

maintaining simple shelters



**Mountain
Bothies
Association
Annual
Report
2011**

Year ending 31 March 2011

Getting things done

In 2010-11 we recorded 1227 volunteer days (up from 1130 in the previous year) and spent £36,261 on maintenance materials and work parties, also an increase on 2009-10.

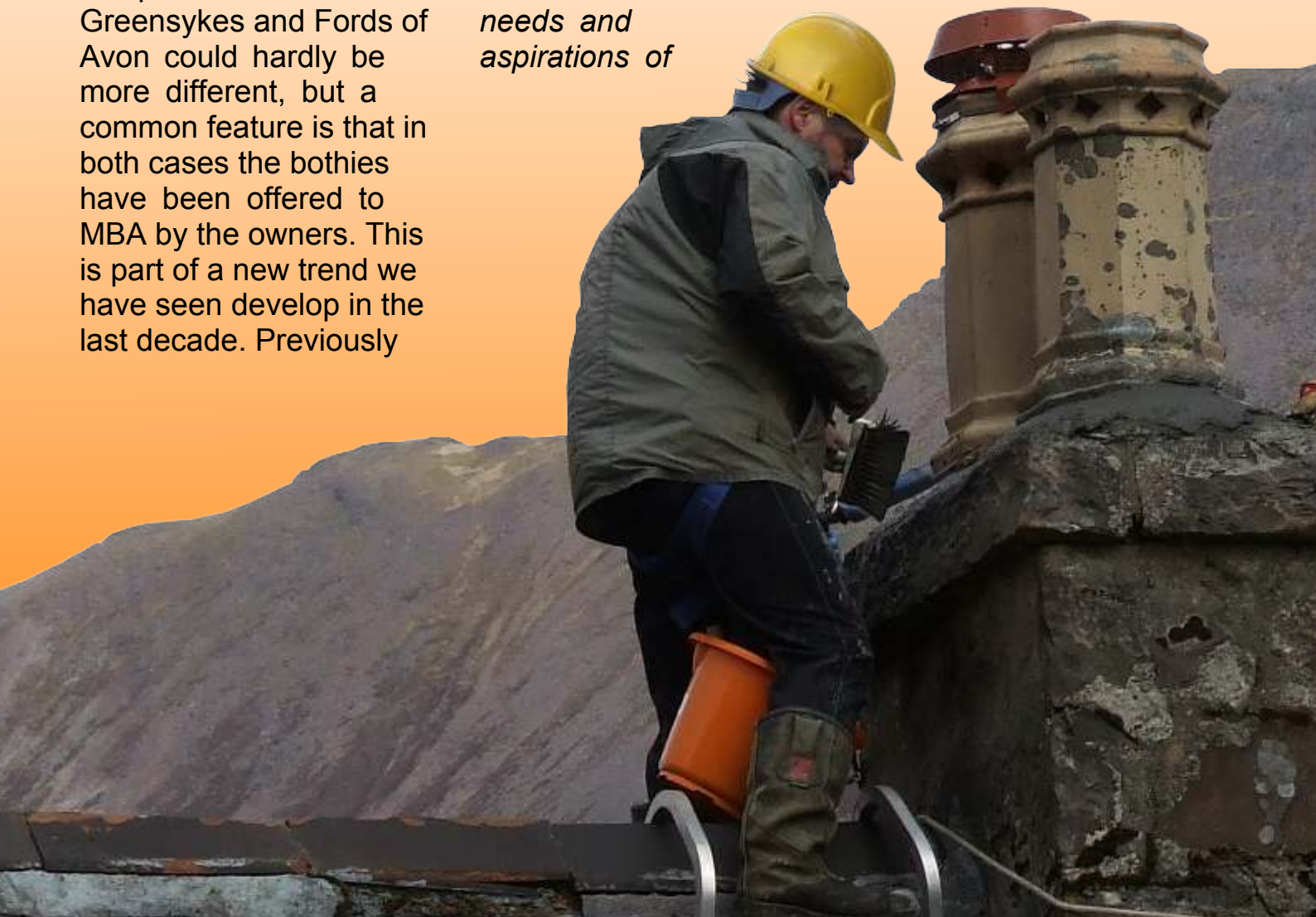
This investment went almost entirely into the conservation of bothies already in MBA care, as outlined in the Trustees' Report. During the same period we agreed to take on two new projects and by the time this report is published both renovations will be advancing towards completion.

Greensykes and Fords of Avon could hardly be more different, but a common feature is that in both cases the bothies have been offered to MBA by the owners. This is part of a new trend we have seen develop in the last decade. Previously

almost all MBA bothies were first identified as possible projects by our members, whereupon we would approach the owners concerned. However, five out of the eight new bothies adopted since 2001 have been offered in the first place by the owners. *"I firmly believe that this results from the respect that MBA holds for the needs and aspirations of*

landowners and all who take their living from the countryside, and the respect that owners have for MBA in that we get things done." Roger Muhl, MBA Owner Liaison Officer.

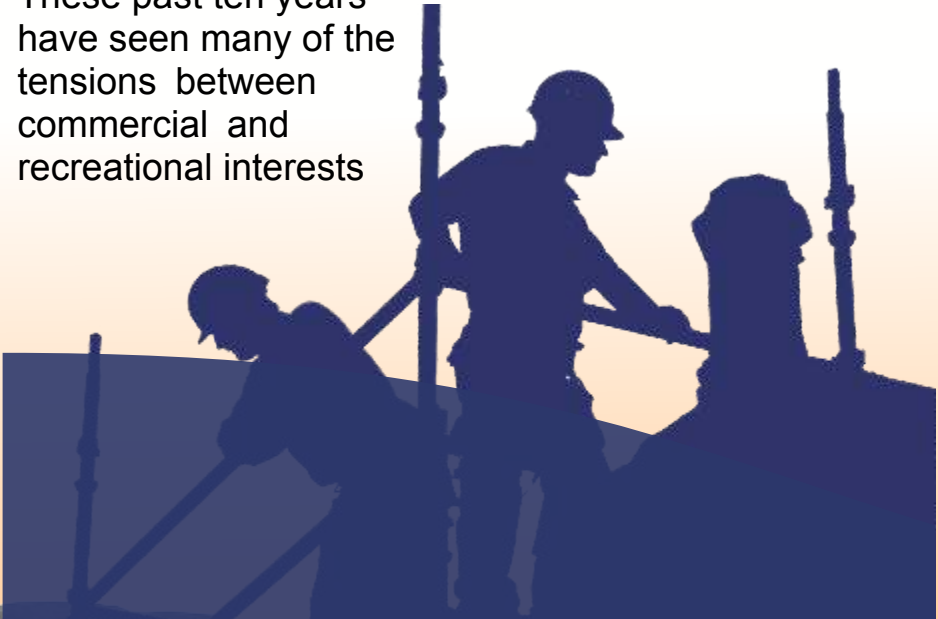
Not every building we are offered can be adopted. We are careful to assess each potential bothy in



terms of its sustainability. This is an ongoing concern and from time to time has led us to relinquish buildings, something we do with great reluctance. We continue to believe that bothies are valuable community assets that offer benefits to both users and owners. The generosity of owners, both individual and institutional, in allowing the public to use otherwise redundant buildings and also in allowing MBA to maintain them, cannot be understated. Without it there would be no bothies. Once again we

have many reasons to thank the factors, stalkers, foresters, shepherds, rangers, ghillies and others who work the land for their generous support, especially their continued interest and enthusiasm, which has made our task so much more manageable. These past ten years have seen many of the tensions between commercial and recreational interests

diminish in the hills of Britain. New access legislation has gone hand in hand with a developing mutual respect between those who live on the land and those who visit. MBA is proud to have helped in this process, by offering a point of contact. We hope to go on doing so for a long time yet.



“... the respect that MBA holds for the needs and aspirations of landowners and all who take their living from the countryside, and the respect that owners have for MBA in that we get things done.” Roger Muhl, MBA Owner Liason Officer.





