

The John Muir Trust
 41 Commercial Street
 Edinburgh EH6 6JD
 Scotland
 www.jmt.org
 Charity no SC 002061

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Chairman

THE JOHN MUIR TRUST has worked continuously and diligently for 21 years to meet our primary objective, which is 'To conserve and protect wild places with their indigenous animals, plants and soils for the benefit of present and future generations' – a credo that with the passage of time is growing in importance and relevance to global society.

The achievements outlined in this report indicate the significant contribution made particularly by the staff, but congratulations are also due to all supporters of JMT.

During its adolescent years much of JMT's efforts have been in acquiring and managing land, often in partnership with local communities. This has provided a firm credible foundation for our future.

Despite increasing support for the cause of Wildland, the challenges we now face to implement our primary objective are perhaps even greater than when the founding members had the great wisdom to establish the JMT.

From this report you will see that the Trust's Wild Land Policy, developed since our inception, has now been set out in a policy paper drafted by Will Boyd-Wallis. This is a highly significant document taken in combination with SNH, NTS and SWLG publications on the subject, and we must ensure that fine words become best practice.

The threats to Wildland (however you define it) are increasing. One of many letters I have received on the subject of windfarms says of one proposal:

This is a major tourist route within an area heavily reliant on tourist income. Any interference in this existing industry is in danger of squandering existing investment and future investments, and destroying many livelihoods.

We may be branded as environmentalists but we too are involved in the economic and social well being of our country. What can be done?

- Alert our decision-makers to the intrinsic value of wildland, and emphasise the imperatives of sustaining, enhancing and expanding these natural treasures.
- Demonstrate best practice wildland management on JMT owned properties and encourage other land managers to do likewise.
- Realistic and pragmatic methods must be found for society to allocate appropriate values to an asset that is diminishing fast.
- Gain greater support for JMT – more members, more resources.

Few people disagree with the need to develop renewable energy. Even more people would agree that we should use existing fossil energy more wisely.

The only acceptable solutions are those that have the greatest public support and provide the future needs of energy with minimum impact on our national and global environment.

DICK BALHARRY

Director's report

2003



Eric Meadows

Chris Brasher and John Davies

The start of the year was a very sad one for the Trust with the deaths of trustee and co-founder Chris Brasher and of former trustee and chairman John Davies. Both played a crucial part in the formative years of the Trust. Everyone at the Trust – and I am sure all those who care deeply about wild land – would agree we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. It is true to say that the Trust wouldn't exist today had it not been for their dedication, resilience and passionate concern for wild land.



Nigel Hawkins
Director

The Trust's steady growth continued throughout 2003 with a number of major new initiatives adding to the day-to-day management of all our activities.

The year began with the final push by the community of North Harris supported by the Trust towards bringing the 55,000 acres of the North Harris estate into community ownership. Success was finally achieved when agreement was struck during a hectic last day of February followed by an historic handover ceremony only three weeks later.

The Trust was invited by the community to join them in this venture and to help with advice on environmental management and to draw on our experience of working with communities. The Trust made a contribution of £100,000 towards purchase and management to assist the community close the funding gap after the Scottish Land Fund and the Community Land Unit of Highlands

and Island Enterprise provided the major part of the £2.25 million purchase price. Many members of the John Muir Trust supported their appeal for funds.

A key part of achieving the deal was the agreement with businessman Ian Scar-Hall who is well known and highly regarded in the community, to purchase Amhuinnsuidhe Castle and fishings, thus halving the over-all purchase price.

The Trust serves on the board of the North Harris Trust (NHT) which is controlled by the community through nine directors appointed to represent different communities within the large estate. NHT soon got into its stride and the local directors headed by chairman Calum MacKay have shown great determination, commitment and enthusiasm for managing the estate in the best interests of community and conservation, recognising that North Harris is one of the most wild and beautiful places in Scotland.

The Cuillin main ridge

Prospects of another new partnership arose during the year with the offer of John MacLeod of MacLeod to gift the main ridge of the Cuillin to the nation if a financial package can be put together for repair and restoration of the clan seat of Dunvegan Castle.

JMT was invited to join discussions led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council about the best way of securing the Cuillin in the public interest. We have been pleased to add our experience of bringing community and conservation interests together both on Skye and elsewhere. We believe that the local community living at Glenbrittle by the Cuillin must be fully involved and that the wider community of the people of Skye are right in thinking that the mountains belong to Skye and that they must be involved. A possible outcome is the setting up of a Cuillin Trust with representatives of both local interests and wider mountaineering and national interests. The John Muir Trust is supporting this and is willing to play its part both as a neighbour and as an organisation which has made a considerable commitment to conservation and communities on Skye.

John Muir Award's incredible year

The John Muir Award, our major educational initiative, goes from strength to strength – and had an incredible year in 2003. In just over a year since the 5000th award,

Top: Glen Meavaig on Harris.

Below: the Cuillin main ridge from near An Dorus; the reopened John Muir Birthplace in Dunbar.



Mike Merchant

In East Lothian we were pleased to see the John Muir Birthplace Trust – in which we are a partner – complete work at John Muir's birthplace at 126 High Street, Dunbar and re-open the birthplace to the public. 4000 visitors went there in the last 3 months of 2003 compared to an average of about 1000 a year before.



Alison McCaig

Steve Green



Steve Green

BP volunteers built and placed two bridges near the start of the Schiehallion path. In August, Deputy First Minister Jim Wallace visited the path project. L-R Nigel Hawkins, Jim Wallace, Paul Jarvis, Chris Cairns and Andrew Campbell.

we reached the 10,000th award and were heading to the 12,000th by the end of the year.

The Award has developed strongly in Scotland, Wales and England. Following the appointment of our first staff member outwith Scotland to manage the Award in North Wales, three staff members were appointed through the Cumbria Youth Alliance to manage the Award in Cumbria. The Award was also adopted by the Cairngorms National Park Authority as a major educational initiative with a full-time manager employed by the park. And in East Lothian a new Award manager was appointed in the county of John Muir's birth.

We now have a staff of nine working on the Award. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund (£257,000), the Cairngorms National Park Authority (£90,000), East Lothian Council and the Rank Foundation for providing support to us or our partners which has made this growth possible.

Development

On the fundraising side we are very appreciative of the £285,000 grant from the Peter De Haan Trust in Kent to support the Skye coastal woodlands project over five years commencing in 2004; and to Scottish Natural Heritage for their continued support over a whole range of projects.

The Trust received a number of legacies in 2003 including a single legacy of £183,000. Legacies are a wonderful way for members and others to provide support for safeguarding and conserving wild places in the future and they are received by the Trust with thanks and humility.

The Trust is exploring opportunities for developing our activities in Wales, building on the successful establishment of the John Muir Award. Meetings have been held with many key players and organisations. The level of support and enthusiasm expressed in these meetings for the

Trust to become involved in the Wales has been very positive.

Schiehallion

The tremendous extended summer of 2003 greatly helped our work on realigning the path on Schiehallion on the east ridge of the mountain. The work was completed ahead of schedule with the new path being brought into use in October. We are grateful for the way people have switched to the new path hence removing the boot pressure from the old path which had turned into an ugly scar. The continuing good weather helped the start of natural healing and we will be working in 2004 to assist this process and hopefully return Schiehallion to her former glory.

Energy issues

Plans for a hydro-electric scheme in the wild mountains



Will Boyd/Walls

Loch na h'Oichde, affected by hydro plans.

'The Trust would like to see clearer guidelines for determining renewable energy applications ... and to have alternatives to ensure local communities do not lose out.'

south of Loch Maree were considered very carefully by the Trust before it was decided to lodge a detailed objection. Normally the Trust confines its activities on planning issues to its own properties or partnerships but considered that in this case the issues were so important that the Trust should take action. Generating 'green energy' from renewable resources is commendable – but there are cases where other factors such as an impact on landscape, wildness, wildlife, the local economy and tourism have to be taken into account. The Trust would like to see clearer guidelines for determining renewable energy applications to create greater understanding of the issues and to have alternatives to ensure local communities do not lose out because of national considerations.

