

2016 voyages supported by your donation



The increased support from The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights in 2016 provided all important match funding for **four voyages** in our **New Horizons Sail Training Programme**. Our charity is passionate about delivering Adventure under Sail to inspire young people and, in particular, about providing sail training opportunities for disadvantaged young people to realize their potential.

New Horizons Sailing Programme



New Horizons is a key voyage programme which is designed to support vulnerable teenagers to gain confidence and transferrable life skills such as team work while on board. Developed in conjunction with The Scottish Government, the project focuses on **dis-engaged young people** who have fallen through the system and are 'at risk' of poor outcomes in life. We work with teenagers aged 16-19 who aren't faring well in the education system if at school, or who are unemployed and are not undertaking any vocational training.

The New Horizons voyages have been developed as key components in longer term Positive Intervention programmes. We have built a number of strong partnerships with youthwork and carers' agencies, local authorities and schools to deliver this programme.

A powerful endorsement of this work has been the 3 year commitment by the Scottish government towards part funding the costs of our New Horizons sailing programme through a CashBack for Communities Award. (In 2017, a further award was made for another 3 years.) Nonetheless, **in order for each New Horizons voyage project to happen, it is vital we source match funding to enable each project to go ahead. This is why the increased support from The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights has been so important to our charity – enabling disadvantaged young people to access Adventure under Sail.**

Working with our highly experienced sea staff and supported by OYTS's friendly volunteers, the young participants develop skills in:- **Piloting, meteorology, hoisting and taking down the sails, helming the boat and parking it, planning the boat's passage, taking into account the tides and wind, rope work and galley skills (cooking for an eighteen strong team).** The young crew are split into two watches and the week culminates in a team challenge.

Participants on this programme are clearly vulnerable young people and we ensure that they are accompanied by youth leaders. We also operate the voyages for this project with a slightly smaller number

of younger people – ten rather than the usual twelve. Again, this is to increase the level of support for the young people taking part. Ocean Youth Trust Scotland also works closely with each partner organisation on preparation and evaluation for every voyage. Each young person has their own OYT Scotland Log Book in which they record their daily achievements and further goals with their support worker or one of our sea staff.

New Horizons Voyage North Lanarkshire

Eight young people from North Lanarkshire took part in the New Horizons project -setting sail from Oban on the 15th August 2016 and spending 5 days at sea. Because, youngsters on this programme all too frequently have chaotic lives, there can be last minute changes to group numbers. This was the case with the North Lanarkshire teenagers where the final crew consisted of eight disadvantaged youngsters down from the planned for ten teenagers. Despite this initial setback, they all threw themselves into the experience and worked hard to achieve the goals they had set themselves. They had a busy week, logging 129 miles and visiting Kerrera, Tobermory, and Loch Na Keal before returning to Oban on the 19th August. This is what the North Lanarkshire young people said about their experience:-

“I hope to do my bosun training so that I can come back and help other people learn the skills and gain qualifications I have gained with my time on board.”

“There were lots of things on the boat that I didn’t think I could do but now I realise I can.”

“I feel proud that I cooked for 16 people. Now I can go home and cook for my mum!”

“I really enjoyed the trip. I liked having responsibility and I worked well with others.”



With future goals of volunteering with OYT Scotland, being less stubborn, working more in a team, and keeping in touch with friends made on board, the confidence gained and lessons learned during the voyage made a difference for everyone in the group. All members of the crew earned the Royal Yachting Association’s Start Yachting Level 1 Award, the Scottish Qualification Authority’s Level 3 Communication qualification in Speaking, Listening and Writing.

New Horizons Group from Inverclyde

Nine young people from the Inverclyde area took part in a New Horizons voyage the following month. Departing from and returning to James Watt Marina, Greenock, the group set sail on 5th September for five days and clocked in 87 nautical miles. Calling in at Holy Loch, Lochranza, Tarbert and Rhu, changeable weather set the scene as the novice sailors took on all the challenges of sailing the 70 ft Oyster yacht Alba Venturer. Whilst on board, they learned to navigate and steer the boat, hoist and drop the sails, tie knots and cook for the whole crew. This is what the young Inverclyde crew said:-

“It was a great experience – I learned new skills, had good banter, and increased my confidence.”

