



ANNUAL REVIEW

2018 - 2019

Chairman's statement	3
Principal's introduction	3
Introducing OC	4
Our beneficiaries	5
Where we operate.....	5
OC programmes	7
Programme development	8
Our outcomes	10
Measuring our impact	11
Highlights	13
Social enterprise.....	15
Financial Summary.....	19
OC Trustees	19
Future plans.....	20
With thanks to.....	21
Corporate partnerships.....	22
Contact	23

I am delighted to say that Oarsome Chance goes from strength to strength. It has been a brilliant year building further on the extraordinary steps forward we made in 2017/18.

We now have two of our young people on apprenticeships working for OC and attending college. We are planning more apprenticeships in 2019/20.

The fact that we have been so successful delivering against our vision to help so many severely disadvantage local young people is a testament to all our volunteers, employees, funders and partners for their continued support and dedication in helping us to change lives.

We are pleased to present our highlights for 2018/19 on the pages that follow.

Paul O'Grady, Chair of Trustees

@JBB



Principal's introduction

We are about to complete our third academic school year and from a standing start, we are now commissioned and work in partnership with over 20 organisations from mainstream primary and secondary schools, local Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). SEMH schools and directly from the Local Authority who refer hard to place students and those in the care system.

Students who have been attending regularly are really now embedded in our programmes and it has been fantastic seeing them start to see opportunities in their futures that were not

apparent to them before.

Our attendance rate is fabulous and against the norm of our demographic at an average of over 90%. We are encouraged to see that, in line with our aims, young people on our curricular and non curricular programmes are really engaging and benefiting in many ways - they are building self esteem, resilience and industry led qualification and experience and ultimately a long term route to employability.

John Gillard, OC Principal

Introducing OC

Our vision

Our vision is a society where all young people, regardless of their circumstances, feel safe and valued and have the best opportunity to learn the skills they need to achieve their potential and a successful future.

Our mission

Our mission is to provide a safe environment where young people learn practical skills, growing their confidence and resilience to give them the space and support they need to improve their future.



Background

Oarsome Chance came about to address the issue that often the young people with the greatest need in terms of acquiring skills for use in the workplace, were most likely to be those who had also disengaged with education and faced a future with little opportunity.

OC was conceived as a way to help disadvantaged young people aspire to their potential by helping them gain skills and a route to employability.

The OC project was inspired by the St Ayles Skiff concept, whereby groups build their own coastal

rowing skiff from a kit, which would then be used by the community who built it. It was recognised that this concept could engage young people (rowing and boat building), provide them with crucial skills (practical and behavioural) and a crucial connection to their local community.

From this seed idea, OC was born and in its first three years the charity now operates out of two hubs, has built 5 rowing Skiffs, works actively with local schools and partners and has directly engaged with over 500 young people... and this is just the beginning.

Our beneficiaries

Our beneficiaries' needs are at the heart of what we do

Oarsome Chance work with young people aged from 9-19 years who, due to multiple reasons out of their control, but mainly driven by economic disadvantage, have become disengaged from mainstream education. The combination of practical and physical activities in a supportive and safe environment they can trust is effective in re-engaging them and reintegrating them into their community.

Our direction is very much steered by the young people we are working with – we adapt our provision and activities to meet their requirements, as their needs and what resonates with them is what will engage and ultimately help and support them best.

Where we operate

Areas where we operate have pockets of communities in the bottom 10% indices of social and economic deprivation in England. OC operates out of two centres:

Apex Centre, Havant

The Apex Centre is a building on the outskirts of Leigh Park, Havant. The centre in Havant houses a fully equipped bike maintenance workshop.



Maritime Workshop, Gosport

The Maritime Workshop occupies the The Boathouse in the grounds of St Vincent college in Gosport. With a fully equipped workshop, Canvas Works studio and indoor rowing suite. The Maritime Workshop is located by the side of Forton Lake, a tidal waterway, which provides direct access for on-water activities including coastal rowing and kayaking.

Owen

Owen is a year 11 pupil who was referred to OC via a local Pupil Referral Unit. Owen has excelled in the workshop and, beginning with wooden paddles and oars, his carpentry skills have become proficient.

