



End of Year Report 22/23



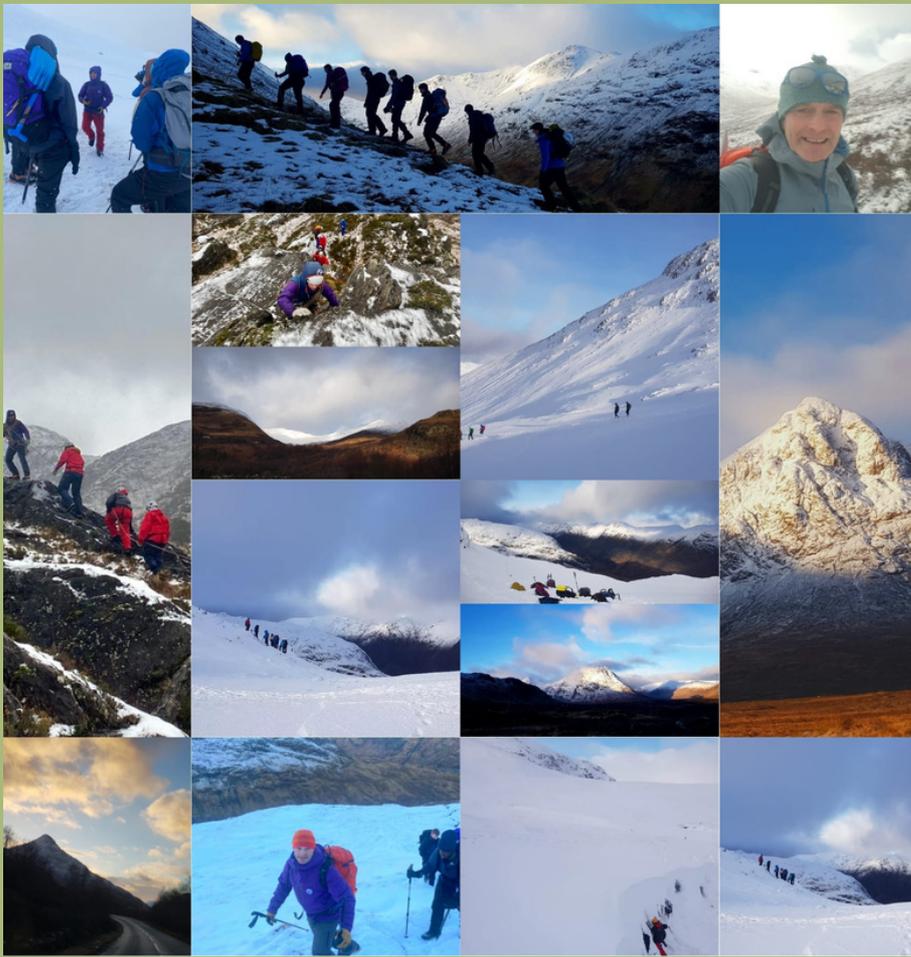
## OVERVIEW

- Over 300 young people benefitted
- Normal service resumes
- Winter residentials and summer sensations
- Local recognition
- Arts in the outdoors
- Gratitude to our funders this year

### Residentials are back!

At last we are so happy to report that our residential programme has resumed. After a challenging few years learning how to adapt our way of working in line with the pandemic restrictions, our staff and young people had a brilliant year getting back to the benefits of our residential activity courses. This year we ran 13 residentials with young people from the local area and from as far away as Cornwall.





## Winter residential programme



Following a successful bid to the Argyll and Bute Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Fund we were able to run a winter programme of residentials for 63 local young people from Oban High School, St Columba's Primary School and Oban Youth Cafe. Staff and young people braved the rain, wind and snow to take part in winter activities.

### Key stats

During this year we have:

- Delivered 13 residentials
- Worked with 292 young people from all over the country
- Delivered 129 days of activities

## Summer sensations

Every August we deliver coasteering sessions in partnership with Oban Atlantis leisure centre; this is part of Summer Sensations; an annual programme run by Oban Atlantis for P6/7 pupils (ages 11-13) making the transition to Oban High School. Our sessions were a great success with 48 young people attending - it gives pupils a chance to have some fun while getting to know their potential classmates and taking part in physical exercise.

### Feedback from young people who attended our residentials:

*It was a fantastic opportunity to build our team skills and self care. I am SO glad I came!*

*I've challenged myself and I've achieved so much. It's been very fun and adventurous with all the activities and peaceful with getting away*

*Very fun. Really nice instructors who encouraged me to do stuff I wouldn't normally do. New friendships and making friendships STRONGER!*

*It was really, really, really, really, really, really amazing! AND cool!*

Our improved evaluation process has been so useful and had a positive impact on how we shape our courses. Thanks to everyone who has given their feedback.

# Making the news!



## Pupils in pursuit of adventure

Oban High School pupils took on treks in snow and rock climbing challenges in pursuit of adventure.

The students were taking part in a week's residential trip as part of a partnership with Hebridean Pursuits in Glen Coe.

The adventure was all about improving benefits to health and wellbeing and building on skills such as problem-solving and communication.

Headteacher Peter Bain said: "The group experienced some challenging activities and spoke about how they had each developed their resilience, team-building and leadership skills to a significant degree, as well as having a lot of fun."



Oban High School pupils took on rock climbing challenges and went on treks across the snow.

We were proud to see our work celebrated in the Oban Times recently, reporting on one of our residentials with Oban High School. It's great to get this recognition in the local community.

## Arts in the outdoors

As well as being a highly experienced mountaineering instructor, our Course Instructor Andy has a BA Hons in Fine Art Painting. We have been putting his skills to good use this year with residentials combining outdoor physical activity with creative arts - using art as another way for young people to engage with the environment and learn about themselves.

Our unique creative arts courses and residentials use the outdoors based in Glencoe. In addition to Andy we use Fine Artists and Art Therapists to facilitate the courses.



Andy demonstrating an alternative way to hold your paintbrush!



## Our groups this year

This year we have worked with the following groups and partners:

Oban High School, Tiree High School, Oban Youth Cafe, St Columba's Primary School, TYKES young carers (East Sutherland), Space (Edinburgh). In conjunction with Camp and Trek: Inverclyde Young Carers, Fersands and Fountain (Aberdeen), & Kernow Young Carers (Cornwall). Also Lambhill Stables (Glasgow), Hillhead High School (Glasgow) & Oban Atlantis Leisure Centre.



We couldn't have done any of this amazing work without our brilliant staff - a special thank you to Fiona who has just completed her first year as our Admin and Finance Lead - Fiona has been busy getting to know our systems and also all our groups and is looking forward to working with them more over the coming years. Also a shout out to all our freelancers who enable us to work with more young people than our small team can manage. We are really excited about the year ahead which includes a busy year of residential; taking part in a new working group tackling antisocial behaviour in Oban, & making new contacts with other youth organisations in Argyll and Bute and finding ways we can work together to benefit the young people who need us.

*Huge thanks to all our donors and funders who have supported us this year - we couldn't have done it without you.*

Adapt and Thrive, Bartlett Foundation, Calmac Community Fund, Charles Skey Charitable Trust, Community Led Local Development Fund - Argyll and Bute, Dr Guthrie's Association, Edinburgh Children's Holiday Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, John Watson Trust, Maple Trust, Merchants House, Oban Common Good Fund, Pleasance Trust, Pumphouse Trust, Rank Foundation, Robert Barr's Charitable Trust, Stafford Trust, & Individual donors and supporters