



Newsletter



What a Winter!



Following an amazing winter of snow and freezing temperatures, we are starting to think about the warmer weather and spring activities including surfing, outdoor climbing, coastering, gorge walking, kayaking and canoeing. Although we still run a range of outdoor activities over the winter, we tend to stay out of the water until the outside temperature warms up a bit. We are looking forward to our exciting Easter holiday programme for young people aged between 9 and 16 - have a look at the activities below and download a booking form from our website.

March 2010

Number 7

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Easter School Holiday Programme

Easter Outdoor Activity Programme

9-11 year old programme

Date	Activity	Times
Tuesday 30th March	Morning Bike Skills	9.30am-12.30pm
Tuesday 30th March	Afternoon Body Boarding	1.30pm-4.30pm
Wednesday 31st March	Morning Climbing	9.30am-12.30pm
Wednesday 31st March	Afternoon Archery	1.30pm-4.30pm
Thursday 1st April	Full day Mountain Biking	9.30am-4.30pm
Friday 2nd April	Full day Kayak or Canoe	9.30am-4.30pm

12-15 year old programme

Date	Activity	Times
Tuesday 6th April	Morning Bike Skills	9.30am-12.30pm
Tuesday 6th April	Afternoon Body Boarding	1.30pm-4.30pm
Wednesday 7th April	Morning Climbing	9.30am-12.30pm
Wednesday 7th April	Afternoon Archery	1.30pm-4.30pm
Thursday 8th April	Full day Mountain Biking	9.30am-4.30pm
Friday 9th April	Full day Kayak or Canoe	9.30am-4.30pm

Cost:
£40 per day £25 per half day per person. 10% discount for booking 2 or more days.

Meet at our base in Lossiemouth. Booking essential

Outfit Purpose:

We engage young people through outdoor learning to support them to reach their potential

Who Have we Been Working With?

Hut 9—'Big Day' Biking fundraiser

Five youngsters from Hut 9 at Forres Academy have been successful in funding their own programme with Outfit Moray after funding from their school ran dry due to budget cuts. Outfit teamed up with Hut 9's Maggie Barrett to find a solution to the problem, and together we came up with a pilot programme for the group to raise money to fund



their own sessions. Programmes offered by Outfit are always highly subsidised but even so, the youngsters needed to find £240 to cover the six session block. Over the programme, the youngsters took part in climbing and abseiling, biking, archery, orienteering and bike orienteering in preparation for the 'Big Day', which was a mountain bike along the Dava Way, a popular 36 km route following the old Grantown-on-Spey to Forres railway line. The team worked hard over the six weeks to raise the funds by any positive means possible! One of the youngsters gave a talk at the Outfit Moray A.G.M which rocketed the boys' efforts by £130.

The 10th December brought a cracking day for the 'Big Day' out making the ride a real joy. In freezing morning temperatures we left Grantown at 10:20 and enjoyed crystal clear views and frozen tracks most of the day, arriving back at Hut 9 for 3:20 in the afternoon, an hour faster than we thought! The lads did extremely well and all managed the distance with very little difficulty and we're sure they all enjoyed a good night sleep!

Buckie Active Schools Group



In January, Outfit started working with an all-girl group from four primary schools in the Buckie area. The young people have a range of additional support needs, and are taking part in eight different activities over the term including archery, climbing and bush craft. The key aims of the programme are to build confidence and improve teamwork, and the programme has been partly funded by

the Big Lottery Fund 2014 Communities fund.

Quote from a teacher when asked the most significant difference they thought Outfit had made to a young person:

"Seeing a withdrawn, vulnerable pupil 'sparkle' with excitement after Outfit sessions"

Bike Skills with Grampian Police

During the winter months, Outfit has teamed up with Grampian Police to take part in Operation Nightlight, an initiative aimed at helping people to be as safe as possible on their bikes on the roads during the winter. The Police have visited a number of secondary schools and carried out free safety checks on young peoples' bikes, while Outfit ran bike skills sessions to show young people how to have better control over their bikes.



New Fleet of Kayaks



Outfit is delighted to announce that we have been able to purchase a new fleet of kayaks, thanks to funding from Awards for All which has allowed us to buy 15 kayaks, a trailer, buoyancy aids and helmets. Previously we had to hire kayaks to run sessions which increased our costs, and sometimes meant we were unable to run activities. We now have the flexibility to run sessions whenever we want, and the kayaks we have chosen can be used in swimming pools, on rivers, lochs and calm seas. Kayaks are great for a wide variety of groups, and it is easy for everyone to master the basics and have a lot of fun in a short space of time.



Raise Money for Outfit Through Ebay & Easyfundraising



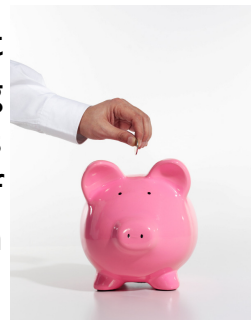
Ebay Giving Works is an innovative way of raising funds for Outfit every time you sell an item or shop on Ebay. Simply choose to donate a percentage of your sale or purchase transaction to a charity and choose Outfit from the drop down box.

Don't forget to use the Easyfundraising website too - log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and choose Outfit as your charity. Access your online shops through the website., and the shops give a percentage of their proceeds to Outfit.

“Just wanted to thank you once again for a great day's canoeing. We all really enjoyed it and will definitely try something similar again. We loved the games and even the falling in! Thanks for your patience and help with everything,” Quote from a family following an open canoe day.

Funding Update

While January and February are always quiet months when it comes to receiving money, it is our busiest time for funding applications and preparing evaluation reports for our funders as we near the year end. We have already completed in excess of 20 funding applications as many Charitable Trusts sit in March/April to make their decisions.



Since our last newsletter we have received £5000 from the Agnes H Hunter's Trust with a further £5000 pledged for the next financial year, £5354 from YouthLink Scotland, £996 from the Scottish Community Foundation's Women's Fund, £375 from a local company CM Design and £375 from Rhona and Tam Smith, a personal contribution. A big thank you to you all.

Volunteer Focus



Moray Goodfellow has been volunteering for Outfit for nearly a year, and at 16 is our youngest volunteer. He comes into our store to help out with maintenance and odd jobs once a week after school, and also assists our instructors regularly during our school holiday activity programmes. He is a keen mountain biker and runner, and regularly competes in cross-country fell-running races.

Moray first found out about Outfit when he took part in an activity week organised by Findhorn Village Centre in 2006. He then took part in a mountain bike session with his school, and enjoyed his experience so much that we asked him to speak at our AGM about his experience with Outfit. He took part in our first school holiday activity programme with his brother Calum and sister Arran, and following this, Moray decided that he wanted to get more involved in the work that Outfit does, and has helped us out ever since.

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