

****NEW!!** Bike Maintenance Workshops**



We're very excited to have teamed up with Varis Training in Forres to deliver our first ever bike maintenance class for adults in November. Based at Varis, this two-session course will teach people the basics of bike maintenance, from fixing a puncture to adjusting brakes and tuning gears. We hope to run these sessions regularly in the future, as we have had a very positive response to our first course. For further information, please contact



Nancy Hurst at Varis on 01309 696932.

Funding Update

Firstly, Caroline and I would like to welcome one of our instructors, Dan, to the Fundraising Team. Dan's main priority is out there working with groups, but he is also putting in some time writing funding applications. Fundraising continues unabated, and the team can confirm that we have received funding from the following since our last newsletter: The Tudor Trust, Henry Smith Charity, Mary Salmond Trust, Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, Paterson Logan Charitable Trust, Gannochy Trust, North Face Explore Fund & Astor of Hever Trust. Your funding is critical to our work with the young people of Moray, so a "big thank you" to you all.

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Scottish Cabinet Visit

A group of young people from Hut 9 in Forres were pleased to show off their canoeing skills to the Scottish Cabinet in Cooper Park in Elgin in early September. The Cabinet was visiting the city as part of its Summer Roadshow, with a theme of "Active Nation". Following a reception at Elgin Youth Cafe, the Cabinet visited a range of activities based in Cooper Park, and Alec Salmond Posed for photos with the young people who were taking part in one off our 6-week programmes.



Viewpoint

The Nights are Drawing In!



Welcome to our 12th newsletter, which comes as the nights are drawing in and the clocks are changing. We've had a really busy Summer with a successful Summer Holiday programme, and a wide variety of young people and groups taking part in a mix of activities. Read on for the highlights of the last few months.....

Summer Holiday Activities: 4th July to 12th August 2011



Our Summer Holiday programme was very popular, with 79 different young people taking part in 25 different sessions, including surfing, climbing, canoeing, biking and archery. Thanks to everyone who took part.



Lossie & Milnes High

This summer we linked up with Milne's and Lossiemouth High schools to run four day sessions with two activities during each of those days. These sessions were for young people identified by their primary school as needing support to settle into secondary school. We wanted to positively challenge these young people during the activities, so we chose open canoeing and rock climbing, and it was a busy day for the youngsters with lots of coaching input. Luckily the weather played its part and we all had a great time. We are currently working with two of the young people in the Lossiemouth High Active Steps group, and it's good to know that they are getting on well in their new 'big' school.

Autumn 2011 Issue 12

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Outfit Purpose:
We engage young people through outdoor learning, supporting them to reach their potential



Cullen Youth Cafe Summer Activities

We were delighted to work with Cullen Youth Cafe for the first time this Summer. We ran a number of sessions over the holidays, giving the youngsters a chance to try activities they'd not done before, and one young person said "there was no way he was going to Spain next year with his parents, he was going with Outfit Moray!" We hope to do more with them in the future, and there is already talk of a multi-day expedition next Easter!



Moray Housing Partnership



This was the second summer that we've worked with Moray Housing Partnership (MHP), and tenants aged between 9 and 15 were offered free places on a first-come, first-served basis on one of the 3-day programmes which included rock climbing, abseiling, surfing, kayaking, archery and mountain biking.

MHP Housing Officer Hannah Burke, who organised the event, commented: "MHP has always been really impressed with the work Outfit Moray is doing in the Moray area. After the success of last year, we wanted the next generations of young people to be able to access this opportunity. We hope that we can continue to offer similar

schemes though out the year." We're very grateful to MHP for fully funding this programme, and for contributing to the purchase of our new minibus.

Bike Doctor

This Autumn saw Outfit staff run a "bike doctor" session at a primary school in Elgin. These sessions involve Outfit staff safety-checking pupils' bikes before the pupils undertake "Ready, Steady, Bike", a bike proficiency scheme, or a sponsored bike ride. The service is free of charge to the pupils and helps to encourage children to lead a more active, healthy lifestyle with simple solutions often making an unsafe bike road-worthy again. The day finished off with an opportunity for parents and teachers from the school to bring their bikes in to be "treated" by the doctor.

Buckie Area Schools Group

We recently worked with a group of children from different primary schools that feed into Buckie High School. The group was referred to us in order to work on behavioural, social and communication issues, and were challenged with various activities including canoeing, bodyboarding, archery and coasteering. The group worked hard to overcome the difficulties of both the activities, and of working in a new team, and by the end of the programme, they realised that they could achieve more as a group than they could individually.

Lossiemouth High School

A group from Lossiemouth High School was referred to us by their Support for Learning department, and contained young people with varying degrees of emotional and educational support needs. The group enjoyed a range of activities from canoeing to hill walking, and learnt real life skills such as working on communication and teamwork in a team challenge and learning and practising first aid. The group were all challenged by the programme, but came out having not only enjoyed it but having learnt a great deal about themselves and the other people in their group.



Hut 9



The Autumn term saw us working with Hut 9 at Forres Academy. A group of boys who were referred to us as a result of challenging behaviour in school learnt a lot over the 5 weeks as they took part in open canoeing, rock climbing, coasteering, kayaking and mountain biking. Maggie Bell (Hut 9) has always been a great supporter of the work we do here, and has helped spread the word on our Holiday Activity Programmes throughout the Academy.

We look forward to working with Hut 9 again and we wish the boys well in the future.

Quote

"I would only allow my daughter to do any of the activities she enjoyed this year with the complete confidence I have in your fantastic team of experienced, dedicated, understanding and caring instructors. They obviously enjoy helping young children reach their potential and it really shows." Parent

