

# MEMBERS' NEWS

SUMMER 2021

JOHN  
MUIR  
TRUST



## Chair's welcome

On Saturday 19 June, we held our second successful virtual AGM, which I was unable to attend due to ill health. Thanks to the NHS, I'm now well on the way to a full recovery and I want to thank Jane Smallman for so ably taking on the role of Acting Chair at very short notice.

I also thank the more than 1,000 members who participated in the consultation about the new Articles of Association, which were approved at the EGM (see page 5), and Gair Brisbane, Patricia Jordan, Xander McDade and Chris Townsend, Trustees who stood down at the AGM after making a significant contribution to the work of the Trust during their time in office.

With welfare in mind, the management team are considering the options for flexible staff working as Covid restrictions ease: some staff are keen to get back to the office, while others are happy to stay at home. We fully understand the need for life - work balance, as well as the benefits of working with colleagues in person, and are talking with staff individually to understand their needs and to support them appropriately. In the meantime, office-based staff will continue to work from home where possible until 30 September.

Despite some continuing restrictions, staff have been extremely busy with many noticeable achievements: we've seen a recent peak in family engagement in the John Muir Award; we completed peatland restoration work on Skye; volunteers have planted 500 Alpine plants on the crags at Thirlmere; and we completed a scoping study considering options for car parking and infrastructure at East Schiehallion to cope with the increase in visitor numbers.

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE GIBSON



Working in partnership, we've attracted funding through the Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership for a new deer larder at Glencanisp Lodge, enabling us to replace an unsuitable facility that we've used for the past 10 years. The Trust will manage the new larder, which will be made available to the local community.

Sadly, we are fully aware of the ongoing and increased threat to sensitive wild land and peatland from industrial scale wind farms. The Trust fully supports decarbonisation of our energy supply and the role of renewables, but not at the expense of precious wild land which is a finite and diminishing resource.

The challenge we face continues to be the lack of any location strategy on the part of respective governments, and the real threat of further erosion of Wild Land Areas as developers seek new locations which will provide them and landowners with guaranteed income and profit.

I joined staff and other Trustees recently to visit the proposed site of the Sallachy wind farm on the shores of Loch Shin, where the potential for a significant impact on the Wild Land Area and peat carbon storage was only too self-evident. Our Policy Team have since lodged a well-argued objection against the planning application.

Looking ahead, we have started work on our next corporate strategy as the current plan is coming to an end. We welcome your input and will be writing to invite you to engage with the process later in the year.

Thank you for your continuing support and involvement.

**Dave Gibson**

## Members' Gathering postponed until 2022

We had planned for a Members' Gathering to take place on 2 October this year. Unfortunately, due to the continued uncertainty and restrictions associated with Covid-19, we have taken

the decision to delay an in-person gathering this year and will be looking ahead to 2022 when we hope to be able to provide a safe and enjoyable opportunity for us all to get together.

We hope to provide an alternative opportunity to connect with Members in the autumn, so keep an eye on our monthly eNewsletter and website for any updates.

## MSP Nature Champions needed

We plan to work with individual MSPs to champion species and habitats closely associated with wild places through Scottish Environment LINK's Nature Champions. Popular with MSPs, the initiative has helped eNGOs work more closely with individuals encouraging them to become advocates for nature.

Over the coming months we hope to find an MSP to champion dwarf birch. This species is closely associated with our work to restore mountain woodland and natural tree lines at Trust-managed Schiehallion and Nevis, where grazing pressure has prevented the recovery of upland birchwoods. We also hope to find a champion for wild orchid as a species that symbolises the rich biodiverse landscapes of Scotland's North-West.

Earlier in the year, the John Muir Trust joined 35 other Scottish Environment LINK partners to sign an open letter to MSPs, which was published in the Scotsman on Friday 4 June. It emphasised the urgent need for MSPs to be a voice for nature recovery in Parliament.

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES ROBERTSON



Dwarf birch was prized for its bright yellow dye

## Trust manifesto for Scotland's land, communities and nature

In March 2021 the Trust published its manifesto for the Holyrood May 2021 elections. It laid out eight ambitious, but practical, measures that could help transform Scotland's natural environment for its local people and visitors; accelerate us towards net zero carbon; and provide opportunities for our most fragile communities.

