



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2017-18**



**Adventure under sail** | Inspiring young people



Ocean  
Youth  
Trust  
Scotland

## Our Belief

We believe 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

We exist 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

The unpredictable environment aboard our vessels presents real physical, mental and emotional challenges. It is a genuinely life-changing experience with unique learning opportunities.



Curly and Barbara Mills

## PATRONS' MESSAGE

In the days of sailing clippers, 'Steady as she goes' was what the helmsmen and crew loved to hear because it meant that they had the ship on course and going well. Over the years, this wonderful charity has taken thousands of young people to sea and given them a new slant on life, new skills, new friends and a fresh way to view the world.

As we approach our 20th anniversary year as Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, we reflect on yet another highly successful year, so 'Steady as she goes' is the highest praise for the many volunteers and staff who together form the crew of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. We are enormously proud to be your patrons and look forward to embarking on another 20 years of successfully delivering life-changing voyages at sea.

“My week aboard Alba Venturer was one of the best experiences of my life. Learning a new challenging set of skills alongside such a great group of people was not only enjoyable, but also very impactful for me. It really showed that I shouldn't be afraid of trying new experiences and how rewarding they can be.”

### Young Person

*ATC voyage*





It has been a tremendous privilege to become Chairman of Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. I must start by paying tribute to the huge contribution that Dominic McKay has made during his terms as Chairman and there is no question that the current health and success of OYT Scotland is in no small measure down to his commitment and leadership over previous years. Dominic is an 'OYT boy' having sailed with the Trust in his teens and his love of the organisation has never diminished. Whilst no longer a Board member, his support for the work of the Trust remains assured, albeit it from the 'back-benches'!

2017-18 has been another successful year for the Trust. Our financial position remains sound and we have delivered another surplus to add to the vessel replacement fund for the future. Our sailing programmes continue to be well received and we are delighted with the impact made via our partnerships with the Scottish Government through the CashBack Programme, and Big Lottery Fund Scotland in terms of our Young Carers voyages. The feedback from those who sail with us continues to be positive, no more so than from these two specific initiatives where young people, leaders, parents and guardians all speak of the challenges, exhilaration and fundamentally life-changing experiences that young people bring home from OYT Scotland's voyages.

These experiences do not happen by chance; they are down to the commitment and expertise of our staff and volunteers. To all of those individuals, my sincere thanks, without you this simply would not happen.

I would commend this annual report to you all and I hope you find something new and interesting within it. Whilst over recent years we have slimmed back resources in a number of areas, we continue to push forward with work to extend our reach to new groups and individuals and to extend the range of partnerships we have. This is the only way we will keep OYT Scotland as the relevant, successful and meaningful organisation that we have all worked to build and sustain.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to say thanks to the small group of colleagues that support me on the Board of OYT Scotland. Again, many hours are given freely to support the Trust and their advice and wise counsel is invaluable.

Kind regards  
David, Chairman.







Message from the Chief Executive

In the last year, OYT Scotland has continued a journey that started almost 20 years ago, delivering life-changing adventure under sail to young people. Over the years, our work has been made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of all of our wonderful volunteers and small staff team, as well as the fantastic support of our Patrons and funders. We simply could not do it without you.

In 2017-18, we welcomed an impressive 785 young people on board. For many of those young people, this was the first time they had ever sailed, or even been on the water, and what they experienced was enough to prompt a positive change in them.

2017 saw the start of our ambitious three year programme On Course

with CashBack. Working with 108 disadvantaged young people from 11 Local Authorities across Scotland, the feedback from young people, youth workers, teachers and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the shift in attitude that occurs in those who take part. Following these initial successes, we are excited to continue to grow the project over the next two years of funding and beyond.

Also in 2017, OYT Scotland was awarded three year funding from Big Lottery Fund Scotland to deliver our Carers On Adventurous Residential Learning (CORAL) project. Working with carers groups across the country, the project provides a week of respite and adventure for young carers, offering them the opportunity to just be kids and make new friends in similar circumstances.



This year also saw the start of our expanded SQA offering through our employability focused voyages. I am delighted that we are able to add an extra element to the great experience our voyages already deliver, and young people can leave the boat after five days with valuable additions to their CVs.

I hope that, as you sit down to read this report, you come on our journey with us and that the passion, energy, and support of everyone involved with OYT Scotland shines through. I hope that you, like us, are inspired by the successes achieved by those who sail with us.

Nick Fleming, Chief Executive

# 2017 in numbers

In 2017, **74** youth voyages provided **4,080** berth days for **785** young people. **38** of these young people had additional support needs. In addition there were **1,241** berth days taken up by our volunteers.

Our Assisted Berth Scheme contributed **£66,890** and On Course with CashBack **£68,452** towards the voyage fees of disadvantaged young people.

