

TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK



July/August 2012



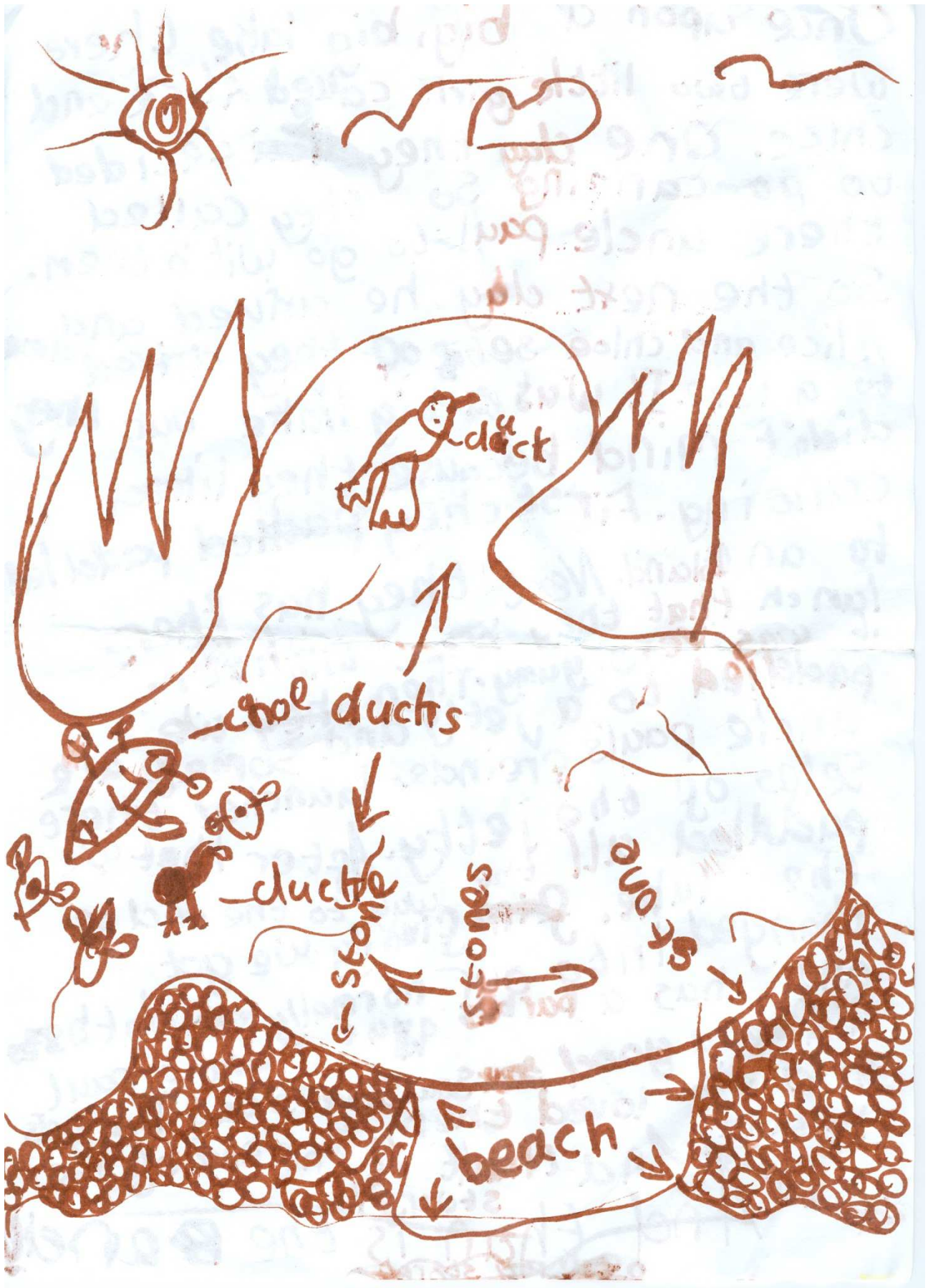
The articles in this issue are about the four trips offered to Ribble Canoe Club Members over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend.

Friday 1st June was the start of the Caledonian Canal 4 day Trip. On Saturday the serious Sea Kayakers set out on their trip around the West Coast of Scotland. On Sunday the Jubilee Mugs paddled at the Teeside White Water Centre. Then on Monday there was the Ribble Canoe Club Pageant on Coniston.

The first two articles have been written by six year old twins Alice & Chloe Binks, we decided to print the original drafts rather than edit them. Are they competing with their uncle Paul for the 2012 "Shakespeare Prize"? Photo courtesy of Heather Clark.

Ribble Canoe Club Diamond Jubilee Pageant





Once upon a big, big lake there
 were two little girls called Alice and
 Chloe. One day they ~~decide~~ decided
 to go canoing. So they called
 their uncle Paul to go with them.
 So the next day he arrived and
 Alice and Chloe set off they drove
 to a lake. It was a big lake but they
 didn't mind because they liked
 canoing. First they ~~paddled~~ paddled
 to an island. Next they had their
 lunch that they brought with them.
 It was very yummy. Then they went
 paddled to a jetty and some of the
 uncle Paul's friends launched there
 selves of the jetty. After that we
 paddled all the way to the end of
 the lake. ~~Finally~~ Finally we got
 changed into our normal clothes
 and had a barbeque. Uncle Paul
 did very good sausages and burgers
 and we loved them.
 by Alice And that is the end of my
 story.
 And that is the end of the story.

Once upon a time, there
 lived a little girl called Chloe and
 her kind sister Alice. Their uncle said
 that Chloe and her sister Alice can
 go canoeing with them. Chloe's and Alice's
 Daddy got a boat. They didn't know with side of
 the lake the car park. At last they
 found the car park and Chloe said
 "At last we found the car park." Then
 their Uncle showed Chloe and Alice the
 boats and gave them oars. Uncle said
 "Keep on your side so the boat doesn't
 tip over." Then we rowed to an island
 and had lunch on a rocky bit of
 the island. We had crisps, sandwiches,
 cakes. Then Chloe and Alice
 went with their uncles daughter
 Rosie to explore. We got a bit lost.
 At last Alice said "It is this
 way." Next we got a bit lost.
 And we all got a bit lost.
 Tired we went back.