The manifesto includes a proposal for phasing in a graded tax on carbon emissions released from land. It is envisaged this would begin as a pilot scheme on properties in excess of 10,000 ha before being extended to all landholdings in excess of 1,000 ha. The proposal is intended to encourage landowners to manage marginal uplands in ways that allow the land to store carbon naturally.

The Trust first introduced the proposal in evidence to Scotland's Climate

Assembly – Scotland's first citizens' assembly focused on climate change – in January 2021. It has since been shared for feedback and discussion with academics, the Just Transition, the UK Committee on Climate Change, Scottish Environment LINK members, NatureScot, the Chartered Institute of Taxation and others.

At the end of June, the Climate Assembly members added a recommendation to "introduce a carbon land tax which taxes emissions created through land use and penalise land currently emitting more carbon than it captures" in their final report sent to the Scottish Parliament. This was supported by 81 per cent of the members, making it the second most popular of the seven proposed taxes.

We welcome Members' comments – email [rosie.simpson@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:rosie.simpson@johnmuirtrust.org)



Help us stand up for Wild Land Areas like this one in Wester Ross

# Planning draft due September

## Trust prepares to fight for Wild Land Areas

In February 2021 the Trust submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Position Statement on the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4). NPF4 will be a long-term plan (looking ahead to 2050) for development in Scotland with policies that will guide future planning decisions.

The Trust's response to the Position Statement promoted the benefits of wild land, wild places and Wild Land Areas in relation to stated national planning outcomes: improving the health and wellbeing of people living in Scotland; increasing the population of rural areas of Scotland; meeting targets relating to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and securing positive effects for biodiversity.

Current National Planning Policy provides qualified protection to wild land in Scotland, which we would like to see retained in the draft NPF4 expected this autumn. However, an analysis of the publicly available responses revealed the Government is under pressure from renewable energy companies to remove references to Wild Land Areas from any future spatial plan for onshore wind energy development.

Given the successful decarbonisation of Scotland's power sector (97 per cent of electricity in Scotland is now from renewable sources, the greatest proportion of this supply from onshore wind) NPF4 should guide development that will help decarbonise other sectors of the economy. Examples include: the development of battery storage; heat pumps and hydrogen solutions for decarbonising transport and domestic heating; identify and protect peatlands and uplands that act, or will do after restoration, as natural carbon sinks; and prioritise the reuse of brownfield sites for renewable development.

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAEME NICOLL



# More onshore wind farm applications

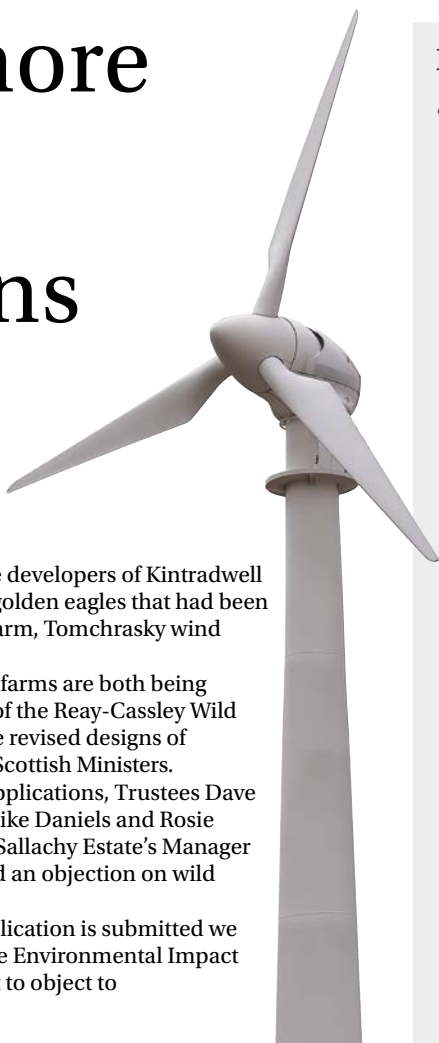
Between January and the end of May 2021 we recorded information on 49 wind farm development proposals at sites around Scotland, that are either at scoping or full planning application stage.

For developments that raise immediate concerns we have been engaging with the developers. Earlier this year we spoke to the developers of Kintradwell wind farm to raise concerns about nesting golden eagles that had been flagged by a Trust Member, Sallachy wind farm, Tomchrasky wind farm and Achany extension wind farm.

The Sallachy and Achany extension wind farms are both being proposed at sites in the south easterly part of the Reay-Cassley Wild Land Area. While new applications, they are revised designs of previous applications that were refused by Scottish Ministers.

