

A group of about seven people are standing on a pebbly beach, looking towards a large, craggy rock formation in the distance. They are wearing safety gear, including helmets (red and white) and jackets (black, yellow, and blue). The scene is outdoors, with a cloudy sky and a body of water visible in the background. The rock formation is a prominent feature, with a large, rounded rock in the center. The overall atmosphere is one of a field trip or a safety training exercise.

venturetrust

Reflections
ANNUAL REVIEW 2014-15

This year we said we would:

Reach more people

For the first time, over 1,100 people benefited from our personal and social development programmes – a significant step forward in supporting some of Scotland's hardest-to-help people, who struggle to engage with mainstream services and are often most in need. Referrals for support continue to outstrip available places and our capacity and resources to meet demand remains challenging. In launching our strategy, VT2020, we are committed to supporting over 1,200 people per year by 2020, delivering high quality and impactful personal and social development programmes which motivate, inspire and enable people to acquire core life skills for more positive futures.

Help women caught up in offending

With support from the Big Lottery, we expanded our innovative Next Steps programme to support 227 women caught up in the Scottish criminal justice system. This three year programme offers community and wilderness-based personal development, coupled with peer mentoring and the use of photography to support women to address challenging life circumstances and reduce offending behaviour. We have also delivered personal development provision for women through the Shine Women's Mentoring Service partnership supported by the Scottish Government's Reducing Reoffending Change Fund.

Develop our employability support

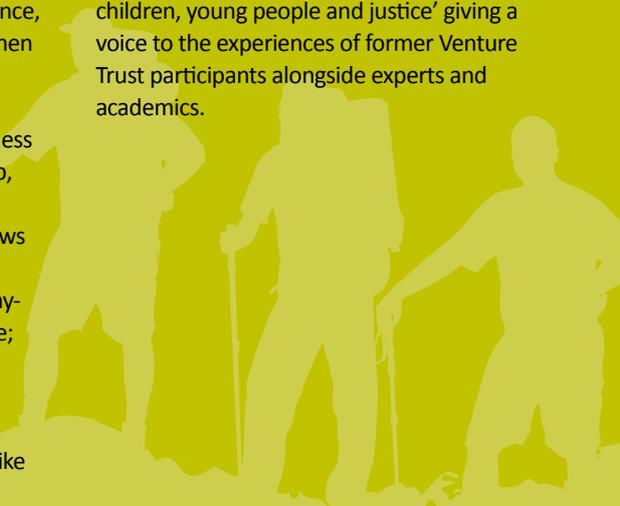
We were delighted to achieve Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) approved centre status and launch our first SQA-accredited qualifications for participants. For many young people who come to Venture Trust, committing to undertaking a qualification represents a major step forward in their own development as well as a valuable addition to their CV. During the year, 80 participants also successfully completed the John Muir Discovery Awards as part of their wilderness journey. Another aspect of evolving our programmes this year, was the embedding of community-based group work sessions focused on employability skills and transfer of learning to enable participants to present themselves with confidence, and move closer to the job market.

Enhance our partnerships with business

By partnering to co-develop and deliver employability support and work experience, we have sought to enhance and strengthen opportunities for our participants and partners. During the year, we delivered three volunteer days with Scottish Business in the Community, Lloyds Banking Group, and Scottish Widows, supporting 17 participants in preparing for job interviews and CV writing. We also deepened our partnership with Barclays to offer a bothy-based employability training programme; created work placements with Network Rail, and launched 'Build a Bike', a bike construction and maintenance training course, in conjunction with Edinburgh Bike Station and Jobcentre Plus.

Demonstrate impact

A key facet of our work is to capture the impact of our support: for individuals, their families and communities. We also seek to demonstrate the socio-economic benefits in people becoming more productive, and more self-reliant, addressing offending behaviour and associated costs of criminal proceedings and incarceration. As such, we are committed to three-monthly monitoring of each participant's progress whilst with Venture Trust. This is complemented by regular external evaluation and engagement with referring partners to robustly assess the value and impact of our services, and importantly, to highlight areas for development. We also set out to further our network of support and are grateful for the 1,050 hours contributed by volunteers. During the year we were successful in raising the profile of our work and the people we support by co-hosting a youth justice Scottish Parliament event 'Living It: children, young people and justice' giving a voice to the experiences of former Venture Trust participants alongside experts and academics.



Looking ahead, in 2015-16, we aim to:

Support military veterans

This year, subject to confirmation of funding, we will launch a new 'Positive Futures' programme targeting support towards military early service leavers and veterans. Working in partnership, this programme will support ex-military personnel to overcome the challenges of transitioning to civilian life. By focusing on nurturing life skills such as problem solving, communication and forging positive relationships, individuals will be supported to address issues including homelessness, estrangement from family members, and overcoming alcohol and substance misuse. This programme will offer the opportunity to gain renewed purpose in civilian life, including opportunities to mentor young people and share their knowledge and experience, enabling mentors and mentees to make and sustain positive changes in their lives.

