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2012 AGM and Regatta

Our 2012 AGM and Regatta will take place on Sunday, 29th July at St Fagans: National History Museum, Cardiff. More details will be published nearer the time. Nominations for office, in writing or by email, must be received by the Secretary no later than 2nd July.

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to this issue of the newsletter, which we hope you will enjoy. If you are new to the Society, you may think this is a fairly slim edition. Well, you can't make bricks without straw, so it's up to you to provide our editor with copy. Anything coracle-related is grist to his mill. Let us know about your mad experiments, epic trips or idyllic bimbles (bimbling is what coracles do best).

As you may know, I'm more or less confined to the house until July through lack of a driving licence since my brain surgery last year. In the meantime, I've potted about making coracles and doing some gentle boat building whilst counting off the days until I can get afloat again. So what happens? The worst drought in umpteen years - by the time I get my licence back, there won't be any rivers! Photos in the local paper show the Severn reduced to a trickle in some parts. Even the canals are threatened with a restricted service. When you consider 70% of the planet is water and that we are an island, it's quite amazing we are short of the stuff. All the time we messed about on it, taking it for granted. If putting the plug in to clean my teeth means I can still go paddling, it's worth the small effort.

For many years I've been a supporter of Water Aid, a charity that aims to bring clean water to emerging nations. Perhaps messing about on it has brought about an appreciation of its value. When some people trek miles to collect it, we are lucky to have it on tap - usually.

As a PS, it was the drought of 1976 that got me into canoeing, and ultimately into coracles. So perhaps I've not got much to moan about.

Find a duck pond somewhere! Happy paddling,

Terry Kenny

Brand new website

Our new website was recently launched, providing our members with new features to add value to your membership. These new features include: an archive of all Journals produced by the Society, available to view and print; and a facility that allows members to post news, events and notices directly to the website. Another new feature is the Twitter feed of our Secretary and archivist, Dylan Jones. Twitter is a service that permits short messages to be published - in Dylan's case, these are updates on the work he does at St Fagans.

If you have access to the internet, please do take a look at the website. If you don't have internet access but would like access to the Journal archives, please contact the Secretary or Editor.

Carmarthen River Festival

The annual celebration of the River Towy takes place 30th June - 1st July and will include a festival of various off shore demonstrations from coracles, lifeboats, water skiing, speed boats, divers, coastguards, long boats & canoes. Taster sessions will be available for the public. There will also be a host of landside activities, making it a fun filled weekend for all the family.

A coracle demonstration will take place on the Sunday followed by the Annual River Towy Coracle Race. Last year's trophy winner was Malcolm Rees. This year, the Carmarthen Coracle & Netsmen's Association have extended an invitation to the Teifi Coraclemen to join them on the River. The weekend will finish with the annual Raft Race.



Jenny Fox, Events Organiser for Carmarthen Town Council, explained, "it is wonderful to see all river users working together; the River Towy has been the reason for Carmarthen prospering through the centuries and it is wonderful to see it brought back to life again. It is amazing to see the coracles racing on the river, and the public on the river bank are treated to a demonstration of the traditional art of coracle fishing."

More information on the festival can be obtained from carmarthentowncouncil.gov.uk or for coracle-related enquiries, contact Julie Rees - 07974 772393 or email jrees@trevaughan.freeserve.co.uk

Julie Rees

Event listings

This is a summary of some of the coracle-related events taking place this year. For further information and updates, please visit our website - coraclesociety.org.uk/events - or contact the Secretary. If you know of an event not listed, which you think we should advertise, please get in touch with the Editor - contact details are overleaf.

20 May - Medieval Fair - Bede's World, Jarrow - 0191 489 2106/visitor.info@bedesworld.co.uk

26-27 May - Coracle making course with Alistair Phillips - Peppard Common, Oxfordshire - 0118 972 3309/alistairphillips@btinternet.com

26 May - Wansbeck River Festival - Ashington, Northumberland - 01670 854422

3 Jun - Jubilee Coracle River Festival - Quarry Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire - 01743 355047/connorpr@hotmail.com

4-6 Jun - HeArts Fest - Workhouse Museum, Ripon, North Yorkshire - 01765 690799/info@riponmuseums.co.uk

16-17 Jun - Coracle making course with Alistair Phillips - Peppard Common, Oxfordshire - 0118 972 3309/alistairphillips@btinternet.com

23-24 Jun - Scottish Traditional Boat Festival - Portsoy, Aberdeenshire - 01261 842951/
contact@scottishtraditionalboatfestival.co.uk

30 Jun-1 Jul - Coracle making course with Alistair Phillips - Peppard Common, Oxfordshire - 0118 972 3309/
alistairphillips@btinternet.com

28-29 Jul - Fishing Weekend - St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff - 029 2057 3500

29 Jul - 2012 AGM and Regatta - St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff - 029 2057 3438/
info@coraclesociety.org.uk

11-12 Aug - Coracle making course - Green Wood Centre, Ironbridge - 01746 766465/info@acreswildwoodlands.co.uk

25 Aug - Cilgerran Coracle Races - Cilgerran, Pembrokeshire - 01239 841822/m_dellar@yahoo.co.uk

27 Aug - Annual Ironbridge Regatta - Ironbridge, Shropshire - 01952 432769/enquiries@smallwoods.org.uk

9 Sep - Guisborough Forest Festival - Guisborough, Teeside - cath.brason@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

15-16 Sep - Coracle making course with Alistair Phillips - Peppard Common, Oxfordshire - 0118 972 3309/
alistairphillips@btinternet.com

15-16 Sep - Wild About Wood - Castle Howard, North Yorkshire - 01904 643282/info@wildaboutwood.org

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