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Edinburgh mountain men legacy helps writer undertake Glen Affric hiking adventure

A Manchester based, Glasgow born, writer and poet will commence a low carbon adventure to Glen Affric with funding support from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant.

Yvonne Reddick, 33, a writer of poetry and prose, will spend a week amongst Scotland's peaks in the Glen Affric munros followed by a week planting trees as part of conservation efforts to restore Glen Affric's native woodlands. As her first solo hike, besides inspiring future writing, Yvonne hopes this experience will give her confidence to go on to complete her first round of Scottish munros; a feat that her late father attempted but did not manage to complete.

On receiving the news of the grant offer Yvonne said: "I'm thrilled and deeply grateful to receive this grant. Tree planting is a small way to tackle the huge problem of the climate emergency, one tiny sapling at a time! I've always loved hiking, but planting trees will also give me the opportunity to give something back to the Scottish landscapes that I've loved since childhood. I'll also pack my notebook to get plenty of writing done!"

Rosie Simpson of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "We wish Yvonne all the best with this adventure and hope the experiences inspire future hiking and nature writing that can be read and enjoyed by many."

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

Yvonne 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:

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