



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-16



Adventure under sail | Inspiring young people



Ocean
Youth
Trust
Scotland

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 opportunities.



Curly and Barbara Mills

PATRONS' MESSAGE

In this digital age, all knowledge is just a click or two away, but a computer can't respond like another human being. Computers may be indispensable, but so are people and good teamwork is essential to success in life.

OYT Scotland helps young people to bond by taking them to sea where nature in all its glory (and fury) moulds them into a crew who can depend on each other but who can also relax together to enjoy the beauty of the West Coast.

The sea is a fine place to learn that only by working together can a successful voyage be achieved. Yet again the magnificent teamwork of the OYT Scotland staff and volunteers makes these voyages both educational and, most importantly, fun.

We congratulate everyone, and are enormously proud to be the patrons of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland.



“I knew that the trip would be a fabulous experience for our students; in many ways it was much more than sail training – it was a real journey of self-discovery for them.”

Barney

Residential school teacher

“These types of trips are quite expensive, but they are worth every penny: the children get so much out of it.”

Head of Children's Services





Chairman's Report

The 2015-2016 period has been a time of significant change for OYT Scotland. The most important factor for us was the sustainability of the organisation, i.e. its financial safety. Our efforts towards this have proved successful and now, at the time of writing we are in great shape. The trust now has very strong financial resources and also a streamlined business to deliver for young people. The board and I are committed to making sure this continues. Our focus will be on three main aspects: delivery for young people; a solid financial platform; and opportunities for more people to become involved. To help maintain our standards and continue to improve, our three sub-committees have been revamped. The training committee is headed by David McGonigle, the safety committee by Stephen Young, and the safeguarding committee by Brian Robertson. There will be overlaps between these groups and open communication to ensure a unified approach.

There have been a few changes to the board itself. We now have six new members: Stephen Young; David Anderson; Gillian O'Neil; David McGonigle; Richard Phillips and Heather Prince, who was one of our cadets, have all recently joined our board team. Robbie Crow, Ewan McNeil and Emma Harley have stepped down and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication and wish them all the very best for the future.

In February 2016, we returned to the Scottish Parliament building for a parliamentary reception. This reception was part of our success story with the government's CashBack for Communities Programme. Our 'CashBack New Horizons' project has been a great success and we have high

hopes for continuing success with our follow up programme 'On Course with CashBack' which will carry us through to 2020.

Again I'd like to pass on my appreciation and thanks to all the staff, led by our CEO Nick Fleming including those who have moved on for their contribution to the Trust over the years and wish them continuing success in their new ventures. Finally I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much time, energy and passion to this great organisation. We simply couldn't do it without you. As a result of the development of our financial position we are all looking forward to a bright, secure future in Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. All of you who have contributed so much to this outcome should feel pleased and proud that we are faring so well.

Kind regards

Dominic McKay, Chairman.



PHOTO:
OYT
Scotland
Board of
Trustees



Message from the
Chief Executive

Thanks to the amazing contribution of all our wonderful volunteers, the dedication and professionalism of our hard working staff and the tremendous support of our Patrons and funders. 2015 proved to be a highly productive year for OYT Scotland.

A total of 554 young people sailed with the Trust in 2015 gaining 644 nationally accredited qualifications. Becoming an SQA Training Centre has enabled us to introduce a range of Core Skills qualifications to our voyages including Communications, Numeracy, Problem Solving, Working with Others and Leadership(5). In addition to the RYA and Duke of Edinburgh qualifications we already offer, this really helps to improve employability for young people.

Young people who have struggled to pass exams at school can, by the end of the voyage, walk away with several new qualifications along with a newfound sense of pride and self-confidence in their achievements. We plan to further expand the range of qualifications we deliver over the next few years.

Our CashBack New Horizons Programme funded by the Scottish Government is proving to be a huge success. From the overwhelmingly positive feedback from young people, youth workers, teachers and parents, it is clearly having a remarkably positive impact in improving the life chances of disadvantaged young people across Scotland. Our Ambassador Stuart McMillan MSP hosted a parliamentary reception to celebrate our CashBack New Horizons Partnership with the Scottish Government. The event was very well attended by young people from all over Scotland.

Thanks to other government funding secured through YouthLink, we were able to appoint a teacher on a 3-month secondment to help us develop a range of resources to support the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence. These included an on-line module for teachers and youth workers, along with a 2-day residential CPD course accredited by the Institute for Outdoor Learning. This pioneering

project will inspire a whole new generation of teachers to discover the full scope and potential for adventure under sail to deliver Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes. OYT Scotland is one of a very small handful of Sail Training Organisations around the world to be linking to its national curriculum and this is attracting wide spread interest from the International Sail Training Community.