Then we had a barbe cue Uncle
 cooked the ~~sorergies~~ and burgers
 it was delicious. After that we had
 runny marshmallows. finally it was
 time to go home and we said
 good bye to Uncle. ~~that is~~ that
 is the End of my story.
 by Mr. Cmae looks AS

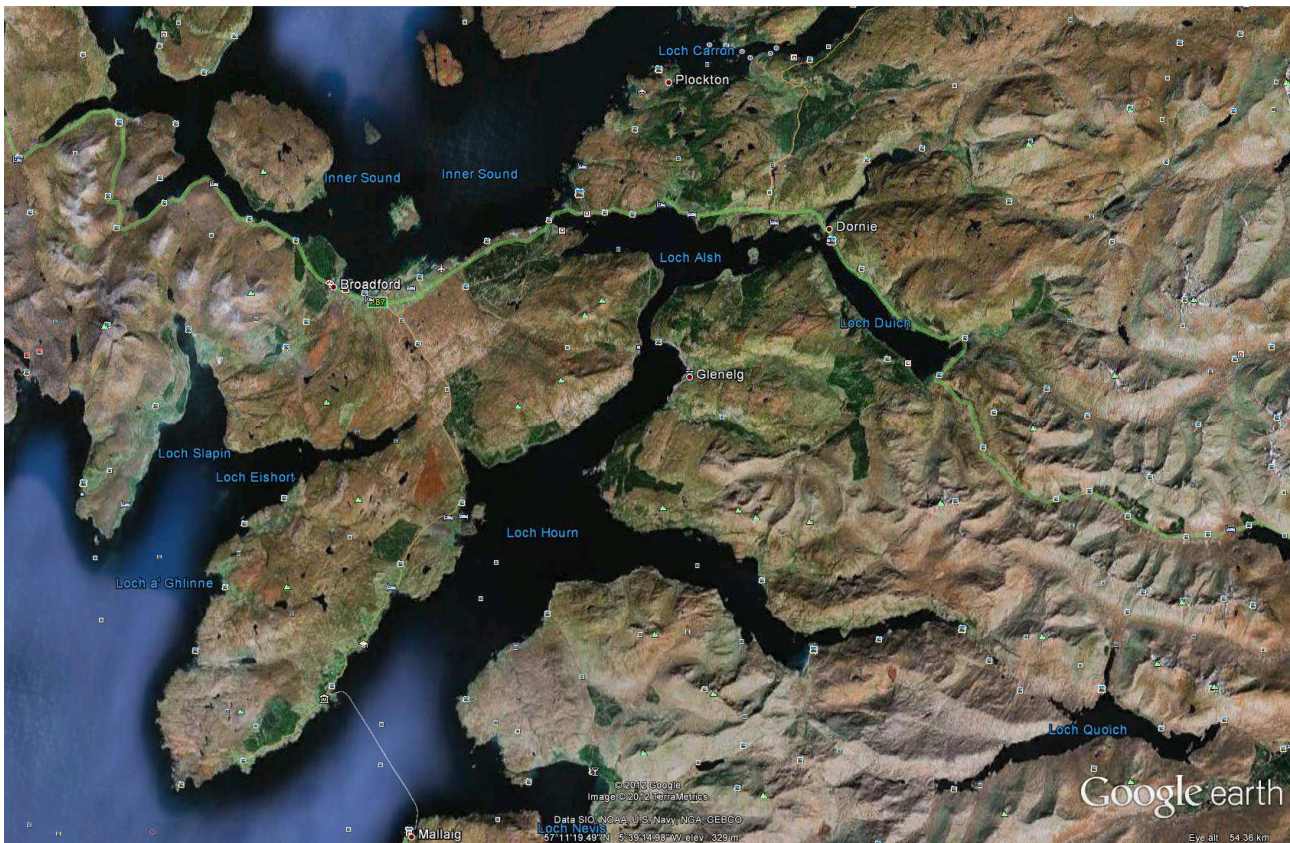
Sea kayaking from Mallaig

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Week

Stephen Singleton

"What did you do to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee?" I was asked by Norman Green, quickly followed by a request to write about it for the Jubilee edition of the newsletter.

Our annual sea kayak trip to the west coast of Scotland had been eagerly anticipated for months and it all came together on Saturday 2nd June when my Brother Kevin, Bob Smith, Alan Clowes, John Fyles, John Kington and the youngster of the group, Allan Hacking met up at Mallaig and did the sensible thing by heading straight for the nearest café for a hearty lunch before the difficult task of loading the boats - what to take, what to leave behind? Will it all fit in? Will we be able to lift the loaded boats? Do I really need a Gurkha Kukri and 6 bottles of malt whisky? By 1pm the boats were on the water and in warm sun we were heading north into a light headwind, destination uncertain.



One of the pleasures of coastal sea kayaking on the west coast of Scotland is seeing all the old crofts and houses built in remote but picturesque locations. As we headed north past the Knapdale Peninsula there were several examples, some recently restored and some in an interesting state of dilapidation with much use made of rusty corrugated iron sheeting. I wonder what the people do for a living! It was at one such location near the north end of Knapdale that we called a lunch stop in a small river estuary sheltered from the wind. Knapdale can be a desolate place, but today in the warm sun it was perfect and we spent some time soaking it all in before the rising tide prompted our return to the boats. With time to spare we all agreed to head for the Sandaig Islands some taking the direct route and four of us taking a short detour into Loch Hourn.

The Sandaig Islands are the setting for the book “Ring of Bright Water” by Gavin Maxwell and are a small grouping of Islands separated from the mainland by shallow water which dries out at low tide. It is one of our favourite locations, but it had been 8 years since I last visited them so I was delighted to be back and intended spending two nights here giving us time to really get to know the area.

