

Timeline



Pre-1994

- Feb 1993 Major objections to plans that propose to establish a *John Muir Environmental World* (JMEW) within an area that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- Oct 1993 First public meeting in Dunbar about the future of a JMEW.

1994

- Feb Planning application for JMEW withdrawn.
- Mar 18th First public meeting to establish a local John Muir Association that will promote an alternative to JMEW – the *John Muir Environment Centre*.
- Mar 28th Executive committee elected. The internet is used for the first time to promote the concept of a John Muir Environment Centre to an international audience.
- Jul 27th **Inaugural meeting of *Dunbar's John Muir Association (DJMA)***. Formal constitution adopted. Council elected.
- Sep 29th **Public launch of DJMA**. Local and national press and TV coverage. c200 people physically attend and c75 attend via the Internet. Of the c250 founder members at launch, 1 in 10 have joined as a result of the 'virtual' JMEC Internet presence.

1995

- Jan 9th **DJMA Exhibition:** aims and objectives of DJMA
- Jan 19th ***In John Muir's Footsteps.*** Slide show by Dr Terry Isles, Director of the John Muir Trust.
- Jan 21st **DJMA Sponsored Walk:** raising over £180.
- Feb 4th **DJMA Conservation Work and DJMA Burns Supper**
- Mar 27th DJMA registers its intention to submit an application for funding for the John Muir Centre to the Millennium Commission.
- Apr 21st **Spring Gathering: Joint Meeting with John Muir Trust:** Muir's great-granddaughter, Louise Powell presented with an Honorary Life Member's Certificate.
- Apr 22nd **John Muir Birthday Party for Family Member children and Juniors:** over 80 children celebrate Muir's 157th birthday!
John Muir's Dunbar: Town Trail: The first guided walk for members of DJMA and JMT.
- Apr 22nd Visit by Millie Stanley from Wisconsin; author of books on Muir.
- Apr 28th **Millennium Fund Bid:** A two-page initial proposal form submitted to the Commission.

1995 (cont'd)

- Jun 14th ***The John Muir Centre, Dunbar*** is B-listed. Of nearly 200 applications from Scotland, only 14 made the A-list and 14 made the B-list.
- Aug 31st Millennium Commissioners outlines its requirements for the next application stage.
- Oct 16th ASH Consultancy contracted to prepare a scoping report to address these requirements.
- Nov 30th ***The John Muir Centre, Dunbar***: submission of DJMA's 3rd-stage application for funding.

1996

- Jan 9th **Opening of the DJMA Exhibition:** about the DJMA proposals for the John Muir Centre.
- Jan 26th **DJMA Burns Supper**
- Mar **DJMA Conservation Work:** on 9th and 30th.
- Apr 20th **DJMA's John Muir Birthday Party**
- Apr 21st **MuirDay96:** a visit to Presmennan Wood.
- Jun 27th The First John Muir Awards go to Dunbar Primary School Children
- Jul 27th **DJMA 2nd Birthday Celebration:**
Conversation with a Tramp: An Evening with John Muir – a Pre-Edinburgh Festival Fringe performance of Lee Stetson's One Man Play

1997

- Jan 6th **Opening of DJMA Exhibition - '*Wild rocks, Sea and Sky - the John Muir Project*':** The Millennium Commission application.
- Jan 18th **DJMA Burns' Supper:** Premier of music composed specially for DJMA - *Memories of John Muir* by Peter Aitchison.
- Feb 4th ***Wild Rocks, Sea and Sky*** is 1 of 3 bids placed on the Millennium Commission's 'reserve' list.
- Feb 26th **National Launch of John Muir Award Scheme in Dunbar:** with DJMA participation.
- Mar **DJMA/UNICEF Auction and Sale** raises over £1,200 to be shared equally.
- May 31st **DJMA Trip to Bass Rock.**
& **Premiere of *Vagabond John*:** a play by Bill Ritch premiered in Dunbar Grammar School.
- Jun ***Wild Rocks, Sea and Sky*** remains a 'reserve' bid and, in effect, fails to secure funding.

