



Issue 9

August 2023 to
October 2023

Sudbury Canoe Club Newsletter

*SCC Celebrating 25
years! (2020)*

Your committee

Chairperson: Kyrstie Hall

Secretary: Louise Horsley

Treasurer: John Bianchi

Membership: David Harkness

Junior Officer: Heather Palmer
and Kyrstie Hall

Fundraising: Steve Timms

Senior Rep: Fred Welham.

Safety Officer: David Harkness

Kit Officer: Anthony Wheadon,
Nikki McGenn, Peter Narvidge

Events: Peter Narvidge

Safety Officer: Jamie McGenn

Junior Reps: Taylor Horsley, Jack
Palmer and Dylan Roques

Trainee Junior Rep: Ezra Juan

Training

16/09/2023 Leader and skills
training

If you have any training ideas, you
would like let us know at

SCC.onthetour@gmail.com

Wye Trip By Kyrstie Hall

River Wye canoe trip 7th July to 10th July – the river Wye trip began with camping at Bycross farm campsite after car and van journey's in. The campsite had excellent water entry and after shuttling on Friday morning we began our lovely trip. The water was quite low but still had a few eddies to catch as we settled into paddling in canoes with Carly taking up the challenge of single kayak paddling acting as safety boat! It took a while to get into our stride and Dan assured us that we were a little slow on that first day, perhaps we were just enjoying ourselves too much and of course paddling on the hottest of the days which left us quite dehydrated when we reached Hereford Rowing club. There were showers fortunately and a massive beer festival which did leave the site a little packed, not helped by the disco at the rugby club which competed for sound. The next day saw us up and out with a few hitches in relation to which boat had the most paddles – definite piracy on the water but it was soon sorted and off we went stopping off to have a quick coffee break and then lunch on the side of the river. Both days included stone skipping with Dan winning the 'flattest and best skimming stone ever' award. The next stop was at a lovely campsite which offered pizza and a hot meal (with a huge que) but unfortunately no showers and no takers for wild swimming to wash! Our next day was a long one, 33km but that petered into insignificance after the shuttle to the campsite which included a hair-raising ride down a one-track hill with a hairpin bend – not looking down or over the side was a definite plus and fortunately everyone survived. The paddle itself was quite windy in areas, included some shallow patches (Fred was hauled over the rocks several times by his upbeat crew) and a good lunch stop as the sun came out. This was a YHA campsite down below the house and kitchen and only one member of the crew decamped to a room in the main building. The evening included wood and log capturing before a fantastic mandarin temple build on the fire pit using cotton wool and Vaseline as the starter (who knew?) and whilst there were no marshmallows there were lots of cookies and cakes to share.



SCC Celebrating 25 years! (2020)

Events

29/09/2023 – 01/10/2023 Wales

20/10/2023 – 22/10/2023

Dudley Caverns

27/10/2023 Halloween Paddle

16/12/2023 Christmas Paddle

31/12/2023 New Years Eve Paddle

There are other trips in planning,



Celebrating Success

Paddlesport Instructor Training

Newly qualified Instructors:

Nikki McGenn, John Bianchi

Additional craft:

Kyrstie Hall, David Harkness,
Louise Horsley.

Paddlesport Safety & Rescue Training

Suzi Page, Fred Welham, Alan Reeves, Paul Foreman, Carl Derrick, Peter Narvidge, Louise Horsley.

If you have any stories or ideas for future newsletters, please send them to

littlelouhorsley@hotmail.com

The last day.... a fairly easy paddle to Symonds Yat where more moving water could be played on and although the water was low the eddies and ferry gliding included a couple of sunken canoes and a broken paddle whilst we ate lunch and shred falafels on the bank. The last section felt like a hundred miles as we finally saw the steps of Monmouth Rowing Club through the sheets of cold rain! A fine trip was over with lovely company, shared laughter, and marvelous views of an ever-changing river....

End of Season BBQ

It was great to see so many come together for the end of season BBQ. There was lots of fun to be had on the water with various craft, and even a duck! There needs to be a special award for Chris Jackson for managing to stay dry all day! No mean feat!



A huge thanks goes out to all those who helped set up, cook, and clear up, and of course to Dan McGaley for providing the entertainment!

Whitewater Development Weekend By Nikki McGenn

This weekend was a whitewater development weekend.

