



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Adventure under sail
Inspiring young people

Newsletter
July 2021 Issue No. 16

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JOIN YOUR LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

Aberdeen Shore Group
Contact: northeast@oytscotland.org.uk

Edinburgh Shore Group
Contact: forthandborders@oytscotland.org.uk

Clyde Shore Group
Contact: andrew.gerrard@oytscotland.org.uk

South Westerlies Shore Group
Contact: office@oytscotland.org.uk

SAILING SEASON UPDATE

The OYT Scotland Board has agreed that we will remain committed to establishing a full sailing programme should circumstances change in our favour during the remainder of this season.

However, based on government guidance, voyages involving more than one day and where young people or volunteers are living in close proximity, are not feasible. The Trust will instead focus on getting groups involved in day sailing and, in addition, offer as much training to volunteers as possible.

For financial prudence, we plan not to code Alba Explorer and operate with one boat.

Welcome to the latest edition of the OYT Scotland Newsletter. In this edition, we'll get you up to speed on what's been happening at the Trust as we continue to work towards recommencing our youthwork programme.

We'll share with you some important dates for your diary, and update you on how plans are coming together for our Arran Sportive. We also sit down with Youth Development Worker, Barry, to find out what makes him tick! Enjoy!

DIARY DATE - SEMINAR 2021

We very much hope to be returning to Stirling Court Hotel for our next Annual Training Seminar which is planned for 26 - 27 February 2022. Thanks to funding from YouthLink Scotland, the next seminar will be heavily subsidised! More details and prices to follow but save the date in your calendar!

ARRAN SPORTIVE

Entries are still flooding in for our Arran Sportive on 4th September. If you've still to sign up, you can do so at www.arransportive.co.uk. We're still looking for more volunteers for the support crew on the day, so if you're free and fancy it, just drop us a note at fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk.

Our thanks again to the staff at **George Leslie** who are providing vital vehicle support and taking part in the cycle itself to raise money for OYT Scotland.

2021 REFRESHER TRAINING

We still have a few spaces remaining on our Refresher Training Sessions - if you haven't booked yet then call the office on 01475 722 722 or email david.mackenzie@oytscotland.org.uk. Dates in July are: 17th - 18th | 20th - 21st | 24th - 25th | August 6th - 8th



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ALBA VENTURER

Keen eyed social media watchers will have seen that Alba Venturer made it to Plockton to have a holiday sailing with Gordonstoun School.



With big winds on the first day, the team survived the Inchmarnock Triangle (Inchmarnock water) and had a great sail to Campbelltown, where they spent a day stormbound doing final jobs onboard before setting off round the Mull of Kintyre to Ardfern. Next it was on to Tobermory. The team made it to Plockton by the Friday and everyone agreed it was fantastic to get back on the water - it will be even



better when we can take young people back to sea! Thank you to Colin, Dave and John for giving Craig, Lewis and Yasmin a helping hand to get Alba Venturer safely north. On her return leg, Venturer saw Ross, Allister, Pete, Lesley and Peta visit the delights of Fingles Cave and the Sound of Iona.

ALBA EXPLORER

The team has been working hard keeping Alba Explorer maintained.

The engine and generator have been serviced, seacock maintenance has been carried out and some TLC has been given to some of the critical safety equipment such as the watertight doors along with cosmetic work outside.



Explorer also has a brand-new main halyard and topping lift ready to install. Well done to the team and all those involved getting Explorer looking tip-top again!



Meanwhile, Lewis has been spending time in Plockton and was sailing with Gordonstoun for three weeks giving them a helping hand staffing their voyages aboard Alba Venturer.



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TRAINING KICKSTARTS

It was wonderful to see the first training voyage of the year take place on 10-11 July. Thanks to funding from Youthlink Scotland, these vital training weekends will ensure we're all ready to deliver our youth work on the waves when the time comes.



A BIT ABOUT BARRY

Just before the pandemic struck, OYT Scotland appointed Barry McLaughlin as our dedicated Youth Development Worker to deliver our 'Change Tack with CashBack' programme funded by the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities programme.



While the sailing part of this pioneering project has inevitably been put on hold, Barry has been working tirelessly with groups of young people throughout the pandemic, with creative land-based activities and educational workshops, to ensure they get the support and opportunities they deserve throughout the pandemic.

Seeing as many of our members and volunteers have not yet had the chance to meet Barry, Head of Fundraising, Ashley, sat down to grill Barry on what attracted him to enter the world of youthwork and what makes him tick...

When and how did you end up working in youthwork?

I've been involved in youth work pretty much as long as I can remember. I started volunteering at my local youth club when I was 16 and I have been doing it in various capacities since then. Working in colleges, community centres, outdoor centres, criminal justice projects all with a youth work focus.

What is it you like most about working with young people?

I love that no day is the same. You never fully know what to expect. I really enjoy how refreshingly honest young people can be. The most rewarding part is seeing people build community, becoming more comfortable with themselves and with others.

What do you think is the most important thing about delivering youthwork?

That we strive to build positive relationships and meet young people where they are at, not where we're at. Also, young people having a voice and an element of control and ownership over a project is really important.

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What do you do to unwind outside work?

I enjoy anything that is done outside so most outdoor activities. I just like being around my favourite people and it doesn't really matter what we're doing. I do love a good gig or a ceilidh!

What do you think is the key to OYT Scotland's success in supporting young people?

The reason I was drawn to OYT Scotland was the fact they offer such a profound experience that catapults young people out of their comfort zone. OYT Scotland is aiming to support young people before during and after the voyage this time round - to do things a bit differently than before. It's great to keep doing what we do best but at the same time getting out our own comfort zones and trying new things to achieve better outcomes for young people.

YOUTHWORK ON THE SHORE

Barry has been busy working with groups of young people as part of the Change Tack with CashBack Programme. Groups have included the GK Experience, Action for Children, REACH, St Paul's Youth Forum and Musselburgh Grammar School.



In addition to delivering on shore educational workshops, he has been leading groups in sessions including paddle boarding with Rope, Spoke & Paddle at Willowgate Activity Centre; nautical map

reading, cycling, exploring the coastline and seal spotting in East Lothian in partnership with East Lothian Outdoor Education; in addition to white water tubing, crate climbing and axe throwing!

Through the diversification of our youth work activities, the Trust has shown both creativity and commitment to supporting young people throughout the pandemic.



KEEP UPDATED!

Don't forget to follow us on social media to keep up to date with all our news as it happens!

You can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oceanyouthtrustscotland>

- please do give us a Like!

We are also on Twitter: [@oytscotland](https://twitter.com/oytscotland), Instagram: [@oytscotland](https://www.instagram.com/oytscotland) and LinkedIn: Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

WE'RE RECRUITING!

We're looking for a passionate and dynamic **Youth Development Worker** and a **Fundraising Officer** to join our team! Check out the job specs [here](#).

Thank you for reading the latest edition of our newsletter. If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for future newsletters, we would be delighted to hear from you. Simply email the team here at fundraising@oytscotland.org.uk.