



CEO's Welcome

Welcome to our brand new quarterly newsletter.

I hope you find this new format enjoyable and informative to read. We've been getting great feedback from the voyages and with so much going on within Trust both afloat and ashore, we thought it was about time to come up with a better way of keeping our members and supporters up to date.



We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to contribute to future editions, whether it be a salty sea-dog story about your last voyage, your favourite recipe to cook in the galley, a great photo of the crew in action or any other ideas you have, please do get in touch!

Fair Winds

Nick

CashBack for OYT Scotland

CashBack New Horizons is an ambitious national project to inspire and support young people from all over Scotland who are at risk of poorer outcomes. OYT Scotland has been awarded £375,000 to transform the lives of 320 young people over two years. Central to this programme is a 5 day adventurous residential voyage aboard a large ocean going yacht (sail training vessel). This intensive holistic experience is designed to progressively challenge and stretch young people out of their comfort zones, providing a powerful catalyst for change. As a result the young people taking part will build confidence, gain skills, and be inspired to broaden their horizons with new found aspirations for the future.

To date we have had 6 very successful voyages from Midlothian, East Dunbartonshire, Fife, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire and Highland regions. As well as achieving their 'End of Voyage Certificates', RYA Start Yachting Certificates, the 60 young people have completed work towards 4 SQA qualifications that were available to them whilst on the boat.



Contents

- [CEO's Welcome](#)
- [Cashback for OYT Scotland](#)
- [Young Carers have a whale of a time!](#)
- [Young Leaders conquer Shetland](#)
- [Introducing...Stuart](#)
- [Fundraising News](#)
- [Events Round Up](#)
- [Ports visited so far](#)
- [Nautical miles sailed](#)
- [Volunteer Training Seminar](#)
- [New Focus for Shore Groups](#)
- [OYT Scotland Youthwork Toolkit](#)
- [Safety Management System](#)
- [Feedback and quotes](#)

Save the Date

The **Annual Volunteer Training Seminar Weekend** will take place on the **20 - 21 February 2016** in the Stirling Management Centre. Watch this space for further info.





Young Carers have a whale of a time!

This July a group of young people from Helensburgh and Lomond Young Carers spent five days sailing in the Clyde on Alba Venturer. The group had a great time and were pretty lucky with the weather.

Highlights of the voyage for the young people were crabbing and fishing off Tighnabruaich pier, celebrating 1st Mate, Peta's, 21st birthday with 21 (small) cakes and cruising down the Kyles of Bute in the sun under the cruising chute and mizzen stay sail – ok maybe the last one was appreciated more by the OYT volunteers and staff!

One thing everyone agreed on though was the best part of the voyage – seeing a humpback whale putting on an amazing show in Loch Fyne.

It's such a rare occurrence that it wasn't until we posted a picture on our Facebook page and were contacted by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust that we realised we had been exceptionally lucky.

You can see a short video of our friend saying goodbye before he dived and disappeared into the depths: <https://youtu.be/hbwj7FaNNTQ>



Young Leaders conquer Shetland

The 2015 Young Leader Development Programme (YLDP) funded by the Big Lottery Young Start Fund saw 12 young people from across Scotland complete their Challenge Voyage on Alba Venturer. The crew started in Oban and sailed all the way to Shetland and back in just 12

days. The YLDP aims to help young people develop their leadership skills, take part in adventurous sailing and volunteer in the community and on our boats. Natasha (18) comments on her experience "It has been a life changing opportunity that will shape our future for the better and we are all looking forward to coming back as sea staff!".



New Focus for OYT Shore Groups

We recognise the support provided by our shore groups and going forward we aim to strengthen the connection between shore groups and the Trust. Each shore group will have a member of the Fundraising Team allocated to help to meet its objectives. The Fundraising Team will also aim to recruit new members to the shore groups. Watch the space on upcoming events.