To inform the Trust's response to these applications, Trustees Dave Gibson and Phil Graves joined Trust staff Mike Daniels and Rosie Simpson to visit the Sallachy site and meet Sallachy Estate's Manager in early May. On return, the Trust submitted an objection on wild land grounds to the Highland Council.

Once the Achany extension planning application is submitted we will carefully review relevant Chapters of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. We do, however, expect to object to this development.



## News in brief

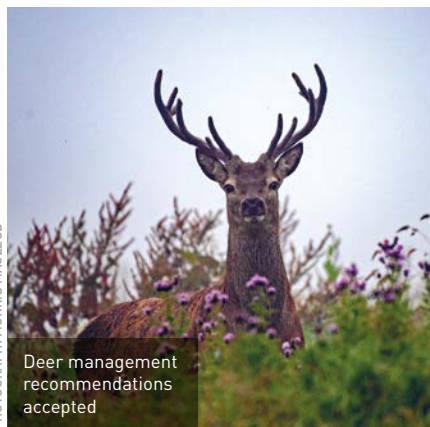
- Kinardochoy substation**  
 The Trust submitted comments on the proposed Kinardochoy substation near Loch Kinardochoy in Highland Perthshire in March 2021. Following a virtual meeting last year, the Trust reviewed the full planning application, focusing on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, Ecology Reports, Habitat Restoration Plans and how the development through design intended to reduce its impacts. In our comments we expressed disappointment that a viewpoint from Schiehallion had not been included as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
- State of Nature**  
 The 2019 State of Nature Reports told us that nature in each of the UK countries is still in decline. Earlier this year the Prime Minister urged world leaders to reverse nature's decline by 2030, but there's currently no legal commitment to do the same here at home. In March 2021 the Trust joined other members of Wildlife and Countryside LINK in signing a letter to the Prime Minister asking for the Environment Bill to include a target to reverse nature's decline in the UK by 2030. During March we promoted a public petition for a State of Nature Amendment to the Environment Bill. This Bill is now on its second reading in the House of Lords and the public petition was signed by 208,498 people.
- English wild places**  
 In England we continue to provide information, advice and guidance to a range of government and consortium-led strategic initiatives and working groups, positioning the John Muir Trust as a key link in advising national policy and advocating for the protection, value and awareness of wild places. These working groups include the Natural England led National Outdoors for All Working Group, National Parks UK education and outreach working group and the #iwill campaign environmental steering group.
- Wellbeing in Wales**  
 As Chair of the Wales Council for Outdoor Learning, the Trust is working with National Parks, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Natural Resources Wales to advise the Welsh Parliament as it develops the new curriculum for Wales, Covid-19 recovery and the delivery of the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## Deer management to transform

In March 2021 the Scottish Government accepted either in detail, or in principle, 91 of 99 recommendations proposed by the Independent Deer Working Group. To implement many of the recommendations the Government will need to reform existing regulation and/or introduce new legislation. At the time of the announcement, Ben Macpherson MSP told the Scottish Parliament that as the scale of the climate and biodiversity crises increase, the need to seriously address deer management escalates. Deer damage as a result of high densities is extensive across Scotland's wild

land, with direct damage to peatlands and regenerating woodland, the numbers are an obstacle to Scotland's biodiversity aims and climate targets.

The Trust drew the connections between climate, biodiversity and deer management in a publication produced with other Scottish Environment LINK members in December 2019. We welcomed the announcement and are ready to support the Scottish Government in bringing forward reforms.



Deer management recommendations accepted

## Strathaird 'jigsaw' now complete

The Trust has purchased a small area of land at Strathaird on Skye. The 14-acre site is adjacent to and accessed via Strathaird Farm and is surrounded by Trust-owned land.

The area, known as Kilmarie Hatchery, comprises an agricultural building that was formerly used as a salmon hatchery, along with a small cottage, and a lochan with a dam that served as the freshwater supply for the hatchery.

The site is an important piece of the jigsaw at Strathaird Farm and having it in our ownership greatly increases scope and opportunity for redevelopment of the surrounding farm and buildings, including the Kirkibost Old Kirk which was reroofed in 2017.

There are lots of good ideas being put forward for the site. It is an opportunity to strengthen our existing conservation work and community partnerships, by potentially addressing local priorities such as visitor management.

Community consultations will be carried out to share ideas as we move forward.

