



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Annual Report **2014**



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 – and make a positive contribution to their community.

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.



Curly and Barbara Mills

PATRONS' MESSAGE

An OYT Scotland boat is a completely novel environment but young people enjoy exploring, visiting new ports, making new friends, and learning to sail. Beating to windward in strong winds, they can either hold on to full sail or reef and make more comfortable (and very often faster) progress to windward. So the young sailors learn to balance risk and reward.

Adventure under Sail also requires teamwork with mutual reliance on the other young people who may start off as strangers but quickly become good friends as they help each other 'learn the ropes'. Teamwork is essential on a boat and the skills developed aboard will be valuable all through life.

We congratulate everyone on another highly successful year and are enormously proud to be the patrons of the OYT Scotland.

“ I went on the boat with little to no sailing experience and by the end of it I was leading various sail changes and other deck activities. It was amazing to see how quickly I picked up the skills.”

Ellis

“ During the voyage I learnt that the best way to make people respect and understand you is to understand them.”

Angus





Chairman's Report

“My personal highlight of 2014 was sailing on Alba Endeavour in the Commonwealth Flotilla with HRH Prince Edward on-board.”

2014 proved to be a great year for OYT Scotland with 569 young people experiencing the many benefits of Adventure under Sail. These young people gained skills and qualifications and a real boost to their self-confidence, which in turn will improve their prospects for the future.

My personal highlight of 2014 was sailing on Alba Endeavour in the Commonwealth Flotilla with HRH Earl of Wessex on-board. I was delighted that OYT Scotland played such a prominent role on this momentous occasion.

We were thrilled to receive a major CashBack for Communities Award from the Scottish Government. This will enable us to embark on an ambitious national project working with 480 disadvantaged young people from local authorities across Scotland over the next two years.

Our Young Leaders Programme funded by the Young Start Big Fund proved highly successful in 2014 with 12 young leaders sailing Alba Explorer back from the Lofoten Islands in Arctic Norway and completing 61 accredited qualifications between them. It was wonderful to hear that Vicki Ellis, one of our previous Young Leaders, was a Skipper in the 2014 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. Vicki continues to support the Trust as a voluntary Skipper and Ambassador and is a wonderful role model for our young people.

Sandy McNeill joined the staff team as Finance Director in June. Sandy has been a volunteer

with the Trust for over 20 years and as a previous Chairman and Treasurer, he knows the Trust inside out and is a great addition to the Senior Management Team.

The drive for the board in the last financial year has been to deliver an operating surplus, and I am delighted to say this has been achieved. I would like to thank the board for their continued commitment and support, and all the staff for their hard work in 2014.

Finally, a huge thank you to our volunteers, whose contribution makes this a unique and inspiring organisation.

Dominic McKay, Chairman.



Commonwealth Flotilla Crew with HRH Earl of Wessex



Message from the
Chief Executive

Thanks to the tremendous support of our funders, the amazing commitment and dedication of our volunteers, and the hard work and professionalism of our staff, 2014 proved to be a highly successful year for OYT Scotland.

We have forged a strong partnership with The Scottish Government resulting in a major CashBack for Communities Award. The grant will enable us to run 16 ground-breaking 'New Horizons' voyages specifically for vulnerable young people who are 'at risk' of poor outcomes in life. OYT Scotland staff have already been busy planning our innovative New Horizons sail training project that will launch in

2015. Under this ambitious programme, some 160 disadvantaged young people from communities across Scotland will be able to access a life transforming adventure under sail. A bespoke Log of Achievement has already been planned to help structure these New Horizons voyages to deliver the key outcomes of building confidence, gaining skills and improving employability.

With other Government funding secured through YouthLink Scotland, we will be developing a number of resources to support the Curriculum for Excellence by appointing a teacher on secondment. These include an accredited 2 day residential CPD Course for teachers delivered on-board our vessels, along with an accompanying on-line training module and suite of short films. This pioneering project will inspire and support a whole new generation of teachers to discover the scope and power of adventure under sail in delivering Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes.

My favourite memory of 2014 has to be skippering the OYT Scotland Young Leaders voyage from The Lofoten Islands in the Arctic Circle to Inverness in July 2014. It was truly exciting to see, at first hand, young people realizing

their potential and in the process achieving a raft of qualifications. Highlights of this voyage have been captured on film by sixteen year old film-maker Ellis Beaton from 29 Studios.

Fundraising has become an increasingly important element in our efforts to get more young people out onto the water. We will be working with our colleagues at ASTO to help commission new research into the longer term impact of sail training, the results of which will hopefully provide compelling new evidence to support future fundraising.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Patrons, volunteers, funders and staff team for all your help in making OYT Scotland such an effective, unique and successful organisation.

Nick Fleming
Chief Executive and
Relief Skipper





2014 in numbers



In 2014 **57** youth voyages provided **3,266** berth days for **569** young people. 97 of these young people had 'additional support needs'. In addition there were **459** berth days taken up by our volunteers.

Our Assisted Berth Scheme contributed **£56,488** towards the voyage fees of disadvantaged young people.