Ministerial visits

We had our first ministerial visits to Trust land during 2003. Firstly

Director's Report, *cont.*



John Donohoe (below) and Cameron McNeish joined the Trustees in 2003.

Deputy First Minister Jim Wallace, who is also Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning, visited Schiehallion to see work on the path and then visited the new community tearoom Poste Taste in the village of Kinloch Rannoch.

Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Ross Finnie spent a day visiting the Skye estates of Sconser, Torrin and Strathaird. At Sconser he opened the new cattle handling facility heralding the return of Highland cattle – good for the land, good for the community and good for visitors. He then opened the new information display and small car park at the start of the Bla Bheinn path.

Both visits gave Ministers the opportunity to learn more about the work of the Trust, and for us the chance to discuss a whole range of issues with them informally.

Staff and trustees

A look at the list of Milestones in this annual report shows the extent and range of the Trust's activities. I am grateful to our small staff team who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Trust. It would be invidious to single out any one but I am sure members, partner organisations and others who have worked with particular staff members will know of their dedication and commitment to the Trust and its ethos.

2003 saw a change of chairman with Dick Balharry, a kenspeckle figure in the Scottish countryside scene, taking over from Andrew Thin who stood down after completing two three-year terms. Andrew has become convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority

and we wish him well there - while at the same time welcoming Dick who brings his own distinctive style and approach to leadership of the Trust.

We also saw a new Honorary Secretary with Donald Thomas taking over from the long serving Bill Wallace, who was a stalwart of the Trust as both Secretary and Treasurer.

We had five candidates for the five vacancies for Trustees in 2003 meaning that for the first time for many years we did not require to have an election. Welcomed to the board as a new Trustee was John Donohoe, former President of the Mountaineering Council for Scotland; and returning were Rob Collister, Keith Griffiths, Donald Thomas and Will Williams. Co-opted to the board during the year was writer and broadcaster Cameron McNeish.

We bid farewell to Andrew Thin, Bill Wallace and Caroline Tisdall-Mackenzie and thank them all for their work for the Trust. Trustees work on a purely voluntary basis giving a lot of time and energy. They are a vital part of the Trust and their work is greatly appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Trust without whom none of this would have been possible. The Trust has no God-given right to exist. It is not a government organisation. It is here only because people who care about wild places want a Trust dedicated to safeguarding and conserving such places – and are willing to support it.

Let us hope we always live up to the high ideals and expectations of our members.

'His own distinctive style...': Dick Balharry, the Trust's new chairman, pictured by Tom Weir some years ago.



Land & property

2003

Andrew Campbell

Land & Property Manager

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

2003

saw a significant change within the Trust's Land & Property department. The remit of this department now includes responsibility for all the Trust's properties excluding Ben Nevis (Will Boyd-Wallis has retained responsibility for Ben Nevis due to the Trust's involvement and commitment to the Nevis Partnership).

To assist with the additional and increasing workload of the department Douglas Halliday was appointed as Assistant Land Manager in August, based on Skye. Office accommodation for Douglas and myself has been integrated into the volunteer and student accommodation building, Clach Glas, on Strathaird estate.

Skye properties

This year saw the successful completion of the first 5-year work programme for the restructuring of the mature conifer plantations on Strathaird. This has included the felling of over 30ha of timber, with all the utilizable timber being sold locally as firewood or as timber for woodchips fuelling commercial heating systems. All these areas have either been replanted with native trees or left for the natural regeneration of native broadleaved tree species. Funding was also secured for the next 5-year programme of woodland work on Skye.

On Sconser work started on removing the old deer fence running up the side of the Allt Daraich. We reported last year that our fence removal programme on Strathaird was complete; well, now we are starting at Sconser! In Torrin a survey of Japanese Knotweed was carried out with a view to beginning an eradication programme during 2004.

Other than the above the majority of work on Skye has followed a programme of ongoing management including activities such as coastal litter clearance, footpath maintenance, deer control, monitoring grazing levels, woodland activities and various monitoring and survey tasks.

Li & Coire Dhorrcail

Our input to this area was purely a care and maintenance programme mainly in relation to the various woodland enclosures on the property with virtually all of the works carried out by volunteers. A current management plan for the property has been drafted which details the Trust's aims and objectives for the property as well as a work programme covering the next 5 years.

Schiehallion

The major works on Schiehallion relate to the footpath project which is covered in the Conservation report. The other main ongoing issue relates to grazing on the mountain. Although there is no longer a sheep grazing tenancy on the mountain we continue to see a number of sheep, albeit a fraction of what used to graze the area, straying onto the mountain. The fenced park by the car park has been used to hold sheep removed from the hillside.



Alan Scott

Sandwood

Cathel Morrison, Sandwood Conservation Manager, has been kept very busy with a range of activities including path maintenance, marram grass planting, removing derelict fencing, survey and monitoring works as well as general estate and crofting administration duties – a never ending and thankless task. The Sandwood Estate Management Committee's plans for an interpretative facility are ongoing with plans having been produced and initial costings carried out.

In order to achieve all we do on the properties we rely on the considerable efforts of volunteers and staff as well as contract labour. I would like to thank all those who helped us out during 2003.



Douglas Halliday

Above: Clach Glas.

Top right: Volunteers clearing and burning brash from around archaeological sites during restructuring of conifer plantations, Strathaird.

Bottom right: Knoydart, June 2003: Clearing bracken from around an oak seedling in the third enclosure at Li and Coire Dhorrcail.



Steve Green

Conservation

2003

Keith Miller

Senior Conservationist

Reporting on surveys, monitoring, pathwork and conservation activities

Surveys & monitoring

The RESULTS of surveys and monitoring inform and guide the Trust's management of its properties and the development of management plans. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) coverage of the Trust's properties is now nearing completion with a survey of west Torrin Estate undertaken by Ben & Alison Averis. Our knowledge of the invertebrates of parts of Strathaird is increasing due to the surveys of Stephen Moran and Philip Entwistle. As part of the comprehensive Strathaird habitat monitoring programme Viv Halcrow carried out recording of blanket mire quadrats and woodland remnants.

At Li & Coire Dhorrcail a second transect was established in Coire Odhar and monitoring carried out by Dot Levison and Lester Standen of this and the first transect. The dominant vegetation within quadrats and the presence and height of tree seedlings are recorded to assess the contrasting impacts of no (or very few) red deer inside the enclosure and the significant number of deer above the fence.

On the Nevis Estate good numbers of the nationally scarce Mountain Ringlet butterfly were found on Meall Cumhann and in Coire Giubhsachan during a dedicated conservation activity held in July.

Archaeological work has continued on East Schiehallion with Clare Thomas finishing the above ground survey of most of the lower ground. The site of a cairn built on the eastern ridge during Maskelyne's 1774 scientific observations was located so that it can be left undisturbed. During a survey of birds on the lower eastern ground of East Schiehallion Ron Youngman recorded the breeding populations of 12 species and



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

established transects that can be used to monitor some of these populations.

We have made many survey findings widely available for the first time, by posting summaries and some longer articles on the Trust's website.



From top: Working on a transect; the Astronomer Royal Neville Maskelyne who used Schiehallion in his experiment to find the weight of the earth; BP volunteers and the drystone dyke they rebuilt at Schiehallion.

