

**PRESS RELEASE:**

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## **Adventure grant supports outdoor instructor on journey through the Outer Hebrides**

An experienced outdoor instructor from Shropshire will journey by pack-raft from the most northerly point on Lewis to the most southerly point of Barra with funding support from the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant.

Rebecca Amos, 37, will travel from her home in Shropshire to Stornoway by train and boat in April 2021, from there she will make her own route along the coastline and lochans in a pack raft, exploring the mountains of North Harris and South Uist, and stopping at places of spiritual significance such as St Moluags Church, Eoropaidh (Lewis), St Clements Church, Rodel (Harris) and Howmore Chapels on South Uist.

On receiving the news of the grant offer Rebecca said: "I am absolutely delighted to be receiving the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant. I will be using it to undertake a solo journey from top to toe of the Outer Hebrides on foot and pack raft. I shall be exploring the Hebrides wild side and ancient spiritual landmarks. I am excited to bring back lots of learning from this experience which I hope will shape the John Muir Award work I am involved with and inspire young people to be adventurous, to connect with and care for the great outdoors."

Rosie Simpson of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "Rebecca's journey combines adventure and a spiritual connection with nature. It has been well planned, will be self-supported and demonstrates an understanding of how time in nature aids personal growth and development which we are sure Rebecca will take back into her work as an outdoor instructor, inspiring future generations to take up their own adventures in wild places."

Rebecca is one of six 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 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.

Grants of £200 to £2,000 are awarded annually on merit to individuals who wish to experience wild places in the spirit of Des Rubens and Bill Wallace and meet the grant criteria.

### **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>