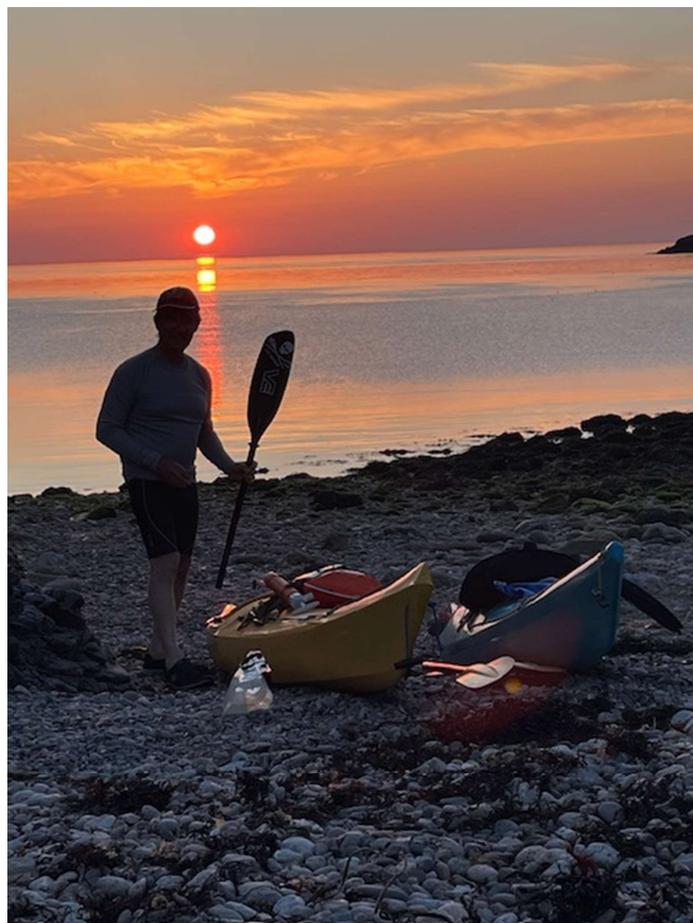




Annual Report
1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022



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1. Annual Report

This report has been written by Keith Brocklehurst (Deva CC Secretary) and approved by John Lewis (Deva CC Chair).

2. Cover Photograph

Congratulations go to Colin Hayward for winning this year's photographic competition with a picture taken at the end of one of the club's peer group sea paddles.

A picture submitted by David Riley of club paddlers in the pool below Backbarrow during the 2021 Lakes trip was chosen for our Facebook page (see item 36).

Thanks go to the other member who also submitted photographs.

3. Welcome and Introduction

Our paddling year started on 1 April 2021 with Thursday evening sessions from 4 April until 30 September.

In addition there were also fortnightly Sunday afternoons and occasional away-days throughout the year.

Thankfully the Covid-19 pandemic didn't affect our paddling this year, unlike in 2020/2021, and we thank everyone for ensuring the club remained a Covid-safe environment.

Every year we gain more enthusiastic newbies but lose a few members to less exciting time consuming activities.

DEVA's age range spans +18yrs to 82yrs and paid up membership for this year was 248, made up of 174 male and 74 female.

Our members range in ability from complete beginners who've barely been in a boat to fully-fledged mad heads addicted to the adrenaline rush of throwing themselves and their boats off waterfalls.

We have members from many paddling disciplines and with a variety of craft preferences. They include play boaters, surf kayakers, open canoeists, scenic flatwater paddlers, sit-on-top paddlers, stand-up paddle boarders, scary top end white water paddlers, sea kayakers and, last but not least, less energetic white-water paddlers (aka Deva OFs).

4. New Members

The officers and committee extend a very warm welcome to the 73 new members who joined us in our 23rd year.

This year has seen a large increase in membership, maybe due to the outdoors now being seen as a healthy and ‘good for you’ place to be and everyone wants to enjoy themselves accompanied by like-minded friendly water sport enthusiasts.

Whatever your reason for joining us, we sincerely hope that you are all enjoying yourselves and, if so, spread the word... if not, please tell us!

5. Farewell to Alan Reay

Alan Reay and his wife were due to leave Chester on 6 December 2021 to move to Cambridgeshire to be closer to their family.

In recognition of all he has done for Deva CC, we arranged for our President, Peter Cook, to present him some gifts followed by a buns and cakes celebration during our Riverside session on 5 December 2021.

However, at the very last minute his sale chain broke which meant he’d be with us for a little while longer but we still went ahead with the presentation anyway.

All the cogs eventually turned and they left for their new home on 3 March 2022.



The gifts were a hand carved wooden sea kayak, a hand painted card kindly created by club member Beth Pugh and a lifetime membership of Deva CC from the club’s officers.



A little bit of Alan's history:

Alan has been a member of Deva Canoe Club for more than 20 years.

During that time, he has acquired the Level 3 Inland kayak and Level 3 Sea kayak coaching Awards, as well as becoming a very competent Open Boater.