Our New Website went live in 2015 providing a fresh look and feel, with some high quality video content really helping to promote the Trust in an exciting and engaging way. The on-line portal has provided the opportunity for our volunteers to access key documents including our Safety Management Manual and Youth Work Toolkit. I do hope you enjoy reading about our achievements in this annual report.

Nick Fleming, Chief Executive





2015 in numbers

In 2015 **53** youth voyages provided **3,528** berth days for **554** young people. 15 of these young people had 'additional support needs'. In addition there were **427** berth days taken up by our volunteers.

Our Assisted Berth Scheme contributed **£38,370** and CashBack New Horizons **£82,446** towards the voyage fees of disadvantaged young people.

139

SQA Core Skills
modules

502

RYA certificates were awarded
to young crewmembers

55

Group
Leaders onboard



“ To take disadvantaged young people from some of the poorest areas of Scotland onto a 72-foot yacht and go sailing for a week whilst learning more about themselves and others really is priceless. I knew that the majority of my group would not, and had never been, on a summer holiday before. Many of them have never been out of North Ayrshire. So to give them this experience is totally invaluable and should be spread more and more to the harder [areas] to reach young people all over the country.”

Ross

*Group Leader
North Ayrshire*

“ I have been on two trips now, but I have never seen a trip that brings people together as well as this one has.”

Lucas





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.



The planned outcomes for this project are;

- Increased opportunities for new experiences or activities for participants
- Increased opportunities for continued participation by linking up and signposting to other provision
- Greater confidence and self-esteem among participants
- More participants have achieved accreditation for their learning
- More participants progress into further learning, training and personal development opportunities
- Increased horizons and improved outlook amongst participants

In 2015 we delivered 15 CashBack voyages to young people from Local Authorities all over Scotland. 160 the young people had the opportunity to and be supported to complete nationally accredited qualifications;

- 139 achieved an SQA Core Skills Module (Level 3) in Communication. (Units are - Listening, Speaking, Writing and Reading)
- 139 achieved their RYA Start Yachting Certificate

The young people also received a personal logbook of their individual achievements and experiences and were awarded an OYT Scotland Voyage Completion Certificate on successful completion of their voyage.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION

In February we brought together participants of the 'New Horizons' CashBack programme at a parliamentary reception. Upwards of 100 young people gathered at the reception hosted by Stuart McMillan MSP on the 25th February. This event was held to celebrate the success of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland's CashBack voyages in 2015. Also attending were Justice Secretary Michael Matheson, volunteers, youth workers and parents. Justice Secretary Michael Matheson spoke very highly of our work:

"It was fantastic to see first-hand today the difference this programme is making to the young people involved and to hear what they have learned from the experience and how it will help them when they get back home. Their enthusiasm for the future was infectious and has only reinforced to me the significant value of the CashBack for Communities Programme."



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to what we do, helping in many ways both on-board and ashore – from assisting in the office to working at refit and of course sailing our boats. OYT Scotland currently has 293 members from all over Scotland and further afield who have all done their part in making sure the Trust has had another successful year. This year our members contributed over 31,000 voluntary hours during the course of the season. It is only through this commitment we have managed to get to where we are today and this emphasises the value of all the hard work our volunteers do.



TRAINING

Training is vital for both staff and volunteers to make sure we run our voyages safely. Our training committee exists to make sure we are running all training we may require. This year we inducted 32 new volunteers, signed off 10 new bosuns and assessed 42 volunteers moving up the ranks. Our 'Big Boat Seamanship' saw 16 participants. 11 Skippers and 1st Mates attended our Command Training. Our smaller training vessel, Alba Volunteer, saw a total of 77 members, of which

32 spent 52 days taking RYA courses including: 3 Cruising Instructors, 3 Offshore Yachtmasters, 4 Coastal Yachtmasters and 7 Day Skippers. The other 45 members spent 40 days on experience building charters.





YOUNG LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2015

The 2015 Young Leaders Development Programme (YLDP) funded by the Big Lottery Young Start Fund saw 12 young people from across Scotland complete their Challenge Voyage on Alba Venturer. All of the crew had been recommended for the programme by the skippers of their previous voyages. Our YLDP programme runs for 12 months and includes Advanced Bosun training and Watch Leader training in addition to a 10-day adventurous voyage from Oban to Shetland (and back again!).

The YLDP aims to help young people develop their leadership skills, take part in adventurous sailing and volunteer in the community and on our boats. In addition to this the voyage teaches the young people how to work as a team, solve problems, plan actions, set goals and review processes - valuable skills that are needed every day in life. The icing on the cake is that all the young people also gained an academic qualification - SQA in Leadership at Level 5.