Enhance and expand our employability provision

Capitalising on success in 2014, we will expand our employability provision to deliver vocational training and qualifications. This will enable participants to progress into further training, education or jobs based in the outdoors such as construction, infrastructure, rural businesses and adventure tourism. In 2015, we aim to offer up to 20 placements working closely with sector partners to deliver a comprehensive programme of employability skills, learning, and SQA-accredited vocational qualifications. These programmes focus on building upon life skills to form the foundation blocks for job readiness. This could be utilising and encouraging leadership skills developed with peers, to listening skills or seeing a task through. All life skills can be turned into something positive with the right opportunities.

Devise new 'needs led' programmes

We will be proactive in nurturing partnerships in order to devise innovative pilot programmes which support individuals, and address a gap in provision. Our niche in intensive wilderness-based programmes underpinned by personal development techniques is pivotal to sustained behaviour change. Taking people out of their familiar environment, and away from peer pressure, offers participants a chance to take stock, to re-evaluate, and to see that it is possible to make positive changes to their future. We will evaluate these programmes, encouraging participants to share their experience. This will form further evidence of our impact, and the efficacy of our approach. It will also enable us to disseminate insights with stakeholders to secure further support, and influence policy and plans.

Accelerate growth of our social enterprise

Venture Mòr is now in its third year of operating Hartfield House as a Scottish Hostelling affiliate youth hostel on the Applecross peninsula, Wester Ross. During the year we will continue to invest in the fabric of the building and infrastructure to ensure the hostel offers high quality, affordable accommodation for visitors. We plan to contribute to the local community and economy by creating and sustaining local jobs. We will also launch a paid trainee programme for people facing multiple barriers to employment, enabling them to gain valuable work experience and qualifications in hospitality and outdoor adventure sectors. We will seek to generate interest and bookings for Venture Mòr's adventure and wellbeing experiences and holidays, moving towards trading sustainably. We will achieve this through partnership working, and raising our profile through marketing and PR, both on and offline.

Be fit for purpose

Over the last three years, we have implemented a significant programme of organisational change to deliver effective and increasingly efficient services. With support from LandAid, Wooden Spoon and Clothworkers' Foundation we will make best use of our new National Participant Centre at Stirling. This purpose-built Centre will anchor our wilderness based operations, and support participants to commence and complete this phase of their development journey. Over time, we anticipate that the Centre will offer the potential to showcase our work for partners and potential supporters, highlighting the distinctiveness and effectiveness of our personal development programmes.

This year we also plan to deliver our first leadership programme for aspiring and current managers, thereby enhancing our organisational capability and capacity, particularly in navigating an increasingly complex policy and funding environment. We are committed to ensuring that Venture Trust is adaptive and resilient to deliver our strategy.

Find out more about our plans for the year ahead at www.venturetrust.org.uk/ambition



“They’re more motivated to change: it’s almost like they’ve decided to address whatever the issue was - whether it was about re-establishing contact with a family member, alcohol issues... I’ve seen a phenomenal difference - they really matured.”

Referring partner

Chair’s remarks

The Board of Trustees of Venture Trust wish to acknowledge the organisation’s tremendous achievement in reaching more people than ever before. Together we are focused on assisting those participating in a Venture Trust programme to discover new strengths, learn valuable life skills, and attain qualifications in order to transform their future. This has only been achieved because of a dedicated team of highly skilled professionals that nurture and encourage the personal commitment to change of all those who walk through the Venture Trust doors.

My thanks go to our network of partners and supporters, and your willingness to support some of those most in need, giving them the opportunity and the belief that they can go on to have a better life.

The imminent changes for the Scottish criminal justice system and continued pressure on public funds are key influences in shaping the work of the organisation. For 2015-16, we will expand our work with people in the criminal justice system, young people aged 16-30 and launch a tailored, needs-led programme for military service leavers. By working effectively in partnership, galvanising support and being resilient, we aim to deliver on our strategic intent and support more people in need.

Trustees’ statement

These summarised financial statements incorporate all the operations of Venture Trust, and are intended to give the reader an assessment of the overall financial position but are not the statutory accounts. This information is taken from the audited financial accounts, upon which the auditors’ opinion was unqualified. The full report and accounts were approved by the trustees on 25 August 2015 and have been submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, the Registrar of Companies, and the Charity Commission. A copy is freely available from Venture Trust’s website, on request from the Venture Trust office, or on the Charity Commission’s website.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Mairi Brackenridge, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Fundraising and Finance

What we've raised

- Our income in 2014-15 was £2,574,781.
- The majority of our income comes from grants, with 34% of our income (2014: 32%) from statutory bodies, 61% (2014: 55%) grants from the National Lottery, trusts and foundations.
- For 2015-16 we anticipate Venture Mòr contributing more significantly and we will continue working towards attracting a wider network of supporters and voluntary donations, providing greater stability and diversity of funds.

What we've spent it on

- We spent £1,072,281 on our outreach and community activities plus a further £1,214,479 on the delivery of personal development journeys in the wilderness.
- Continuing our commitment to reducing our costs, we reduced expenditure on travel, vehicle costs and occupancy by being more energy efficient, achieving savings on property rent and reviewing suppliers to maximise value for money.