He has been a great help to Deva Canoe Club in many ways -

- a) By acting as the club's Safety and Welfare Officer.
- b) By regularly organising and leading many sea trips, white water river trips and also open boat camping river trips.

He has been the lead organiser for all the Cheshire Scouts' water-based activities.

He has co-ordinated and run the Scout canoeing, Bell Boating and Dragon Boating at the Riverside Centre.

During the summer months he has run the youth canoeing sessions at Winsford Flash, on behalf of the Winsford Youth Forum.



Alan's farewell chats with a few of the OFs at Sandy Lane prior to his departure two days later!

6. Deva welcomes another Octogenarian



Our president Peter Cook, one of the founding fathers of Deva CC, reached another milestone in his life on 29 December 2021, by becoming an Octogenarian and joining Brian Sanderson in this elite section of the club's VOFs.

There may be snow on Peter's roof but the fire, enthusiasm and passion he has for all things canoeing & kayaking still burns brightly inside.

7. Contact us

You can contact any of the club's officers by e-mailing devacanoeclub@gmail.com

If you need to contact a particular officer then please include their first name in the subject line.

If you wish to participate in a specific Deva event or reply to a recent club email then could we please ask that you reply only to the relevant email(s).

We deal with over 1500 emails throughout a club year and if you use an earlier unrelated club email to contact us, where the subject titles may be different, could result in your message being missed.

Officers are always available to chat to at our Riverside Centre sessions and at the Northgate Arena Canoeing sessions on Monday evenings during term time.

8. Constitution

Members may request a copy of our latest constitution by emailing the Secretary at devacanoeclub@gmail.com

9. Subscription Rates for 2021-2022

The membership fee has remained unchanged at £15 since April 2015.

Membership	£15	
Additional family member	£5	
Riverside Centre Sessions		
Members	£3	
Non-members	£5	
Equipment hire:	<u>Riverside Centre</u>	<u>Club trips</u>
Non-members	£2	N/A
Members	£0 (free)	£5 per day

10. Officers and Committee (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022)

Officers:

President: [Peter Cook](#)

Chair: [John Lewis](#)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: [Simon Carver](#)

Secretary: [Keith Brocklehurst](#)

Committee:

Safety and Welfare Officer (and representing Cheshire Scouts): [Alan Reay](#)

Co-opted Committee:

Deputy Welfare and representing Female members: [Judith Lathaen](#)

Representing Chester Riverside Canoe Club and BRIO (Northgate): [Ian McMullen](#)

Representing Sea Kayakers: [Colin Hayward](#) and [Keith Peek](#)

Representing Kayakers: [Yvette Schutten](#) and [Mike Evans](#)

Representing Open Boaters: [Steve Cartney](#)

IT help and support: [Mat Sefton](#)

11. Committee Meetings

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the club's officers, supported by help from the committee, we required only 2 formal officers meeting during the year.

12. Benefits of Membership

Take advantage of regular club away-day and weekend trips on canal, lake, river & sea (usually free except for any car park / launching charges). If you are free on a Tuesday morning, and have already experienced the weir in Chester, why not come along to Llangollen for a couple of hours? Send us an email for further information.

+

Participate in our annual 'Lakes Weekend' in November (A charge of typically £55 is made for the bunk-house style accommodation and meals)

+

Attend our Thursday evening sessions (April to September) on the River Dee and weir in Chester (A reduced rate of £3 per night to cover building hire charge).

+

Benefit from a Deva member's rate for the Chester Northgate Arena canoe lessons. If you purchase an annual BRIO Canoeing Club Concession card from Northgate Arena then you pay a significantly reduced rate per session. Ask Peter Cook (Club President) or Keith Brocklehurst (Club Secretary) for a signed discount form. Another option is by signing up for Northgate's Brio Leisure Card (Free) to obtain a £1 discount on the normal session charge.

+

Some local canoe/kayak retailers** may give club discount on production of your Deva membership card.

Manchester Canoes (Warrington) www.manchester-canoes-and-kayaks.co.uk/

Go Kayaking North West (Runcorn) www.go-kayaking.com/

+

Free tuition* by our own experienced members in whatever craft you wish, and at whatever ability level you are at or to which you wish to aspire.

+

And remember, owning your own kit is not essential. You can use ours free at any of our Riverside Centre sessions before you decide to buy, or borrow for a nominal daily charge (£5) for our away-days! We have a wide range of craft: Kayaks, Sea Kayaks, Open Canoes (Canadian type), Sit-on-Tops and Stand-up paddle board.

+

You'll be one of a friendly bunch of folk, keen to help others and introduce them to the joy of our sport. We all have one thing in common which is we all paddle for fun and enjoyment and, apart from water safety, don't take anything too seriously.

(*) One of the main benefits of becoming members of Deva Canoe Club is that all of our coaching, help, advice and time are given for free. Even on non-club trips you will find that our members will give up their time to coach and help to the best of their ability anyone new to kayaking.

Please note that members are welcome to seek private coaching or courses external to the club if they so wish but this would be at a cost funded by them.