Treasurer's Report



FINANCIAL REPORT

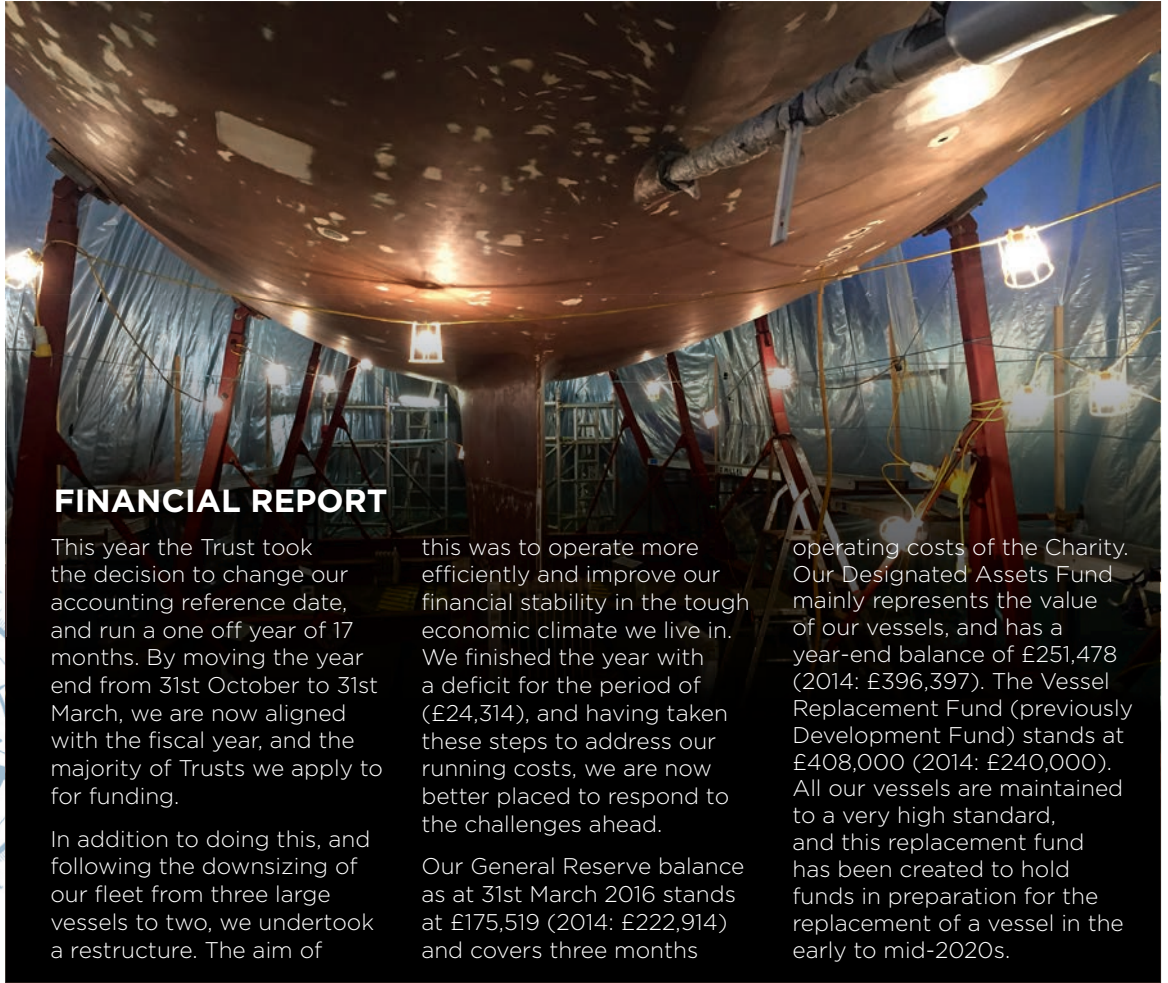
This year the Trust took the decision to change our accounting reference date, and run a one off year of 17 months. By moving the year end from 31st October to 31st March, we are now aligned with the fiscal year, and the majority of Trusts we apply to for funding.

In addition to doing this, and following the downsizing of our fleet from three large vessels to two, we undertook a restructure. The aim of

this was to operate more efficiently and improve our financial stability in the tough economic climate we live in. We finished the year with a deficit for the period of (£24,314), and having taken these steps to address our running costs, we are now better placed to respond to the challenges ahead.