With mentoring help from our boat building teacher, Owen heloed with the prototype OC16 skiff build, now complete and on use with our on water activities.

Owen now volunteers with Oarsome Chance and has, through his advocacy, introduced a another pupil who was disengaged from education.

Owen has continued his progress, arriving early without absence. He assisted with the transom veneer of our PBO Project Boat (see p17) working closely with our boat builders to achieve a fine finish

Due to begin an apprenticeship in September 2019, Owen met his college tutor and seeing the type of work and learning he would achieve, he left feeling positive he would enjoy an apprenticeship in Carpentry and Boatbuilding over the next 4 years.

"I can see where my working life will be. I love being in the workshop working on the boats. With the qualifications I can get I can see a way to a good job."

OC programmes

Oarsome Chance has developed practical, activity based programmes designed to engage and cultivate essential skills

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- **Carpentry and boat building** in our fully equipped carpentry workshop in Gosport
- **Canvas skills** - re-purposing donated sails into products
- **Bike recycling** in our bike maintenance workshop in Havant
- **Marine engineering** - learning how to repair and maintain marine engines
- **Dry rowing** on our indoor 'erg' rowing machine suites
- **On water rowing** in wooden skiffs on the neighbouring tidal waterway and Portsmouth Harbour
- **Sailing** OC are RYA recognised. Activities include OC led excursions, participation in regattas and trips with external organisations



Curricular programme

We work with local partners, including schools, PRUs and the local authority to identify young people who will benefit from participation in our programmes.

Non-curricular programme

There is very little opportunity for young people in the local area to gain access to their local water resource, particularly in the unique way that OC delivers the blend of creative / workshop and sporting activities, so OC run after school sessions with local community groups and schools

Programme development

The operating year has seen our programmes continue to grow in scale as well as establishing and strengthening a solid model for delivery - our programme growth in numbers:

Over 100 young people engaged every week:

- **31** students enrolled in our curricular programmes (each attending between 1-4 days a week) referred by our commissioning partners
- **58** young people regularly attending our non-curricular programmes (after school / community activities)
- **10** students on Duke of Edinburgh award scheme from St Vincent College
- **2** apprentices studying locally + 1 more student due to start an apprenticeship in Sept 2019

**Over 40% increase
in participant
numbers since
2017/18**

Partners:

- We currently work with over **20** commissioning partners, including local schools and the local authority

Staff and volunteers

- We employ **5 full time** team members and **10 part time** staff
- We have over **20 volunteers**, 6 of whom work with us on our programmes on a weekly basis

Workbooks and awards

- **Workbooks** have been introduced across all programmes, to track progress
- **25** students have achieved red Velotech awards, **10** students are now working towards the next blue award
- **10** students are working towards RYA diesel engine qualification
- **4** students are working towards RYA level 1 and 2 powerboat qualifications

Joe

Joe (16) had struggled throughout Secondary school, often in trouble, always in inclusion, with a short timetable of 2pm - 6pm to avoid other students.

Joe has been taking part in OC programmes for over 3 years now and in that time his outlook has been transformed: "I have gained plenty of skills such as boat handling, communication and it has opened up doors into the marine industry... I feel better about myself, I feel more qualified, I have lost some of my social anxiety and I feel I can communicate with people better now."

Joe has been volunteering with OC since leaving school, has gained accredited qualifications and OC helped him find employment with a local diving company.

Joe is now an OC team member helping to deliver activities to other young people and began his apprenticeship in Marine Engineering in Jan 2019.

"I feel better about myself, I feel more qualified, I have lost some of my social anxiety and I feel I can communicate with people better now"

Our outcomes

The outcomes for the young people participating in our programmes include not only the practical skills they are being taught, but also valuable ‘soft skills’ which will improve their ability to integrate with school, family life and to handle the future challenges of a workplace.