Pathwork

During 2003 work continued on the East Schiehallion path realignment. Under the supervision of Chris Cairns, the Trust's Footpath Project Manager, the realigned path was completed and operational before the end of the year. Beyond the top of Section E, above around 850m, actions have been limited to line definition for a few hundred metres to encourage descending walkers to use the realigned path rather than the 'old' route. To assist this several cairns have been demolished and blocking (disguising) the 'old' route has been started. After leaving the Forest Enterprise car park the path passes a small interpretation area and heads directly for the base of the east ridge beside a rebuilt drystone dyke. Re-vegetation of the lowest part of the 'old' route has been carried out. Plans for the re-vegetation of this route further up Schiehallion have been developed along with the associated monitoring work.

Conservation activities

Sandy Maxwell, JMT Conservation Activities Co-ordinator, reports that numbers on conservation activities continued to grow with an average of over 15 attending each members' event, with a total of 184 participants (130 different individuals).

Along with other sessions by various clubs and groups the conservation activities programme contributes greatly to the practical work carried out on JMT properties as well as giving members a chance to explore and learn more about how the JMT conserves these areas. This contribution by volunteers is greatly appreciated by the Trust.



Steve Green

Policy & partnerships

Will Boyd-Wallis
Policy and Partnerships
Manager

*Reporting on the
development of Trust policy
and partnerships*



Will Boyd-Wallis

Policy

AS

a relatively small organisation, but with big commitments, we always have to input our energy where it matters most.

It was with this in mind that JMT trustees decided, in May, to present a major formal objection to hydro-scheme proposals in the wild and remote country of upper Shildaig and Flowerdale Forests in Wester Ross.

The rush to achieve the Government's ambitious targets for developing renewable energy has been a major issue throughout 2003. We have worked with others in Scottish Environment LINK to provide a joint statement recognising the need to tap into renewable energy, but not at the expense of our most treasured wild land. We have also been further developing our own Wild Land Policy in order to more clearly define what we mean by wild land, why it is important, and how we wish to see it managed for the future.

In June we produced a detailed response to Scottish Natural Heritage's consultation on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. In October we offered a wild land perspective on the Deer Commission for Scotland's draft guidance on the pros and cons of deer fencing. We continue to raise awareness of the need to engage sympathetically with local communities in land management. This was the subject of a paper delivered to a Scottish Environment LINK seminar on wild land in February.

Gordon Jackson



*From top: Abhainn Scaladail
on North Harris Estate rushes
down from the northern
corries of the highest hills in
the Western Isles; Inverie Bay;
the remains of the observatory
on the summit of the Ben.*

Partnerships

It has been a busy year of negotiations in the Nevis Partnership to obtain the funding to carry out the many projects we hope to see happening on Ben Nevis Estate in the near future. Our main preoccupation has been the regeneration of native woodland in Glen Nevis and the management of The Ben summit. Volunteers have again assisted with summit cleanups and an extremely successful survey of the elusive mountain ringlet butterfly. Following a summit visit with Historic Scotland we are working to prevent the further deterioration of the observatory ruins. In September, we were pleased to take part in the selection and appointment of the new Nevis Manager, Jonathan Hart (a long-standing JMT member and volunteer).



Mike Merchant

We are also pleased to be contributing towards a new Ranger post in Knoydart. Ian Fleming, based at Inverie, is now available for guiding wildlife walks and carrying out habitat monitoring. It has long been the wish of JMT that vegetation monitoring be the guide to deer management on Knoydart. In contrast with the dilemmas faced over some renewable energy schemes elsewhere, we are delighted that the Knoydart community's highly appropriate hydro scheme is now fully refurbished and providing secure power for local use.

The high-point in this year's partnership work was the purchase of North Harris Estate by the North Harris Trust in March. JMT contributed towards the purchase and future running of the estate and is represented on the board of the NHT. Together with Scottish Natural Heritage, we are aiming to initiate funding mechanisms to ensure the continued sustainable management of the Estate's protected habitats, species and wild landscapes.

The success of all our work depends upon the expertise and enthusiasm of many people. I am grateful for the support of colleagues, trustees, volunteers and all our partners.

Education

2003

David Picken

Education Manager

Reporting on our educational activities, including the John Muir Award

The John Muir Award is the main educational initiative of the John Muir Trust, and contributes significantly to the winning of hearts and minds to conserving wild places. It is a national environmental award scheme that focuses on wild places and encourages the discovery and conservation of wild places, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. It is non competitive and open to all.

The expansion of the John Muir Award really took off in 2003 with 4045 people achieving an Award, taking us to over 12,000 awards since the programme started seven years ago. We also developed our major partnerships and through that secured the support and funding enabling us to increase the staff team to nine people. We worked with a total of 273 organisations across the UK. Of course it is not just numbers, but the quality of experiences which is so heartening.

Major initiatives

East Lothian: The Rank Foundation have continued their support with an 'Investing in Success' grant of £90,000 over 3 years, coupled with funding and support from East Lothian Council. George Sim has been appointed as the Regional Manager. He will be aiming to make the John Muir Award a household name throughout East Lothian.

Cairngorms National Park: The John Muir Award was in at the start of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA). A partnership funded for 3 years by the CNPA, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and LEADER+ has enabled there to be a John Muir Award Regional Manager, Robbie Nicol, to cover the park and surrounding area. Our thanks to Elspeth Grant at CNPA and Murray Ferguson for supporting this initiative.

Cumbria: Our partnership with Cumbria Youth Alliance took a great step forward with the announcement of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £257,000 over 3 years. Alan Smith as Regional Manager, Michelle Donoghue as a Development Worker and Sarah Kekus as Administrator start in 2004. They are employees of CYA/University of Central Lancashire. This would not have been possible without the hard work of Gavin Shelton at CYA and the support of the Cumbria Award advisory group.

Staff

Rob Bushby has been promoted to the John Muir Award Manager for the UK, and to support our growing administration demands Clare de Mowbray joined the team. Leigh Shearer who started with the Award as a volunteer, progressed onto a Gap placement and then covered the East Lothian manager's job, left for a full time job with East Lothian Council Ranger Service.



Award activity on Ben Lawers by Morrison's Academy, Crieff.

International

The Canadian Friends of John Muir based in Meaford Ontario had their first group completing the Discovery Award. The project was on the Niagara Escarpment biosphere reserve. Their achievement made local press and TV coverage where a message from Andrew Thin was read out.

Phillipa Mitchell in Thailand has managed to secure funding from the Thai Government to develop the John Muir Award as the Youth Environment Award.

Young people and leaders from East Lothian worked extremely hard to set up an adventure in the footsteps of John Muir in a visit to the USA. They raised over £14,000 and their trip included a wilderness journey in Yosemite, visiting Muir's house, official receptions and homestays in Martinez.

Programmes

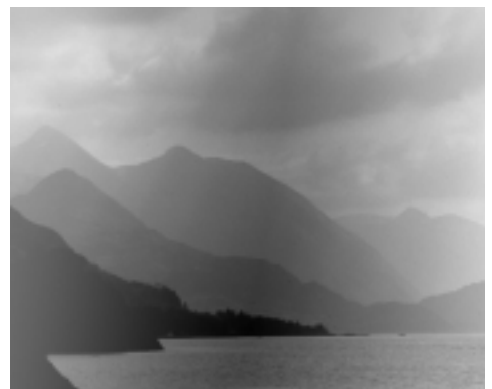
In a superb Summer Programme, 12 varied trips involved 135 participants and leaders. Asked to rate the trip on a score of 1 to 10, the average was 9.3. We increased the diversity of the programme, with two new trips for adults – trekking in the Bernese Oberland and a visit to Eigg. We're also working more in partnership : for example, Ty Gwyn Outdoor Centre in Snowdonia offered a week of centre-based activities and Del Davies organised a Duke of Edinburgh's Award exploration in the Rhinogs.

We said a fond farewell to Angus Miller after 4 years

New faces



Top row L-R Sam Baumber, George Sim, Michelle Donoghue, Alan Smith; bottom row Clare de Mowbray, Robbie Nicol, Sarah Kekus



of nurturing, managing, and directing the Summer Programme, as well as running the office in the early days of the Award. Angus made a great contribution to the development of the Award and was our computer expert, web designer and green conscience.

