



Drumchapel & Clydebank Kayak Club **Newsletter May 2008**

20 Little Litter Pickers (By Davie Gow)

On the 26th of April there was a paddle to Inchconnachon. We had a quest on this trip. This quest was to pick up litter.

So we (me, Janice, Suki, Ron, Barry, Joe, Colin, Donald, and Peter) all met up at the container at 9:00 am, then headed off to Luss in the smir. We had a cup of tea, a hot roll and met up with Sandy and his daughter, so it was about 10:45 before we all got in the water. On the way we all met up with Davie and Bill who brought some sunshine. So now two other helping hands.

Eventually we got on to the 'wallaby island' and started to pick up litter. And I have to tell you the first stop was the biggest. I walked over to a big marshy bit and was flabbergasted by the amount of rubbish there was. Joe, my mum and I filled up a whole bag right to the top but then were told to come back to the kayaks. In the bag was probably the funniest thing out of the lot, it was a plastic toy penguin with no head.

Now we headed for another patch to rescue and bumped into Phil and a few others. This stop was also the lunch stop. Once we'd got out we all set off with bags ready to be filled as Barry and a few others started the disposable BBQ. After about 20mins of litter picking we headed back for some well deserved lunch in the sun. As we had lunch Paul, his son, and Dougie arrived. Dougie and Paul's son in a wee power boat and Paul in a kayak.

We now moved onto the 3rd beach but there was not much litter here apart from two chairs and a desk! So lets see how much there is on the next stop we thought. Turned out even less here than the last one. Well now all that's left is to depart and head back home all our different ways. A final last push from me was needed for the last choppy part. We arrived at the finish point but this was not the end of our heroic trip. Most of us had a wee shot in the open canoe and me and Suki had a freezing but refreshing swim to finish off a brilliant trip.

Thanks to Davie for giving us such a vivid account of the day out.

The Rangers from the National Park were very impressed with our efforts. They collected the bags from a beach on the island. This I'm sure will help to raise the profile of paddlers on the Loch with the authorities.

The SCA were also very pleased with our work. There will be a display at the Paddle Exhibition this year detailing the "Clear Water" initiative throughout the country. Apart from the obvious benefit of cleaning up the countryside the main aim of "Clear Water" was to encourage anyone who enjoys the countryside to pick up even just one piece of litter each time they are out.



Davie & Sukie Swimming



Litter Pickers at the Haven, Inchconnachan

Check this week's Clydebank Post. There is a copy of the above photo and a write up.

Shetland Kayak Symposium

(I received an e-mail from Julie Phillips from the Shetland Canoe Club)
Just so you all know what is happening up in Shetland this July we are having a sea kayak symposium from 4th July through to 7th followed by a weeks paddling with visitors and a week end trip even further north up to Unst. Who know if the weather is good we yet may make it again to Muckle Flugga – the UK 's most northern lighthouse. In fact this would be a good chance to do a lot of the most northern padding trips as we are at 60° North .

If you wish to find out more than what is in the SCA mag then please check out
www.shetland-communities.org/scanoecclub/symposium
Hope some of you can make it up here.

Lomo Watersports

Have moved to new premises at 104 Hydepark Street, G3 8BW

Tiso

We have registered for the Club Discount nights at Tiso Outdoor Experience in Cooper Street. They will inform us of the dates of these evenings where we will receive 15% discount.

Scottish Canoe Exhibition

25th 7 26th Oct at Bells Sports Centre, Perth

See website for a preview of the event

<http://www.canoescotland.com/Default.aspx?tabid=235>

Westerton Gala Day

(E mail received asking if we could help with the event.)

I got your contacts from the Scottish Canoe Association website. I am getting in touch to find out if any canoe clubs in and around Glasgow are able to offer try out sessions. I am

part of a group organising a community event in Westerton, East Dunbartonshire, and our theme this year is sports and outdoor activities - linking with this summer's Olympics. Westerton is right on the Forth and Clyde canal, and we hope to make use of this on the day - with canal boat trips and, if possible, canoeing. We are planning the event for 30th August.

I'm not sure of the ins and outs of organising something like this - but it would be great to hear back from you if you might be able to help us.

Many thanks

Scott Ferguson
Convener - Westerton Gala day committee

If you would like to get involved in this event please call Ron 07743342330.

Loch Etive on a calm day



Andy and Bill had a perfectly calm day on Loch Etive as seen by the reflection.

Outdoor Sessions

Tuesday 3rd June is the last pool night for the summer. On 10th June and every Tuesday throughout the summer we will meet at the container at 6:30pm and head for Lomond Shores for about 7:30pm.

There will be 2 & 3 Star training and assessment on these evening sessions.