(**) Deva Canoe Club does not endorse any coaching business, equipment supplier or manufacturer and as such any related advice from its members is solely their own opinion.

13. Loan of Club boats

The club only loans-out its boats and kit for official Deva events and not for peer group paddles or one's personal use.

14. Northgate Arena Canoe Sessions

In October 2021 the pool sessions restarted after a 19-month period of Covid closure.

Unfortunately, with the Northgate Arena being understaffed after Covid, this resulted in insufficient resources to allow fully operation of the arena which ultimately forced our sessions to be reduced to just Monday evenings.

We are witnessing a significant increase in interest of people wishing to try out kayaking and, as a result with everyone having to be squeezed into just one evening, meant that attendance has consistently been at full capacity.

We look forward to twice-weekly sessions recommencing as soon as Brio can allow.

15. Insurance

Please note that the club's third party liability insurance only covers you, not your personal possessions (boat, kit etc.), whilst participating in an approved Deva CC event.

Members should consider having their own appropriate personal possessions insurance and third party liability insurance for when they are not participating in one of our events.

16. Development Planning for the Future

8 Strategic Targets for a five year plan

During the period of lock-down in the 2021 Covid pandemic, the officers of the club agreed to develop a strategic plan to promote Deva CC to renew and encourage policies which will ensure long term security and survival. In a changing world where many things, including paddle sports are evolving, we need to stay relevant to the needs of the paddlers and engage with the local community.

Here is a summary of the Deva Development Plan, and the means by which we can measure success:

1. Increase participation and membership.

The number of members dropped during the close down, we aim to recover to pre-pandemic levels by holding taster days, resuming pool kayaking sessions, and recruiting new members.

Evidence for this will be in our membership records and age profile.

2. Strengthen Community Links.

Cement the relevance of Deva to the local community and make clear our value as an asset in improving physical and mental health. We will investigate the possibility of links with NHS mental health initiatives. Community action can also involve supporting charity and other events (e.g. Dee Mile Swim) and holding river clean events.

The annual report and calendar will be used as evidence to assess progress.

3. Further Develop Communications.

Raise the club profile with the members and general public through the media. The redesigned Deva web site is a much improved asset. We now wish to use social media and community notice boards to inform the wider community of our activities.

Evidence can be the number of reports of Deva's activities and number of web site hits.

4. Grow the leadership and coaching team

To achieve our aims and ensure long-term survival Deva needs coaches and committee members. We need to identify those willing to join the Welcome Team to help beginners at club Riverside sessions. We also need to encourage those who wish to get into coaching and leading on rivers or sea. To achieve this we can promote personal awards and coaching courses (both internal club courses and external BC approved courses).

Evidence will be the number of active coaches and leaders and a succession of members on the Welcome Team and committee.

5. Support New and Intermediate Paddlers

We feel there is a need to hold more 'touring' events on lakes, canals etc suitable for a mixture of craft ("cakes and lakes" to quote one member) as well

as whitewater trips. A local “Where to Paddle” page on the web site for members would be helpful.

To achieve this we will need more trip proposals and trip leaders.

Success will be judged on the variety recorded on the club calendar and number of peer group paddles as well as official club trips.

6. Increase Diversity

The profile of the club is currently skewed with more males than females, and an increasing average age. There are new trends in paddlesports which if we encourage will appeal to a wider section of the population and diversify our membership, for example SUP and SOT. We also wish to organise “She Paddles” events. To achieve this we need a “She Paddles” organiser.

Evidenced by a She Paddles event, increase in % female members, and greater diversity of craft.

7. Work towards greater sustainability and environmental responsibility

Our sport immerses us in our immediate environment (sometimes literally!), we wish to see clean, healthy rivers and seas and also to act in socially responsible ways to eliminate waste and pollution. Use of single use plastic cups at Riverside meetings should be discontinued when the current stock are used up. The club should support campaigns to reduce litter and pollution of the Dee. Pressure can be brought to bear on water authorities and government agencies and departments to stop sewage discharges into the river, and work towards designating the Dee in Chester bathing water. We should seek to engage with other river users, e.g. Tri-club, swimming club, SAS etc..

Appointment of an Environmental Co-ordinator would help drive this forward.
Progress will be measured in water quality statistics, and events logged on the calendar.

8. Secure our place at the Riverside Centre and work to help improving facilities.

The Riverside Centre is in need of refurbishment or renewal. We need to negotiate and work with Cheshire West and Chester (the site owners) and Queens Park School (who manage the site) to negotiate licences to continue our tenancy. We also wish to contribute towards plans to improve the centre building and facilities.

Progress on this can be reviewed in the annual report.

How can we achieve our aims? (The really important bit!)

To achieve our aims we need two things;

- 1) That the members agree with the aims and buy into the plans
- 2) Members are willing to take on roles and help out with the work needed.

This does not mean we need meetings and committee work, many of the tasks are practical and specific. We will need action not words!