The Discovery Trips, Summer Programme, Specialist courses and the Conservation Activities have been combined to form the John Muir Trust Activities Programme. Sam Baumber manages the programmes and will work with Sandy Maxwell in making this new venture a great success.

Other aspects

We managed another safe year with no major incidents. Our new child protection policy will check all staff and volunteers that work with young or vulnerable people.

A major survey of 43 Award Providers in Scotland was carried out with overwhelmingly positive results.

We depend on committed and skilled leaders to deliver quality John Muir Awards. During the year 14 leader training courses were run throughout the UK with 118 leaders attending.

Into 2004

We head into 2004 with an enthusiastic and expanded staff team and with strong support from the Trustees and other JMT staff.

Work our partners have done

- The Field Studies Council centre at Rhyd-y-Creiau ran 'Family Eco-Adventure' programmes including outdoor and exploratory activities, and conservation work based on an organic farm.
- Four classes at Campie Primary School in Musselburgh created a mini nature trail, planted trees, put up bird/bat boxes and cleared rubbish and invasive/non-native plants from the local burn.
- The Abernethy Trust outdoor centre at Ardeonaig ran their first Award programme in a residential week for Linlithgow Primary School. The centre's grounds and woodlands of Drummond Hill were ideal for learning about what makes a wild place special.
- In the Kingussie High School/Highland Wildlife Park partnership pupils fed wolves and bison and looked at traditional use of moorland by creating their own mini-moorland habitat by heather burning.
- Dowdales School from Dalton in Furness are working with the Friends of the Lake District replanting native trees in High Borrowdale.
- At Whitehill Colliery Woodland, East Ayrshire Woodlands and Riverside Outdoor Learning Group helped achieve conservation management objectives and biodiversity targets.

Caroline Walker



We were all greatly saddened by the death on 2 September of Caroline Walker in an accident on The Cobbler near Arrochar.

Caroline had been a staunch friend and ally of the Trust, took part in many volunteer work parties and was active in the John Muir Award and the West of Scotland group.

Interpretation Policy

A new John Muir Trust-wide Interpretation Policy will enable us to meet objectives in the Corporate Plan and maintain the ethos of the Trust. Producing the policy involved much discussion with staff and Trustees including a workshop facilitated by James Carter, consultant and trainer.

The purpose of interpretation for the John Muir Trust is to:

Encourage an appreciation among the general public of the value of wild land for its own sake, and for future generations.

Raise the profile of the Trust in order to promote its principles more widely, and to assist in its operations through increased membership and support.

Contribute towards the delivery of management objectives at certain sites, influence other landowners and acknowledge funding bodies and partners.

The Trust will develop interpretation plans for properties, and promote interpretation delivered person to person by local people where possible.

they said...

'The John Muir Award complements Raleigh's strong focus on activity and personal development ... integrating neatly into expedition life by applying the themes of Discovery, Exploration, Conserving and Sharing.'
 – Lucy Billings, Raleigh Newsletter December 2003.

'Challenging and enjoyable, a great time on the beaches.'
 – Summer programme participant

'The John Muir Award will make outdoor education more accessible and less "ruffty-tuffty".'
 – Cumbria Youth Alliance board member

KATE'S AWARD MILESTONE



KATE FARRAR of George Watson's College, Edinburgh gained the 10,000th John Muir Award. The Award was presented by Trustee Maude Tiso.

JOHN MUIR AWARD IN FIGURES

Who takes part?

	Per cent
Male	57
Female	43
Age	
<12	44
12-16	30
16-24	13
24+	3

Socially excluded backgrounds 27

Scotland	58
Wales	28
England	12

Opinion survey

Per cent

Why engage?

Gives structure to activities	64
Certificate	67
Achievement	91
Shared ethos & philosophy	84

Were Award aims met?

Increased awareness of wild places	83
Encouraged to value wild places	90
Educational, social and personal development promoted	81
Awareness of John Muir raised	90

Development

2003

Alison McGachy
Development Manager

*Reporting on fundraising,
membership recruitment
and involvement*

DONATIONS from companies and charitable trusts have continued to grow, with sizeable grants towards the John Muir Award from the Rank Foundation (£30,000) and Bank of Scotland (£20,000). The Linley Wightman Shaw Foundation donated £20,000 for Ben Nevis, and BP £15,850 as a result of BP staff holding two workparties on Schiehallion. Substantial funding for the Isle of Skye Coastal Woodland project was secured from the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust with a grant of £285,000 over five years from 2004 until 2008.

There were a number of profile raising events in Scotland and the North of England. The Writers' Museum in Edinburgh hosted the first ever exhibition on the writings of John Muir, designed by Katie Jackson, and was visited by 10,000 people during the summer. The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle was the venue for another Trust exhibition. David Wilson, the Fort William based artist, returned to his hometown to exhibit paintings of Trust lands. He sold 20 of 30 paintings and donated 10% of the profits to the Trust.

We attended a range of events in 2003 including our first visit to The Outdoors Show in Birmingham – thanks to 12 members who came along to help. Fort William, Dundee and Kendal Mountain Film Festivals went ahead as usual and this year we had the first Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival which the Trust was pleased to support.

John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar re-opened in August to much acclaim. Visitor numbers in the first 3 months were just over 4000. This compares to 1000 visitors a year before its refurbishment.

USA links have been improving and 2003 was no exception. The Sierra Club is keen to have news from John Muir's home country which appeal to their readers. The Writers' Museum exhibition was on display at the San Francisco Public Library from December 2003 until February 2004.

Merchandise sales have continued to increase and we sold 3000 Wild Nature Yearbooks and 78,000 cards. Thanks to Douglas and Helen Lamont, David Stevenson, John Harrison, Jenny Pond, Dave Duncan, Robert Russel and Maureen Wallace for their hard work packing orders since July. We added membership details to the merchandise flyer and inserted it into the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Saltire Society and C-n-Do mailings. Donations from the form helped generate income of £4650.

A total of 859 new members, combined with the highest renewal rate of 95%, increased membership to 8368. Total membership and supporter numbers rose from 10,562 to 11,000. 63% of members and 41% of supporters now make Gift Aid declarations, generating over £41,000 of extra income for our work.

Communicating with members continues to be important to the Trust. Our website has more information on our estates, maps, surveys, local talks, events, conservation work and how people can donate towards our work. The *Journal* moved to a new format following members' comments and we continue to communicate via email regarding local events and news.

Douglas Egginton

We were saddened by the death towards the end of the year of Douglas Egginton, a stalwart of the Trust who had put a huge effort in to the Edinburgh members group. He and his wife Judy helped through organising events, doing voluntary work, arranging meetings and evangelising about the work of the Trust. Douglas also encouraged Standard Life to take on the printing and mailing of our *Journal* saving us many thousands of pounds over several issues.



Alison in the foyer of the re-opened John Muir Birthplace Trust, Dunbar. Below, David Wilson's painting of Elgol, included in a show benefiting the Trust held at the Biscuit Factory, Newcastle.



Finance & Administration

Gavin Stewart

Finance Manager

The work in the Finance Department is becoming an increasingly important function. In addition to the obvious task of keeping the books, there is a whole list of activities that are now vitally necessary to a successful charity – preparing and updating budgets, providing detailed financial reports for managers and trustees, claiming grants (the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage especially), risk assessment to identify and mitigate the main threats to the organisation, insurance, and monitoring the legal requirements of charities.

With respect to the last, there is now the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and the likelihood of a range of new requirements for JMT and others. Like all other voluntary organisations, JMT's insurance costs have doubled over the last two years, and it now is requiring some £10,000 per year to meet all our needs.