Accredited qualifications

Young people can work towards:

- Open Awards - boat building / carpentry
- Velotech awards - bike maintenance
- RYA - theory + practical qualifications

Soft skill benefits:

- Increased cooperation
- Increased engagement with learning process / task
- Improved relationships with teaching staff, other students and at home / school
- Increased confidence and self belief



Successful student engagement

Demand from our commissioning partners continues to grow - a testament to the effectiveness of our provision. We have expanded our capacity to meet demand, while ensuring the quality of provision remained high.

Another measure of the success of our programme delivery is our beneficiary attendance - of the young people referred to us, their school attendance can average around 25%; the attendance on OC programmes with the same young people is around 90-95%.

Measuring our outcomes

We are aware that, apart from observation and anecdotal evidence, it is hard to measure the soft skill outcomes and other wider impacts our organisation delivers. From Nov 2018, we began a new outcome measurement project, via the [Measuring The Good](#) programme, which has begun to track and measure the less tangible outcomes of our work- see over.

Measuring our impact

We examined exactly how we are making a difference and how we can build on our success to date and identified the four key areas which would form our ‘framework for success’ and three metrics to measure each of them:

YOUNG LIVES CHANGED

Making a difference for the young people we support, in terms of improved engagement, attendance and behaviour and ultimately individual achievement and employability.

Participation:

Attendance levels at school and OC programmes

Engagement:

1:1 surveys with beneficiaries, carried out termly (3 times a year)

Attainment:

Number of accredited awards achieved on OC programmes

A PLACE TO BELONG

Providing high quality pastoral care, to create a safe space for young people to engage and grow.

Hopefulness:

Youth Star tool (Outcomes Star™) Hopes & Dreams

Helpfulness:

1:1 surveys with parents/ carers, carried out termly (3 times a year)

Passionate Care:

1:1 survey to check beneficiaries’ perspective on OC’s programmes

SCALE AND REACH

What we do to ensure we are reaching the young people we can help the most while seeking to expand our reach.

Volume:

Number of beneficiary participation sessions

Suitability:

Analysis of beneficiaries to identify those most in need of our help

Commercial value:

Working out the commercial value by programme and overall

CONTINUITY

to strive to be organisationally sustainable to ensure we continue to serve the key objectives of the organisation.

Funding mix:

Measure the split of income to monitor trends

Reputation:

Termly team meetings to discuss / prevent reputational issues

Resilience:

Leadership review of risks (e.g. point loading individuals, premises, etc)



Initial implementation phase

We began recording metrics in Jan 2019 and we hope to begin to have some meaningful data by the end of the Summer term (August 2019).

Measuring The Good is an ongoing process which will adapt and change as it is implemented over the months and years ahead. As part of this process, OC will regularly consult with beneficiaries, staff and volunteers as the project progresses to inform its development.

Testimonials

"This was one of the best Acorn Centre weekends we have ever taken part in...

... S was looking sad as we prepared to leave and when I asked how she was, she responded 'I wish we could stay, I don't want to go home'. This is always hard to hear and I know it's because life is hard in her home, but I see that each time she steps up to something new and builds friendships and learns new skills she is a little freer of those things that drag her down... Thank you for helping with this process." **Chair of Trustees, Wecock Farm Acorn Community Centre**

"Mitchell was really struggling in school and was on a short timetable, he always looked forward to the day at Oarsome Chance. This was the only day of the week that Mitchell would attend a whole day.

Mitchell has shown remarkable change and is now a very happy and much better behaved boy. Mitchell has been struggling in school for many years and Oarsome Chance helped him to see positivity in his work and in adults towards him." **Head of Home School Link Primary Behaviour Service East Hants**

"We are absolutely delighted to have been fortunate enough to have connected with Oarsome Chance... Ongoing projects with our young people have produced extraordinary results, engagement, resilience, increased attendance.. I can not speak highly enough." **Assistant Head Teacher, Woodlands Centre**

Highlights



For the second year, we took a team of young people to the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships at the Olympic Park in Stratford to compete alongside 100s of other young people from around the UK



Two OC students started apprenticeships after 'graduating' from our programmes



OC started a partnership with MIND: Havant & East Hants, delivering on-water activities for local families, with the aim to increase physical and mental well being by taking part in activities together as a family

