

maintaining simple shelters

# **Mountain Bothies Association**

# Annual Review

Year ending 31 December 2017



“We maintain  
simple  
shelters for  
the benefit  
of those who  
love wild and  
lonely places”



## 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.

The MBA owns only a single bothy. 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 go about our work.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

Four new bothies opened, and preparatory work started on another.

New website launched, and member survey undertaken.

Highly commended in The Great Outdoors magazine reader awards.

## HOW WE WORK

The MBA is a membership organisation, registered in Scotland as a charity. We have no paid staff. The board of Trustees and the management committee both meet regularly during the year to set priorities, monitor finance and ensure good governance. All members of the MBA can attend and vote at the annual general meeting held each October.

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.

We value our strong links with bothy owners, without whose support these wonderful buildings would not be available for public use.

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.

*We welcomed Ian Hunter and Neil Reid as Trustees. Trevor Cotton, Roger Muhl and Neil Stewart reached the end of their terms on the Board during the year and we thank them for their service.*



Editor: *Peter Aylmer*  
Design: *John Mitchell*

Photo credits:  
*Peter Aylmer, Chris Drury, Neil Finlay, Jason Francis, Ian Gibson, Lia Hunter, Jamie Johnson, Ricky Marshall, John Mitchell, Peter Rowell, Tern TV, BBC.*

# One year, four bothies



## Abyssinia

Abyssinia bothy in Glen Kinglas, Argyll opened for visitors in May. It was early in 2016 that Tom Turnbull of the Strone Estate emailed us to ask if we'd be interested in opening up the building; given its situation – at the foot of Beinn Ime, with three other Munros in easy reach too – we were only too happy to say yes.

More than 50 volunteers toiled over five work parties to bring the building into bothy use. This meant strengthening the gable wall, pointing the walls, repainting the roof, partitioning the existing single room into two rooms, replacing a window with a door into the new room, installing a wooden floor, installing a ceiling in the main bothy area, and digging a drainage channel. MBA chairman Simon Birch popped by to help plant new trees.

Our work at Abyssinia came to the attention of BBC1's Countryfile programme. They filmed work there over two days in March, and broadcast the result a couple of months later.

But one job didn't quite go according to plan. Despite many attempts to make the chimney work, we did not succeed. That meant some cold nights for winter visitors! Installation of a new chimney, and the stove to go with it took place in spring 2018.

## Flittingford

Perhaps the strangest thing about Flittingford, in Northumberland's Kielder Forest, is that as recently as 2015 no-one suspected it was even there. Then, as the decades-long cycle of tree planting, growth and harvesting came to an end, and as the timber was carried away, so the ruined shepherd's hut, or 'keb house' – lambing shelter, in the local dialect – came to light.

Forest Enterprise England were happy for us to convert it into one of our smallest bothies – just three people overnight for comfort. We found something of a time capsule. Scratched



## Cae Amos

The two-year renovation of Cae Amos, northern Snowdonia, into a bothy was complete with its opening to the public in May. Work parties, here or anywhere else, are mostly restricted to long weekends outside of winter, and usually only one a month is practical: add that to the complexity of the work required, and it's clear why projects like this take a while.

We took over Cae Amos from the Leeds Mountaineering Club, who had run it since 1967. The records of their own renovation of the building showed many familiar problems – ‘a windowless shell, full of sheep dung and woodworm’ it was called back then, though thankfully things were nothing like as bad at handover in 2015. But the gabions were not in good state, and cracks in the walls were so worrying that we commissioned a survey to be certain of the extent of work required.

We now have perhaps the largest bothy complex in Wales: as well as the main building, there's also a barn at each end. It's well situated for the top-quality Nantlle Ridge and a variety of interesting routes in the Cwm Pennant area.

into a window frame were two names, “R.Robson” and “J.Proudlock”, with the date October 1959. These have been traced to two local forestry workers engaged on the first phase of forestry activity here. The first-named has been identified as Robert Robson, whose three sons still live locally.

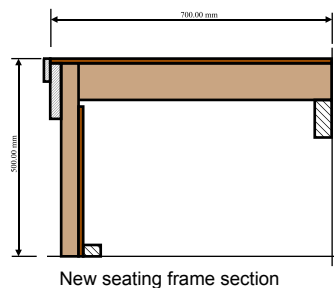
The bothy opened for use in April, and is a great addition to the range of MBA bothies in the Kielder Forest, a haven to dark sky hunters, mountain bikers, walkers and naturalists.



