



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Adventure under sail
Inspiring young people

Quarterly Newsletter

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CEO's Welcome

We are now well over half way through the sailing season, having completed 38 youth voyages so far.

After working out of Oban for the summer months, Alba Venturer and Alba Explorer are heading back down to the more sheltered waters of the Clyde for the remainder of the season. We continue to get very positive feedback from young people, youth workers and parents following every voyage. Each one is a unique adventure, and for many young people is clearly a life changing experience.



Alba Volunteer has also been busy, having completed five RYA Courses, nine member's charters and one youth voyage. We still have a couple of opportunities available to sail Alba Volunteer, for which you should check our Short Notice Opportunities page on the website, [here](#).

Following yet another highly successful Five Ferries Cycle Challenge in May, where 18 intrepid cyclists raised over £5,000 for the Trust, we are now planning the Arran Sportive for the 3rd September. Though entries are now full, we're still looking for volunteers, so if you like the sound of a day on Arran please contact madeleine@oystcotland.org.uk



Save the date! - Our AGM this year will be held on 5th November at the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock. We will be sending out a formal notice along with the Audited Accounts in early October.

If you've not been on our online portal yet, there's a whole host of essential information ranging from our Safety Management Manual and current Safety Notices, to our Youth Work Tool-kit, and now both big boat vessel manuals are there too.

Finally, a huge thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who put in so much time and effort on and off the water to make it all possible.

Fair Winds

Nick



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Thanks to KPMG for printing our newsletter!

Training Committee

The Training Committee are currently busy planning next year's Training Seminar, which will again be held at the Stirling Court Hotel over the weekend of 18th – 19th February 2017.

In the near future you should receive a short questionnaire, and it would really help us out with planning the seminar if you could spend a few minutes completing this.



We need you!

Raise vital funds for free when you shop online with **easyfundraising**.org.uk





Volunteer Spotlight: Introducing Rebecca Cheyne

What's your role with OYT Scotland?

I am a watch leader.

What made you want to get involved?

I started sailing at Gordonstoun School as part of my curriculum and when I finished my studies there, I wanted to carry on sailing. That's when I heard about OYT and I loved the idea of being able to work with young people and go sailing at the same time!

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

Most memorable moment..... That's a tough one! I think so far it has to be the MAC's voyage that I volunteered on last year. We had a great week of weather, a wonderful group of young people, fantastic sailing and lots of wildlife including basking sharks and dolphins!

What's been your favourite thing so far about being a watchleader?

My favourite thing so far about being a watch leader has to be the close interaction and working with the young people. It is great to watch them develop and build their confidence and build on their knowledge throughout the voyage. To see them achieve their goals they did not think were achievable at the beginning of the week. Although I do enjoy it when the young people make me excellent cups of tea!

Greenock or Oban? - Oban

Venturer or Explorer? - Venturer

Fish finger wrap or pie and beans? – Mmm, has to be the fish finger wrap!

Aberdeen Shore Group's Big Bonus

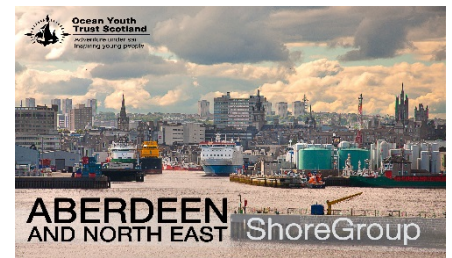
Our Aberdeen and North East shore group successfully applied to be one of Aberdeen University Students' Association's charities of the year. The students raised money at various events and distributed the total between the charities they've chosen at the end of the academic year. In the 2015/16 run of events a record amount was raised despite hard economic times for the oil city, and volunteers Ann and John collected a cheque for a total of £1920! Thanks to everyone at the Aberdeen and North East shore group and Aberdeen Uni Students Association for this great result!



OYT Scotland Shore Groups

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

Upcoming shore group meetings



Aberdeen - 12th September

6.30pm for dinner (all welcome!)

