



## CEO's Welcome

### Welcome to our winter newsletter.

I can't quite believe that Christmas is behind us and we are into 2016 already, but one visit to our refit yard and it becomes clear that the next season is fast approaching!



As you'll see in the newsletter, both our boats are now out of the water and work is going full steam ahead to get them ready for the start of the season. Our team of sea staff and volunteers have pulled out all the stops to get the coppercoating completed on Venturer before Christmas and she's well on her way to getting back in the water. As I write Explorer is being lifted out and work continuing on her refit at the yard. Hopefully we'll see some of you at the volunteer weekend in January (23rd and 24th) for the final push.

Our office team are preparing for the annual training seminar which will see over 100 of you join us in Stirling for a weekend of training and socialising, including our dinner on the Saturday night with our guest speaker Vikki Ellis.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Next time I write we'll have begun the 2016 season and with the majority of voyages booked already it's looking like a busy one for all of us at OYT Scotland.

Best wishes and fair winds for 2016,

**Nick**

## Our Cabaret Night needs you!



Not long now until a number of brilliant acts take the stage at this fabulous event. The Cabaret Night will feature music, comedy and magic in a stunning venue. The evening promises top-class entertainment from accomplished performers such as The Coaltown Daisies, folk duo from the Kingdom of Fife; BBC Scotland's Commonwealth Games magician Mark Walbank; and award-winning comedian and compere Anna Devitt.

**Please help us make this a success and come along! If you can't make it, please do spread the word. We can't do it without you!**

**Saturday 13 February 2016, 7pm** | Arta, Glasgow, 62 Albion Street

Book tickets here: [www.entrycentral.com/cabaretnight](http://www.entrycentral.com/cabaretnight)

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Thanks to KPMG for  
printing our newsletter!

## Training and Sailing Opportunities

### Annual Training Seminar 20 - 21 February Stirling Management Centre Stirling

Have you booked your courses? Check out the programme:

[www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/training/seminar-booking-2016](http://www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/training/seminar-booking-2016) .

This is your chance to prepare for the year ahead, renew your RYA qualifications, OYT Scotland Youth Work Modules and meet up with fellow volunteers and staff.

### Alba Explorer & Alba Venturer in 2016

Youth Voyages Sea Staff sailing programme availability on the members portal:

[www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/members-login](http://www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/members-login) Have a look and send in your request. Big Boat Training sea

staff programme availability is also on the website - we recommend all sea staff attend a weekend course every two years.



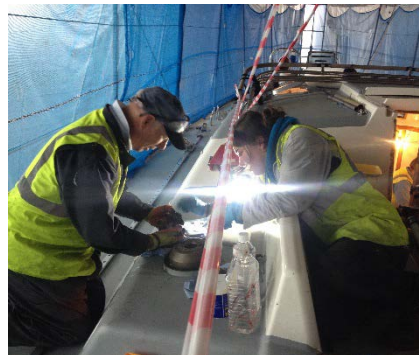


## News from Refit

Our two big boats are out of the water now. Our sea staff and volunteers are hard at work repairing and refitting the boats over the winter in the yard at Fairlie Quay before they are launched back into the water for the 2016 sailing season.

A key refit operation has been the replacement of the copper coating on **Alba Venturer**. This was a real team effort with volunteers and sea-staff working extra long hours to prepare the vessel over the course of a week.

First of all, her rudder was dropped and sea cocks taken out, then the hull of the Oyster Ketch was sanded. Volunteer Bronte Frater commented: *"The hull of Alba Venturer is huge so it was a big undertaking to get the whole area sanded. In fact, it took four full days of intense work."* Once ready for painting, the crack project team of Craig McNeil, Senior Skipper, Laura Robertson, Skipper, Trevor Farrer, Operations Manager, Ollie Bowden – OYTS sailing cadet and volunteers Lorna Tordoff and Bronte Frater, as well as copper coating specialist James Miller embarked on the first coat. Each layer had to be applied quickly, with the next coat being applied after allowing 20 minutes for the previous one to dry. The whole process involved six layers of copper coating being applied at a stable temperature of 18 degrees. It was vital that an even temperature was maintained, otherwise the copper coating wouldn't 'cure' on the vessel. Too cold, and the coating would blister. Repainting had to be undertaken in tented conditions and the project team worked a mammoth 12 hour day to get the copper coating completed.



Renewing the copper coating on **Alba Venturer** will allow us to make a significant saving on maintenance each year (as we won't need to undertake anti-fouling each winter). We are very grateful for the generous support of **The Society of Deacons & Free Preseses of Glasgow** who made this project possible.

## Alba Volunteer in 2016

RYA Small Boat Training is available: [www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/training](http://www.oytscotland.org.uk/volunteer/training) Check it out and send in your request.

