



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Adventure under sail
Inspiring young people

March 2019

Newsletter
Issue No. 11

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Join your local support group

Aberdeen Shore Group

Contact:

northeast@oytscotland.org.uk

NEXT MEETING: Monday 25th March, Old School House Pub, Aberdeen

Edinburgh Shore Group

Contact:

forthandborders@oytscotland.org.uk

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 2nd April, Royal Dick Bar, Summerhall, Edinburgh

Clyde Shore Group

Contact: andrew@oytscotland.org.uk

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 28th March, OYT Scotland Office, Greenock

South Westerlies Shore Group (new group)

Contact: office@oytscotland.org.uk

Happy 20th Birthday to Ocean Youth Trust Scotland!

2019 marks the 20th Anniversary of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland and Alba Venturer.

Reflecting on the past 20 years, we are reminded of the profound impact the Trust has had on the lives of countless young people. Indeed, those who sailed with us as teenagers in 1999 are now in their thirties with lives and careers arguably shaped to some extent by their experience with the Trust.

Though 20 years have passed since the first group of young people set sail aboard the newly built Alba Venturer, our mission has remained the same. A voyage with OYT Scotland makes a tangible difference to people's lives, chances and perspectives and it is this that drives the Trust to continue its work with young people.

Over this time, the Trust has worked with around 14,000 young people, sailing more than 250,000 miles.

And if you are one of those who has benefited from a life-changing voyage with OYT Scotland, we're appealing to you to support this Trust in this poignant year by considering taking on your own fundraising challenge. The Fundraising team has plenty of inspiration for you so please get in touch!

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland over the past 20 years. Here's to the next 20!

Give a birthday present

To celebrate the Trust's 20th birthday, we hope that you will sign up to take on a challenge and raise money to help us continue to deliver life changing voyages. If 200 people each raised £200 we could raise a magnificent £40,000 towards Alba Venturer's mid-life refit.

Leading the way is our Chief Executive Nick, who is taking on the incredible challenge of a 55km Ultra Marathon over the tough terrain in the Lake District. Meanwhile fourteen year old Shaun Wiseman has committed to undertake 20 gruelling races, be it running, cycling, swimming, or all three!

In April, volunteer Jonathan Berry will be walking 23 miles as part of the Kiltwalk in Glasgow. He is looking for some company on his trek so if you fancy joining Jon register now and let us know. Can't make it to Glasgow? There are three other events taking place across the country (see image to the right) so you can find one that suits you. Even better, The Hunter Foundation is boosting every donation by 40% so your effort has an even greater impact!

If you've been inspired to set up your own fundraising challenge, we'd love to hear about it. Contact fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk or give the office a call on 01475 722 722.



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep up to date with what's going on.

We also post last minute available sea staff berths and refit weekends.



Clyde Shore Group Race Night

Enjoy a night at the races at the Clyde Shore Group Charity Race Night on Friday 15th March at Greenock Morton Supporters Club. Raising funds for OYT Scotland, there will be a range of prizes on offer at what is guaranteed to be a terrific night.

Tickets cost £8 and horses £2.

For tickets, please contact hazel@oytscotland.org.uk or call the office on 01475 722 722.

Refit Update

This winter the sea staff and helpful volunteers have been hard at work refitting all three boats.

Alba Venturer spent the winter at James Watt Dock where the first job was to lift out her engine for a complete overhaul. It was then a case of lots of servicing and painting! The team at James Watt serviced the sea cocks, heads, winches and davits, and painted the engine room, heads, and deck. The heater, exhaust pipe and boxes were replaced and new instruments were fitted. Finally, the now nice and shiny engine was refitted.

Down at Fairlie, **Alba Explorer** came out of the water and was shot blasted before the mast was removed and she was moved into the shed for the hard work to begin. A huge cathedral of scaffolding was erected around Explorer which ensured the team stayed safe whilst working. Thanks to Turner Access. The team filled in any cracks or bumps, painted the deck and removed the deck hardware, did some rust busting and cleaned the bilges.

The next step was to give her a fresh coat of paint before fitting new deck hardware.



Finally the team will put her back together in preparation for coming out of the shed, getting the mast put back in, and new rigging fitted. The plan is for her to be ship shape again by the middle of March in time to take our first group of young people out sailing in April.

Meanwhile, **Alba Volunteer** has been on the hard at Kip Marina where Malcolm and a team of volunteers have been getting her ready for the 2019 season.

A huge well done and thank you to all of the sea staff and volunteers for getting the boats ready for the season ahead. A special thanks to Matthew Simpson and his dad Stuart who painstakingly recovered the steering wheel for both Alba Venturer and Alba Explorer.

2019 Training Seminar

This year's Training Seminar was held at Stirling Court Hotel on 16-17 February. More than 100 volunteers made it along to what was a hugely successful weekend, featuring the widest range of courses we've ever had - from First Aid and Safeguarding, to SQA Leadership and LGBT Awareness.



Saturday night saw everyone dressed up in their glad rags for the evening dinner which was a celebration of the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers and young people.



Thank you to all of our Instructors and volunteers who attended. You should have received a feedback survey via email which we would appreciate if you could fill this in.

Arran Sportive

Whether you're a regular road-biker or a budding MAMIL, we're calling on all cyclists out there to sign up now for the 2019 Arran Sportive and enjoy a magnificent cycle around the Isle of Arran in aid of OYT Scotland. This year will be the fourth Sportive, with the event growing in popularity year on year. This year we're looking to smash last year's total number of entrants so get training and sign up!

We are seeking a corporate sponsor for the event who will enjoy a range of exclusive PR and promotional benefits. If anyone has a contact who might be interested, please contact fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk.

Sign up now at www.arransportive.co.uk

smile.amazon.co.uk

Shopping on Amazon? Select OYT Scotland as your charity and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase fee to us at no extra cost to you.

Gala Ball

To celebrate our 20th anniversary we're hosting a glittering Gala Dinner at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow.

Taking place on Friday 8 November we're looking forward to a packed night of fun and celebration. We are particularly excited to announce that we have secured the talents of an exceptional guest speaker with a historical connection to the Trust and a phenomenal tale to tell... keep an eye out for more details about our mystery guest!

Tickets cost £65pp or £600 for a table of 10 and can be purchased by contacting fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk.