

Photo: JMT



MCofS Weather Forecaster breaks his neck

MCofS Weather Forecaster Geoff Monk tumbled on a snow-covered slope – then unwittingly walked around for a month with a broken neck.



Photo: The Sun / Iain Pollock

After the fall, which happened near Loch Dee, Dumfries-shire, Geoff managed to stumble to shelter in a bothy nearby where he was found by other hillwalkers and an ambulance was called. Medics at Dumfries Infirmary patched him up with stitches to his elbow and forehead and sent him home. Weeks later, Geoff went to his GP suffering with pains in his arm and tingling fingers.

The doctor ordered hospital X-rays on him. It was at that point the medics realised he had a broken neck.

Geoff is recovering well and hopes to be back out on the hills soon.

The John Muir Trust recently announced the winners of the 2009 Wild Writing Competition as part of the Fort William Mountain Festival. Tom Bryan from Kelso won the first prize for his piece Seven Ways of Looking at Suilven. Alan Gay from North Berwick was awarded the second overall prize for his poem Deer Path and Neil McRae from Skye won the Gaelic category for his story Doilleireachd an T-Sleibhe.

Now running its third year, the Wild Writing Competition, sponsored by the John Muir Trust, encourages both aspiring and professional writers to pen stories about Scotland's landscapes and wild places. The competition is free and open to all and there are prose, poetry, Gaelic and children's categories. Tom Bryan's first prize this year is a place on a writing course at Moniack Mhor, Scotland's creative writing centre.

For more information go to: www.mountainfestival.co.uk/writingcompetition.asp

More awards for Echo Wall

Congratulations to Claire MacLeod, Director of Echo Wall. At a recent award ceremony in Glasgow Claire picked the New Talent Scottish BAFTA Award for Best Director. The BAFTA jury had liked the personal aspects of the film as well as the scenic beauty of the places filmed. Echo Wall also won best Scottish film at the Fort William Mountain Festival and best film at the Glasgow Mountain Film Festival.



Photo: Claire MacLeod

The Winston Churchill Fellowship

Applications are now being sought for the 2010 Winston Churchill Fellowship. Categories include Adventure, Exploration and Leaders of Expeditions. The Winston Churchill



Memorial Trust offers Fellowships to British Citizens resident in the UK. A full list of categories and the online application for can be found on www.wcmt.org.uk

The Lake District Guide launches its 2009 Digital Photographic Competition

The Lake District Guide (www.lake-district-guides.co.uk), the specialist Lake District visitors' website, has announced details of its 2009 "Images of Lake District Life and Landscapes" photographic competition. This year the organisers are particularly keen to see images which capture something of the variety and flavour of daily life in the Lakes. There is no limit to the number of images submitted and all entrants will have an equal chance of winning one of this year's two top prizes of £500. The closing date for the competition is September 30th 2009 and winners will be announced by October 7th 2009.

To find out more about the competition and all entry rules visit www.lake-district-guides.co.uk

