



Inspiring a generation

Secondary students learn coraclemaking skills with Jane Wilkinson

Teifi/Towy netsmen's' reports

History in the making as Towy and Teifi coracles come together at Cilgerran races

Montgomery canal triathalon

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The Coracle Society Officers 2013/14

President	Sir Peter Badge
Vice Presidents	Rod Bowen John Davies Terry Kenny Raymond Rees MBE Bernard Thomas
Honorary Chairman	Dave Purvis
Honorary Vice Chairmen	Malcolm Rees Andrew Betteridge
Honorary Secretary/Archivist	Dylan Jones, St Fagans: National History Museum
Honorary Treasurer	Euan Raffel
Membership Secretary	Brian Pearce
Committee Members	Peter Faulkner Martin Fowler Julie Rees Jude Walker Bruce Watson
Teifi netsmen's representative	Mark Dellar
Tywi netsmen's representative	Malcolm Rees
Ironbridge representative	Terry Kenny

President's Thoughts

I very much regret that for the first time that the Society was formed I have missed its AGM and Regatta. I gather both were very successful. Congratulations to all who organised them.

Whilst on this theme may I say how grateful we are to the Committee for all their hard work. It is invidious to single out individuals but I am sure the committee members will not object if I single out our indefatigable Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer/ Journal Editor for keeping the Society in the public eye so well.

My only personal news is two fold:

The Delamore Estate Trust has started to hold a annual wood day to which a number of crafts men/women from all over the country were invited. Mary and I attended this year's event held in delightful rural surroundings in Cornwood, near Ivybridge in West Devon. The organisers are anxious that there should be a presence by the Society and its members at next year's event. Dave is now in contact with them so watch this space!

Just recently Peter Faulkner rang me to say that he had been approached by the film company who are organising the building of a "Noah's Ark" quffa in the Middle East as a result of the discovery of the Symons Tablet in Iraq about which there has been much written in former Society Journals. We congratulate Peter warmly and look forward to a progress report in the future from him.

I wish all members happy paddling and look forward to next year's AGM and Regatta.

Sir Peter Badge



Chairman's Chat

Sitting in my den writing this piece for the Journal has given me the opportunity to reflect on the happenings of the last year, and to look back through copies of previous journals. (Looking for inspiration perhaps?)

It is a bit disconcerting to discover it is over a year now since I was appointed your honorary chairperson, how quickly time zips past when you are enjoying yourself! My first recollection is what a good summer we have had compared to the last couple of years, but sometimes a bit over the top as we discovered while frying in the heat for three days at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate (last year the Show was cancelled after the first day-rained off). Then the following month sat in the middle

of the lake at Foxglove Covert Nature Reserve at Catterick Garrison, supposedly demonstrating the art of coracle manoeuvres, but instead I was grounded and feeling like a chump whilst trying to pole ashore in less than ankle deep water, after four of the streams feeding the lake dried up during the week since we last visited the site. Hey ho, such is life. I do hope that our members took advantage of the good weather and were out and about paddling and enjoying themselves.

As I reported in last year's Journal, enquiries for coracle support at many outdoor events are coming in to Dylan in increasing numbers and he is doing his best to pass them on to members to follow up. It is a great way to promote the Coracle Society and spread our enthusiasm for these great little craft - please get in touch to record your interest if you would like to get involved, it can be great fun. Dylan also gets a steady trickle of a variety of interesting enquiries for information over the year. There was the Maori lady in New Zealand wanting to build her own coracle, then the two gentlemen in the Cairngorm National Park who built their own plywood and pond-liner boats and are looking to make contact with more Scottish coraclers. Let's not forget the many school and youth groups looking for support to begin their own projects; we try and help out as far as we can.

Membership numbers are slightly down this year, which is perhaps not surprising considering the current financial climate. We need to maintain a membership of one hundred plus if we are to remain viable without increasing membership fees. This is an excellent opportunity to thank everyone who has joined us or renewed their membership in the last year; I hope that you will continue to support us next year and perhaps find some more coraclers to swell our numbers - we know they are out there! I have been to more than two dozen events this year and have been very pleased to see the interest in coracles; Cilgerran and Ironbridge regattas continue to attract a large following of participants and spectators. Sadly we had to postpone our proposed AGM at Carmarthen through a low anticipated response from members, however the AGM at Ironbridge was well attended and a record field of over 40 boats competed in the annual regatta.

