



# Press Release

## All Change at Scotland's Moorland Forum

Following election by the 28-member organisations of the Forum, Hugh Raven took over as chairman of Scotland's Moorland Forum on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. A former adviser to the UK and Scottish governments, and an experienced chair and non-executive director, Hugh has served in senior roles in the public, private and third-sectors.

A change of Director took place at the same meeting. Anne Gray, who was appointed Director of The Heather Trust earlier this year, took over from Simon Thorp as Director of the Forum.

In his address to members of the Moorland Forum at the meeting, Hugh Raven thanked Lord Lindsay and Simon Thorp for their remarkable double act over 11 years at the helm of the Forum. He added that this had been an outstanding contribution to the interests of Scotland's moorlands and uplands. Hugh Raven went on to outline how he intended to continue the vital work of the Forum. In the next few weeks, the Forum: would be responding to the consultation about the new Scottish Forestry Strategy, investigating how it can support the work of the Grouse Moor Management Group, scoping out an Uplands Manifesto, and re-energising the Principles of Moorland Management (PoMM) Project.

An Uplands Manifesto will allow the Forum to carry out some ground work that could feed into an Uplands Vision produced by the Scottish Government in due course. The PoMM project seeks to provide guidance for practitioners and this is seen as a flexible and effective way of improving management practices and raising standards.

Lord Lindsay had been the Chairman of the Forum, since November 2007, and he commented, "Simon Thorp and I have greatly enjoyed our work on behalf of the Forum, and it is with an element of sadness that we handover our roles. With the support of member organisations, the Forum has covered a lot of ground during our time and the range of successful projects is evidence of the important, influential role the Forum has had, and continues to have. However, in Hugh and Anne we leave the Forum in excellent hands going forward and I am certain they will continue to ensure its relevance and value."

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