

Mountain Bothies Association Annual Review

Year ending 31st December 2019



Across Britain, we maintain more than 100 bothies, none of which is on a public road. Indeed most bothies are in highly demanding locations, surrounded by rough and mountainous terrain.

During 2019, the MBA owned only two bothies. Elsewhere, we work with the bothy owner – such as an individual, trust or public body – to keep the building in good order, and open for public use.

In this Annual Review, we show how we went about our work in 2019.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

The Association has had another very positive year. A significant amount of bothy maintenance has been undertaken and in each case the bothy owners have been very supportive in allowing their buildings to be restored and put to good use. We record our thanks to all the owners of our bothies. We took over responsibility for the maintenance of Glas Allt Shiel, south of Lochnagar in the Cairngorms, and took over ownership of Glenpean bothy in the Western Highlands.

HOW WE WORK

The MBA is a membership organisation, registered in Scotland as a charity. We have no paid staff. The board of Trustees meets regularly during the year to set priorities, monitor finance and ensure good governance. Up to the AGM in October, it was supported by a single management committee, but following a review of governance, that has now been replaced by three

committees, covering renovation and maintenance, members and volunteers, and communication. All members of the MBA can attend and vote at the AGM.

Bothies are organised into nine geographical areas, each of which has an area organiser and committee. Each bothy has a maintenance organiser (or two joint MOs); aided by reports from users, they monitor the condition of their bothy, and effect minor repairs. Larger-scale work, such as installing a new hearth or roof, falls to work parties, often of several days' duration.

Our accountants, who also undertake other aspects of our administration such as the maintenance of our membership list, are Henderson Black & Co of Cupar in Fife.

TRUSTEE UPDATES

We welcomed John Arnott and Alastair Wilson as Trustees. Peter King and Richard Spencer reached the end of their terms on the Board in October (though Richard continues as Company Secretary), and we thank them for their service.

We maintain simple shelters

IN REMOTE COUNTRY FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO LOVE WILD AND LONELY PLACES



Editor: Peter Aylmer
Design: John Mitchell

Photo credits: Miro Alt, John Bamber, Robert Barton, David Hoare, K Mitch Hodge, Craig Marshall, Lyndsey McLellan, Thomas Millet, John Mitchell, Mike Owens, Neil Reid, Steve Smythe



QUEEN VICTORIA STAYED HERE

We took on maintenance of the Eastern Highlands bothy Glas Allt Shiel in March 2019. It's the second MBA bothy to be owned by HM The Queen, alongside Gelder Shiel Stable about five miles away on the other side of Lochnagar.

Tucked behind the lodge built on the north shore of Loch Muick, 'GAS' was built for Queen Victoria, who used it to escape the world whilst in mourning for Prince Albert. More recently, it's been familiar as an open bothy since 1991, maintained by Dundee University Rucksack Club, which we hope will continue to be involved in its maintenance.

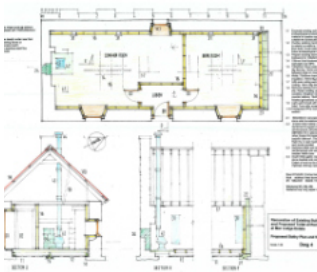
RED HOUSE PROGRESS

Work has continued to prepare another bothy for the Eastern Highlands, Ruighe Ealasaid or the Red House, but plans to build the blockwork up to ground level were delayed due to cold weather. Pre-fabricated frames were ready to install in 2020, but coronavirus may delay opening.

CHANGE OF TITLE FOR GLENPEAN

Not title as in name but as in ownership. This Western Highlands bothy, dramatically situated above the River Pean on a track heading towards Loch Morar, became the second bothy in MBA ownership when its title was transferred from the Bothy Trust in February. The MBA is now the outright owner of two bothies, the other being Over Phawhope in Southern Scotland.

Preparation
is the key
to success



Work parties: the core of the MBA



Over 100 buildings spread across Britain's wildest parts: all re-purposed from their original function, most more than a century old, none easy of access. And all are unlocked.

What could possibly go wrong? The wonder of the MBA is that, by bringing volunteer labour together with the good offices of the bothy owners, all bothies remain watertight and weatherproof. That's not down to chance, it's down to planning.