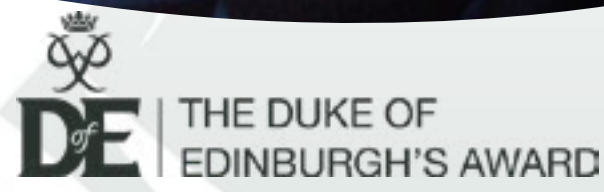


Our after school rowing club held an inter-school row off with local primary schools

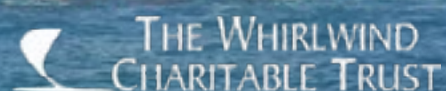


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The Duke of Edinburgh Award students we have been working with from our Gosport hosts, St Vincent College, completed their Summer Expedition to achieve their Silver Awards



Thanks to support from The Whirlwind Charitable Trust, The Joan Braithwaite Trust and The Bentley Young Persons Trust, a team of OC students took part in the Cowes Week 50th Anniversary Squib Regatta



Corporate partnership with Dream Yacht Charter

We were delighted to have forged a partnership with yacht charter company, Dream Yacht Charter (DYC).

To mark the launch of the partnership, OC patron and record setting solo sailor, Alex Thomson, presided over a naming ceremony for DYC's newest addition to their fleet, named Oarsome Dream in our honour.

Joe and Luke, two of our apprentices, joined the DYC team to help commission the new vessel ready for the launch. And on the naming day itself, Joe was joined by Alex, OC Principal John Gillard and DYC Director Andy Byham to celebrate on deck (pictured).

We look forward to more joint activities with DYC including fundraising opportunities, events and more work experience opportunities



OARSOME DREAM

"I'm delighted to show our ongoing commitment to supporting Oarsome Chance... It's been great to have the students working with us on fitting out the boat, seeing them gain a genuine hands-on experience, learning and practicing skills that will stand them in good stead..."

Andy Byham, UK Director, DYC

Social enterprise



Canvas Works

Canvas Works is our exciting social enterprise, where our young people are involved in crafting upcycled products from re-purposed sails. We have found that the activity quickly engages students of all ages and the sale of the products, in the main holdalls and bags, have been growing steadily.

The Canvas Works studio, now equipped with four industrial sewing machines, materials store and cutting table, is staffed by Oarsome Chance personnel and volunteers who also give canvas skills training to young people who attend our programmes.



@JBB

Some of the sail materials we are given have exciting stories or a fascinating heritage and we recognise that there is a fantastic opportunity to grow Canvas Works sales to become an essential part of our income mix. For instance, we have been donated sails from the famous sailing race team, Alex Thomson Racing which have proved to be extremely desirable and sought after.

We have obtained funding through a Social

Investment Business Enterprise grant to retain a consultant to work on maximising the Canvas Works social enterprise opportunity, and from March - July 2019 they will develop a business strategy covering sales and marketing, production management and distribution, with the aim of establishing a business to meet more ambitious profitable income in the next few years.



Social enterprise



Bicycle recycling and maintenance

Our bike workshop in Leigh Park, Havant is now well established and our social enterprise plan in place. We are beginning to see a healthy local appetite for our recycled bikes through direct to public sales via a local retail partner.

We expect to see a steady growth in income whilst

building stocks of quality second hand spares for sales or repairs.

This year we plan to add commercial and domestic bicycle servicing and repairs and genuinely bridge the gap between education and employment.



OC24 rowing Skiff

We continue the steady progress of building our specially commissioned 24 foot skiff design (a fixed seat rowing boat). The design adapts traditional skiff features in order to make the boat quicker to build, more bouyant on the water and to provide more accessible entry for disabled users.

The trial of our smaller 16 foot test version of the new design (OC16) has proved itself brilliantly on

the water.

The long term goal is to produce a boat not only more suited to our own programmes, but also to produce and sell the OC24 to other outdoor educaional and community groups who would also benefit from the advantages we are building into the OC24 design.