The MBA very much appreciates the generosity of the owner of Greensykes and the very active support of the estate management team for this project.



Greensykes - before & after

The Association had its eye on Greensykes on and off, but no formal approach was ever made. Each time the building was mooted as a possible project we came up with reasons not to go ahead: it would be too much work, especially the roof, or the local volunteers had too much to do elsewhere. In 2009-10, the state of the building required urgent action and the owner had the building reslated, at the same time removing a number of extensions. Greensykes was then offered to us and it proved to be exactly



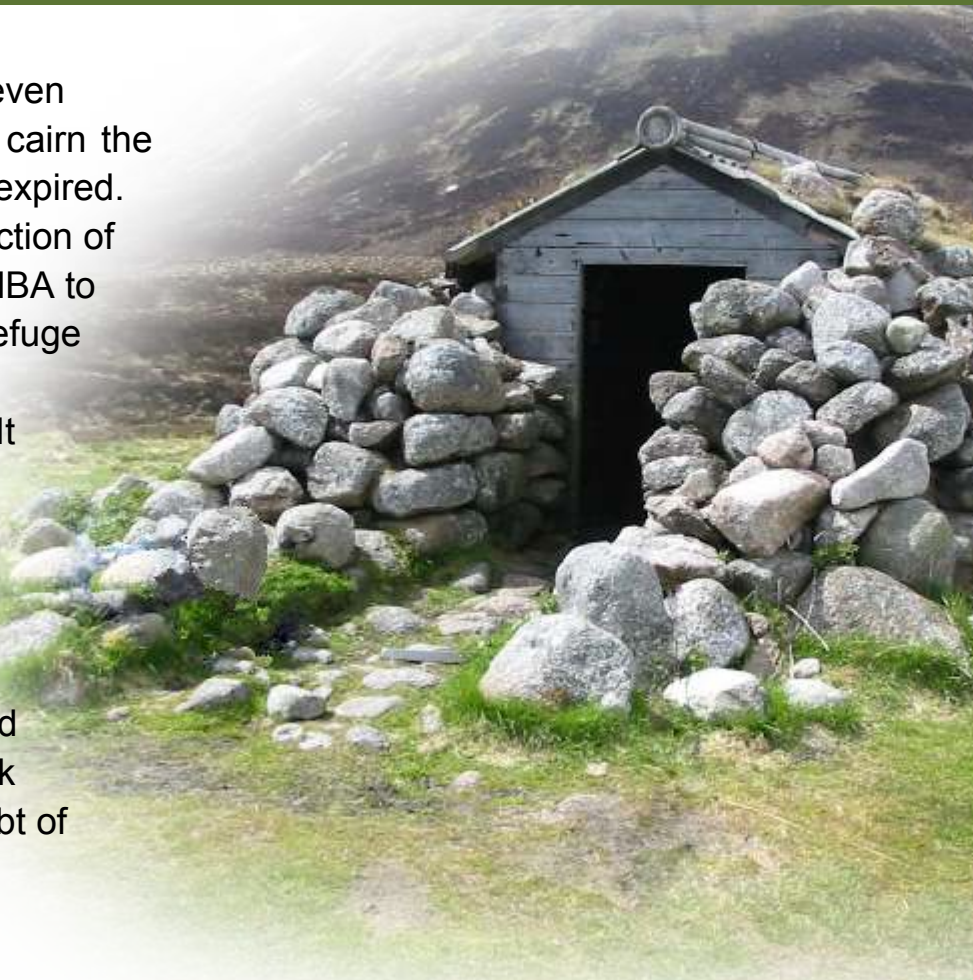
the right moment. Local volunteers were eager for a new project, having recently lost three bothies from the area list, and with a new roof already on the cottage the remaining renovation work was well within our capabilities. We eagerly accepted and the work at Greensykes got underway in January 2011.

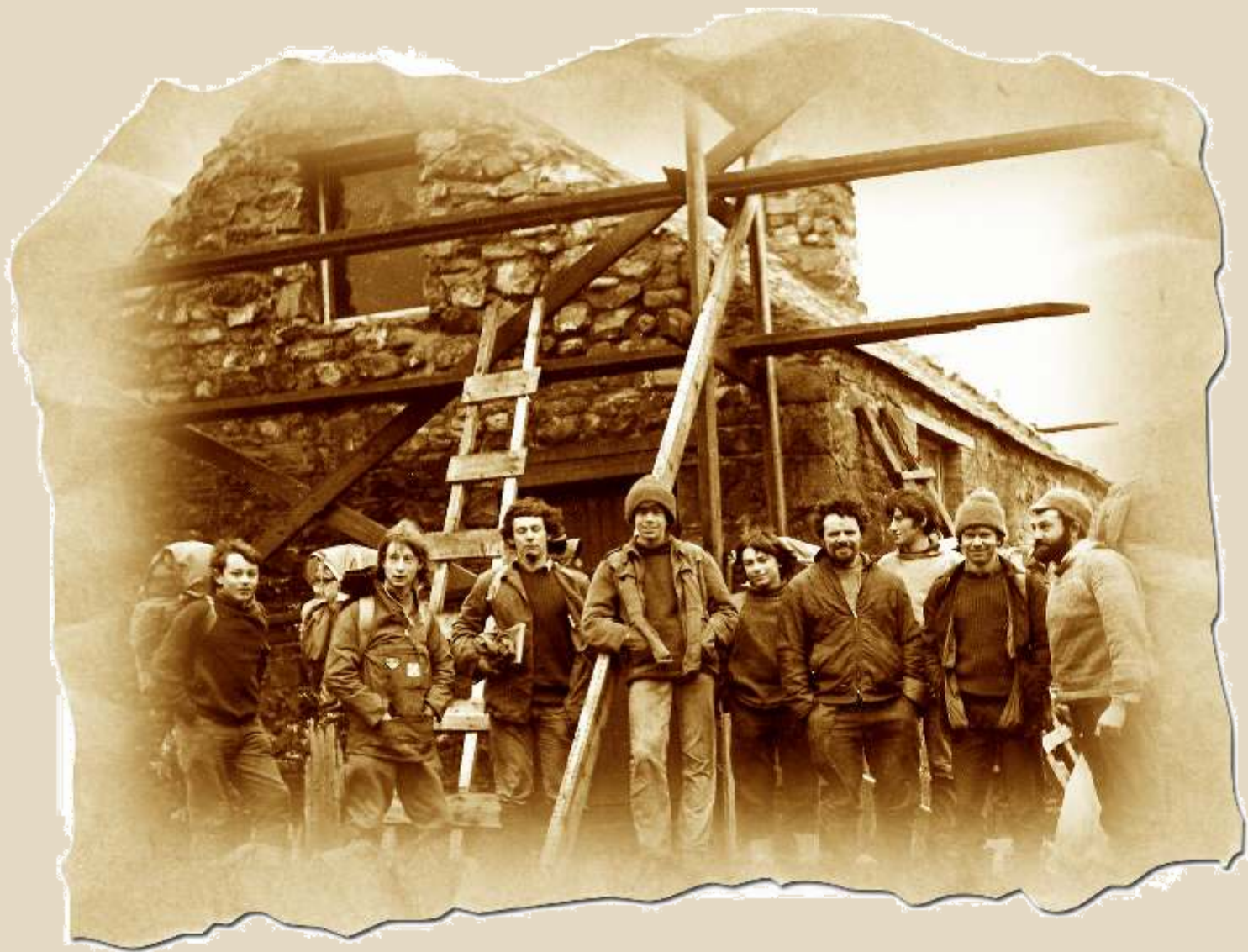
Fords of Avon Refuge

Built in 1970 by a team from the Fleet Air Arm, as an emergency shelter in a remote area of the Cairngorms.

