

HELENSBURGH ARTWORK

# John Muir Way Artwork Study

PHASE 1



## LAUNCH

Thursday 8th April 7-8pm  
with: Helensburgh Community Council



## WORKSHOP 1

Thursday 15th April 7-9pm  
Zoom: [bit.ly/MuirWork1](https://bit.ly/MuirWork1)



## WORKSHOP 2

Wednesday 21st April 7-9pm  
Zoom: [bit.ly/MuirWork2](https://bit.ly/MuirWork2)



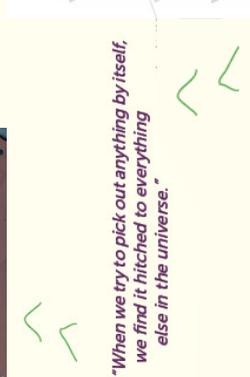
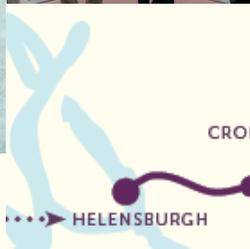
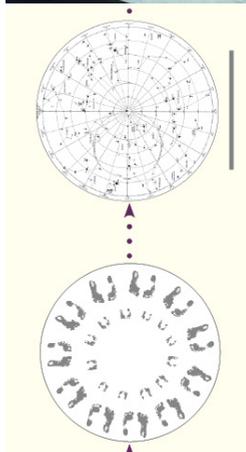
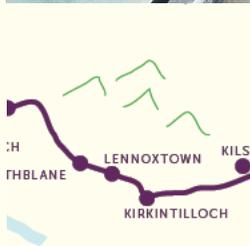
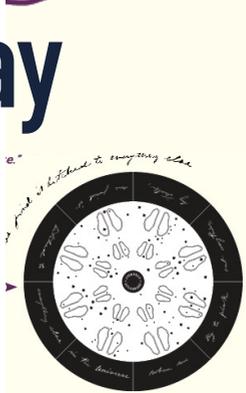
## WORKSHOP 3

Wednesday 28th April 7-9pm  
Zoom: [bit.ly/MuirWork3](https://bit.ly/MuirWork3)



## REVIEW

Thursday 13th May 7-9pm  
Zoom: [bit.ly/MuirReview](https://bit.ly/MuirReview)



# JOHN MUIR WAY ARTWORK STUDY

There is an opportunity to explore how to mark the start/end of the John Muir Way in Helensburgh with a new artwork, to complement the ground-based John Muir artwork that is being re-sited as part of the Helensburgh Waterfront Development. The existing artwork and the new artwork would be located in and around the new public square on West Clyde Street that is being designed by Hirst Landscape Architects. It will be important to consider how any additional artwork integrates with the existing landscape plans. Would you like to contribute to the process of shaping the brief for the artwork? What kind of artwork would you like to see there? This could include your ideas on how to orientate people who are at the start or end of a significant journey, or you could share your take on the context of the site, on local history, seaside memories, a story about this area right beside Helensburgh's Clock Tower. Are you interested in workshops on public art? Peter McCaughey and Danielle Banks from art organisation WAVEparticle (the team who worked closely with the community to deliver Helensburgh's award-winning Outdoor Museum) will present some initial thoughts and the approach for the workshops that will happen later in April. We hope to see you there. Events are free and everyone is welcome!

## ABOUT THE JOHN MUIR WAY

The John Muir Way was launched in 2014 on the centenary of John Muir's death. The aim was to provide an outstanding coast to coast route across the diverse landscapes and rich heritage of central Scotland; easily accessible and attractive to local people, businesses and visitors, and providing opportunities for all to increase their understanding of John Muir's legacy and philosophy through getting closer to nature.

Muir's advocacy of protecting the natural environment for the health of the planet and all its inhabitants is needed now more than ever. However, in recent times, concerns have been raised about racist views contained in some of Muir's early writing and this has led to questions around the continued promotion of his legacy. Muir's views on indigenous peoples were later replaced by a more enlightened viewpoint, and while recognising his shortcomings we believe that his legacy continues to be as relevant as ever – and that the environmental, health and wellbeing aims behind the John Muir Way are not incompatible with a need to understand and acknowledge the flaws of Muir himself.

The choice of Helensburgh for the western end of the John Muir Way is symbolic of Muir's journey from the east to west coast of Scotland, to set sail for America as a boy. It is thought that the ship left from Glasgow, however Helensburgh's position on the Firth of Clyde provided a fitting point on the west coast for the John Muir Way, linking the route to Scotland's first National Park – symbolic of Muir's legacy. The eastern end of the route is Muir's birthplace of Dunbar.

The Green Action Trust manages the John Muir Way in partnership with local authorities, national agencies and John Muir charities.  
– Green Action Trust, 31.03.21

