the boards of John Muir Trust partner organisations, our nominated directors (and alternates) at 31 December 2006 were:

**Assynt Foundation**

Mick Blunt

**John Muir Birthplace Trust**

Adam Gillingham, Robert Russel

**Knoydart Foundation**

Fran Lockhart (Douglas Halliday)

**Nevis Partnership**

Fran Lockhart

**North Harris Trust**

Nigel Hawkins (Mick Blunt)

**Orbost Trust**

Douglas Halliday

## JOHN MUIR

John Muir, born in 1838 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 wild 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 that the great spiritual qualities of wilderness, of tranquillity and of solitude can be preserved as a legacy for those to come.

Journey for the Wild:  
Ritchie Somerville, Brian  
Horisk and Nevis on  
their way south from  
Glen Nevis; Keith Miller  
on Ben Avon's summit;  
on a shingle bank in the  
River Nevis Charles  
Kennedy, MP for Ross,  
Skye and Lochaber,  
school pupils and volun-  
teers welcome the  
batons from the four  
compass points;  
Brian Wilson and  
Lorraine McCall pass the  
Bass Rock in the Forth  
on the way from  
Anstruther to Dunbar.

wild land - wildlife  
education - adventure