Each of the MBA's nine areas plans a programme for the year and works according to a budget agreed with the MBA nationally. Particularly complex work such as roof repairs can involve repeat work parties over several years. The renovations at Leacraithnaich (see pages 4 to 6) and Invermallie (page 7) are two such examples.

Key tasks typically include some or all of stove, fireplace or window repair or replacement, building new bunks or sleeping platforms, and external works such as ditch clearance and path maintenance. Examples of some of this work are provided by the work at Strabeg (page 8) and Resourie (page 9).

Occasionally, we can build new toilets, though the default for most bothies will perhaps always be the bothy spade. And painting matters too – not so much for aesthetic reasons; good paintwork inside or out helps guard against depredation. At Ryvoan in the Eastern Highlands, bothy repainting was helped along by one of our youngest volunteers – Finlay Campbell aged seven. Welcome Finlay, the first in a new generation!

Leacraithnaich Ardtornish Estate

The peninsula of Morvern, west of Loch Linnhe and north of Mull, boasts barely more than one resident for each of its 250 square miles. A great place for a bothy, and at the heart of the Ardtornish Estate, Leacraithnaich doesn't disappoint.

But back in 2017 it was clear that the bothy roof needed complete renewal. So significant were the issues that two years of planning, the MBA working alongside the Estate, were needed before the month-long volunteer work party could start in late April 2019.

A project like this needs many things to come together – effective logistical planning; good liaison with the Estate; a

plentiful supply of volunteers; and by no means least, decent weather! The last certainly delivered, thanks to an almost completely dry and placid month, though at times the lack of water was to prove an issue.

The Estate undoubtedly showed just how much they valued the bothy, donating the materials at a cost of £12,000 and delivering the bulk items as close as they could, 500 metres down the path. Our thanks go to Allan Young, who as MO for the bothy worked closely with the Estate throughout the project.

Design was undertaken by Jim Ross, MO for Tomsleibhe just the other side of the Sound of Mull. Building regulations need to

be strictly observed, as an eagle eye over the work was cast by the MBA's health and safety adviser Craig Marshall before a building control adviser from Fort William cycled up for a final check.

The work party volunteers – more than 50 from eight nations all told, though no more than a manageable 17 at any one time – brought a variety of skills and a great willingness to learn. Their average stay on site was a week each.

Because of the scale of the project, this work party had more mod cons than perhaps any other. A canteen in which cooks Alex MacLeod and John Arnott baked bread! A gas-powered shower! Compostable toilets! Mobile phone

chargers! Even a fridge/freezer, admittedly some distance from the bothy but nevertheless a godsend. The MBA budget for these and related items ran to £8,000.

On the project itself, it was soon found that nails on the old roof had rusted in so an angle grinder had to be brought in to remove them – an early delay. Once the roof was off, it was clear that the wall heads at the gable ends also needed more work than anticipated, but once done the first trusses were quickly installed, followed by corrugated aluminium roof sheets.

Lime pointing – particularly important on the weather-facing western and southern elevations – took more than one tonne of sharp sand. That, and the 100+ litres of water





Work and play



transported daily from the source 1km away, are useful indications of the scale of the project.

Inside, the bothy's interior layout was revamped to include three rooms, two with a fireplace. Cladding alone kept six volunteers busy for several days. Only one aspect was unfinished at the end of the month, application of fire-retardant varnish. That said, some snagging remains – one door and a chimney cowl were planned for replacement in 2020.

Area organiser Peter Rowell said:

"The support of volunteers from all walks of life and levels of skill was vital in achieving the desired end result; it was a joy to have them along. We thank them very much for giving so much of their time in willing support of this worthwhile cause, and we look forward to seeing them again on another day and in another bothy."

Room for one at Invermallie

Invermallie bothy is in the heart of Clan Cameron country, on the River Mallie heading out of Loch Arkaig.

Back in 2017 its upper floor was found prey to woodworm – half was replaced in a work party that year, and the other half in a 2018 work party. This work would have been incredibly difficult without the help of Alex Macdonald the local stalker who brought in most of the heavier materials. MBA volunteers took in other materials by wheelbarrow and bikes, tough going at times.

Attention could then turn to the lining the walls and ceilings – and even take into account a heart-felt plea from a solitary user who had visited when the bothy was very busy. "The group were good company but boisterous," he said. "I had to share a

room with five others who chatted long into the night. I would have liked some solitude, but had no tent."