Please re-read the aims again. Is there an area you are interested in or would be willing to work on? If we organise action days (for example, a river clean) would you be willing to help out? Please feel free to discuss the aims with me or any of the club's officers. If you think there are other aims we should include over the next 5 years then let us know.

We will report back on the progress we have made each year in the annual report and at the AGM.

17. Development Planning for the Future – New Committee Structure

An update from our Chair, John L;

We are now approaching the end of our winter season and looking ahead to April and the new summer season. On behalf of the officers of Deva CC I want to say a huge 'thank you' to all who have been a member of the wider committee in the past year.

During the last few months the club officers have decided to restructure the committee so that in future its members have more specific roles.

Alan Reay's departure has left a big gap in the club's leadership.

Fortunately Judith Lathaen and David Riley have agreed to step up to be Welfare and Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Safeguarding respectively.

Alan's other major input was as trips safety advisor.

Ray McCann has agreed to cover this role as Trips Co-ordinator. Ray will review trip proposals and, where necessary, seek the advice of experienced and qualified members to approve or reject the risk assessment. As Ray is predominantly a whitewater paddler I have no doubt he will be emailing Alan, Colin, and Peter C regarding proposed club sea trips.

To reflect the importance that Deva's current officers puts on these roles three new positions of 'Club Officer' are to be created.

Rosie Diver has kindly offered to become our Inclusivity Co-ordinator (with a brief to run a #ShePaddles event).

Steve Cartney has too kindly offered to be our Sustainability Co-Ordinator to look at our environmental policies and organise a river clean event.

The proposed full committee structure for the coming year, to be presented for approval by the membership at our next AGM in May 2022, will therefore be;

Officers:

President: [Peter Cook](#)

Chair: [John Lewis](#)

Treasurer and Membership: [Simon Carver](#)

Secretary: [Keith Brocklehurst](#)

Welfare & Safeguarding: [Judith Lathaen](#)

Assistant Safeguarding: [David Riley](#)

Coaching Development, Trips and Safety: [Ray McCann](#)

Wider Committee:

Inclusivity Coordinator: [Rosie Diver](#)

Sustainability Coordinator: [Steve Cartney](#)

IT Support: [Mat Sefton](#)

Representing Brio & CRCC; [Ian McMullen](#)

Safety and Welfare Advisor: [Alan Reay \(at distance\)](#)

All sports clubs rely on the work of volunteers, not just the committee members, but many of the wider membership as well.

Thank you all for supporting the club in what has often been a difficult time.

Happy Paddling for the 2022-23 season.

John L

18. Club Events

A club event is only announced from the club email address (not Facebook) and all communications relating to the event must come through the same email address.

If you participate in any official Deva Canoe Club event, are a paid-up member of the club or a registered guest, you will be covered by our British Canoeing Liability Insurance whether you are a member of British Canoeing or not.

A club trip can be organised by any club member but must first be approved by the club's Safety and Welfare Officer and have club approved leader(s) within the group responsible for leading on the water.

Approval for a club trip can be obtained by contacting Ray McCann via the club E-mail and any 'Approved club trip' will then only be advertised to the membership through the club E-Mail. If you have any questions then please contact us by email.

We are always open to ideas for paddling trips. If you would like to get into leading club trips, then have a word with one of the officers. Similarly, if you would like to help coaching beginners or just assisting a coach to see what it's like then make yourself known.

19. On Home Water

The Riverside Centre, the building that Deva Canoe Club, Chester Riverside Canoe Club and Cheshire Scouts rent from the Queen's Park High School, is our base and home to our Thursday evening (Spring / Summer) and Sunday afternoon (Autumn / Winter) River Dee and Weir sessions.

September 2021 was a rather frustrating month for Deva CC. After all the disruption of the last 18 months we were getting back to something like normal when many of our Riverside sessions were cancelled. There were two causes; the rowing club informed us at short notice of two Sunday events which meant we could not get onto the site, and secondly, we were given short notice by the site administrator that the concrete apron in front of the boat bays was being replaced. Unfortunately, this work went on for much longer than we were led to believe, a shortage of materials and replacement of a broken pipe were given as reasons for the delay.

We understood the disappointment and frustration this caused members which we can assure you was shared by the club officers.

In the long term and hopefully to minimise disruption, we have asked for an active user group to be set up so that we are given advanced notice of changes to bookings and can plan accordingly.

We were informed told that the pontoon would be either repaired or replaced sometime in October 2021 and we are pleased to note that this work has now been completed.

Many thanks go to everyone who organised, lead trips, coached our inexperienced members, photographed our moments, cleaned / mopped up and most importantly supported all our events throughout the year. Too many to name individually but your contribution is greatly appreciated.

The club's officers spend a lot of their time and effort in running and organising everything and hate having to continuously ask you to help out.

Please remember...when attending any of our Riverside Centre sessions it would be appreciated if you all offered help to clean and tidy-up at the end of a session sometime.

So please...offer to help...and don't wait to be asked!

Please remember that the club cannot operate without the help of its members and if you can spare some time then please come forward and speak to one of the committee.