Social enterprise



Fundraising events

Another area of income we are developing is a series of fundraising challenges. With our location, facilities, experienced staff and volunteers we have fantastic resouces already in place, allowing us to run compelling challenge events, without the need for significant expenditure.

Our signature event is the Portsmouth Pull where teams of four or five rowers compete on a 10km coastal row around Portsmouth Harbour.

The inaugural Portsmouth Pull events took place in 2018 and we launched a full series of events in 2019 with a women-only event on International Women's Day.

www.oarsomechance.org/portsmouth-pull



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Special project: PBO and Project Boat

We were fortunate to be given the opportunity to complete a boat build for Practical Boat Owner magazine (PBO).

The 'Secret 20' sailing boat build will be completed at our Maritime Workshop in Gosport and is being lead by our master boat builder, Jon Carver. Young people on our programmes will be helping with the tasks involved and learning essential skills and workshop experience along the way.

The build will be followed closely in a series of artcles in PBO and will culminate in the finished boat being featured at the Southampton Boat Show. A fantastic opportunity for us to raise our profile while communicating our fundamental message of opening the door to employability for our beneficiaries.



Luke

Luke (16) began his involvement with OC during the pilot St Ayles’ Skiff building project at IBTC in Portsmouth in 2015. Luke remembers his time prior to working with OC, “My life was incomplete, school was not working out and I spent little time in lessons.”

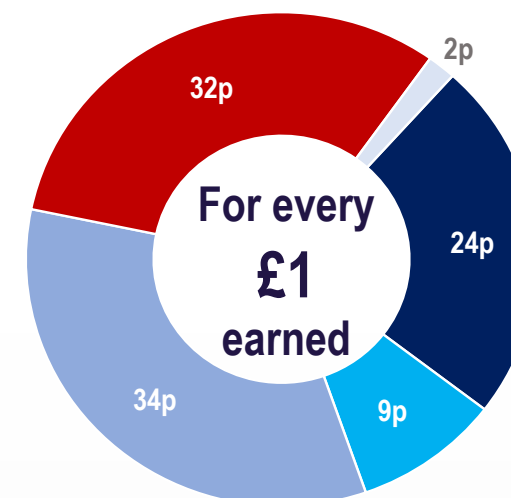
Luke quickly engaged with the programmes at OC finding an environment he could thrive in: “It has got me out of trouble and got me off the streets, given me new skills and life chances.” Since joining OC Luke gained accredited qualifications and now, having left school, Luke works part time helping on the OC activity programmes while working on an apprenticeship in Boat Building, which he began in Sept 2018.

“I now have a range of career opportunities, I have a much brighter outlook, opportunities to be on the water and do courses and gain qualifications. I now feel grown up, OC has helped me achieve independence, better communication skills and given me a future.”



“OC has helped me achieve independence, better communication skills and given me a future”

Financial Summary



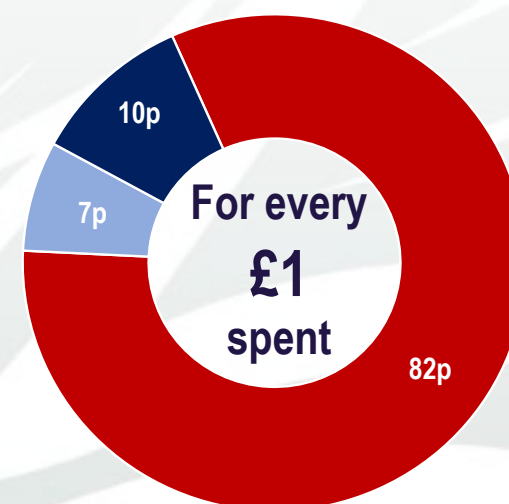
Income
2018/2019

Total income:
£421,416

- Individual donations
- Donations
- Grants
- Commissioning
- Social enterprise



Over 82p in every pound spent is in delivering our programmes



Expenditure
2017/2018

Total expenditure:
£344,867

- Delivering activities for young people
- Fundraising, events + marketing
- Premises costs

