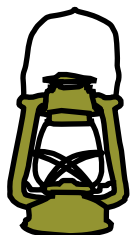
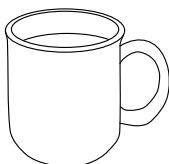
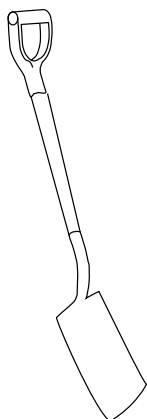
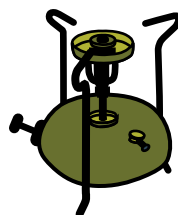
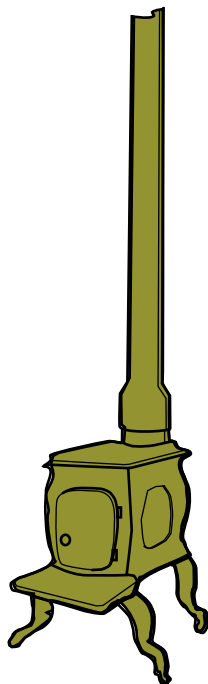
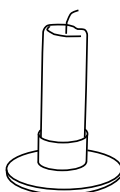
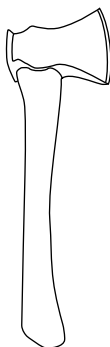


annual REVIEW

YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2013



Mountain
Bothies
Association





Lluest Cwmbach

This year saw us add to the MBA list our first new bothy in Wales since 1999. Lluest Cwmbach, in the Elan Valley in eastern central Wales, is originally a late 18th century cottage, later improved by the addition of a 'croglift' upper floor. It was abandoned by the last residents in 1952 and by 2011 it was a roofless shell. The building was first looked at by MBA volunteers in the late 1990s, but the impetus for the project came from the Elan Valley Trust, owners of the building.

The Trust was interested in restoring and finding a sustainable use for derelict buildings on land belonging to

the water authority and in 2011 representatives approached MBA about a joint project. Lluest Cwmbach was selected from several candidates and during the next year the necessary planning permissions were sought and granted. The arrangement was for the Trust to restore the external structure at their cost, and for MBA to renovate the interior. This is the first time MBA volunteers have worked in such close co-operation with another organisation and their contractors, and the smooth progress of the project is a testament to the enthusiasm and generosity of all parties.



In November 2012, the project commenced with MBA volunteers and estate staff together digging out the ruin. The original tiled floor was revealed and this has been preserved, whilst sufficient timber was salvaged from the old roof beams to later make a fine table for the bothy. June 2013 saw delivery of materials on site by helicopter, after which contractors scaffolded the building, repaired the walls and installed a new roof of profile tin in place of the original slate. This work was completed by August. In the meantime, MBA volunteers had been able to go on site and install a flue liner for the stove.

The rest of the internal work continued over a number of weekends through the autumn and into the following winter, to equip the new bothy with sleeping platforms and other necessities. It has been restored as a single room building - in 1911 it was recorded as having five rooms - and as well as the very fine floor it retains the quartzite built into the inside walls by the original masons for good luck. The total cost (to MBA) of this project was £3000 and MBA volunteers contributed over 85 working days.



Dryfehead 2012

Dryfehead, a new era



Dryfehead 1937

The invitation to renovate Dryfehead in Southern Scotland came out of the blue. It was never a well known bothy and steady deterioration of the building fabric had in recent years rendered it unusable. Tanlawhill Estate contacted us on the strength of the work we had done at Greensykes in 2011 and following the usual site visits and discussions amongst our various committees, we made the decision to go ahead in the summer of 2012.

Local resident Ewan Carmichael of Boreland heard news of the MBA

interest from a friend who is one of our members. A frequent visitor to Dryfehead in the course of his running and mountain biking, over the years Ewan had watched the little cottage decline, until by 2012 part of one gable had fallen down and the other was not in much better shape. One day he and a friend happened to be passing and 'to our surprise... there was Rab and a little workparty. I was delighted to see new windows had been fitted and a new door. I knew Rab's name from other bothies, but this was the first time I'd met him. We had a bit of a blether'.

