

Press Release



Adventure grant supports father and son plan to hike 600 miles across the UK

October 2026

Dr Ian Cameron and his son Alfie plan to hike from Cape Wrath to Cheltenham in memory of Zac.

Cheltenham based GP Dr Ian Cameron (58) and his son Alfie (15) are keen hikers.

Ian plans to use his grant for a 'long, wild, hike home' in memory of his son Zac who died from metastatic testicular cancer age 22. Alfie will join him on some of the sections along with assorted young hikers in their 20s who are Zac's friends and many family members.

The duo will document Alfie's progress as a young novice wilderness hike via blog and video updates – hopefully introducing a wide range of young people to wildness and adventurous hiking.

Ian said: "I'm delighted and very grateful to receive this grant which will help our expedition in the wild areas of the north west highlands of Scotland. Alfie is looking forwards to exploring the Cape Wrath Trail, bothies and wild camping along the way.

"At a time of grief for our lovely son and brother Zac, the hike will provide a positive activity with environmental, educational, physical activity and an opportunity for recovery and catharsis.

"For Alfie it will provide an opportunity for personal development, educational aspects of recording a long and arduous journey including wild camping and bothy stays in remote areas.

"We hope sharing the experience of the wildness will help us come to terms with our loss in a positive manner."

The John Muir Trust, which administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant, said: "The grant panel is delighted to support this restorative hike through wild places we look forward to reading Ian and Alfie's report."

Ian's project is one of seven successful applications to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant in 2026. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places in ways that will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

Editor's Notes

About the John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust is a UK-based conservation charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing wild places for the benefit of all. The Trust owns and cares for some of the UK's most iconic landscapes, including Ben Nevis, Schiehallion, Sandwood Bay and areas within Skye, Knoydart and Assynt. The Trust also runs the John Muir Award, an inclusive environmental award scheme that encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places.

About the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant

The grant commemorates two former Presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who each led inspiring and adventurous lives. It was set up to give others an opportunity to follow in their adventurous footsteps and experience wild places. Projects should have an educational or scientific component and benefit wild places.

Bill Wallace died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips.

Des Rubens was a popular teacher at Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Grants are for £500 to £2,000 and open to UK applicants of all ages. Closing date for applications is 15 January each year. Further details on how to apply: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/whats-new/grants/des-rubens-and-bill-wallace-grant>

johnmuirtrust.org