

IT'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Two friends are embarking on a charity challenge to cross Scotland coast-to-coast in a land and water adventure which involves climbing nine mountains and using new portable rafts to cross water during continuous 225-mile trip.

Two pals are set to summit Scotland's nine highest mountains – all at least 4000ft – in an epic coast-to-coast walking/boating journey.

Their amphibious adventure will see David Lintern and David Hine travel on land by foot and on water in portable boats, which they will carry on their backs.

They hope the C2C4K trip will raise awareness and cash for outdoor learning initiative the John Muir Award.

Lintern, of Glasgow, said: "We both love a challenge, especially somewhere remote in Scotland, so this trip is an exciting prospect. But it will also be very hard going as we will be reliant on our own steam, whether

walking or paddling, and we will need to cope with our fickle weather. "Chances are there will still be snow on the highest peaks and we will need to be prepared for that.

"Knowing that we are raising funds for such a worthwhile scheme will keep us going."

On May 9, Lintern and

Hine, of Edinburgh, will set out from Britain's most westerly point, Corrachadh Mòr, on the Ardnamurchan peninsula. They will be aiming for Spey Bay in Moray, on the north-east coast, facing the UK's nine tallest peaks en route.

The nine mountains in the UK's 4000ft club are Ben Nevis, Aonach Mòr, Càrn Mòr Dearg, Aonach Beag, Ben MacDui, Cairn Gorm, Breariach, Cairn Toul and Sgor an Lochain Uaine.

The daredevil pals will be laden with packrafts – small inflatable boats – and all their walking, mountaineering and camping kit for at least a fortnight. Food re-stocking will take place wherever they can – and hopefully every three days

Dad-of-one Lintern said: "Logistically, there will be many



LEADERS OF THE

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FIONA RUSSELL

unknowns so we need to be prepared to be self-sufficient. Walking all of the nine 4000ft mountains would be a tough challenge in itself but we also have many miles of wild, open moorland, rivers and potentially exposed lochs to cross.

"We don't believe a walking and paddling trip of this kind has been done before so it will feel amazing."

Inspiration for the journey of roughly 225 miles came from Hine's passion for packrafting. A relatively new activity in the UK, the inflatable boats that pack into a rucksack offer exciting possibilities for travelling off the beaten track.

Hine, 34, said: "Exploring the wilder areas of Scotland is easier when you can rely entirely on your own non-motorised transport."

"Being able to travel on land and water, by foot and in easily portable boats, opens up so many new routes."

"The idea for the trip came from the desire to do something different – to join the highest places in the UK with equally interesting stretches of water in a continuous outing."

Lintern then suggested that the



ACTION MAN David Lintern says the C2C4K trip will be amazing

C2C4K would make a great fund-raiser.

He said: "We are both members of the John Muir Trust, which runs the John Muir Award."

"The scheme encourages people to enjoy nature and wild places – and to take direct action to care for the environment."

"It also fits with the ethos of the award to attempt something that pushes our personal boundaries in

our own backyard. Our experiences in Scotland's wild places have been key to our personal development."

"While this bears no comparison to John Muir's adventures, it'll be a big journey of discovery for us."

■ See www.davidlintern.com/blog/2015/1/29/c2c4k for more info and www.givey.com/c2c4k to support the John Muir Award

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