The 'little workparty' was key to the renovation of Dryfehead. Rather than gather a big group and attempt to blitz the building, the project organiser, Rab McMurdo, chose a slow but steady approach that allowed some twenty-one people to contribute their time over eighteen months, often returning several times in that period. There was a long delay between October 2012 and March 2013 because of snow, but for the rest of the time workparties took place every few weeks.

The west gable was stabilised and the roof at that end repaired, then windows fitted, skylights repaired, the west room was fitted out and slowly the work moved eastwards. The east gable and the roof above that were repaired in the summer of 2013, after which a second room was created out of the previous shambles.

The number of volunteers was swelled by Ewan, who confesses that he just

'couldn't resist' becoming involved. Dryfehead cast a spell on other folk too. News of another workparty was always eagerly awaited and John Mitchell liked it so well that he volunteered to become the first Maintenance Organiser. Standing just above a watersmeet, with open hillside behind and a giant sycamore tree offering shade on summer days Dryfehead has something of an idyll about it.

We are very grateful to everyone who helped on this project; also for the support and at times very active assistance of Dave Smith and the local staff of Tilhill, who manage the neighbouring plantations, for support provided by Tanlawhill and for the donation of £1,412 from Scotways that paid for a substantial part of the materials used. Up until November 2013 a total of 220 volunteer days was spent on site.



Dryfehead 2013

Further work party photographs can be found on the MBA website gallery.

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.

The Late Harry Fairhurst and the Fairhurst Family (Over Phawhope)

James Thin Charitable Trust

H.M. The Queen

Legacy from the estate of William Bain Carlyle

Donations in memory, Alan Galt (Bothies in the North West)

Legacy from the estate of Dr. James Piggins

Mr & Mrs William G. Randall, in mem. Nicholas Randall

Grampian Club (Gleann Dubh-lighe)

David Finnie

Fife Mountaineering Club, in memory of Fiona Donald

Donations in memory, Jack Griffiths

Michael Taylor

Aberdeen Lions Club

Legacy from the estate of Roland Hill

Yarm School (Craig)

Michael Sutton

Clyde Valley Ramblers

Dr J.H. Williamson

Kyle Mountaineering Club

Great Glen Walking Club

Saddleworth Pedestrians Walking Club

Scotways – Lockerbie Bequest (Dryfehead)

John Innes (Camban)

David Brown (The Lookout)

Arthur Chater (Hutchison Memorial Hut)

Cairngorm Club (Hutchison Memorial Hut)

Scottish Mountaineering Trust (Hutchison Memorial Hut)

Donation in memory, Sandy Sands (Hutchison Memorial Hut)

Glenmore Lodge Environmental Challenge Fund

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Fords of Avon)

Proceeds from sale of "Dibidil : A Hebridean Adventure"

by Irvine Butterfield

Donations in memory, Mike Pratt

Michael Whalley

Andrew Jensen Memorial (Gameshope)

Donations in memory, David Martin

Donald Wood

Kielder District, Forest Enterprise

Cameron of Locheil

Donations in memory, Chris Barnes

Santander UK

George Watson's College

Liz Smith, MSP

Philamonic Trust

Donation in memory, Alexander Davie

Speyside High School

Albert Mackenzie

Donations in memory, Bob Kyle

Marjory Davidson

Daniel Christie

Roger Sawtell



Bothy Owners

It is common for people to ask MBA officers where all the money for the work that we do comes from; much less often are we asked about the bothies themselves. Each bothy is property belonging to an individual or a trust or an organisation that have decided to make it available for public use. The following list is by way of expressing our thanks to the very generous people who own the bothies that we are able to maintain.