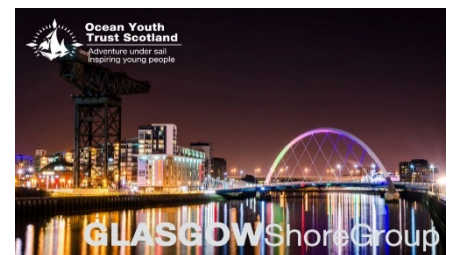
7:30pm for meeting start

The Old School House, Little Belmont St



Edinburgh - 4th October

6pm, Royal Dick Bar, Summerhall



Glasgow – 3rd December

6.15pm, 151 Saint Vincent St



Clyde – 29th September

6.30pm, Royal Gourock Sailing Club





KPMG Partner Princes Trust



In May, a group of young people from Princes Trust benefited from KPMG’s ongoing support of OYT Scotland as they set off on Alba Venturer for a 5 day adventure. The group were very lucky with the weather, enjoying glorious sunshine as they explored the waters around Mull. There was even time to stop off in Tobermory for a game of football, which was a great success. They also took part in a quiz which got so heated that Skipper Laura admitted that watchleaders may have resorted to cheating (though we’re sure she swiftly put a stop to that)! Everyone on the voyage had a great time, so much so that two of the young people have already signed up for our bosun’s training, with two of the KPMG staff looking to become OYT Scotland volunteers as well – a successful voyage in every way!

Thank you to KPMG for their amazing support, it really does make a difference!



Cashback Continues



Our CashBack “New Horizons” programme continues to go from strength to strength, with 8 voyages already completed this year and another 9 scheduled to take place. Feedback continues to be great, with young people providing these comments over the last few months:



“The voyage was worth every single second...it’s a life-changing experience.”

I had an absolutely brilliant week - I am so chuffed as I managed to achieve all the goals I set myself: learning to tack and jibe, make more friends, and lead the watch.”

“I feel a real sense of achievement after a week on the boat. I was nervous when I first came on, but now I’m ready for the next adventure!”

Wallace High School Voyage

A great week was had by the group of young carers from Wallace High School who set sail in June, thanks in part to funding from BBC Children in Need and Prudential. One of the group leaders who was with them on the voyage said this of the effect it had had on the young people: “The OYT voyage has encouraged friendships to form between all of the young people involved in a way that has surprised us



as the young people come from all different backgrounds and have very different interests out of school. There were a few young people in the group who are very introverted at school and who do not seem to have many friends who really came to the fore and who positioned themselves as strong members of the team and who became very much a part of the group while on-board.”





Young Leaders Development Programme

Our long-running and ever popular Young Leaders Development Programme continues, with another highly successful voyage taking place in July. Young people gain places on this programme by being recommended by a skipper as someone with potential. This year, nine young people gained confidence, team working skills and learned how to take the lead on their week-long adventure. One of the young people, Caroline Kelly, described the weekend as “one of the best experiences of my life!”, while Poppy Fenwick decided that “the only problem with the week was that it ended”.



Caroline has written a testimony about her week on board:

“The trip was such an unforgettable experience that I wish I could do all over again. It was full of fun, learning and amazing memories, which just makes me so much more excited to come and volunteer next summer! I've improved and learnt so much not just in sailing but in leadership skills, learning about the different styles of leading as well as which were the best ways of leadership! I visited so many new places and made so many new friends. The watch leaders, first mates and skipper were all so friendly and encouraging when we were struggling to do something and were very positive in when we were leading ourselves. We've learnt loads about teamwork and how it can accomplish so much alongside learning from other peers too. Overall my experience was very challenging but I wouldn't change it! The feeling of overcoming challenges as a team felt amazing and really boosted our confidence and made us become closer as a group. We did a range of activities on the boat including cooking, cleaning and sail related activities like sail hoisting, flaking and tacking etc. We sailed in all different weather conditions which proved challenging but was a huge sense of accomplishment when we arrived at our new destination! On the different islands we would go and explore and even play games like football which proved to create great bonding and competitiveness. When we arrived at our first destination in Vatersay the weather was absolutely stunning - we all went for a walk to the beach on the opposite side of the Island and we went and played our first game of football. The team work and effort made me realise how special and amazing this trip would be. Words can't describe how fantastic the experience was!”



It certainly sounded like an amazing week, with the young leaders visiting many gorgeous parts of Scotland as part of their training, including Tobermory, Stornaway and Vatersay. We're jealous!