Day Skipper Course, Coastal Yacht Master & Yachtmaster Offshore - not quite ready for the course? Why not sign up as a crew member instead and gain valuable training and sea time!



## OYT Scotland Event Series 2016

### Five Ferries Challenge - 21 May 2016

51 miles from Wemyss Bay to Ardrossan - An exciting cycling journey through some of Scotland's most breathtaking scenery.

Take part and raise funds – register now:

[www.entrycentral.com/fiveferries](http://www.entrycentral.com/fiveferries)

### West Highland Way Walking Challenge - 11 - 16 June 2016

Take on one of the most spectacular long-distance walks in the UK next summer and get your friends, colleagues and family to sponsor you!

Download the info pack and booking form: [www.oytscotland.org.uk/whw](http://www.oytscotland.org.uk/whw)



### Arran Sportive - 3 September 2016

Be part of this inaugural cycle sportive on the Isle of Arran -

Scotland in miniature! Two route options are available: 56 miles - once round or 35 miles - half round the island.

Book your place:

[www.arransportive.co.uk](http://www.arransportive.co.uk)



### Upcoming Volunteer Refit Weekend

- What:** Alba Explorer antifouling and many other jobs
- When:** Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th January
- Where:** Refit Yard Fairlie Quay, Largs
- Time:** 09.30 – 17.00
- Interested?** Call or email the office! (see details in header)

#### Get involved?

The permanent staff work Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and would be grateful of any help you can offer. We need both skilled and unskilled volunteers. There is always something to do and volunteer weekends involve an army of people as many hands make light work.

Thanks to all Volunteers that have attended previous weekends and during the week, Alba Venturer and Alba Volunteer are well on programme to be ready for the season ahead.

### Navigating Safe Passage for Scotland’s Young People

Alba Volunteer will receive a number of improvements thanks to a grant from Awards for All which is part of the Big Lottery Fund.

Funding of £9905 was awarded in October 2015 to provide Volunteer with a new Eberspacher heater, headsail and a new radar system. There was also funding allocated to train 16 volunteers on the radar system. The improvements will take place at refit this winter, and once the radar system is up and running, training will be offered.



Malcolm McArthur, Chairman of the OYT Scotland Clyde Shore Group, helps maintain Alba Volunteer to ensure she is ship-shape throughout the year. He stated, “We are delighted to receive this vital funding. It will make a real difference to the volunteers and the

training we carry out. Replacing the headsail is an essential update, and giving Alba Volunteer a new heating system will keep volunteers warm and enable us to train all year round. The Raymarine radar system is a key navigational tool, which will allow us to tutor volunteers on the same system we use on Explorer and Venturer.” We’ll have an update on Alba Volunteer’s refit in the next issue.

### OYT Shore Groups

Get involved with one of the shore groups and help promote the Trust, raise funds, make friends and stay connected off the water.

#### Upcoming shore group meetings



**Aberdeen – 1 February**  
6.30pm, Contact us for venue



**Edinburgh – 5 April**  
6pm, Venue TBC



**Glasgow – 13 February**  
6.15pm, Arta, 62 Albion Street



**Clyde – 25 February AGM**  
6.30pm, Royal Gourock Yacht Club



## Volunteer Spotlight: Introducing Bronte

In each newsletter we are introducing a different member of the OYT Team and finding out a little bit more about them. Our third 'victim' is Bronte Frater.



### What's your role with OYT?

I am a full time volunteer with the trust!  
When back on the water after refit I'll be joining the sea staff team as a bosun.

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

I started as a young person at age 13 in 2010. As soon as I turned 16, I came along and did my bosun training in 2014, and I'm still here now but on a full time basis.

### What made you want to get involved?

At school I was presented with an opportunity to either go on a sailing or skiing trip. As I was into dinghy sailing at the time, the sailing appealed to me and I just thought "why the devil not?!"

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

Oh my goodness, how on earth do I pick one! So many... One moment stands out. When working with a young person who only had one hand... helping each other to do knots with only one hand! Pretty darn cool.

### What would you say to a young person who has sailed as crew and was thinking about applying for bosun's training?

As a bosun you get to learn lots about the boats' maintenance and the ins and outs. If you're into engines and fixing things, the bosun's job is for you. Whatever you do, don't think that the bosun's got the easy job. Haha, definitely not always! There is always something to do, but it honestly is the best job on the boat - lots of my skippers agree! Why do you think I don't want to be anything else but a bosun?

If you get a chance to go on again as crew, go ask your bosun that week to show you what they do. You'll get a great feel for what the job is all about!

### Greenock or Oban?

Hmm, really love both but one year when I was a young person we had the best weather ever from Oban, so Oban gets the win. Plus you have to get the ferry boat to get to your boat. Who doesn't love that kind of escort!?

### Venturer or Explorer?

Again love them both...I genuinely can't decide.

### Fish finger wrap or pie and beans?

Ha lol easy, FISH FINGER WRAPS.