The year's home events included:

Thanks to club member Rosie Diver, Deva members were offered the chance to try Stand Up Paddle boarding. Jess Philip, a qualified white water SUP coach and world class kayaker brought a number of her boards to the club on 22 July where she kindly gave hands-on introduction to the sport.



Night paddle from the Riverside Centre to the A55 bridge and back on our last Thursday evening of our summer session.



And finally, for those who loved paddling in warm chlorinated water, the return in October 2021 of the weekly term time pool sessions in Northgate Arena.

20. Paddling in Wales

Please be aware that there is a chance that you could be approached by land-owners, fishermen or local residents in Wales all who may have strong anti-paddler views.

Please treat these individuals with respect and listen to what they may have to say.

If you feel the urge to reply please be polite and, most importantly, don't discredit Deva!

The Welsh government are addressing a wide range of related issues and we look forward to workable agreements that satisfy all sides of the argument.

21. Tuesday morning group (aka Deva OFs)

You don't have to be old, retired or decrepit to accompany the OFs.

It's open to any member who has their own boat, time to spare on a Tuesday morning and is confident in paddling on grade 2-3 white water.

There are usually two paddling opportunities, one at MEM in Llangollen and another from Sandy Lane in Chester.

Look on our Facebook page to see what's happening on the day.

22. Annual Lake District Weekend (19-21 November 2021)

Thanks to John Lewis (aka John L) for organising the club's annual lakes trip to Elterwater and to the 32 Deva members who supported the event.

Thanks to all those who took up kitchen duties to keep everyone fed and watered and to everyone else who helped during the weekend to make this annual event a great success.

We also received the following emails of appreciation:

Richard Bingham: Excellent weekend and thanks to you and David all the effort creates results and smiles.

John Pond: Just like to say a big thank you to you and David for organising a great weekend, thoroughly enjoyed it and looking forward to the next one.

If possible could you please send a big thank you to Rosie as well. She was a great leader, very patient and always helpful and cheerful with us old gits/ novices.

Derek Benson: Thank you (and your helpers) so much for all the arrangements and work this weekend. As a first timer I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, both the wet and dry parts. Whilst it was obvious at Llangollen that the club is represented by many helpful caring people, Rosie is the most patient person I have had the pleasure of being looked after by.

Sylvie More: Thank you very much for planning, preparing and organising such a great weekend away. Thank you for enabling me to join you and David on your river outings on the Saturday and Sunday. Thank you for all the coaching you gave me and for kindly finding equipment and dry suit clothing including lending me your own. I learned a lot over the weekend and hope to be able to keep putting it into practice. Thank you also for the delicious veggie chili which I enjoyed for lunch today. It's really tasty. I felt really taken care of on lots of different levels -many thanks.

Stephen West: Just a quick note to say a BIG thank you for such a great couple of days in the Lakes, it was all smashing....very much “stuff of memories”. Good food, hospitality, entertainment etc....I could go on and on, but don't worry I won't. Suffice to say thanks and I can't wait for next year, by which time hopefully I might be a better paddler.

23. Further afield (Mile End Mill, Llangollen)

We have become well recognised and respected at MEM so feel free, if visiting the on-site TNR Outdoors shop, to tell them that you are from Deva CC.

'TNR Outdoors' wish to remind users of the MEM site NOT to access the field (aka the Meadows) as it's private and the owner doesn't want paddlers on their land. It is the field on river left from the railway bridge down to tombstones. Please direct any questions you may have on this to TNR.

The picture below, by kind permission of Terry Hudson, shows coaches and new members who supported one of our away-days at MEM on 25 September 2021.



24. Further afield (Sea Kayak Safety at Colwyn Bay)

Thanks go to Colin Hayward, Keith Peek and Russell Spriggs for again running sea kayak training sessions on Thursday evenings for those Deva salty types who wished to learn and practice their sea safety and rescue techniques.

25. Further afield (Day trips and away-days)

The on-going Covid-19 pandemic made it difficult for us to have our usual number of trips and away-days, especially those that would normally have involved shuttles and car sharing. Here's a summary of those that we were able to run:

June 2021

Alan Reay / Peter Cook	Sea Paddle	Hilbre Island
John Ellis	Introduction to Mile End Mill for new members	

July 2021

Alan Reay	River Weaver	
Alan Reay / Peter Cook	Sea Paddle	Llandudno / Colwyn Bay
John Lewis / Ray McCann	Introduction to Mile End Mill for new members	

August 2021

Alan Reay / Peter Cook	Sea Paddle	Anglesey (Penmon Point)
John Lewis	River Trent	

September 2021

Club Away Day	Introduction to Mile End Mill for new members (See earlier photo in item 22)	
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November 2021

John Lewis	Annual Lakes Weekend	
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26. Christmas Paddle

The officers reluctantly decided, due to the ongoing Covid uncertainties, to cancel the annual Llangollen aqueduct paddle / Sun Trevor lunch. Here's hoping that we'll be back to some resemblance of normality in December 2022!