## GREAT LINGY HUT

Unlike the other three bothies opened this year, Great Lingy Hut in the north of the Lake District had been an open bothy for many years, looked after by the Lake District National Park Authority. Conscious of the MBA's ability to look after bothies cost-effectively with volunteer support, they asked us to assume maintenance responsibility and the bothy became part of the MBA in March.

Great Lingy Hut is one of our highest bothies, around 1900ft up. It has room for three to four people overnight, but it's a great spot for a halt too – the Cumbria Way passes its door, and there's a splendid view across the Northern Fells to nearby Blencathra. Lake District rangers will continue to check its condition and tell us if anything needs attention, and local volunteers who have been involved in the maintenance of the hut in the past will also continue their interest.





# Other major projects


## LOCAL SLATE FOR A LOCAL BOTHY

Before the restoration, Dubs Hut could best be described as soulless and unwelcoming – the roof leaked heavily and there was neither fire nor cooking facilities.

MBA work parties put in many days of hard work to restore the stonework and make the bothy more accommodating, including fitting a new stove. But as with many major MBA projects, the external support we have had has been invaluable. In this case, bothy owners the Honister Slate Mine Company themselves provided us with slate for the roof, and Northern Roofing Services of Carlisle provided two professional slaters to do the work. They've assured us that the new roof will withstand all that the weather can throw at it!

MBA labour comes free of course, but any help with costs is welcome. Here, we were helped with funding from the Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust, and just as important, food came free too! Thanks for this to Caterite Foodservice, a leading food wholesale supplier in the Lake District.

And we received a cheque to help with costs from possibly our oldest-ever donor, 99-year old Hilda Eastwood of Keswick. She's no stranger to the hills, and proudly told us she had climbed Ben Nevis at 82.



At 1600ft, Dubs Hut is one of the highest open shelters in the Lake District, above Honister Pass on Fleetwith Pike, so it's exposed to some of the wildest weather that can be experienced in England. The former mining hut sees a lot of use, as it's right on the well-trodden path to Haystacks and the High Stile ridge.



## FORTITUDE REBUILDS THE HOTEL

Back in 2014, the MO of Tarf Hotel bothy Ricky Marshall sat with his son Craig in the bothy's west room looking at a nine-page snagging list. They'd endured both floor and ceiling falling in on them, and water was coming in through the gable wall. This was to be no one-hit work party.

Now, after four intensive years of work deep in the Cairngorms north of Blair Atholl, there is a transformation. The roof was sealed with custom flashings and lead work. Chimneys have been replaced, with new chimney pots and cowls on top. All external walls have been repointed with lime mortar; part of the west wall had to be replaced, and now boasts a distinctive larch facing. Granite gabions were built to stop water ingress through the air vents.

Two rooms have new floors, there are new windows throughout the main building, and three new doors and the moveable sleeping platforms were made on site. The stove from Ruigh Aiteachan – another major bothy renovation, still in progress – was carried in to replace the old one. Outside, drainage ditches have been re-dug and the old crossing over the Feith Uaine was replaced with a new one custom built from iron and oak.

That's by no means everything, and Ricky is the first to credit the support he's had from fellow MOs, other MBA members, bothy owners the Atholl Estate, and tradesmen from across north-east Scotland – with both time and supplies donated free or at cost price.

"We are all proud of what has been achieved," says Ricky. "The friendships made will last for a long time. We needed all of our logistical skills and plant operating skills to get materials to the bothy without hiring in a helicopter, but with fortitude and hard work, it was all worth it."



## MAOL BHUIDHE CLEAN UP

Winter in the North-West Highlands isn't always the best time to clean up a bothy, but the new MO for Maol Bhuidhe Jamie Johnston was determined to make a difference.

Just washing down a wall on his first visit was a lift to morale, and Jamie was encouraged by the general lack of litter, while bemoaning that six upstairs wall panels had been prised off, possibly for firewood – another job to add.

