



Allt Scheicheachan

Mountain Bothies Association

# Annual Review 2021

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Dryfehead bothy

## What we do

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 2021, 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 2021.

### A year of transition

The advent of effective vaccines against Covid-19 early in 2021 soon led to significant reductions in the scale of the pandemic, and alongside them governments were in due course able to lessen the constraints on social mixing.

By the summer, we were able to take, in conjunction with owners, the welcome decision to reopen bothies after more than a year of closure. The work party programme, which had restarted on a small scale late in 2020 thanks to the detailed protocols quickly drawn up by the MBA's renovation and maintenance group, was able to significantly expand.

However, the rise of virus variants – such as Omicron, first identified in November 2021 – requires the MBA to remain vigilant as to the risks of transmission.

### 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. Much day-to-day work is overseen by our three committees, covering renovation and maintenance, members and volunteers, and communication.

In 2021, we still held many face-to-face meetings through online platforms such as Zoom. Once again, this included the AGM, which all members of the MBA can attend and vote. More than 60 members took part in the meeting, while over 450 voted for new Trustees and on other matters of business.

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.

For certain aspects of our administration, such as the maintenance of our membership list, we work closely alongside Henderson Black & Co, chartered accountants of Cupar in Fife.

### Trustee updates

We welcomed David Johnstone to the Trustees following the election at the AGM. Ian Furlong completed his term of office and we thank him for his service; he is now an Area Organiser (see page 15).





## Bothies reopen for use

After more than a year of closure due to the Covid 19 pandemic, bothies were finally able to reopen in the summer. Those in England reopened on 19 July, and those in Wales and Scotland on 8 August, in each case reflecting the lifting of restrictions there by the respective nations.

A small number of bothies remained closed at the decision of the bothy owners.

MBA Chairman, Simon Birch, said:

“At the start of the Covid 19 pandemic, we adopted the position that our shelters were closed and we would like to thank all those responsible MBA members and the general public who complied with that request.

“Covid-19 has not gone away and Governments are advising that everyone should remain vigilant and continue to take precautions to stop the further spread of the virus. We are therefore asking bothy users to make their own risk assessment before deciding to visit and to exercise personal responsibility while they are there.

“We are also asking that they follow some straightforward guidelines. By doing so they will protect both themselves and others.”

Work parties on the rise  
See **page 04**



## Sub-group spotlight: Members and Volunteers Group

The Members and Volunteers Group is now up and running as the third operational group along with the Renovation & Maintenance and Communications Groups.

Its role is to improve members' experience, and the Group has a comprehensive work programme with ideas for the future.

Sally Kershaw, the MBA's volunteer support officer, convenes the group.

“The MBA has plenty of opportunities for volunteers,” says Sally, “and a core task for the group is helping to ensure that members know about the opportunities there are to help.

“By using the MBA's member database, we've been able to contact members directly about vacant roles such as MO, or other ad hoc requirements such as a roofer and structural engineer.

“For example, we found joint MOs for three of the bothies on Skye and Raasay by contacting all our members on the islands. Widening the net a

little, we set up a group who will make regular reports on those three plus Camasunary, and help with rubbish collection too.”

Another important part of the group's remit is training, led by the MBA's training officer Liz Bibby. In-person First Aid Training restarted in 2021, and a comprehensive and motivating Trustee Induction Pack has been created – though face-to-face Trustee training will have to wait until Covid restrictions ease further.

“Our next step is to obtain more detailed hard information about our membership from the database,” says Sally. “And the 2021 membership survey will be valuable too.

In the survey, 85% of respondents said that it was very important or worthwhile for the MBA to understand the needs of volunteers, and to try and match them with needs. There's a lot of goodwill out there.”

To contact Sally, email [sallyteatime@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallyteatime@hotmail.co.uk)



Dryfehead work party (see page 8)

## Work parties on the rise

The Covid-19 protocols introduced in 2020 had already allowed some work parties to get under way during the pandemic.

2021 saw a significant expansion, due to the relaxing of some government guidelines, and MOs and project organisers becoming more familiar and comfortable with the controls required to make the work party safe.

The lifting of national travel restrictions also allowed distant MOs to visit and assess their bothies.