Due to a family commitment, Steve Wilkinson had driven to Glenelg on Saturday afternoon and planned to meet up with us at the Sandaig Islands on the Sunday. We had arranged a VHF radio schedule, but at around 10:30am we spotted 4 sea kayakers in the distance being helped along by a strong north-easterly wind heading directly towards the Sandaigs. Binoculars soon revealed one of the group to be Wilky, who had been joined by a group of three local kayakers. The three other kayakers were much impressed by the old faded yellow Anus Acuta sea kayak, the tattered cag and fraying buoyancy jacket sported by Wilky. They all assumed he was a paddler of great knowledge and hard won experience gained over many years wilderness paddling.

“No”, he was quick to explain, “I’m from Earby.”



The Sandaig Islands – it doesn't get much better than this.

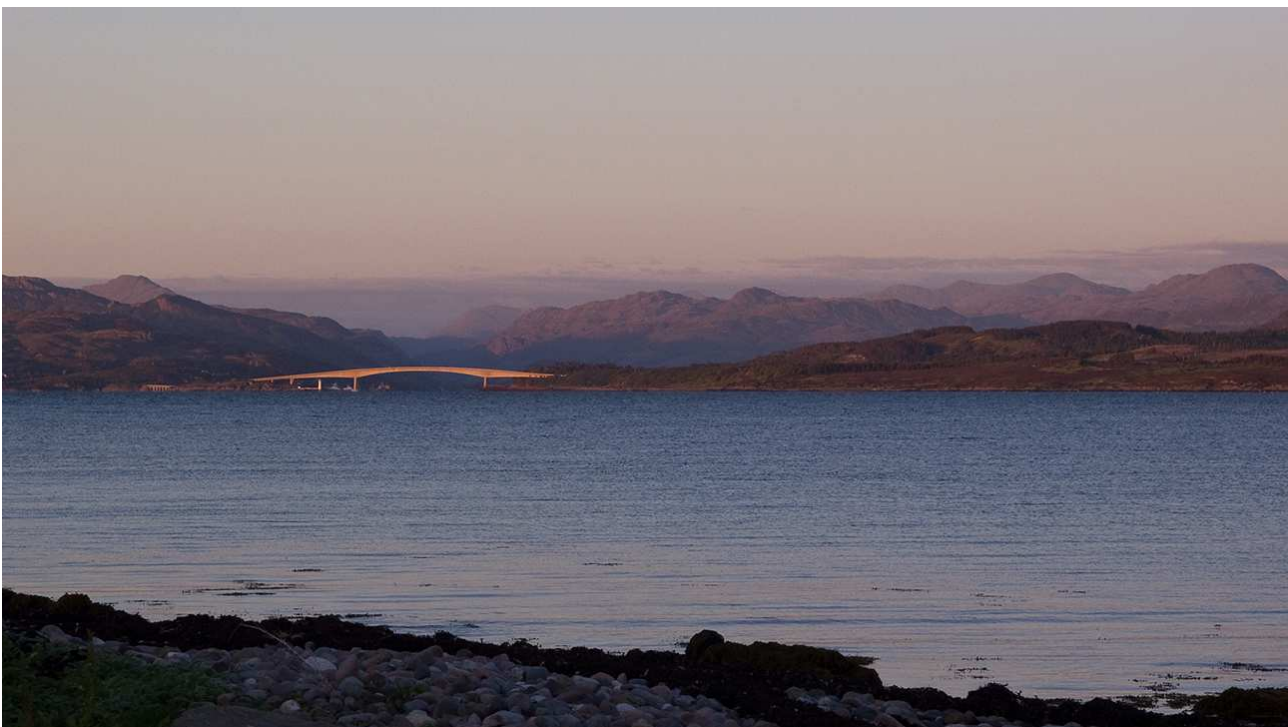
Sunday was a day for slacking about, some electing to paddle into Loch Hourne to a café they had heard about which turned out to be not much more than a broken down shed. Although judging from the comments it was maybe much, much less than a broken down shed, but they were serving tea and cakes for as long as the shed remained intact.

A driftwood fire on the beach in the evening gave us time to hatch plans for the rest of the week while being treated to a spectacular view of the full moon rising over the mountains of Knoydart. The general outline of our travel plans involved heading north via Kyle Rhea and the Skye Bridge to the Applecross Peninsula. The tides run very strongly through Kyle Rhea narrows and didn't start running north until 1:00pm so we made a leisurely start on Monday allowing about an hour to reach the narrows. We were soon feeling the influence of the south going tidal stream with disconcerting swirling eddies and boils becoming more powerful as we approached the narrows. Paddling in this type of water is a bit like walking blindfolded while drunk, and our group was soon scattered over a large area, eventually all meeting up again just before the entrance to the narrows. Lunch would be a good idea we decided, while waiting for the tide to turn. Re-embarking it soon became apparent that we had to deal with a rapidly strengthening north westerly wind. For us this meant a 5 mile headwind slog to the Skye Bridge where we had another lunch break in the shelter of Kyleakin harbour and re-assessed our plans.

John Fyles had walked across the village and taken a look at the open sea exposed to the north-westerly and came back shaking his head, and saying words of encouragement such as, "You wouldn't want to be out there", and "We won't be going anywhere in those conditions". It was at this point that someone (could have been me?) came up with a cunning plan. A plan so cunning in fact, that everyone was game to give it a try. Instead of paddling into the wind to our intended destination why not paddle on a south-westerly course across the wind and head for the Island of Pabay? Alan Clowes knew the Island from a previous visit and promised excellent camping.

Once clear of the Skye Bridge the kayaks were soon feeling the rise and fall of the waves. This is more like proper sea kayaking and with the sun shining, we were soon enjoying the waves which were nothing more than a lake chop (with apologies to Terry Maddock who experienced a similar lake chop when he joined us on our first extended sea trip in this area in 1996, and wrote of his [near death] experiences in his article, "4 men in a boat"). After a while one of the lake-chop waves broke over Allan Hacking's head in a welter of white water, but Allan was the only person lucky enough to experience this level of refreshment. Arriving at Pabay with tired arms we eagerly sought out the promised camping spot but could only find a low rocky shore topped with sloping tussocks of wild grasses. After such a hard day we convinced ourselves it all looked perfect and were soon pitching tents in some unlikely places.