After 40 years service, even protected by a massive cairn the wooden cabin was time expired.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the owner, approached MBA to build a replacement. The new refuge is an exact replica of the old: simply a small box with a door. It is not intended for overnight accommodation. MBA members in the Eastern Highlands prefabricated the hut offsite & it was airlifted in kit form. This project was supported by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and we also owe a debt of thanks to Glenmore Lodge.





A work party at White Laggan in 1974, photographed by the project organiser, David Dixon. Much has changed over the years, but we still maintain this bothy in the south of Scotland and the spirit visible in the faces of these members is still what drives the organisation. A contemporary account of this project is now available on our website in the members' section under archived material, courtesy of David Dixon.

www.mountainbothies.org.uk

Mountain Bothies Association



Annual Report

Year ending 31 March 2011

A Scottish Charity, No. SC008685
Registered Company SC191425

Trustees' report and financial statements For the year ended 31 march 2011

Draft Financial Statements at 08 JUNE 2011 at 09:03:58

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MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

CHARITY INFORMATION

Name

The charity is called the Mountain Bothies Association, and is also known as the MBA.

Numbers

The charity's Scottish Charity Number is SC008685.

Company Registration Number SC191425.

Address

The address of the principal office of the charity is:

MBA

c/o Henderson Black & Co

Chartered Accountants

Edenbank House

22 Crossgate

Cupar

Fife

KY15 5HW

Bank

The charity's bank is:

Bank of Scotland

2-6 Eastgate

Inverness

IV2 3NA

Auditor

The charity's auditor is:

Stables Thompson & Briscoe

Lowther House

Lowther Street

Kendal

LA9 4DX

Trustees

The following have held office since 1 April 2010:

John Arnott

Liz Bibby

Jill Dhanjal

Roger Hammond

Andy Mayhew

Calum McRoberts

Roger Muhl

Richard Spencer

Neil Stewart

The Governing Document and how the Association is constituted:

The governing documents are the Articles and Memorandum of Association. The Association is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, and is recognised by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator as a charity. We prepare fully accrued accounts, which are audited by a Registered Auditor in accordance with UK auditing standards.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

The Organisational Structure of the Association

The nine Trustees of the Association are elected by the members. The management of the Association is vested in the Trustees, who are responsible for all financial activities, appointments of volunteer officers and matters of policy. The Trustees may approve any expenditure on behalf of the Association, provided that the annual expenditure committed on any one bothy or project may not exceed £20,000 without first being approved in principle at a General Meeting of the Association.

The approval of new projects and appointment of Maintenance Organisers is delegated to the Management Committee, which consists of volunteer officers of the Association together with elected members and delegates from the Maintenance Areas. Responsibility for the planning and implementation of work on bothies is devolved to nine Area Committees each led by its Area Organiser and consisting of the Maintenance Organisers and other active members in that geographical area. Each Area is allocated an annual budget managed by its Area Organiser for the maintenance of its bothies.

Relationships to other Bodies

The MBA is independent of all other bodies.

The Aim of the Association:

To maintain simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places.

What the Association does:

Scattered throughout the wilder parts of Scotland, England and Wales are old shepherds' cottages, huts and similar buildings many of which in the normal course of events might be allowed to fall derelict. Over the years, often with the tacit consent of the owners, these buildings have provided overnight shelter for walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The Mountain Bothies Association was founded in 1965 to organise the restoration and maintenance of these shelters.

The Association obtains the owners' permission to maintain these bothies and to make them available as open shelters for anyone to use, and does not itself own any of the buildings. Its members have no priority of use and the buildings are left unlocked and may be used without charge by all who require shelter. Whilst the MBA pays for the materials and tools for the renovations, all the work is undertaken by its members on a voluntary basis.

Bothies renovated by the Association are normally existing structures. As a minimum standard, the building is rendered structurally safe to provide a windproof and water tight shelter. A bothy would not normally be connected to the public utilities, and any amenities provided would be of a very basic standard. In locations where there is an appreciable fire hazard, or limited fuel, existing fireplaces may be replaced by a stove. Factors which may be taken into account in selecting a building for renovation include:

- the likely demand for shelter in the area concerned
- the environmental impact
- the existence of other forms of shelter in the vicinity
- the suitability of the site for use as an overnight base or emergency shelter
- accessibility from the highway and the likelihood of vandalism
- the nature of any restrictions imposed by the landowner on the use of the shelter
- the extent and cost of the renovations required and a value for money judgement

Where the Association maintains a bothy, and its use is affected by, or likely to affect the land surrounding the bothy, the Association may maintain or otherwise improve the land in the immediate vicinity of the bothy. Such work may include:

- repairs and improvements to drainage
- repairs and improvements to access paths including to existing bridges and stiles
- prevention of land erosion where this might undermine the building's foundations

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

- tree planting (where possible using trees of local stock)
- the removal of litter and provision for hygienic disposal of human waste

The Association believes it has a duty to care for the quality of the experience enjoyed by those who visit bothies, and to ensure that all who are involved in outdoor recreation understand the fragile nature of this resource, and the impact their behaviour can have on the bothy and its environment. The 'Bothy Code' is central to the Association's educational activities in promoting responsible behaviour among all who use bothies. Members' newsletters, website and briefing of volunteers at work parties are the principal methods of delivery of expected social and environmental standards.

In addition to the main activity of renovation and maintenance of bothies, the Association may provide funding to other properly constituted organisations, which share similar aims to the Association, for the maintenance of shelters available to the public.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

There are nine Trustees. Members of the Association can be nominated for election as Trustee by other members of the Association. Trustees are elected for three year terms of office, so each year prior to the Annual General Meeting a postal ballot of all members is held in order to replace the three Trustees whose terms of office are due to expire. No external bodies are entitled to appoint Trustees of the MBA. The Trustees may at any time co-opt any person duly qualified to be appointed as Trustees to fill a vacancy in their number or as additional Trustees, particularly to ensure coverage of the necessary skills and experience for governance of the Association. A co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next AGM. The Association recognises the importance of training both for new Trustees and those holding office. All newly appointed Trustees are issued with a 'Trustees Pack', which currently includes the following items:

- Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association & Standing Orders
- Latest contact list for officers of the Association
- Copy of last statutory accounts and annual report
- Last monthly statement from the Finance Office
- Information on Trustees' roles and responsibilities in the event of an accident at a volunteer work party including procedures for reporting to HSE
- Minutes of last Board of Trustees and Management Committee meetings
- Media relations papers
- CD containing project work party good practice guidelines
- Chapter 9 of Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- Latest guidance paper(s) on duties of charity Trustees

In addition, newly appointed Trustees are provided with such personal guidance as may be appropriate, taking into account the individual's service and experience within the Association, by Chairman, Company Secretary and General Secretary. All Trustees are given updating and training on all aspects of their responsibilities throughout the year including charity legislation and regulation, health and safety, media relations and legislation pertinent to the function and governance of the charity. Delivery of training is through specific training events, meetings of Trustees, post and email.

Major office bearers

The following have held office since 1 April 2010

Chairman John Arnott

Company Secretary Roger Muhl (to November 2010)

Company Secretary Richard Spencer (from November 2010)

Director of Projects Roger Hammond

General Secretary Simon Birch (from October 2010)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

Treasurer Jill Dhanjal

Achievements and performance during the financial year

The MBA continues to be an organisation of volunteers. At the time of writing we have 134 volunteer Maintenance Organisers for the 97 bothies we maintain, and 38 volunteer office bearers providing the administrative backup to support the maintenance - from arranging the elections to designing the calendar. We judge that it is best for the Association that the essential administrative work on membership and finance services is done by professionals and so it continues to be carried out for us by chartered accountants Henderson Black & Co. The key leaders for our maintenance work are our Area Organisers and we have a full complement of nine again. We have also been able to recruit Maintenance Organisers for each bothy when vacancies have arisen so that we ended the year with almost all such positions filled, and joint Maintenance Organisers for many bothies. We have approximately 3860 members, a decrease of nearly 8% on last year – Trustees are considering ways of retaining members despite the effect on charitable giving of the general economic downturn.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Greenhead village hall in October 2010 with 52 voting members attending. John Arnott was re-elected as Chairman for another year, whilst Andy Mayhew, Richard Spencer and John Arnott were each elected as Trustees to serve for a period of three years until the 2013 AGM. Howard Ashton and Trevor Cotton were elected to the Management Committee for a period of three years to the 2013 AGM, and Richard Pring was elected for two years to the 2012 AGM. The Management Committee met three times during the period of this report - in May, October and January with an average attendance of 26, and the Trustees met five times with an average attendance of eight.