It was a mixed group of 8 of us, half were very experienced and competent whitewater paddlers. 3 of us had been on 4 or 5 moving / whitewater grade 1,2, (with a splash of grade 3) trips before, and another who was introduced to moving water at Sleningford this year.

We all met at Horseshoe Falls around 11am. The water levels were pretty high, so the plan was to spend time training on the different features between Horseshoe falls and Mile End Mill under Dan's expert leadership!

This gave us all the chance to practice skills we had already learned and be taught many more along the way!

We had fun bouncing down wave trains and continued learning how to read the water. Today Dan and the other experienced Ww paddlers helped us chose good lines on the water and led us less experienced paddlers through the features.

Some of us chose (were advised!) that this wasn't the day to run Serpents tail which was running high and looking a little tricky.

We made our way down to Mile End Mill where we stopped for a much-needed lunch break!

After lunch we got back on the water at Mile End Mill and played some more on the features here, mainly focusing on ferry gliding. Dan then led us to a "secret gate" where we hopped out our boats and climbed a path and on the other side, we found a very calm and still canal (this was not what we expected!) So, we had a nice gentle paddle along the canal back to our vans to end our day.



Dawes Hall Wild Camping

By Peter Narvidge

This year saw a new event hit our calendars with the Dawes Hall wild camping. A huge thanks to Dan McGaley for stepping in when I was taken ill. The weekend was not only an opportunity to enjoy some paddling together but also some other outdoor pursuits including campfires and axe throwing! After the success of the weekend, we are already looking at dates for next year.



Saturday morning, we headed to the Upper Tryweryn. The Plan - to stay in the top and practice and learn more Ww skills. We had a safety briefing and some on the bank tuition before getting on the water. We weren't sure how much confidence Dan had in us when we saw the Water Rescue service turn up! But Dan assured us he hadn't pre booked them!!!

Once on the water we spent this whole session improving our "breaking in and out" much needed as the river was high and getting higher each hour, so the Eddies were getting smaller. (All these skills we all started learning on our Saturday mornings on our lovely stour but it's when you see the moving water that you realise the point of these skills!)

When we were ready for our lunch the "Grownups" aka our wonderful leaders and mentors, wanted the run the whole upper Tryweryn. It was great as us "kids" could walk alongside on the bank and watch them! Was so good to see how all the skills we are learning were put to use. We loved watching them.

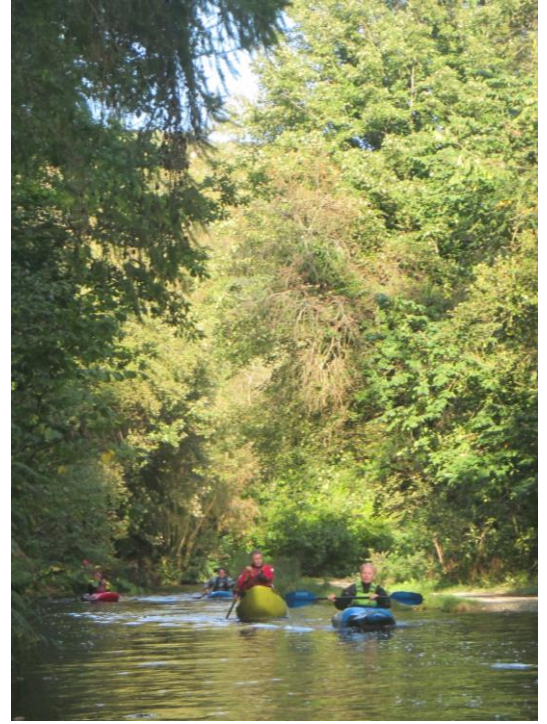
After lunch we were all running the Lower Tryweryn. Again, the water was high and bouncy, and we could see the levels riding as each hour went by. But it was great to have 2 days of learning all the skills we needed (even if sometimes we forgot some of them!!)

Because the river was higher and faster, we were told that today we would not be led or told how to run the river and features. It wasn't always possible with the flow. So, we had to use the skills we had been taught to read the river and make our own decisions. As scary as this thought was.... It turned out we could do this! (Mostly anyway!) we had been given the skills over the trips from Sleningford, Matlock and Wales and even the Stour. We were learning how to read the water ourselves.