If you are interested in helping OYT Scotland off the water, get in touch to find out more:

Aberdeen - Teresa Lowe
teresa@oytscotland.org.uk

Edinburgh - Jane Griffin
jane@oytscotland.org.uk

Glasgow - Doro Weber
dorothee@oytscotland.org.uk

Clyde - Pam Shaw
pam@oytscotland.org.uk

Upcoming shore group meetings



Come and be part of Glasgow's Shore Group Re-Launch. The first meeting will take place on **Monday 5 October 2015, 6pm** at 29 Studios Pirate Bar.

[cont. on page 3]



Introducing....Stuart

In each of our newsletters we're going to be introducing a different member of the OYT Team and finding out a little bit more about them. Our first victim is Stuart Simpson (pictured in the hat above).



What's your role with OYT? I'm a volunteer skipper.

How long have you been involved with the trust and how did you start?

I've been volunteering for 28 years now. I started by going on a voyage with Ocean Youth Club and I've volunteered for the Club then the Trust ever since.

What made you want to get involved?

I was at an exhibition and Ocean Youth Club had a stall, I was a keen sailor when I was young and it looked like amazing fun so I signed up for a voyage as an individual and that was it.

What's your most memorable moment with the trust so far?

There have been so many it's really hard to pick one.....I think one of my highlights of recent years was to sail a leg of the Tall Ships Race in 2011 from Glasgow to Lerwick in Shetland with a great crew of young people.

You've just come off a voyage and you had some interesting gadgets on board. Tell us a little about what they were for?

I work for a company called Censis who are the Scottish Centre for Sensors and Imaging Systems and I designed a special sensor node which we took on board on the voyage. The sensor collected information such as the pitch and roll of the vessel, air pressure, temperature and position and transmitted this live data to a cloud based server that could be accessed via the internet from anywhere on land.

This was the first time I've built a sensor like this but the plan is to make it bigger and better, adding other parameters. The technology could be used for various different purposes like educating school children or students studying naval architecture, engineering or even maths. It's brilliant to be able to show young people a practical application of technology.

We also had a Go Pro camera on board and managed to get some great footage of Explorer in full flight as well as a bit of underwater footage. You can watch it here: www.youtube.com/oceanyouthtrustscot/playlists

Greenock or Oban? Oban

Venturer or Explorer? Hmmm emmmm Venturer

Fish finger wrap or pie and beans? Definitely fish finger wrap.

Aberdeen - 31st August

6.30pm,venue tbc

Edinburgh - 11th August

6pm, The Famous Spiegeltent
St Andrew Square

Clyde - 27th August

6.30pm, venue tbc

More info here:

www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/shore-groups

OYT Scotland Youth work Toolkit

Do you want to feel more confident and knowledgeable about youth work as an OYT Scotland volunteer?

You may have heard about the OYT Scotland Youth Work Toolkit, may have seen some of the sections in draft format at the Training Seminar in February or may even be kind enough to proof read some of the sections.

We're really excited to let you know that the new Youth Work Toolkit will shortly be available to view and download through our new "members portal" accessed via the website.

Read more about the Toolkit here: www.oytscotland.org.uk/2015/08/new-youthwork-toolkit-available-soon/





Fundraising News

Big Lottery major grant for YLDP 2015



Young people across the country will try out their sea legs while gaining invaluable work experience, thanks to an award of £50,000 from the Young Start programme, which is run by the Big Lottery Fund Scotland. This award will enable us to continue delivering our Young Leaders Development Programme (YLDP), as well as the Skippership Cadet Programme and Volunteer Training.

Trusts & Foundations – More good news

Contributions from Trusts and Foundations are absolutely vital to our sailing training programmes for young people. Our small charity is immensely grateful for donations both large and small from grantmakers. For example, thanks to the players of the People's Postcode Lottery, the People's Postcode Trust has



awarded £20,000 towards new sails for Alba Venturer over the winter. Meanwhile, Bank of Scotland, The Robertson Trust and The Moffat Charitable Trust have helped with key grants towards the salaries of OYT Scotland Skippers. Generous assistance from The Crerar Hotels Trust has also made it possible for young people from rural communities around The Crerar Hotels to enjoy an Adventure under Sail. These are just a few examples of the fantastic support that we receive from Trusts and Foundations for different strands of our sail training programme. If you are interested in supporting our work or would like to discuss a particular project, please email teresa@oytscotland.org.uk or call our office.



