

Notes from the John Muir Way presentation, given by Helen from UZ Arts, and Susan Smith from East Lothian Council, on 26th February.

Events along the JMW run from 17th to 26th April. It starts on 17th April at Helix Park, Falkirk, and the launch of the Kelpies. 21st April is the main date in the calendar with the visit of the First Minister to Dunbar, with 4,000-5,000 visitors expected.

Events are being organised by UZ Arts. Entertainment will start at 10.30 on the 21st, there will be a rolling programme of street performers, with bunting up in the High Street. The High Street will be closed from West Port to Lauderdale House. Similar events will be rolled out along the JMW, finishing in Helensburgh.

Among those mentioned were Kenny Bean's Camera Obscura, a Chat with John Muir himself via Mischief La Bas, Seed Bomb native flowers with Darren Wilson, and Alex Rigg with his large scale willow, timber and metal sculpture, accompanied by a group of dancers in costume, and another dancing group dressed as swans. Surreal McCoy, Big Rory a 9 ft. giant, will be walking around and hopefully people will follow him.

More information can be found: <http://www.johnmuirfestival.com>

<http://uzarts.com/john-muir-festival-2014>

A Flag for John Muir. John Muir flags have been designed, 500 will be carried along the route by cyclists, walkers and runners in specially designed backpacks. Sustrans are involved with the design of a flag holder on the back of bikes. Flag carriers can choose different options such as 1 mile, 5 miles, or 15 miles to North Berwick where they will be met on arrival. There will also be small legs of the route available for families, such as round Winterfield Park. Registration of flags at 10.00 am. to 11.30 am.

Late morning, cyclists, walkers and runners starting the JMW will assemble on the glebe. The First Minister will make his speech outside the John Muir Birthplace Trust at 12 noon, and will set off the walkers, cyclists and runners at 1.00 pm.

Belhaven Bikes will have a stand hiring bikes, near the Swimming Pool. There are events happening in Lauderdale Park, and a dragon boat ceremony in the harbour.

There will be extra parking on Winterfield Park but people will be encouraged to use public transport where possible.

3 poets will be walking the John Muir Way starting on 17th April planting seeds

beginning with the letters of the alphabet. Poems will be inspired by walking along spreading seeds. The poets may be planting trees.

Foxlake are planning an ultra marathon as far as Prestonpans.

The on street entertainments will be promenading along the high street.

Businesses that wish to be involved to contact UZ Arts. Stalls are welcome but are still under discussion. Not sure where they would be situated, might be further along the High Street. Any stalls should promote the John Muir Way, the outdoors, sustainable local food, etc.

A question was asked about the inclusion of local arts/open studio events. Someone suggested a pop up shop displaying arts. Contact to be made with UZ Arts.

They will be needing 40 volunteers to help with registration etc. She asked for names at the end of the presentation, but contact can be made with Helen, at helen@uzarts.com