

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Mountain men's legacy sends Penrith man on Norwegian expedition to help Cumbrian uplands

Lee Schofield from Penrith who works locally on a landscape habitat restoration nature reserve is getting ready to study mountain habitats in South West Norway thanks to a grant in honour of two Scottish climbers.

Lee will be comparing South West Norway to compare montane scrub habitats on the other side of the North Sea with the familiar terrain of Cumbria, to help him better understand the challenge of restoring local upland habitats.

And to get closer to the Scandinavian, he'll be camping and trekking his way across the Norwegian uplands, supported by a sabbatical from Lee's current employer as well as by the Rubens-Wallace Grant.

The grant was established in honour of two highly respected Edinburgh-based mountaineers. Des Rubens was a popular 63-year old teacher in the city when he was killed in an Alpine climbing accident in June 2016. Bill Wallace, a former Treasurer of the John Muir Trust, died in 2006 at the age of 73 while skiing in the Alps.

Lee said: "I'm delighted to have been awarded funds from the Des Rubens & Bill Wallace Grant towards a trip to South West Norway.

"I'm confident that time spent studying upland habitats on the trip will have a big impact on me, both personally and professionally and will help to inform upland habitat restoration projects in my job with the RSPB in the Lake District"

Toby Clark, the John Muir Award Scotland Manager who coordinates the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "We received a large number of high applications and Lee's was only one of five which was successful. This is a project that both Bill Wallace and Des Rubens would have been delighted to support, combining as it does wild camping, trekking over rough terrain and ecological research.

"We wish Lee all the best for this important environmental expedition. "

## NOTES

### ABOUT THE DES RUBENS AND BILL WALLACE GRANT

The John Muir Trust administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant for free. The grant aims to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places of the world in ways which will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

The grant commemorates two former Presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club who each led inspiring and adventurous lives.

The John Muir Trust looks to support projects, adventures or expeditions that reflect the ethos of both men and give others an opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

### ABOUT THE JOHN MUIR TRUST

The John Muir Trust is named after the great Scots-American scientist, environmentalist, explorer, mountaineer, writer and campaigner who was born on the North Sea fishing village of Dunbar 180 years ago this month (April 23).

The Trust looks after some of Britain's most scenic famous scenic landmarks, including Ben Nevis, Helvellyn, part of the Skye Cuillin, part of the Knoydart and Assynt peninsulas, Sandwood Bay in the far north west corner and Schiehallion which towers over Highland Perthshire.

The Trust also runs the popular environmental scheme the John Muir Award across Scotland, England and Wales.

### **For more info about the Bill Wallace Grant, contact:**

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<https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/grants-and-awards/the-bill-wallace-grant>