"Really good experience this week as a bosun on this lovely OYTS 72ft challenger, really friendly volunteers and best crew/group, CashBack Highland"

Charlie

"Thank you for a amazing week on Alba Explorer enjoyed every minute"

Lachlann

"My son has just returned from "the best week of my life" (his own words) on the Alba Venturer. Thank you for providing the opportunity. The staff were brilliant, Gregor said, and the skipper was inspirational. He would love to come back."

Mandy

"The recent Cashback voyage with OYT Scotland that some of my participants took part in was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them all. For me as a youth worker, I got to see my young people in a different light. The feedback from my group has been 100% positive and they keep asking if there is going to be another trip soon!"

Ross Muir, Youth Worker -
Duke of Edinburgh's Award
North Ayrshire Council

"To come on the boat for a week was a big deal for me, I am proud of myself for doing it and sticking it out till the end – now I'm sad to be going home!"

Jodie





Fundraising Events Round Up

Five Ferries Challenge – 30th May

25 cyclists conquered the Five Ferries Challenge in May, raising an impressive £7800 (and still counting!) for the Trust. The challenge covers 51 miles of cycling, linked by five ferries. A very special thanks to the volunteers who helped make the day a success. A further thanks to CalMac for the volunteers' tickets, to George Leslie for the rescue vehicle and Barr Soft Drinks for water and juice. Next year's Five Ferries Challenge will take place on 28th May 2016- contact Doro in the Fundraising team for further details.



St Kilda Challenge – 25-31st May

Led by Round the World Challenge skipper Vicky Ellis, eight fearless crew took up the St Kilda Challenge this year, departing from Oban on the 25th May. The weather was not kind, and gale force winds prohibited the crew from reaching St Kilda. Despite this, spirits stayed high, and the crew and sea staff experienced some excellent sailing and enjoyed the sights of the west coast. A fantastic £11,000 was raised from the challenge.



Spartan Race Team Challenge – 18th July

On Saturday 18 July a team of 14 OYT Staff and Friends of the Trust completed the brutal 8+k run through mud, up and down the Pentlands Hills, over obstacles, through water and over fire. The whole team made it safely over the finish line. Some even had a smile on their face!



We also had two youngsters take part in the Spartan Junior race on behalf of OYT Scotland – both Alex and Shaun did extremely well and even got 1st and 2nd place overall! Well done!

So far the team has raised almost £1500 for the Trust – this money will go directly towards delivering adventure under sail for young people across Scotland and beyond. Many thanks to all who have donated and supported the team's efforts – we couldn't have done it without you!

You can still make a donation here:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/OYTScotlandSpartan

Safety Management System

OYT Scotland operates a Safety Management System (SMS) in order to promote high standards of safety at all levels throughout the organisation. We were one of the first Sail Training Organisations operating vessels under 500 Gross Tonnes to implement an SMS. We chose to do this voluntarily (it is not currently a legal requirement for vessels under 500 GT).

Our SMS is based on the International Safety Management Code with all relevant information compiled into a Safety Management Manual replacing our old Standard Operating Procedures which combined safety info with other things like youth work guidelines. The new Safety Management Manual should make it much easier to find all relevant safety information in one place.

The manual will soon be available through the new "member's portal" and you can read a bit more about it here: www.oytscotland.org.uk/2015/08/safety-management-system



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Adventure under sail
Inspiring young people

Quarterly Newsletter

August 2015 | Issue No. 1

www.oytscotland.org.uk
office@oytscotland.org.uk
01475 722722

2015 to date – Highlights in pictures



With grateful thanks to KPMG for printing our newsletter!



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland | Victoria House, 5 East Blackhall Street, Greenock, PA15 1HD. Tel 01475 722 722.
To receive this newsletter electronically, subscribe here: www.oytscotland.org.uk