We continued to review the way in which we communicate with our members, stakeholders and members of the public. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the costs of printing and postage and at the time of writing, further substantial increases are in the pipeline. We have implemented a number of cost saving measures, but it has become obvious to us that something more radical is now required.

At the same time as we have been improving our publications, we have been developing our website, which has now become extremely well used and popular. For example, the numbers of reports about the condition of bothies that are now submitted via the site are at a level previously unimaginable – over 100 in the last three months. The time seemed right therefore to consider whether more of the information that we provide to our members could be communicated electronically rather than in print format. As a first step, we have decided that future editions of *Bothy Notes* should be published on the members' section of the website with paper copies being provided only to those who request them. As well as saving considerably on printing and postage costs, this action will provide a better service to our members, as the information will in future be updated as soon as changes occur.

We continued to field enquiries from the media about the work of the Association and promoted our activities through the sale of calendars and Christmas cards and by taking a stand at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival.

Maintenance work

Our work party volunteers are the cornerstones of the Association and this year contributed 1227 working days to the renovation and maintenance of our bothies. We regard the safety of our volunteers as paramount and, whilst it is pleasing to note that no recordable accidents occurred during the year, we continue to seek improvements in working practices in order to maintain a good safety record.

We have continued to develop our training programme over the past 12 months, with an emphasis on work party planning, the use of alloy scaffolding, and fire risk assessment. Following on from two courses run in Southern and Central Scotland, volunteers from the Northern and North West Highlands areas attended a course in work party planning and system scaffold erection in April 2010 at Roybridge village hall. We now have a core of 43 active members competent in these two sets of skills. A new in-house training course has been developed this year in the use of alloy tower scaffold, which, although not as versatile as the Cuplock system scaffolding, is easier to handle and suitable for many smaller jobs involving roof work. We trained 12 members from three areas in its use in February and March

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2011. Eleven members from the N and NW Highlands areas also completed a one-day Emergency First Aid course run at Munlochy Village hall on the Black Isle in February. Over the past year, the Standards Group has been looking at the issue of fire safety at our bothies, and how best to make bothies safer. We have had advice from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit on our policy, and we are currently trialling a new and simpler Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) for all our bothies. MOs from most of our areas were trained in its use at the recent spring area meetings, with opportunities to discuss and ask questions. We are hoping to have new FRAs completed for all our bothies by the end of 2011. Of course, not all training is formal, we always have ongoing training "on the job" at work parties. More experienced members involve newcomers in the renovation work at bothies, whether it be roof work or rebuilding a fireplace, as happened at Resourie recently. The trainers too are getting trained! At the 2010 AGM we had a very useful talk and discussion with a roped-access expert, who was able to give us basic advice on how to use harnesses, ropes and anchors for short duration roof work. The Resourie work party ran a successful trial using trees (which surround Resourie!) as rope anchors, in conjunction with an "ascendeur" device. We are hoping to have a longer practical training session at a bothy later this year, using a variety of the methods suggested.

Renovation and routine maintenance was carried out at 56 of our bothies, at a cost of £36,261. Key elements of the cost were: materials £20k, hire of equipment £3k, transport of materials £3k and work party expenses £2k. Work party expenses includes provision of communal catering at large work parties, which has shown to be of great value in improving the effectiveness and morale of our volunteers. Expenditure on bothy maintenance also includes £4k, being the cost of holding Area Meetings and a contribution to the travelling expenses of Area Committee members. Area Meetings are the key forums for the planning of future maintenance work and all MOs asked to attend.

We took the decision to add two new bothies to the list during the year: Greensykes in the Eskdalemuir Forest north east of Lockerbie, and Fords of Avon Refuge, a small emergency shelter in the Cairngorms. Work will be done on these two buildings during 2011 and will be reported on next year. Maintenance has continued to be undertaken by our ever-eager volunteers, from the northwest corner of Scotland to the depths of south Wales. At Kearvaig major work was done including the chimney, slates, repairs to the sky lights, new sleeping platforms and new panelling. All this was carried out with a tremendous amount of help from the Cape Wrath rangers who look after one of the most exposed areas of Scotland. Easan Dorcha (also known as the Tea House) was completely refurbished with new wall claddings and a new roof. At Invermallie essential work was carried out on the skylights together with the replacement of panelling that had been damaged by vandals. At Suardalan the on-going major refurbishment was completed with work on the removal of the skylights. At Resourie in the west of Ardgour, two work parties rebuilt the fireplace, improved the drainage at the rear, replaced guttering, and put in a new front door and frame, roof lights and skylights.

At Greensykes, nestling in the Eskdalemuir Forest north East of Lockerbie, Rab and his willing workers have started work on getting this little gem ready for MBA use. Roughside was treated to a new porch and the fireplaces refurbished. Spithope now sports a new roof and a sparkling interior. Mosedale Cottage in the Lake District has had a new coat of whitewash. Moving into Wales, Dulyn has new windows and ceiling, but the major work was at Moel Prysgau which was re-roofed and the snug removed to comply with the fire regulations. Plans are in the pipeline to build a new snug before the start of next winter. Once again a big thank you to all those who have done volunteer work this last year, often at great cost to themselves, and all completed safely, with no accidents.

Our budget for bothy maintenance in the nine months of the next financial period (1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011) has been set at £50,300, which includes £5,000 for training. We plan major work (over £1,000) at eight bothies - Coire Fionaraich, Uags, Usinish, Dibidil, Fords of Avon, Greensykes, Dulyn, and Moel Prysgau.

Once again we are pleased to record our appreciation for the support of the owners of the buildings we maintain and their managers and staff. They cooperate with our maintenance work, assist with the delivery of materials to remote locations, help us in many other ways and permit the buildings to be used as unlocked shelters.

Financial review

Our total funds as of 31 March 2011 were £245,670 compared with £249,719 at 31 March 2010, which shows that for the second year running the Association has spent more money than the income

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

received during the financial year. However, as the deficit for 2010/11 was £4,049 compared with £15,215 for 2009/10, this shows a considerable improvement over last year.

Moreover, no project was denied funding in the 2010/11 budgets. There was a 9% increase in the number of volunteer days recorded on the maintenance of our bothies, and there was a 5% increase in the money spent on bothy work compared with 2009/10. Major projects costing £1,000 or more were carried out at 7 bothies.

The income from members' subscriptions, donations and gift aid was £78,859 compared with £81,621 for 2009/10, a reduction of £2,762. However, people visiting bothies have again shown their generosity to the Association and donations from non-members increased from £4,275 in 2009/10 to £7,855 for 2010/11. The total income for the Association increased from £93,842 for 2009/10 to £94,453 for 2010/11.

The overall cost of administration, meetings and publications was £58,829 in 2010/11 compared with £67,670 in 2009/10, a reduction of £8,841. This was largely due to the fact that election costs and Trustee and Committee expenses were £4,929 less than last year, publications costs were down by £3,717 and other costs (e.g. audit fees and finance office fees) were only increased slightly.

Our training courses were well supported by volunteers giving up their time to learn more on safety issues and first aid. The cost to the Association for training was £3,414.