Like all other
voluntary organisations, JMT's
insurance costs have doubled over
the last two years

The Finance Committee of the Trust has now been running for a year and a half, and is proving to be a valuable help to the Finance Manager, for it periodically brings fresh eyes to look at reports, budgets and annual accounts. It also reviews the Trust's investment portfolio with our investment managers twice a year.

Meetings of the Audit Committee, formed at much the same time and chaired by Donald Thomas, have scrutinised the financial systems of the Trust and found them to be in good order.

We continue to keep our IT equipment up to date, bringing in new software to meet our developing needs. We are finding that there is an ever-increasing need for vigilance to combat viruses, on which we are generally successful. Finally, tribute should be made to the voluntary help that is given, and particularly by Bill Wallace and Keith Griffiths, the Hon Treasurer.

A few words about legacy giving

In 2003 we used income from legacies to help the people of **North Harris** to secure their own land — and to manage our own seven **estates** in many ways including the planting of thousands of trees — and to help our fight for **the cause of wild land** including opposing the hydro scheme near Loch Maree. There are only two words to say what happens to the legacy money we receive.

IT WORKS.

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

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



Minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the John Muir Trust, held at the YMCA, Lakeside, Newby Bridge, Cumbria, on Sunday 18 May 2003

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mr Andrew Thin, the Chairman of the Trust, welcomed approximately 50 members who were present. Regretfully he had to report the deaths of Chris Brasher and John Davies both of whom had made major contributions to the development of the Trust. Chris was one of the founder members and a trustee while John had been an inspirational leader during his term as chairman.

Apologies had been received from: Sir Crispin Agnew, Kate Ashbrook, Ken Crocket, Jean Crowson, John Dickson, Colin & Elaine Eastwood, Eric Gendle, Adam Gillingham, Robert & Margaret Hall, Bernard Jarvis, Paul & Margaret Jarvis, Robin Perry, I R Porteous, R C Snaddon, Angela Soper, Linda Lane Thornton, Caroline Tisdall-Mackenzie, W B Wallis.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 21 April 2002 were approved. Approval was proposed by Maude Tiso and seconded by Maureen Wallace.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Number of Trustees: The Chairman reported that, in the postal vote, a majority had voted for the proposed reduction in the number of trustees to 15 by electing not more than 5 in each year from 2003.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman pointed out that, measured by size, compared with other non-government charitable organisations, we were well down the league table and the fact that we were now considered to be a major conservation charity was a tremendous tribute to Nigel Hawkins and our staff. However, our resources were severely limited and we were in danger of overstretching them. This meant that we were having to operate under very tight management and financial controls and be careful when asked to take on further commitments. Nevertheless there was a very important future for us.

In Scotland there was now immense emphasis on social inclusion with pressure on those involved in wild land to manage both in the national and in the local public interest. There were too many single interest organisations which had no place in determining what happened to wild land. One of our key strengths was our holistic approach which involved working with local interests and which, in turn, involved the national interest.

While we were very well placed strategically to have influence over the next decade, to do this required building up our resource base. By doubling membership we will become very influential and continue to be a leading conservation charity.

5. Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002

The Honorary Treasurer opened his remarks by saying that he saw his task as delivering resources and maintaining financial control.

In the Annual Accounts the increase in total income was entirely due to the very large grants received for the Schiehallion footpath. Subscription income had increased by 9% but there had been a 17% fall in donations. Increasing our membership had to be a key crusade. The decrease in corporate donations was due to a reduction in the number of man days worked by BP employees on Schiehallion.

There had been a big increase of 44% in expenditure, again mainly due to the Schiehallion footpath project and buying out the sheep grazing tenant there. There had also been expenditure on building up other activities, especially the Award.

The overall deficit for the year was £85,770 to which had to be added unrealised losses on investments of £41,666. The fall in value of quoted investments in the Balance Sheet was due to sales and conversion into cash.

The loss of £8565 by the Trading Company arose from farm and woodlands operations. Merchandising activities, which were very valuable in promoting awareness of the Trust, produced a surplus of £18,684 which in accordance with Inland Revenue requirements had been covenanted to the Trust.

Looking forward to 2003, the Trustees had agreed a balanced budget. He was optimistic that this would be achieved as legacies received and subscription income were ahead of budget while expenditure appeared to be under control. Investments were showing a modest increase in value. The overall position should be break even or better and he was cautiously happy provided we could build up a larger membership base.

He concluded by thanking the staff, particularly Gavin Stewart, for their hard work throughout the year.

In answer to a question on the value of £1,889,611 described as Trust Properties, this was the total purchase price for all Trust properties and was required to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice. Previously this had been shown as a note to the Accounts.

Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002 was moved.

The Trust: Proposed D Balharry, Seconded D Thomas

Trading Company: Proposed M Tiso, Seconded T Gladstone

6. Reappointment of Auditors

The reappointment of the auditors, Messrs Bryce Wilson & Co was approved unanimously.

7. Election of Trustees

The Chairman said that all of the eight preceding years had had contested elections but that this year as there were five candidates for five vacancies no election had been necessary. It was disappointing that there was not more than one new candidate, John Donohoe. It would have been nice to have had candidates of both



Peter Wakeley/English Nature

The south end of
Windermere, east side,
looking towards
Backbarrow.

sexes from wider backgrounds.

He paid tribute to the contributions from Caroline Tisdall-Mackenzie and Bill Wallace who were not seeking re-election, and pointed out that, with the sad death of Chris Brasher the number of trustees was now 17 which would reduce to 15 over the next two years. He also thanked Denis Mollison and Donna Mackenzie for all their work.

8. Director's Report

The Director advised that he had nothing to add to his report in the Annual Report which was then formally approved.

The Chairman thanked Nigel Hawkins for his very hard work on behalf of the Trust.

9. Constitutional and Related Matters

Denis Mollison pointed out that by reducing the number of Trustees gradually to 15 and by restricting their continuous service to two terms of three years we were influenced by other non-government organisations who were adopting similar measures. The following resolution was then put to the meeting:

That Article 28 of the Articles of Association be replaced by the following:

A Trustee shall retire at the end of their three year term but be eligible for re-election for a further three year term, but after that period shall not be eligible for election as a Trustee until the next Annual General Meeting after the end of their term in office, except that the Chairman of the Trustees shall be eligible to stand for immediate re-election during their term of office.

The result of the vote was:

For the resolution	44
Against the resolution	3
Abstentions	3

10. Other Relevant Business

There was no other relevant business.

Vote of Thanks

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

JMT TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the JMT Trading Company Limited held at Brodies, Solicitors, 15 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, on 1 August 2003

Present:

Keith Griffiths (in the Chair), Crispin Agnew, Nigel Hawkins, John Mackenzie, Gavin Stewart

Apologies:

Andrew Thin

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 October 2002

Approval: the minutes were approved.

Matters arising: none.

2. Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002 and the report of the Directors and Auditor thereon were received, considered and adopted.

3. Auditors

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

4. Any Other Business

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

John Muir Trust AGM Dunbar, 11am, 16 May 2004

AGENDA

Members are cordially invited to attend the Twenty-First Annual General Meeting, at 11am on Sunday 16 May 2004, at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre, Dunbar.

DONALD THOMAS
Honorary Secretary

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of the twentieth Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003
 - a) The John Muir Trust
 - b) JMT Trading Co Ltd
6. Re-appointment of auditors, Messrs Bryce Wilson & Co.
7. Election of Trustees

The following Trustees are retiring and seek re-election:
Paul Jarvis, John Mackenzie, Cameron McNeish, Denis Mollison

The following trustees are retiring and not seeking re-election:
Nick Luard, John Purser, Peter Tilbrook

The following member has been nominated as a Trustee:
Steve Green

As there are 5 vacancies and 5 candidates, a vote will not be required.
8. Director's Report
9. Setting of Subscription Rates for 2005
10. Other Relevant Business

JMT Annual Report for 2003

This is the Annual Report for John Muir Trust ("JMT") for the year ended 31 December 2003.