**114**

Group Leaders  
on board

**712**

RYA certificates were awarded  
to young crewmembers

**1,166**

SQA Units achieved



## YOUNG LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2017

In July, 12 promising young people embarked on a challenging 10 day adventurous voyage to Orkney on board Alba Venturer. Part of the Young Leader Development Programme (YLDP), the young crew battled the rough seas of the Pentland Firth and Cape Wrath, learning vital skills in working as a team, solving problems, planning actions, setting goals and reviewing processes. Their hard work was rewarded with the stunning landscapes of the Orkney Isles and each gained a Level 5 SQA qualification in Leadership.

Each year YLDP develops the leadership skills of some of our young volunteers, and the programme encourages personal development and highlights the importance of giving back to the community.



# A big thank you!



Our mission to inspire young people through adventure under sail couldn't be achieved without the support of our fantastic volunteers who help us out both ashore and afloat; from working at refit and helping in the office, to assisting with presentations and events - and of course sailing our boats.

Every week, members up and down the country step on board to help us deliver adventure under sail. This season, our members contributed 26,500 volunteering hours. Without their commitment we simply would not be able to do what we do.

**248** members   **43** new volunteers inducted

## Training

Ongoing training is a fundamental part of ensuring that our voyages run safely. Our volunteers require a range of skills and they are trained not just in sailing, but in a variety of areas including youth work, safeguarding and first aid. Our training committee meets regularly to ensure that we are providing the best training we can, both on our boats and at our yearly training seminar in February.

In total this year, we conducted training for 161 members. We

welcomed 43 new inductees, signed off 33 new bosuns, and 16 volunteers were successfully assessed to move up the ranks. 62 members took part in our "Big Boat Training" weekends and an additional 16 attended Drills weekends.

Our smaller vessel Alba Volunteer welcomed 77 young people and members on training courses and taster sessions. These included 7 Yachtmaster Instructors, 15 Day Skippers, and 3 Cruising Instructors.



# Major Projects

## ON COURSE WITH CASHBACK: AN AMBITIOUS NATIONAL PROJECT

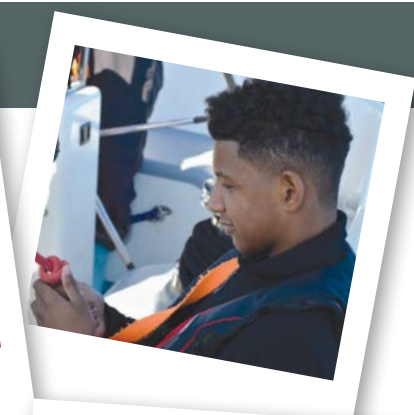
Continuing the work that our New Horizons project (2014-2017) started, On Course with CashBack is an ambitious three year national project to inspire and support young people from all over Scotland who are at risk of poorer outcomes.

Thanks to £234,000 funding from the CashBack for Communities scheme, the project aims to;

- Build capacity and confidence in young people
- Develop their personal and physical skills
- Change young people's behaviours and aspirations positively
- Improve young people's wellbeing
- Provide an activity which improves young people's learning, employability and employment options
- Encourage young people to contribute positively to their communities

In 2017, we delivered 12 Cashback voyages to young people from across Scotland. Through these voyages, 108 young people from 11 Local Authorities had the opportunity to complete nationally accredited qualifications;

- 102 each achieved 9 SQA qualifications at Level 3
- 105 achieved their RYA Start Yachting Certificate
- 108 gained 100 hours of Saltire Award Certification



“ I learned how to work as a team and to stay strong and confident. ”

**Jennifer**  
*Young Crew Member*



# CORAL Project

Building on the success of previous young carers voyages, this year Ocean Youth Trust Scotland was awarded £147,310 over three years from Big Lottery Fund Scotland to deliver the CORAL Project (Carers On Residential Adventurous Learning).

A total of 27 voyages will offer young carers a chance to be with young people their own age and have a respite from their caring duties.

The first year of the project has been extremely successful with participants indicating that it has had a transformative impact on their behaviour and emotional wellbeing.



“When I came back I felt physically better and stress free. It was a magnificent feeling, it was amazing!”

*Paul, Young Carer*





Treasurer's Report

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The year to 31st March 2018 saw the Trust finish with a surplus of £12,836, which will help further strengthen reserves and build our resilience. Total income was slightly up at £873,289 (2017: £862,345), and expenditure increased year on year from £821,416 to £860,453. We continue to invest heavily in all three vessels during the winter refit, and this year that accounted for a good part of the extra expenditure.

