



CANEWS

December 2006

EDITOR'S CORNER

DON'T FORGET THE WEB SITE – the event list is kept up to date and the notice board, trip reports, etc. are there for you to fill !

www.ringwood.canoe.btinternet.co.uk

+ - the photos are in colour – by the time this has been through the photo-copier it loses so much!!

CANEWS IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

This (and the last few) Issue of Canews is available in Acrobat pdf format for download direct from the web site (right hand click and select save as).

If you don't need a hard-copy posted in the future (and you feel like saving some forests and my time and costs on copying, envelopes, etc). let me know

ARTICLES PLEASE

A normal plea for articles – I guess I should be pleased that we do more paddling than writing – but there were loads of trips recently that could have done with a few words and piccies.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Visit the web site for the Caption Competition



Emerson Lake and Palmer fan models the latest XXXL waterproof T shirt

Barry

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



WORD OF THE WEEK *AWESOME!!*

A 5 day intermediate white water course at Plas y Brenin sounded just the thing to improve my sadly lacking boat handling skills.

I arrived at Plas y Brenin about 8pm the Sunday night to book in. P.B. is the national mountain centre near Betsy Coed in North Wales. Originally an old coaching Inn, the place is a bit of a rabbit warren to find your way around. My room was small but very comfortable.

Monday started with breakfast at 8am. I wasn't prepared for the fantastic view over the lake and up to the Snowdon Horseshoe that spread before me from the dining room windows. Our briefing was at 9am with 8 of us on the course, most of us from the south. There was one other girl on the course and ages ranged from 20s to 50s. We were split into 2 groups of 4.

There was very little water in any of the local rivers, so we loaded our boats onto the trailer and drove (about an hour) to the river Dee at Langollan, Mile End Mill. Dino Heald had the bad luck to be put in charge of our group, while Simon Colley the chief instructor took the A team upstream to run the Serpents Tail.

Our group spent the morning working on breaking in and out. At Langollan the Dee is a mature river with a good flow of water and lots of features. The weather was fantastic for November, with clear blue sky and a temperature of 15°C. After lunch it was back on to practice ferry gliding and edging the boat. We ran the weir in the afternoon and drove back to P. B. a tired and happy group.

We got back at 5pm the pool session was from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Dinner was 7pm and we all went to a slide show and lecture at 8pm. The lecture was on crack climbing in Utah. The guy giving the talk asked how many of us were climbers, about four hands went up. After enquiring what course the rest of us were on, he said he wouldn't be offended if any of us left before the end. It was a fascinating slide show and we all enjoyed it. A swift drink at the bar followed but we all felt we had a very full day and were ready for our beds.

After Tuesdays briefing it was back to the Dee. One of the guys from the A team relocated to our group. We went upstream to a faster flowing section. Dino had a video camera, which he used to film us breaking into the fast flow and break out behind the bridge stanchions. Steve had the first swim of our group, so he bought the beers that evening. That morning we could all feel ourselves improving. At lunchtime, we went into the café in the Mill and played back that morning's video; we could all see the difference in our paddling in just a few hours. After lunch we concentrated on reading the river and running drops and rapids. I had to roll up after one of the weirs but we were all exultant at our performance.

The drops might only have been grade 2/3 but the drive back to P. B. was defiantly grade 6!!

After dinner the lecture and slide show was by Pete Catterell our instructor for the next 3 days. Pete was the former G.B. freestyle coach. He showed us some awesome slides if his recent trip to various huge rivers in Uganda. There was some seriously big water, most impressive. After which the gang of 8 retired to the bar.

It had rained heavily all Tuesday night so at last there was water in the rivers. We put in on the river Llugwy. Six of us got out to portage Cobdens Falls, which is grade 4. Two of the A

team ran the falls with Pete and Simon. Below the fall there was a group of R.S.P.C.A. Inspectors (who were also staying at P.B.) doing their river rescue skills course. We called down to them from the footbridge above the river that there were kayaks coming down the falls. Several of them came up onto the bridge to watch. One of them on seeing the kayaks running this section commented that they must be ***** mad!

