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Important information about your data

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As you may be aware, there's a new law coming in to force on 25th May called the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR. This law is the biggest change to data protection laws in the UK in 20 years and changes what and how organisations, including us, can use your data for and gives you more control over your personal data.

With regard to the Society, we are not changing the reasons why we collect your data, what we do with it, how you can access it or make changes to it. We only collect what's necessary to provide you with your membership, we only keep it for as long as you are a member, we don't share it without your permission and you can see a copy of it - and have it amended - at any time. If you have an online account, simply log in to view or edit your membership record. Alternatively, contact us and we'll be happy to help.

If you have an email address and would like us to keep in touch with you by email, we need your consent in order to do so. You can provide this by visiting www.coraclesociety.org.uk/gdpr. By signing up to receiving emails from us means we will be able to keep in more frequent contact with you, updating you with news and information about the Society, other members and upcoming events. It also saves us money in printing and postage. You can unsubscribe at any time

Ironbridge Coracle Trust wins National Lottery support

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Efforts to preserve the last coracle shed in England and celebrate the history of coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge are set to benefit from National Lottery support. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the project is set to benefit from an initial grant* of £76,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help the Ironbridge Coracle Trust progress their plans to apply for a full grant at a later date.

The River Severn has always been a significant part of the life and livelihoods of people who have lived along its banks. In Ironbridge, the birthplace of the industrial revolution and now a World Heritage Site and popular tourist destination, there has been a tradition of making and using coracles for hundreds of years.

At the height of the industrial era, the coracle men served the Ironbridge Gorge community by making coracles, providing ferry crossings before the advent of the Iron Bridge, helping to clear the river to prevent flooding as well as being skilled fishermen.

Generations of the Rogers family were among those venerable workers. Their shed near the Iron Bridge is the last remaining coracle shed in England. In 2003, Eustace Rogers, the last of the family's coracle makers, died. With no family to continue the business, the shed fell into disrepair.

In order to preserve the last remaining coracle shed in England and celebrate the tradition of coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge, a group of locals came together to form the Ironbridge Coracle Trust in 2014. That same year, the trust successfully applied for a £40,000 grant from Telford & Wrekin Council's Community Pride Fund and thanks to the award of this funding, the trust were able to purchase the historic coracle shed and begin their journey to conserve this little piece of world history. Since then, trust members have been raising funds to conserve the shed, curate its historical artefacts and promote traditional coracle making artisan skills so that their role in the history of the Ironbridge Gorge are not lost.

At the end of 2017, Telford & Wrekin Council awarded another £30,000 to improve the steps and pathways that lead along the river past the coracle shed to improve access for the future.

This latest funding from the HLF will mean that detailed plans for the conservation work on the coracle shed can now begin. Part of the National Lottery funding will also be used by ICT to carry out some urgent repairs to the coracle making collection and to run the annual Ironbridge coracle regatta. Other courses and events will be held in association with The Green Wood Centre.

Terry Kenny, Chair of Ironbridge Coracle Trust and skilled coracle maker, said: "This is an exciting time for us. Coracles and the coracle men are an important part of the history of Ironbridge. There are many people in Ironbridge who have fond memories of the Rogers family, their friends and their coracles. They were colourful characters and there are a lot of stories to tell - they are important part of the folk lore of Ironbridge."

Councillor Rae Evans, Telford & Wrekin Council cabinet member with responsibility for tourism, said: "It is so important that we work together to treasure and safeguard the Gorge's industrial heritage for local residents and visitors. The Gorge is one of Telford and Wrekin's most celebrated assets, loved by locals and popular with tourists who come from all over to discover its many attractions. The initial Pride funding meant the trust could buy the shed and start the process of securing the funds needed to preserve this little piece of history. It is a journey and the National Lottery funding is a very welcome boost."

For further information or to get involved please contact Jude Walker, Secretary, Ironbridge Coracle Trust judyawalker@blueyonder.co.uk, telephone (01952) 275606.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

* HLF Heritage Grant applications are assessed in two rounds. The Ironbridge Coracle Project has initially been granted round one development funding of £76,600 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £344,200.

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.

Bronze age coracle floats again in Penzance

Edwin Deady



With the underwater archaeological group CISMAS we have been working on a reproduction of a possible coracle from number 2 grave Barnes Farm, Dalgety, Fife.

Having already built a possible reproduction of a Bronze Age kayak from grave number one I was anxious to explore the possible build of a more coracle type craft from grave number two. Our first effort launched in April 2018 is a proof of concept. Made from willow, calico and roofing paint. Our next effort will be of skin and hazel.

Being longer than the "normal" coracle, six feet, and wider, this coracle seems to work better with two paddlers although it would row with one.

The original paper from which we drew inspiration is on the Archaeology Data Service files under A Prehistoric Coracle in Fife by Watkins

My First Coracle

Martin Morgan

As an active member of a traditional fishery in Wales I have always had an interest in coracles. When this one came up for sale I grabbed it with both hands.

To date she has had a trial on a pond and a short go on the Severn estuary. She is quite stable and forgiving!



2018 events

Our events calendar for this year is starting to take shape - you can view it via our website, and a summary is provided later in this newsletter. As always, if you know of an event taking place, or are participating in an event and would like us to help you promote it, please let us

know.

Whilst we would love to accept every request we receive to participate in events across the country each year, we are limited by the support of our members. Already this year we have received a number of requests for events we are currently unable to accept. A few examples of these are the Three Counties Show, Into The Trees and the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Details of these requests are available from the Secretary.

Members taking part in these events can make use of our public liability insurance and request publicity materials such as banners and flyers - details available on request. We also have a sample risk assessment available for you customise, should an event organiser request this.