1998

- Mar 7th **DJMA host a Public Consultation Exercise about the John Muir Birthplace.**
- Apr 21st **Public Launch of the John Muir Birthplace Appeal**
- Apr 26th **Public Launch of the 2nd edition of *John Muir's Dunbar***
- Sep **Formation of the John Muir Birthplace Trust (JMBT)**

1999

- Jan 29 **Ownership of John Muir's birthplace officially passed to JMBT.**
- Feb 9th **Opening of DJMA Exhibition:** the concepts for the development of the John Muir House
- Feb 18th **No Homework Tonight!:** *Bairns you need na' learn your lessons tonight for we're gaun to America the morn!*
- Feb 19th **150th Anniversary of John Muir's Departure for America:**
Letters to America: Pupils from Dunbar Primary School post letters to the USA.
Pageant: Dunbar children re-live John Muir's walk from his house on to the railway station.
- Feb 23rd **Talk about the life and legacy of John Muir**
- Apr 24th **DJMA Barbeque** at John Muir Country Park
- Aug 6th **Pre-theatre Reception for *The Spirit of John Muir*:**
- Aug 6/7th ***The Spirit of John Muir*:** UK premiere of Lee Stetson's show about the life of John Muir.
- Aug 14th **Stories in Stone:** A walk along the newly repaired cliff top trail:
- Sep Heritage Lottery awards £292,000 towards the refurbishment of the Birthplace.
- Nov 30th **John Muir Award – Yosemite Trip:** An illustrated talk by Mandy Calder, the JMA Coordinator, and several young people about their visit to Yosemite National Park.

2000

- Apr 21st **Opening of *An Infinite Storm of Beauty*:** the original 1999 exhibition from the City Art Centre brought to Dunbar as part of the Man of the Millennium programme.
Community Procession: Included laying of floral garlands on the statue of Young John Muir; a ceremony and celebration of the twinning of Dunbar with Meaford, Canada; and a planting of a redwood sapling.
An Illustrated Talk by Jimmie MacGregor: about his trek through John Muir's California.
- Apr 22nd **Carnival Parade**
Film: *The Boyhood of John Muir*: A showing of the US TV film starring Gary Hollywood in the title role. Gary attended the screening.
- Apr 23rd **Family Environment Day:** at John Muir Country Park
Walk in the footsteps of John Muir: a walk following the John Muir Town Trail to John Muir Country Park along the Clifftop Trail.
Traditional American Country Dance: a celebration of John Muir's US connections.
- Jul 29th **Cherry Good:** a family workshop and talk about her adventures when researching her book '*On the Trail of John Muir*'.
Brian McNeill: a stunning audio/visual concert of his songs included one inspired by John Muir entitled *John Muir and the Master Builder*.

2001

- Mar 23rd ***Yearnings For The Land:*** Professor John Simpson's illustrated talk outlined the Muir's emigration story from Dunbar to Wisconsin.
- Apr 7th **Clifftop Trail Clear-Up:** in advance of the publication of DJMA's new ***Clifftop Trail*** booklet.
- Apr 21st **Announcement of plans for the *Clifftop Trail* guide book.**
- Sep 27th **The proposed development of John Muir's Birthplace:** a talk by David Campbell [AGM].
- Nov 16th **Green Light from Scottish Executive:** Official go ahead given for the John Muir Birthplace Trust plans for the Birthplace.

2002

- Mar ***John Muir Birthplace (JMB) Development: Project Update, Spring 2002*** published.
- Apr 21st **Official launch of the *Clifftop Trail***
- Jun **Launch of Phase 2 of JMB fundraising campaign.**
Archaeological survey of JMB undertaken.
- Sep 26th ***Old Dunbar:*** a talk by Tom Anderson. [AGM]
- Oct **JMB Trustees approve final detail of exhibition design**
- Nov **Building contractor for JMB appointed**

2003

- Mar DJMA writes in support of the John Muir Quarter design: 1 of 5 finalists in the State of California competition for the 25 cent coin.
- Aug 23rd **Public opening of JMB**
- Aug 26th **DJMA viewing of JMB**
- Nov 13th ***John Muir Award Visit to Yosemite:*** a talk about the visit by a group of East Lothian youngsters to the valley beloved of John Muir.
- Dec ***Into the Heart of the Wilderness:*** exhibition and a literary celebration of John Muir.