That afternoon we had to portage around Pont Crying Falls. The first 2 drops are grade 5 and the third is grade 6, which has been run, but I think you would have to have a death wish to run it. It was a long portage around and Bridget and I were glad of the help given by Pete and Simon to carry our boats.

The first feature after lunch was a long boulder filled rapid. We eddy hopped all the way down, Pete had us breaking in and out with our eyes closed and we all had to take turns at finding the route and leading the group. Pete even got us to go down one rapid backwards (although I have done this several times in the past I've never done it intentionally before).

The last feature of the day was Forestry Falls, which is grade 3. We all ran it successfully the first time but there were two swimmers on the second run. It was still so warm that I did some rolling practice in the moving water below the falls by the time we got off the river the rain was really hammering down.

That night the people who were doing their mountain leaders course at P.B. had to do night navigation and camp out. By 10pm the wind and rain was truly atrocious but we all felt smug as we sat in the bar looking out at the wild weather.

The amount of rain that had fallen overnight brought all of the local rivers up to an unpaddleable level. The river Llugwy that runs at the back of P.B. had risen an astonishing amount and was within a foot or so of the car park several people took the prudent step of moving their cars to a different part of the car park. The only river we could paddle was in mid Wales - the Afon Mawddach. The put in was at a scenically named place called public toilet falls (known to local kayakers as ****house Falls).

The put in was quite intimidating, straight into rapids above a tricky drop; this claimed a few swimmers immediately. There were some impressive features on this section; although it wasn't a long paddle it kept us all on our toes. We only stopped for about ½ an our for lunch break but on returning to our boats we were startled to find how much the river had come up in such a short time. We had to push on as the river was rising so quickly we were all aware of the force of the water now. After several rapids we came to a 1km section of boulder filled rapids called the graveyard, only problem was that by now the river was in spate so there was no boulder garden anymore Terry Storry's Welsh White Water book describes this section in spate as a 1km of grade 4+ very heavy white water. It was no understatement. There was no visible boulder garden it was just 1km of wall to wall stoppers, the force of the water was pretty hairy.

Unable to avoid a large stopper I went over, normally I can roll up in moving water, with no problems but not this time. All I could feel was my back, head, and arms being bashed by submerged boulders. I tried to roll up but I was getting hit repeatedly by so many submerged rocks that it proved impossible. Eventually the paddle was ripped out of my left hand and I couldn't hold my breath any longer so I popped my deck.

Pete was only a few feet away; he gave me a tow to the bank. There were 2 other swimmers in our group so Pete with the other two P. B. staff went after them to effect a rescue

We were in a gorge like section; it was impossible to make my way along the riverbank so I had to climb up this steep gorge which was overgrown with rhododendrons. Luckily I had held onto my paddle when I swam and I was able to steady myself with it. When I got to the top I headed down stream to try and catch up with my boat. I came to a confluence of the Mawddach and the Wem but I couldn't cross it to continue my downstream progress due to the flow of the rivers.

Pete soon arrived and I lay across his back deck and he took me downstream to catch up with the others. We were all dead chuffed with ourselves, even the swimmers, in everybody's terms it was *awesome*

On Friday due to the ongoing torrential rain there were no rivers runnable in Wales so we went to the north coast of Anglesey and Pete and Simon took the gang of seven surfing. I was going down with a chest infection (which stopped me paddling for several weeks) so I stood on the beach and watched the rest of the gang having a great time in the surf.

All in all, I had a superb week. The coaching was fantastic, done with great humour and patience. If you want a restful holiday this isn't it. All the others on the course helped each other out regardless of age or ability. We had a great time in each other's company and enjoyed each days paddling together. I got to paddle water that I previously wouldn't have considered paddling in a month of Sundays. All together it was truly *awsome111*

Dot

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (NONSENSE) REPORT 4TH OCTOBER 2006

The long-awaited Environment Agency commissioned report on the viability of improving Access to Rivers by Agreements was finally published on 4th October 2006. There was a general consensus amongst paddlers that this would support our case that negotiated access agreements don't work. Indeed, following the initial study the EA concluded in 2004 that **"Negotiated access agreements alone are unlikely to fully meet the demand and need for canoeable waters...canoeists are disadvantaged by the prevailing patterns of landownership and property rights"**.