As effective ventilation was and still is a major consideration at work parties, outdoor activities were more straightforward to organise than indoor ones. There is still some way to go to be back to pre-pandemic levels, however.

### New roof for Ollisdal

It's never good for an Atlantic storm to rip most of the roof from a bothy, but it's pretty bad timing in the middle of a pandemic. And in late summer 2020, that's just what happened to Ollisdal bothy, on Skye's Duirnish peninsula.

Although the bothy stayed in use, almost every comment in the bothy book mentioned what a shame it was that the roof was in such a state. Owners the Glendale Estate – the first community-owned estate in Scotland, established in 1908 – were concerned too, as the bothy is often used by shepherds.

But Ollisdal is not a location that one can trundle up to with a tough truck along a rough track. There's no reliable path for miles, and though the coast is only half-a-mile away, cliffs preclude any approach by boat. These days, that means planning for a helicopter airlift – all in all, a complex operation, finally scheduled for a week in October 2021.

“Once we were able to get on site, the weather was very reasonable to us from Monday to Wednesday,”

recalls joint MO Francis Mitchell. That meant the helicopter lift, not just of materials but tools and equipment, could proceed unhindered – indeed overall, planning by project organiser Jason Francis was “top notch” in the MO's view.

**Ollisdal was not the only bothy re-roofed in 2021. In an equally challenging location, Dibidil bothy on Rum received its new roof too.**

“But late on Wednesday afternoon,” says Francis, “the weather turned for the worse and the next two days were difficult working conditions. And the walk out overland on Saturday morning soon saw conditions of very poor visibility.”

Francis hailed “a great set of volunteers”, from as far afield as New Zealand as well as Wiltshire, County Durham and Glasgow, plus three resident on Skye. He summed up the week as “tough but rewarding, and something to build upon”.



Ollisdal during the work party



## Taking the heat at Dulyn

It's best not to start work parties in a heatwave, when all the materials have to be taken to the site. But that's what happened at Dulyn bothy, in the Carneddau in north Wales, in July.

The nearest Landrover access is half a mile away, which might not sound much, but there's only a rough track round a rocky outcrop, sometimes quite steeply downhill. Materials that couldn't easily be taken on backpacks went on an improvised sledge, but there was no way it was going to take the stove.

Hill walkers Peter and Patti Hindall happened to be passing and, though not bothy-goers, were keen to get involved.

Dulyn MO Phil Maslen is in awe of what happened next.

“I was walking back up the hill with my friend Dave Hannan, wondering how we would get the stove to the bothy, when we met Peter dragging the stove behind him. It was like watching Britain's Strongest Man.”

Both man and stove arrived safely at the bothy.

This work party was typical of one with several smaller but important jobs, rather than one main task such as roof repair or toilet construction. Over the course of three weeks, with a gap in the middle, around 20 volunteers turned up to whitewash the walls, paint the ceiling and woodwork, and build and fit skirting boards and a porch door. New cladding was fitted to the fire escape steps.

Phil's maxim is that the better a bothy looks, the better it gets treated. Dulyn shows that off to a tee.



Alas, this was to be Dave Hannan's last work party. **See page 19 for his obituary.**



## Busy times at Red House

No bothy has seen more work on it during 2021 than Red House, in Glen Geldie in the Eastern Highlands. First mooted as a potential bothy in 2016, care has to be taken over the structure as it is listed on Canmore, the national record of Historic Environment Scotland.

Ten separate work parties between April and December have brought the bothy closer to its hoped-for formal opening in 2022.

It had been possible to build the frame of the new toilet block during 2021, and kitting it out was an early priority for the year. Masonry work however had to be delayed until a bat survey was complete, and began in August.

“The stonemasons have done a grand job,” says Area Organiser Allan Moore, “but they had to do more work than originally thought. Lowering temperatures were unsuitable for the lime mortar pointing,

so they had to stop work. They'll be back in spring 2022.”

Against that, external drainage work has been completed and internal joinery nearly finished too.

But the shell was secure enough for it to host the meetings of the MBA's Eastern Highlands area and the Bob Scott's Bothy Association over an October weekend. These weren't without incident – twice, two very wet pairs of young walkers stumbled into the bothy, at risk of hypothermia.