2004

- Jan 15th ***Mountain Daisy to Giant Redwood – Robert Burns and John Muir:*** Will Collin's talk on how John Muir was inspired by Burns' poetry.
- Feb 11th ***Above and Beneath the Sea Around Dunbar:*** Debbie White's presentation of aerial and underwater photographs.
- Apr 8th ***John Muir's Dunbar – Dunbar in the 19th Century:*** A talk by Dr David Anderson and Jim Thompson on John Muir's time in Dunbar.
- May 15th **Talk by Cameron McNeish:** part of the John Muir Trust AGM weekend in Dunbar.
- Nov 11th ***Birth of a National Park:*** a talk about Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.
- Dec 9th ***The Canadian Rockies to Alaska:*** Dr Gordon Barbour's talk of a tour by car and cruise ship.

2005

- Jan 31st **Launch of the California State Quarter:** Governor Schwarzenegger paid tribute to Muir's contributions to California's conservation legacy displayed in the design.
- Feb 10th ***From Wisconsin to Arizona with California inbetween:*** John Mitchell Manson's journeys through John Muir's time in America.
- Mar 10th ***East Coast fishing in John Muir's time:*** Pauline Smeed's talk about the Scottish Fisheries of the 19th century.
- Apr 12th Muir's Great Great Granddaughter, Renee Fisher, Visits Dunbar
- Apr 21st **A Birthday Party** to celebrate Muir's 167th birthday with music, song and cake.
- May 14th **John Muir Way Walk:** Ranger Bobby Anderson led the second leg of the John Muir Way from Barns Ness to Dunglass.
- Jun 13th **Isle of May Trip:** visiting the Isle of May on the Aqua-trek boat from North Berwick.
- Jul 16th **Barbeque & Sand Sculpture Competition:** Friends and families enter the 1st Annual DJMA Sand Sculpture Competition.
- Sep **Muir Quarter Presentation Packs:** DJMA helped design and fund a presentation pack with a mint condition John Muir Quarter and a brief history of John Muir and his legacy.
- Nov 24th **A Countryside Ranger's view of John Muir Country Park:** a talk by Tara Sykes.

2006

- Feb 9th **John Muir Discovery Award evening:** to encourage members to undertake the award.
- Mar 16th ***Biodiversity*:** a talk by Stuart McPherson.
- Apr 27th **Tour of Eaglescairnie Farm** with Michael Williams. Biodiversity in action!
- Aug 12th **2nd Sand Sculpture Competition:** Renowned sculptor Ronnie Rae judged the entries.
- Sep 23rd & 24th ***Journey for the Wild*:** supporting this JMT initiative with guided walks around Dunbar and joining in on the John Muir Country Park leg of the final stage of this epic adventure.
- Oct 25th **DJMA now also known as FoJMB:** the amendment of the Association's name to incorporate *Friends of John Muir's Birthplace* is passed at the 12th AGM.

2007

- Apr 21st **Public Launch of *The Friends of John Muir's Birthplace***
***An Inconvenient Truth*:** showing of this award winning film by Al Gore
- Jun ***Still Walking the World* book launch**
and ***John Muir Opera Project - 'The Scootcher Tree'*:** Dunbar school children and John Muir save the day!
- Oct 25th Talk by Birthplace staff member Pauline Smeed about her staff exchange at the John Muir Historic Site in Martinez. [AGM]

2008

- Feb 7th Liz McLean's talk about time spent at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales.
- Feb 27th **HRH Prince Edward Visits John Muir's Birthplace**
- Mar 7th ***Close to Nature's Beating Heart* book launch**
- Mar 26th Talk by Prof Fred Last about his long-term study of flowering times.
- Apr 20th Celebrating John Muir's birthday with cake and a guided walk along the John Muir Way.
The Boyhood of John Muir: showing of the US TV film starring Gary Hollywood.
- May 16th **FoJMB Boat Trip**: Admiring the scenery along the coast from Dunbar to Tantallon.
- Jun 12th **'Trees and Wine'**: Enjoying food from the wild along with a glass of wine.
- Jun 13th School pupils from Yosemite Valley School arrive for a 3-day sojourn to Muir's birthplace.
- Jun 29th **FoJMB Conservation Work**
- Aug 23rd **3rd Annual Sand Sculpture Competition**
- Oct 1st Talk by Dr David Anderson about the history of the house that is now the JMB. [AGM]
- Oct 22nd Launch of the new edition of ***John Muir's Dunbar***
- Nov 5th ***Yosemite painters and photographers***: An illustrated talk by Will Collin.

