

## “Watersports for all”



### All-Aboard's 2017 Top Ten Moments

#### 1. Inclusive School Games

This year we had our biggest Inclusive School Games where students from 10 schools learnt to sail, row or canoe over 6 weeks. Their skills were put to test during a day's Regatta in June, where all students competed against rival schools. Unlike most sport competitions, the Inclusive School Games requires students with Special Education Needs (SEN) to be included. This encourages the



involvement of these students in a mainstream sporting activity, allowing them to be seen as an equal amongst their peers and represent their school in sport – something that traditionally does not occur in sport.



This year we had students with profound to mild educational needs competing with and amongst mainstream students. This is the embodiment of our ethos. We are delighted at the success of this year.



#### 2. Almost 10,000 volunteer hours

It is no secret that we would not be able to function with the support and dedication of our volunteers. This year alone, our volunteers have clocked almost 10,000 hours! We simply would not

be able to operate without their support. Our volunteers amaze us every year. Thank you so much to all who volunteer with us.

### 3. Over 10,000 attendances\*

This has certainly been our busiest year. With almost double the number of attendances coming through our doors during our summer months, we have had our hands full delivering sessions to a wide range of individuals.

This is a huge achievement especially as we estimate 45% percent of our participants is believed to be individuals with additional needs. This year not only have we continued to reach individuals with additional support needs, we have reached more individuals aged over 50 years, and schools from deprived areas.

\*attendances are the number of visits we have, not the number of individuals visiting. i.e. Barbra attends an open rowing session every week for a year. This would be counted as 52 attendances.

### 4. Assistant Instructors are trained

This summer Chris Queree and his team of volunteers worked hard to train up a group of their Race Squad members to become Assistant Instructors (AI's). Chris Queree designed the course to replicate a Dinghy Instructor course. This provided All-Aboard with a group of young people who trained to a higher level and showed them the level required to pass a Dinghy Instructor course.



Over the summer, the AI's were a magnificent help, especially with the growing demand we had this year. Thank-you very much for your hard work and support.

## 5. SUP comes to All-Aboard

This summer All-Aboard took a delivery for 9 SUP boards and 1 Mega SUP. At the beginning of the year, we asked if you wanted us to introduce this sport. The response was overwhelming. Several of our paddle sport instructors completed the SUP instructor course allowing us to deliver SUP Tasters, group sessions and birthday parties.

SUP was a very popular choice and continues to be even in the winter! We are delighted to introduce this sport to All-Aboard and reach more people.



In 2018 we will be delivering our SUP family and over 18 sessions in addition to our multisport taster sessions.

## 6. Duke of Edinburgh

This year we delivered our first Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Expedition! The DofE Scheme aims to inspire and transform young people's lives through a programme of different levels of awards, where the youth is required to volunteer, participate in sport, and complete an expedition, for a certain time-scale.



Thanks to funding from Quartet Community Fund, we were able to work closely with students from Warmley Park School to complete their D of E Award by teaching them how to paddle and then take them on their canoe expedition trip down the River Wye.

This trip was led by our instructors Glyn Norris and Steve Holland who had a great time taking the students down the river. "It was a great day and a real achievement for the pupils".

Having worked closely with Warmley Park, a Special Needs School, we are delighted that they were the first school we worked with as a DofE expedition deliverer and we are especially thrilled at the achievement of the pupils, all of whom showed great determination and gained their DofE Award.



## 7. Donations & Eddystone Pursuit Race

This year we have received some very generous donations. Early on the



season we received a considerable donation from David Bowers, a member of Chew Valley Sailing Club. This was funded by his previous employer's (Sitec) charitable trust, The Medlock Trust, to be used for disability watersports. It was agreed by David and the Trustees



that this generous donation would be used to fund our new and much needed accessible powerboat, named Andiamo ('lets go' in Italian!). Pioneer powerboats have a drop down front, allowing wheelchairs users and individuals with limited movement to easily come aboard and enjoy our harbour trips. Our powerboats are a fundamental part of our fleet, so the addition of this new boat will enable us to deliver more trips to meet the growing numbers in disability watersports and reach more groups in the community.

The engine for Andiamo was funded by a donation from Andy Homes (formerly business owner of Wet n'Windy) and his family. Andy was a great support to us in the beginning, donating many boats and kit to allow us to continue delivering sailing to children and enable us to broaden the populations we targeted.