It is surprising how the most wild and unwelcoming of places take on an air of homeliness when lines of wet canoeing gear are hung out to dry. We enjoyed another evening fire with the sun setting over the Cuillins and illuminating the Skye Bridge to great effect in the east.



The Skye Bridge and mountains of Loch Alsh from Pabay, illuminated by the setting sun.

The hard day had taken its toll on Bob Smith who had developed a painful shoulder injury and decided to abandon the trip by making the short crossing to the Skye shore, there laying up until he could be collected by Wilky later in the week. The remaining 7 were also keen for an easier day so paddling clockwise around the Island of Pabay passing an interesting old harbour and a group of recently restored cottages opened out the 6 mile crossing via the Crowlin Islands to the Uags Bothy on the south western extremity of the Applecross peninsula. A few of us had been here before and had fond memories of the superb facilities. In the warm midday sun it did not disappoint and camp was soon established giving us all time to relax in the sun and explore the area on foot.

We had been hearing reports by radio that Southern England was being lashed by heavy rain and severe gale force winds, but Wednesday morning was once again warm and sunny, but with only three days remaining it was time for us to head south again. Where better to aim for but the Sandaig Islands again?

Our timing was governed once again by the strong tidal flow at Kyle Rhea and after an exploration of the Plockton coastline north of the Skye Bridge, a bacon butty in Saucy Mary's café in Kyleakin, we arrived at the narrows to be helped along by the last hour of the ebb tide at over 10mph. As we headed south the stunning panorama of the Small Isles (Rhum, Eigg, Muck) and open Atlantic gradually came into view.

On arrival at the Islands we soon had tents pitched allowing Alan Clowes and Steve Wilky some time to go fishing from the kayaks. A short time later Alan re-appeared feigning nonchalance with his haul of three fish (as if he had fully expected to catch something). About half an hour later, Wilky appeared around the headland paddling with an air of jauntiness rarely seen in your typical tired sea paddler, and the smile on his face made it abundantly clear he must have caught something. These were the actions of someone who had never expected to catch anything except a cold.



The hunter returns – Wilky with two fish

The fish were cooked for supper on the evening's fire.

There is a picturesque village and sheltered harbour called Isle Ornsay on the East coast of Skye and although a slight detour was involved we all thought a visit worth the effort so once again in warm sun on Thursday morning we were gliding smoothly across a mirror calm sea with Isle Ornsay lighthouse showing in the distance. Due to our early start it was still only mid-morning when we arrived giving us time to have waitress served tea and shortbread on the lawn, indulge in a whisky tasting exhibition, and finally view the art exhibition where there were many superb paintings on display by the visiting artist, Helen Robertson. See <http://www.eilean-iarmain.co.uk/art-gallery.asp>

Re-embarking after a leisurely two and a half hours, we set out to make the crossing back to the mainland Knoydart peninsula. We soon found the wind steadily increasing from the North West but being behind us it produced some nice small waves we could surf, so the 5 mile crossing was soon accomplished.

As we then turned to head south the clouds were beginning to build and by the time we reached the entrance to Loch Nevis it was noticeably cooler and the wind had now shifted into the north-east and strengthened further.

With tiring arms we were now looking for somewhere to camp for the night, but as we searched the likely looking bays we just could not find the desired perfect spot. This left us with the unwelcome prospect of heading for the village of Inverie where we knew there was good camping. I say “unwelcome prospect” because none of us were too keen to paddle nearly three more miles straight into a force 5 and land at low water with a long boat carry to where we could camp.

When faced with such a slog after already covering 16 miles there is only one way to cope – get your head down, ignore the pain and keep going. Very soon, Kevin noticed a great looking camping spot and shouted for everyone to head for this nearby beach. We all tried our best to sound disappointed with comments such as, “we’ve just got into a rhythm”, but secretly heaved a sigh of relief and hit the beach without a further thought.



Final night campsite at entrance to Loch Nevis

Shortly after pitching the tents we were witness to a phenomenon we had heard about but not seen in recent times – it started to rain! We all came out to have a look, but it was not enough to wet the pebbles on the beach and soon stopped. The campsite offered views into Loch Nevis to the east and to the small isles in the west and we eventually scraped together enough driftwood for our usual evening fire.

Friday morning was still cloudy but the sun soon broke through allowing a pleasant morning’s paddle back to our finish in Mallaig Harbour.

Thanks to all who came along for making the whole week so enjoyable.

By the way Norman, when was the Queen’s jubilee?

Stephen Singleton

The Battle of the Tees Barrage'

Now Roy has planned a trip to please, to test our skills on the River Tees.
A man made course that's so fantastic, it's made of concrete and loads of plastic.

The time has come to venture forth, and battle the river right up North.
Roy knew that all would go swell, as he collected David Cardwell.

The rest of the group formed a friendly team, and thought they were paddling a little stream.
The course was where it was shown on the map, but no one had switched on the great big tap.

In we go to the shop and changing rooms, we pay six quid to paddle this water flume.
Kayaks all launched by all members of the group, the waters as warm as a bowl of soup.

As the big taps switched on fear builds up in our bones, it would even shut up Gareth Jones.
The mighty river starts to roar, just like the raging Severn Bore.

Norman and Mark make their grand entry, and make the paddling look rudimentary
The skills of Smudge in another new boat, a good clear run he deserves to gloat.



In a tiny play boat it's Will Body, making us feel just like Noddy.
He plays his boat in to the wave, to show us how a kayak should behave.



Matt as usual going large, does his best in his big blue barge.
 He wonders why the heck he started; again his boat and him are once more parted.
 He shoots down the river feeling numb, as on the plastic rocks he bumps his bum.

Last time at the Tees Graham did get trashed, shows up again determined not to get bashed.
 After a while he's perfected his skill, and bosses the course without a spill.

Now Billy's day has started rough, as he tries to paddle and do his stuff.
 A swim or two later oh what a sight, he completes the river all upright.



Water Wheels David plies his trade, this course to him is heaven made.
 He paddles hard and has a laugh; he even takes an early bath.
 The only answer he does proclaim, 'climb back in and try again'.