2009

- Feb 4th **SOS Puffin:** a talk about the Scottish Seabird Centre project to manage tree mallow and conserve the puffins on Fidra and Craigleith.
- Mar 4th **Border Search and Rescue:** Stuart Fuller-Shapcott's talk about the work of the Unit.
- May 6th **Geowalk:** Finding out about the geology of the Clifftop Trail with Angus Miller.
- Jun 3rd **Be Green:** Sheila Kerr's talk about the project.
- Jul 18th **Muir Quarter Designer Visits JMB:** Garrett Burke visits Dunbar and donates further rolls of 'Muir quarters' to replenish the stock of the *John Muir and the Californian Quarter* presentation packs.
- 4th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition:** Garrett Burke also judged the entries for this competition.
- Oct 7th ***A Scotchman Comes Home*** An illustrated talk by Will Collin on his methods of research for the book and associated exhibition [AGM].
- Nov 4th ***Crossing the Pyrenees from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean Sea:*** An talk by FoJMB member Alistair Mackie on his grueling six week trek in aid of Cancer Research UK

2010

- Feb 3rd ***Dunbar Community Woodland Group: A***
talk by DCWG Convenor Isobel Knox
- Mar 3rd ***John Muir and Faith: An illustrated talk by***
Dr David Anderson
- Apr 21st ***Walking the John Muir Way book launch:***
the guide book for the original East Lothian
pathway between Dunglass and Mussleburgh.
- Jul 3rd **5th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition**
- Oct 13th AGM. Dan Cairney retires as President; Jim
Thompson retires as Convener and becomes
President.

2011

- Feb 6th **Writing the John Muir Way:** A talk by
author Robert Russel about the writing of his
book and the beautiful scenery you may
encounter on the route.
- Apr **Dunbar & Martinez 30th Anniversary:** An
exhibition to celebrate the twinning
agreement. Dunbar & District History Society
arranged an exchange of photographs with
the Martinez Historical Society for a display
of 'old' Martinez at the Birthplace.
- Jul Reception for Frank and Carol Walsh,
Goodwill Ambassador's from Martinez.
- Aug 6th **6th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition**
- Oct 12th AGM followed by ***Dunbar Town House – A***
Brief History: a talk by Pauline Smeed

2012

- Feb 1st **100,000 Visitors at JMB:** Pupils from East Linton Primary School's P5 brought the visitor numbers to over 100,000.
- Mar ***A Gude Fechter – John Muir the Campaigner:*** Exhibition at JMB
- Jun 23rd **Kittiwake Trail Workshop:** A family drop-in event to make kittiwake sculptures from recycled materials for display in JMB.
- Aug 11th **7th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition**
- Sep 6th **Visit by Harold & Janet Wood**
- Oct 10th AGM followed by ***John Muir in the New World:*** the Dunbar premiere of this American PBS film.
- Oct 24th **Dunbar and John Muir – A Conversation:** Discussion about John Muir's connection to Dunbar and the generation of ideas for future plans that promote Muir's legacy.
- Nov 24th Members of FoJMB help out the Friends of John Muir Country Park (FoJMCP) work party to cut back sea buckthorn.