A week later, and Jamie was battling “biblical conditions” along the remote track from Iron Lodge, five miles to the south. With him came new shovel, ash bin, fire bucket, dustpan and brush. He also bought in a new history information board, the fruit of his own research, telling the story of what was once one of the remotest inhabited buildings in Scotland. Somehow, there was time to do some painting and start replacing the wall panels too.

There was time for two December trips before the year end. Snow in the pass made for a tougher approach than normal, but on the first visit the chimney got swept, the rest of the wall panels replaced, and the paint cupboard resecured following an attempt at break-in. Jamie's final visit of the year saw the fireplace painted and a new shelf put up, but an MO's job is never done – the hallway paint has been stripped in readiness for the future.



## CATCHING THEM YOUNG AT WHITE LAGGAN

Work parties often bring together a group of people who meet as strangers but leave as friends. But one summertime work party at White Laggan bothy, above Loch Dee in the Galloway Hills, was something of a family affair.

The bothy needed new doors and MOs Brian Hughes and Malcom Finlay decided the best way to do this was a touch of DIY. Brian enlisted the help of his nephew Stephen and they spent a busy three days in August measuring up, sawing and fitting. And ever eager to help was Brian's young grandson Zayne, aged just three. "He's really got a taste for bothy life," said his grandfather – perhaps inherited from his mum, also a keen bothier.

This was just part of a series of work parties that saw much other internal refurbishment at this popular bothy, a few hundred yards off the Southern Upland Way. Bothy owners Forestry Commission Scotland got involved too, helping with the transport of materials up the boggy final track to the bothy, including a new stove. The mighty struggle to remove the old stove - encased in Portland cement - was preserved for posterity by the cameras of Tern TV, and shown on BBC Scotland in their series 'The Forest'.



Cobbles,  
doors and  
a new loo



- ▶ New windows at Cadderlie.
- ▶ A new floor at Greg's Hut.
- ▶ A new toilet at Greensykes.
- ▶ The estate-led renovation of Ruigh Aiteachan bothy continued, with completion anticipated in 2018.
- ▶ Roof painting and cobble restoration at Kinbreack, carried out by volunteers from Scottish Power.





## THE FIRST BOTHY WEDDING

Warnscale Head bothy, not far from Dubs Hut (see p. 5), may well be the MBA's most romantic bothy – the visitors' book records several marriage proposals. And now, it's hosted a wedding all of its own.

Three years before, Charlotte and Gerrit had their first date in the bothy – nothing less than “the most perfect night in a perfect bothy”, Charlotte called it. Now they planned their wedding there. At least they warned MO Denis Mollison in advance – that way, the balloons and bunting which decorated the bothy were no surprise to the work party planned for the same day.

The happy couple were no doubt delighted not to be involved with digging out the drain behind the bothy, a task essential to make sure that water flowed round the end of the drain into the drain rather than into the bothy. In exchange, the work party beetled off to Dubs Hut while the ceremony took place, both for a quiet lunch and a hunt for paving slates.

As the picture shows, both work party and wedding party were blessed with a beautiful spring day for an occasion that will be remembered by all who were there.





## CELEBRATING A LIFE AT GLENPEAN

Glenpean is the latest MBA bothy to bear a memorial plaque. It commemorates James Henderson, who died in 2016 aged just 44. He loved walking the hills around the bothy, between lochs Arkaig and Morar, west of Mallaig.

There is a strong family connection to the bothy; when young, James's grandfather (also James) lived here with his parents from 1914 to 1925, when the building was still a shepherd's house. Indeed James's grandmother Annie, now 86, was among the 40-strong party (the youngest James's niece, eight-year-old Skye) who walked from Strathan, four miles up Glen Pean to the bothy and four miles back.

James's sister Lia Hunter said: "The day brought generations together to celebrate James's life, share stories, and remember the times we shared with him. James was happiest when he was exploring the hills of the West Highlands – he felt a particular connection to Glen Pean because of our family links to this area – this is where he felt 'home'."

Lia also thanked the MBA for contacting the Bothy Trust, who own the bothy, to approve the plaque – and in return we thank her family for seeking permission. Unauthorised work at bothies, even in memory of a loved one, can cause difficulties for bothy owners.

This isn't the first time Glenpean has borne a plaque - in 1972, it was refurbished in memory of the climber Wilf Tauber.