In best bothy spirit, a halt was called to the formal talk, and every assistance given to the walkers. “The second pair stayed overnight and entertained everyone with their guitar playing and singing,” said Ellie Kinghorn of the Area meeting. “We saw them safely across the river, with a new pair of work gloves and some improvised walking poles courtesy of the work party.”



# Work party round-up

Not all work parties have to deal with major tasks such as re-roofing or burn shifting. Here's a selection of some of the other tasks undertaken during 2021.

## Stove replacements

Stove replacements included **Taigh Seumas a' Ghlinne** (South West Highlands & Islands), **Roughside** (Northern England & Borders) and **Hutchison Memorial Hut** (Eastern Highlands). Stoves at the first two were kindly donated from elsewhere.



Installation at Taigh Seumas a' Ghlinne (pictured above) proved relatively straightforward – though had the loaned trailer not just squeezed through the boulders on the access path, it might have been less so. Matters at Roughside were far more complex though, showing that a job can never be taken for granted. Four

work parties were needed, leading AO David Moorat to wonder whether an open firegrate might not have been a better idea. But the stove is now in place and throwing out heat.

## Dryfehead and Greensykes

Before roof repairs could take place at **Dryfehead** bothy in Southern Scotland, the first task was to install a bat box to safeguard these protected species – which include a Natterer's bat, not normally found at such a remote location. Other works at the bothy included gutters, downpipes and skylights, and a sign pointing to the toilet – not everybody realises that it's there. The bothy, and nearby **Greensykes** too, also now boast beautiful tables and benches, custom-built by MBA member Jack Sutcliffe.

## Fire safety

Fire safety is an important issue at bothies. One bothy more at risk than most is **Cadderlie** (South West Highlands & Islands), which is timber-clad inside. A two-day work party applied fire-retardant varnish to the cladding, aided by clement weather with a warm breeze that helped the varnish dry – it's not a pleasant job, as respirators have to be worn due to the fumes from the varnish.

Simultaneously, outside the bothy, there were works to the chimney head, to stop rain coming into the bothy.

Other bothies where similar fire safety work took place include **Roughside** and **Kershopehead** (Northern England & Borders), both of which have upper floors.

## Moving the burn at Essan

During heavy flooding in August 2020, the Allt Easain beside **Essan** bothy (SW Highlands & Islands) burst its banks on its way to Loch Eilt. It took away a dry stone wall protecting the bothy and deposited rock and sand around two sides of the bothy. Worse, the burn shifted its course nearer the bothy, threatening greater destruction in future storms.



In July 2021 seven volunteers toiled for four days to clear the debris by hand. It staved off the immediate threat to the bothy, but alas only until another major storm late in the year. With climate change making severe storms more likely, the Area is now thinking long and hard about long-term solutions and will work closely with the bothy owner to implement them.

## New for old

Approval has been given for renovation of an old building at **Druimnashallag**, which is in a remote area to the west of Loch Awe in Argyll. It is hoped that work will start in spring 2022, but with much work needed it will be some time before the bothy is ready for use.



Alas, against that, **An Cladach**, the only bothy on Islay, did not reopen as an MBA bothy after the pandemic. Owners Dunlossit Estates will be introducing a booking system at the bothy in 2022. They will maintain and administer the bothy themselves, with 50% of booking income to be donated to a new MBA Argyll and Bute Bothy Maintenance Fund which the estate is setting up. We are grateful to Dunlossit Estates for allowing us to maintain An Cladach since 1999.





# Beyond the bothy spade

Sometimes, bothy newcomers don't know why there is a spade. And then, they feel a need...

There's usually a note in the bothy about the best place to take the spade. A good distance away, far from watercourses, diggable ground, and as an extra bonus a bit of privacy.

Alas, not every bothy user makes the effort. By and large, the busier and more popular the bothy, the more likely that human waste contamination will be an issue.

Over the last 20 years, the MBA has built 20 eco-friendly toilets at key bothies. Richard Grummitt, MO for Haughtongreen in the Kielder Forest, is the MBA's sanitation officer and has worked on many of the projects. His qualifications, alongside a career in health care, include two years living with a long drop toilet in Papua New Guinea.



"We know the demand for toilets is there," says Richard. "Two-thirds of respondents in the 2021 MBA member survey said that they wanted to see more bothy toilets, particularly in busy locations. And society's expectations have changed too."