Instead, and for our last Riverside paddle for 2021 on 19 December, everyone enjoyed hot drinks and mince pies on return from their misty paddle upstream to Eccleston.



27. Supporting Charity Events

Kim Hanbury contacted Deva CC about her fundraising challenge in memory of her father, so on Wednesday 22 September, John Lewis kindly offered to accompany Kim on her paddle from Farndon to Chester Weir and back to Sandy Lane, launching in Farndon.



Kim writes;

'Back in January I decided to take the year to raise money for Darent Valley Hospital who had cared for my Dad for the past 5 years.

He was diagnosed with bowel cancer and throughout the 5 years and 54 rounds of chemotherapy, the staff who cared for him were incredible. They're heroes of another level.

My family and I were constantly blown away by the efforts they went to in caring for him and trying to prolong his life. Each month I have done something new and different and challenged myself to new heights - from cycling 150 km in one day, to rowing a marathon and hiking Hadrian's Wall - I have managed to so far raise just over £4,000.

Unfortunately, my Dad lost his battle in June of this year but together with my family - we decided to keep the challenges going to see the year out, and continue to try and raise as much as we can for this incredible hospital.

It would have been his 68th birthday on September 22nd, so I saw it only fitting to paddle 22kms on the river. '22 for 22'. My Dad loved rivers so it seems like the right challenge to do for this month.

It was so great to meet you and to organise the actual paddle. I'm really excited for it! I spoke with my Mum on the phone last night and she's a little blown away by the

offer of help you have given to make it happen - so please know just how grateful both me and my family are to you for helping to make this happen.

After completing her 9th challenge she wrote:

I really can't begin to thank you enough for making this challenge possible! My family and I are all so so grateful to you BOTH for helping to make this happen. I absolutely LOVED today, I really enjoyed that route - the river was glorious and it quenched my thirst to do more!

Your kindness, your knowledge and your generosity made today happen and I'm smiling with glee that today I celebrated Dad's birthday in a really awesome way.

What's more - the donations and kind messages have come flooding in...it always floors me when people, some strangers, give their time and energy into even writing messages. I'll email the charity at the weekend with some pictures so they can see challenge number 9!

28. Donations to the Club

The club wishes to acknowledge the kind generosity of its members for donations of miscellaneous items of canoeing alia however, we are unfortunately unable to accept any items of used safety kit such as PFD's, helmets or ropes.

29. Annual Kit Inspection

The annual kit inspection took place on Tuesday 15 March 2022 with Peter Cook, Simon Carver, John Lewis, Keith Brocklehurst and Steve Cartney in attendance.

30. New purchases

5 Buoyancy aids
5 spray decks
Pre-used P&H Scorpio sea kayak
Pre-used inland kayak
Pre-used medium Pyranha Recoil
Ex-demo medium Pyranha Burn 3
New medium Dagger Riot

31. Boat Inventory at year end

26 Inland kayaks
11 Sea kayaks
10 Open Canoes
2 Sit on Top Kayaks
1 Stand Up Paddle Board

32. Helping Others - Surfers Against Sewage (SAS)

In April we were contacted by our local volunteer rep in Chester for Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), one of the organisers of the #PlasticFreeChester campaign, and asked if Deva would like to get involved in picking litter from the Dee.

Chief Womble (aka John L) got to work organising the event and eventually, after several cancellations due to unfavourable river conditions, it took place on Thursday evening 3 June 2021.

As usual, when asked for support, members came out in force to help. Armed with boats, bags, gloves and litter pickers, Deva's watery wombles set off weaving in and out of trees and bushes collecting the rubbish they could safely reach and collect.

Amongst the items salvaged were a chair, traffic cone, glass and plastic bottles, breeze block and countless wet wipes!

Thanks to SAS for providing the bags, gloves etc. and there are two photos below of the evening.

Deva CC is again delighted to help and support the local community and to make a visible contribution to our local river and SAS's national Million Mile Clean event.



We also mustn't forget the kind gesture of Chief Womble John to use his car as a bin wagon to transport all collected items to the Bumpers Lane tip.



The officers and committee wish to acknowledge club member Russell Allmand for the contribution he also made whilst out paddling between Sandy Lane and the weir on one evening in September.

33. Helping Others - Deva Triathlon Club

We were asked by the organisers of the Deva Triathlon if we could provide canoe safety cover for their event on 13 June as they were very short of marshals this year due to their club membership being reduced over the last year and any help we could give would be appreciated.

Despite the early morning race start of 07:00, three Deva early-birds (John L, Ray McCann and David Riley) kindly forgo their usual Sunday morning lie-in to help out.

34. Helping Others – Dee Mile Swim

We see this annual event as an important part of our ‘paddling life’ and again we were delighted to have been asked by the organisers to provide full safety cover for the Dee Mile Swim which took place on 7 August 2021.



The 25 Deva members, all shown above, kindly gave up a very wet and windy Saturday afternoon to help.

35. Helping Others – Pen Godber – Circumnavigating Wales



It was a great pleasure to welcome Penelope Coneybear (aka Pen Godber) from Shrewsbury Canoe Club to Deva on Sunday afternoon, 15 August 2021.