During 2010 the Trustees discussed the proposal that the financial year be changed to coincide with the calendar year, rather than running from 1 April as at present. The main income of the MBA comes from subscriptions in January and the maintenance work is then carried out during the year. So the financial year ending March 31 comes in the middle of a busy time for the work of the Association. The proposal was discussed at the 2010 AGM to seek the meeting's views on this suggested change. Since there were no adverse comments, the Trustees made the decision to change the end of the financial year at their meeting in December 2010. Consequently, the next financial period will run from 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011 and then each calendar year from 2012 onwards.

Plans for future years

The Trustees of the MBA plan to continue to arrange the maintenance of the 97 bothies currently looked after, as well as to take on such projects as present themselves from time to time. We have started to consider how we might offer support to others who maintain bothies, without taking over what they do, and may be able to offer them some financial support in future years, as well as technical help. We have no plans to change the structure of the Association or to move away from our reliance on volunteers. We will continue with our on-going programme of review of our standing orders in order to ensure best governance for the association.

Risks and reserves

The Trustees have identified three key risks to which the Association may be exposed:

Income shortfall – we depend on members' subscriptions, donations and legacies to pay for materials for bothy maintenance and renovation and for the administration of the Association. In order to mitigate the effect of unexpected income shortfall, we aim to carry a reserve equivalent to 6 months expenditure, £50,000.

Risks to MBA volunteers and to the users of our bothies – we have developed robust systems to ensure the highest possible levels of safety at work parties and provide training for volunteers engaged in activities. All renovation and maintenance is carried out with due regard to current legislation in respect of building work, fire, and health & safety in order to prevent accidents to volunteers and bothy users. In addition, the Association carries public liability insurance of £10 million.

Storm or fire damage to bothies – most of the owners of the bothies the Association maintains require the buildings to be insured or, at least, require that we reinstate the building to their original condition in the event of storm or fire damage. We have reviewed the potential cost of insurance compared with the likely cost of reinstatement, taking into account the types of building, the use of volunteer labour and past history of fire and storm damage events and have concluded that self-insurance is the most cost effective option. At current costs and risks, we aim to hold a reserve of £72,000 for self-insurance.

At 31 March 2011 the Association had reserves of £219,103 in unrestricted funds. £26,567 of restricted funds are held as detailed in note 4 of the accounts. In the year under review we have maintained the level of reserve funds in accordance with targets and will be able to do so during the next financial year.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

Deficit

The MBA does not have a deficit.

Donated facilities and services

By permission of the Forestry Commission the MBA has the use of a locked store in the Kielder Forest for the storage of equipment.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Mountain Bothies Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Signed by order of the Trustees, as agreed on 22 May 2011

John Arnott
(Chairman)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

We have audited the financial statements of MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION for the year ended 31 March 2011 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made exclusively to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with sections 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members and the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity, its members as a body and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and auditor

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out in the Annual Report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 rather than also with the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly, we have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report to you in accordance with that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE MEMBERS OF MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept proper and adequate accounting records: or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all information and explanations we require for our audit.

.....

Stables Thompson & Briscoe
Statutory Auditor

Lowther House
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DX

Stables Thompson & Briscoe is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2011 £	Restricted Funds 2011 £	Total funds 2011 £	Total funds 2010 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:					
From generated funds					
Voluntary income					
Membership fees and donations		78,859•	--	78,859•	81,621•
Donations and gifts		6,705•	1,150•	7,855•	4,275•
Investment income					
Bank interest received		1,803•	302•	2,105•	2,953•
From charitable activities		5,626•	--	5,626•	4,993•
Other incoming resources					
Other interest received		8•	--	8•	--
Total incoming resources	13	93,001•	1,452•	94,453•	93,842•
RESOURCES EXPENDED:					
Costs of generating voluntary income		9,845•	--	9,845•	9,999•
Charitable activities					
Direct charitable expenditure		46,068•	10,699•	56,767•	57,726•
Other charitable expenditure		23,676•	--	23,676•	29,411•
Governance		8,214•	--	8,214•	11,921•
Total resources expended	13	87,803•	10,699•	98,502•	109,057•
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		5,198•	(9,247)	(4,049)	(15,215)
FUND TRANSFERS		--	--	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		5,198•	(9,247)	(4,049)	(15,215)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD					
AT 1 APRIL 2010		213,905•	35,814•	249,719•	264,934•
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD					
AT 31 MARCH 2011		219,103•	26,567•	245,670•	249,719•
REPRESENTED BY:					
Fixed assets		7,125•	--	7,125•	3,327•
Current assets		216,703•	26,567•	243,270•	255,570•
Current liabilities		(4,725)	--	(4,725)	(9,178)
		219,103•	26,567•	245,670•	249,719•

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2011**

	Notes	2011 £	£	2010 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		7,125•		3,327•
Current assets					
Debtors	7	14,476•		14,297•	
Cash at bank and in hand		228,794•		241,273•	
		243,270•		255,570•	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,725)		(9,178)	
Net current assets			238,545•		246,392•
Total assets less current liabilities			245,670•		249,719•
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	4	26,567•		35,814•	
Unrestricted funds		219,103•		213,905•	
Members' funds - equity interests			245,670•		249,719•

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on

.....
J Arnott (Chairman)

.....
J Dhanjal (Treasurer)

Company Registration No. SC191425 (Scotland)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

Restricted funds

Funds treated as restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed a legally binding restriction on the use of the funds, or where the trustees and the donor have together agreed that the funds be used for a specified purpose. Unrestricted funds consist of funds which the charity may use for its purpose at its discretion.

1.2 Incoming resources and resources expended

(a) Subscriptions are treated as income of the Association in the accounting period during which the monies are received as it is not considered practical to apportion them over the subscription period (the calendar year) to which they relate.

(b) Gift Aid donations, together with the associated income tax and transitional relief are recognised as income when the donation is received.

(c) Legacies are included in income when receivable.

(d) Grants are credited to income upon entitlement.

(e) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. The company is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT. Governance costs consist of general running expenses including those related to statutory requirements. This includes trustee meetings, elections costs and statutory accounts preparation and audit.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Bothy maintenance plant and equipment	25% per annum on a straight line basis
Office equipment	25% per annum on a straight line basis

Maintenance and improvement of bothies

The company does not own any bothies. Expenditure on small tools costing less than £100, maintenance and improvements to bothies is written off to the Income and Expenditure account as and when incurred. Items installed as permanent fixtures in bothies (e.g. stoves) are likewise written off at the time of installation. The work of maintaining the bothies is undertaken by the members of the Association on a voluntary basis and is therefore not assigned a monetary value in these accounts.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

2 Resources expended	2011	2010
	£	£
Resources expended include:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	2,429•	1,244•
Auditors' remuneration	1,959•	1,861•
Trustees expenses - paid to 8 trustees (2010: 9) for travel, subsistence, post, stationery and telephone	1,975•	2,862•
Trustees indemnity insurance	526•	511•
(No remuneration was paid to trustees)		
There were no employees during the year		
	=====	=====

3 Trustees expenses	2011	2010
	£	£
Chairman	-	-
Director of projects	817	742
Treasurer	227	260
Company secretary	370	690
Other trustees	561	1,170
	=====	=====
	1,975	2,862
	=====	=====

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**4 Restricted funds**

	Balance at 1 April 2010 £	Movement in reserves		Balance at 31 March 2011 £
		Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Andrew Jenson Memorial	493	54	-	547
Lillias Wehrle Legacy	7,172	60	1,241	5,991
Donald Wood	71	1	-	72
David Brown	2,497	21	48	2,470
Nicholas Randall	25,581	216	9,410	16,387
David Bernard Martin	-	600	-	600
Glenmore Lodge Enviromental Challenge Fund	-	500	-	500
	<u>35,814</u>	<u>1,452</u>	<u>10,699</u>	<u>26,567</u>

The nature and purpose of these funds is as follows:

Andrew Jenson Memorial Fund - For the upkeep of Gameshope Bothy, failing which the upkeep of other bothies.

Lillias Wehrle Legacy - For bothies in the North West Highlands of Scotland. (2010/11 allocation, £374 to Strathan, £290 to Strathchaileach, £435 to Knockdamph, £142 to Craig).