The new final report, however, smacks of a whitewash. Somehow, the realistic conclusion (above) has been replaced by **"In the vast majority of cases, approaches to securing canoe access by voluntary agreement are successful"**

There is not an active canoeist in the UK who would agree with its conclusions or recognise them as coming close to reflecting the realities of Access to Rivers in England and Wales

You can download a summary of the report from the web site (see Notices) - complete and utter nonsense – and, go to the community pages of UKRiversGuidebook.co.uk and read what other paddlers are saying should be our response.

Well done to Tamsin for instigating the following Guardian article

THE GUARDIAN 10/10/2006 BY STEVEN MORRIS

Canoeists pour scorn on deals to open up 40 miles of waterways

- Enthusiasts seek far wider rights to roam rivers

- Landowners favour voluntary agreements

Canoeists and lovers of wild swimming yesterday attacked a government-backed study designed to help open up the waterways of England and Wales, and warned of rebellion on the riverbank if more was not done to make access easier.

An Environment Agency report trumpeted success in opening up 40 miles of river by securing voluntary agreements with owners of riverbanks and riverbeds.

But the British Canoe Union and the River and Lake Swimming Association, which are fighting for "right to roam" legislation to be extended to waterways, dismissed the report as a waste of time and money. The BCU argued that it had taken two years for the agreements to be reached on just a small fraction of the 40,000 miles of waterways where it says there is no access. In addition, it claimed that agreements were already in place or not contested for half of the water the Environment Agency said had been opened up, and added that some of the agreements which had been reached were restrictive and complicated.

The BCU is planning to intensify its campaign to get river access enshrined in law, as it is in Scotland and many other European countries. A mass paddle on Westminster is planned in the spring and Tamsin Phipps, spokeswoman for the BCU's rivers access campaign, warned that while it was committed to legal protest, some enthusiasts were considering mass trespasses to highlight the situation.

Access to rivers has become a hot political topic in recent years. According to government figures, canoeing is the country's biggest watersport, while the number of people leaving the swimming pool and heading for rivers and streams is booming. The sports minister, Richard Caborn, and the biodiversity minister, Barry Gardiner, jumped into canoes on the river Waveney in East Anglia last week to promote the Environment Agency's access report, A Better Place to Play. As well as a section of the Waveney, agreements have been reached on the Mersey, the Teme around Ludlow in Shropshire and the Wear through Durham, says the agency.

Its report described the opening up of 40 miles of river as "an important result" and added that the "real significance" was that agreement had been reached on all the rivers the government had asked it to look at. It also said that 99% of the 400 riverbank owners it had contacted had said they were willing to "consider" access. Landowners and some anglers welcomed the report. The Country Land and Business Association said: "We want to encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the countryside, but obviously the rights of riparian owners have also to be considered. We are keen to see how the voluntary agreements will work in practice as we're hopeful that an approach like this could be used for other access initiatives instead of legislation."

The Salmon & Trout Association said: "Voluntary canoe access, rather than legislated access, is the best way to ensure protection of sensitive river habitats and fair financial contributions to local economies and healthy rivers."

The BCU disagreed. It said that only 4% of inland waterways in England and Wales had a public right of navigation and the agency's report did nothing to ease the problem. In recent years many landowners have become less sympathetic, some driving canoeists away for fear they may upset anglers, who pay large amounts of money to fish some rivers. By contrast, the BCU said that Scotland's Land Reform Act was making sure canoeists had access rights, without compromising the

environment or spoiling the enjoyment of other river users such as anglers.

Ms Phipps said the report would not help water users but simply highlighted the "dire lack of access to rivers in England and Wales".

Making headway

The stretches of river to which the Environment Agency says it has secured access, plus comments from the British Canoe Union:

Mersey: Eighteen miles from Stockport to Carrington. A formality, according to the BCU, and the realisation of a scheme it put forward .

Teme: One and a quarter miles of white water around Ludlow, including four weirs. Highly restrictive agreement with no access in June-August, says the BCU.

