



Annual Report
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024



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1. Annual Report

Compiled by Keith Brocklehurst (Secretary, Deva CC) and approved by John Lewis (Chair, Deva CC).

2. Deva Canoe Club becomes a Champion Club!



Photo taken on John Lewis' camera



On Thursday 27 April 2023 Deva Canoe Club were celebrating with the presentation of the Champion Club award in support of British Canoeing's 'Clear Access Clear Waters' campaign.

On the front page, Chester M.P., Samantha Dixon is seen presenting the commemoration plaque to Deva Club President, Peter Cook. She congratulated the club for their contribution to the local community and their efforts to clean up the River Dee. Chantelle Grundy (on right), representing British Canoeing, thanked the club for developing their commitment to improve the environment.

Sam Dixon and Chantelle Grundy then joined with club members for a river clean from boats and on the bank, removing plastic bottles, packaging, several metal items and even a car wheel!



Photo by Keith Brocklehurst

3. Welcome and Introduction

Our 25th paddling year started on 1 April 2023 with Thursday evening sessions from 6 April until 28 September.

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

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 84yrs and paid up membership for this year was 175, made up of 134 male and 41 female.

Our members range in ability from complete beginners who've never 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. There are large and very active groups of both white water and sea kayakers, who organise trips on a range of water from the challenging to the less energetic. We also have a strong group of open canoeists, as well as play boaters, surf kayakers, scenic flatwater paddlers, sit-on-top paddlers and stand-up paddle boarders. Many of our members are active in a range of paddling disciplines.

4. New Members

The officers and committee extend a very warm welcome to the 55 new members who joined us during the year.

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 why!

5. 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, this could result in your message being unintentionally missed.

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

6. Safeguarding

If any member has a personal issue they wish to discuss with our safeguarding officers (Judith Lathaen and David Riley) they should first email via our confidential email address at safeguarding@devacanoeclub.co.uk

The club's officers wish to reassure everyone that only Judith and David have access to this email address and any communications via this will be treated in confidence.

The Club's policies on Safeguarding, Bullying and Whistleblowing can all be found in a new section of the Club's website at: www.devacanoeclub.co.uk/safeguarding/

Details are also on the Club's notice board at the Riverside Centre.

7. Constitution

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

8. Subscription Rates for 2023-2024

The membership fees have remained unchanged at £15 since April 2015.

Membership	£15
Additional family member	£5
Riverside Centre Sessions	
Members	£3
Guests	£7
Equipment hire for club trips	£5

9. Officers and Committee (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024)

Officers:

President:	Peter Cook
Chair:	John Lewis
Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	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 (remotely)

10. Committee Meetings

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the club's officers, supported by help from the wider committee, we required only 2 formal meetings this year on 4 February and 5 September 2023 and a full committee meeting on 29 February 2024.

11. 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 Trips and Safety Officer (Ray McCann) 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 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.

12. Insurance

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

Deva Canoe Club encourages all its members to join Paddle UK (previously British Canoeing) as an 'On the Water' personal member and benefiting from, for instance, a waterways licence included for personal trips on canals; Personal Liability Insurance; access to relatively low cost boat and equipment insurance; as well as supporting the wider work of our national body.

13. 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 weekly Thursday evening (Spring / Summer) and fortnightly Sunday afternoon (Autumn / Winter) River Dee and Weir sessions.

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 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.

On Thursday 27th July we held a Kayak demonstration evening by kind permission of Andy Lees (pictured right) from Go Kayaking NW in Runcorn.



Photos by Keith Brocklehurst

And finally on 28 September 2023, our last Thursday evening of the summer, we held our ever popular Night paddle on 28 September 2023.

A huge thank you to the 30+ paddlers who supported this event venturing up river and into the darkness.

The club's officers and committee wish to recognise the help that the leaders (Judith, Colin and Ray) gave in ensuring everything went safely and to all who took photographic memories for our website gallery.

We must not forget also to thank a club member for providing the watery illuminations! (See photos overleaf)



Photos by Ian Moran

14. Incident at the Riverside Centre on Sunday 1 October 2023

Deva CC is proud and thankful for the vigilance and quick reactions of one of its members that clearly resulted in a young life being saved.

A family walking along the riverside path had a dog which ran down onto the riverside pontoon which was chased by a young boy maybe just 6 or 7 years old.

His father shouted a warning to him but he slipped and fell into the fast flowing water.

In a millisecond a club member on the pontoon realised what was going on and leapt into action.

They reached out and instantly saved the boy from being swept away, dragging him out of the water and back onto the pontoon before handing him back to his distraught mother and father.