What might this mean in practice? "The plan is to build two toilets a year for the next five years, of different types, and monitor them very closely," says Richard. "We should then be in a position to advise what works best."

"But there is no 'one size fits all' solution. Whatever we build must be rugged, reliable, last at least 10 years and require almost no extra input from the MO."

It's hard to see the day when the spade is a distant memory, but a bit of relative comfort for the essential business of the day might be no bad thing.

## Toilet options for bothies



### 1 | Composting toilets

It's likely that most bothy toilets will be composting toilets, mainly 'long drops'. Penrhos Isaf and Haughtongreen are examples.

### 2 | The 'hanging bag' system

As at Corroul and the new Red House bothy.

### 3 | The 'trench arch' system

As at Over Phawhope.

### 4 | Septic tanks

Eight bothies have septic tanks, including Ruigh Aiteachain and Cae Amos.

## Sanitation policy

Adopted in February 2021, the MBA's sanitation policy encourages the building of toilets at bothies, in particular at:

- all new bothies
- existing bothies when major renovations are being planned
- any bothy where traditional toileting arrangements (ie the spade) are creating significant pollution problems.

Factors that must be taken into consideration range from the estate owner's wishes to soil type, maintenance and of course cost. The MBA's Renovation and Maintenance group must approve all proposals before build.

There's also a guide to toilet building on the maintenance section of the website.





# No better place to be: 101 years of Corroul

Many walkers crossing the Lairig Ghru, the demanding mountain pass that links Speyside to Deeside, have given thanks when Corroul bothy has come into view. It's a great place for climbers and hillwalkers, with the Devil's Point towering above the bothy and the main Cairngorm massif just to the north.

Built in 1877, the bothy originally housed deerstalkers each summer. The estate stopped using the bothy in 1920, and almost immediately it became an 'open bothy' for people to take shelter.

A visitors' book was left there in 1928 by the Rucksack Club of University College, Dundee. "I'm at Corroul again," reads one entry. "I experience again the howling gale, the swirling snow, the biting cold, the unforgiving floor, the warming fire, the conviviality of companions, the kindness of strangers and the irresistible pull of the wilds." Across a near-century, the bothy experience holds to its essentials.

In 1949 the bothy was reconstructed by members of the Cairngorm Club,

and in 1967 it became one of the first bothies in the MBA's care. Now, its team of three dedicated maintenance officers – Neil Reid, Neil Findlay and Andy McNicoll – tend to a building which in 2006 became one of the first MBA bothies to have its own dedicated toilet facilities. Not even the chore of tending to the hanging bags can dim their fond memories; and as Andy says, "proper PPE makes the job more bearable."

He points out that, more often, they are more like countryside rangers, "constantly helping weary travellers in need of assistance ... I often wonder what sort of ordeal some of these walkers would have endured without our assistance."

Neil Findlay remembers a bothy work party some years ago. "The first thing we did was fit the stove," he says, "and almost instantly the bothy warmed up. To see the transformation over the next few weekends was very rewarding."

Corroul was the first bothy Neil Reid visited as a small boy, over 50 years ago. He feels "particularly proud to be one of the team entrusted with its care," and says "it's always rewarding to read in the bothy book how much people appreciate it being there."

Now, Corroul has become the first bothy to have its own full-length biography, with Ralph Storer's *'Corroul Bothy: A Refuge in the Wilderness'*. In more than 200 pages, the author not only traces the history of the building but also relates it to the wider history of the Highlands and those who walk and climb in them. He too remembers many memorable visits.

"On one frosty August night I was privileged to see the Aurora Borealis," Ralph recalls. "Northwards over the Lairig Ghru, curtains of soft, rippling light reached out across the sky, silhouetting the peaks in such a way that you'd swear their outlines shimmered."





He has reason to thank the bothy for more than a night of beauty, however.

“On an April trip through the Lairig in 1983, my girlfriend and I set out to cross the summit of the pass, but we found ourselves floundering in deep snow in blizzard conditions.

“As darkness closed in we reached the bothy, thoroughly exhausted. We would have been in a perilous situation had Corrou Bothy not come to our rescue. It was crowded and uncomfortable that night but, like many before us, never had we less cause for complaint.”