We are currently putting together a guide for members to help them respond to requests to participate in events

Society makes donations to two Welsh coracle groups

Euan Raffel/Julie Rees

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The Society was joined by the Teifi Coracle Netsmen's Association at last year's BBC Countryfile Live. Whilst they were happy to take part in our activities, getting the public (and a Countryfile presenter!) out on the water, they were concerned about damage caused to their personal, traditionally made, working coracles through the number of guests on the water.

With the Teifi netsmen, and their

counterparts on the Towy, getting involved with more public events and television appearances (recent series have included BBC's 'Britain Afloat' and Channel 5's 'Tales from the Coast with Robson Green), your committee wanted to do something to enable these groups to participate in public events and preserve their personal, working craft.

The committee were delighted to award a grant of £500 each to the Carmarthen Coracle Netsmen's Association and the Teifi Coracle Netsmen's Association earlier this year. These grants will enable each organisation to have one of their traditional craft made in fibreglass (much more durable than traditional wood and canvas!) by Arrowcraft Engineering in the West Midlands, who are already known for their fibreglass Ironbridge coracles. These two coracling organisations can put the public out on the water in the fibreglass craft, keeping their personal craft for display and demonstration

With the support and generous contribution from The Coracle Society and expert craftsmanship from Mr David Pinson of Arrowcraft - the Towy (and Teifi) coracle is in fibreglass production. These durable fibreglass coracles will be available to purchase from Arrowcraft and will allow visitors to the River Towy and Teifi a coracle taster session, without causing damage to the old handmade coracles used for fishing.

The 'new' Towy coracle will have its official launch at the Carmarthen River Festival (it may even get christened with a sacrificial bottle of champagne!)

Far East First?

Chris Heath

Maiden voyage for coracle (and owner!) on a recently refurbished section of North Walsham and Dilham canal. Norfolk's only sailing canal but ideal for a coracle.



New home for the Carmarthen Coracle

Julie Rees

Carmarthen Coracle & Netsmen's Association have joined forces with local river users to take over the lease of an empty council building on Carmarthen's Quayside.

The Quay Centre has been standing idle for some years, but the groups are held a DIY Action Day on the 28th April to get the building ready for visitors.

Coracles will still be made in Towyside,

where they have been for hundreds of years. The Quay Centre will be an ideal venue for larger groups to visit and will have more available space for coracle photos and memorabilia. It's an exciting new venture for all the river users, who will all be promoting water safety while inviting local groups to the river for taster sessions.

2018 AGM and regatta

We have yet to decide the date and location of this year's AGM and regatta. As soon as a decision has been made, we will communicate this with members via the website/Facebook page, email and post.

Share your news!

Don't forget, we can only produce publications like this newsletter and the Journal with your support! It's because of articles, news, photos, reports etc from our members that we're able to send regular email updates, keep our website/Facebook page up to date and produce and post two publications - this newsletter and the Journal - to our members.

If you have anything to share, you can send it to us via our website www.coraclesociety.org.uk/contribute or post it to Euan Raffel - contact details are on the back page.

2018 events calendar

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Here is a summary of events taking place in 2018. Details are correct at time of printing - please check with the organiser or the Society secretary before travelling.

If you know of any coracle-related events not listed, or are organising one yourself, please get in touch so we can spread the word - visit coraclesociety.org.uk/contribute or contact the Secretary. If you do not have internet access and would like more information about these events please contact the Secretary

Highland Folk Museum vintage day/heritage days - various, see below

Have a go coracling. Dates: 27th May, 9th June, Thursdays in July, 2nd August, 9th August, 27th August. Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore. Contact Highland Folk Museum - 01540 673551 or email Raymond Green zenxan@btinternet.com

Carmarthen River Festival - Saturday 23rd June

Annual river festival with coracle and raft races. Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire. Contact Julie Rees - 07974 772393 or email Carmarthen River Festival - carmarthenriverfestival@gmail.com

Welshpool Coracle Regatta - Saturday 23rd June

Welshpool regatta returns for its third year. Welshpool, Powys. Contact Pat Ward - 07801 288388 or email patward@intonet.co.uk

Bures coracle regatta - Saturday 4th August

Camping Friday night, regatta Saturday. Bures, Suffolk. Contact River Stour Trust - 01787 313199 or email coracles@riverstourtrust.org

Cilgerran Festival Week and coracle regatta - 11th to 20th August

Annual festival week with family friendly events. Coracle regatta takes place on 19th August from 2pm. Contact Mark Dellar - 07964 361665 or email m_dellar@yahoo.co.uk

Medieval Festival at Herstmonceux Castle - Saturday 25th to Monday 27th August (tbc)

England's medieval festival. Includes coracle making demonstrations and have a go coracling. Herstmonceux Castle, Sussex. Contact MGEL - 02081506767 or email info@mgel.com

Ironbridge Coracle Regatta - Monday 27th August

Annual regatta at the rowing club. Ironbridge, Shropshire. Contact Ironbridge Coracle Trust - 01952 275606 or email judyawalker@blueyonder.co.uk

The Coracle Society Officers 2017/18

President	Dr Irving Finkel
Vice Presidents	Rod Bowen John Davies Peter Faulkner Martin Fowler Terry Kenny
Honorary Chairperson	Bruce Watson
Honorary Vice Chairperson	Malcolm Rees
Secretary	Dylan Jones
Treasurer	Euan Raffel
Committee	Mark Dellar Gerwyn Lewis June Lewis Darren Male Brian Pearce Jude Pilgrim Julie Rees
Teifi netsmen's representative	Mark Dellar
Tywi netsmen's representative	Malcolm Rees
Ironbridge representative	Terry Kenny

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