Full accounts and Trustees annual report published at charitycommission.gov.uk

OC Trustees

Paul O’Grady, Chair of Trustees

Emma O’Grady, Trustee

Rod Ashman, Trustee + Treasurer

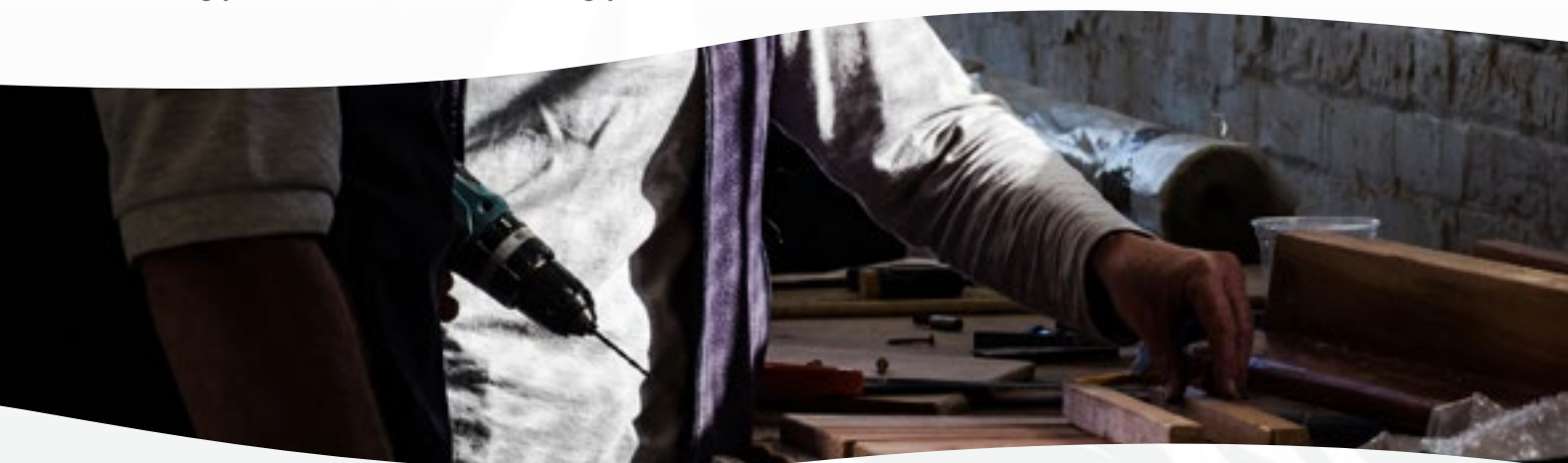
Ross Daniel, Trustee

Sharon Chinnappa, Trustee

Future plans

- Continue to expand our current vocational programmes to increase the number of local young people we can help by ensuring quality provision, through a skilled staff team and management and by monitoring resources and facilities to ensure they meet the growing needs of our programmes.
- In October 2018 we commissioned an organisation specialising in measuring outcomes to help us identify a range of metrics to give us an even better understanding of what we are achieving. In Jan 2019 we started implementing their recommendations and measuring in more detail the benefits and outcomes of our activities.

This is to enable us to review and adapt the activities we run, as well as help us understand how effective we are in improving “soft skills” which will ultimately improve our beneficiaries’ confidence and employability. We have already started to see the benefits of this project and we will be building strongly on this work in the coming year.



- Continue to build our Social Enterprise projects:
 - » to give us sustainable financial income to reduce our reliance on grant funding
 - » use the business activities to help to develop the work experience of the young people we work with so that they have a better understanding of how businesses function and prepare them better for future employability.
- Increase the number of young people achieving accredited qualifications and embarking on apprenticeships.
- Grow our after school programme to provide more ‘on the water’ activities for local young people and their families.
- Explore the possibility of OC becoming a school, thus having greater control over our commissioning income and widening the services we provide for the growing number of young people currently excluded from school.

With thanks to...