“When the fire’s lit on a winter’s evening, with a dram in your hand and in good company, there’s no better place to be.”

**Andy McNicoll, joint MO**

**Image:** Neil Reid



Ian Furlong, AO

## Area focus: North West Highlands & Islands

The MBA’s North West Highlands & Islands area covers much of Wester Ross and Kintail, plus Skye, Raasay and the Outer Hebrides.

It’s a dramatic and often very remote area, cherished by hill walkers, sea kayakers, mountain bikers and many others in the outdoor community.

Currently the area hosts twelve bothies.

Ian Furlong took over as AO during 2021, having previously been a Trustee. He came to appreciate the value of bothies on a 1500-mile backpack around the country in 2012, and as a result wanted to give something back to the MBA for all the benefits he had gained.

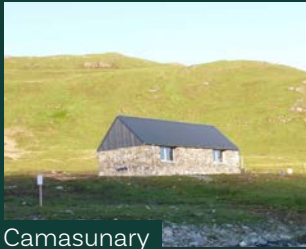
His first, week-long work party was at Craig in 2013, and he’s a joint MO at Coire Fionnaraich. A Trustee for six years, he stepped across into the role of AO during 2021.

“Bothies are wonderful places with a special character,” says Ian, “but they exist in a changing world. People can use them responsibly for many different reasons and we should celebrate that.

“There’s some great work going on across all the MBA areas and I try by helping to give my MOs whatever they need so they can proud of their efforts and their bothy.”



Bearnais



Camasunary



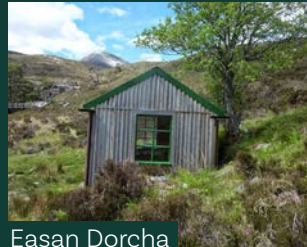
Camban



Coire Fionnaraich



Craig



Easan Dorcha

### **Bearnais**

The bothy is in a great location to explore the hills between Glen Carron and Loch Monar. It was restored in 1974 as a memorial to Eric Beard, a well-known character in the outdoor world.

### **Camasunary**

The newest bothy building in Britain, opened in 2016 as a replacement for the old bothy, which was taken back into estate use. On the shores of Loch Scavaig in Skye.

### **Camban**

Attracts plenty of through hikers thanks to its position on the Affric Kintail Way. Surrounded by Munros including Ben Fhada and Ciste Dhubh.

### **Coire Fionnaraich**

Built in the nineteenth century as a stalker's cottage, it was renovated for use as a bothy in 1986 and is an ideal stopping off place for hill walkers tackling the peaks of the Coulin Forest.

### **Craig**

The bothy sits a little above the shores of Loch Torridon. Once a shepherd's home, it became a youth hostel in 1935, and then became a bothy in 2006.

### **Easan Dorcha**

One of the MBA's smallest bothies, barely bigger than a garden shed, and completely rebuilt in 2010. Possibly better known as The Teahouse.



The Lookout



Maol Bhuidhe



Ollisdal



Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh



Uags



Uisnìs

### **The Lookout**

A former coastguard station on the northern tip of Skye, known as Rubha Hunish. It's been an MBA bothy since 2006, and its panoramic windows make it a great spot for whale and dolphin watching.

### **Maol Bhuidhe**

One of the remotest habitable buildings in Britain, it was first recorded in the 1841 census but may be far older. Abandoned for over 50 years before it became an MBA bothy in 1970.

### **Ollisdal**

An old Viking long house on the Duirinish peninsula in the west of Skye. It's on the Glendale Estate, which has been community-owned since 1908.

### **Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh**

Sited at the north end of the Isle of Raasay, it was first renovated by the MBA in 1995. Has received some recent fame as it occasionally features on Channel 4's Who Dares Wins.

### **Uags**

The only bothy on the Applecross peninsula, at its southern end. The path to the bothy passes extremely rare temperate rainforest, home to Atlantic Oak.

### **Uisnìs**

Currently the only MBA bothy in the Outer Hebrides, on South Uist's mountainous east coast. It's been a bothy since 1978, and is well placed for the ascent of Hecla, one of the island's highest hills.



# Life membership

The 2021 AGM awarded honorary life membership to two of its most dedicated members, Neil Findlay and Jim Ross.