2013

- Mar 15th Centenary of the publication of Muir's ***The Story of My Boyhood and Youth:*** In recognition of this, and in the lead up to 175th anniversary of Muir's birth, Friends' President Jim Thompson begins posting a daily quotation to the FoJMB Facebook page

2013 (cont'd)

- Mar 15th ***From the Old World to the New:*** An audio-visual exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of *My Boyhood and Youth*. A result of Dunbar and District History Society's exchange of photographs with the Montello Historic Preservation Society.
- April 20th FoJMB and FoJMCP mark the 175th anniversary of Muir's birth by planting hundreds of trees in the John Muir Country Park. The work party included Scottish Government Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Paul Wheelhouse MSP
- April 21st Muir's 175th Birthday Celebration and Book Reading at JMB
- May 1st Allison Chin, the current President of the Sierra Club, arrived in Dunbar specifically to visit the Birthplace Museum.
- Aug 10th **8th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition**
- Aug 23rd ***John Muir's Birthplace: The first ten years***
A celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the opening of the John Muir Birthplace Museum.
- Oct 23rd AGM followed by ***Trip to Alaska:*** an illustrated talk by the Chairman of the JMBT, John Thomas.
- Nov 30th Members of FoJMB help out the FoJMCP work party to repair the damage caused by horses' hooves.

2014

- Apr 21st Official opening of the **John Muir Way** by the First Minister.
- Apr 29th John Muir became the thirty-eighth Scot to be commemorated at Makars' Court with the unveiling of an inscribed flagstone that bears the following Muir quote:
I care to live only to entice people to look at Nature's loveliness
- Jul 19th ~~9th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition~~
(cancelled due to poor weather)
- Jul 27th **20th Anniversary of the foundation of Dunbar's John Muir Association**
- Sep 29th **20th Anniversary of the public launch of Dunbar's John Muir Association**
- Oct 10th **FoJMB 20th Anniversary Exhibition**
- Jan 7th
- Dec Professor Fred Last retires as Patron after 16 years in that role.
- Dec 24th 100th Anniversary of Muir's death

2015

- Apr 21st **Unveiling of Historic Scotland Plaque for Birthplace:** the most recent of Historic Scotland's commemorative plaques, acknowledging the link between a building and a famous Scot.

2015 (Cont'd)

- Apr 27th Launch of ***John Muir: A Colourful Life***. The seventh 'wee book': primary parent Eden Blair's idea of telling the story of John Muir through a series of 1-metre square canvas collages; the inventiveness of the 34 nursery and primary classes in Dunbar PS; the resulting stunning exhibition first shown on 21 April 2014. 3500 copies – funded by FoJMB, JMBT, Dunbar Community Council and Dunbar Rotary Club – donated as class sets for all 36 East Lothian primary schools.
- May 18th Visit by a Meaford journalist/photographer to “...to learn more about this legendary man, to carry greetings from Meaford, and round out the articles that I will be publishing in the Meaford weekly newspaper.”
- May 21st Visit by six John Muir Association board
- May 22nd members from Martinez to Dunbar.
- Jun 26th Launch of ***Walking the East Lothian John Muir Way***. A 2nd edition of the original 'wee book' by Robert Russel. This revised edition includes the Dunbar to Dunglass section of the 'old' JMW, now re-named the John Muir Link.
- Aug 10th Friends welcome four more visitors from Martinez – one, coincidentally, connected to St Mary's College in Moraga, CA that houses the world's largest collection - over 180 - of William Keith paintings.

2015 (Cont'd)

Aug 23rd **9th Annual Sand Sculpture Competition.**

Oct 23rd A charity fundraising concert in support of the Birthplace, ***The John Muir Concert*** by the **andante Chamber Choir**. With song and the spoken words of John Muir. Choir director John Stone had chosen works where the lyrics reflected the life of John Muir.

2016

Jan 6th ***125 years of Yosemite National Park:***
- Mar FoJMB exhibition that celebrates the 125th anniversary of Yosemite NP.

Feb 11th Welcoming pupils of Dunbar Grammar School to JMB in advance of their trip to California and donating copies of the FoJMB 'wee books' ***Close to Nature's Beating Heart*** and ***Still Walking the World*** to each pupil.

Feb 18th **150,000 Visitors at JMB:** A group from the Musselburgh based CHANGES - a Community Health Project, founded in 1996, which promotes the positive wellbeing of people living in East Lothian – marked this milestone.

May 15th Hosting/supporting the ***Spirit of John Muir*** performance by Lee Stetson during the Festival of Museums 2016.