As reported elsewhere in the Journal and on the website, I have been to several events in Scotland in the last six months, culminating in a very enjoyable weekend in Perth in October when the Coracle Society were invited to take a stand at the Scottish Canoe Association's annual "Paddle Show". We were joined on the stand and at the coracle workshop by basketmakers Jane and Derry Wilkinson, and a contingent of very enthusiastic staff and pupils from Blairgowrie High School with six of their nine highly decorated coracles. These were launched for the first time on the Thursday prior to the show. We thank them for their support and the "Blairgowrie coracle" which they presented to us for Martin Fowler's collection at the National Coracle Centre at Cenarth, and wish them good luck with their efforts to start their school canoe and coracle club - perhaps the start of the Society's first Scottish branch?

Before closing this report, I would like to thank everyone who contributed towards

our Heritage Huts Appeal, which raised just a little over a very commendable £2600. I had perhaps raised the bar a little high by setting a target of £5000, but am hopeful that we should be able to secure sufficient Lottery funding to rescue and restore and fit out the Rogers workshop in Ironbridge and the Thomas workshop in Cenarth. There is a brief update later in the journal and we hope to have more news in our spring newsletter.

I hope that you will enjoy this edition of our Journal, to quote those words of wisdom from Terry Kenny in the 2009 Journal - "Of course the quality of a Journal depends on a number of things, and one of these is the contributions received. The editor can't make bricks without straw. Feedback is also very important". And in 2010 "Since Euan simplified...the Society website, let the rest of us know what you are up to - it would be great if the website brought about the formation of groups of paddlers around the country".

Many thanks once again to Euan for his work producing the Journal, best wishes to everyone and happy paddling in 2014.

Dave Purvis



An excellent turnout for the annual coracle regatta at Ironbridge - August 2013



Pupils Build Traditional Boats

Pupils at Blairgowrie High School are building a number of small boats as part of a project that should culminate later this year with the basket-framed vessels being launched at the Tay Descent event in October.

The S4 youngsters have been tasked with creating coracles. Pupils have taken part in every aspect of the project from harvesting willow to learning how to weave with the help of tutor Jane Wilkinson. The aim of the project is to raise levels of attainment through the pupils working across different departments in the school – including physics, art and design, music, history and maths.



Students from various universities have contributed to the project by working with pupils on a range of aspects of the design and construction of the boats. Willow weaver Jane said: “I have been bowled over by the kids on this project, they have been fantastic and worked really hard. They have had every weather condition thrown at them – snow, hail, rain and sunshine – and have taken ownership of the project, bringing their own skills and abilities to it.



“It is great to see the different departments within the school all getting involved. The art department has some fantastic designs for decorating the coracles, the physics departments has been involved in studying the structural properties of the materials and altering the position of the seat for example to better balance the boats.

“And it is not just academic skills that the pupils have been learning, they have developed organisational skills, risk assessment skills, and cooperative working and general life skills as well. It has been fantastic.”

Headteacher at Blairgowrie High School Gordon Miller added: “This is the first time that we have had a go at building coracles and the kids have thrown themselves into it. They have clearly enjoyed it and learnt a lot about history and about working together and it has been a great experience for them.”

Over the next few weeks the coracles will be decorated by some of the group who have worked with Duncan of Jordanstone students on developing unique designs based on the Pictish astrological calendar and on patterns derived from the natural materials used in the construction process. Once completed the flotilla of coracles

will be tested in the water and permission is currently being sought from the Scottish Canoe Association to launch the craft at their annual Tay Descent event in October. Further boat skills sessions are planned for pupils to learn how to manoeuvre their coracles on the water.



The project is a partnership between the school and the council’s arts development service funded by the Big Lottery Fund. Running in parallel to the main project the Active Schools coordinator, Caroline Lawrie, has organised open-boat training sessions, funded by the Local Action Fund, with a view to setting up a kayak club in the area.

Article: Clare Damodaran, Blairgowrie Advertiser

Photos: Jane Wilkinson

Report: Teifi Netsmen’s Representative

I’m a coracle maker and a licensee of a Teifi coracle sewin and salmon fishing licence.