## KEEPING CORROUR CLEAN

Stalwart joint MOs for Corrour bothy, Neil Findlay and Neil Reid, were nominated for two awards in 2017 – The Great Outdoors magazine ‘Extra Mile’ award, and the volunteer awards from the National Parks. Although they didn’t win, the nominations were some recognition for their sterling work in clearing the bothy toilet month after month, in fair weather and foul.

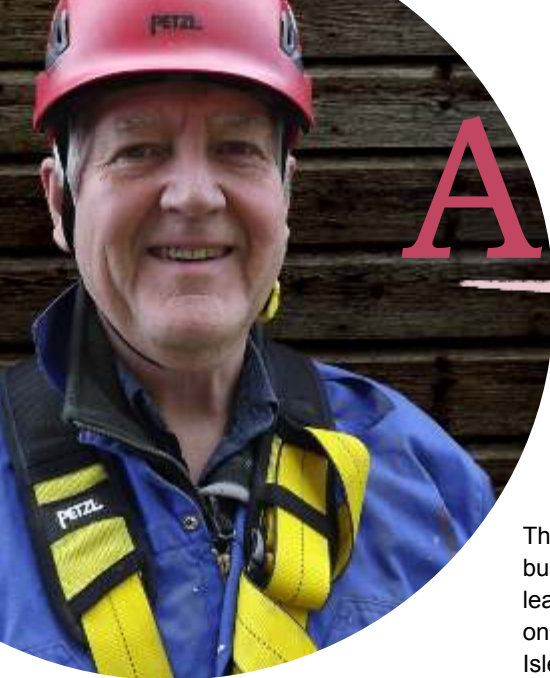
The bothy is four miles south of the summit of the much-travelled Lairig Ghru pass through the Cairngorms. The toilet was installed in 2006, to help address irresponsible toilet practices by some users of this pristine sub-Arctic environment.

The two Neils try to go together whenever they can, but their different schedules don’t always align. Others lend a hand too, including Walt “Wattie” Black (see photograph) and Ian Shand (MO at the Hutchison Hut bothy). Their job ends at the road-end, at Derry Lodge – and from there, the MBA arranges and pays for onward transport to Aberdeen so that the waste can be appropriately treated.

As one of the nominators for the TGO award said, “If everyone did what these lads do, what an amazing place the world would be.” But Neil Findlay doesn’t see it in quite those terms. “Looking after Corrour is a privilege for me,” he says. “I remember Corrour when it was really poor state, and now it is a proper bothy, nice and snug even on a wintery night.” And thanks to the Neils, with some mod cons too.







# Area focus

## South West Highlands and Islands

**Area organiser Peter Rowell** stumbled into bothies when he was completing his round of the Munros. He decided that bothying was too much fun to be limited to Munro climbing but waited till retirement before he could take it up a gear. He has been an MBA member for seven years, an MO for Doune Byre for six, and AO for more than two years.

This area is home to 15 bothies, some of them busy with West Highland Way walkers while at least one is easier to reach by sea canoe than on foot. It's roughly bounded by the 'Road to the Isles' between Mallaig and Fort William and then the A82 south, on its route across Rannoch Moor and down to Loch Lomond (although a couple of bothies hug its eastern shore). The Hebridean islands of Mull, Islay and Jura are thrown in too.

The big news in this area for 2017 was the opening of Abyssinia bothy in Argyll (see p. 2), but the area was busy with other projects too. These included new windows for Cadderlie, a new cooking surface and chimney pot at Mark Cottage, chimney and general maintenance work at Glengarrisdale, minor works at Tomsleibhe following the re-roofing in 2016, and a roof leak fixed at Leacraithnaich.