2016 (Cont'd)

- May 28th John Muir's '*The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*' talk by Will Collin during the Coastword's Dunbar Literary Festival 2016
- July 16th Jay Goldsmith (Chief of Natural Resources, Pacific West Region, US National Park Service) visited the Birthplace.
- Aug - Nov *John Muir and America's Best Idea*: FoJMB exhibition of twelve panels that told the story of a number of NPS sites and of Muir's involvement with them.

2017

- Feb 1st AGM followed *John Muir's Legacy in Scotland Today*: a talk by Jo Moulin.
- Apr 21st - Jul 26th *125 years of the Sierra Club*: FoJMB exhibition giving an overview of the history of the Sierra Club with an emphasis on John Muir's involvement in the founding, and ethos, of the organisation.
- May 14th *The Artistic Expressions of John Muir*: Talk by Michael Wurtz - curator of the John Muir Papers at University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA.
- Jul 30th - Oct 5th *John Muir and Geology*: a FoJMB exhibition which explored John Muir's passion for geology and the role this played in his own adventures and discoveries.

2017 (Cont'd)

- Aug 30th Photography Sharing Evening - *John Muir and Geology*
- Oct 1st Geology Walk led by geologist Angus Miller.
- Oct 25th Talk: *The Wonders of Geology* by Fiona McGibbon
- Nov 28th AGM followed by *Peering into the Abyss of Time: Siccar Point*: an illustrated talk by Craig Pritchett on Hutton and Siccar Point.

2018

- Jan 25th FoJMB welcome Mrs Janet Skea, her son Mr Ronald Skea and his wife Anthea, to see the temporary exhibit of the three first edition Muir books gifted to Friends by Mr Skea in celebration of his mother's 100th birthday in 2014.
- Feb 26th Participation in the John Muir Trust's 21st anniversary of their John Muir Award.
- Mar 31st *William Keith and John Muir: Kindred Souls*
- Aug 30th FoJMB exhibition about the life of artist William Keith and his friendship with John Muir.
- Apr 24th Presentation of Wee Books to S5/6 students at Dunbar Grammar School in advance of their trip to California.
- Apr 26th FoJMB President, Jim Thompson, steps down from Council and, on this date, serves his last stint as a Birthplace volunteer.

2018 (Cont'd)

- Aug Meeting with artists working on a sculpture for the courtyard at the new East Lothian Community Hospital.
- Nov 6th A grant application by ELC Museums Service to Museums Galleries Scotland is successful and a grant of just over £2500 (75% of the total project cost) had been awarded towards the 2019 project 'John Muir - Writer'. The other 25% is the contribution by FOJMB of the exhibition.
- Nov ***William Keith and John Muir: Kindred Souls*** exhibited at Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie (until February 24th). A digital version also exhibited on Aberdeenshire Library Service website with access restricted to Aberdeenshire libraries and schools.
- Nov ***Inspired by Muir*** Photo Competition in conjunction with the Dunbar in Pictures Facebook group.
- Nov 28th AGM followed by a talk by DGS pupils about their 2018 trip to California.
- Dec US resident - and Muir enthusiast - Timmy Womick donates 72 of his limited-edition Muir-themed keyrings as a fund-raising gift.

2019

- Apr 1st - Sep 30th ***John Muir, Writer:*** a FoJMB Exhibition that explores how Muir sought to persuade people to protect the environment by means of his letters, journals, articles for newspapers and magazines, and twelve books. The quill pen became his sword in the battle for conservation.
- Apr 21st Unveiling by Ronnie Skea of the permanent display of the **John Muir First Editions.**
5th Anniversary of the official opening of the **John Muir Way.**
John Muir Way Concordat Signing.
- May 17th Susan Flynn – Muir’s great granddaughter - and her daughter Allison Latus visit the Birthplace.
- Jul 27th **25th Anniversary of the foundation of Dunbar’s John Muir Association.**
- Aug 14th EGM
- Aug 18th Screening of ***The Unruly Mystic: John Muir***
- Sep 29th **25th Anniversary of the public launch of Dunbar’s John Muir Association**

2020 Vision ???