



outfit
actively developing potential ■ moray

The Viewpoint

A New Look for a New Year!

Happy New Year, and welcome to our 10th Newsletter, which as you can see, has had a face-lift. We decided it was time for a change of name too, so thank you to everyone who came up with suggestions.

We had a busy Autumn term with a variety of groups, but the run-up to Christmas was covered in a thick blanket of snow and ice, and so a number of groups were cancelled. We are hoping to reschedule these in the New Year.



We hope you enjoy the new-look newsletter—if you have any comments or suggestions, please get in touch.

Queen's Award Presentation

Following our announcement in the June Newsletter that we had been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service for 'outstanding work in the local community', we were delighted to be presented with the award in October by Princess Anne. We are one of the first two voluntary organisations in Moray to have received the honour, and we would like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers who have run over 100 sessions with us in the last 12 months, allowing us to increase the number of young people we are able to work with.



Winter 2011 Issue 10

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



Quotes

“Lots of support from the staff allowed the girls to achieve the most from the experience”

Guide Leader, Forres

“Students were motivated and challenged, and developed confidence in their ability to try something new”

Secondary School Teacher

“I learnt that I can do things if I try really hard”

Young Person after Active Steps Programme

Funding Update

Fundraising can always be haunted by the spectre of failure and then the consequences of that failure. However, Jonathan Farnhill, a former fundraiser for Oxfam & a mentor of mine, once wrote “What I really can be excited about are the consequences of fundraising. Fundraising is about changing lives. Money is an essential means for us to be a caring, compassionate and just society. The real excitement for me is that without fundraising there would not be a caring, compassionate and just society.”

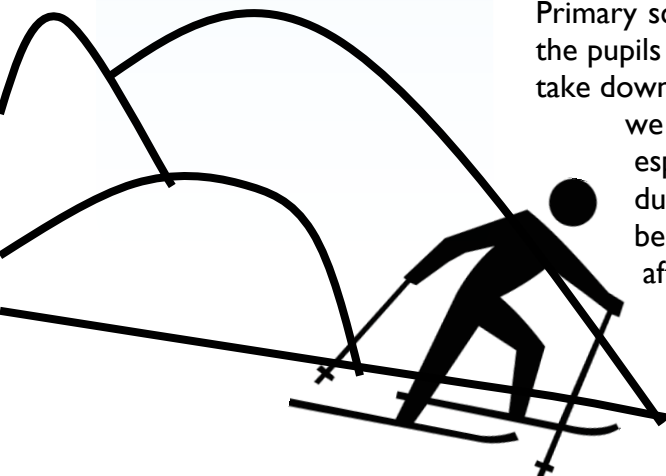
Those are fine words indeed and also nice to know that fundraisers make just as big an impact as those that work at the “coal face”.

Indeed, the last 3 months has seen us receive donations from The MacRobert Trust, YouthLink Cashback for Communities, Aberlour & Speyside Rotary Club, BIG 2014 Communities, Tay Charitable Trust, Stafford Trust, Whirlwind Trust, Angela Gallacher Memorial Fund, Agnes H Hunter’s Trust and JTH Charitable Trust. We are very grateful for the generosity of our funders.

Richard Nawrocki.

New Groups

We are delighted to be working with a number of new groups this term, including an all-girl group from Hut 9 in Forres, a night-biking group with Keith Grammar school, and a new Active Steps group with Elgin Academy. We will be rescheduling a number of groups that we had to cancel due to the snow before Christmas, including 2 bushcraft sessions with Hythehill Primary school in Lossiemouth, where the pupils will learn how to put up and take down custom-built shelters that we have designed and made especially for them to use during play times. We will also be re-running our night biking after school club in the spring.





Volunteer Focus

Our adult volunteer scheme has now been running for 4 years, and during that time we have worked with 49 volunteers who have helped us with 385 sessions. In return for leading and assisting groups, Outfit provides our volunteers with both in-house and national governing body award training, enabling them to develop their skills in the outdoors and build up their experience and qualifications as leaders of groups.

Chris McCann has been a volunteer for a year, and these are a few of his thoughts on our volunteer programme:

"Since joining the volunteer team at Outfit Moray in February 2010 I have been lucky enough to assist with a wide range of groups and activities. The Volunteer Scheme offers great benefits and helps me gain experience in working with young people and getting them engaged in outdoor activities and education.

The team working at Outfit Moray are very enthusiastic about what they are trying to achieve and have achieved. They are very focused and are more than willing to help you achieve what you want to as well, especially a healthy addiction to hot chocolate which seems to be included within their 5 a day! Gaining qualifications and training through Outfit will eventually help me to make the change of career I want, and without something like this it would be harder to do as I can still work and get the training and experience that is needed.

In summary, I feel the volunteer scheme is great, and I hope to be involved with Outfit for some time."



"The Volunteer Scheme offers great benefits and helps me gain experience working in with young people and getting them engaged in outdoor activities and education."

Outfit Launches Buying Online!

Following the success of our school holiday programmes and feedback from customers, we are very pleased to announce that we are in the process of adding the ability to book and pay for our programmes and sessions directly on our website, or by credit and debit card in the office. We recognise that this will make the whole process much easier and quicker for both our customers and Outfit, and we are looking forward to trialling it during our Easter Holiday programme. We were helped with funding for the decision-making process for this by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Moray Assisted Recruitment Scheme

Future Jobs Fund

Following the success of Outfit employing a young person for 6 months through the Future Jobs Fund

fairer
scotland
fund

scheme, we are very pleased to be taking part in the Moray Assisted Recruitment Scheme through the Moray Council, which will allow us to employ another young person as an Outdoor Activity Assistant for 12 months. The young person will gain experience and skills in all areas of Outfit Moray, including assisting groups, maintaining equipment and helping to manage the store. The young person will also be given the opportunity to study for an SVQ, and will gain qualifications through Outfit, including in-house awards and a first aid certificate.

We are currently interviewing for the post and hope to start on 1st February.

Take A Look At Our New Video!

Our AGM in November saw the premiere of the Outfit-Moray promotional film which was created for us by Will Burgess and the Moray Young Carers Digital Story project. The film gives you a flavour of the activities that Outfit has to offer, and we are really grateful to Will for his skills and patience in creating this for us.

To look at the film, visit: <http://www.vimeo.com/user5300142>

To find out more about the Moray Carers Digital Story project, visit:

<http://www.moraycarers.co.uk/digitalstories.htm>

Outfit-Moray
15 Shore Street
Lossiemouth
MORAY
IV31 6PB

Phone: 01343 549571
E-mail: info@outfitmoray.com
Web: www.outfitmoray.com



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