H.M. The Queen, *Gelder Shiel Stable*

Earl of Mexborough, *A'Chuil*

Alan Johnson, *Camasunary*

The Buccleuch Estates Ltd, *Burleywhag, Kettleton Byre*

Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water), *Arenig Fawr, Dulyn, Grwynne Fawr*

Scott Bremner, *Blackburn of Corrieyairack*

The Trustees of Lindsay C N Bury, *Cruib*

Mr R A Green, *The Croft House*

R H F Le Fleming, *Cross Fell*

The Proprietors of Glenfalloch Estate, *Doune Byre*

Trustees of Philip R Smith, *Easan Dorcha*

Timothy Leslie, *Essan*

Andras Ltd., *Faindouran*

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, *Fords of Avon, Ryvoan*

Trustees of Atholl Estates, *Tarf Hotel, Allt Scheicheachan*

Dunlossit Trustees Ltd, *An Cladach*

Mr Enghart, *Clennoch*

Peter Stewart Sandeman, *Peanmeanach*

Captain N J N H Wills, *Bearnais*

Ben Alder, Dalwhinnie & Strathmashie Estates, *Ben Alder Cottage, Culra*

Borders Forest Trust, *Gameshope*

Mrs A K Boyd, *Brattleburn*

Mrs C W Wilson, *Carron*

Sarah Troughton, *Cadderlie*

Invercauld Estate, *Callater Stable*

The West Highlands Woodlands, *Gleann Dubh-lighe*

Aberchelder Estate, *Glenbuck*

Westminster Estates, *Glencoul, Glendhu*

Andrew Fletcher, *Glengarrisdale*

The Bothy Trust, *Glenpean*

Philip Fleming, Robert Fleming & Trustees, *Gorton*

The National Trust for Scotland, *Camban, Corroul, Hutchison Memorial Hut*

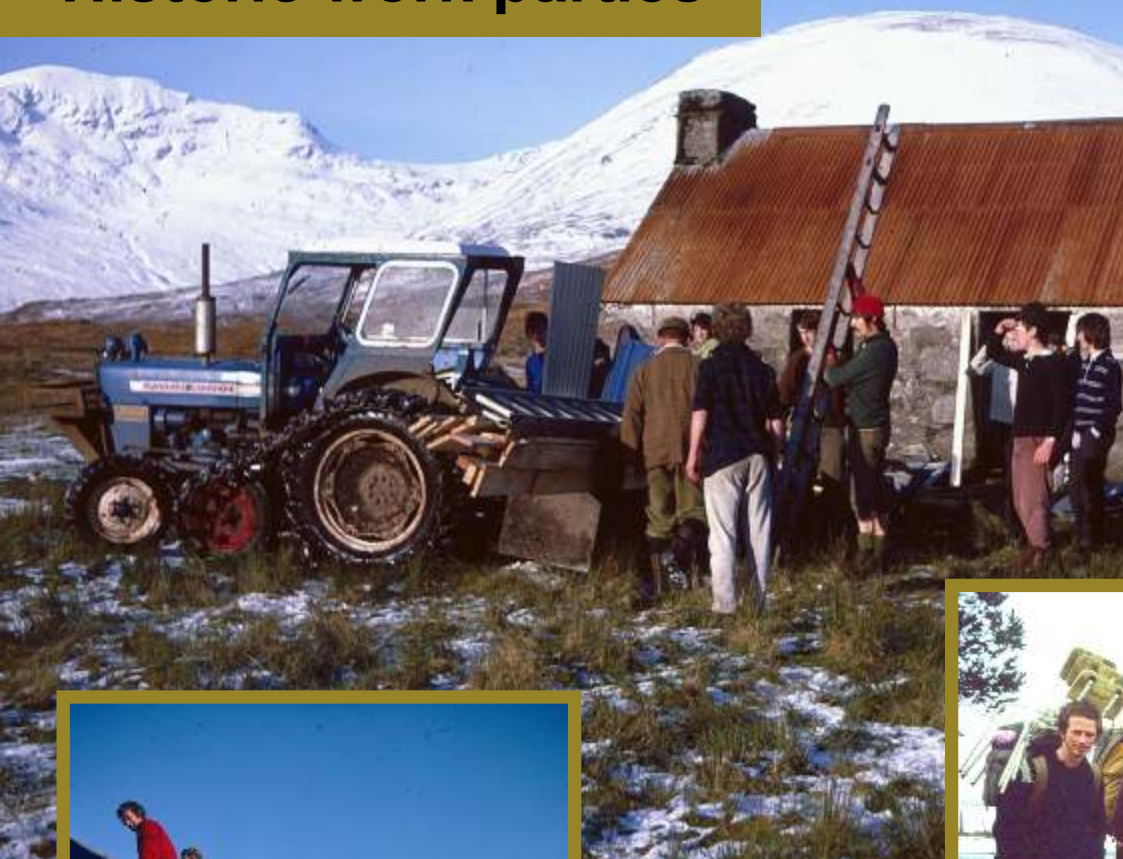
Fasque & Glendye Estates, *Charr*

The Block & Fooks Families, *Coire Fionnaraich*

The Corriemulzie Trust, *Coiremor, The Schoolhouse*
 The Bacon Trustees, *Craig*
 Mrs Richardson & Mr Richardson, *Warnscale Head*
 Greensykes Forestry, *Greensykes*
 Glenfeshie Estate Ltd, *Ruigh Aiteachain*
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 Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel, *Invermallie, Kinbreak*
 Secretary of State for Defence, *Kearvaig*
 Neil Scobie, *Knockdamph*
 Rio Tinto Alcan Highland Estates, *Lairig Leacach, Loch Chiarain, Meanach, Staoineag*
 Ardtornish Estate Co Ltd, *Leacraithnaich*
 Dalhousie 2006 Trust, *Sheilin of Mark*
 The Honourable Rupert Christopher Soames, *Sourlies*