So as well as new sleeping platforms and cladding, which make the upstairs very light and airy, the July 2019 work party made a single room out of a cupboard.

"We fitted a plywood ceiling, altered the door, formed and strengthened the flimsy walls, and built the small sleeping platform," said MO Jock Watson. "A coat of paint will be applied to finish it off when we get round to repainting all of the downstairs rooms."

The communal bothy night is a wonderful thing, but a bit of peace and quiet can be good too, and now Invermallie offers both.



New light for Strabeg

To the south of Scotland's most northerly sea loch, Strabeg is a two storey house built in 1894 to house an estate shepherd. Outside of summer, daylight is precious here. The two upstairs rooms were built with skylights, but after 120 years they were getting a bit worse for wear.

But how to replace? "Nothing modern like Velux" was the view of the estate manager – the bothy owner, Wildland, sets great store by sympathetic restoration, and given the sterling service of the originals why not. The new skylights were manufactured by Ballantines Castings of Bo'ness, a foundry that dates back to the 1820s that still hold patterns for architectural items such as these.

A three-day work party in May involved eight MBA volunteers, though not all at the same time. Materials had to be carried the last mile down the path, but fortunately the ground was unusually dry and crossing the river just before the bothy was no problem. There was enough labour left over to get on with other jobs such as repairing the fireplace, painting, and applying bitumen to the porch. MO Robert Barton even became pretty proficient in cutting slates, which he had never done before.

It was all worthwhile. Nearly a year on and there is no sign of any leakage from the skylights.



Ballantines Castings



Conserving
the history
and character
of our bothies



Fixing the leaks at Resourie



Those unfamiliar with bothies are told the minimum they can expect is a weatherproof building. But at Resourie, deep in forested Glen Hurich in the south-west Highlands, damp problems and a leaky roof stretched this promise a little. During 2019, two work parties got to grips with this problem.

Extensive roof leaks accounted most of the water ingress but ground levels outside were also high; in one or two places surface water had gone through the walls. It could not then easily escape, as old cement and paint coatings prevented water vapour from passing out. The result: condensation and woodworm.

The bothy was also well-defended by a man-eating bog which lay right across the access path – perfect for trapping the unwary at night.

The work parties made good inroads into all of this. They lowered the ground level at the east

gable, improved air circulation in the loft, fitted air vents in the windows, and replaced many roof screws. All the loft and roof timbers were sprayed for woodworm (following SNH guidance regarding bats) and the loft floor reinforced so that it was safe to work there.

Chimney tops and the base of the walls were pointed, and patches of cement render on the east gable replaced. A start was made on cleaning the paint off the internal walls, with a view to its replacement with a breathable coating later on. Other improvements included window perspex replacement, installation of a drying pulley and clearing the worst of the bogs from the access path.

The bothy is now much drier, and further work will look to tackle one or two remaining leaks at the chimneys.

“A man-eating bog
was perfect for
trapping the unwary”

Goodwill at Cae Amos

Cae Amos is one of the MBA's most recent bothies, opened in 2017, but before this it was known to many as a base for the Leeds Mountaineering Club. It has spectacular views up Cwm Pennant, a secluded valley in north western Snowdonia.

The partnership with bothy owner Ed Naish has been one of support and friendship. Ed has fully embraced the ethos of the MBA and was with Tony Blackburn, the AO for Wales, and his colleagues every step of the way during the renovation.

Near the bothy is a barn, which was starting to fall into disrepair. The Wales area maintenance team had no major projects on the go and were looking for something to get together to do. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to show some thanks to Ed for his support.

Local Scouts cleared out the barn – sheep had been using it as a shelter, so there was up to two feet of muck to remove! Ed covered the cost of the materials, and as many slates as possible were recycled. Over a series of work party weekends the MBA recruits set to work.

The MBA's work party volunteers have played an important part in preserving the very fine landscape in which Cae Amos stands.

Text: Lyndsey McLellan

Four sheets to the wind

Every bothy needs a roof. The question is, what type of roof? It would perhaps be wonderful if every bothy could be topped in slate, but that's rarely an option. The MBA has generally used four types of sheeting.

Onduline, the cheapest, is made from bitumen-impregnated recycled cardboard and paper fibres. It doesn't rot or corrode and needs minimal maintenance, but unlike the other sheetings it's flammable and not recyclable.