Waveney: Twenty-one miles from Diss to Bungay. BCU says canoeing has taken place for many years and access not contested.

Wear: Seven miles around Durham. In reality, a three-mile stretch around city which has always been used by canoeists, says BCU.

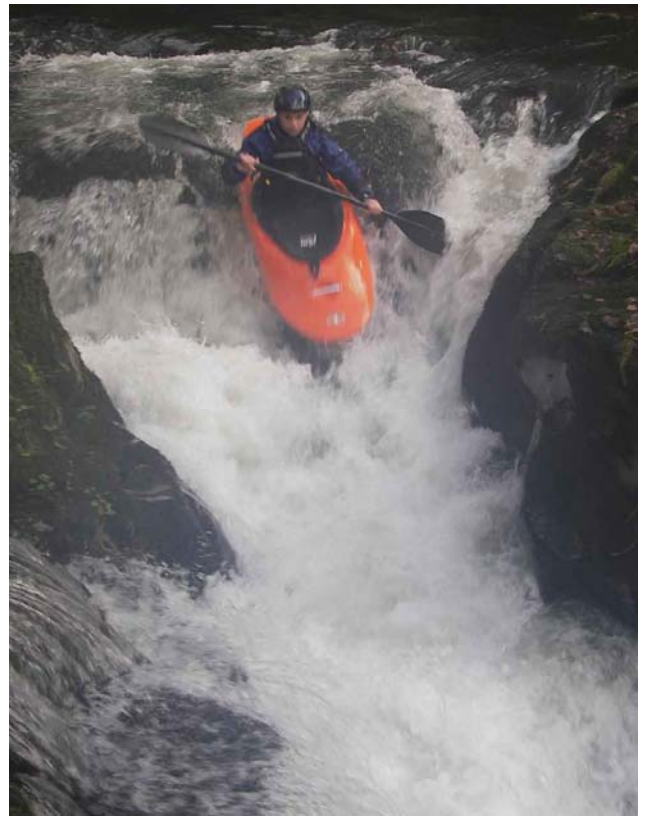
OCTOBER 2006: WALKHAM/TAVY

There wasn't much interest in this trip - only 5 of us (Ros, Dave, Ant, Andy and myself). All the others missed a good day.

The levels were low - but the sun was out and it was warm. The first mile was a bump and scrape, but things livened up and we found plenty of entertainment and some nice waves to surf. - and we had the whole river to ourselves (no sign of any other paddlers)



Andrew finds a small wave to keep him amused (dreaming of NZ)



Ant styles the 'drop-slot'

Graham

PADDLING THE COWICHAN

Hi to you all at Ringwood Canoe Club,

After just over a month of working hard and not climbing into any kind of waterborne vessel during this time I finally got to run the Cowichan River. The river is one of the 3 located within half an hour of where I live. Here is a general description of it from the Warm Rapids website. Pictures and more details can be found on:

http://www.paddleguides.com/rivers/bc/vancouver_island/cowichan/cowichan.html

'Whitewater Kayaking on the Cowichan River is excellent. With consistent flows from November through May, novice and expert kayakers alike can enjoy rapids ranging from class 2 to class 4. Open canoeists can also venture down the Cowichan River as there are several sections to choose from. Canoeing on the Cowichan River has been going on since the Quw'utsun' people began doing so several hundred years ago!

Innertubing has been a popular summer pastime for Cowichan Valley residents for a long time. Hot summers and medium to low waters make for ideal conditions for those adventurous enough to shoot the rapids. Of course the real adventurers choose to navigate the rapids in kayaks!

Anyway my day began with a despirate feeling that I MUST go whitewater kayaking. It's November and the rain have been constant for 5 days. Can't work in this weather, but yippee the rivers are filling up. By 10 am I had put in a call to Don and Rose, who run Warm Rapids kayak school and Inn. "What kayaking was happening this weekend or in the near future?" They were guiding a river trip on the Cowichan that day leaving at 11am. I figured it would take me 30 mins to get my kit together and 20 mins to drive there. "Yes, I can be there for 11

(arrived on the dot).