 Braeroy Estates Ltd, *Luib Chonnal*
 Smech Properties Ltd, *Maol Bhuidhe*
 United Utilities, *Mosedale Cottage*
 Eriboll Estate Trust, *Strabeg*
 The Glenelg Sheepstock Club, *Suardalan*
 Assynt Foundation, *Suileag*
 Storax Uibhist, *Usinish*
 Mark Z de Ferranti, *Oban*
 Glendale Estate Trust, *Ollisdal*
 The Trustees of John & Dorothy Stancer, *Tomsleibhe*
 Applecross Estate Trust, *Uags*
 Mountain Bothies Association, *Over Phawhope*
 The Scottish Ministers (SGRPID), *Achnanclach, The Lookout, Strathan, Strathchailleach, Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh*
 The Scottish Ministers (SNH), *Dibidil, Guirdil*
 The Scottish Ministers (FCS), *Mark Cottage, Resourie, Rowchoish, Tunskeen, Taigh Seumas a' Ghlinne, White Laggan*
 The Forestry Ministers (FCE), *Green, Haughtongreen, Kershopehead, Roughside, Spithope, Wainhope*
 The Welsh Ministers (NRW), *Moel Prysgau, Nant Rhys, Nant Syddion, Penrhos Isaf*
 Michael Bostelman & Julian Whately, *Dryfehead*

Land in the ownership of the Scottish Ministers is managed by the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID), the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Land in the ownership of the Forestry Ministers (FCE) is managed by the Forestry Commission England. Land in the ownership of the Welsh Ministers (NRW) is managed by the Natural Resources Wales.

Historic work parties





Blackburn of Pattack



Corrour c1980



Surdalan

Photo credits: Alan Bellis, Simon Jarratt, Peter King,
Ian Mitchell, John Mitchell, Neil Reid

Edited by Peter King, Neil Stewart
Designed by John Mitchell



Looked after 98 bothies.

Opened new bothies in Southern Scotland and Wales.

Identified 3 possible new projects.

Spent over £56,000 on maintenance activities.

Ran training courses for our volunteers.

Our volunteers:

Undertook maintenance work at 68 bothies.

Contributed over 1,290 working days.

Scottish Charity No: SC008685

Company Number: SC191425, limited by Guarantee

Registered office: Henderson Black & Co. Edenbank House, 22 Crossgate, Cupar, KY15 5HW

mountainbothies.org.uk

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