“I enjoyed sailing and I feel like I really connected with everyone on board”

“I loved working as part of a team to hoist the sails – it was great to be part of something”



With future goals of travelling the world, completing OYT Scotland's Young Leaders Development Programme, improving their mental health, and getting into university, college and the armed forces, the confidence gained and skills learned during the voyage will make a difference whatever the future holds in store for these young people. All members of the crew received the Royal Yachting Association's Start Yachting Level 1 Award, and the Scottish Qualification Authority's Level 3 Speaking, Listening and Writing qualification. Also taking part in the voyage was group leader and youth worker Paul Ross. He had this to say about their voyage:-

"Linking in with the Ocean Youth Trust has been instrumental in supporting the young people who access the Youth Work Services team to recognise the leadership qualities they possess as well as formalise these through their day to day workings on a boat. The young people have shown the eagerness to develop a number of skills including increased confidence, willingness to push themselves out with their comfort zone and also establishing routines around sleep patterns, cooking and also maintaining a pleasant working environment i.e. cleaning. These skills will without doubt enhance opportunities in the future and have already set aspirations for a number of them including progression into further education, employment and also undertaking other training with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland."

East Renfrewshire New Horizons Voyage



The following week, our Challenge 72 yacht Alba Explorer welcomed young people from East Renfrewshire on board as part of the Ocean Youth Trust Scotland's New Horizons programme. Departing and returning into Greenock, the group set sail on 12th September for five days, sailing 140 nautical miles. They said:-

*"When I first came on, I was dreading it, but having done it, I am glad I came."
"I worked on my team building, and my self-confidence improved."
"I feel proud of myself and feel a real sense of achievement of staying until the end of the voyage."*

With future goals of becoming an OYT Scotland bosun, getting a job, and learning to drive, the confidence gained and skills learned during the voyage will make a difference whatever the future holds in store for these young people. Also taking part in the voyage were group leaders Carol McIlwaine and Paul Holland. Paul spoke about the voyage:

"It was a difficult start for the young crew due to an unavoidable delay and the unfamiliar surroundings of a yacht. Over the next few days they settled into a determined hard working, capable and often hilarious team. You could see them start to relax, unwind and grow in confidence. It was a truly memorable experience and hopefully just a taster of more to come for them."

All members of the crew received the Royal Yachting Association's Start Yachting Level 1 Award, and the SQA's Level 3 Speaking and Listening qualification.

Stonelaw High School, South Lanarkshire



“This experience was out of this world!” was how one young person described their time on board with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. The same week as the young people from East Renfrewshire set sail on our Challenge 72 vessel Alba Explorer, ten pupils from Stonelaw High School in South Lanarkshire embarked on their sailing adventure aboard our other yacht Alba Venturer. Also departing from James Watt Dock Marina in Greenock on Monday 12th September, the group was at sea for five days, covering 114 nautical miles. The young crew called in at Holy Loch, Lamlash, East Loch Tarbert and Rhu on their voyage

The Stonelaw High School participants all commented that the friendly and inclusive atmosphere on board really helped them to feel confident in developing their skills. One said that in future she’d remember her time on the boat when approaching new things, and would try to treat them the same way she did on the boat – **“positively and with full-on energy”**. Another discovered that he had cooking skills beyond his usual staple of toast, and was excited to put them into action back home!

All young people on the voyage achieved the Royal Yachting Association’s Start Yachting Level 1 Award and the SQA’s Level 3 Speaking and Listening qualification. They also set themselves goals to work towards on their return to shore. These included:-

Getting a part time job; Working harder in school and sticking to a routine; Believing in themselves more; Volunteering as a bosun with us; Getting the grades to get into college and university.

“At first it was hard to adjust to life on the boat, but now I love it and don’t want to leave!”

“I learned to listen to others better, which will help me get along better with my family and at school when I get home.”

“It was hard to live together in such a small space but we really all got on so well.”

“The thing I like most about being on board is the environment. We created a family here, and I’m really going to miss everyone.”

Also taking part in the voyage were Stonelaw High School teachers Annmarie Ford and Jennifer Carbery. They commented that the growth of confidence in the young people was noticeable even within the first 24 hours, and added:

“This was truly a once in a lifetime experience for our young people and something they clearly enjoyed. They learned new skills, gained confidence in themselves and came together as a team. As teachers it was wonderful to see them accomplish new challenges, make new friends and fully embrace their week on the boat. Back on land they continue to talk about their experience and tell anyone who asks that “It was the best week of my life!”

A massive thanks to The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights who helped to make these voyages such a success.

