



# CANEWS

April 2009

## EDITOR'S CORNER

THE WEB SITE – [www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk](http://www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk)

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

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

### THE RIVER AVON 'BLOG'



If you have any photos, information etc. on the river Avon that might be appropriate for the 'Blog' – please let me know

See: <http://theriveravon.blogspot.com/>

### CAPTION COMPETITION

Visit the web site for the Caption Competition



*I'll push this rock away, you can then get the canoe into the cave!! (Mike W).*

*A lift in that? No thanks, I'd rather walk. (Barry D)*

### RCC PHOTO GALLERY



Don't forget – you can share your photos with all members

### RCC HISTORY

This is Ringwood Canoe Clubs 21<sup>st</sup> year. To celebrate our coming of age there will be a party at Barry's in June (see the events list)

I will also be posting up old issues of Canews for you to download and savour. See some real old school paddling!, find out what happened a decade or so ago, and for those RCC long-timers, relive some memories and cringe at what you, or others, said at the time.

### AGM 2009

Don't forget the Annual General Meeting. Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, The Queens Head in Burley, 19:00. Ian Mercer a member of Poole CC has kindly volunteered to give a talk on a wilderness open canoe trip in Canada

## A SEQUENCE ON THE LYN

1st February and the temperature never crawled above freezing. Levels on the East Lyn were low and the river chossy.

This sequence follows Chas through some of the gnarl at the beginning of the gorge section.



To boof the second drop



Landing a little deep



Straightening up for the third drop



And over the lip to join Rich (of Southbourne CC)



To complete the sequence another paddler goes deep below the drop that Chas is pictured entering above



My numb fingers were struggling with the camera controls but we were off the river before the first flurries of snow arrived that heralded the approaching storm. We restored our circulation over the obligatory Devonshire Cream Teas that always round off a good day out on the Lyn.

Graham B



Fifteen people gathered at Sea Lock Barn near Bideford on a very cold and windy weekend. Members are getting a bit soft and, of the fourteen who paddled from Sheepwash bridge on Saturday morning, four took the option of getting off the river after lunch at Hele bridge. One of those was Lee, who paddled well on his first winter river trip in a kayak, but lacked enthusiasm for the whole day. The others were Sibylle Gleed and her young children, also on their first winter trip and feeling the cold. We had left a car half there in anticipation that some would have had enough by then, and they returned to the barn for warmth and cakes while the rest of the group struggled a bit with a strong wind that was against us at times, and finished at Beaford bridge. Most people were solo in open boats and their perseverance was well tested.

I almost didn't paddle anywhere, being the target of a very effective attempt at sabotage. I found myself at the put-in with my canoe, my crew, and all my kit except paddles! I knew they weren't left in the car so Bev and I hunted around the bank to find where they had been put. No luck there so I asked Jake and Lee who had taken them out of the car. No luck there either because neither of them had. The story eventually came out that Nick had taken them out of my car the evening before to make room for Marion to ride to the pub, and had secreted them away in the cupboard under the stairs. I was oblivious to all this, walking to the pub at the time. Thanks Nick, I'm working on my revenge strategy as I write. Look out..... Anyway, all was well as Dave lent me his spare, and Mike and Dot were there with enough spare paddles for the whole group. Dot had enough clothes for the whole group too – but she was wearing them all. I'm not sure whether it was protection against the cold, or to give a better fit for her canoeing kit on her new slim-line form.

We had a great evening as usual with more food than we could eat, and with a few drinks inside them most people talked themselves out of paddling the next day, deciding it would be far too windy. The next morning indeed brought stronger winds, and Mike Worth even thought the tin roof was going to blow off his outdoor sleeping platform. Those who were in two minds about it were convinced it would be too cold or too much like hard work. Only a stalwart six were up for the paddle. Having unloaded and shuttled, Dave dropped out, already feeling too cold to start. Jake was the only kayaker, with Mark Gleed sharing my open boat, and Mike Worth and Simon Burke in their smaller solo open boats. We started again at Beaford, and in fact the trip was a very easy one, the river here being deep in a steep sided and wooded valley, and

the winds we did feel were mostly gentle and behind us. The two weirs which normally offer some excitement were portaged by all the open boaters, both of them being in exposed spots with really strong, freezing, wind blowing across them. A spill there would have been unlikely perhaps, but too awful to contemplate. Jake enjoyed them though.

The paddle to Rothorn bridge below Torrington was not so long as Saturday's, so most of us went back to the barn for more refreshments and to collect families, gear, and more excess food. Another great weekend of paddling for some, paddling and walking for others, and a happy social time for all. Thanks for organising it so well again Dave

Barry D

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### A TOP DAY ON THE DART

We had waited many months for the conditions to be suitable for introducing a few very keen youngsters to the joys of the Upper Dart. We wanted it just below the ledge with mild air temperatures. The 15th February was perfect and so Ross, Chas, Tim and I invited Jake Deakin and Jacob and Ben Collings (Sandleheath Scouts) to join us.

Jacob had already been with me on the Upper a couple of times last year – but this was to be a big step up for Ben and Jake

We took our time – 5 hours on the river! – practicing river running strategies, inspecting and discussing lines, learning to boof and flair and getting the maximum enjoyment from this great stretch of river.



Above, Jake on Euthanasia



Ben (16) exiting Euthanasia



Jacob (15) negotiating Boulder Rapid

I took 450 photos that day – and 90% came out! I have posted a few on the RCC Gallery and a few more on Flickr. But if you want a decent account chat to Jake.

A top day and well done to Jake, Ben and Jacob – all three are truly exceptional paddlers

Graham

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### TEIGN / TAVY FEBRUARY 2009

A few Photos from Ross



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### EXMOOR MARCH 2009

Just a few snaps from Simon B



Mishap on the Barle:- 'As Ross was mountain biking we were unable to find a way to blame him for this one. Adrian's justification was "If Barry had not been in the way we would have been alright"



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### LONG BOATS ON LONG ISLAND



Strange as it seems, there is a long boat beached at Long Island, Poole Harbour.

Long Island, owned by the Rempstone Estate, was put on the market back in 2007 and big forbidding 'PRIVATE KEEP OFF' signs have since adorned its shores. Before this we had often landed to enjoy a picnic and short stretch here when paddling in the harbour. The occupant of the barge didn't want to be drawn into a conversation (it was still early in the morning) but it would seem that the long boat is being used to accommodate **security guards** charged with preventing anyone landing on the island.

As I understand it, someone has submitted a 'rights-of-way' application and over 100 people have given evidence that the island has been visited and used as a public right of way for

30 to 50 years. I believe the sale of the island has been put on hold until the outcome of this application is known.

**Security guards on an island in Poole harbour!** I guess if I owned, and was trying to sell, an island in Poole Harbour I wouldn't be keen on folk wandering all over it either

Still, it didn't seem to phase the Round Island seal we spied swimming close to its shores and we still enjoyed our short 'Breakfast on Brownsea' paddle. Stage 1 of Frances training for Turkey



Graham B 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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**THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS!**

How about sharing your boating experiences, paddling 'top tips' or even recipes!