**Abyssinia:** Our newest bothy, see p.2.



**Mark Cottage:** Near the tip of the Ardgartan peninsula, on the shores of Loch Long.



**An Cladach:** On Islay's eastern coast, with a spectacular view across the Sound of Islay to Jura.



**Peanmeanach:** Once the last occupied croft in the small townships that fringed the Ardnish peninsula.



**Essan:** Found fame in 2017 when the Jacobite steam train pulled up to rescue a family whose boat had been swept away.



**Resourie:** A woodland bothy in Glen Hurich, south of Loch Shiel.



**Taigh Seumas a' Ghlinne:** James Stewart, progenitor of the events in Kidnapped, was born here.



**Leacraithnaich:** On the Morvern peninsula, by Loch Teàrnait.



**Cadderlie:** A sea-loch bothy on Loch Etive.



**Tomsleibhe:** Our only bothy on Mull, beneath the cone-shaped Beinn Talaidh.



**Glengarrisdale:** The more northerly of Jura's two bothies, a tough walk-in but a beautiful beach.



**Cruib:** On the shores of Loch Tarbert, the sea-loch that nearly splits Jura in two.



**Doone Byre:** Over 30,000 West Highland Way walkers pass the bothy every year.



**Carron:** At the summit of a little-used track heading south-west from Inverary.



**Rowchoish:** Scarlett Johansson was here, for scenes in the 2013 film Under the Skin.



## Not in bookshops, only bothies

It's a beautiful publication, celebrating the mountain environment in the pictures and words of 70 artists and writers, but you'll not see *Shelter Stone – The Artist and The Mountain* for sale at your local Waterstones. Only by looking carefully for a storage bag in one of the MBA's bothies, or selected similar locations in Iceland or the Alps, will you find it – eventually. MOs started deliveries in the summer; but depending on the frequency of maintenance trips, it will take many months for roll-out to be complete.

We have collaborated with Dundee University on this project, through Eddie Summerton, senior lecturer at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design. As well as glorious artwork, the newspaper-format publication has information about the MBA too.

The project culminates with an exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh in August 2018. Limited copies will be on sale there – and with any profits to the MBA, why not go along?

## New website goes live

The new MBA website went live in August. For the first time it gives every MBA member a password-protected personal page to maintain their own details and, if not already using Direct Debit, renew their subscription. New members can sign up online, there's an online shop, work party dates are listed, and the maps showing the location of each bothy are much improved compared to the old website.

But the web address stays the same – [www.mountainbothies.org.uk](http://www.mountainbothies.org.uk)

## Highly commended - getting closer!

Hillwalkers' magazine *The Great Outdoors* shortlisted the MBA in its 'Extra Mile' readers' awards. We missed out on top spot to the volunteer lengthsmen of the Lake District, but our 'highly commended' rating was a step up from the 'commended' of 2016. Maybe next year? And the two Neils, joint MOs for Corrour bothy, were shortlisted too – see P.11.



# 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 2017; 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 during 2017 was over £71,000.

HM The Queen  
Simon Adaway (Red House)  
Am Binnean Hillwalking Club  
Andrew Bury  
Adrian Carran  
Dietmar Cremers  
Andrew Dickie  
Fiona Digby-Grant  
Patricia Dizazzo  
Hilda Eastwood (Dubs Hut)  
Roger Everard  
Derek Finnie  
Stephen Fowler  
Alan Fox  
Greg Hackett  
Kay Harman (Uags)  
Harrow Walking Group  
Immo Holvan  
David Janner-Klausner  
Martin King  
Langside Mountaineering Club  
Lochaber MC  
David MacLeod  
Lotje Meijknecht  
Susanne Menzel  
Moray Mountaineering Club  
Stephen Murphy  
B & J Pearson  
Richard Popple  
Clwb Dringo Porthmadog (Cae Amos)  
Ramblers Holidays Trust (Dubs Hut)

Kevin Richardson (Greensykes)  
Matthew Riley  
Craig Sephton  
Shell Platform Safety  
Michael Smith  
Eric Southward  
Simon Strachan (Abyssinia Tree Planting)  
Rebecca Wearn  
Alasdair Whyte  
James H. Williamson  
Peter Wilson

*Donations in memory of*  
Martin Coutie  
Lyn Hampton (Greensykes)  
Brian Hawkins (Callater Stables)  
James Henderson  
Ann Hobbiss  
Arthur Howarth  
David Hunter  
Andrew Jensen (Gameshope)  
Robert Robertson  
Hugh Smith  
Keith Walker