**Neil Findlay** has been an MO for over 20 years, working ceaselessly on every bothy in the Eastern Highlands, particularly at Corrour where he is joint MO. The responsibilities here include changing the toilet bags – never a fun job, especially in high summer!

Neil was the driving force behind the MBA's adoption of Glas Allt Shiel bothy once it became clear that Dundee University Mountaineering Club no longer had the skills or finances to maintain this popular bothy beneath Lochnagar on the Balmoral Estate to the standard needed. He's active outside the area too, helping out at bothy projects such as Suardalan (Western Highlands) and Lairig Leacach (Central Highlands).



**Jim Ross** was AO for the South West Highlands & Islands for over 20 years to 2015, but he's been MO (now joint MO) for Tomsleibhe, the only bothy on Mull, for over 40 years – one of the longest uninterrupted spells for any MO.

If that were not enough, Jim's many other roles include that of project organiser for more than 20 major work parties, stretching back nearly 40 years. Often, these are in challenging locations, such as Kearvaig on the Cape Wrath peninsula and Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh on Raasay.

**Congratulations to both Neil and Jim on their appointment.**

## Two retirements

Our general secretary, John Arnott, and treasurer, Piers Coutts, retired from their posts following the AGM. Both remain as Trustees, their current terms running to the 2022 AGM.

Piers had been treasurer for eight years. He won the Ely South seat for the Liberal Democrats in the Cambridgeshire county council elections in May.

John's senior roles in the MBA include membership secretary (1993-96) and chair (2002-14), becoming general secretary the next year. He was also MO for Kearvaig (1997-2007) and during the 2010s could often be found making sure the heavy lifters at major work parties were properly fed.

We thank both John and Piers for their sterling service over the years. They will be succeeded by Becky Beale and Fraser Mackie.

# In memoriam

## Dave Hannan

One of our joint MOs for Nant Syddion, Dave Hannan, passed away in November. He had been involved with the MBA since around the time of the Lluest Cwm Bach project around a decade ago, and last took part in a work party at Dulyn in late July (see page 06). "We could tell that Dave was not his usual self," remembers Dulyn MO Phil Maslen, "but he was in good enough shape to enjoy it. I've fond memories of working with him over many years." Part of the cost of the planned work at Dulyn in 2022 will come from a donation in Dave's memory.

## Ted Butcher

Honorary life member Ted Butcher also died in November. He had been involved in the MBA for many years, with posts including new member secretary as well as many years on the committee.

# Communications round-up



Betty working on the Strathan bridge

## Betty Heath

One of the MBA's founder members, Betty Heath, sadly passed away in February 2021, after a long battle against illness. She was 89.

Betty and her husband Bernard were founder members of the MBA in 1965, and indeed they met at its first meeting, held in Dalmellington – she was from an Ayrshire family. They got engaged in 1969 at the romantic surroundings of the Camban work party.

Married the next year, they summed up the spirit of the MBA in 1972, writing that “Members’ only reward will be the knowledge that their efforts have helped save a bothy from ruin”.

However time proved them wrong when, in 1991, they were awarded British Empire Medals for service to outdoor recreation.

Physically tough, it was only in very recent times that health issues started to get the better of Betty. Visitors to Strathan bothy, one of the MBA's most northerly, can still use the two beds she carried in, strapped to her back on separate journeys on the boggy track from the Blairmore road in her late 70s – she helped rebuild the bridge to the bothy too. And just four years ago she wild camped solo to Cape Wrath, including an ascent of the remote peak Fashven on the peninsula.

**As we went to print, we received the sad news that Bernard Heath had passed peacefully on 31 March 2022.**

## Member survey

More than 1,300 members took part in our 2021 survey, the first since 2017. The survey was conducted online during the summer.

Almost every respondent felt that we were doing a good job in pursuing our core function of maintaining simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places. And most thought that our bothies were well maintained. Both results closely mirrored those of the 2017 survey.

The views expressed on particular issues such as litter and toileting, and about attendance at work parties, will be extremely useful when looking to the future.

## New items in the online shop

Notecards featuring watercolour images of Knockdamph and Meanach bothies by John Thompson are now available in the MBA's online shop. A good size at 15cm (6 inches) square, they're left blank for messages and come with envelopes too.