Galvanised corrugated iron (actually steel) sheet was often used till about 1995 but only rarely now. It lasts for many years but needs regular repainting, an expensive and risky chore.

PVC plastisol-coated galvanised iron is a little more expensive than those two. First used to re-roof An Cladach on Islay in 1999, it's become pretty much the sheet of choice. But that is a shoreline bothy, and within ten years it was suffering from what can only be called sheet-pox on account of the salt-laden air.

So An Cladach was re-sheeted five years ago with pre-painted plain mill aluminium. Though the most

expensive (nearly twice the price of onduline), fact sheets call it "ideal [for] marine and coastal environments" and "normally expected to last the life of the building without maintenance". At Resourie (see page 9), it's outlasted its fixings; on Suileag in Assynt, it's taken 35 years for the top coat of paint to be blasted off, but the undercoat and the metal will last even longer.



It's useful to have options. "Roofing decisions take local factors into account," said Jim Ross, Area Rep for the SW Highlands & Islands. "Sometimes the owner has a preference, and we also consider what the roof can bear, the climate, and transport to the site, for example."

Greg's Hut

A place of safety



Tucked just below the northern screes of Cross Fell, highest point of the Pennines, lies Greg's Hut. Built as a blacksmith's shop during the lead mining boom of the nineteenth century, it's now a crucial place of safety on the toughest section of the Pennine Way.

The bothy is maintained jointly by the MBA and the Greg's Hut Association, founded in memory of the climber John 'Greg' Gregory following his death in the Alps in 1968.

But 100 mph winds take their toll. Rather than patch individual slates, which are starting to loosen, a professional survey recommends stripping off the entire roof, putting in new joists and then replacing the existing slates over sarking boards. It will be a major project, but an essential one to secure the bothy for the next 50 years.

See the next page for tales of how Greg's Hut plays a vital role as a place of safety.



Spine Race Noodle Bar

The changeable weather up at Greg's Hut means that no time of year is 'safe'. The Long Distance Walkers Association Hundred – 100 miles over 24 hours in late May, restricted by qualifying events to 500 of the fittest walkers – took the Pennine Way south out of Garrigill in light drizzle and a slight breeze. But for Ian Fairweather of London and many others, the weather was on the turn.

"I had reced this section so felt confident going into the darkness, having a good idea of what was to come. How wrong I was. Soon the wind blasted us from our right, driving the rain through my waterproofs. And then the track turned directly into the notorious Helm wind. Now it was more akin to being jet washed."

"At Greg's Hut we were directed into the packed main room. I had planned a brief rest, but within two minutes my legs started to shake uncontrollably, and then it spread to the rest of my body. Mountain Rescue checked my core temperature. I was hypothermic, so wrapped in a foil blanket, given tea, and placed in front of the stove. After two and a half hours I eventually stopped shaking. That was the end of my 100 for that year."

If May had seen a nightmare, the Spine Race in January had been relatively clement. Taking every inch of the Pennine Way, runners are promised "the full intensity and ferocity of the British winter". But winner Jasmin Paris felt that she missed out on only two things – snow, and the Greg's Hut Noodle Bar – she ran so fast it was not yet open as she passed. Noodle bar? John Bamber of the Spine Race team explains.

"We make the racers a hot drink and a mess tin of noodles and soup. Adding chillies came about when I took some home-grown ones up for myself and added surplus if wanted to racers' noodles. This was an unexpected hit and racers have since elevated this to cult level. There is even a cuddly chilli hanging above the kitchen area while we are there."



Sally Kershaw

Volunteer support officer

Sally is the MBA's volunteer support officer, appointed early in 2019. Here she describes how she came to the role and what it involves.



To contact Sally email
sallyteatime@hotmail.co.uk

Interview: Lyndsey McLellan

“In 2014 I was retired from work having been told I would die from cancer. I decided to spend my savings and bought a narrow boat. I called it "Therapy".

In 2016 I was still alive but my shepherd husband was made redundant. We had to leave our tied farmhouse and decided to go and live on a slightly larger narrow boat.

In July 2018, still very much alive and looking for a meaningful role I could carry out from wherever the boat was, I applied for a vacancy I saw advertised as MBA Volunteer Advisor.

I had lived in Glenurquhart and professionally was a Youth and Community Development Worker in the Great Glen. I love hill walking and using bothies, but like many of our members I had never been at a work party.

