



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Annual Report **2013**



Adventure under sail | Inspiring young people

Our Belief

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland believes that all young people, regardless of circumstance or ability, should have the opportunity to realise their true potential in order for them to live healthy, fulfilling lives – making a positive contribution to their community and to society in general

Our Mission

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland exists to inspire young people through the challenge of adventure under sail. Residential voyages aboard our fleet of sail training vessels provide a uniquely powerful and extremely effective environment for the personal development of young people from a diverse range of backgrounds throughout Scotland and beyond.

Our Voyages

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland voyages are inherently safe, however the unpredictable environment aboard our vessels presents real physical, mental and emotional challenges. It is a genuinely life-changing experience with many unique learning experiences.





“I challenged myself to do a lot of things that I wouldn't have thought I could manage. And to respect other's feelings.”

Shannon

“I learnt to communicate in tough situations and help each other. I can use my strengths to try new things in a team. Thanks to all the OYT Staff and volunteers for an amazing week.”

Steve



Curly and Barbara

PATRONS' MESSAGE

The 'digital revolution' has enhanced many aspects of learning, however sitting at a computer is essentially a solitary activity. Our modern world depends on each of us playing our tiny part and on face to face communication to build effective teams. A voyage with OYT Scotland helps build those effective teams from young people who might have set out as strangers.

As Patrons, we continue to be inspired by the commitment and enthusiasm of staff and volunteers who help young people to achieve their aspirations. Our congratulations to everyone.



Chairman's Report

2013 was a very productive year: our crews enjoyed some spectacular voyages and our shore based team secured great accolades.

We took **650 young people** sailing on our yachts; **71%** received accredited Royal Yachting Association certificates; our volunteers completed **361 training opportunities** and assessments and in our Young Leader's Development Programme, **twelve participants** sailed around Ireland and remain involved as committed volunteers.

It is worth noting that these highlights were achieved despite a very challenging market which resulted in a manageable deficit at the year end. Thanks to my Board and staff team we have reviewed our operations and plotted a new course to reduce operating costs whilst unlocking longer term financial support. This was one of my themes when I spoke at the launch of our new training vessel in June 2013 and I am delighted that we have made excellent inroads on this front.

Not only are we greatly indebted to the constant and most welcome support from our wonderful patrons, Barbara and Curly Mills, but we have also recently secured three years of committed Scottish Government funding from its Cashback for Communities initiative: our thanks go to the Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill MSP for his support of this project. Our staff are working hard to supplement this investment with

other long-term investors to enable us to plan more strategically.

2013 saw positive strategic movements for the Trust, including OYT Scotland Ambassador Stuart McMillan MSP hosting a parliamentary reception for the Minister for Children and Young People. However, one of our biggest achievements still remains our recruitment of volunteers - over 80 joined us this year. To you all - welcome on board.

I was also very proud that sailing Olympic Silver medallist Luke Patience agreed to become an Ambassador. His enthusiasm for the Trust's aims is clear and we look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

As for 2014, whilst Alba Venturer is temporarily laid up, we have a full programme on two big boats and our small volunteer training vessel of 57 youth voyages for 569 young people; 26 sea-staff training courses; five promotional day sails; and six fundraising challenges and two private charters to generate income towards the cost of adventure under sail for young people.

Exemplifying our determination to improve how we work, innovative projects in 2014 include: fully implementing our new Safety Management System (three years in the making); creating a new two day residential CPD course delivered at sea for teachers and youth workers; and becoming an approved Training Centre by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. This will expand our range of

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accredited qualifications, beginning with the SQA Leadership Award integrated into our Young Leaders Development Programme.

Thanks to the Big Fund's Young Start programme we are able to continue that particular programme and the Skippership Scheme; training a new generation of volunteer and professional sea-staff and providing varied skills and qualifications for life and work ashore.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to our Board for their support this year and acknowledge the contribution of those members who stepped down. On the Board's behalf I warmly thank the Trust staff and volunteers who continue to do excellent work inspiring young people whilst at sea.

Dominic McKay

Dominic McKay, Chairman.

“At the start I was nervous about meeting the other crew but everyone was really friendly and I'm going to miss them. It was really beautiful seeing the islands – I'm going to remember this.”

Thomas



In 2013

In 2013 **63** youth voyages provided **3870** berth nights for **650** young people (compared with 4788 berth nights on 90 voyages in 2012) PLUS **728** berth nights taken up by our young volunteers.

Our Assisted Berth Scheme contributed **£71,151** (compared with 103,925 in 2012) towards the voyage fees of disadvantaged young people.



Our boats

Our boats Alba Explorer, Alba Endeavour, Alba Venturer and Alba Volunteer sailed 16,000 miles visiting towns, villages, islands and remote sea lochs along the length of the Scottish west coast and further afield to Isle of Man and a circumnavigation of Ireland.

