



CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA

PHOTOCALL

You are invited to send a reporter/photographer to John Muir Country Park (Linkfield car park) on **Saturday 20 April at 11am** when Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, joins friends of JMCP in some tree planting as part of weekend of celebrations.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER JOINS JOHN MUIR WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS

A weekend of celebration to mark renowned naturalist, John Muir's 175th birthday is being held in and around Dunbar. Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse MSP will be joining friends of John Muir Country Park to plant some trees within the park.

John Muir, who was born in Dunbar in 1838, is widely acknowledged as the founder of the modern conservation movement and it is particularly apt that his legacy is celebrated during the Year of Natural Scotland.

East Lothian Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Norman Hampshire, said: "John Muir's innovative work in recognising the importance of protecting the natural environment has been widely appreciated and adopted across the world. Growing up in Dunbar the young John greatly loved the variety of the natural environment around the town. Events such as this weekend not only promote the values and beliefs of Muir but also seek to actively put many of his ideas into practice to enhance and protect the local environment."

Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse said: “Throughout his incredible career, John Muir worked tirelessly to preserve the natural environment for future generations, inspiring people worldwide with his exceptional passion and commitment. During our Year of Natural Scotland in 2013 it is entirely fitting that we mark the 175th anniversary of his birth – here in Dunbar – by celebrating his outstanding natural legacy and encouraging people across Scotland to follow in Muir’s footsteps to experience the great Scottish outdoors.”

“I regularly visit John Muir Country Park, and it's a real honour for me to have a chance, here, to formally mark the life of someone whose work I greatly admire.”

Full programme of events:

Friday 12th April to Sunday 29th December

My Boyhood and Youth exhibition

John Muir's Birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar, EH42 1JJ

Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm (closed on Mon & Tue from 1st Oct to 29th Dec).

Admission free. www.jmbt.org.uk

Celebrating the centenary of the publication of *the Story of My Boyhood and Youth* by John Muir. This exhibition explores John's childhood in the mid 1800s. There are lots of hands on activities and contributions by several local groups throughout the year.

Saturday 20th April 10am – 12 noon or 3pm

Friends of John Muir Country Park

Tree planting and wetland planting

John Muir Country Park, Linkfield Car Park near Dunbar (next to the family farm park).

We will be planting a variety of native trees at Linkfield. Feel free to drop in during the morning. For those who would like to make it into a whole day out we will be planting wetland plants in the Seafield Pond area in the afternoon, finishing at around 3pm.

Don't forget to bring along some lunch if you are staying all day, warm clothes, waterproofs and sturdy foot wear! As always the ranger will provide tea and coffee with "Helga" the storm kettle!

Saturday 20th April 10am

John Muir Birthday Family Cycle Ride

Leaving the John Muir statue outside Dunbar Town House, High Street, Dunbar statue at 10am. Ride to John Muir Country Park for a quiz, art, fun and games. John Muir himself may even make an appearance.

Organiser - Gail Tel: 07920 461925 gail@sustainingdunbar.org

Talking Science Events

“Exploring the science of trees and gardens throughout Scotland”.

The Talking Science project is funded by Scottish Government. Celebrate John Muir's 175th birthday with an appreciation of big specimen trees at each of our four Gardens. Consider the science of size, what growth rings can tell us, what's growing above ground and how this relates to a changing climate.

Saturday 20th April 1pm – 4pm

WHY WE LOVE BIG TREES

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) , free entry and for all ages

This event will be held amongst our unique collection of specimen trees at the Garden's famous John Muir Grove. Visitors can discover why the Giant Redwoods, Oaks and Scots Pines are appreciated by so many. They can talk to the Garden's scientists about tree size, what growth rings can tell us and how what grows above ground relates to the changing climate. Visitors can also talk to John Muir's Birthplace and John Muir Trust representatives.

Saturday 20th April 1pm – 4pm

WHY WE LOVE BIG TREES

Dawyck Botanic Garden, near Peebles, free with Garden admission.

The event will be held at Dawyck amongst its superb tree collection which dates back 300 years. Visitors can meet lichenologist Sally Eaton, recent presenter of Channel 4's Wild Things, and discover a new hidden natural world through looking at lichen and mosses close up. Representatives of John Muir's Birthplace and the John Muir Trust will be available for questions too.

Steep Trail

Wednesday 3rd April to Sunday 12th May

Open daily 1pm – 5pm, admission free

Dunbar Town House Museum & Gallery, High Street, Dunbar

An exhibition of new work by artists Rania Ho (Beijing), Jonathan Owen (Edinburgh), Graeme Todd (Dunbar) and Wang Xieda (Shanghai) following the Steep Trails exchange between Scotland and China. The display will be complemented by drawings from John Muir after whom the project was named. Organisers: Fife Contemporary Art & Craft, Polarcap , Dunbar and Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop.
Tel: 01368 866030

Steep Trail - Contemporary Artists in the Footsteps of John Muir

Art workshop for children aged 7 – 12 years

Saturday 20 April 2pm – 4pm

Dunbar Town House Museum & Gallery, High Street, Dunbar

Artist Susan Mowatt introduces children to some of the ideas behind Rania Ho's wallpaper work. By looking at some of the contemporary baking available on Dunbar's High Street, they will make their own section of wallpaper using simple collage and monoprinting techniques. Please bring along an old shirt or apron if possible.

To book a place please contact the Arts Service on 0131 665 9900 or email artsservice@eastlothian.gov.uk

Celebrate John Muir Day

Sunday 21st April, 1pm-4pm

Lochend Woods, Kelly Road, Dunbar

Hosted by Dunbar Community Woodland Group in association with Friends of John Muir's Birthplace and North Light Arts.

Come spend a relaxing afternoon in the company of friends, celebrating John Muir. Events for adults and children include John Muir Storytelling, Willow Dome Planting and Woodland Foraging. Refreshments available. Meet from 1-4pm at the gathering space around the old walnut tree, by the John Muir Stone off Kelly Road, Dunbar.

Steep Trail Artists Talk

Sunday 21st April, 2pm-4pm all welcome

Dunbar Town House Museum & Gallery

High Street, Dunbar, EH42 1ER

Informal tour of the exhibition with one of the exhibiting artists, Graeme Todd as part of the 'Steep Trail' project, a 3 year collaboration between Polarcap, FCA&C and Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Polarcap and East Lothian Arts Service.

Join us for afternoon tea to celebrate John Muir Day

Friends of John Muir's Birthplace

Sunday 21st April, 4pm-5pm all welcome

John Muir's Birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar, EH42 1JJ

Free but donations welcome

We will be celebrating Scotland's first John Muir Day at the end of an exciting weekend of events at John Muir's Birthplace. Come and join us for tea and cake and a chance to see the Boyhood & Youth exhibition which has a contribution from Friends of John Muir's Birthplace and Dunbar & District History Society.

Tel: 01368 865899 www.jmbt.org.uk

18 April 2013

Issued by Jill Mackay, Media Manager Tel: 01620 827743