My new role is to help and support people like me to take the plunge. I match up and encourage those wanting to volunteer with the right working party, at the right bothy, doing the most appropriate tasks, at the right time. I've got to know Director of Projects Roger Hammond and all the Area Organisers so that they can ask me if they need a new volunteer with particular skills.

In an organisation where we are all volunteers, it is important that the MBA is good at this aspect of its work. My role will also include ensuring that we set out clearly all the opportunities for volunteering and put systems in place to improve recruitment, induction and training of volunteers.





Area Focus Eastern Highlands

Area organiser Allan Moore, who has been bothying for over 50 years, has been in the role since autumn 2013. Now retired, he calls it "the best job I've ever had, apart from the privilege of volunteering with the MBA"

The MBA's Eastern Highlands area includes 12 bothies and two mountain refuges spread across the Grampians east of the A9. Including almost all of the Cairngorms National Park, it covers some of the most remote mountain areas in Britain.

THE TWO MOUNTAIN REFUGES

Both of the MBA's mountain refuges are close to the sub-arctic Cairngorm plateau. As small emergency refuge shelters, they are not for planned overnight stays - but they can be lifesavers in the savage weather often experienced here, both in winter and beyond.



Garbh Choire Refuge
High above the great pass that is the Lairig Ghru, with the north- and east-facing corries of Braeriach and Càirn Toul rising beyond.



Fords of Avon Refuge
At an important path crossroads, four miles uphill from Faingouran bothy. The 1182m Beinn Mheadhoin towers above.



Allt Scheicheachan
The southernmost bothy in the area, on a track that leads down to Blair Atholl.



Shielin of Mark
In a very remote area between Loch Muick and Glen Lee, 2000ft up and with no mapped track.



Gelder Shiel Stable
One of two bothies owned by HM The Queen, it's on the Balmoral Estate below the northern slopes of Lochnagar.



Faingouran
A tiny bothy in Glen Avon, on an important access route from the east to the Cairngorm plateau.



Hutchison Memorial Hut (Etchachan)
Another bothy close to the Cairngorm plateau, it was built in the 1950s in memory of Dr A G Hutchison.



Tarf Hotel (Feith Uaine)
Twice burnt down in its early history – the first time, to discourage poachers – and most recently renovated in 2017.



Glas Allt Shiel
The second of the Queen's bothies, and a few miles south of Gelder Shiel, 'GAS' was adopted by the MBA in 2019.



Corrour
One of the most famous of all bothies, located in the Lairig Ghru, an old right of way between Deeside and Speyside.



Ruigh Aiteachain
This bothy in Glen Feshie, underwent a two-year restoration in 2017-18 thanks to the Feshie Estate.



Ryvoan
The bothy is within an RSPB reserve and is situated on the Thieves' Road which runs from Nethy Bridge towards Glenmore.



Charr
The only bothy in the Area outside the Cairngorms National Park, situated in Glen Dye.



Callater Stable
On Jock's Road, a major pass from Braemar to Glen Clova. A popular stopping off point for Lochnagar too.

Enquiries grow MBA shop

Once, only those regularly engaged in outdoor pursuits knew what a bothy was, never mind who the MBA were. How times have changed!

Bothies now feature regularly in both print and online media, and we receive television and film enquiries too. Our website alone generated almost 1,000 enquiries from the public and our Facebook page, which grew to 13,000 subscribers, is an important source of advice as well.

Proactively we issue news releases and media briefings, attend events, and place notices in bothies. We cannot control what is published, but always seek to ensure that what is published includes references both to the MBA and the Bothy Code.



ONLINE STORE EXPANDS

November saw t-shirts and beanies added to the MBA online shop, and two months later the winter buffs arrived. "We've had an excellent response to our online shop from both home and abroad," said shop organiser Gill Millward. "It's great to see photos on social media of people out and about, showing their support for the MBA by wearing our clothing. One day I hope to bump into someone in person!"



BOTHY STONES

MBA member and artist Janet Finlayson started painting stones of favourite bothies for friends a couple of years ago. Now, she'll paint a favourite bothy for anyone who wants one, and donate the full cost other than P&P to the MBA. See janetfinlayson.com

Donors 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. We regret that space doesn't allow us to list each and every donor, but we are delighted to record our sincere appreciation to all our donors. Following is a list of those making significant donations in 2019; it includes all legacies and donations that we received 'in memory' and also donors to any specific funds where balances remained at the end of the year. In addition we received donations through the BTMyDonate website and a number of anonymous donations.