By the time we got to the end of the Lower Tryweryn at Bala Mill Falls the water was very high and the daylight was fading, we had had many capsizes this weekend, many rescue opportunities of paddlers, kayaks stuck between rocks, paddles lost in trees but so many smiles laughs and cheers.

On day 3 we were heading home but not before we stopped to paddle along the canal and across Pontcysyllite Aqueduct which is the highest aqueduct in the world. A lovely way to finish a great weekend of fun.

We learned so much on this trip, one of those thing's being Dan has the patience of a saint!!



Sudbury Canoe Club Trip to Dudley Caverns

By Joseph McSweeney

During the morning of Friday 20th October, we packed up the car and set off to the Midlands. Our destination was Castle Gate Campsite near Kidderminster where we would be staying for our trip to Dudley Caverns.

The journey was long and wet. We saw wind turbines that were so tall that their tops were hidden in the clouds. We also saw an enormous pig farm which covered four large fields with hundreds of sties and feed troughs.

We eventually arrived at the campsite around 3pm and then luckily the rain stopped for long enough to put up the tents and have a look round. There were horses by the gate and an interesting old Claas combine harvester. In the evening we cooked over a camping stove and

Halloween Paddle

We enjoyed a very atmospheric Halloween paddle this year with mist on the water, owls hooting and full moon. The boats were lit for all to see and there were certainly some spooky characters both on and off the water! After we enjoyed a hot drink to warm and food at the Rowing club... and of course some sweet treats!



ate shortbread and then went early to bed ready for the next day's adventure. Storm Babet struck in the night but all we suffered was one soggy pillow, one wet sleeping bag and damp shoes.

The next morning, we woke up around 7am and ate breakfast. We then helped to push the van with the canoe trailer out of the mud before driving to the caverns with the car's heater turned up to full

to dry out our soggy shoes! We arrived at Dudley Canal and Caverns Trust at about 8:45am and lifted the canoes off the trailer and carried them down the path to the canal. It was difficult to carry the canoes down the steep path because it had a hairpin bend and railings on either side. We met our guides at the entrance to the Dudley Canal Tunnel. Our group consisted of seven canoes and one kayak. There were fifteen people and one dog!

We entered Dudley Tunnel at the Tipton Portal and travelled through the first part of the canal tunnel to Castle Mill basin. We could see four tunnels: two with water flowing through them, one with a triangular shaped entrance overgrown with weeds, one blocked with a padlocked iron gate and something that looked like a giant set of stone steps. Our guides told us that the basin once was half covered by a rocky roof, but it became unsafe towards the end of the twentieth century and had to be blasted away with explosives. They also said that of the water-filled tunnels, the left one led to the caverns (old limestone mines), the right one led along the rest of the canal tunnel, the triangular one was called Mud Mine, the one with the gates across was Wren's Nest Mine and the stone steps were the blocked entrance to Tipton Mine. We ventured into the left tunnel that led to the caverns. It was deliberately flooded and partially reconstructed in the 1980s as part of a restoration project. It was flooded to block off the deeper, more dangerous tunnels and to make the caverns navigable by boat. We paddled through it and came out in the first cavern. Our guides showed us a film about how the limestone formed and then we continued into Singing Cavern, so named because the wind swirling around the rock pillars made moaning noises in high winds before it was flooded. They then showed us another film about when the caverns were dug out and then they started a light show. After that, they took us into Hurst Cavern and back to the canal tunnel. We continued up the tunnel for another mile and a half, coming out at the Park Head terminal. Here our guides turned round and went back. We carried the canoes down three locks and turned left towards Bumble Hole and the Netherton tunnel. We paddled up this canal for two and a half miles and found a leg (fortunately fake) and a bike helmet! We stopped at Bumble Hole Café for enormous hot chocolates with whipped cream and marshmallows before paddling through the Netherton tunnel and turning left onto another canal. We found three footballs and a shopping trolley before coming to the

next set of locks to take us up to the level of the caverns again. We carried the canoes up these three locks to join the canal we started on. We went under two bridges before we returned to where we started (the trip was 9.75 miles, and we completed it in 6 hours). We drove back to the campsite and played with the balls we found on the canal, had tea, and then went to bed. The next morning, we packed up the camp and headed home, exhausted but happy.



There is a video which can be viewed at [hw_dungeongold1i_h_en_100 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw_dungeongold1i_h_en_100) courtesy of Dan McGaley.

Edited and published by:

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