*Legacies*  
Ian Collie  
Jim Curtis  
Tom Dunmore  
Ann Hobbiss

# 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

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



<b>The Glenelg Sheepstock Club</b>	<i>Suardalan</i>
<b>The Proprietors of Glenfalloch Estate</b>	<i>Doune Byre</i>
<b>Glenfeshie Estate Ltd</b>	<i>Ruigh Aiteachain</i>
<b>Mr RA Green</b>	<i>Croft House</i>
<b>The Trustees of Gruinard Estate</b>	<i>Shenavall</i>
<b>The Honister Slate Mine Company</b>	<i>Dubs Hut</i>
<b>Invercauld Estate</b>	<i>Callater Stable</i>
<b>Alan Johnson</b>	<i>Camasunary</i>
<b>RHF Le Fleming</b>	<i>Cross Fell (Greg's Hut)</i>
<b>Timothy Leslie</b>	<i>Essan</i>
<b>Earl of Mexborough</b>	<i>A'Chuil</i>
<b>Mountain Bothies Association</b>	<i>Over Phawhope</i>
<b>Mr Edward Naish</b>	<i>Cae Amos</i>
<b>The National Trust for Scotland</b>	<i>Camban, Corrour, Hutchison Memorial Hut</i>
<b>Mr TP Radford</b>	<i>Tomsleibhe</i>
<b>Mrs Richardson and Mr Richardson</b>	<i>Warnscale Head</i>
<b>Rio Tinto Alcan Highland Estates</b>	<i>Lairig Leacach, Loch Chiarain, Meanach, Staoineag</i>
<b>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</b>	<i>Fords of Avon, Ryvoan</i>
<b>Peter Stewart Sandeman</b>	<i>Peanmeanach</i>
<b>Neil Scobie</b>	<i>Knockdamph</i>
<b>The Scottish Ministers (FCS)</b>	<i>Mark Cottage, Resourlie, Rowchoish, Taigh Seumas a'Ghlinne, Tunskeen, White Laggan</i>
<b>The Scottish Ministers (SGRPID)</b>	<i>Achnanclach, The Lookout, Strathan, Strathchailleach, Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh</i>
<b>The Scottish Ministers (SNH)</b>	<i>Dibidil, Guirdil</i>
<b>Secretary of State for Defence</b>	<i>Kearvaig</i>
<b>Smech Properties Ltd</b>	<i>Maol Bhuidhe</i>
<b>Trustees of Philip R Smith</b>	<i>Easan Dorcha</i>
<b>The Honourable Rupert Christopher Soames</b>	<i>Sourlies</i>
<b>Storas Uibhist</b>	<i>Uisinis</i>
<b>Strone Estate</b>	<i>Abyssinia</i>
<b>Sarah Troughton</b>	<i>Cadderlie</i>
<b>United Utilities</b>	<i>Mosedale Cottage</i>
<b>The Welsh Ministers (NRW)</b>	<i>Moel Prysgau, Nant Rhys, Nant Syddion, Penrhos Isaf</i>
<b>The West Highlands Woodlands</b>	<i>Gleann Dubh-lighe</i>
<b>Westminster Estates</b>	<i>Glencoul, Glendhu</i>
<b>Captain NJNH Willis</b>	<i>Bearnais</i>
<b>Mrs CW Wilson</b>	<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*

# In 2017 ...



We ran 124 work parties, spread out over the year but concentrated in the longer days of spring and summer, at more than 60 different bothies – five of those at the new Abyssinia bothy in Argyll.

As well as Abyssinia, we opened new bothies at Flittingford (Northumberland) and Cae Amos (northern Snowdonia), and took on management responsibility from Great Lingy Hut (Lake District).

Assessment of Red House in the Cairngorms as a potential new bothy continued.

Membership declined slightly, by about 3% from 3,792 at the end of 2016 to 3,666 at end of 2017.

Our income, entirely from our members and donors, rose by 15% to over £181,000. Spending on bothy maintenance dipped 5% on the record figure set in 2017, to over £81,000 – still significantly above any other year.

The launch of the new website in August significantly improved the ability of the general public to find out more about bothies and how to use them, and gave MBA members the opportunity to better maintain their own personal data.

Once again, there was a surplus of income over expenditure. In part this was due to the delay in the Red House project, which had been budgeted for £20,000 spend in 2017. Without this, the percentage of planned maintenance spending achieved was 73%, similar to that in 2016.

## *maintaining simple shelters*

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

[mountainbothies.org.uk](http://mountainbothies.org.uk)