“This was a great opportunity for us all to be able to work on a project that had a clear and direct benefit to individuals who were keen to make changes in their lives. It was hugely rewarding to see how we were able to use some of our professional experiences in an immediately useful and hopefully lasting manner. I personally got a lot out of the day and was proud to be able to support our local communities in this way.”

Lloyds volunteer

Our year in figures



6,900

Meals cooked on expeditions



3,228

Kilometres pedalled



1,050

Hours volunteered



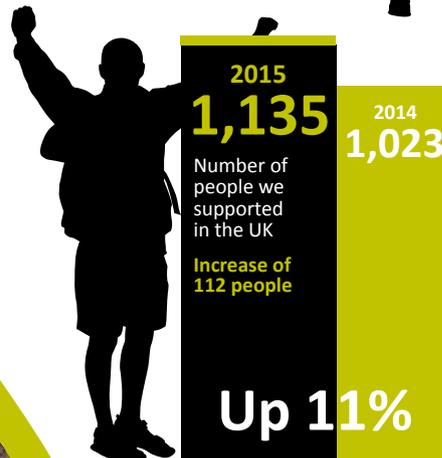
38

Number of wilderness journeys



1

London Marathon Fundraiser





“It gave me purpose and routine, it made me feel important, like I was able to achieve anything! They don’t give up on you, which makes you carry on, because you know there’s people there that see something in you that you don’t! It allows you to explore new horizons and face challenges head on and come through them better, happier, and stronger!”

Participant

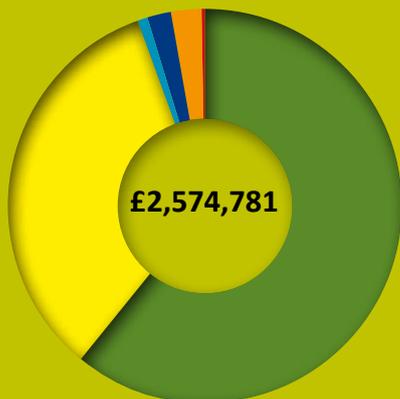
Our supporters

- Continued long-term support from Inspiring Scotland and the Scottish Government remains fundamental in enabling us to deliver effective programmes and achieving positive impact.
- We have received vital support from trusts and foundations including Comic Relief, The Souter Charitable Trust, The Volant Charitable Trust, The Gannochy Trust, The Rank Foundation, The Robertson Trust, Porticus UK, Joseph Rank Trust, BBC Children In Need, Leathersellers Company Charitable Fund, The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust, LandAid, St James’s Place Foundation, Wooden Spoon, The Imlay Foundation, Agnes Hunter Trust, Peter Harrison Foundation and many others.
- We are grateful to the Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery for supporting our work and the Lottery’s Coastal Communities Fund to help us grow our social enterprise at Applecross, Wester Ross.
- Thank you to statutory partners including Local Authorities, Edinburgh & Midlothian Pipeline, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Department for Work and Pensions (Jobcentre Plus).
- We were delighted that more companies chose to support us this year, and special thanks go to Barclays Wealth, Network Rail and to Craigie’s Farm, for their donations, events, and in-kind support.
- Sincere thanks to every single one of our individual supporters including those who have abseiled, run, trekked and climbed to raise money for us – you are vital to the work we do.

Our overall financial position

Net incoming resources for the year amounted to £142,118 (2014: net outgoing resources of £321,481). This includes a surplus of £85,730 (2014: deficit of £218,895). Unrestricted reserves increased to £145,368.

Thanks to all our supporters, past and present, who enable us to offer individuals the opportunity to see themselves differently. We couldn’t do it without you.



INCOME 2015

- Trufts, foundations & lottery
- Statutory grants
- Donations
- Training & events
- Venture Mòr
- Interest



EXPENDITURE 2015

- Outreach & community support
- Wilderness journeys
- Coastal Communities
- Fundraising
- Governance
- Venture Mòr

Financial figures 2015

Income	2015	2014
Trufts, foundations & lottery	£1,571,329	£1,420,739
Statutory grants	£864,887	£819,633
Donations	£18,846	£26,667
Training & events, other income	£50,490	£29,832
Venture Mòr Ltd trading income	£68,286	£35,758
Interest	£943	£1,161

Total	£2,574,781	£2,333,790
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Expenditure	2015	2014
Outreach & community support	£1,072,281	£1,042,357
Wilderness journeys	£1,214,479	£1,469,878
Moving On: Malawi	-	£93,429
Coastal Communities	£114,567	£1,337
Fundraising	£9,728	£16,231
Governance	£10,342	£10,316
Venture Mòr Ltd trading costs	£11,266	£21,361

Total	£2,432,663	£2,654,909
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Support our participants' journey, and help more people 'see themselves differently'.

Visit www.venturetrust.org.uk/support

Text VTUK22 followed by £2, £5 or £10 to 70070

venturetrust

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The Venture Trust is a registered charity in Scotland (Number SC038932) and in England & Wales (Number 285891)

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