## Wall Calendars available

We have a few of our fantastic OYT Scotland Wall Calendars left – if you haven't got one already, now is your chance!

**£5 Donation – order yours now!**

[office@oytscotland.org.uk](mailto:office@oytscotland.org.uk)

01475 722722





## Peta's Kiwi Adventure



**1st Mate Peta Koczy is currently nearing the end of a 3 month long sailing trip in New Zealand.**

**This programme is funded and supported by ASTO and the James Myatt Trust, and has offered her a once of a lifetime opportunity**

**to discover the waters of New Zealand while learning how they operate their National Sail Training Vessel – Spirit Of New Zealand.**

From the moment, Peta set foot in New Zealand, she's certainly made the most of her trip. Heading over to The Maritime Museum in Auckland, she hitched a ride on one of their traditional boats - Ted Ashby a ketch-rigged deck scow, typical of the fleet of scows that once operated in northern New Zealand waters. Warmly welcomed by the museum volunteers, Peta enjoyed lunch on deck and the chance of crewing the historic boat for the Museum in the afternoon. She then travelled down the North Island from Auckland through Rotorua and onto Wellington to meet up with Spirit Of New Zealand.

For Peta, having never sailed a Barquentine (a sailing vessel with three or more masts, with a square rigged foremast) it has been very valuable to observe how the Spirit Of Adventure Trust run Youth Development voyages on such a different vessel. She explains: "A huge aspect of the voyage is based around leadership, by the second day, the young people will have a morning and afternoon leader for their watch, who will organise the day's tasks. At the end of the week, they have a Trainee day. The Trainees elect a Captain and crew and run the ship for the last day."

Peta crewed on two voyages – the first set off from Wellington on the North Island, and crossed over to the South Island, explored the Marlborough Sounds and the mighty Cook Strait. As well as sailing, a real highlight for Peta was a mid-week tramp, shore-side. "It was the first time I have really seen New Zealand like I imagined it to be. Incredible scenery that looked just like the guide books!" Peta goes on to describe the impact of their

voyage experience on the young people: "Just before bed one of the cadets sang a final song with his ukulele. As he finished one of my watch leaned over with a tear in her eye and said 'I don't want to go'. It just goes to show, it doesn't matter where you are, Sail Training can still have a huge impact on young peoples' lives."



Peta's second 10 day voyage on Spirit of New Zealand took her from Nelson, a city on the north-west of the South Island. The group explored Tasman Bay, crossing between the Abel Tasman National Park and the Marlborough Sounds. For Peta:

"By far the most fun is putting up the square sails. You don't realise quite how high up you are until you take a moment to look out at the view." Again, there was a chance to take in some of the spectacular New Zealand scenery in shore-side expeditions to Abel Tasman National Park.

**Peta sums up her Kiwi Sailing Experience:** "My adventure on Spirit of New Zealand has been incredible! From my first trip being nervous and not knowing most of the crew, let alone the ship, I have gained knowledge on not only how to sail a totally different kind of vessel but enjoyed learning how to work with 40 Trainees at once. But, by far the best thing from my whole time on Spirit, are the staff onboard. For the 20 days that I was with them, they taught me as much as they could about how they run their voyages and bent over backwards to give me the best possible experience. I felt like a part of the team. Not only was I looked after on board but I have been given a bed for a night (or two) off the ship as well! Now my time in New Zealand is nearly over I couldn't be more grateful for the fantastic experience I've had - thanks to some amazing people!"

You can read more about Peta's adventures on her blog here: [www.nzadventuresite.wordpress.com](http://www.nzadventuresite.wordpress.com)





## News from the 'Pirate' Ship in Oman



Following our nomination, Cadet Oliver Bowden was selected to represent the Association of Sailing Training Organisations (ASTO) and Sail Training International (STI) with a fully funded opportunity to sail on a 3 week voyage on the Shabab Oman II, the Royal Navy of Oman's brand new 85m sail training ship. Ollie reports on his experience:

"Back in October I was lucky enough to be 1 of 10 young people from around the world chosen to travel to Oman and sail aboard the Royal Navy of Oman's new Flagship: Shabab Oman II. She is 87 metres long and rigged as a 'Full Rigged Ship' meaning she has square sails on all 3 of her masts and looks like a stereotypical pirate ship."

Adventure under Sail - Oman style - consisted of a 21 day voyage that took in all six countries of Gulf Cooperation Council - Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Each leg of the journey allowed the international crew to experience a new country for two days before sailing to the next, the passage between lasting between 1-4 days.

"The trip was absolutely amazing. I had the privilege of sailing an incredible ship on her maiden voyage and being part of an international crew. In the process, I learnt all about square rigged sailing. From deciding where we wanted to sail to having her under full press took around 4 hours simply because you needed to climb the rig and unfurl around 10 lines per sail! And with 26 sails on the rig that does take a fair while!"