507
RYA certificates were awarded to young crewmembers

72%
of young people noted an improvement in their confidence

77%
improved team work skills

69%
improved their ability to learn from experience

70%
improved their ability to make responsible decisions



2014	
Voyages	57
Crew under 26	569
Berth days for young people	3,266
Group Leaders	43
Young people with 'additional support needs'	97



New Horizons



In 2014 Ocean Youth Trust Scotland accessed £375,000 over three years from the CashBack for Communities scheme and formed a project

called 'New Horizons'. CashBack New Horizons is an ambitious national project to inspire and support young people from all over Scotland who are at risk of poorer outcomes. Central to this programme is a 5 day adventurous residential voyage aboard our sail training vessels. This intensive holistic experience is designed to progressively challenge and stretch young people out of their comfort zones, providing a powerful catalyst for change. As a result the young people taking part will build confidence, gain skills, and be inspired to broaden their horizons with new found aspirations for the future.

During the voyage young people will be supported to complete the following nationally accredited qualifications:

- SQA Core Skills Units (Level 3) in Listening, Speaking and Working with Others
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Residential
- Royal Yachting Association Start Yachting Certificate

The young people will also keep a personal logbook of their individual achievements and experiences and will be awarded an OYTS Voyage Completion Certificate on successful completion of their voyage.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP



29studios, a creative digital agency and 29steps, a social enterprise are delighted to have formed a partnership with OYT Scotland. The success of the YLDP voyage to Norway with trainee film-maker Ellis, has been the catalyst to bring our organisations together to provide opportunities for young 29ers to learn sailing and leadership on board while learning their craft of creative film-making and capturing their sailing experience on film. I'm delighted to be partnering with such an amazing organisation who has the same core values as our business #helpothers.

Gillian O'Neil

CEO/Founder of 29studios and 29steps



VOLUNTEERS

In 2014 our volunteers contributed in many ways, from sailing in a sea berth and helping with the ongoing maintenance during the season, to working over the winter months at refit, helping with events ashore, assisting with office admin and attending various committees.

OYT Scotland currently has 284 volunteering members. We estimate our members contributed over 22,000 voluntary hours during the season. The Trust places great emphasis on the value of the commitment we receive from our volunteers and works hard to support them.

TRAINING

Our training programme for volunteers is planned to encourage all ages and abilities to progress through the ranks and to gain OYT Scotland qualifications. During the 2014 season our volunteers attained various sea staff levels, from

Bosun all the way to Skipper. We recruited 34 new volunteers who sailed on induction voyages with 18 individuals signed up as watchleaders or going on to be assessed. Additionally 12 volunteers completed Big Boat Seamanship training, 10 attended our Command Training and we also signed off 10 new Bosuns. Volunteers training on-board our training boat achieved RYA qualifications: 12 Day Skippers, 7 Coastal Yachtmasters, 4 Offshore Yachtmasters, 2 Cruising Instructors. 110 members attended our annual volunteers training seminar. Some 78 RYA qualifications were achieved.





YOUNG LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014 - NORWAY TO SCOTLAND

The Young Leader Development Programme 2014 saw 12 young people develop their leadership skills, take part in adventurous sailing and volunteer in the community and on our boats. The 12 month programme included Advanced Bosun Training and a challenging 14 day voyage from Norway to Greenock.

The YLDP has helped to build the confidence of our young leaders, has increased their belief in their own abilities and made them more optimistic about the future. Life skills gained during the programme included team work, planning, goal setting and reviewing. The young leaders also learnt communication skills, how to assess and manage risk, as well as day to day skills such as cooking and cleaning.



“If anyone ever gets a chance to come on a voyage, they should drop everything and go!”

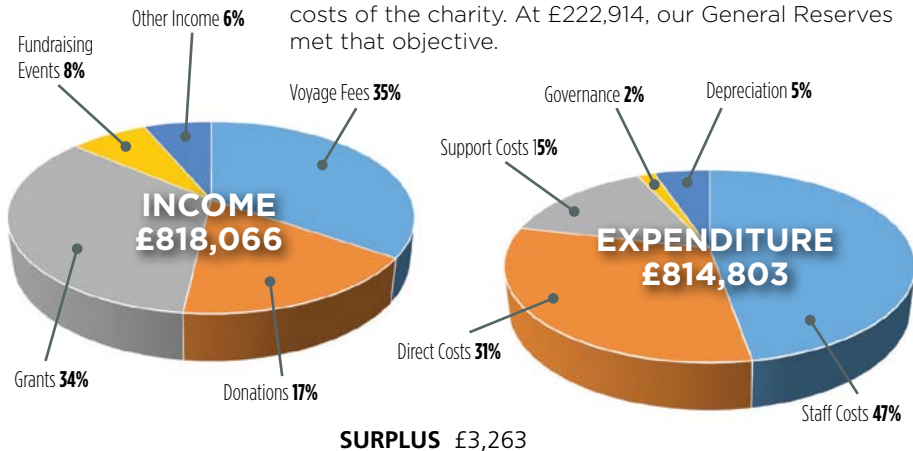
Natasha

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2014, the Trust made good progress, and notwithstanding the challenging trading environment, ended the year with a surplus of £3,263 (2013: deficit of £160,227). Due to the economic headwinds, it was decided to run a 2 large boat programme, and not three. This allowed the Trust to maximise the return on these boats, with a 97% occupancy level, whilst better managing our expense base.