Donald Wood - For Gregs Hut Bothy in Northern England & Borders area.

David Brown - To be spent on the Lookout in North West Highlands & Islands area (2010/11 allocation, £48 The Lookout).

Nicholas Randall - To be spent on bothy maintenance subject to consultation with the donors (2010/11 allocation, £2,120 Kearvaig, £4,802 to Easan Dorcha, £2,488 to Resourie).

David Bernard Martin - Donation received in the memory of the late Mr David Bernard Martin to be spent in Wales area.

Glenmore Lodge Enviromental Challenge Fund - Donated for use at Fords of Avon bothy.

5 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and, as such, is exempt from taxation on any surplus.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**6 Tangible fixed assets**

	Bothy maintenance plant and equipment £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2010	18,049•	2,774•	20,823•
Additions	6,227•	-•	6,227•
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2011	24,276•	2,774•	27,050•
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2010	14,727•	2,769•	17,496•
Charge for the year	2,429•	-•	2,429•
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2011	17,156•	2,769•	19,925•
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2011	7,120•	5•	7,125•
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2010	3,322•	5•	3,327•
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

7 Debtors

	2011 £	2010 £
Trade debtors	1,495•	1,085•
Other taxes - Gift aid and transitional relief	8,528•	9,327•
Prepayments	4,453•	3,885•
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,476•	14,297•
	<hr/>	<hr/>

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2011 £	2010 £
Trade creditors	1,252•	5,830•
Accruals	3,473•	3,348•
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,725•	9,178•
	<hr/>	<hr/>

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**9 Financial commitments**

The Association has an agreement to lease Over Phawhope Bothy, Selkirk, at a cost of £1 per annum, if asked. The lease runs to 31 July 2208.

Written agreements exist for other bothies, whereby the rent shall not exceed £1, payable only if required. Historically landlords have not collected the £1 rents and no landlords requested payment during the year.

10 Members

The Mountain Bothies Association is a company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to a maximum of £5.

11 Allocation of costs

	Cost of generating voluntary income	Charitable activities	Governance costs	Total 2011	Total 2010
	£	£	£	£	£
Trustees post, stationery and telephone expenses	-•	322•	119•	441•	399•
Trustees travel and subsistence expenses	-•	744•	790•	1,534•	2,463•
Non trustee post, stationery and telephone		131•	35•	166•	-•
Non trustee travel and subsistence expenses		2,972•	-•	2,972•	4,125•
Meeting expenses - hall hire etc	-•	376•	499•	875•	1,036•
Finance and members administration	8,352•	9,057•	1,104•	18,513•	17,691•
Website costs	46•	415•	-•	461•	2,863•

Trustees post, stationery and telephone expenses have been allocated on the basis of usage.

Trustees travel, subsistence and meeting expenses have been allocated on the basis of the purpose of the meeting.

Finance and members administration has been allocated on the basis of time spent in the administration of each activity.

Website costs have been allocated on the basis of page contents.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**12 Bothy maintenance costs**

	2011	2010
	£	£
Bothies where expenditure is over £400		
North Highlands		
Kearvaig	2,120	2,208
Strathan	-	805
Knockdamph	435	-
North West Highlands and Islands		
Easan Dorcha (Tea House)	4,802	-
Craig	-	2,214
The Lookout	-	5,790
Western Highlands and Islands		
Dibidil	-	542
Invermallie	522	-
Suardalan	751	-
South West Highlands and Islands		
An Cladach	-	471
Leacraithnaich	820	-
Mark Ferry Cottage	-	3,681
Peanmeanach	-	1,129
Resourie	2,488	-
Central Highlands		
Blackburn of Corrieyairack	-	787
Eastern Highlands		
Ryvoan	-	938
Southern Scotland		
Over Phawhope	417	-
White Laggan	807	1,082
Green Sykes	1,852	-
Northern England and Borders		
Kershopehead	404	-
Mosedale	-	1,064
Roughside	759	-
Spithope	1,474	1,074
Wales		
Dulyn	2,442	1,634
Moel Prysgau	3,915	-
Penrhos Isaf	-	627
Other bothies		
where expenditure is under £400 - total	12,253	10,444
	<u>36,261</u>	<u>34,490</u>

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**13 Detailed statement of financial activities**

	£	2011 £	£	2010 £
INCOMING RESOURCES:				
Voluntary income				
Members annual subscriptions	59,284•		61,718•	
Life member subscriptions	-•		-•	
Members donations	11,047•		10,576•	
Gift Aid and Income Tax reclaim	8,528•		9,327•	
		78,859•		81,621•
Donations and gifts				
Donations and gifts	7,855•		4,275•	
Gift Aid and Income Tax reclaim	-•		-•	
		7,855•		4,275•
Investment income				
Bank interest		2,105•		2,953•
Income from charitable activities				
Calendars	2,640•		2,490•	
Christmas cards	2,931•		2,371•	
Leisurewear and badges	55•		132•	
		5,626•		4,993•
Other incoming resources				
Other interest		8•		-•
Total incoming resources		94,453•		93,842•
RESOURCES EXPENDED:				
Costs of generating voluntary income				
Finance and members administration	8,352•		8,014•	
Bank and paypal charges	732•		688•	
Direct debit bureau	715•		724•	
Website costs	46•		573•	
		9,845•		9,999•

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

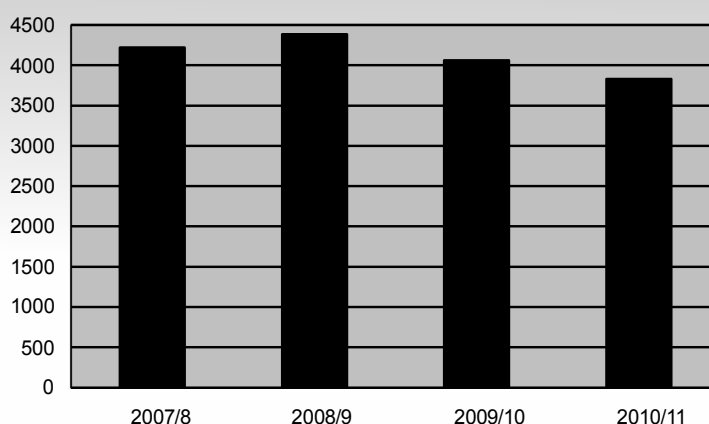
	£	2011 £	£	2010 £
Charitable activities				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Bothy maintenance, including area meetings	36,261•		34,490•	
Bothy rent and rates	-•		1•	
Trustees post, stationery and telephone expenses	322•		340•	
Area organisers administration	-•		131•	
Non Trustees post, stationery and telephone expenses	131•		-•	
Trustee travel and subsistence expenses	621•		1,124•	
Meeting expenses - non trustee travel	2,972•		3,572•	
Meeting expenses - hall hire etc	376•		500•	
Public liability insurance	1,205•		1,206•	
Training and Health and Safety	3,414•		6,530•	
Affiliation fees	155•		130•	
Finance and members administration	8,881•		8,458•	
Legal fees	-•		-•	
Donations to other charities	-•		-•	
Depreciation	2,429•		1,244•	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-•		-•	
		56,767•		57,726•
Other charitable expenses				
Website costs	415•		2,290•	
Bothy notes publication	1,565•		2,082•	
Newsletters	9,519•		8,656•	
Members handbook	-•		3,118•	
Distribution costs	8,444•		9,581•	
Calendars	1,847•		1,824•	
Christmas cards	1,632•		1,586•	
Leisurewear and badges	-•		-•	
Finance and members administration	176•		168•	
Exhibitions	78•		106•	
		23,676•		29,411•
Governance				
Annual report	2,908•		2,730•	
Trustees post, stationery and telephone expenses	119•		59•	
Trustee travel and subsistence expenses	790•		1,014•	
Non trustee travel and subsistence expenses	-•		553•	
Non trustees post, stationery and telephone expenses	35•		-•	
Meeting expenses - hall hire etc	499•		536•	
Trustees indemnity insurance	526•		511•	
Election expenses	259•		3,591•	
Finance and members administration	1,104•		1,051•	
Auditors' fees	1,959•		1,861•	
General expenses	15•		15•	
		8,214•		11,921•
Total resources expended		98,502•		109,057•
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(4,049)		(15,215)

Membership Analysis

At the end of the financial year, 31 March 2011, we had a total of 3857 members in the categories shown in the table opposite.