There were just the four of us. Don, Rose, Johnathan (his 6th river trip) and your's truly. The day was a mixture of brushing up on breaking in and out, etc, some nice surf holes (still working on getting on to them with more confidence), on river rolling practice, and then some great rapids. In true style I managed to run the second part of 'Double Whammy' backwards. A wide ride in some big waves, but being used to reverse running places best taken forwards I kept my cool, stayed upright and enjoyed the ride. :)

The last rapid was a nice drop that is best boofed, as I found out as it tried to hold me as I stalled out on landing. A forward lean and a few powerful strokes saw me through and upright with a massive smile on my face.

Just to the side of the drop was a slower pool of water in which 2-3ft long salmon were trying to make their way up stream by jumping up natural rock steps. It was an amazing sight. It would have been easy to pick them out of the water with our hands (not ethical though!)

We were off the river by 4:30, the rain had eased and I was very content with my whitewater fix (till next weekend).

All the best

Georgia

USK NOVEMBER 2006

Nick and I have been taking part in this club trip since the first was organised for us in 1990, and it is still a weekend I look forward to and enjoy. The scenery is fantastic, the accommodation is good, there are lots of good pubs, the company is always great, oh yes, and the river can be fun too. Nick is equally keen, well, on the pubs anyway, so to ensure he doesn't miss out he has organised the trip in recent years, and did a grand job again this time. At the AGM in April he grumbled about lack of commitment from members for the trips, and the result was a fully booked Usk trip by the end of the evening. Unfortunately, most people don't plan their workload or health six months ahead, and at the last minute several people dropped out. Most had very good excuses, like Becky for example, who claimed she had to stay at home and study, and apparently it was a very productive cake baking session. It's OK Becky, we understand.

Most people met up for a meal & beers at the Red Lion, and some enjoyed, or endured, the hike back up the hill to Perth-Y-Pia. The weather was fantastic then, and most of the weekend, with clear skies and little wind.

Saturday began with the usual routine of driving to Sennybridge and shuttling cars back to Aberbran. The river was extremely low, the lowest we have ever seen. We decided to paddle it anyway, there being no "plan B". All were in plastic kayaks except Dave Ratford, who was paddling solo Canadian.

I thought he might struggle, and perhaps have to walk it down some of the shingle beds, but he found enough water to float it all the way. The river was almost unrecognisable in some places, where we were paddling in little rock features that are normally submerged. The lack of any power in the river enabled us to paddle the whole route without getting out to inspect the falls, and most people ran all of the drops. 11 year old Jake, on his fourth white water weekend, was a bit nervous and portaged the bigger drops, but made huge improvements over the weekend. Dave was braver and, to my surprise, chose to run one of the early falls, a vertical drop of a metre or so. Unfortunately his open canoe was tipped to one side on the uneven edge of the fall and he didn't get a support stroke in before the canoe was on its side. My new toy, a waterproof digital camera, was at the ready so he'll be able to analyse the event at his leisure. Mike Farnden had a similar experience on a bigger fall, and landed on his side at the bottom, but he recovered with a grunt and a good support stroke.

Rocks were everywhere, and there were plenty of bumps, scrapes and pins, but no serious problems or swims. When we got to Aberbran in the early afternoon, I was keen to carry on to Brecon and was eagerly joined by Bev, Ros & Dave. Eagerness for paddling is limited to a select few RCC members though, and there was no persuading the others. The pub was calling. It had been about 14 or 15 years since I had paddled that stretch, so I wanted to remind myself what it was like. The river gave us fairly continuous grade 1 or 2 rapids, until the last flat half mile above the big weir at Brecon, and so quite a fast run despite the low conditions. I had only paddled it in high water so it was not surprising that I didn't recognise any of it.

All the way, the autumn colours were spectacular, and the water was clear enough to see the river bed. I don't remember seeing the river that clear before.

Tim met us in my car at Brecon, and we still had time to visit Bev's favourite shop in Crickhowell, a proper old-fashioned rural department store, not a small version of Debenhams. She was very restrained and we only bought a birthday card and a plastic spatula! The spatula was for Bev but the card was for Paul Kendal, and we celebrated with him, after one of Nick's superb curries, with a firework display also supplied by Nick.