Thanks also to Terry Hudson, Simon Carver and John Ellis for giving her advice on the next stage of her paddling journey circumnavigating Wales from the Chester weir to the Irish Sea. She left with a very impressive view of Deva CC and, in particular, how we welcomed and introduced new and inexperienced paddlers she witnessed enjoying themselves. She said that once her expedition had ended she will have no hesitation to come and join this friendly club.

We received this note of appreciation from her:

Today I had the real pleasure of meeting the good people from the Deva Canoe Club at Chester. I hope I'll paddle with them again.

They did seem to think I was completely bonkers so I'm reposting the fantastic film that Neil Buckland made for us. Maybe this will win them round!

The next stage, I'd thought, was to swoosh over the weir at high water on a good hefty spring tide and get spat out at the Point of Ayr some twenty plus miles down. Except that, when I looked at the tide tables every such high water is around midnight or midday. So the beginning or end of the paddle will be in the dark. Negotiating sand bars and mud flats in the dark? No way. Getting below the weir could help. At least we won't have to wait for high water or do a mucky portage. So, with expert and kindly guidance from Deva's Keith, this is what I did this afternoon. Keith was perfect: he got that my circumnavigation is to do with discovering and enjoying the places I travel through and gave me a really good tour of the riverside section of Chester, Roman and Twentieth century.

In October she sent this update on her journey:

Hi Keith! I'm just messaging to let you know that I've "done" the Dee estuary now with Turning the Corner. Your help with introducing me to Chester and the weir was invaluable. I really enjoyed my day with the Deva club. I launched on the Handbridge side with my friend Sue Couling on a spring tide just before high water. We were able to go up over the weir and then turn to make our descent but there was a very short window when this was possible in carbon boats. We did one day to Flint and a second day to Rhyl so I am now perched to finish my circumnavigation - only Rhyl to Porth Oer to go and more than £1k raised for the RNLI. Thank you and the Deva Club so much for your friendly support and guidance. All the best, Pen

36. Club Facebook Page and Peer Group Paddles

The club has a private Facebook page solely for access by [DEVA KAYAKERS + friends of](#), administered by John Lewis and Keith Brocklehurst with currently 350 members.



DEVA KAYAKERS + friends of.

Our Facebook wall is used by club members to post ad-hoc peer group trips and if you wish to access this page and unsure what to do then please email John Lewis at devacanoecub@gmail.com and he'll send you instructions.

Deva's Officers are aware that members organise 'Peer Group' paddling events through Facebook and wish to encourage this however, we feel that it is important to make clear that such trips are informal, NOT the responsibility of the club and NOT covered by the club's liability insurance.

Members paddling on such trips should consider having their own appropriate liability and personal possessions insurance.

It is the responsibility of each member to decide whether a proposed activity is suitable for them, in particular, beginners and those with limited experience should be aware that some trips may be too difficult.

If you wish to participate then feel free to ask if you can join in even if you are unsure if you meet the required ability level, as long as you are honest about your own ability.

After all none of our regular members will purposely put you at risk on water that you won't cope with, so the worst that can happen is they reply with "not this time due to your ability level or the current water level".

Often (water level allowing) you will find that they will willingly take you and look after you if it is at the top end of your ability, so thank you to all members who have been doing this and as such helping less experienced paddlers to improve their skills.

But please remember, anyone wishing to organise a trip on Facebook should ensure they make it clear that it is a peer group paddle and not a club organised trip as well as indicating what standard of paddler the trip is suitable for (e.g. Grade 2/3 water, must be competent paddling the Lower Tryweryn).

37. Deva's New 'Public' Facebook Page



Following a suggestion for an additional way to promote and advertise Deva, from our IT advisor and committee member Mat Sefton, he kindly created our public Facebook page.

It's called, not surprisingly, Deva Canoe Club.

This public Facebook page when updated regularly can be a way to keep members and the general public up-to-date with the latest club activities.

If members (or anyone) subscribe they will get a Facebook notification when there are new posts.

These posts can consist of links to the latest newsletters, future trips/events, follow ups on trips with images, upcoming charity events etc.

It will not only help members who are on Facebook stay up-to-date but also publicise what the club gets up to and what we're all about to a much wider audience.

For people not on Facebook we may explore other platforms in the future.

If you have an idea about additional techy ways to promote the club then please email us at the club address and mark the subject line 'Promoting Deva – FAO Mat'

38. Deva Photographs

Many thanks to those who have photographed our canoeing/kayaking adventures during the year.

In particular Terry Hudson who, as the official Deva paparazzi, continues to capture the photogenic moments of the club members at the Riverside Centre in Chester and Mile End Mill in Llangollen.

Don't forget to look at our website <https://www.devacanoecub.co.uk/gallery/> for more recent additions.

Photographs shown in this report are used with the kind permission of their copyright holders. We are conscious that other club members could be seen in these shots and have our assurance that they will not be identified.