Our General Reserve balance as at 31st March 2016 stands at £175,519 (2014: £222,914) and covers three months

operating costs of the Charity. Our Designated Assets Fund mainly represents the value of our vessels, and has a year-end balance of £251,478 (2014: £396,397). The Vessel Replacement Fund (previously Development Fund) stands at £408,000 (2014: £240,000). All our vessels are maintained to a very high standard, and this replacement fund has been created to hold funds in preparation for the replacement of a vessel in the early to mid-2020s.



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising was not immune to the economic challenges in 2015, none the less, we did manage to have a good year overall. Leading the headlines was the funding received from the government's CashBack for Communities programme used to assist groups of young people who are at risk from poorer outcomes.

Spartan Race



Five Ferries



Other funding secured included the Big Lottery Fund of £50,000 towards our Young Leaders Programme and volunteer training, and 'Awards for All' funding for Alba Volunteer to get new headsail, radar, and heating. New sails for Alba Venturer were funded by the People's Post Code Lottery.

On the sailing front, a voyage bound for St Kilda, led by Vicky Ellis, skipper on the Round the World Challenge, and raised £11,000. The weather plotted against the crew, and they were unable to land, but still managed to have a fantastic trip. In September, KPMG took on Prudential in a close race in the Cumbrae Caper weekend challenge.

Non-sailing events helped boost the coffers and included our fantastic Five Ferries cycling challenge, raising almost £8k, and an OYT Scotland team braved the mud in the Spartan Obstacle race raising £1500. We have also gratefully have received support from several individuals, like Dave Pedley, who raised £1000 for the Trust taking part in an Ironman competition in Lanzarote. This unrestricted funding is a vital part of our income as it is used in various ways including essential maintenance and equipment, training for our volunteers, and helping those young people who could not pay their own way through our assisted berth scheme.



We had great success on the corporate side this year, continuing our good ties with KPMG and TAQA, and making new contacts with Prudential. We are also pleased to have been awarded with a charity partnership with Alliance Trust in Dundee, who supported voyage with young Dundonians. We made a new connection with Standard Life, who donated an incredible 836 voluntary hours at winter refit. A special thank you goes to Colin McAdam for his help in this relationship.

We are making big efforts this year to get our stories out – communicating our great stories out on the new website, and through our new quarterly newsletter.



SUPPORTERS

The gift of Adventure under Sail was given to 554 young people in 2015 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 and Forth & Borders, the valiant crews and their sponsors of the St Kilda Challenge, 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 Gargill Fund, Ffordes Photographic, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Incorporation of Bonnetmakers & Dyers of Glasgow, Inverclyde Council, Sarah Martin, John Watson's Trust, Martin Charitable Trust, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, Nancie Massey Charitable Trust, 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, and The Whirlwind Charitable Trust.

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:





THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE PLACES
WE VISITED IN 2015-2016:

Lamlash • East Loch Tarbert • Holy Loch • Inverkip • Largs • Port Bannatyne • Campbeltown • Loch Riddon
Inveraray • Portavadie • Bangor • Brodick • Cumbrae • Kames Bay • Tighnabruaich • Carradale • Millport
RGYC • Rhu • Lochranza • Kerrera • Colonsay • Loch Harport • Portree • Tobermory • Kyle of Loch Alsh • Rum
Loch Goil • White Bay • Ghia • Ballycastle • Ardfern • Mallaig • Coll • Port Ellen • Loch na Keal • Isle Ornsay
Loch Aline • Caignure • Bunessan • Craobh • Vatersay • Lewis • Lochmaddy • Ullapool • The Shiant Islands...

AND THESE ARE SOME OF THE GROUPS WHO SAILED WITH US:

City of Glasgow College; Inverclyde CLD; Falkirk Young Carers; Stonelaw High School; Castlebrae High School; Craig Royston High School; Drumchapel High School; St Machar's Academy; East Ayrshire CLD; Calderglen High School; Cedar House School; Lady Manners School; Largs Academy; MACS; Dalgairn Centre; Highlife Highland CLD; Helensburgh Young Carers; Action for Children...



“The week was a great experience along with a great group of people. The sailing conditions were great and we sailed most days, I enjoyed doing the cooking, and the cleaning of the boat was not too bad. I am glad that I did it and will possibly do it again in the future and it will be something I will remember for the rest of my life.”

“I feel a real sense of achievement after a week on the boat. I was nervous when I first came on, but now I'm ready for the next adventure!”

“This has been an amazing experience. I came here from Spain to get the Scottish weather. I got what I wanted and more! I met excellent people and discovered a beautiful country. I'll never forget it! Gracias.”

“Megan Ron was here. Enjoyed much. Will be back!”





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