The coracle fishing season takes place between the months of April & August. The fishing is classed as commercial, therefore all the fish landed are tagged and recorded according to government protocol. There are currently 12 coracle licences on the Teifi with a fishing area from Llechryd Bridge to Cardigan Bridge.

All of the fishing is carried out after dark with two coracles drifting/paddling downstream with a net between the two coracles.

The fishing has two parts to the season. sewin can be taken throughout the fishing period and salmon can only be taken after April 1st, with any salmon caught before this date returned to the water. The 2013 fishing season started off with a steady catch rate of sewin; some decent double figure fish being landed. The sewin run as a general rule comes to a slow trickle around late June/early July, with the size dropping right off to an average of approximately 3lbs in weight. This year was no different to any other, the sewin was once again elusive and we awaited the salmon run.

The salmon returns before the 1st of April were a promising sign for things to come, however as the season opener came & went the salmon were few & far between. The overall view of the fishermen was another average season for sewin and a poor show of salmon.

The Teifi holds an annual coracle race day during Cilgerran festive week, which was once again a resounding success with a lot of visitors and locals taking part. Participants from experts to novices took part, the youngest participant was a six-year-old girl and the eldest was a sprightly 64.

Dave Purvis was in attendance with an array of coracles and displays, keeping the spectators well informed of the coracle history. Malcolm Rees from the Towy coracles was also a welcomed participant with the first Towy coracle competing in a few years.

Mark Dellar



History in the making

Malcolm Rees (left), Towy netsmen's representative deep in conversation with Mark Dellar, Teifi netsman's representative at the 2013 Cilgerran Races

Report: Towy Netsmen's Representative

The most exciting news for the Towy Coracle is "The Coracle Shed". Those who have visited our coracle sheds before may remember our two workshops on the riverbank. The main building will still be used as a coracle workshop to make and repair coracles, but we have transferred the top storage shed into a small Towy coracle museum. This has caused considerable interest with local primary schools and we have welcomed numerous schools during the summer months. We have received positive feedback from our young visitors and imagine that we will receive more requests when the new school term commences. We are now included in the Carmarthen Town Council tour and have welcomed groups of visitors and given them an insight into our history and coracle making.

Unfortunately the Coracle Society AGM was cancelled in Carmarthen, but the coracle men still took to the water for the River Festival and took part in a relay race, a king of the Towy race and a novice race. On behalf of the Camarthen Coracle and Netsmen's Association, thank you to the Society and The National Coracle Centre for kindly donating a trophy for the novice race.

I have obtained my first Towy Coracle fishing licence, following in my family's footsteps and thus helping to protect its heritage. Carmarthen Town Council has received grant funding to produce a Coracle Heritage booklet and a Digital Town Tour, where the Towy coracles will be featured.

Our Facebook page is going from strength to strength and continues to welcome visitors from around the world. We are currently in the early stages of creating our own website and hope this could be active by next year.

We reported in last year's update that we were hopefully reaching the final stages of having the Towy sewin branded by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs as "West Wales Coracle Caught Sewin", therefore giving it an official trademark along with Cornish clotted cream, Jersey potatoes, etc. Anyone who knows this procedure will know it requires considerable time and patience - It is still in the pipeline and hopefully will be awarded in 2013/14. In the meantime, anyone visiting London can see our "West Wales Coracle Caught Sewin & Salmon" for sale in Fortnum & Mason.

My wife Julie continues to make the miniature Towy coracles and we have seen seven of them leave Carmarthen with Carmarthen Quin's Youth Rugby Team on their tour of Italy. Visitors to our Coracle Shed from schools in Switzerland and Lesotho have also returned home with a coracle to show their pupils. Our little fishing craft seems to be slowly paddling it's way around the world!

Malcolm Rees

Saving Eustace Rogers' Hut

I came to Ironbridge in 2003, just after Eustace died, so I didn't get to meet him. Since then I have helped to run the Ironbridge Coracle Regatta every year. Not that I do much, I leave the hard work to Gerwyn Lewis, Terry Kenny and since Terry's retirement, Simon Harper. But just hanging about looking helpful means that people come up and talk to me – mostly about coracles, and in particular about Eustace Rogers. Almost everyone who mentioned his name added 'I had a very special relationship with him' or 'he was very close to my family'. At first I dismissed this as embroidery, but so many people made this kind of comment that I began to get more interested in the man that had made everyone feel so special.

