



# CANEWS

January 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



*"Another successful trip led by Ross!"* (Ros W)

*"Due to the re-profiling of the Woodmill weir, the try-a-boat session was proving challenging"* (Mike F)

*Another classic illustration of the RCC open boat fraternity failing to hit the line identified by Ross* (Ross M)

*"Well, Ross went down in his kayak and said it was no problem...." OR "Lemmings Canoe Club"* (Barry D).

### RCC WEBSITE ISSUES



I have finally taken the plunge and moved the web site to a new host. If your bookmark still sends you to the old btinternet address, please update it [www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk](http://www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk)

For the last 10 years I have hosted the web site on my private email account, which gave me a 15mb 'home page' - the web site has gradually increased to around 80mb and, for the last few months, I have had to delete files from the site before I have been able to upload new stuff.

We now have 3000mb to play with, so get writing!!

One advantage of the above is that we now have the space for our very own Photo Gallery

And a big thanks to Ross and Simon for all the advice and tech support

---

## RCC PHOTOS GALLERY



Good news – most of the issues with the website have been resolved (Thanks Ross and Simon)

You will now find, on the home page [www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk](http://www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk) a large banner for the new RCC photo gallery. (If your bookmark still sends you to the old btinternet address, please update it)

If you want the ability to upload photos onto this gallery you have to register.

Once registered you have the option of creating albums within your own user gallery or adding photos to a public album under the RCC Trips 'category'. At the moment, I can't find a way for users to create albums under the RCC Trips category, although you can upload photos to an existing album. So, let me know if you want an album created and I will do it my end.

We also have the facility to upload trip reports into the relevant albums (see the pdf file win the 'Torrige 2008' album that I uploaded as an example)

These are early days and I am sure we will have teething problems – but bear with it.

A few rules:-

1. For the time being I have set a 20mb restriction for each user (i.e. total files = maximum of 20mb) – I can always change this in the future. If you reach the 20mb you will be told so and won't be able to upload anymore images without my nod (oh the power!)
2. I have set the site configuration to automatically resize any images that you upload to a maximum of 1024 pixels width (which is ample for screen viewing). If you want to download higher resolution copies from the site you will have to contact the photographer!
3. Please try to avoid uploading loads of poor quality images – not only will it use up valuable memory but it means that others have to wade through loads of images before finding the 'gems'
4. Trip Reports – if you email any text trip reports to me as word documents I will endeavour to convert them to pdf format and put them up in the relevant album. I would prefer that you didn't upload word documents directly to the site just in case these contain any nasties.

The rules might change – but let us start cautiously. But, it is our site so please use it and don't be shy!

And if you have any problems or suggestions please let me know,

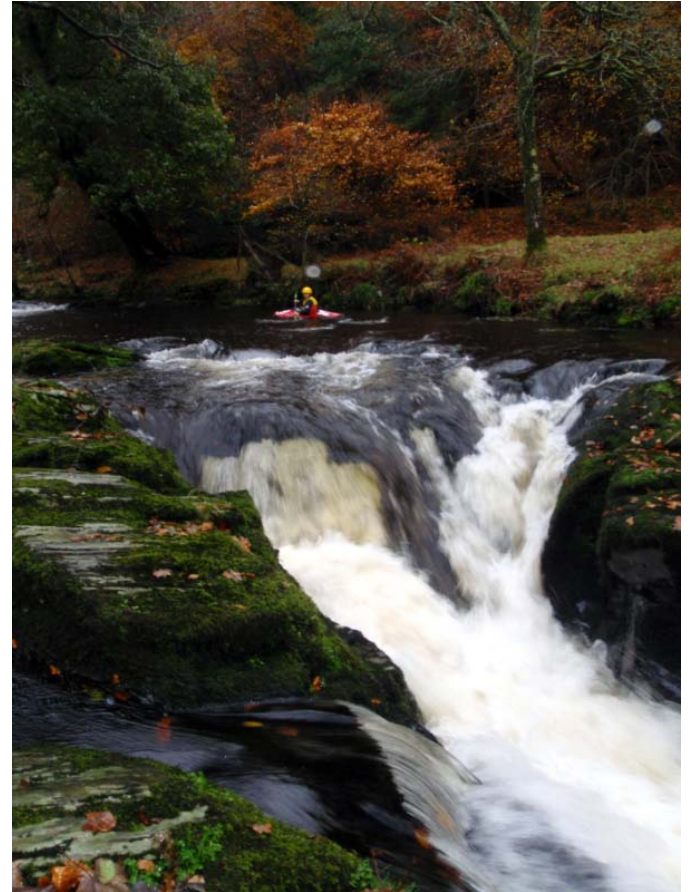
And, finally, the gallery will not replace the existing pages, Canews etc. which will continue as before. The Gallery is an additional resource and everyone is encouraged to use it.