Paul (father of muppets) is on a wave, and as usual he does behave.
 His boat is steady in the stream, as he does another run true and clean.



Pat and Paula they have some laughs, as they capture the action on some photographs.
 Thanks to them for the photograph stills, which include our paddling and some spills.

We have our dinner at midday, ready to continue our awesome display.
 The time has to show the force, and run the wrath of the short course.
 Its fast frightening and quite deep, and the drop at the end is very steep.

Will goes first to show us how, he conquers the water with his know how.
Smudge Smith is next and has his turn, he paddles well and a medal deserves to earn.



The bottom of Mark's Boat is rarely seen; we can confidently report it nice and clean.
He rolls it up with little trouble, although he blew some little bubbles.



Roy our leader does his stuff, and finds the trip a little rough.
He rolls up quickly with a flick of the hip. And he's in the pool at the end of the trip.
Round and round Roy feels a fool, as he's now stuck in a monster whirlpool.
Roy walks out and takes the path; he gave us all a great big laugh.

Thanks to Roy for organising this great paddling day, for us all to show the 'skills' we can display.



Home we go from East to West, to go to the rivers that we enjoy best.
We'll come back to Tees another day, to hone our paddling and have a play.

Poet - Matt Aspden
Photographer - Paula Sharples

Caledonian Canal - Trans Jock Expedition Part 1

Alan Blackburn

This is a brief description of a 5 day expedition made at the beginning of June this year, by myself, Sarah & Gareth Jones, Adam Fishwick, Adam Fielder and Mitch Dunne.

After many months of preparation, training and practice the big day came Friday 1st June. The plan was for me to pick up the two Adams with all their camping and paddling kit and drive the 300 miles to Fort William. Then we would find a spot at the side of Neptune's Staircase to camp overnight. Later the same night we would meet Sarah and Gareth. The following morning Mitch was to meet up and we would do the vehicle shuttle up to Inverness. Once the transport was in place and we were back at Fort William we had 3½ days to complete the expedition. This would give us all the fifth and final day to get home in time for work on the Wednesday after the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend.



The intrepid Adventurers

We arrived at Neptune's Staircase in good time and set up camp. After getting directions from a couple of local girls, the two Adams and I set off for the pub, which turned out to be just down the road. We enjoyed the local brew and had a very nice pub dinner.

We had just got back to the camp when Sarah and Gareth arrived, so the plan was working OK up to here. The following morning Mitch arrived on time at 6:00 am with an unexpected surprise, Christine of the Antarctic, had come to wave us off.

So once we had unloaded all the remaining camping and paddling kit, we left the two Adams standing guard and set off for Inverness. Going at this time meant we would miss the traffic later in the day as it's a 140 mile round trip, and by the time we had sorted out the formalities and returned to Neptune's Staircase it was getting on for 11:00 am.

By 12:00 we were all ready to go and as we paddled away with Christine of the Antarctic taking last minute photos, we disappeared round the bend and along the canal, leaving Christine to make her way back by mountain bike back to her new place of work.

The weather forecast was good with slight east breeze. 2 to 3 gusting 4 to 5. After portaging the Lock gates at Gairloch we stopped for lunch. Just as we got on to Loch Lochy, the wind dropped and the sun came out and believe me it was flat calm.



That night we camped at the Lock gates at Laggan where believe it or not there is a floating pub.

The following morning we set off on Loch Oich. After a very nice calm paddle we stopped at the seven heads café for breakfast, very nice bacon buns, and made a few provision purchases. Then on up the Loch, this is a wonderfully stretch of water with some fantastic views of the mountains with the main road running all the way along.



Next stop the lock gates at Fort Augustus what a feat of engineering. The camping is very restricted here and there is only room for at most 8 to 10 small tents. So at the height of season you may struggle to camp on the canal side.

Fort Augustus, is only small but don't be put off it's got a tremendous night life as we found out. In Part 2 (September Newsletter) I will go into more detail.

The following morning we got up to winds and rain. Listening to the forecast it said 3 to 4 gusting 5 to 6 from the East. From the camp to the loch, Loch Ness, is a long portage but downhill, and then finding the beach at the end of a big break water wall takes about half an hour. Then to see the state of the water would have put many paddlers off for the day, but we all agreed to carry on and take stock of the conditions later. The weather was bad and at one point the distance between wave peaks and troughs was greater than the height of the paddlers. After stopping to re-group we had a meeting to decide what to do, by now we were also starting to feel the effects of the night before.

The decision was unanimous keep going and by 19.00 hours we arrived at Drumnadrochit better known for Urquhart Castle. By this time we were all ready for some dry clothes and a hot meal. After a short time we started to come round and feel more with it. That night we wild camped in the corner of a farmer's field. I was later told that we had a storm in the night, personally I never heard a thing just so tired.



The following morning the weather was back to summer bright sunshine and no wind (a joy to be alive). By now we were half way up Loch Ness and 70Km into the expedition, once again taking in the views and looking out for the monster, but not to be.

Once you get to the end of Loch Ness and come back on to the canal you pass two big weirs they are very well signed for you to keep clear, then a short stretch and you arrive at a lock gate at Dochgarroch what a picturesque place this is, time for some lunch and then on to Inverness we arrived at the sea lock at about 14.30 hours.

**Job Done!**

The plan was to load all the kit on the vans go and get cleaned up in the brand new shower rooms and then make our way back to Fort William. By 19.00 hours we had arrived at base camp Fort William and pitched the tents and were off to the pub for a celebration drink and dinner.

The following day, by 10:00 am we were all going our own way home.

This expedition had been on the cards for a long time, as you may have seen from the club forum, but believe me it was worth the waiting and all the planning and practice. This will become clearer when you take into account the back ground of the very distinctive expedition stories. This and more I will go into in greater detail in the next issue of the club newsletter.

Alan Blackburn (Captain)

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside...

It's summertime! I can tell that from the rain drumming on the roof and the faint aroma of neoprene drifting through the house as paddling kit is dried indoors. It's the season of the club's Rhosneigr camp and sea paddling around our beautiful shoreline.