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

This report should be read in conjunction with the Accounts of JMT for the same period, to which reference is made. This Annual Report has been approved by the Trustees of JMT.

Legal and SORP Requirements

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

Legal and Administrative Information

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

JMT is a Scottish Charity, Number SC 002061.

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

The Trustees of JMT who served during 2003 were:

Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw
 Christopher W Brasher (*dec'd 28 February 2003*)
 Richard Balharry (*Chairman after 1 September 2003*)
 Rob Collister
 Ken Crocket
 Keith Griffiths (Treasurer)
 Professor Paul Jarvis
 Nick Luard
 Professor Denis Mollison
 John Mackenzie
 Dr John Purser
 Prof Malcolm Slesser
 Dr Peter Tilbrook
 Maude R Tiso
 Donald Thomas (*Company Secretary after 11 August 2003*)
 Dr Will Williams
 John Donohoe (*appointed 18 May 2003*)
 Cameron McNeish (*appointed 18 October 2003*)
 Andrew Thin (*retired 31 August 2003*)
 Caroline Tisdall-Mackenzie (*retired 18 May 2003*)
 Bill Wallace (*retired 18 May 2003, and as Company Secretary 11 August 2003*)

The Trustees are elected by the Members of JMT by postal ballot. Cameron McNeish was appointed by the Trustees under Article 35.

The details of other relevant organisations or persons are:

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

Auditors: Bryce, Wilson & Co C.A., 26A Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7HR

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

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

Narrative Information

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

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

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

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

The activities of JMT during 2003 are reviewed in the Reports from the Chairman, Director, Treasurer and certain employees of JMT. These appear later elsewhere in this Annual Report and also comment on future plans of JMT.

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

JMT does sometimes make grants to other bodies for purposes in support of JMT's objectives; any significant grants made in 2003 are referred to later in this Annual Report. JMT also gave various smaller individual grants to John Muir Award participants, and for community support at Sconser and Torrin.

The Trustees and staff of JMT have during 2003 identified and reviewed the major risks to which JMT is exposed and have established systems and policies to mitigate those risks.

Date of Approval: 15 March 2004

Treasurer's Report

2003

I will start my Report by recording my thanks to the Trust's staff. I am particularly grateful to our Finance Manager, Gavin Stewart, who with assistance from other staff members continues to cope with the increasing volume and complexity of the Trust's activities and consequent regulatory load. Former Hon Treasurer and Trustee Bill Wallace continues to provide Gavin with valuable assistance and wise counsel.

The Trust

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

2003 was a modestly successful year for the John Muir Trust in financial terms. Like many other charities we have however found it difficult to raise increasing amounts of income, and a substantial increase in membership numbers is still viewed as the best way of securing the long-term ability of the Trust to do the things its members value.

The Trust had an actual surplus of approximately £98,200 before the final increase to an overall surplus of £125,700 by the (this year happily net positive) financial adjustments relating to JMT Trading Company Limited and the Trust's investments, which are commented on below.

This was the outcome from a balanced break-even budget set by Trustees for 2003. In fact income was up on 2002 by approximately 49% and expenditure by approximately 26%.

Our income from subscriptions and donations has increased modestly from 2002 by approximately 7%. As mentioned elsewhere, an increasing proportion of subscriptions is paid tax efficiently using Gift-Aid, and with relatively little administration costs when using direct debit.

The highlight of the 2003 income was legacies, where the total of just over £217,000 represents an increase of approximately 119% on the already high figure for 2002, due largely to the very large single legacy of £183,000 mentioned elsewhere. That must be regarded as a one-off. I repeat my thoughts of last year that while the Trust is extremely grateful to members and supporters who support the Trust through their wills, the Trustees do consider it imperative to increase significantly the amount of support received from live members and supporters (whom we can thank in person)! With that in mind the Trust is actively taking steps to secure a significant and sustainable increase in membership.

Grants to the general funds from charitable trusts and corporate donations increased by over 50%, due largely to a higher level of support from BP for BP staff work parties.

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.

The expenditure of the Trust was markedly higher in 2003 than in 2002. The entire overall increase is accounted for by higher expenditure on the Schiehallion footpath project and the donations to North Harris Trust. For Schiehallion the Accounts show an excess of expenditure over grant income of just over £68,000, of which £50,000 has been met by the earmarked part of the Trust's relevant Designated Fund.

Expenditure on the John Muir Award has also increased significantly, broadly in line with an increase in corresponding income.

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 2004 both income and expenditure are budgeted at £1.25M.

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

There has been a reduction of £10,567 in the valuation of the Trust's 100% shareholding in JMT Trading Company Limited. This has been written down to the net asset value of the Trading Company as at 31 December 2003. Although the direct farming operations of the Trading Company at Strathaird ceased in 2001, the Trust retained ownership of certain cattle and sheep quotas. As these are being imminently phased out it was felt prudent to write down the value of these to zero. The write-down should be viewed in the context of the £22,583 contribution by gift to the Trust from the Trading Company of the surplus for the year, so the net benefit to the Trust is approximately £12,000.

With respect to the Trust's investments and cash deposits, the income has held up well, and the performance of the Trust's investments in capital terms has resulted in a small realised surplus of £1,675 and unrealised gains of £36,406 (approximately 10% on the year). The Trustees remain satisfied with the performance of the investment managers Rossie House Investment Management. Following their appointment in 2002 Rossie House restructured the investments. With a view to achieving a more broadly based portfolio, all of the shares in individual companies had been sold and the proceeds reinvested in a combination of collective funds, including funds investing in bonds. Of the figure for quoted investments of £421,458 given

in the balance sheet, approximately 75% is now invested in shares rather than in government stock and other bonds.

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

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

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

1 A Long Term Financial Reserve to hold funds available to cover possible future income deficits in the medium to long term and also the greater part of the restricted funds which the Trustees do not consider will require to be expended in accordance with their purposes in the short term. In the immediate future the Trustees consider the long term reserve should ideally be at three months anticipated annual expenditure plus long term restricted funds.

Based on current restricted funds and the 2004 budget this would equate to approximately £580,000, and the actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2003 was approximately £420,000. The corresponding figures for 2002 were £495,000 and £370,000.

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 2003 was approximately £175,000, compared with approximately £190,000 at the end of 2002.

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

Based on the 2004 budget this would be approximately £420,000, and the actual level of this Reserve at 31 December 2003 was approximately £380,000. The corresponding figures for 2001 were £370,000 and £300,000.

In summary, the Reserves Policy dictated that the desired total reserves as at 31 December 2003 were £1,500,000, against an actual figure of £975,000 or approximately 65% (the corresponding 2002 figures were £1,365,000 desired and £860,000 total or approximately 63%).

The Trustees remain of the view that the present Reserves Policy is prudent, taking account of the Trust's objects and 2004 budget. However it will be seen that at present the Trust's reserves are significantly less than the Trustees consider desirable – the main shortfall relates to the Capital Financial Reserve, which would therefore give very limited scope for property purchase without an appeal – and steps have been and are actively being taken to address this to ensure that the actual level of reserves is restored to a level consistent with the Policy.

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

JMT Trading Company Limited

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

However the value of cattle and sheep quotas have been written down to zero as stated above.

The merchandising operation continues to provide a good profit to be gifted to the Trust. Many purchasers in 2003, as in 2002, took the opportunity to make additional donations to the Trust when making merchandising purchases.