This is a decrease on the figure of 4179 in 2010, the first we have experienced in recent years. It may well be due to the economic pressures that have confronted many households since 2009.

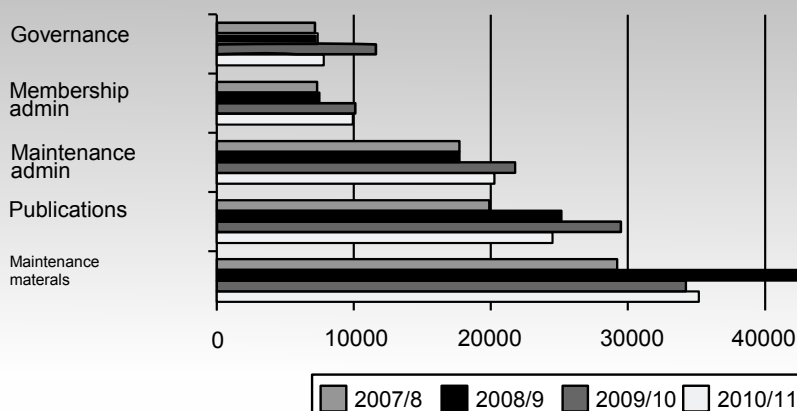
Year	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Individual	3171	3187	2908	2586
Overseas	71	76	87	94
Concessions	981	1008	1117	1113
Juniors	4	6	6	7
Affiliated	29	16	15	9
Life	36	35	39	41
Honorary life	7	7	7	7
Total	4299	4335	4179	3857



Expenditure Analysis

Total expenditure this year decreased by approximately £10,000. In part this reflects the drop in membership, as we correspondingly spent less on newsletters, postage, etc. But we also made savings in the categories of governance and maintenance administration. There was an increase in the amount we spent on materials.

Expenditure	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Governance	7242	7804	11921	8214
Membership admin	6502	10263	9999	9845
Maintenance admin	17997	18090	23236	20506
Publications	19677	24751	29411	23676
Maintenance materials	28197	45283	34490	36261
Total	79615	106191	109057	98502



Maintenance admin

Publications

Governance

Membership admin

Maintenance materials



This year we spent £36,261 on materials to maintain bothies – wood, nails, transport, tools, etc. Publications cost us £23,676 - newsletters, etc. – the equivalent of £6.14 per member. £20,506 was spent on organising the maintenance – meeting expenses, AOs' expenses, insurance, financial administration by Henderson Black, depreciation costs on equipment, etc. Expenditure on governance fell to £8,214. Membership administration cost us £9,845 - this is work done by Henderson Black, an equivalent of £2.55 per member.

Your comments on these figures, how we spent the money & how we have reported on this are very welcome. Please contact the treasurer or any of the trustees.

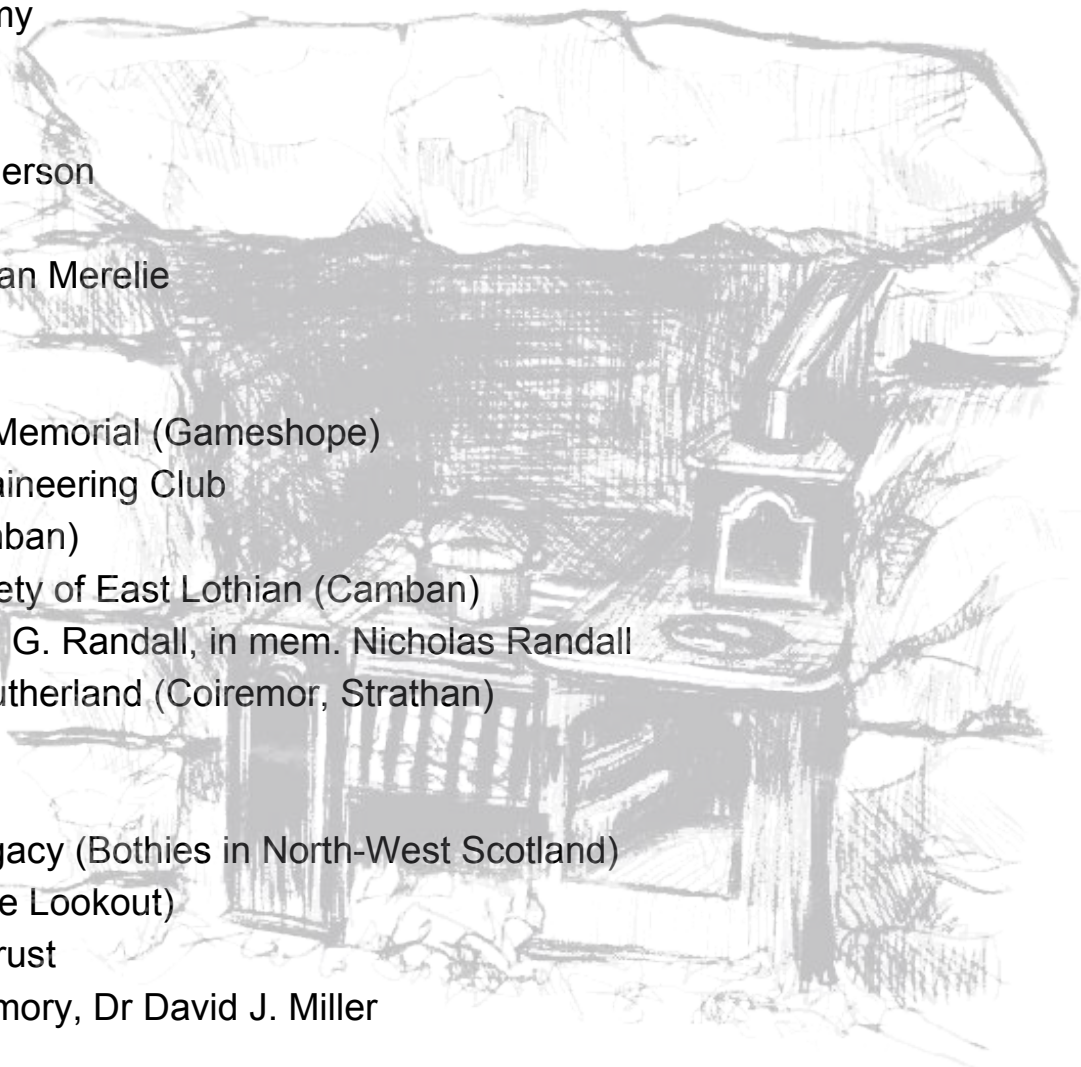
Expenditure per member

No of members	Year 2008/9	Members 4335	Year 2009/10	Members 4179	Year 2010/11	Members 3857
	Amount spent	Per member	Amount spent	Per member	Amount spent	Per member
Publications	24751	£5.71	29411	£7.04	23676	£6.14
Governance	7804	£1.80	11921	£2.85	8214	£2.13
Membership admin	10263	£2.37	9999	£2.39	9845	£2.55
		£9.88		£12.28		£10.82
Maintenance materials	45283	£10.45	34490	£8.25	36261	£9.40
Maintenance admin	18090	£4.17	23236	£5.56	20506	£5.32
		£14.62		£13.81		£14.72
Expenditure per member		£24.50		£26.10		£25.54

Benefactors to the MBA

Every year we benefit from the generosity of individuals, their friends and various funds, who provide substantial donations for specific projects or for our general expenditure. Several have asked for no public acknowledgement, but we are delighted to record our sincere appreciation toward them and the other benefactors listed below who have helped us over recent years.

