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CONTACT:

Alan McCombes

t: 01796 484936; m: 0771 744 2805;

e: alan.mccombes@johnmuirtrust.org



Govan artist to walk 370km Cape Wrath trail solo with support from mountain men legacy

A Scottish artist based in Govan will walk the 370km Cape Wrath trail solo and unaided with funding support from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant.

Kathryn Pender, 39, who works as a Library Attendant at Glasgow University when not at her studio painting, will use the walk as an opportunity to connect with nature, sketching and painting along the route. Kathryn will wild camp or stay in bothies overnight and expects friends to join her for some sections. On return, Kathryn will create artwork inspired by her adventure.

On receiving the news of the grant offer Kathryn said: "I am so grateful and excited that the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace award have chosen to support my solo adventure following the Cape Wrath Trail and subsequent art project- I am really proud that my project merits their legacy."

"The funding will provide me with the means to complete the walk, and share it with others through the artwork, and the support is a huge boost to my confidence in the preparations for the project."

Rosie Simpson of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "We wish Kathryn all the best with her expedition and hope she will be able to share memories and experiences through her art-work."

"Des and Bill lived active, adventurous, outdoor lives and would be delighted to know that their legacy is now helping Kathryn with her adventure."

Kathryn is one of eight successful applicants to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant. This grant was established 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.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ABOUT THE DES RUBENS AND BILL WALLACE GRANT

The John Muir Trust administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant for free. The grant was set up in honour of Bill Wallace, who died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips, and Des Rubens, a popular teacher at Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh who was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Since the grant was established in 2007, initially in honour of Bill Wallace, it has supported almost 60 people from all walks of life, from students to scientists, from grandmothers to gardeners, take part in life-changing adventures of educational or scientific value in some of the wildest places in the world.

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 a membership based conservation charity dedicated to the experience, protection and repair of wild places. The Trust was founded in 1983 and was inspired by the life and works of John Muir (1838-1914), the Scots-born founding father of modern conservation and the inspiration behind national parks. We operate in Scotland, England and Wales and are the guardians of some of the finest wild places in the UK including Ben Nevis, Helvellyn and Schiehallion.

For more info about the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, contact:

Rosie Simpson

Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant Administrator

John Muir Trust

01796 484966

rosie.simpson@johnmuirtrust.org

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