Keith Griffiths
Treasurer

John Muir Trust: Statement of Financial Activities year ended 31 December 2003

	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted funds	Total	2002
INCOMING RESOURCES					
General income from supporters					
Subscriptions	153,745			153,745	140,699
Donations & tax recovered	122,045		15,752	137,797	131,304
Legacies	217,267			217,267	99,214
Corporate donations	33,862			33,862	22,587
Grants from charitable trusts	35,900			35,900	22,979
Ben Nevis Appeal					3,355
Grants					
Properties	30,517		70,626	101,143	16,454
Schiehallion footpath project	193,012		1,000	194,012	121,514
Education	73,598		71,201	144,799	91,255
Development	8,503			8,503	10,195
Policies & partnerships			13,000	13,000	
Income from activities					
Fundraising activities	6,045			6,045	7,228
Properties	215	10,708		10,923	10,443
John Muir Award programmes	23,164			23,164	33,901
Lectures and functions	1,315			1,315	1,454
Other income					
Investment income and interest received	23,775		9,731	33,506	33,420
Covenant from Trading Company	22,583			22,583	17,989
Farm and other rents	2,896			2,896	1,959
Gains on realisation of assets					
Total incoming resources	948,442	10,708	181,310	1,140,460	765,950
EXPENDITURE					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Property management	110,735	21,907	22,809	155,451	128,688
Schiehallion footpath project	212,338	50,000		262,338	134,956
Schiehallion - acquisition of grazing rights					30,000
Education	124,135		28,430	152,565	151,661
John Muir Award programmes	39,821			39,821	53,365
Policy & partnerships	25,753		13,000	38,753	54,587
Donations to North Harris Trust	100,000			100,000	
Support costs					
Fundraising costs	62,344			62,344	46,510
Publicity & promotion	21,806			21,806	37,726
Journal & other publications	20,453			20,453	21,736
Lectures & functions	2,103			2,103	1,754
Other expenditure					
Management & administration	157,604			157,604	146,810
Development in Wales	8,768			8,768	
Fees	20,227			20,227	19,827
Losses on realisation of assets					40
Total resources expended	906,087	71,907	64,239	1,042,233	827,660
Net incoming resources/(resources expended) before transfers	42,355	(61,199)	117,071	98,227	(61,710)
Realised gains/(losses) on investments	1,675			1,675	(15,695)
Revaluation of investment in Trading Company	(10,567)			(10,567)	(8,365)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	33,463	(61,199)	117,071	89,335	(85,770)
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	36,406			36,406	(41,666)
Net movement in funds	69,869	(61,199)	117,071	125,741	(127,436)
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2003	539,207	266,300	218,194	1,023,701	1,151,137
	609,076	205,101	335,265	1,149,442	1,023,701
Trust properties		1,889,611		1,889,611	1,889,611
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2003	609,076	2,094,712	335,265	3,039,053	2,913,312

John Muir Trust: Balance Sheet year ended 31 December 2003

	2003	2002
FIXED ASSETS		
Trust properties	1,889,611	1,889,611
Tangible assets	<u>11,893</u>	<u>14,245</u>
	1,901,504	1,903,856
INVESTMENTS		
Quoted investments	421,458	367,662
Trading subsidiary	<u>31,646</u>	<u>42,213</u>
	453,104	<u>409,875</u>
LOANS		
Crofting communities	5,000	5,000
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors and prepayments	173,988	181,168
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>552,580</u>	<u>492,362</u>
	<u>726,568</u>	<u>673,530</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors and Accruals	46,955	78,781
Loans: general funds	<u>168</u>	<u>168</u>
	<u>47,123</u>	<u>78,949</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	679,445	594,581
NET ASSETS	<u>3,039,053</u>	<u>2,913,312</u>
<i>Represented by</i>		
Unrestricted funds		
General	609,076	539,207
Designated	205,101	266,300
Designated - Trust properties	<u>1,889,611</u>	<u>1,889,611</u>
	2,703,788	2,695,118
Restricted funds	335,265	218,194
	<u>3,039,053</u>	<u>2,913,312</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 15 March 2004 and signed on their behalf:

R BALHARRY, Trustee.

K GRIFFITHS, Trustee.

JMT Trading Company Limited: Profit & Loss Account year ended 31 December 2003

	Farm	Woodlands	Merchandising	Total	2002
TURNOVER					
Merchandising			64,006	64,006	58,441
Woodlands – sales		1,560		1,560	1,595
– grants		16,039		16,039	7,722
Livestock – sales & subsidies					159
	0	17,599	64,006	81,605	67,917
COST OF SALES					
Merchandising			(42,944)	(42,944)	(38,577)
Sheep – variable costs				0	(132)
Cattle – variable costs				0	(2,150)
Woodlands – project costs		(11,019)		(11,019)	(9,234)
	0	(11,019)	(42,944)	(53,963)	(50,093)
REDUCTIONS IN QUOTA VALUE					
Quotas - cattle	(8,000)			(8,000)	0
Quotas - sheep	(2,667)			(2,667)	0
	(10,667)	0	0	(10,667)	0
OTHER COSTS					
Other fixed costs		(15)		(15)	(63)
Audit fee		(275)	(925)	(1,200)	(1,580)
Depreciation		(3,844)		(3,844)	(5,862)
Profit/(loss) on fixed assets	100			100	0
	100	(4,134)	(925)	(4,959)	(7,505)
(Deficit)/Surplus on Trading for the year	(10,567)	2,446	20,137	12,016	10,319
PAYMENTS TO:					
JOHN MUIR TRUST					
FOR: Donation under Gift Aid		(2,446)	(20,137)	(22,583)	
Deed of Covenant					(17,989)
Interest					(695)
	(10,567)	0	0	(10,567)	(8,365)

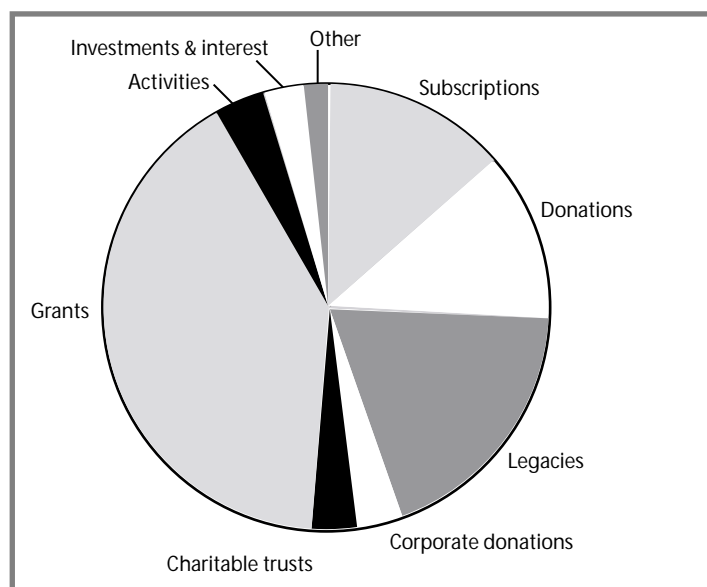
JMT Trading Company Limited: Balance Sheet year ended 31 December 2003

	2003	2002
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	5,627	9,000
Quotas	0	11,500
Investment	1,000	1,000
	<u>6,627</u>	<u>21,500</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	32,903	30,617
Debtors	22,396	9,078
Bank and cash	265	6,792
	<u>55,564</u>	<u>46,487</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>30,545</u>	<u>25,774</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	25,019	20,713
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>31,646</u>	<u>42,213</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>31,646</u>	<u>42,213</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Called up Share Capital	173,448	173,448
Profit and Loss Account	(141,802)	(131,235)
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	<u>31,646</u>	<u>42,213</u>