Outline plans and options will be presented to Trustees for comment and debate this autumn.



Kilmarie Hatchery and the lochan

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

## Award contributes to a green recovery

Support from NatureScot for our John Muir Award and engagement work will help contribute to our goals such as: access to and enjoyment of nature; the role of nature in transforming places where people live; skills for a nature-rich future, especially in youth employment; action to reverse biodiversity loss; and nature-based solutions to climate change and other problems.

By strengthening connection to and care of wild places, the Trust contributes to Scotland's 'green recovery' from Covid-19.



Exotic conifers are removed to restore bog

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

# Natural carbon sink restored on Skye

Our NatureScot Peatland Action project to restore around 35 hectares of peatland at Strathaird on Skye is now complete

Thanks to the Peatland Action Fund, provided by NatureScot, 36.5 hectares of degraded peatland at Faoilean near Blà Bheinn is well on the road to recovery.

The idea to rehabilitate this critical natural carbon sink for both nature recovery and the climate started in 2017. NatureScot Peatland Action Officer Lucy Ballantyne carried out a scoping study of potential peatland restoration sites on Skye and identified Faoilean as a good possibility. This area of peatland had been planted with exotic non-native trees as part of a commercial forestry plan in the 1970s.

Building on Lucy's study, local ecologist Adele Beck undertook a survey to examine the different peatland restoration options available for Faoilean. Adele's study looked at peat depth and condition, drains and watercourses, classification of soils and deep peats and an assessment of timber volume.

Armed with all the information we needed to move forward, and support from Scottish Forestry to amend our long-term forest plan for the area, the Trust engaged environmental forestry

services contractor Duncan Wemyss Ltd to carry out the sensitive works, funded by the Peatland Action Fund programme.

In December 2020 Duncan and his team set about removing 17 hectares of Sitka spruce, using specialised machines

to minimise damage to the surface of the delicate bog.

To protect the deep peat underneath, they also created access tracks for the machinery out of the brush from the harvested spruce.

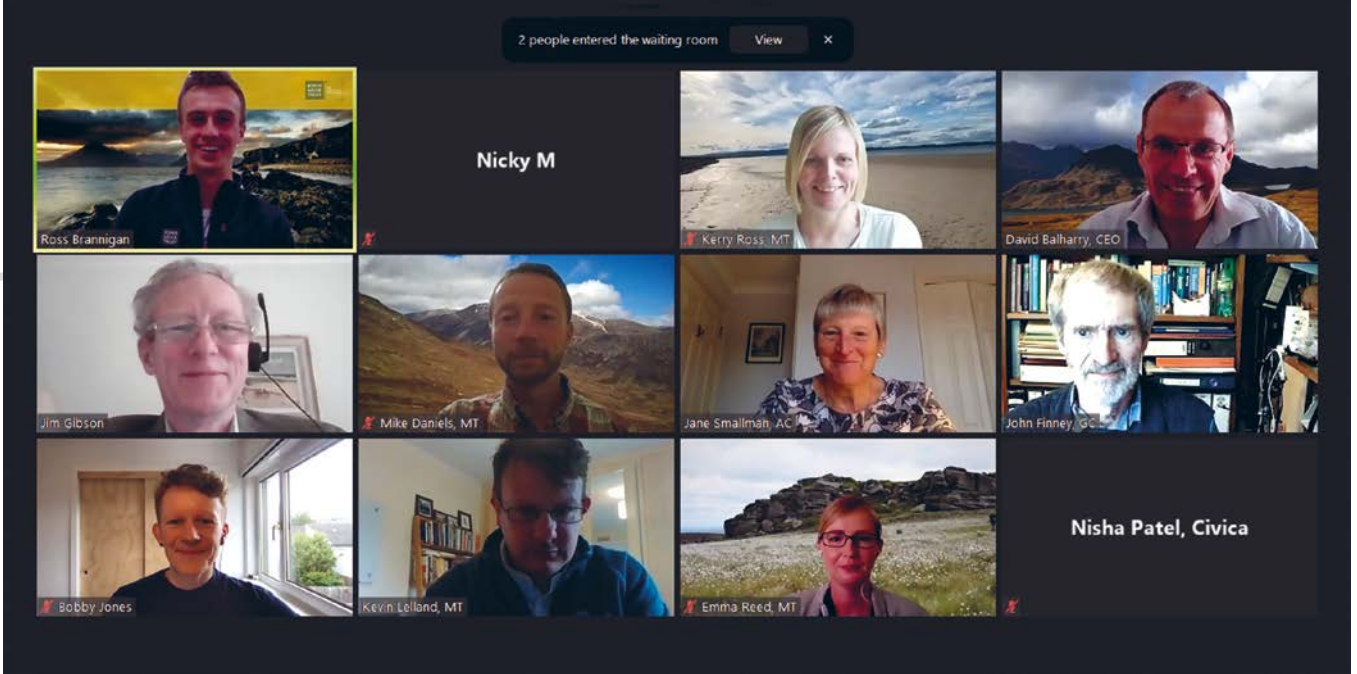
Once all the timber had been removed, and stored in the Blà Bheinn car park until it could be collected and sold,