The total given 2019 during was £30,000 in gifts and a remarkable £114,000 in legacies and donations in memoriam.

HM The Queen
Geoff Allan
East Ayrshire D of E
Stephen Bassnett
Bothy Trust
Fred Branson
Merret Buurman
Erinna Cave
Tobias Dorn
Felix Duensing
Timothy Elliot
Roger Everard
Janet Finlayson
Derek Finnie
Stephan Fowler
Alan Fox
Andrew Gault
Ramona Hansberg
Philip Hoole
Paula Hubens
KL Kemp
Isla Mackay
Lochaber Mountaineering Club
Geoffrey Lockwood
London Climbing Club
Lookout Bothy collections
Michael McFarlane
James McHugh
Calum MacLean
Jean Mills
Peter Moody
I & H Muir
Nic Lochlainn Consulting
Ouzman IP Ltd
Margaret Parker

Sarah Phillips
Marc Sadler
David Sands
Emily Scott
Rupert Soames
Bjoern Soergel
Donald Stoddart
P W Trinder
Stuart Young
Ultimate Navigation School
Carol Watson
Jane Wemyss-Holden
Wildflower Woodturning
Wild Things Publishing
Dr J H Williamson
Judith Witts
Penny Wood

Legacies and donations in memory of:

Elizabeth Anderson
Mike Chambers
Walter Cockle
Bernard Cole
Martin Coutie
Roy Dyckhoff
John Goodall
Simon Heginbotham
Ann Hobbiss
Andrew Jensen
Donnaie Mackenzie
Marcus Bran Misson
Adeline Murray-Brown
Alex Scott
Frank Wain
Lillias Wehrle

Bothy owners

It is common for people to ask MBA officers where all the money for the work we do comes from; much less often we are asked about the bothies themselves. Each bothy is the property of an individual, trust, company or public body which has decided to make it available for public use. In the following list we express our thanks to the very generous owners of the bothies we maintain.

HM Queen Elizabeth II	<i>Gelder Shiel Stable, Glas Allt Shiel</i>
Aberchaldar Estate	<i>Glenbuck</i>
Andras Ltd	<i>Faindouran</i>
Anonymous	<i>Brattleburn</i>
Applecross Estate Trust	<i>Uags</i>
Ardtornish Estate Co Ltd	<i>Leacraithnaich</i>
Assynt Foundation	<i>Suileag</i>
Trustees of Atholl Estates	<i>Allt Scheicheachan, Tarf Hotel</i>
The Bacon Trustees	<i>Craig</i>
Bell Ingram	<i>Greensykes</i>
Ben Alder, Dalwhinnie and Strathmashie Estates	<i>Ben Alder Cottage, Culra</i>
The Block and Fooks Families	<i>Coire Fionnaraich</i>
Borders Forest Trust	<i>Gameshope</i>
Michael Bostelman and Julian Whately	<i>Dryfehead</i>
Scott Bremner	<i>Blackburn of Corrieyairack</i>
The Buccleuch Estates Ltd	<i>Burleywhag, Kettleton Byre</i>
The Trustees of Lindsay CN Bury	<i>Cruib</i>
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel	<i>Invermaillie, Kinbreack</i>
The Corriemulzie Trust	<i>Coiremor, The Schoolhouse</i>
Dalemain Estate	<i>Great Lingy Hut</i>
Dalhousie 2006 Trust	<i>Shielin of Mark</i>
Mark Z de Ferranti	<i>Oban</i>
Dunlossit Trustees Ltd	<i>An Cladach</i>
Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water)	<i>Arenig Fawr, Dulyrn, Grwyne Fawr</i>
Elan Vally Trust	<i>Lluest Cwm Bach</i>
Mr Enghart	<i>Glennoch</i>
Fasque and Glendye Estates	<i>Charr</i>
Philip Fleming, Robert Fleming and Trustees	<i>Gorton</i>
Andrew Fletcher	<i>Glengarrisdale</i>
The Forestry Ministers (FCE)	<i>Flittingford, Green, Haughtongreen, Spithope, Kershopehead, Roughside, Wainhope</i>
Glendale Estate Trust	<i>Ollisdal</i>
The Glenelg Sheepstock Club	<i>Suardalan</i>
The Proprietors of Glenfalloch Estate	<i>Doune Byre</i>