Other additions to the shop over the year include car stickers and keyrings, each with the MBA logo. And following feedback from members, we've added debit and credit card options to PayPal in the shop and for donations and membership.

## Media highlights

- Much media activity centred around the re-opening of bothies following the pandemic.
- Other news releases included information about re-roofing projects at Dibidil, Ollisdal and Greg's Hut bothies.
- Communications group convenor Neil Stewart provided an article on bothies for the summer journal of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.
- MBA chair Simon Birch appeared on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Mornings' phone-in programme with Kaye Adams in November.





## 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 2021; it includes all legacies and donations that we received 'in memory'. In addition we received donations through the BTMyDonate website and a number of anonymous donations.

During 2021, we received £32,000 in unrestricted donations and £70,000 in restricted donations (that is, donations to be spent on specific projects or bothies). Both figures were a significant increase on 2020.

HM the Queen  
Geoff Allan  
Muriel Anderson  
Casper Bangert  
Jill Bell  
Jonathan Bird  
Stuart Birnie  
John Boyce  
John Bryce  
Iain Callander  
Scott Cartlidge  
Denton Charitable Trust  
William Casson  
Sandra Dickson  
Mark Dyson  
Roger Everard  
Jean-Francois Fauconnier  
Derek Finnie  
Alex Gardner  
Anit Goklaney  
David Haig  
Neil Haig

Rosemary Haggarty  
Pauline Hall  
Richard Hardy  
Martin Hargan  
Matthew Harrison  
Alison Heydt  
Simon Holden  
Alex Jackson  
John Lang  
Langside Mountaineering Club  
Christoph Laska  
Duncan Lawson  
Christina Lemke  
Adam Litzenberger  
Lochaber Mountaineering Club  
Lookout Bothy collecting jar  
Livia Marchant  
Iain McFadyen

Jim McFadyen  
Carol Menlove  
Luise Nadler  
Emma Naerger  
Thomas A O'Brien  
Sally Oliver Atty  
Orr Mackintosh Foundation  
Beverley Ouzman  
Kevin Pattison  
Matthew Radoja  
Alastair Reid  
David Richardson  
Peter Richardson  
A Robinson  
David Sands  
Zack Schneeberger  
ShareGift  
Shafaq Sheikh  
Spine Race appeal  
Ian Stoney  
Stuart Stuart  
Gill Tawn  
Rosaleen Tighe  
Daniel Wilcox  
DH Williamson  
Adam Wujkowski

### Legacies and donations in memory of:

Scott Anderson  
David Bell  
Owain Bristow  
Roy Dyckhoff  
Russell Haig  
Mrs Hall  
Dave Hannan  
Betty Heath  
Richard Jonathan Hunt  
David Ian Jackson  
Kenneth Livesey  
Ian McKernan  
John Thomas Morgan  
David H Noble  
John Pottie

### Supporting the MBA

Almost all the MBA's income is from membership fees, donations and legacies.

Donations can be made online through the MBA website or by post to our registered office. The website also shows how to remember the MBA in your will.

If you are a UK tax-payer, please Gift Aid your donation. In 2021 this added £19,000 to our income.

## 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

Gelder Shiel Stable, Glas Allt Shiel

### Aberchalder Estate

Glenbuck

### Andras Ltd

Faindouran

### Anonymous

Brattleburn

### Applecross Estate Trust

Uags

### Ardtornish Estate Co Ltd

Leacraithnaich

### Assynt Foundation

Suileag

### Trustees of Atholl Estates

Allt Scheicheachan, Tarf Hotel

### The Bacon Trustees

Craig

### Ben Alder, Dalwhinnie and Strathmashie Estates

Ben Alder Cottage, Culra

### The Block and Fooks Families

Coire Fionnaraich

### Borders Forest Trust

Gameshope

### Scott Bremner

Blackburn of Corrieyairack

### The Buccleuch Estates Ltd

Burleywhag, Kettleton Byre

### The Trustees of Lindsay CN Bury

Cruib

### Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel

Invermaillie, Kinbreack

### The Corriemulzie Trust

Coiremor, The Schoolhouse

### Dalemain Estate

Great Lingy Hut

### Dalhousie 2006 Trust

Shielin of Mark

### Mark Z de Ferranti

Oban

### Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water)