Our funding partners



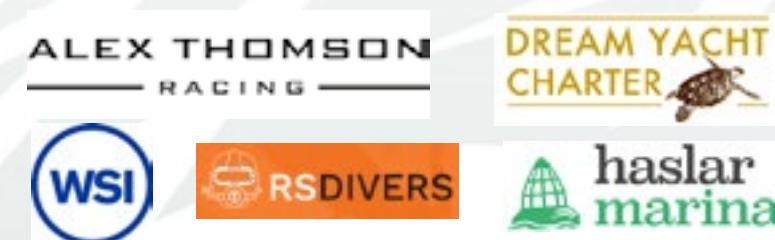
And thanks to

The Joan Braithwaite Trust
Moneybarn Social Impact Fund
The Kelsey Trust
Woodward Charitable Trust

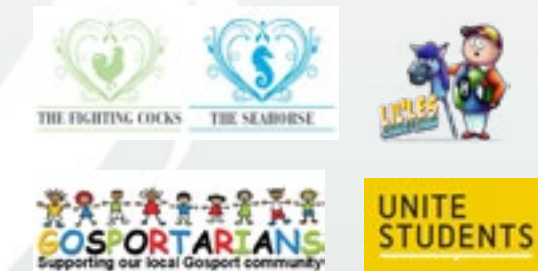
Bentley Young Persons Trust
The Lynn Foundation
Angus Allnatt Foundation
The Truemark Trust

Woodroffe Benton Foudation
Pfizer Havant
The Leigh Trust
Matthew Wrightson Trust

Our corporate partners:

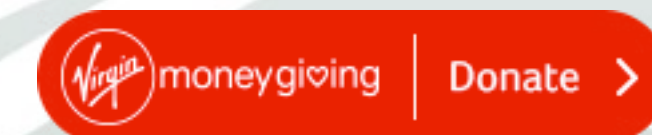


Our local fund raisers:



Make a donation

You can help Oarsome Chance build its programmes by making a financial donation, either a regular monthly donation, or for a one-off amount. Plus, if you are a UK tax payer, Oarsome Chance can claim back 25p for every £1 you donate.



Making a donation is easy and secure via Virgin Money Giving - click the logo left.

Corporate partnerships



How helping Oarsome Chance can help you...

Association with an enterprising local charity offers a fantastic opportunity for businesses to give back to the community and meet CSR agendas.

Oarsome Chance is always looking for connections with companies to expand our young people's engagement with the business world. There are many ways for companies to help our work, through supporting our fund raising, providing work placements, mentors or staff volunteers, practical work projects and materials or through event sponsorship.

For example, with Alex Thomson Racing (ATR) and their donation of used sails to our Canvas Works social enterprise (see the video [here](#)) the benefits for all parties are fantastic - providing not only an amazing resource to Canvas Works, but also an opportunity for all concerned to share the story and build on the association.

If you or your company are interested in exploring a partnership, we'd love to hear from you: email info@oarsomechance.org or call 02392 504492

Alex Thomson and an exclusive bag, designed and made by Canvas Works from ATR's HUGO BOSS Vendee Globe sails



