



End of Year Report 23/24



OVERVIEW

- Over 400 young people benefitted
- Camp & Trek news
- Natural inspiration
- Incredible feedback
- Gratitude to our funders

Our work

This year we have supported an amazing **429 young people** over **115 days** and we have run **15 residential**s. We have worked with young people from **11 organisations**, often with several different groups of young people from the same organisation - such as Oban High School who we were able to work with on our winter residential programme once again, thanks to funding from the Argyll & Bute Community Led Local Development fund.



Outdoor learning adventures for one of our younger groups in December 23



Camp & Trek closure

Last year the charity Camp & Trek, based on the Isle of Skye, made the difficult decision to close and we are hugely grateful that they chose us as the charity to transfer their remaining funds to. Camp & Trek were one of our long standing partners we had worked with over the years and had sent many groups of young carers on activity residentials with us. We shared the belief that providing young people with the opportunity to spend time in Scotland's beautiful countryside helps develop and build their resilience for all the challenges that life presents. We have valued our relationship with Camp & Trek and want to offer them a huge thank you on behalf of the young people who will benefit from their generous donation.

[One young person] said he never knew we had such a beautiful country and wants to do well at school to be able to travel more and experience different things.

The inspiring outdoors

The beautiful landscapes we are lucky enough to encounter on our courses provide the inspiration and a connection to nature that just isn't possible for many of our young participants in their daily lives.

These natural places give young people a break from screens and technology, and allow the time and space for reflection on life choices; as well as a break from the social constraints that come with school politics and social media pressure. For many, this is a time away from daily anxieties and from the things that have a negative effect on self-confidence. Our feedback shows that when young people return from one of our courses their confidence is higher and they feel more able to take on challenges.



They have learned that they can push their limits and do anything they set their minds to.



Incredible feedback!

Occasionally we receive additional feedback that we wanted to share with you all. Last year the CIC Bee Well Connected (Bradford) brought a group of young people on a residential with us and they had such an amazing time they wanted to share their experience - they really valued that we provided quality over quantity. The following are some excerpts from the feedback we received:

The lasting impact for these children is massive.

You have given the most disadvantaged children in Bradford the opportunity they would never have if it wasn't for you guys. You have built grit, resilience, teamwork and created a sense of family for these children.

Within my work we have used other outdoor adventure companies/charities but always come back to you guys as you by far stand out the best.

Many of the young participants who came are autistic and face additional challenges in their lives; the majority had not been away on holiday before. Bee Well reported the young people had made "lasting friendships", experienced things they had never experienced before like "seeing the sea, mountains, swimming in the sea...and feeling part of a family", one young participant's grandma said "this trip has changed his life".

You guys have taught these children and shown them there are amazing things out there; you guys have opened a new world for these kids.



Our groups this year

This year we have worked with the following groups and partners: Tykes Young Carers, Oban High School, St Columba's Primary School, Inverclyde Young Carers, West Lothian Youth Action project, Space at the Broomhouse Hub, Fersands and Fountain, Cornwall Carers, Dunbeg Primary School, Bee Well Connected, Allstar Youth, and Oban High School Adventure Club.

Our partners this year include Atlantis Leisure, Oban Youth Cafe, Police Scotland, Argyll & Bute Council, Live Argyll, Hope2Oban, Fire Scotland, Adventure Oban, and Oban Young Carers. We are looking forward to another year of working closely with Oban High School and other schools in Argyll & Bute so that more young people can benefit from spending time in our beautiful Scottish countryside.



A huge thank you to our staff, Andy and Fiona, and our brilliant team of freelancers who we have worked with throughout the year. And also a huge thank you to our Board of Trustees, working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep us on the right track!

We already have a jam packed year ahead with groups booked in from near and far to experience exciting outdoor activities here in Scotland.

Keep up to date with our (Hebridean) pursuits (!) by following us on social media:



www.facebook.com/hebridean.pursuits

[hebridean_pursuits](https://www.instagram.com/hebridean_pursuits)

*And lastly to all our donors and funders who have supported us this year,
thank you - we couldn't have done it without you.*

The Alchemy Foundation; Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership; Camp & Trek;
The Charles Skey Charitable Trust; Community Led Local Development Fund, Argyll &
Bute; Garfield Weston Foundation; The Hedley Foundation; The Hugh Stenhouse
Foundation; Pump House Trust; Scottish Children's Lottery Trust

Thank you also to our individual donors.