Duncan and his team set about blocking and reprofiling the ditches and furrows, to slow the flow of water and raise the water level of the bog. Remaining tree stumps were then flipped and pressed into the peat to smooth out the ridge and furrow systems. Peatbog will recover far more effectively if time is taken to make the surface as level as possible.

The Blà Bheinn car park was reopened at the end of May, when visitors could learn about the peatland restoration project from our newly installed interpretation boards.







# Midsummer Members' meeting

The Trust's 38th AGM and EGM enabled Members to hear about last year's successes and achievements

Around 110 Members – from as far afield as Alberta in Canada and Bern in Switzerland – joined us online, on Saturday 19 June, to hear the management team and Trustees talk about the challenges and opportunities offered by 2020.

Chief Executive David Balharry talked about an increasing awareness of the threats to wild places and the fact that this offers an opportunity for the Trust, enabling us to become the lead agency for wild places in the UK. With that in mind, he is working with staff and Trustees on a plan for the next 10+ years which he will share with Members in the autumn.

Award and Engagement Manager Emma Reed said that adapting to living with the virus meant a 70 per cent reduction in the number of Awards achieved during 2020, and a pause in our conservation work parties – which are now starting up again.

Director of Finance and Resources Kerry Ross talked about the importance of introducing a scheme of delegation, financial due diligence and looking after the mental wellbeing of staff at the Trust during the pandemic and beyond.

Trustee Jane Smallman stepped in as acting Chair for our 38th Annual General Meeting because Dave Gibson had been taken ill. She shared Dave's speech, which was themed around the challenges and opportunities of 2020.

Challenges included the ongoing impact of the pandemic which affected our land and engagement work, but also enabled us to develop the Trust's processes and systems to create a more resilient organisation for the future.

Opportunities included building partnerships with like-minded organisations – such as the Langholm Moor community buyout that successfully went through at the end of last year. We have had a leading role in encouraging stakeholders from across the North West Highlands to collectively research and develop a community-led vision for the area for 2045. Meanwhile, at Glenridding Common, we continue to fix paths, survey and plant native species as we prepare to discuss the future tenure of the area with the local community and others.

Members also heard about a land purchase of 14 acres on Skye

comprising an agricultural building, a cottage and a lochan with a dam. The Kilmarie Hatchery site is beside Strathaird Farm, surrounded by Trust owned land – find out more on page 4.

Convenor of the Finance Committee Jim Gibson said 2020 had been better than forecast. There were challenges because of Covid-19, but we are in a strong position to face them thanks to the support of our Members.

Summarising the 2021 budget, Kerry Ross said that free reserves at the end of the year were strong and will enable us to respond flexibly to situations and opportunities as they arise.

As returning officer, David Balharry welcomed new and returning Trustees: Patrick Cadell, Richard Eastmond, Dave Gibson, Jim Gibson, Sheila Wren and Clare Jefferis were elected. He also thanked the Trustees who were demitting office – Gair Brisbane, Patricia Jordan, Xander McDade, John Town and Chris Townsend – for their valued services.

