



Chairman's Welcome

Hello colleagues and welcome to the first of the 2018 Newsletters. Regrettably I'm not able to make it to the Seminar in early February hence I've had the nod from Nick that I can sub for him in this edition as I wanted to give everyone a brief update on the AGM from last November amongst other things.

It seems a very short time since my appointment as Chairman of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland and I do count it as a great privilege to hold this role. Dom will be a very hard act to follow and I'd like to pay tribute and thank him for his exceptional contribution to the Trust. I know that he will continue to be a valued supporter.

The AGM held in November of last year was, once again, a very successful event. We were able to report another successful year with a sound financial footing, a surplus to add to the Vessel Replacement Fund and increased numbers of qualifications being gained by young people. Thanks goes to the members of the sub-groups that keep an eye on core components of our success, those being Safety, Safeguarding & Training. These are really important aspects of our work that, I believe, set us apart from those organisations that might be portrayed as our competition. The high standards that OYT Scotland maintains are vitally important and are recognised by parents and young people as well as those that fund and support us.

That brings me on nicely to this winter's refit and specifically to thank everyone who has contributed to this very important work. I spent a few hours scrubbing skipper Steve's cabin, so I do appreciate this is not always the most glamorous of work but it all contributes to the high standards the Trust sets. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have given time to the refit and also to the shore staff who have all mucked in over the weeks. My particular thanks go to the sea staff who undertake the bulk of the work, often in less than ideal conditions. It would be very re-miss of me at this point not to mention Malcolm MacArthur who, as I'm sure you all know, is a virtual full-time volunteer as far as Alba Volunteer is concerned. This year again Malcolm has spent considerable time seeing that the refit to Volunteer is completed and that we have the vessel in active service for a further period.

Finally, at the AGM we were glad to welcome Lucie Aitkenhead onto the Board and we very much appreciate Lucie giving her time to us. Also, at the AGM we said thank you to Nick Pilbeam who has served on the Board for a number of years in addition to his ongoing spells as volunteer sea staff and time spent supporting the North East Shore Group.

That's probably enough from me for now and again I'm sorry that I won't get to meet more of you face to face at the forthcoming Seminar. I now have an OYT email address (david.anderson@oystcotland.org.uk) and if any Member wishes to drop me a note on any issue I'd be very pleased to hear from you.

Thanks again for all of your time and support.

Kind Regards, David



Contents

- Chairman's Welcome
- Dates for your Diary
- Scotland's Boat Show
- New rigging for Alba Explorer
- Safety Improvements
- CashBack Update
- Volunteers and Pre Voyage Preps
- Arran Sportive
- Refit Weekend
- Update from the Office



Thanks to KPMG for printing our newsletter!

Dates for your Diary

Big Boat Training – All departing Greenock

Alba Explorer 23rd – 25th Mar

Alba Explorer 18th – 20th May

Alba Explorer 31st – 2nd Aug

Alba Venturer 17th – 19th Aug

Bosun's Training

Alba Explorer 20th – 22nd Apr (Greenock)

Alba Explorer 14th – 16th Sep (Greenock)

Alba Venturer 6th – 8th Jul (Oban)





Scotland's Boat Show

Back in October, OYT Scotland welcomed visitors at Scotland's Boat Show at the Kip Marina. Despite the wind and rain, the show was busy with visitors. Volunteers and staff spoke to them about the work that we do, and explained how our sail training voyages have a positive impact on young people.

The RYA were keen to hold their Get on the Water again and so Alba Volunteer was scheduled to offer taster trips. This proved to be just as popular as the previous year, but Alba Volunteer wasn't the only OYTS vessel present...



Nick had the idea to take one of our big boats to Inverkip for the show and it was decided that instead of having a stand inside the main tent, Alba Venturer would host visitors. Tied to the main pontoon in a prime location, she was a great advertisement for our charity, attracting young and old visitors alike. Everyone found something interesting. Those who were the right age for our trips could see where they might be sleeping, eating and cooking; parents discovered new possibilities for their children; younger children were fascinated by the size of the boat and were awakened to new dreams for when they were a bit older; and we were visited by participants and volunteers from the past who remembered sailing on Venturer, Explorer or Taikoo.

We are extremely grateful to all the staff and volunteers who joined in showing people around, explaining what we do and making our visitors feel welcome and valued.



New rigging thanks to People's Postcode Local Trust

In December, OYT Scotland were awarded a generous grant of £20,000 from the People's Postcode Local Trust towards replacing the rigging on Alba Explorer. With the boats being used week in and week out throughout the sailing season, they are subjected to intensive wear and Alba Explorer requires a complete rigging replacement to ensure that the young people sail on a vessel with the highest safety standards. The Trust is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery and the rigging is due to be fitted during the 2018/19 refit.