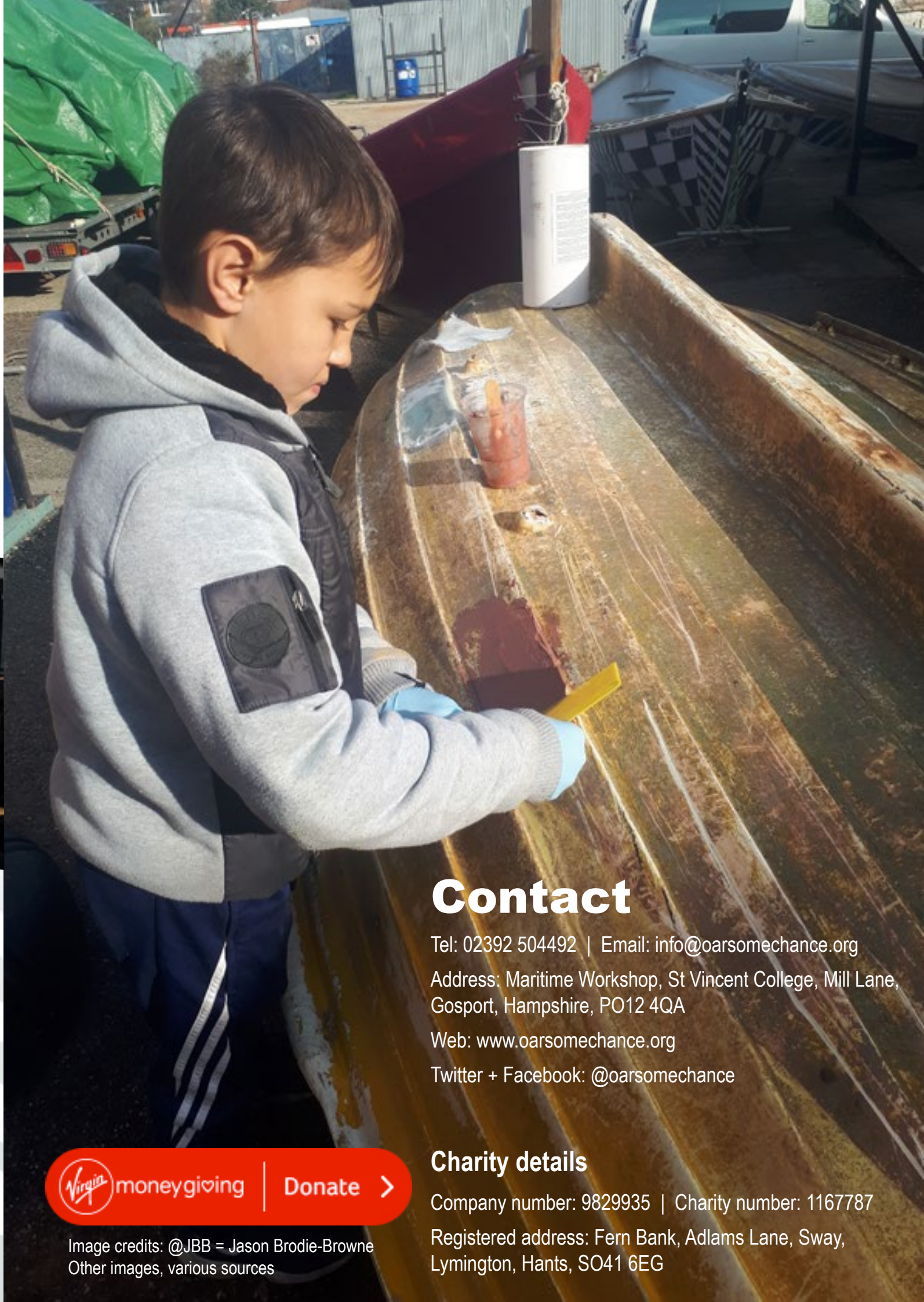
Our volunteers

We have a group of amazing volunteers who give OC regular time and support, some on a weekly basis and we are extremely grateful for everything they do.

"I thoroughly enjoy my time engaging with OC it has given me a huge pleasure to be able to help in creating a nurturing and positive environment for kids who really do deserve a better chance. Seeing positive results in the kids who come through OC's doors is a real pleasure... Being able to pass on some of these skills as a stepping stone into employment is a hugely rewarding process."

Nick, Canvas Works volunteer

If you are skilled in sailing, carpentry, boat building, rowing or youth work then your services would be put to great use. Of course, if your skills are not in these areas, but you would like to give your time then we'd still love to hear from you.



Contact

Tel: 02392 504492 | Email: info@oarsomechance.org
Address: Maritime Workshop, St Vincent College, Mill Lane, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 4QA
Web: www.oarsomechance.org
Twitter + Facebook: [@oarsomechance](#)

Charity details

Company number: 9829935 | Charity number: 1167787
Registered address: Fern Bank, Adlams Lane, Sway, Lymington, Hants, SO41 6EG

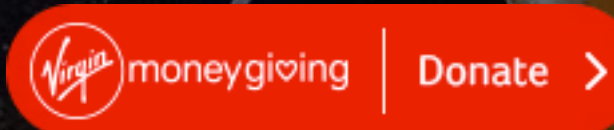


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Other images, various sources