I visited Eustace Rogers' hut down by the Iron Bridge and started listening harder when people told me tales about him. I finally got involved last year when Dave Purvis started the Save our Coracle Huts campaign. I met Dave Purvis and Bruce Watson at the hut in 2012 with the local conservation planning officer and an advisor from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We wanted to work out what we could do with it and what we might achieve. We discussed interpretation panels, a visitor centre, dismantling and moving the hut further up river, and a glass sided exhibition in the hut. Then we started negotiations with the current owners Simon and Dave Langley of Haygate Developments. These came to an abrupt close when Dave refused to talk to me any more about selling the hut - he was determined to build a retirement home on the land and convert the hut into a summer house with river access.



With encouragement from Dave Purvis the following year I sent out a press release about the Save our Huts campaign. After a front page feature in the Shropshire Star and a piece to Shropshire Radio, Simon Langley got in touch and eventually agreed that if we could raise the money he would sell us the hut (and adjoining land) for £75,000. This sounds a lot, but may be close to the real value of a small patch of land on the Severn in the centre of Ironbridge which could be developed.

I heard from Jill Corfield who said she had a print of Eustace Rogers' hut showing the contents, and she knew who the artist was – Jane Keay. I eventually tracked Jane down via the internet – she has just returned to the Malvern area from some years in France. She knew Eustace very well as she had grown up in

Ironbridge and loved to sketch him and his hut. She has several of the prints left (some signed by Eustace as well as herself) and will let me have one when she has got fully unpacked from France. I also heard from Kerry Ayliffe following the article's publication - she knew Eustace very well and had been given one of his mini-coracles.

Heritage Lottery Fund continue to be helpful and supportive and a recent discussion with Patricia Morison from the Sainsbury Family Trusts was also heartening. I think we can raise the money, given time, but first we need to set up a Trust to make the bid and manage the hut once purchased. Dave Purvis and Peter Badge have offered to be Trustees – an excellent start, along with the £2663 raised through the appeal for both Rogers' hut and Thomas' hut in Cenarth.

It seems that there is a demand for us to try to purchase, develop and run Eustace Rogers' hut as a centre to celebrate and commemorate the Severn coracle in Ironbridge and the Rogers family. Anyone who wishes to be part of the trust or to be involved in the project please contact me (01952 275606 or judyawalker@blueyonder.co.uk), as we will be holding a meeting shortly to discuss where we should take it – the meeting will be at the Green Wood Centre, Coalbrookdale in the last week of November. We will need volunteer support so please spread the word.

Jude Walker

Editor's note: thank you to all who have donated to the Save our Heritage Huts appeal, through which we have been able to raise £2663 to put towards the Lottery bid for the Rogers' hut project and the Thomas hut project. More news on this project will be in the spring newsletter.

The Bede Currach Project

Having attended a currach building course at Hay-on-Wye last year, Dave Purvis and colleagues Chris Morgan and David Harrison decided to build their own currach at their Ripon workshop, prior to applying for funding to build a further five or six more as a community project at Bede's World museum, Jarrow in the future. This would enable the museum staff and volunteers to participate in north east festivals and carry out "pilgrimage" visits to the many ancient religious sites on the east coast of England and Scotland, founded in medieval times by the Irish monks in their sea-going currachs.

Having secured a suitable larch tree for the project from the local Dalby forest in North Yorkshire, the build took place in January to March this year. The design

chosen was a sixteen foot two-man Dunfanaghy currach from Sheephaven Bay, Donegal, as described by Donal MacPolin in his book “The Donegal Currach”.

Ash laths were cold bent on a “broom shank” jig to form the ribs and the laths cut from the larch planks to form the stringers. The gunwales and transom roughed out with a chain saw, planed and sanded by hand to obtain the necessary curves for the graceful lines of the boat. Following the step by step instructions in the book, a recognisable craft gradually emerged from the clutter in the workshop and what a wondrous sight she was to behold - as sleek and elegant as we could have imagined, with Hands Christian Anderson’s “Ugly Duckling” story very much in our minds.