Safety Improvements

Following the Clipper incidents, it was decided that we take immediate action on our safety procedures. Thanks to The Incorporation of Bonnetmakers & Dryers of Glasgow, who have provided us with a key grant of £5,200, we were able to equip all of our life jackets on Alba Venturer and Alba Explorer with AIS Beacons. This means that should we have a man overboard incident, the casualty could be tracked and relocated quicker in poor visibility, significantly improving the safety of our young people, volunteers and staff.





On Course with Cashback Update

With the 2018 season fast approaching, we're looking back at the groups who sailed with us on our "On Course with CashBack" voyages in 2017.



Through the season, 113 young people from across Scotland sailed as part of the project, building their

confidence and gaining valuable life skills. We welcomed groups from Scottish Borders, Midlothian, Enable Scotland, Fife, Scottish Sport Futures, High Life Highland, North Lanarkshire, Barra, Shetland, South Lanarkshire and North Ayrshire.

"On Course with CashBack" is a three year project funded by CashBack for Communities supporting upto 288 young people from across Scotland to take part in our life-changing residential voyages, helping them to develop the skills to move them on to positive destinations.

Our work has been recognised with a case study in the CashBack for Communities annual report, and a feature on STV News.

Volunteers take pre voyage preps to the next level in 2018

As many of you will be aware, OYT Scotland always tries to have a Pre Voyage Prep meeting with each group before they sail. This is a chance for the young people, staff and parents to get an understanding of what life onboard will be like before they arrive. It also gives them a chance to practice living without their mobile phone and a shower before they arrive and we have to start UN peacekeeping negotiations!

In the past, these meetings have predominately been delivered by the Development team but in 2018 we are keen to give more volunteers the opportunity to help deliver these meetings. We've found that having local volunteers running these meetings has allowed both the volunteers and the groups to connect better and has enabled volunteers to make relationships with the groups and young people that last outside the voyage. Most of the volunteers who ran these meetings in 2017 then sailed on the voyages with the young people, allowing them to be the "familiar face" that guides them through the first steps of settling into life onboard.

If you are interested in helping run a Pre Voyage Prep session for a local group, please contact Alistair Carter (alistair@oytscotland.org.uk). The more volunteers we have the better we can equip the young people for their week at sea!

Support from Merchants House of Glasgow

Huge thanks to Merchants House of Glasgow for their fantastic support for two voyages last season – Renfrewshire Young Carers and Drumchapel G15 Youth Group. Both voyages were extremely successful and we look forward to welcoming the groups back in the near future. Keep an eye out for a special feature on Merchants House of Glasgow in the next newsletter.



Collect FREE funds when you shop online

Sign up for free and choose OYT Scotland as your cause





Arran Sportive 2018

@arransportive 

Back in September, OYT Scotland invaded Arran for the 2nd Arran Sportive. Over 100 riders took part and raised a magnificent £6302 to help support more young people to take part in residential sail training voyages.

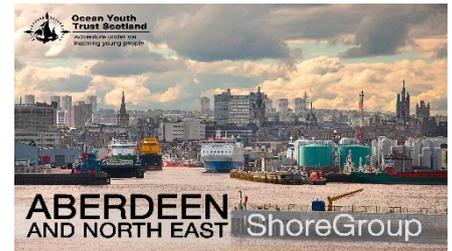


Scott Chance "Great organisation, top marshalling, course to make the legs ache for a few day! Beautiful Island of Arran has it all. Even the weather was kind to use. Be back next year for sure."

The date for the 2018 Arran Sportive has been set for **Saturday 15th September**. We would love to see as many people there as possible so dust off your bikes and keep an eye on the Facebook page for updates!

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.



Aberdeen and North East – 18th June

For details, please contact
NorthEast@oytscotland.org.uk



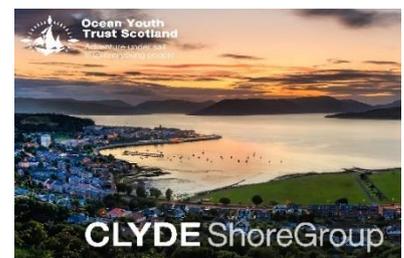
South Easterlies – 4th April

6:00pm, Royal Dick Bar, Summerhall



Glasgow – TBC

We are currently looking for someone to coordinate the Glasgow Shore Group. Get in touch if interested.



Clyde – 22nd February 2018

6:30pm, Royal Gourock Yacht Club,
Ashton Road, PA19 1DA

Refit Weekend 17th & 18th February



Are you free to help out at refit on the 17th and 18th of February?

Email office@oytscotland.org.uk or call
01475 722 722 to arrange.

Update from the Office

Since our last newsletter there have been a few changes to the office team at OYT Scotland.

Last summer we said farewell to Pam Shaw (Fundraising Officer) after 4 years with the Trust. In December Jan Margetts (Development Manager) left for pastures new after 14 years with the Trust.

We thank them both for their dedication and commitment to the Trust and wish them both all the best for the future.

We welcomed Kenny Robinson to the team as our Office Assistant on a 12 month funded placement in July and Christie Laing joined us in October as Fundraising and Communications Officer.