Good luck

Graham

---

## WALKHAM / TAVY



It rained – but not quite enough to make the Walkham a pleasant paddle for Adrian and Cathy in their Canoe. A long day, but pleasant all the same. Above, Jake lines up for the 'slot'

---

## USK NOVEMBER 2008

This years club trip to Wales and the River Usk was a little experimental in several ways.

Firstly, inundated with requests to join the trip Nick went all out and rented both the Farmhouse and the Barn at Perth-y-Pia. This meant that the trip could accommodate 32 people rather than the more usual 16.

A great idea that quickly became over subscribed months ago. Then slowly as the final week before the trip drew to a close people started to drop out one by one until we were down to 22 with 11 staying in each of the accommodation units.

The second great experiment was Ross and Nick "bullying" me in to doing a write up.

Apparently if I do OK Nick will let me on the Usk trip next year – so here goes -

My weekend started on Friday morning as I pried the keys to the new car out of my wife's unwilling hand – she doesn't quite trust me with the car and wanted me to take my Corsa but I was taking the Canadian and managed to dissuade her of this idea. So car loaded I bade fair well and made my way to Wales.

Friday Eve was passed in the local hostelry sampling the ale and the food – both of which were delicious. Feeling rather full and that we ought to leave some beer for the locals we returned Perth-y-Pai but not before a little fight in the car park as the competition between the drivers to be 2nd of 3 cars got

a little tense. In the end Annie won meaning that Jo and Paul's passengers were left to open and close the farm gates.

Saturday came with Barry and Ross trying to work out how to cope with so many boats and people on the shuttle and water. Eventually the plan was hatched. Barry would take us open boaters (a healthy contingent of 6) ahead while the Kayakers would follow. Once upon the water Barry gave us a challenge to follow through the day on the features— Reverse Ferry gliding. The theory seems a little strange to myself and I am sure many other club members – slow down when going through rapids so that the boat moves slower than the water and use Draw strokes and ferry glides to negotiate obstacles. But it worked, with an added benefit in that it wound up the kayakers a treat when all they wanted to do was plough down, eddy hop and surf the waves.

The days paddle was interesting and we spent much of the day following a similar sized group from “North Avon”, containing lots of young paddlers in play boats pulling cartwheels etc. and in general giving Jake “boat envy”. Barry generously offered to buy him a rubber ring as these seem to be a similar size to the Jackson Star he had his eye on.

There were a couple of nice looking drops that had Barry, Dave and I portaging – Barry as he still could not swim with his eye, Dave as he did not want to damage Annie's boat while she was with us for the weekend and myself who just did not fancy a swim.



Paul K – seeing the play boaters taking drops sideways and backwards tried to join in – unfortunately he was in a 16' Open boat and the chute he was running was about 10' wide at the top – however somehow he kept the boat dry and in one piece as he was rocked around to his journey backwards.



Mike & Martin then demonstrated a more traditional approach.



Of the open boaters there was only one swim that day where Mike having failed with an “air brace” decided to test out the dry suit as he went over a ledge.



As we paddled our way to the get out an amusing story emerged from the Kayaking party. It appeared that Nick had got tired and for some reason took a rest on a rock and was using his paddle as a prop on the river bottom to remain upright. One of the party, obviously mistaking his posture for that of someone stuck and in need of assistance helped him upright. A little later on Nick was recounting the story and demonstrated how he was relying on the paddle to remain balanced. Unfortunately Nick forgot the vital part – to check that there was a river bottom within paddle's depth to lean on – so someone else managed to test out their new dry gear.

Saturday evening and we returned to the accommodation and started to think about evening meals. Bev was catering for the party in the Barn while the Farmhouse party got to sample another of Nick's famous curry's (earlier in the day even though she was doing the cooking Bev had asked if she could join us). While awaiting the evening meal Tim was harassed by Elliot (advising that he should become more involved in leading on the water) and Paul T (who was offering "Sartorial advise" -- i.e. extolling the virtues of his new dry top). For the rest of the weekend Tim seemed most shocked at the

thought of Paul offering up advise on new equipment and clothing at that.