But do we ever spare a thought as to who would come to our rescue should things go wrong? Yes, we may have practised rescue techniques, be properly equipped with spare paddles, towlines, compass and a set of up-to-date flares (not a fashion statement!), but in a truly serious situation we would expect the nice men, or women, of a lifeboat crew to help us out.

I think we probably take the presence of the RNLI very much for granted and their existence gives us a certain feeling of security when out on our seas, but what many do not realise is that they are totally reliant on donations and legacies for funding and receive no government support. With new lifeboats costing anything between £1.5m & £2.5m that's an awful lot of money to raise.

Coincidentally, Albert & I had been on a tour of our local station at St Annes earlier in the year at around the same time that Alan Blackburn was planning his sponsored paddles on the Thames and across Scotland, from Fort William to Inverness, in aid of the RNLI. We decided that a club visit might be an interesting way to spend an evening so 22 of us turned up at the seaside one Wednesday evening in June.



We split into two groups with each group having a talk about the history of the St. Annes lifeboat and the opportunity to try on some of the crew's kit.



We were all in agreement that we prefer our own buoyancy aids to the heavy cork one which was worn until relatively recently.

There were some interesting, and poignant items from the 'Mexico' disaster. The worst lifeboat disaster in history in which 27 crewmen lost their lives off the Lancashire coast in 1886.

We also had a talk about the modern lifeboat called 'Her Majesty the Queen' which is self-righting (some people in particular found that very interesting – you know who you are!) within 6 seconds and is the only lifeboat whose rescues are reported directly to the Queen.



There is also a smaller inshore boat which is launched from Lytham.

All the crew, except for the Coxswain, are volunteers and could be called out at any time, night or day. For example, when the 'Riverdance' grounded at Cleveleys a few years ago the crew were out for two days before they could get back to base. I believe that nationally, on average, lifeboat crews launch 22 times per day.

The crew have a training night on Thursday evenings which can attract crowds if the boat is being launched, and on a national level, they have a state of the art training pool, at Poole, which can simulate different sea and weather conditions. If only the club could afford one of those.....



It was an interesting and thought provoking tour and we presented a cheque for a £50 donation from the club to the nice lady called Irene who showed us round, with a promise of a further cheque once Alan has finished collecting all his sponsorship money, which should be in the region of £250.

Kath Risely

Editors Bit

As always thanks for the articles submitted for this issue, we know for a fact that the theme of Diamond Jubilee has never been used before because we have not had one since Queen Victoria and Ribble Canoe Club was not even in existence then.

What can I say – articles submitted by 6 year old children, who didn't need asking, a real turn up for the books. The spelling and grammar are not much different than some of the stuff we receive normally, just that the articles are not word processed. But don't get any funny ideas that the rest of you can break out the crayons for the next issue.

The more observant readers may have noticed that we have abandoned the 2 column formatting for a single column in this issue. This is because we thought that some of the pictures in the articles would look much better if they were bigger. We would like you to let us know what you think about this.

Thank you to Steve Singleton for his article, he makes it sound like it was just a pleasant few days kayak trip, but I wouldn't mind betting that there were a few epic paddles in there somewhere. After all they did manage to break Sea Kayaking stalwart, Bob Smith after only 2 days.

Thanks also to our first time contributors Matt Aspden and Alan Blackburn (Captain) for their contributions to this issue. Matt's moves on the water may not be "Poetry in Motion" but he has made up for it with his poetic use of the keyboard and thank to Paula Sharples for acting as official photographer on this trip. Thanks to Alan Blackburn who has promised to turn his "Transjock Expedition" into a soap opera, with further stories/revelations/exposes to come in the next issue. But then after the "Mini-Series" Forum Postings in advance of this trip it is only what we would have expected.

Thanks also to Pat who is the Brain behind the Newsletter and does the bulk of the work. It is she who has to wrestle with the sometimes unexpected consequences of using Microsoft Word when formatting the Newsletter. On the plus side she has learnt many new skills and quite a few swear words in the process. For my part I review & edit the articles, write this ramble and supply a few words of encouragement when she is struggling, and close the door when the swearing starts.

Be Aware as we only send out information (including your Newsletter) by email from the Club email address, it may sometimes be treated as SPAM and end up in your Spam Folder. To avoid this problem it is a good idea to insert these addresses in your address book newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk and membership@ribblecanoecub.co.uk.

Dates and Deadlines The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 12th September at 7:00pm at the Hand & Dagger. The next newsletter will be published on 19th September. We would appreciate all submissions by Wednesday 12th. Please send submissions by email, to newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Disclaimer Please note that the opinions expressed in this and every other Ribble CC newsletter are those of the author of the article. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newsletter editor or the committee, or the policies of Ribble Canoe Club.

Norman Green
newsletter@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

Boat Booking System

There is a link on the front page of the club website “**Boat Booking**”. Using your RCC Membership Number you are able to log onto the boat booking system and browse the boats we have. The password is “password” you can change this once you have logged into the system. You will then be able to choose the boat you would like to borrow, and click on a link to send an email to the quartermaster with the date you would like to borrow the boat and the ID of the boat you have chosen. Below is an example of what the pages look like.

If you do not know your membership number, then either email a request to membership@ribblecanoecub.co.uk or ask Pat on Tuesday evenings, she may be able to give it to you straight away.

Enter user name
Membership No:

Enter Password

Click to Search for
Canoe / Kayak

Enter the Make or Model
you don't even need to know
the full name as the search
will do its best to find what
you are looking for. The
search I did was just for
sonic in the model category
the results can be seen on the
following screen print

Boat Booking System

Search for the canoe or kayak by Make and/or Model. In the near future you will be able to search by type.

Click on the link under 'Availability' to send an email to the Quartermaster, to book the boat. You will need to enter the Boat ID on the email. In the near future this will be added to the email automatically for you.

