

Totnes Canoe Club



Club Newsletter - June 09

Club Nights

Both the Monday and Tuesday sessions continue to be very popular and as always its great to see people progressing from 1 star novices to become competent 2 star kayak & open paddlers, then 2 star graduates moving onto 3 star ready for moving water. Well done to all!

Pool Session

Next is Sat 27 June. 5.00-6.00 for beginners, 6.00-7.00 improvers at the Totnes Pavilions Pool. Learn support strokes & how to roll.

Aveton Gifford to Bantham Quay

Last Sunday saw possibly the largest TCC trip of all time with 47 paddlers all told. An armada of vessels put on the high tide with open boats, white water and river running kayaks as well as sea kayaks and tourers. Put end to end you could have walked most of the way to Bantham on a path of plastic. We put in at Aveton Gifford where you can launch at the edge of the car park and paddle across the road (looking both ways first of course) - something of a novelty. The weather was beautiful, with a slight breeze cooling the proceedings. The estuary was at its most lush as the photos show. Following the tidal road (did anyone else see the official looking notice warning about not feeding the Brazilian piranha?) then into the wider estuary with dense woodland on either side.

A stop for lunch and a well earned rest in the sunshine by the waters edge under the canopy of overhanging trees.



pic courtesy Jon Purdye

As we restarted the tidal flow was quite noticeable and the last stretch flashed by. The Club trip officially ended at Bantham Quay and several of the group left at that point. The remaining group decided to paddle round to Bantham as a peer group and were rewarded with some decent surf.

Thanks to Rob for arranging this excellent trip and thanks to all who came along for making it such a success.



pic courtesy Jon Purdye



pic courtesy Chas Billing

Peer Trips

As mentioned before, these are usually arranged by email - just a group of friends paddling together. Of course coaches and experienced paddlers will help, encourage, and watch out for those with less experience so don't feel intimidated - sign up now! Everyone is welcome. Check with your coach or one of the peer group co-ordinators for more information.

To join a peer group contact the following:

General Touring & White Water:

Chas - chasandjaneb@tiscali.co.uk

Sea: Jeremy - info@jeremyvanr.com

Surf: Jon - jon.purdye@googlemail.com

Beach Day

The Club was also lucky with the weather on 31st May - a good crowd gathered at Sedgewell cove, Bigbury on one of the busiest days of the year. At high tide the beach was extremely crowded but as the tide fell everyone was able to spread out and breath more easily. A very enjoyable afternoon with people coming and going throughout the day. Several barbecues were lit (Jon - did yours *ever* get up to cooking heat?) and food consumed. We even got some paddling in - a small wave, not too challenging but great for a few beginners to try their hand on the moving water.

Sorry to those of you who arrived either by car or by sea kayak (all the way from Wonwell) only to find it impossible to park. Perhaps we should arrange for rain next time...(not really!)

Further information

Contact any coach or committee member - see website for details www.totnescanooclub.org.uk
or email tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk

Remember, all your coaches are volunteers and don't get paid a bean for the work they do for the Club (although the Club does fund some of the training)

Exe Trip

Below & to the right are some pictures by Julie Perrin showing the Exe trip which was covered in the last newsletter. There are lots more, so if you are interested in having a copy of one with you in please let Roger know.

tcc@41.eclipse.co.uk



Exeter Weir

pic courtesy Julie Perrin

Forthcoming

Fri 3 - Sun 5 July - Surf trip to Watergate Bay. Please feel free to join us -something for all the family. Camping in North Cornwall near the top surf beaches in the country. See recent email from Jon jon.purdye@googlemail.com

Sat 18 July - Mothercome, up the Erme & Back. Another beautiful estuary, paddling up on the rising tide and back as it falls. No shuttle required. A wide variety of scenery and wildlife, a perfect lunchstop by the little weir. Why wouldn't you come?

Sat 15 Aug - Another beach day, Bigbury. What will the weather do this time?

Sun 13 Sep - Totnes to Dittisham and its downhill all the way from the boatshed, then a complicated shuttle to get everyone back to Totnes again. More beautiful and stunning scenery, with the added bonus of ice creams at Stoke Gabriel.



Countess Weir

pic courtesy Julie Perrin



Lunch

pic courtesy Julie Perrin