The curry was well received and followed by a homemade Ice cream dessert that Nick had also prepared. With the numbers catered for being greater than the actual number of people eating Elliot and Tim both thought there would be plenty of seconds to go around. Due to some spoilage there was only the one Ice cream left so Elliot hatched a cunning plot to ensure that he got it. By persuading Tim to sample some of Becky's Banoffee pie he had Tim distracted long enough to make a dash for the ice cream and in doing so caused some discord for the rest of the weekend.

Sunday's paddle was from Talybont to Crickhowell and I decided that today I would paddle the Kayak. The day was a little more interesting than the Saturday both in terms of a different boat and therefore techniques but also more eventful. Everything was going well till we reached rapids just above Mill falls then Kevin got tripped up by the river and had a swim, he was assisted to the shore while Jake rescued his boat just before it went over the falls.

It was quite a sight seeing Jake in his small Dynamo trying to push the much larger Cypher into an eddy but he managed to get it there before the seemingly inevitable backward trip down the falls happened. We all got out of the boats to inspect the falls while the impatient open boaters kept heckling from the bottom to get on with it and paddle. In the end there were three routes taken. A portage by the least experienced paddlers, mere mortals took a hard left route down the falls while Ross, Jake et al hopped from wave to eddy to wave down the main falls – a really good bit of paddling from Jake who hit every eddy he went for.

While we were waiting for the wave hoppers to finish and the final portage to occur the second swim of the day went to Toby who seemed to hit a rock while learning to ferry glide across the river. Toby, now very cold and wet also took a second swim a little later. Luckily we were not far from the optional egress point where Nick and Dot had cars which enabled Toby's family to leave the water and get dry and warm again.

A reduced group travelled on to Crickhowell, a good paddle with more features than above Mill Falls including a nice drop that everyone managed to run without issues apart from Barry, with the prohibition of swimming, lining his boat down.

A rogue wave a little later gave Paul T a final opportunity to test, and boast about to Tim, the benefits of his dry top as he capsized and rolled back up again



The final excitement of the day on the stretch before Crickhowell occurred when a sheep was spotted stuck on a small mud ledge in the bank unable to climb up and unwilling to swim. In true Ringwood fashion there was debate over a rescue or whether the sheep should form sandwich filling for Mike's shop. You will be pleased to know that the rescue party won and the sheep was duly lifted until it was able to climb by Paul and Tim.

The trip ended without further incident and we were all packed up just as the sky went black with rain again.

Thanks to Nick and Barry for organising the trip and accommodation and to everyone else for another great weekend spent in the company of the Canoe Club, good food and of course some beer (not to forget a little bit of paddling).

By way of a post script next years trip is booked and places are filling up as we speak!

Simon

---

### SEALS IN CHRISTCHURCH HARBOUR



During the Christmas week, with the rivers of Dartmoor empty, I took my sea boat out a couple of times. On New Years day I paddled from Mudeford up to the tidal limit of both the Stour and the Avon (to give me some much needed exercise and clear a hangover!).

I was fortunate enough to have a close encounter with a seal just at the entrance to the Avon (SZ 162 922) – he popped up next to the sea kayak, gave me a few welcoming snorts and swam around and under the boat before departing.

I don't think I have ever seen seals in Christchurch Harbour before? (But, that could be a memory thing!).

Nice start to 2009 anyway!

Graham

---

### ERME JANUARY 2009



After 5 weekends of dry rivers – it was good to get to Dartmoor again in Mid January

---

### TRY-IT-OUT SESSIONS THIS SUMMER

The Tuesday Rota system is being abandoned for the summer 2009. In its place, the 'last Tuesday' of each month (April, May, June, July, August, and September) has been designated 'Come and Try' sessions. Any enquiries from potential members wishing to give it a go will be told to turn up on one of these Tuesdays when we hope that there will be boat/ paddle/ deck and PFD for all comers. All members with spare boats are, consequently, encouraged to turn up on these Tuesdays with kit. (Dates are given on the 'Events List'

---

### EVENTS

The 'Events' list has been updated (following a meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January). Please check out the web site for the current list