Building the frame had been delayed considerably due to the frequent snow falls at the turn of the year, preventing access to our workshop on several occasions, but the fitting out and installation of the thwarts, foot boards and heel rests went relatively quickly with the excitement of a finish being in sight. The fitting of the cover and application of three coats of bitumen were completed in just over a week.

We had decided to name our creation “Wilfridus” after Ripon’s patron saint, as it was felt appropriate - he no doubt had seen many currachs in his day plying the North Sea off our coast with their crews of monks travelling between Lindisfarne and the monastic sites down to Whitby and beyond.

Impatience got the better of us eventually to carry out “sea trials” so on the first dry day (although somewhat windy) the launch took place on the lake at Ripon Racecourse with Chris and David crewing. They reported it a very exhilarating experience and with more practice are confident they will eventually be able to get her to go in the direction they would like to go!

Dave Purvis



Camarthen River Festival 2013

The annual event on the quayside was this year run by Carmarthen Boat Club, Gwendraeth Valley Paddlers and Carmarthen Coracle and Netsmen Association.

The day was filled with thrills, spills and soggy cardboard boxes adding to the fun. It kicked off with a canoeing try-out session and was followed by the cardboard box challenge, which saw around 10 homemade crafts take to the water. Among them was event champion — Llangunnor community councillor Dave Watson — whose “cardboat” vessel sank almost as soon as it hit the water, managing just 5ft.



Peter Elliot, who came dressed as a funeral director, won the challenge in his hand-made coffin. It was followed by the raft race which was won by Carmarthenshire Youth Services, ahead of a team from the Parrot Music Bar and Cafe.

Next up were the coraclers, with experienced and novices taking part in races on the river. The winners were: Relay race - Joe Woodhead and Malcolm Rees, King of the Towy Mayor's Cup - Malcolm Rees and novice trophy - Joe Woodhead.



Jenny Fox, who was on hand to help out at the event, said organisers were pleased with the day. “We were really happy with the way it went,” she said. “It was the first year without funding and it has been taken on by the Carmarthen Coracle and Netsmen Association, Gwendraeth Valley Paddlers and Carmarthen Boat Club. These are three community groups who have done really well in their first year. Hopefully the event will grow in future years.”

*Article: Carmarthen Journal
Photos: Julie Rees. More photos on our website*

Restoring Coracle Family Ties

I think it was the summer of 2008 that I first met Ray and Lee Thomas. I had seen Ray performing on stage at Cardiff with the Moody Blues a few years earlier in perhaps his last tour before leaving the band, due to ill health. Ray was a founding member of the group in the early sixties and was a vocalist and perhaps the first rock flautist.

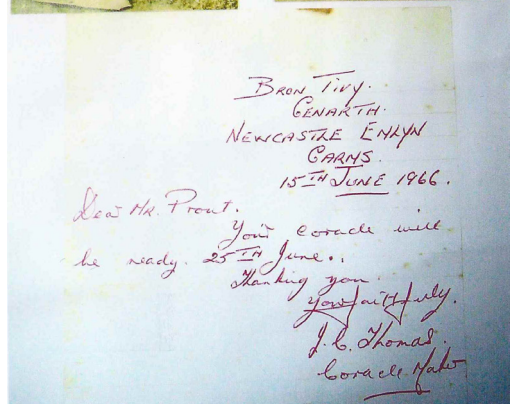
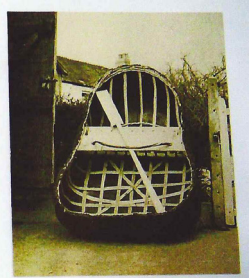
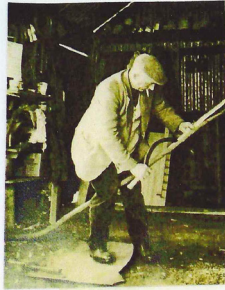
He arrived at The National Coracle Centre with his partner Lee, who was looking in our shop for antiques to furnish a house they had near Fishguard. Whilst Lee browsed around the shop I offered Ray a look in the coracle museum. As we talked about the various coracles on show, Ray mentioned that a relation of his had been a coracle maker.