We also have a Flickr account that is linked to our website to show prospective new members the sort of activities we get up to and, as we have almost reached our limit of 1000 images, we have decided to cease uploading any more.

[To view the Deva Canoe Club photos on Flickr....](#)

Log onto <https://www.flickr.com/>

In the search box type DEVA CANOE CLUB

Click on SEARCH PEOPLE

Click on the circular DEVA LOGO

Click on the large blue DEVA CANOE CLUB wording

Click on PHOTOSTREAM to show all photos.

Click on ALBUMS to show photos by events.

39. Club Website



Don't forget to check the calendar on our website for dates of future trips and events.

www.devacanoecub.co.uk

40. Photographic Competition - 2021

For something different in 2021 we held a photographic competition and Deva's chief paparazzi, Terry Hudson, kindly offering to judge them.

Photos must have been of a Deva event in 2021 and reflect the paddling activities we do.

There was no prize but the one judged to best represent Deva's activities will be used on the front page of this annual report and another being presented on our Facebook page (See item 2).

41. Club Clothing

Club branded Hoodies, Polo shirts and T shirts are available to buy at:

<https://www.myschoolstyle.com/shop/clubs/deva>

Your name can also be embroidered on the garments for a small additional charge.

The screenshot shows the 'my schoolstyle.com' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Shop, About us, Benefits, Shopping Guide, News, and Contact us. A 'Sign in to my account' button is also present. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar labeled 'Find my school A to Z'. A sidebar on the left lists various categories: Boys School Uniform, Girls School Uniform, Bags and Name Labels, Protective and Hi Viz, Fancy Dress, Clubs & Societies, Deva Canoe Club (highlighted), and Shindo-Kai Karate Club. The main content area is titled 'Clubs & Societies > Deva Canoe Club'. It features a description: 'Select items chosen by Deva Canoe Club and each featuring the club logo printed or embroidered. Simply choose your colour and size requirements, provide any personalisation information, checkout and we will do the rest typically dispatching to your chosen delivery address in 2-3 days.' Below this, three product cards are displayed: 'Deva Canoe Club Hoody' (From £18.75), 'Deva Canoe Club Polo' (From £11.25), and 'Deva Canoe Club T Shirt' (From £7.50). Each card includes an image of the item and a 'Find out more' button.

42. Next Year (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Our 24th paddling year starts on 1 April 2022 with Thursday evening sessions commencing on 7 April 2022.

43. Membership Subscriptions for 2022-2023

If you joined after 1 September 2021 your membership is valid until 31 March 2023, for everyone else membership subscriptions become due on 1 April 2022.

44. Your Personal Information

When you first joined the club you advised us of any current health issues.

If your health has changed in a way that it may now affect your paddling ability then it is your responsibility to inform the leader of every Deva trip/event that you participate in.

The Membership Secretary should also be informed so that your personal details can be updated. Email Simon at devacanoeclub@gmail.com

45. Data Protection Statement

This is a summary of the Deva Canoe Club data protection policy and procedures.

The full data protection policy is available on request.

- We record whatever information you give us on the membership application form in a computer.
- If you gave any medical information, this is kept on paper only.
- We record any payments you make in the computer except weekly attendance fees which are kept on paper until the end of the financial year and then destroyed.
- We will not pass any information about you to any third party.
- When you cease to be a member your record, and all 'backup' copies, will be deleted and you will be removed from the email distribution.
- We will use your email address to keep you informed of club activities.
- If we do not have your email and permission to use it then we will not be able to contact you.
- You may 'unsubscribe' from the email, but remain a member, by sending an email request to the membership secretary through the club email.
- You may terminate your membership by sending an email request to the membership secretary through the club email.
- You can obtain a copy of your membership record by asking the membership secretary.
- If you find an error in your record we apologise and will correct it when you tell us by informing the membership secretary.

46. Treasurer's Report for 2021/2022

The financial position of the club continues to remain healthy thanks to the efforts of our Honorary Treasurer, Simon Carver, and his year-end accounts for 2021-2022 are given below.

heading	CREDIT	DEBIT
cash at start	£12.80	
balance at bank	£9,079.38	
B/F	£9,092.18	
membership	£3,035.00	
capital	£30.00	£495.15
boats		£2,323.21
training		£130.00
Lakes2021	£1,925.00	£1,773.62
other		£462.45
riverside	£5,071.86	£2,183.00
Lakes2022	£55.00	£150.00
bcu		£238.40
SumUp		£64.12
TOTALS		
totals	£10,116.86	£7,819.95
total + B/F	£11,389.09	
represented by		
cash in hand	£265.48	
bank balance	£11,178.61	
cheques not presented		£55.00
C/F	£11,389.09	

Simon Carver
Treasurer, Deva Canoe Club
3 April 2022

47. Deva Canoe Club AGM - 2021

The year's AGM, due to take place in April 2021 was cancelled due to ongoing Covid-19 social distancing restrictions.

The club's officers decided the New Year's committee, shown in item 10 of this report, would take immediate effect and without the usual AGM process of naming / proposing and seconding.