

Grant in honour of two capital mountaineers helps oil wheels of courageous Orkney cycle expedition



A 45-year-old Edinburgh man who has waged a lifelong battle against cerebral palsy is to undertake an extraordinary bicycle journey to explore the archaeological, natural and cultural heritage of the Orkney isles, assisted by an award in honour of two legendary local mountaineers.

David Reilly, who lives in Morningside, will be helped by an award from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant – a memorial run by the John Muir Trust to celebrate the lives of two legendary mountain men from Edinburgh.

Bill Wallace died in the Alps in 2006 while skiing – with two artificial hips – at the age of 73. Des Rubens, a popular 63-year old teacher at Craigoyston High School, was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing. Both men had been former presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

David, who intends to document his Orkney odyssey through writing and photography said: "I was thrilled to hear I had been awarded the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant. I am committed to the outdoors and improving participation for disabled people.

"Through my own adventures I hope to improve both access and equity of opportunity in outdoor and country sports. The archaeological sites of Orkney are a window into all our heritage and this money will help towards opening them up to an ever wider audience.

"It's crucial that we all have access and the ability to study the past, and to preserve the sites for future generations. I'm excited about the trip and hope that the writing I produce will benefit the whole community. And I'm extremely grateful to the John Muir Trust and look forward to working with them."

You can find out more about David's amazing adventures by visiting his website: www.davidcreilly.com