Arenig Fawr, Grwyne Fawr

### Elan Valley Trust

Lluest Cwm Bach

### Mr Enghart

Clennoch

### Fasque and Glendye Estates

Charr

### Philip Fleming, Robert Fleming and Trustees

Gorton

### Andrew Fletcher

Glengarrisdale

### The Forestry Ministers (FCE)

Flittingford, Green, Haughtongreen, Spithope, Kershopehead, Roughside, Wainhope

### Glendale Estate Trust

Ollisdal

### The Glenelg Sheepstock Club

Suardalan

### The Proprietors of Glenfalloch Estate

Doune Byre

### Mr RA Green

Croft House

### The Trustees of Guinard Estate

Shenavall

### The Honister Slate Mine Company

Dubs Hut

### Invercauld Estate

Callater Stable

### Jahama Highland Estates

Loch Chiarain, Lairig Leacach, Meanach, Staoineag

### Alan Johnson

Camasunary

### RHF Le Fleming

Cross Fell (Greg's Hut)

### Timothy Leslie

Essan

### Mountain Bothies Association

Glenpean, Over Phawhope

### Mr Edward Naish

Cae Amos

### The National Trust for Scotland

Camban, Corrou, Hutchison Memorial Hut, Garbh Choire Refuge Hut

### Pryor & Rickett Silviculture

Greensykes

### Mr TP Radford

Tomsleibhe

### Mr W Richardson

Warnscale Head

### The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Fords of Avon, Ryvoan

### RWE Generation

Duylin

### James Saville, Arden Estates

A'Chuil

### Neil Scobie

Knockdamp

### The Scottish Ministers (FLS)

Mark Cottage, Resourie, Rowchoish, Taigh Seumas a'Ghlinne, Tunskeen, Leysburnfoot, White Laggan

### The Scottish Ministers (SGRPID)

Achnanclach, The Lookout, Strathan, Strathchailleach, Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh

### The Scottish Ministers (NatureScot)

Dibidil, Guirdil

### Secretary of State for Defence

Kearvaig

### Smech Properties Ltd

Maol Bhuidhe

### Trustees of Philip R Smith

Easan Dorcha

### The Honourable Rupert Christopher

Soames

Sourlies

### Storas Uibhist

Uisinis

### Strone Estate

Abyssinia

### Sarah Troughton

Cadderlie

### T101 Trust and Robbie Hislop

Dryfehead

### United Utilities

Mosedale Cottage

### The Welsh Ministers (NRW)

Moel Prysgau, Nant Rhys, Nant Syddion, Penrhos Isaf

### The West Highlands Woodlands

Gleann Dubh-lighe

### Westminster Estates

Glencoul, Glendhu

### Wildland Ltd

Luib Chonnal, Ruigh Aiteachain, Strabeg

### Captain NJNH Wills

Bearnais

### Mrs CW Wilson

Carron

Land in the ownership of the Scottish Ministers is managed by the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID), the Forests & Land Scotland (FLS), and NatureScot. 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 2021

## **Income and expenditure both on the up**

In 2021, income rose to over £209,000, an increase of 18% over the year before, largely due to a significant rise in restricted donations and legacies (that is, monies that are required to be spent on a specific project, bothy or area). Total expenditure also increased, by well over 50%, to more than £195,000. Almost all the increase results from a far higher level of spend on bothy maintenance, which doubled to nearly £150,000.

## **Pandemic still affects bothy maintenance**

Nevertheless, the pandemic severely impacted on plans for work parties and other maintenance; significant

restrictions were in place early in the year, and it was only from high summer that anything close to a more normal life could resume. Hence maintenance spend was just under 40% of budget, an improvement on the 28% of 2020 but with some way to go compared to the record 77% of the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

## **Slight rise in membership**

As at 31 December 2021, we had 3,572 members, nearly 4% up on last year.

*Please note that the financial data above are based on the unaudited accounts. Once the audit has taken place, audited figures will be available in the Annual Report distributed to members and others in the summer.*

## **Credits**

**Editor:** Peter Aylmer

**Text:** Peter Aylmer and Lyndsey McLellan

**Design:** Emily Willing

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**Scottish Charity No:** SC008685

**Company No:** SC191425, limited by Guarantee

**Registered office:** Henderson Black & Co,  
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Scottish Charity Regulator