I pointed out the section dedicated to John Christmas Thomas, a Cenarth coracle maker. I have his workbench and a selection of photographs demonstrating the construction of a Teifi coracle. I also have the battered remains of his workshop piled outside in the grounds of the centre and with the help of the Society and Dave Purvis in particular I hope to reconstruct some of his shed to tell the Thomas story. It was then Ray realised that it was John Christmas (or Jack) Thomas that he was related to.

Although Ray was born in Birmingham, his family ties are in west Wales and his grandfather carved some of the chairs that were presented to winners at the national Eisteddfod in past years. Before leaving Ray signed my two Moody Blues LPs from the sixties. In return I gave him a picture of John Christmas Thomas.

Ray and Lee called in the following summer, and the next time they visited in 2011 was to announce their recent wedding at Mwnt church near Cardigan.

I called in on them at their house in Leatherhead, Surrey. I was interested in the platinum and gold Moody Blues LPs on the wall and all the memorabilia about



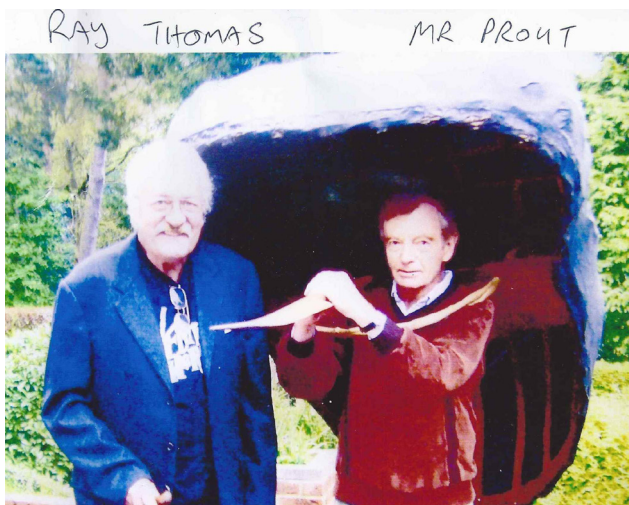
the group. I saw the curved bardic chair carved by his grandfather and had a tour of their extensive grounds. Before leaving Ray asked if I could get a Teifi coracle for Lee's birthday. I left saying I would see what I could do.

The following spring I had a phone call from a man living in Farnham, Surrey. He said he owned an original Thomas coracle that he had bought in 1966, adding that

it was still in perfect working order and had been well maintained over all those years. As he was unwell and could no longer use it, he wondered if I could try and sell it for him. With this information, I rang Ray who was delighted with the news. He went to Farnham the following week and the deal was struck.

The John Christmas Thomas coracle made in 1966 is back in the Thomas family, in its own shed in Ray and Lee's grounds for it to see out its days.

Martin Fowler



Bures Coracle Regatta 2013

Unlike last year we had sunshine and a bit of wind. The lavender ice cream man was back, as well as the regulars from the River Stour Trust who run and organise the event. We had a good selection of different craft on show. There was Dick's Teifi replica with ally lathes and green tarpaulin cover and also his new one, which is a Towy replica, using more traditional construction.

Quentin brought along his usual collection of recycled cows with some friends to paddle them. Conwy came properly dressed resplendent in top hat and tweed, in his coracle made for the Russell Crow Robin Hood film. All very fine and tidy craft. Then I unloaded mine.... One leaky Ironbridge and of course the well used "nautical wheelbarrow" in the shape of a Cleddau replica.

We had two new builds turn up one was made on a course at Assington Mill that had the owner in the water straight away. The other was made at home using photos as a guide and seemed to work quite well. Of course they were made

very welcome and we hope to see them next year.



We try and devote most of the afternoon to getting the public to join us on the water as a way of promoting the river and the diversity of craft that can be made and used. The races happen during the day, when we all feel like it, as opposed to any specific timetable. The first was a friendly for the press and the only one I did in the

Ironbridge.

The second was my favourite - the poachers run. Start under the bridge, up to the last buoy, back past the jetty to pick up a fish out of the water. Then to the bridge turn, around, now paddle furiously to the jetty. Get out swiftly, pick up boat, paddle and fish and run to the brick BBQ. First one there collapses! I came first followed by Rowany and Dick.