Ever mindful of the need for tight fiscal controls, our monthly management accounts allow us to track our progress against budget and make adjustments where possible as the year moves forward. There is a need to support the true cost of voyage fees to some level for all the groups that sail with us, and we are enormously grateful for the continuing support of regular and new benefactors.

Looking ahead, we would expect similar running costs for the coming year, and in that respect our General Reserve which covers three months operating costs is little changed at £178,307. Our Designated Asset Fund, which is mainly our vessels, stands at £222,180. This leaves the Vessel replacement Fund which has now increased to £488,275. While not anticipating the need to replace either large vessel any time soon, it is right that we build a reserve for the future. Our smaller training vessel, Alba Volunteer, is not as heavily built, and it is likely that thought will be given to her replacement in the not so distant future.



## PEOPLE AND FUNDRAISING

Adventure under sail for hundreds of young people in 2017 would not have been possible without the vital support of all our generous funders, donors and partners. Large and small, all your donations have been very much appreciated. Your help has been crucial to the operation of our youth voyages and our capacity to achieve positive change for young people.

2017 saw the start of an exciting new partnership with Big Lottery Fund Scotland for our CORAL project – enabling 90 young carers in nine different communities across

Scotland to take part in their own adventure on the water.

We are also very proud to have been awarded a second three year award from the Scottish Government for our On Course with CashBack voyage programme. Some 108 disadvantaged young people got the chance to take part in a challenge voyage and improve their life chances. Trusts and Foundations, along with our loyal and committed individual donors, provided all important match funding to make these programmes and many other projects happen. Out on the water, thanks to Awards For All, we were

able to purchase brand new lifejackets and waterproofs to keep our novice sailors both safe and dry.

We were thrilled to receive renewed support from the players of The People's Postcode Lottery which provided us with the means to renew our rigging on Alba Explorer – allowing hundreds of young people to benefit for years to come. Two corporate teams from KPMG and Santander proved well up for a challenge in September – taking part in our popular Cumbrae Caper and raising much needed funds. We greatly value our long term corporate supporters such as KPMG who have provided us with such generous in kind support for our printing needs including this annual report.

September also saw some 120 intrepid cyclists muster on the Isle of Arran for our second and very successful Arran Sportive – again bringing in valuable income to resource our Assisted Berth Scheme.



Finally, no fundraising could ever happen without the unstinting and tireless help of our volunteers. From working on board with our young people, to hours spent during winter refit, to the sterling efforts of our dedicated Shore Groups. Our heartfelt thanks to you all for enabling hundreds of young people to achieve their adventure under sail in 2017.







“ Completing this voyage with all its ups and downs is better than anything I have ever done in my life. We all became like a family, the first family I have ever had! ”

**JH**, *Young Person, CashBack voyage*



# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Adventure under sail for 785 young people in 2017 was made possible thanks to the generous contribution from the following:

**Principal Supporters:** Curly and Barbara Mills.

## Major Supporters:



THE DULVERTON TRUST

CRERAR  
— HOTELS TRUST —

The John Scott  
Charitable Trust

## Other Supporters:

We would also like to extend our thanks to OYT Scotland's Ambassadors and Shore Groups (Clyde, Aberdeen & North East, Forth & Borders), the crews and their sponsors of the Cumbrae Capers, the super cyclists of the Arran Sportive and:

BBC Children in Need, The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, Hugh Fraser Foundation, The Gannochy Trust, Inverclyde Council, The Cross Trust, PF Charitable Trust, The Incorporation of Bonnetmakers & Dyers of Glasgow, The Whirlwind Charitable Trust, Hobson Charitable Trust

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our continuing success.

**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 2017-2018:**

Holy Loch • Port Bannatyne • Inverkip • Lochranza • Lamlash • Portavadie • Campbeltown • Rhu  
Wreck Bay • Loch Ridden • Blairmor • East Loch Tarbert • Inveraray • Loch Goilhead • Largs  
Loch Fyne • Tobermory • Loch Aline • Kerrera • Ardfern • Loch Torridor • Rum • Stornaway  
Inverness • Fishnish Bay • Stormness • Jura • White Bay • Castlebay • Kilchattan Bay

# Groups who sailed

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

Calderglen High School  
Edinburgh Dunedin Group  
Enable Scotland  
Kinlochleven High School  
Lady Manners School  
Linlithgow Academy  
Montrose Academy  
Portree High School  
Renfrewshire Young Carers

Rothesay Academy  
Sense Scotland Young Carers  
Stonelaw High School  
The Machan Trust  
Uddingston Grammer School  
Ullswater Sailing Club  
Western Isles CLD  
Woodfarm High School



“Our Ocean Youth Trust Scotland voyage expanded what my kids expected of themselves and each other. What they can do now is simply light years ahead of where they were before setting sail.”

**Group Leader**  
*CashBack voyage*







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