The AGM was followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting, also chaired by Jane Smallman. Members voted to adopt the new

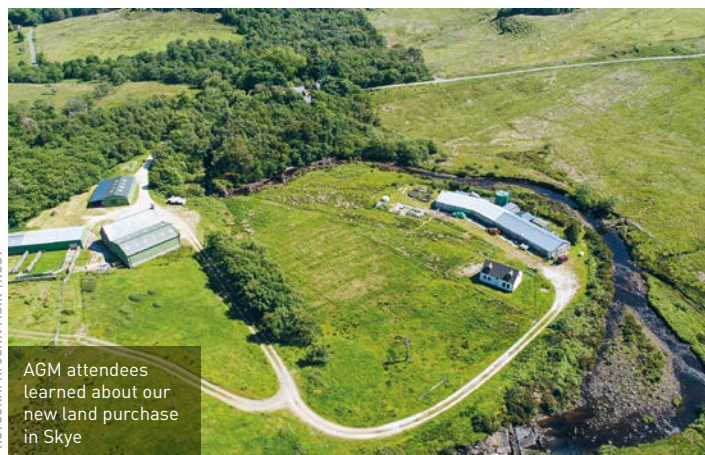
Articles of Association which came into effect immediately and superseded the earlier Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association.

The day concluded with two presentations from Head of Development and Communications Kevin Lelland and Head of Land and Policy Mike Daniels. Kevin talked about the fundraising work of the Trust and how we are connecting with Members and new audiences during the pandemic. Mike talked

about our vital work to protect wild places and managing the demands of increased visitor numbers.

Throughout the meeting, Members had the chance to ask the management team and Trustee questions. Topics ranged from opportunities in England and Wales, to our carbon footprint.

Jane Smallman closed the meeting by thanking everyone who attended and for their interesting comments and questions. She also thanked the staff for their input and preparation which helped the meeting run smoothly, and wished everyone a good summer.



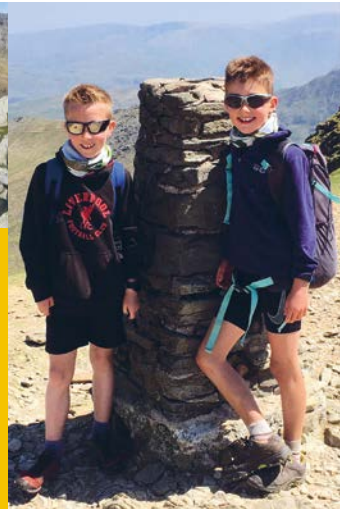
PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR, TRUST

AGM attendees learned about our new land purchase in Skye



PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE AND MAGNUS

Thanks to Joe and Magnus who walked the Bob Graham Round in seven days



## Make a Journey for Wildness

As the UN launches its decade of ecosystem restoration to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation, anything we can do to restore and rewild our ecosystems brings hope and excitement. But there is much work to be done.

Many of our Members and supporters are already doing things like planting wildflowers, picking up litter, and joining work parties to plant and protect trees or repair paths. Doing a Journey for Wildness means you get to turn something fun into something that benefits wild places by raising awareness and funds. It's like an endless circle of giving and receiving.

A fantastic group of Journeymen has

already raised an impressive £5,000 towards our work in wild places by doing a variety of journeys:

Laura Lyall ran all 23 Kilpatricks (in Central Scotland) over 300 metres. Joe and Magnus, ten and nine years old respectively, completed a 66-mile traverse of the Bob Graham round in the Lake District. On his tour of the British coastline, Ben Taylor has spent eight weeks (so far) doing beach cleans around the coasts of Argyll and Lochaber and continues to head north. Gill Moon has been using words and pictures to document seasonal changes in her local Suffolk landscape. Elisabeth Lusche has

completed a 500 miles in 100 days walk and run in her native Netherlands. Rosie Hastings did a nine-mile hike to the Hill o'Fare. Anders Jespersen is walking the John Muir Way picking up litter, while Jane Williamson is planning to cycle the route. Ross Brannigan also took to his bicycle to visit all the land in the Trust's care. He will complete the final leg of his 1,000km journey later this year.

Inspired? If you would like to help us raise money and awareness for wild places and re-connect with nature by doing a Journey for Wildness this year, find out more at [johnmuirtrust.org/journeyforwildness](http://johnmuirtrust.org/journeyforwildness)

### Huge thanks for helping to raise £100k for the Ben and the Glen

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Nevis21 Appeal. We've had an incredible response, with your generous donations helping to exceed the £100,000 target in just three months.

Money raised will support essential path repairs and maintenance, habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, woodland regeneration and much more.

"On behalf of the team at Nevis, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Nevis 21 Appeal," said Nathan Berrie, Nevis Conservation Officer.

"With the recognition that wild places such as Ben Nevis are vital to our post-Covid recovery, we are facing new challenges from increased recreation. Plus, the ever-growing threat of the climate crisis and biodiversity breakdown will no doubt create further challenges for the Nevis area.