Everyone was too full of curry to contemplate trudging to the pub. Perhaps we are getting old? No, I would have gone if anyone else had.....We had a good social evening around the woodburner, and it was amazing how much fun you can have with a bowl of custard powder and cold water!

Sunday dawn was clear and bright again, and I popped out to take a photo of the red sky. The hill drew me upwards though, and I found myself some way above Perth-Y-Pia with Paul Toynton. It was fantastic and I wasn't tempted to hurry back and help Dave to cook the breakfast. Thanks again Dave. At some stage during Saturday evening I must have said that I wanted to paddle from Brecon to Crickhowell the following day, rather than the usual stretch from Talybont to Crickhowell, because the following morning Ros and Dave surprised me by being geared up and ready to go for it. I didn't really think anyone would be interested. I was equally surprised that some people were planning only to paddle from Talybont to Llangynidr. Hardly worth getting the boat off the roof for I say! Paul Toynton joined Ros, Dave and I, and we said we would catch the others up somewhere on the river, hoping that avoiding the shuttle would give us a good start. It is another stretch I haven't paddled from many years. In fact I have only done it once. It was less entertaining in paddling terms than the stretch above Brecon, being mainly riffles down shingle

beds and flat stretches, but there are lots of braided sections with trees growing on the islands and gravel beds. Plenty of scope there for nasty strainers if there is more water in the river. The wildlife made up for the lack of rapids, with kingfishers, herons, little grebes, green sandpipers (a first sighting for me), buzzards, red kites, a goosander and dozens of dippers. It was wonderful. I half expected to find the rest of our group getting started at Talybont but the stretch from Brecon to Talybont was much longer than I remembered. When we got there it was about mid-day and we were told by another group that they were an hour ahead of us. We paddled on and really enjoyed Mill Falls, which was a playground of small drops, jets and stoppers. Again, there was no need to inspect because there was not enough power in the river to pose any real danger.

We found the rest of our group having a lunch break at Llangynidr bridge. They said they had had an uneventful trip, and they had all decided to continue on to Crickhowell. We started together, but Paul T, Tim Bryan and I soon lost the main group because there were so many waves to play on, and the others seemed to be in more of a hurry than us. Bev and Jake waited for us about half way to Crickhowell, and Jake joined in to play on most of the waves after that. Paul made his usual observations about the lack of group cohesion and safety awareness. We had spare paddles and first aid kits somewhere in the group, but I don't think those at the front knew if we tail-enders had any. As a club we should make more effort to keep groups together because accidents can happen, even in seemingly sublime conditions, and those out of sight ahead would be of no help. In fact the only mishap of the day was Dot's, capsizing and cooling off at the very end of the trip in the little stopper below Crickhowell bridge, with plenty of help and rude comments to hand.

It was a great weekend as usual, helped by the weather, but mainly thanks to the good company. Ros did some homework after the trip and said that the distances paddled were:

Sennybridge to Aberbran 5.5 miles

Aberbran to Brecon 4 miles

Brecon to Talybont 7.5 miles

Talybont to Llangynidr 4 miles

Llangynidr to Crickhowell 5.5 miles.

Thanks Ros, and well done for paddling it all in what was probably the slowest boat there, the club's Attack playboat.



Barry D

THE RIVER AVON - A PUBLIC NAVIGABLE RIVER

A summary paper, by Douglas Caffyn, concerning the right of Navigation on the River Avon is given below. Leaving aside the national question 'Do we have a right of Navigation anyway' - the River Avon remains a 'special case'

The River Avon from Salisbury to the Sea. A public navigable river.

Most legal texts which deal with the subject of public navigable rivers state that a public right of navigation may be created by Statute, Historic Use or Dedication at Common Law.

It seems likely that a right of navigation has been created by dedication near Fordingbridge and possibly in other places. However dedication is not considered in this paper.

Right created by Statute.

In 1664 an Act was passed for making the River Avon navigable from Salisbury to the Sea. (17 Charles II c 12) This section of the river was made navigable but it is thought that part of the works were swept away by a flood soon after. However John Chandler (*Endless Street*) records that traffic on the river included 25 ton barges.