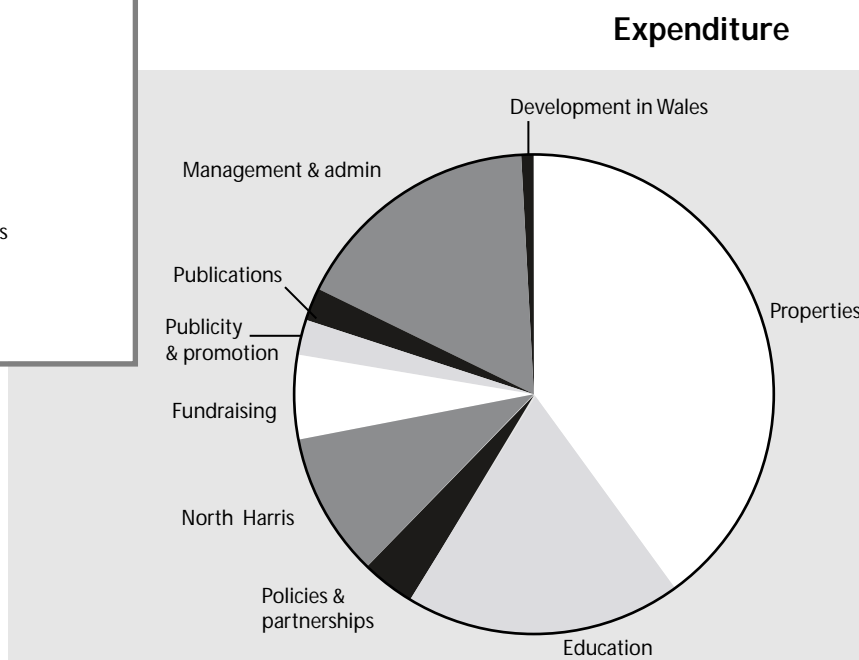
*Approved by the Board of Directors on 15 March 2004 and signed on their behalf:
KEITH GRIFFITHS, Chairman.*

Income and expenditure

2003



Income



Expenditure

Membership subscription rates for 2005

The proposal below, to increase subscription rates with effect from 1 January 2005, was recommended by Trustees at their meeting on 15 March 2004. This will be item 9 on the agenda of the 2004 AGM. Full agenda, page 14.

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

This proposed increase in subscriptions (approx 20%) would be higher than the cost of living rise. This would reflect not only the increased amount of work being undertaken by the Trust but would also bring the subscription rates in line with other NGO membership fees.

New Membership Categories

'Friends' membership **£50**

This will be for school groups, Award providers, sole traders, societies, and so on.

'Guardian' membership **£50**

This can be for members who wish to donate more to the work of the Trust.

Trustees, staff, partner organisations

2003

Trustees

at 31 December 2003

Sir Crispin Agnew, Dick Balharry (Chairman), Rob Collister,
Ken Crocket, John Donohoe, Keith Griffiths (Treasurer),
Professor Paul Jarvis, Nick Luard, John Mackenzie,
Cameron McNeish, Professor Denis Mollison,
Dr John Purser, Professor Malcolm Slesser,
Donald Thomas (Secretary), Dr Peter Tilbrook, Maude Tiso,
Dr Will Williams

Honorary Advisers

Larry Downing, Andrew Currie

Staff

Director, Nigel Hawkins
director@jmt.org

Development

Development Manager, Alison McGachy
development@jmt.org

Administrative Manager, Donna Mackenzie
admin@jmt.org

Information & Promotions Manager, Katie Jackson
promotions@jmt.org

Fundraiser, Clive Fairclough (*self-employed*)
clive@jmt.org

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

Education including John Muir Award

Education Manager, David Picken
education@jmt.org

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

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

Administrator, Clare de Mowbray
info@johnmuiraward.org

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

John Muir Award Manager, East Lothian, George Sim
george@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, Wales, Hugo Iffla
hugo@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, Cairngorms, Robbie Nicol
Employee of Cairngorms National Park Authority
robbie@johnmuiraward.org

John Muir Award Manager, Cumbria, Alan Smith
Development worker, Cumbria, Michelle Donoghue
Administrator, Sarah Kekus
Employees of Cumbria Youth Alliance/University of Central Lancashire
cumbria@johnmuiraward.org

Finance & Administration

Finance Manager, Gavin Stewart
treasurer@jmt.org

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

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

Land & Property

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

Assistant Land Manager, Douglas Halliday
douglas@jmt.org

Sandwood Conservation Manager, Cathel Morrison
sandwood@jmt.org

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

Estate worker, Skye, Alasdair MacPherson

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

Skye crofting, Ian MacKinnon (*consultant*)

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

Policy & Partnerships

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

Senior Conservationist

Keith Miller, conservation@jmt.org

Partner organisations

We nominated directors (*and alternates*) in 2003 as follows.

John Muir Birthplace Trust Adam Gillingham, Robert Russel

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

Nevis Partnership Will Boyd-Wallis (*Peter Tilbrook*)

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

Offices

Main office

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

Education Department including John Muir Award

41 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JD
Tel & fax 0845 458 2910
Activities tel 0845 456 1783
info@johnmuiraward.org

Membership

FREEPOST, Musselburgh EH21 7BR
0845 458 8356
membership@jmt.org

Land management office

Clach Glas, Strathaird, Broadford,
Isle of Skye IV49 9AZ
Tel 01471 866336
landmanagement@jmt.org

Funders, charitable trusts, corporate donors

2003



Robert Hunter

Waves, Belhaven Beach, East Lothian

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

We are grateful for the support of these charitable trusts and corporate donors during 2003.

A & N Daniell Charitable Trust	£200
A M Pilkington's Charitable Trust	£600
Anatom	£1000
Baron Davenport's Charity	£1000
Bill & Margaret Nicol Charitable Trust	£1000
BP Exploration	£15,850
British Energy	£500
Burns & Harris Printers	£250
Carsten Flieger Photographie	£400
Copley Charitable Trust	£5000
Craignish Trust	£4000
Dunard Fund	£1000
EEFP Trust	£50
Evelyn Drysdale Charitable Trust	£500
Financial Advice & Services Ltd	£750
Gatliff Trust	£500
Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust	£1000
Hamish & Doris Crichton Charitable Trust	£1000
Hay Nisbet Press Ltd	£250
Heart of the Lakes & Cottage Life	£1000
HF Holidays Ltd	£1000
Hilda & Johnny Gibb Charitable Trust	£2000
HISL Ltd	£558
Horace Gillman's Trust	£1000
J & J R Wilson Trust	£1000
J S F Pollitzer Charitable Trust	£1000
Leng Charitable Trust	£1000
Leslie & Helen Duff Charitable Trust	£200
Linley Wightman Shaw Foundation	£20,000
Marks & Spencer plc	£500
Miss E C Hendry's Charitable Trust	£1100
Miss K M Harbinson's Charitable Trust	£500
Miss W H S Wallace's Trust	£850
Mrs Jean M F Fraser Charitable Trust	£1250
Mrs Susan H Guy's Charitable Trust	£5000
MusicScotland	£500
P H Holt Charitable Trust	£250
Profitmaster Systems Ltd	£250
R V & R H Simons Trust	£500
Robert O Curle Charitable Trust	£2000
Robertson Trust	£7000
Rothschild & Sons Ltd	£500
Russell Trust	£500
Ryklow Charitable Trust 1992	£500
Scottish & Newcastle plc	£6000
Scottish Widows plc	£2000
Sky Trail Ltd	£250
Tay Charitable Trust	£2000
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	£750

Project funders in 2003



Awards For All for supporting the Trust's Edinburgh Local Group with a grant of £4030 towards the John Muir Exhibition in the Writers' Museum, Edinburgh.



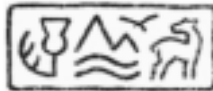
Cumbria Youth Alliance for funding and supporting the John Muir Award in Cumbria.

Heritage Lottery Fund



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

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE



Scottish Natural Heritage for supporting the Schiehallion footpath work, part-funding the Development Manager post, and other aspects of our work.

Supported by Bank of Scotland



Bank of Scotland for supporting our Summer Programme.



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

CAIRNGORMS
NATIONAL PARK

PAIRC NAISEANTA A' MHOAIDH RUAIDH

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



Steve Green

Drystone dyke work at the start of the Schiehallion path.



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



Hamish M Brown