In addition to these great donations, a team of staff and volunteers won the Eddystone Pursuit Race. Jill, Ronnie, Simon, Nicola, Duncan, Sarah, Glyn and Tilly certainly showed what All-Aboard can do, as over 120 charities competed for the title, '2017 Winner of Eddystone Lighthouse Pursuit', in the South West's largest charitable sailing fundraising event. This event raised an incredible £73,565.12 for charities which 'benefit the human condition'. Thanks to your generous donations, we raised over £4,000 for All-Aboard Watersports! This will help us to purchase the latest wheelyboat model and retire 'Aiming High'; continuing our regular harbour trips for schools, dementia homes and Sailability groups.



## 8. 50+ Sessions

This year we have had a great turn-out for our CSAF 50+ sessions. We have delivered sailing, canoeing and rowing all year, and have recently introduced 50+ kayaking/canoeing drop-in sessions and women's only and mixed rowing sessions. With increasing demand for 50+ sessions, we are thrilled to have a large number of over 50's to access the water, the oldest being 96 years old!.

## 9. Re-organisation of boat park

Over seven days in November, the Shed Men worked non-stop from early morning till sun down to complete the new boat storage. Andy designed and co-ordinated the build with support from other volunteers. It is the first time that we have been able to keep our equipment under cover to prolong its active life. Together with the new build, other volunteers have been actively cleaning and sorting out redundant equipment in the boat yard. It is hoped that this will enable easier access to equipment and show it off to best advantage. We are now ready to take delivery of new sailing boats with old boats being sold off.



## 10. Hartley's Arrive

We recently accepted a delivery of Hartley boats! As part of our plan to renew kit, we sold our Laser Picos to make room for the Harlteys.

These boats are slightly bigger and more stable than Picos. This will make it easier for beginners or sailors with mobility issues and there is more room for instructors to double up children in them.

We hope they will be a positive addition to the fleet and look forward to putting them into action in the new session.

## December Updates

### Avon River Trip:

Despite the cold weather, some volunteers and instructors canoed, rowed and took powerboats down the River Avon, earlier this month. This was to trial the possibility of taking canoeists down the river in the future. It was a great day out on the water, and was a great chance for some of our volunteers to improve their skills by driving down the River Avon.



**Groups in 2017:** Upon reflection we have had a wide range of groups attend All-Aboard this year. We welcomed back St. Christopher's School, Headway and Silva Care, and worked with new groups such as Teenage Cancer Trust and Special Friends. With approximately 45% of the annual attendees having additional needs, we are delighted at the success of the year.

The communication project which we delivered at the beginning of the year has helped and continues to help a lot of our service users. We have had very positive feedback on the resources and communication of our volunteers and instructors, so thank you to everyone for implementing it!

**Thankyou message:** We would like to thank the public for their continuing support, but particularly our instructors, and volunteers. They show great passion and dedication for our centre which is very humbling. We cannot run our Centre without the support from our volunteers and cannot develop our Centre without the work from our instructors. Thank you so much, we have enjoyed working with you and hope to see you in 2018.

# Last Minute Christmas presents!

## Christmas Presents! - Gift Voucher



Why not make someone's Christmas this year by purchasing a Gift Voucher for them to have some fun on one of our courses or try out an activity. Vouchers are valid for a year. You can purchase our vouchers by visiting:

<http://www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk/courses/course/gift-voucher-2017/>.

## RYA Books

We have RYA Syllabus and Logbooks for sailing, powerboat and safety boat courses. We even have activity sailing book for youths! Why not make your loved ones Christmas by aiding their knowledge of sailing or powerboating by buying one of our RYA books. Click here to buy:

<http://www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk/courses/course/royal-yachting-association-rya-books/>

## All-Aboard Merchandise

Why not look the part and purchase our All-Aboard t-shirts, lanyards and bags. They make a great present. Click here: <http://www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk/courses/course/all-aboard-t-shirts-and-lanyard/>

## Easyfundraising Reminder – Make your Christmas shopping count!

By Sarah Harding – Finance Officer

You can support us when doing your Christmas shopping!

All Aboard Watersports is registered as a good cause with Easy Fundraising. This is a website that will raise donations for us whenever you shop online – at absolutely no extra cost to you! Please try and use this if you are shopping online – particularly with Christmas fast approaching.



There are nearly 3,000 online retailers who will make a donation to us, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the trainline, Sainsbury's ..... and it doesn't cost you anything. It's really simple, all you have to do is:

## **1. Join.**

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allaboardwatersports1/> and sign up for free. If you are searching for us the name is “All-Aboard Watersports”

## **2. Shop.**

Every time you shop online, go to Easyfundraising.org.uk first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping (even better and simpler is just to use the “donation reminder” – see below)

## **3. Raise.**

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

**AND – even better is to download the Donation Reminder using this link:**

<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/>

If you have anything that you would like to be considered to go into the newsletter – please send to [admin@allaboardwatersport.sc.uk](mailto:admin@allaboardwatersport.sc.uk) by the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month.



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