Donations in memory, David Martin
Boots Across Scotland Charitable Trust Fund
Gorphwysfa Club
Am Binnien Hillwalking Club
Glenmore Lodge Environmental Challenge Fund
H.M. The Queen
Kielder District, Forest Enterprise
Michael Whalley
Culloden Academy
J.A. Fox
J.C. Lang
Elizabeth M. Anderson
Dr A. Anderson
Richard and Susan Merelie
Geoff Jenkinson
Andrew Naylor
Andrew Jensen Memorial (Gameshope)
Langside Mountaineering Club
John Innes (Camban)
St Andrews Society of East Lothian (Camban)
Mr & Mrs William G. Randall, in mem. Nicholas Randall
In mem. Anne Sutherland (Coiremor, Strathan)
Stephen Higgs
George Lamb
Lilias Wehrle Legacy (Bothies in North-West Scotland)
David Brown (The Lookout)
Fargher-Noble Trust
Donations in memory, Dr David J. Miller





Behind the scenes

Caring for almost 100 bothies means there is always a lot going on, mostly behind the scenes.

Maintenance work is generally planned well in advance and there is also a central management team who have an overarching responsibility for getting the job done and keeping MBA on the road.

At the top of the chain is a board of nine elected trustees and a larger management committee made up of the chief maintenance officers and administrators as well as elected representatives from amongst the membership. We have divided the country into nine areas, each of which looks after between seven and fourteen bothies, and each of these areas also has a committee, to

decide on what maintenance is required and how to prioritise it. Foremost concerns are the work of looking after the bothies, managing the funds and people that allow us to achieve our aims and making sure that the work is done safely. Currently, the association is looking at a number of new projects, the accounts show a healthy balance and despite a dip in membership that may have been a byproduct of the recession, we retain strong support amongst bothy users. We continued our excellent safety record with zero

injuries logged in 2010-11.

No organisation remains static and each year we see a turnover of staff as people move on to other things and new faces appear in their place. This year we have a new General Secretary, Simon Birch (above) and a new Area Organiser for the Northern England and Borders Area, a post held jointly by Saskia Ingala and David Jacques (top). A number of Maintenance Organisers (there is at least one to each bothy) have moved on and we have succeeded in filling most of the vacancies.



The Bothy Code

From the outset, MBA has sought also to influence the behaviour of bothy users. This article is about some of the ways we encourage thoughtfulness and generosity.

The vast majority of people who use bothies come away with a positive experience. The principle of cooperation, often between absolute strangers, is key to this success. Without people being willing to share space and also their company, bothying probably wouldn't work and certainly would be much less satisfying. There is also the

cooperation between owner and user that is implicit in the arrangement whereby a building is left open for strangers to use. Finally, there must be cooperation between users and the MBA, so we can keep on top of maintenance issues. Back in the sixties, founding members of the Association devised a Bothy Code, a list of simple requests outlining the behaviour expected from users. It remains largely unchanged

to this day and a copy is usually to be found pinned up somewhere in each bothy we maintain. We expect users to leave a bothy tidy, to let us know of any repairs that are needed, to 'tread lightly' in the surrounding environment, to respect requests made by the bothy owner regarding access to and use of the bothy at certain times of the year, and not to crowd a bothy out with large groups so there is no room for other people who may need the shelter.





The Bothy Code has stood the test of time, but over the years we have supplemented it with additional advice delivered in different ways. Notices in bothies, literature circulated to our members and to the wider public, and increasingly electronic media have all been employed in this task. The main reason has been to highlight specific issues, especially in the bothies themselves. Litter left behind can accumulate and become a big problem for someone. Fouling the water supply is an obvious hazard for everyone. If you're not used to open fires it is tempting to build up a blaze, but that can damage the fireplace and chimney or the stove and in time will leave no fuel in the vicinity of the bothy for anyone else. If you crowd out a bothy it may spoil the experience for someone else, so we ask bigger groups to be prepared to camp. These specific problems are neither common nor widespread, except perhaps for littering, in which case bothies are certainly not unique.

The Bothy Code

The Bothies maintained by the MBA are available by courtesy of the owners. Please respect this privilege. Please record your visit in the Bothy Log-Book.

Respect for Other Users

Please leave the bothy clean and tidy with dry kindling for the next visitors. Make other visitors welcome. Set a good example.

Respect for the Bothy

Tell us about any accidental damage. Don't leave graffiti or vandalise the bothy. Please take out all rubbish which you can't burn. Avoid burying rubbish; this pollutes the environment. Please don't leave perishable food as this attracts vermin. Guard against fire risk and ensure the fire is out when you leave. Make sure the doors and windows are properly closed when

Respect the Surroundings

If there is no toilet at the bothy please bury human waste well away from the bothy. Use the spade provided, keep well away from the water supply and never use the vicinity of the bothy as a toilet. Never cut live wood or damage

Respect the Agreement with the Estate

Please observe any restrictions on use of the bothy, for example during stag stalking or at lambing time. Please remember bothies are available for short stays only.

Respect the Restriction on Numbers

Because of over crowding and lack of facilities, large groups (6 or more) should not use a bothy nor camp near a bothy without first seeking permission from the owner. Bothies are not available for commercial

Bothies are used at your own risk

The MBA web site at www.mountainbothies.org.uk is the fifth we have used since the Association first went 'online' in the late 1990s. Designed and supported by a specialist company, much of the content is intended for non-members and it has quickly become a vital tool in the task of getting our message across.

We circulate a great deal of general advice amongst our membership, currently almost four thousand. We supplement an entertaining and informative quarterly newsletter with a handbook, designed to help new members to find their feet. We are particularly wary of users who may expect the facilities of a club hut or small hostel and we aim to put right any misapprehensions before they venture unprepared into the hills. Members have access to what we call the Bothy Notes, a new electronic version of which is shortly to be launched. These 'notes' offer advice about using particular bothies in a responsible manner, and

include contact details for landowners where a request has been made for visitors to get in touch at certain times of the year, such as stalking or lambing. They remind members not to light fires outside bothies and to be careful about where they drive and park their vehicles, as well as much else. To reach beyond our membership, which represents only a fraction of the people using bothies, we have issued several leaflets. These have unashamedly advertised the attractions of paying a subscription, but have also presented our views on responsible use. One of our leaflets was specifically about responsible access to the hills and encouraged good practice with regard to not disrupting estate activities and care of the environment. Today,

leaflets seem to be a thing of the past and with the successful launch of our current web site in spring 2009 we have begun to rely heavily on electronic media to inform the public about our work and about the contribution that they, as bothy users, can make. We have always worked hard to facilitate visitors making reports about the state of bothies. Since all our maintenance team are



volunteers and there are almost a hundred properties in our care, many of them in very remote locations, it is difficult to ensure more than a couple of 'official' visits to each bothy in any year. Other bothy users, both members and non-members, can make a valuable contribution simply by telling us if they see something amiss, or by telling us that all is well. For many years we left

postcards with a preprinted freepost address for visitors to take away and send back to us with a brief written report. Today most reports come in via our web site. In the last year 536 were received this way. To ensure as many bothy users as possible know how to find us on the Internet, we have printed thousands of plastic cards with the website address on one side and

a useful map romer on the reverse. These will be distributed from this autumn. As the numbers of reports increase, so this offers our volunteers more support in their work. We are also keen to encourage greater involvement by the wider bothying community. Even if they are not members, bothy users can still help by providing feedback on the condition of MBA bothies.

We know that the tradition of sharing, whether it be space on a platform, or in the form of leaving some dry wood for a future visitor, or tidying the bothy, or simply sharing a conversation is what has allowed bothying to thrive. For most people it comes naturally, but even so we think sharing the news is still worthwhile the effort.



Oban Bothy

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