Mr RA Green	<i>Croft House</i>
The Trustees of Gruinard Estate	<i>Shenavall</i>
The Honister Slate Mine Company	<i>Dubs Hut</i>
Invercauld Estate	<i>Callater Stable</i>
Alan Johnson	<i>Camasunary</i>
RHF Le Fleming	<i>Cross Fell (Greg's Hut)</i>
Timothy Leslie	<i>Essan</i>
Mountain Bothies Association	<i>Glenpean, Over Phawhope</i>
Mr Edward Naish	<i>Cae Amos</i>
The National Trust for Scotland	<i>Camban, Corrour, Hutchison Memorial Hut, Garbh Choire Refuge Hut</i>
Mr TP Radford	<i>Tomsleibhe</i>
Mr W Richardson	<i>Warnscale Head</i>
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	<i>Fords of Avon, Ryvoan</i>
Peter Stewart Sandeman	<i>Peanmeanach</i>
James Saville, Arden Estates	<i>A'Chuil</i>
Neil Scobie	<i>Knockdamp</i>
The Scottish Ministers (FCS)	<i>Mark Cottage, Resourlie, Rowchoish, Taigh Seumas a'Ghlinne, Tunskeen, Leysburnfoot, White Laggan</i>
The Scottish Ministers (SGRPID)	<i>Achnanclach, The Lookout, Strathan, Strathchailleach, Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh</i>
The Scottish Ministers (SNH)	<i>Dibidil, Guirdil</i>
Secretary of State for Defence	<i>Kearvaig</i>
SIMEC Lochaber Hydropower 2 Ltd	<i>Lairig Leacach, Meanach</i>
SIMEC Power 4 Ltd	<i>Loch Chiarain, Staoineag</i>
Smec Properties Ltd	<i>Maol Bhuidhe</i>
Trustees of Philip R Smith	<i>Easan Dorcha</i>
The Honourable Rupert Christopher Soames	<i>Sourlies</i>
Storas Uibhist	<i>Uisinis</i>
Strone Estate	<i>Abyssinia</i>
Sarah Troughton	<i>Cadderlie</i>
United Utilities	<i>Mosedale Cottage</i>
The Welsh Ministers (NRW)	<i>Moel Prysgau, Nant Rhys, Nant Syddion, Penrhos Isaf</i>
The West Highlands Woodlands	<i>Gleann Dubh-lighe</i>
Westminster Estates	<i>Glencoul, Glendhu</i>
Wildland Ltd	<i>Luib Chonnal, Ruigh Aiteachain, Strabeg</i>
Captain NJNH Wills	<i>Bearnais</i>
Mrs CW Wilson	<i>Carron</i>

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 is managed by the Forestry Commission England (FCE). Land in the ownership of the Welsh Ministers is managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

In 2019...



- We took over responsibility for the maintenance of Glas Allt Shiel bothy, south of Lochnagar in the Cairngorms, and took over ownership of Glenpean bothy in the Western Highlands.
- There was a small decline of about 5% in membership, which now stands at 4076. In contrast, we have more than 13,000 subscribers to our Facebook group, a rise of nearly 50% on the year.
- Our income rose to over £247,000 - a remarkable increase of around £90,000 , almost entirely due to a significant increase in large legacies and donations.
- We set a new record high for spending on bothy maintenance at over £128,000. We also achieved a record proportion of 77% of planned project spending.

THE EFFECT OF CORONAVIRUS

This is the Annual Review for 2019, but we already know that government restrictions on movement essential to counter coronavirus will have a significant effect on the MBA's plans for 2020. With effect from 24 March 2020, all bothies were closed and all planned work parties postponed. We had intended a record spend on bothy maintenance but it is highly unlikely at the time of going to press (July 2020) that this will be at all practical. For the latest position on bothy access and work parties, see our website. www.mountainbothies.org.uk

Scottish Charity No: SC008685
Company No: SC191425, limited by Guarantee
Registered office: Henderson Black & Co. Eden House,
22 Crossgate, Cupar, KY15 5HW

mountainbothies.org.uk



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