Mr Q had a brilliant idea for the slalom. "Lets do it one handed!" So off we go weaving through the buoys, then a two handed sprint to the bridge. It soon became obvious that only Mr Q and I regularly paddle one handed. Q with nets and me with litter pickers. I came first followed by Quentin then Conwy I think, I'm not sure. I should have taken notes, too busy racing. All the racing was done with fishing style coracles to even the field out a bit.

Thanks must be given to Helen Richardson, River Stour Trust, who has organised the event over the years. Next year's regatta will be held on August 2nd.

Steven Miles

Montgomery Canal Triathalon

The organisers were delighted with the success of the second Montgomery canal triathlon, "Bikes, Boats 'n' Boots", held on 11 May 2013. It is a 13.5 mile bike ride, from Newtown to Welshpool, along the canal where possible followed by a 11 mile paddle from Welshpool to Llanymynech, and 10 mile walk (or run if you're totally mad!) from Llanymynech to Frankton. No one else was mad enough to do the paddle in a coracle as my brother wisely chickened out this year. You can enter all the triathlon singly or as a relay with three participants or do just one or

two parts.

Still I enjoyed it even if it was my first outing this year and the rest of the contestants are a friendly lot - even the ones that zoom past me and finish the whole lot much faster than I can complete just the paddle.

I only do the paddle and am able to get away a bit early as it takes me over seven hours to paddle the 11 miles and 12 portages, including a lunch stop. Everyone else only had to do 11 portages but I got to the first lift bridge which the farmer then raised just after I'd portaged it, shame.

I did it 15 minutes faster than last year when Dave was with me. The weather this year was rather chilly with some drizzle and we had some very heavy downpours towards the end.



A nice swan joined in at Llanymynech to escort me as the only coracle entrant along part of the last straight. There were quite a few swans over the length we paddled and as they were protecting their young, they could get a bit stropky. This is where a coracle has advantages as if you keep looking at them they normally don't attack, where as in a kayak or canoe it's more difficult to do that.

Any one who feels mad enough to try any - or all - of the triathlon next year should keep an eye on the Montgomery Canal's website (canalrivertrust.org.uk) for the details.

By the time this is in print, if it's good enough, hopefully Dave and I will have had a go at the Sudbury to the Sea challenge on 7th-8th September - a 24 mile, 2 day trip on the River Stour run by the River Stour Trust. We go back to Dave's at night rather than camp after day one. Whether we do it all this year or not rather depends on the weather and how our aged bones survive the first day, as the second day is a much harder paddle and there are several of portages both days - though the canoeists are kind and let us nip in front as we're faster at putting back in than they are!

Wendy Gee

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival 2013

Members of the Coracle Society met up with the Portsoy festival organisers back in 2003 at the Festival of the Sea in Leith, Edinburgh, when we struck up an instant rapport with them due to both organisations passion for traditional hand built boats.

The Society were invited up to the small village on the side of the Moray Firth in Aberdeenshire to put on a coracle display and demonstrations in the Old Harbour. It has turned out to be a great success for us and we have supported the event now every year for the last ten years.

Over this time, coracles have become a well-established favourite with visitors and exhibitors to this now major event in the Scottish maritime calendar, where crowds of 20,000 visitors congregate in this unspoilt ex-fishing port over the two days of the festival. We have had many novice paddlers on the water; the festival is well worth a visit for anyone in Scotland.

For more information on the festival visit their website www.stbfportsoy.com

Dave Purvis

Editorial

Thank you to everyone who has provided me with content for this Journal. This year I have been inundated with articles and photos - so much so that I couldn't fit them all in! Some of the articles I didn't have space for are available on our website or will be published in the spring newsletter. Here's to a successful 2014 season - please keep the articles, stories, press cuttings photographs and videos coming in!

Finally, don't forget that if you are organising an event next year supporting the Society, members of the Society are entitled to make use of our public liability insurance policy with Inland Waterways, as well as our Society banners to help you publicise your event. For more information, please contact the Secretary.

Euan Raffel



www.coraclesociety.org.uk

The Coracle Society Journal

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