"However, with your support we're able to face these challenges and use them as an

opportunity to demonstrate exemplary land management and engage with a new and diverse audience. Thank you."

Our Nevis 21 campaign was supported by Mountain Equipment, who joined our volunteer work party on the Ben at the end of June to lend a helping hand by clearing litter and carry out maintenance on the footpath. The volunteers cleared 15 kg of litter from the walker's path, which included plastic bottles, wipes and banana skins.

On the same day, we also set up a stall in the Ben Nevis Visitor Centre car park to raise awareness of the Trust and its work in the area and collected £300 of donations towards our Nevis 21 Appeal.

We would also like to thank Profitmaster Systems, as well as the Folio Trust, the Lizandy Charitable Trust and the Mintaka Trust for their generous support of this appeal.

If you would still like to donate, please visit [johnmuirtrust.org/nevisappeal](http://johnmuirtrust.org/nevisappeal)



Fixing paths helps protect fragile habitats

PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX GILLESPIE



Langholm Moor has huge potential for carbon storage

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LINTERN



## Up for a challenge?

A partnership between the John Muir Trust, the Langholm Initiative Community Development Trust, Southern Uplands Partnership and South of Scotland Enterprise aims to discover how technology can help landowners better understand the potential for carbon storage on their land and so inform land-use decisions.

Although data on the potential for carbon storage on different habitats does exist in various forms - for example in satellite data - it often cannot be accessed or processed in a meaningful way by land managers.

The challenge has gone out to tender through the Scottish Government's CivTech programme, which exists to invite entrepreneurs and start-ups to help solve challenges faced by public sector organisations.

The successful candidates will then be placed into a tech accelerator programme to explore promising ideas that will be piloted on the new 5,200-acre Tarras Valley Nature Reserve on Langholm Moor in Dumfries and Galloway.

## Help us spread the Wild and Well message

Throughout July and August, the Trust is running a Wild and Well campaign to celebrate the invaluable connection between wild places and people's health and wellbeing.

A growing body of evidence highlights the power of wild places to support our health - emotionally, spiritually, physically, and mentally - and adds to the already compelling case for us to protect and restore wild places.

As part of the campaign, we've created a Wild and Well Repository. This online centralised resource will store research and information, services and publications, films and books - to help explore and explain the inherent benefits of wild places to the health and wellbeing of everyone.

We will also want to support activities and events across the summer months which

demonstrate the value of wild places, and we're keen to partner with others, so if you have any information which you think should be in the Wild and Well Repository, or you want to discuss an event you are running during July and August which promotes the connection between wild places and wellness, please email [julie.gough@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:julie.gough@johnmuirtrust.org)

**Special discount:** Throughout the campaign, we're offering a 25 per cent discount on Trust membership for new members, so more people have the opportunity to add their voice to ours and help us continue to protect wild places for the benefit of the planet and each other.

Please do share our 'WELL25' promotional offer code widely and invite your family and friends to join.



Wild and Well

## News in brief

- Assynt Community Larder**  
 The Trust has entered into an agreement with the Assynt Foundation, with funding secured through the Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape (CALLP) Scheme and the Trust, to build a new deer larder at Glencanisp Lodge. The deer larder will be managed by the Trust and made available to the local community for use. It replaces an old facility that the Trust has been using for the past 10 years.
- Seasonal visitor management staff**  
 Thanks to the NatureScot Better Places Green Recovery Fund, we have recruited seasonal rangers on some of the sites managed by the Trust to help with visitor pressure this year. We welcome Sophie to the Sandwood team, Lisa to the Glenridding Common team, Erin to the East Schiehallion team and Dougie, Danny, Beatrix, Dua and Calum who are working with our Nevis team and Nevis Landscape Partnership. This will also provide an excellent opportunity for the Trust to gather data on people visiting some of our busiest sites.
- Wild places for all**  
 At the end of May we welcomed a film crew to Nevis to shoot a documentary for the BBC - *Boots and Beards* - which follows a hillwalking group set up to encourage Asian people to get out into the hills. The crew followed one of the founders of the group, Nav Bakhsh, and his brother as they climbed Ben Nevis. Watch this space for more news and a transmission date.  
 The Trust believes that wild places are essential and valuable to all. Read about our aims, values and commitments in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy at [johnmuirtrust.org/EDI](http://johnmuirtrust.org/EDI)