"Even after the conclusion of Shabab Oman II's maiden voyage, my adventure didn't stop there. A week-long exploration of Muscat, the capital of Oman was in store and didn't disappoint. From the allure of traditional markets to overnight camping – Arab style, my stay was fascinating. The contrast between Scottish camping and camping in the desert was pretty marked. In Oman, we were given a sleeping bag and were told to simply find a bit of sand and go to sleep!"



"While in Arabia, I experienced many things, from new food to views and opinions on matters I've never considered before. I visited many Mosques in the countries and learnt

a lot about the Muslim faith and even managed to pick up some Arabic. As well as honing my sailing skills on a remarkable ship, my time spent working as part of an international crew taught me a lot about other countries and cultures.

Experiences like this are a great way of achieving international understanding!"

"Come to the Annual Training Seminar in February as I shall be sharing a few more stories with some slides and more photos of the trip!"

You can read more about Shabab Oman II here: [www.shababomanii.gov.om/en/background/key-facts](http://www.shababomanii.gov.om/en/background/key-facts)





## Full Sails Ahead

### *Did you know that sails only last between 5-8 seasons?*

Without sails we wouldn't go anywhere. It's vital that sails work efficiently if young people are going to get the most out of their sail training adventure. With new groups of young people joining our boats each week, sails on our boats are subject to intensive wear and tear. 2015 saw some 552 young people step on board our boats and take part in 53 voyages. In 2016 we will step up our activity with 60 sail training voyages planned.

The 2015 sailing season was one of the windiest we've experienced – especially at the beginning and end of the season where winds have been increasing both in frequency and intensity. Weather conditions made our need to replace the worn out sails even more urgent and we were hugely heartened by the generous support of two funders. Thanks to the players of **People's Postcode Lottery**, we are able to replace the No 1, No.2 and Stay Sails for Alba Venturer. These are the working sails that are hoisted and taken down the most in varying weather conditions. Owens Sails in Oban will be making these sails out of Dacron – a durable and robust sail cloth, for us next month. By the time, Alba Venturer undertakes her sea-trials in March, she will be fully kitted out with her brand new sails.

Meanwhile Alba Explorer will also benefit from a new Stay Sail that will be made out of Vectron. This is a practical sail cloth material with a bit of stretch. It is particularly suited to the Challenge 72 vessel as this class of sail boat carry bigger loads. Key assistance from **The Hugh Fraser Foundation** enabled us to make this important improvement for Alba Explorer.



With both our sailing boats equipped with quality working sails, young participants and volunteers alike will have a better sailing experience. As a charity, we are always mindful of costs. The

terrific support from **the players of People's Post Code Lottery** and **The Hugh Fraser Foundation** towards our sail replacement programmes for both boats means that we will not have to undertake costly in-service repairs on worn out sails during the sailing season.



## OYT Scotland received £8500 from Glasgow Airport Flightpath Funding

Two separate groups of young people from the Glasgow area were supported by **Glasgow**

**Airport's FlightPath** funding in 2015. The two voyages saw students from Drumchapel High School embark on a week-long voyage in September and a group of young people from Renfrewshire Children's Home in October.

Pupils from Drumchapel High School were invited to talk about their adventure at the FlightPath Fund's annual celebration event at Kilmardinny House in Bearsden in November. Presenting at the event were Drumchapel High School pupils Tyler Brown and Dean Matchett (pictured) with Archie Hunter and Amanda McMillan from Glasgow Airport and students from Bearsden Primary.

Established in 2010, the FlightPath Fund was set up to provide grant assistance to local organisations working in and around the airport community. Since its inception, the fund has given donations to over 350 charities and community groups in Renfrewshire, Glasgow and East and West Dunbartonshire with a focus on improving education and employment, as well as the environment.

The FlightPath Fund committee operates independently of the airport and is chaired by former KPMG partner, Archie Hunter. Hunter said: "Glasgow Airport's FlightPath Fund is truly unique, and it is inspiring to see how it has evolved over the past five years. It has been very encouraging to hear from some of the groups who have benefitted from the fund since its inception. Listening to representatives of these organisations speak passionately about the work they do makes us even more determined to continue supporting our communities."






Ever fancied walking the  
**West Highland Way?**  
Now is your chance!



**OYT Scotland Event Series 2016**  
Reg Charity, No. SC029531

**11-16 June 2016** | 95 miles Milngavie to Fort William  
Join the 'OYT Scotland Team' next summer!  
**Request your info pack now: [fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk)**



**FERRIES Challenge 2016**

**Saturday 21 May 2016**  
1 day | 4 stages | **5 ferries** | 51 miles | 1 charity  
[entrycentral.com/fiveferries](http://entrycentral.com/fiveferries)

**OYT Scotland Event Series 2016**