It is understood that in the early 20th century a gentleman claimed that there was still a right of navigation on the river but that when he was sued for trespass the court held that there was no such right. No report of such a case has been found.

If there was such a case it has now been over-ruled by the Appeal Court in *A-G ex rel Yorkshire Derwent Trust Ltd v Brotherton*. ((1990) 61 P & CR 198) In this case it was held that when a Navigation Act was passed it created, by implication, a public right of navigation on the river, both for commerce and for recreation, either from the date of the

passing of the Act or from the date when the river was made navigable. It was also held that this right continues until the Act is repealed. However if the river becomes silted up so that certain boats are physically unable to use the river then the right of navigation is suspended for such boats. Smaller boats may continue to use the river.

It was held by the House of Lords in *A-G v Simpson* ([1901] 2 Ch 671) that a river remains navigable even if the passage of boats is obstructed by weirs or other structures.

Where a public way is obstructed there is a right to go on the adjoining land to pass the obstruction. (*Horn v Widlake* ((1606) 1 Brownl & Golds 212)

The course of the River Avon has changed over the last four centuries. It has been held that if a river changes its course then the right of navigation follows to the new course. (*Mayor of Carlisle v Graham* ((1869) 4 LR 361)

Thus there is now a Public Right of Navigation on the River Avon from Salisbury to the Sea by virtue of the Statute of 1664.

Right by Historic Use.

When a person claims that there is a public right of navigation due to Historic Use it is accepted that such a claim can only be verified by a Court.

Hatcher (*The History of Modern Wiltshire*) records that "From time immemorial, the river Avon had been subject to commissioners of sewers, to preserve various rights of fishery and passage. The antient custom of this part of the river was that a passage was to be left free, fifteen feet wide, and twelve feet distant from either bank. This custom was confirmed by the commissioners, in the third year of James the First, 1604 , and the eighth of Charles the First, 1632."

The Commissioners of Sewers formed a Court.

It has been held recently that once a public right of navigation has been established it can only be extinguished by Act of Parliament, Statutory Authority or by the river becoming physically impassable. (*Josie Rowland v Environment Agency* [2002] EWHC 2785)

Thus there is now a Public Right of Navigation on the River Avon from Salisbury to the Sea by virtue of Historic Use.

Any queries about the above paper may be addressed to:

Rev'd D.J.M. Caffyn, 255 Kings Drive Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2UR

October 2006.

CAN ANYONE HELP

Douglas hopes to establish a 'Canoe Route' from Salisbury to Christchurch - to be opened in May 2007 (the Salisbury Water Festival). He has asked for assistance in gathering as much local information as possible – as soon as possible. He has requested:-

Information about the commercial use of the river at any time: *Under an Act of 1664 the river was made navigable but the whole of the works were swept away by a flood soon after. Any information about commercial boats actually using the river at any time would be very welcome.*

Fordingbridge Regatta. *A rowing club was founded in 1870 but soon closed. A rowing and sailing club was started in 1889 and they had their first regatta in 1889. Any further information*

about the Regattas would be welcome, date of ending, reason for ending, how far up the river did they go, how far down, etc.??

Information about 'the man who made canoes in Fordingbridge and where they were used'.

Present condition of river. *If we are to publish a guide it will need: access points with details of parking; obstructions when travelling downstream and details of portages; same when travelling upstream.*

DECEMBER 2006 – TAVY

A few of us were lucky enough to catch the middle Tavy at a perfect level on the 3rd December. The last few times I've bothered to check this run out it has either turned out to be flooding through the trees or a bony ditch, but, when the levels are right, it is a great G3+ run

There was even enough water to sub Ross's Blunt!



Photos: Martin Linford

Graham

LOCAL RIVER ADVISOR.

The BCU are looking for a new LRA for the Avon. They need someone to liaise with BCU members, other clubs, the Environment Agency, landowners and other river users, prepare an information sheet, seek access agreements, and deal with problems. There were no volunteers from those present at the meeting, so if anyone would like to volunteer please contact Graham as soon as possible