Feeling wild and well on Conic Hill near Loch Lomond



PHOTOGRAPH: AL MEEZAN, LLTNP



PHOTOGRAPH: PETE BARRON

Pied flycatcher eggs  
in the Lake District

## Field notes

### The land team reports from the wild front line

**Pete Barron in the Lake District:** "Our wonderful local, green fingered Arctic Alpine growers have been growing plants from seed (or cuttings, for the montane willow species) ready for us to plant on the hillside at Glenridding Common. Not only are they growing plants for their own upland back yard, they are hugely increasing our chances of successful production of water avens, Alpine cinquefoil, globeflower, Burnet saxifrage, tea leaved willow, downy willow and bitter vetch.

"The cool spring weather drove the meadow pipits off the fells and back into the lower field, delaying any nesting attempts until well into May. Another migrant species which we monitor closely in the valley oak woodlands, is the pied flycatcher. The male is a beautiful black and white bird and the female a more discrete soft brown hue. Warmer weather will encourage the caterpillars to emerge in the local upland oak woods to provide food for the newly hatched flycatchers. Fingers crossed that it works out, as the number of this species encountered this year is excellent."

**Romany Garnett at Quinag:** "During a recent dry spell, some campers threw ashes into grass and the strong wind and dry conditions caused the flames to relight. Fortunately, fire engines were able to get it under control quickly. We found snapped off branches from trees in the fire pit. Just shows how easily fires can get out of control. Stoves are recommended for cooking when camping instead of campfires under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

"Meanwhile, the Quinag Wildlife Project has received a report about the bryophytes of Quinag. In it, Gordon Rothero describes the history of recording and distribution, by habitat, of many of the 118 species of liverworts and 229 mosses now listed from the property, largely as a result of the 16 visits he has made over the past 30 years. These include one nationally rare montane liverwort, *Anastrophyllum alpinum*, a further 32 nationally scarce species, and no fewer than 49 of the oceanic species for which the western seaboard of the British Isles is internationally famed."

## Wild Moment: Cooper Spence

### Glen Nevis

My favourite place is the Glen  
It's found at the foot of the Ben  
With the wishing stone and soldiers seat  
This place you cannot beat  
Buzzard flies above the cloud  
Football pitch is very loud  
Braveheart and little bear  
Where I go I do not care  
Deer are rutting on the hill  
The noise can give you a chill  
Tourists come and tourists go  
But my favourite place they will not know  
Little flowers tallest tree  
They are all special to me

*Cooper Spence, from Inverlochry Primary was one of our 2021 Wild Poetry Competition winners in Lochaber. Read more Wild Moments and contribute yourself at [johnmuirtrust.org/wild-moments](http://johnmuirtrust.org/wild-moments)*

## Volunteering update

There are some volunteering opportunities now available. Numbers are restricted so booking is essential. Find out more at [johnmuirtrust.org/support-us/volunteer](http://johnmuirtrust.org/support-us/volunteer)

### Glenlude

**Every Thursday.** Contact [karen.purvis@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:karen.purvis@johnmuirtrust.org)

### Quinag

**16 and 30 August.** Contact [romany.garnett@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:romany.garnett@johnmuirtrust.org)

### Glen Tanar

**21 August, 18 September, 16 October, 20 November, 11 December.** Contact [james@brownhill.us](mailto:james@brownhill.us)

### Balmoral

**17 August, 28 September.** Contact [james@brownhill.us](mailto:james@brownhill.us)

### Ben Nevis

**5 August.** Contact [nathan.berrie@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:nathan.berrie@johnmuirtrust.org)

## Tell us your news!

What have Trust Members and local groups been up to?  
Tell us your news and stories.  
Email [ross.brannigan@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:ross.brannigan@johnmuirtrust.org)

The John Muir Trust Members' News is printed on Cocoon offset, which is an FSC-certified recycled grade paper, containing 100% post consumer waste and manufactured at a mill accredited with ISO14001 environmental management standard. The pulp used in this product is bleached using an Elemental Chlorine Free process. We use a Scottish printer with excellent environmental credentials.

**Managing editor:** Nicky McClure  
[nicky.mcclure@johnmuirtrust.org](mailto:nicky.mcclure@johnmuirtrust.org)

**Editor:** Julie Gough

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COVER BANNER IMAGE: PEAT BOG RESTORATION ON SKYE NEAR BLA BHEINN BY CATHRYN BAILLIE

## Keep in touch

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