ID	Make	Model	Colour	Type	Comments	Image	Availability
K100	Perception	Supersonics	Blue and White	Kayak	General purpose kayak		Complete form to check for availability
K101	Perception	Supersonics	Pink Purple	Kayak	General purpose kayak		Click here to open a Booking Form for this boat
K102	Perception	Starc	Purple	Kayak	General purpose kayak, white water spec		Complete form to check for availability
K103	Perception	Starc	Red/Orange	Kayak	General purpose kayak, white water spec		Complete form to check for availability
K104	Perception	Supersonics	Orange	Kayak	General purpose kayak		Complete form to check for availability

The Results Show both Sonics and Supersonics

Click here to open a Booking Form for this boat

Or Click here to open a Booking Form for this boat

Email for Availability of Canoes/Kayaks

Check for Availability

* required fields

Your Full Name:

Your Email Address:

Contact Number:

Boat Make and Model (if known):

Please enter details when required:

Complete the Booking Form and Click the Submit Button I will email you back to confirm the booking if the boat is not available I will try and recommend another option

Graham Kingaby

Chairman's Chat

The first of our summer camps was a roaring success, I'm told – I couldn't get there myself but I aim to be at Rhosneigr and Bala. Many photos of the Cardiff event are on the website Forum Gallery for all to see. Don't try and log on to the Website Gallery which is not being loaded any more. Go to the Gallery on the Forum – it's listed up there in the line of headings above the main body. Graham & Elizabeth are working on making the procedure clearer. If anyone has any comments concerning the white water course at Cardiff please let Pat or Suzanne know as they're preparing a brief report for the Club to send to the Centre.

We've just reviewed some club policies at our recent Committee Meeting and when Graham's added them to the Policies page of our Website you should be able to read/download them for bedtime reading. We're adding our Child Protection and Harassment Policy and our Club Code of Conduct to those already there, namely our Constitution, Club Trips & Paddling Policy, BCU Consent Form and our generic Ribble Risk Assessment. Phew, that should keep you amused till the early hours – better have an early night!

Sourcing a new and larger container for storage of our boats and equipment at the H&D is proving more difficult than first thought, but once we've sorted that out we can get on with programming site improvements for access to it and to the canal. Allan's putting some battery powered fairy lights up in the current container so that we can see what's what and what's not.

Following passionate arguments from Rick P at the last Coaching Forum, the Committee agreed that all forthcoming Club events should go onto the Google Calendar but only in a way that restricts details of times and venues to Club Members. Graham & Elizabeth are working on software to achieve this.

The restrictions on members only access to parts of the Forum has been accepted by the vast majority of Members and has resulted in a noticeable increase in Members and more rapid payment of renewal fees. The easier arrangements for paying fees has also helped. It would be wrong to allow these benefits to be lost by a slackening of our new access procedures.

New procedures were agreed for managing the annual photo competition. You can now upload photographs to the Photo Competition area of the Forum Gallery. Pat tells you how you can upload pictures to the Forum Gallery in her posting on the Forum under Chat. From this you should be able to work out how to upload onto the Photo Competition area of the Forum Gallery. You can nominate up to three of your own pictures and then, as I understand it, other Club Members will be able to vote for their favourite picture(s), but not their own! Not too sure about this last bit yet, but I'm sure it'll all become clear before too long.

At the meeting Suzanne was formally co-opted onto the Committee as Club Welfare Officer and Rosie Binks as Youth Representative. Sadly, Gary Fishwick has resigned from the Committee due to pressure of work, which means, with Katy's resignation at the last meeting, the Committee is now Fishless. There are currently 13 Club Members on the Committee.

Our Quartermaster recently went berserk and ordered £1,800 worth of new equipment including paddles, buoyancy aids and helmets. John K was very good about it and wrote a Club cheque with scarcely a tear.

Allan Hacking came up with new plans for another 1 Star Course this year and regular monthly (4 week) courses next year. We are also thinking of providing one coach each Tuesday evening to take new paddlers on the canal – but I can't spot that item in the Minutes, so perhaps it was withdrawn.

A very sad item of news was received last week. Barry Aldridge died on the River Conway on Saturday 16 June. His funeral was held at Frodsham on Friday 29 June and was attended by several Members/Ex Members of our Club. He paddled with the Club on several of our erstwhile Scottish Easter Trips based at Roy Bridge. He also paddled from time to time with other Club Members on various rivers, especially in North Wales. He was an extremely competent white water paddler and will always be remembered for his helpful and positive attitude. Our condolences go out to his lovely wife Marie who, on at least one occasion accompanied him to a Scottish Easter. He paddled regularly with his son Mikey and also leaves a daughter. He leaves a blank space in our lives but not in our wonderful memories of him.

Terry Maddock 077 333 86704
Chairman@ribblecanoecub.co.uk

RCC LIBRARY

New members may not be aware that Ribble Canoe Club has a library consisting of a varied selection of books and DVDs. Titles range from guidebooks on local waters such as Cumbrian lakes or rivers, to faraway places such as Wales - or even Yorkshire!



There are instructional DVDs and books on the mysterious art of the Eskimo roll and tales of daredevil trips by club members to Nepal and the Grand Canyon. Surely there is something to tempt everyone?

Books and DVDs are free for all club members to borrow and a full list is in each Newsletter. We will try and bring the library to the Hand & Dagger most Tuesdays. If you want a particular title just give us a bell first to check it's not already out on loan. Our contact details are also in the Newsletter.

Cheers!
Albert & Kath

Pool Sessions

The following lists the pool sessions booked at Fulwood Leisure Centre, the contact for the courses and the Supervisor and Committee member on duty.

Date	Session	Contact	Supervisor	Committee
7 Sep	Open		Albert Riseley	Brian Woodhouse
14 Sep	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Matt Aspden	Allan Hacking
21 Sep	Rolling	TBC	Rachel Body	Will Body
28 Sep	Rolling	TBC	Graham Kingaby	Suzanne Thomas
5 Oct	Rolling	TBC	Mark Dillon	John Hooper
12 Oct	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Katy Fishwick	Allan Hacking
19 Oct	Open		Adam Fielder	Mark Shaw
26 Oct	Open		Adam Fishwick	John Kington
2 Nov	Open		Rick Turner	Terry Maddock
9 Nov	Paddle Skills	Allan Hacking	Gary Fishwick	Allan Hacking

Pool Session Protocol

Open sessions are open access, with no need to book. Please book in advance for ALL other sessions by phoning the named contact or via the forum.