By better matching our capacity to demand, we reduced our Direct Costs by 29%, to £255,474 (2013: £360,100). With careful management of all other costs, and continued strong support from our funders, we have moved on from the difficulties we encountered in 2013.

The Trust aims to maintain a level of unrestricted reserves so as to provide for three months operating costs of the charity. At £222,914, our General Reserves met that objective.



FUNDRAISING

2014 was a challenging but ultimately successful year for the Trust. As shown in the financial report, over half of our income is generated through fundraising. This keeps voyages affordable for young people from the widest possible range of backgrounds. We have a strong commitment to ensuring that every young person can access our life changing opportunities under sail.

The big news was our successful bid for funding from Cashback for Communities for a total of £375,000 over the next three years. This was a real team effort not only from Fundraising but from across the whole OYT Scotland team.

On the Trusts and Foundations front, it was satisfying to broaden the portfolio of supporters and to work closely with both new and existing funders. People's Postcode Trust provided a valuable donation towards the winter refit of Alba Endeavour. Meanwhile, The Robertson Trust and The MacRobert Trust both gave vital commitments to our charity for three years. OYT Scotland also greatly appreciated renewed support from Artemis Charitable Foundation and The Crerar Hotels Trust.

On shore we tried new activities, including the Five Ferries Challenge cycling 51 miles along the west coast of Scotland. We also got dirty at the Spartan Race, a 5km obstacle course. On

Spartan Race



Five Ferries



the water, we took part in the Commonwealth Flotilla, taking pride of place at the front of the procession, with HRH, Earl of Wessex on board. Thanks goes to employees at KPMG, Cairn Energy, Tilney Best Invest and Barclays, who took part in our weekend challenges on the Clyde. We are also pleased to report that our adult challenges to St Kilda were successful, and despite the inclement weather,

managed to land at Village Bay.

Another exciting development was the launch of our Friends of OYT Scotland supporter's scheme at a special 15th birthday party with OYT Scotland Ambassador Olympic Silver Medallist Luke Patience.

It's thanks to our funders that we've been able to help young people, like Jamie, find positive new directions.

JAMIE'S STORY

Last year Jamie had not managed to hold down a work placement and couldn't even see the point of trying. At the end of his Adventure under Sail with us, his transformation was remarkable. As a result of his participation, Jamie experienced a sea change in his attitude. He was eager to engage with the process of finding a suitable placement and wanted to start immediately with his key youth worker at 9am the Monday morning following the voyage! He has done so well in his apprenticeship, he is now in permanent employment.





“I learnt I can do whatever I put my mind towards, and that I’m actually pretty good at coping with seasickness.”

Anna

“This is the only place that I feel safe and nothing from the real world can get to me. Being at home can be really hard and this makes everything I do worthwhile and I need to come back.”

Sara

“My emotional endurance has greatly increased as some parts of the voyage were difficult to cope with – especially getting up at awkward times after not having had enough sleep and performing physical work.”

Ula

“When I started with OYT Scotland I would find it hard to speak out in a group of new people, now it’s my job to do it every day!”

Peta

“Emotionally my biggest change was that I now feel better about life, some of the things we saw truly were awesome and put everything into a lot more perspective. When I got home I stopped worrying about the little things as I knew there are more important things out there.”

Ellis



SUPPORTERS

The gift of Adventure under Sail was given to 569 young people in 2014 thanks to the generous contributions from the following:

Principal Supporters: Curly and Barbara Mills.

Major Supporters:



Other Supporters:

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

AMW Charitable Trust, Angus Allnatt Charitable Foundation, Bellahouston Bequest Fund, Joan Braithwaite Sailing Trust, Cairn Energy, Clyde Cruising Club Seamanship & Pilotage Trust, Community Jobs Scotland, Dixie Rose Charitable Trust, DWT Cargill Fund, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Incorporation of Bonnetmakers & Dyers of Glasgow, Inverclyde Council, John Watson's Trust, Martin Charitable Trust, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, Nancie Massey Charitable Trust, Sarah Martin, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, The Cross Trust, Skills Development Scotland, PF Charitable Trust, The Souter Charitable Trust, The Stafford Trust, TAQA, The Toby Trust, The James Wood Bequest Fund, The WM Mann Foundation, Tilney Best Invest, Trades House of Glasgow (The Commonwealth Fund), Thomas Tunnock, The Whirlwind Charitable Trust.

Friends of OYT Scotland:

First Mate Friends: Caroline Elder, Sandy McNeill, Barbara & Curly Mills, Sandy Taggart.

All of OYT Scotland's volunteers, members and many others. Thank you all.

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

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







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