76% of 2013 voyages were repeat clients from 2012. New groups included:

BERWICKSHIRE HIGH SCHOOL
BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL
CAMPBILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE CLD *
HELENSBURGH YOUNG CARERS
HIGHLANDS CLD
KINGUSSIE HIGH SCHOOL
MERCHANT HOUSE GLASGOW
RENFREWSHIRE CLD
ST LUKES HIGH SCHOOL
STONELAW HIGH SCHOOL
TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
WARRINGTON SCHOOL
WELLINGTON SCHOOL

*Local authority Community Learning & Development

460

RYA certificates were awarded to young crewmembers

65%

of young people noted an improvement in their confidence

71%

improved team work skills

69%

improved their ability to learn from experience

63%

improved their ability to make responsible decisions





Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

“Our highpoints were dangling our legs over the side to do a Mexican wave, seeing a dolphin, helming under the stars, food, learning from our mistakes and meeting new people.”

Cheeky Watch

FINANCIAL REPORT

Despite successes, 2013 proved to be very difficult financially. Total resources expended were just over 3% ahead at £937,067, but voyage sales were some 30% down on the previous year. Approximately 50% of our income is generated from voyage sales, merchandising, and membership fees. The other 50% is fundraised. Total incoming resources at £776,840 brought out a deficit of £160,227.

The Trust aims to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves so as to provide for three months operating costs. Our General Fund balance stands at £197,097, and so meets this aim. We are free of any loans, and have solid cash reserves, and by working at matching capacity with demand, we are confident of a stronger performance in 2014.

FUNDRAISING

Overall fundraising income was £386k in 2013. The financial climate and staff resources necessitated some changes to plans but notable new income was a substantial legacy from Jim Piggins, a long-serving member and friend of OYT/OYC and £50k from the Big Fund's Young Start programme for peer volunteer training.

Meeting the challenge of adventure under sail head on, our charity challenges raised an amazing £58k thanks to teams from Barclays, KPMG and Deutsche Bank and guests. In a weather window, the inaugural St Kilda Challenge made it safely to the iconic Scottish islands. Congratulations to ALL the crews and particularly John McMillan who raised over £6k.

Despite the loss of an annual core grant from The Scottish Government, we are delighted that it has through YouthLink Scotland, continued to support the costs of our annual seminar and Volunteer Co-ordinator. Likewise we are particularly grateful for the sustained support of Crerar Hotels Trust and Bank of Scotland Foundation (for the Assisted Berths Scheme) and, indeed, that of our Patrons.

Looking to the future needs of the Trust, additional resources have been put in place to develop our fundraising capacity.



SUPPORTERS

The gift of adventure under sail was given to 650 young people in 2013 thanks to the generous contributions from the following

Principal Supporters: Curly and Barbara Mills and Jim Piggins

Major Supporters:



Other Supporters: OYT Scotland's Ambassadors and Shore Groups (Aberdeen & North East, Scotmates and Edinburgh); the valiant crews and their sponsors of the St Kilda Challenge; Sail of Two Cities and Cumbrae Caper and also:

Robert Aitken
BP Foundation
Alistair Carter
Clyde Cruising Club Seamanship & Pilotage Trust
Community Jobs Scotland
Jen Davis
Dollar Academy
DWT Cargill Find

The Hugh Fraser Foundation
Inverclyde Council
Sarah Martin
Martin Charitable Trust
Penicuik Community
Alan Rankin
Pete Ross
Sandy Taggart
Sail Inverclyde

Skills Development Scotland
Society of Deacons & Free Preseses of Glasgow
TAQA
Toby Trust
Thomas Tunnock Ltd
Henry Webb
All of OYT Scotland's volunteers, members & many others

If you are interested in supporting our work or know someone who is, get in touch.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their partnership work:





TESTIMONIALS

“I have long been aware of the benefits to young people through their participation in OYT Scotland activities. Personal growth, increased self-awareness and self-confidence, a sense of adventure and challenge are among the outcomes which can enrich their overall experience and positively influence the next steps they pursue.”

Charlie Johnston – chairperson of the Opportunities for All Strategy group, East Renfrewshire Council

“OYT Scotland is one of the best organisations I have worked with. Their programme provides not only a fantastic week’s worth of sailing but is a life changing opportunity for all concerned!”

John McGilp, Head Teacher, Kinlochleven High School

“The sailing staff are a credit to you. They ensured the group had a fantastic week. Our young people were a mix from very different backgrounds but they all pulled together to make friends, have lots of fun & laughs, and surprise themselves with their achievements.”

Deb’s Carter from Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project

“The young people put forward by OYT Scotland for the international exchange have always been full of enthusiasm and of a very high standard and we are very proud to have them represent UK Sail Training as a whole.”

Lucy Gross, General Manager, Association of Sail Training Organisations

“OYT Scotland make a considerable difference to sailing in Scotland. They offer a great experience, but more importantly they systematically work to break down barriers to make sure all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds get to experience the joy, and of course challenge, of being on the water.”

James Stuart, CEO of RYA Scotland

“My son Alexander sailed with you in August. He enjoyed himself beyond all expectations.”

Sally, his Mum.

“Coming on an OYT Scotland voyage was an awesome experience. It helped me to realise you can do anything if you put your mind to it. It’s given me so much more confidence and I am so happy that I went.”

Siobhan, 18



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HOOD

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