If using club equipment it is up to the individual to collect it from the pool store before 9.00pm, after which time the store will be locked. A club member will be on hand to assist. (best to arrive @ 8.45)

If using your own equipment please ensure it is clean before entering the pool area.

If you use a boat at a pool session it is your responsibility to return it to where it came from (your car or the pool store) IMMEDIATELY at the end of the session and BEFORE getting showered and changed.

The pool sessions run from 21.15 to 22.15. We are not to enter the pool area before 21.05 - this to avoid risk of injury to swimming club members who have to clear the pool area by 21.05.

Prices for pool sessions:

Rolling Course £20 plus club membership. Freestyle £5. All other sessions £4.

Open sessions are open access, no need to book. Please book in advance for ALL other sessions by phoning the named contact.

Ribble CC Library

To borrow a book or video, contact Albert & Kath Risely (albertrisely@aol.com) or see them at the Hand & Dagger. Donations of books or videos are always welcome.

Technique:

BCU Handbook
Practical Guide to Kayaking
Canoeing & Kayaking
William Nealy's "Kayak"
Bombproof Roll and Beyond!
Eskimo Rolling for Survival
White Water Safety & Rescue
Weir Wisdom
Canoe & Kayak Games
The Playboater's Handbook 2
Book of Sea Kayaking
Sea Kayak Navigation
Path of the Paddle
Open Canoe Technique
Rowing it Alone
Handbook of Survival at Sea
BCU Coaching Handbook
Sea Safety: Complete Guide
White Water Kayaking
The Art of Freestyle
Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble

Guidebooks:

English White Water
Scottish White Water
White Water Lake District
An Atlas of the English Lakes
Canal: Cheshire Ring
Welsh Sea Kayaking
Touring 100 Paddles in England
Scottish Sea Kayak Trail
N Eng. & IOM Sea Kayaking
Yorkshire Rivers
Anglesey Info Pack
Scottish Canoe Touring

General:

The Rough Guide to Weather
The Liquid Locomotive
Many Rivers to Run
Working out of Doors with Young People
More Than Activities

Expeditions:

Three Men in a Boat
Jerome K Jerome
Blue Water Summer – Pacific Coastal Adventure
Travels with a Kayak
On Celtic Tides
Chris Duff
Blazing Paddles
Brian Wilson
Dancing with Waves
Brian Wilson
Paddling to Jerusalem
David Aaronovitch
The Last River
Todd Balf
Paddle to the Arctic
Don Starkey
Canoeing across Canada
Gary & Joanie McGuffin
The Canoe Boys
Sir Alastair Dunnnett
Odyssey among the Inuit
Jonathan Waterman
Barbed Wire & Babushkas
Paul Grogan
Rapids (a novel)
Great Glen Canoe Trail
DVDs:
Tony Morgan - Grand Canyon
LVM Lunch Video Magazine
Without a Paddle (13)

Whitewater Kayaking
The Cockleshell Heroes (U)
Mags Brayfield in Nepal
Tatshenshini/Alsek 2007
Mountain River Movie
Jackson Kayak Promo
It's Different Every Time
Halton Rapids
Fort William 2005/06 Trip
Thistle Float Your Boat
RCC Scotland trip 2007 & 2008
Locks & Quays Features RCC
The Politics Show
Featuring Ribble Canoe Club
Open Canoeing - Reg Blomfield
EJ's Rolling and Bracing
This is the Sea - 1st Ever Action
Sea Kayak Video
The Call of the River - 100 years of WW Adventure (USA)
Sea Kayak - Instructional
Journey along Skye Coast
Open Canoe Demo
Canoe Wales (WCA)
Sea Safety Advice - RNLI
The Safety CD - RNLI
Path of the Paddle - Solo
Glenmore Lodge (Promo)
Revenge of the Fat Cats
Tay Descent 2011
Performance Sea kayaking
BCU 3 Star & 4 Star Leader
Sea Skills
Moving on to Moving Water
Norman Green

NOTE: Last minute trips are often arranged on the forum on the website (www.ribblecanoeclub.co.uk), at the Hand & Dagger on Tuesdays or at Fulwood on Friday (RCC pool nights). If you have any dates for the calendar please contact **Terry Maddock**

- Ribble CC development trips are in **bold**
- Ribble CC recreational events (assumed risk) are in bold italic.
- Other Ribble CC events are in italic.
- Events in normal type are external events listed for information only.

JULY

Fri 20 July – Sun 22 July
Rhosneigr Sea & Surf Camp
Contact: John Kington

Sun 29 July – Thur 2 Aug
Olympic Canoe Slalom – Lee Valley
WWC

AUGUST

Wed 1 Aug 19:00 – 21:00
Coaching Forum - Hand & Dagger
Contact: Allan Hacking

Sat 4 Aug – Sat 11 Aug
Bude Surf Week - Bude, Cornwall
Contact: Graham Kingaby

Sun 5 Aug
Development trip - If all else fails,
Washburn
Contact: Allan Hacking

Tue 7 Aug
New members night - Hand & Dagger

Fri 17 Aug – Sun 19 Aug
Summer Camp
Glan Llyn campsite - Bala
Contact: Rachel Body

Sat 18 Aug
Beginners Trip
Water dependant, but based at club
summer camp in Bala
Contact: William Body

SEPTEMBER

Sun 2 September
Development Trip
Washburn?
Contact: Rick Patterson

Wed 12 Sep 19:00 – 21:00
Committee meeting - Hand & Dagger,

Sat 22 Sept 09:00 – 17:00
Youth Freestyle Event No 4 –
Nottingham

Tues 25 Sept
Star awards presentation night

Fri 28 Sept – Sun 30 Sept
Scottish Open Canoe Symposium –
Inverness-shire

This data is extracted from the Google calendar on the RCC website. Google Calendar amendments may be made after this one has been printed. Trips may be changed or cancelled at short notice. Always get in touch with the trip organiser the day before to check! If you don't, and you have a wasted trip, don't blame us.