15. Supporting 'Mind' the mental health charity

On Thursday 17th August the club held a charity event to support the mental health charity 'Mind'. Our thanks go to Judith Lathaen and Mat Sefton for the initial idea and to all the cake makers, helpers, Deva members and their families and all the passers-by that made the evening a great success.

A total of **£557** was raised for the charity through the sale of refreshments, cakes and voluntary donations and made up to **£800** by the club's officers from incoming financial donations from organisers of the Dee Mile Swim event.

Cake stall 17th August 6-8pm (arrive anytime after 5.30pm)

We invite you to help us in supporting the mental health charity Mind by attending a cake stall with Tea & coffee in conjunction with our evening paddle at Deva.



WALK

We would like to ask you to attend and bring your friends and family. For those that don't wish to paddle there will be a walk along the meadows lead by two of our members.

- 6.15 meet ready to paddle or walk after a quick introduction
- 6.20pm have fun paddling or walking with new and old friends
- 8pm tea, coffee and cake will be available for a small donation
- All donations will go to Mind the mental health charity.

We will also be completing the 5 ways to wellbeing:

CONNECT
KEEP LEARNING
BE ACTIVE
TAKE NOTICE
GIVE





Deva
Canoe Club



We're supporting
mind
for better mental health

Please support our cake stall in aid of Mind

Paddle on the Dee or walk along the meadows and enjoy tea and cakes (cash or card donations)

Date: **17th August 2023**
Time: **6-8pm** (arrive from 5.30pm)
Place: **Riverside centre**



Photos by Ian Moran

16. Benefit of a being a Deva CC Member.

For a change to the information usually in this section, here's one member's personal view on how being a part of Deva CC has helped him. It's open, honest and a very personal article and gives one reason why he chose to co-initiate and help organise a club charity evening in support of the mental health charity 'MIND' in August this year.

Deva CC is grateful for his permission given to publish the article in this report.

A Journey to Mental Health Recovery through Kayaking

Kayaking is a fantastic activity for people of all ages and abilities. It's a great way to stay active, explore nature, and spend time with friends and family. But did you know that kayaking can also have significant mental health benefits? For people struggling with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues, kayaking can be an excellent tool for improving mood, reducing stress, and building confidence.

As someone who has struggled with mental health issues for many years, I can attest to the powerful impact that kayaking can have. Like many others with social anxiety, the thought of attending a new social situation was terrifying. The fear of being judged, rejected or humiliated can be overwhelming and can lead to avoidance behaviours. Despite these fears, I decided to push through and attend the first session at my local canoe club (Deva Canoe Club). It wasn't easy, and I felt nervous and out of place at first. But as I got to know the other members of the club and saw how supportive and encouraging they were, my anxiety began to dissipate. Kayaking provided a safe and supportive environment that allowed me to gradually build my confidence and overcome my social anxiety. Being out in nature and engaging in a shared activity helped to create a sense of camaraderie and connection that made it easier for me to open up and be myself. Over time, as I improved my kayaking skills and made new friends, I found that my social anxiety began to diminish.

But the benefits of kayaking for mental health extend beyond just social anxiety. Kayaking is also an excellent way to reduce stress and improve mood. The rhythmic motion of paddling can have a calming effect on the mind, helping to reduce anxiety and promote relaxation. Being out in nature and surrounded by the beauty of the water can provide a sense of peace and tranquillity that is hard to find in our busy, modern lives. Moreover, kayaking can provide a sense of accomplishment and mastery that can be particularly important for people struggling with depression. Setting goals and working towards them, such as improving your paddling technique or completing a challenging course, can give a sense of purpose and boost self-esteem. The sense of control and empowerment that comes from mastering a new skill can be a powerful antidote to the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness that often accompany depression.

In conclusion, kayaking is an activity that offers not only physical benefits but also significant mental health benefits. By providing a safe, supportive and empowering environment, kayaking can help to reduce social anxiety, improve mood and boost confidence. If you're struggling with mental health issues, consider giving kayaking a try – you may be surprised at just how much it can help.



Thanks for reading!

I'm Mathew Sefton, and kayaking has been a transformative experience for me. It's helped me manage my mental health and opened up a whole new world of adventure and friendship. I encourage anyone struggling with mental health issues to give kayaking a try. Who knows, it could be the beginning of a life-changing journey.

17. Monday Nights' at Northgate Arena



After many years of service our club President, Peter Cook, has decided to step down from his role at Northgate Arena on Monday nights.

Peter will continue with his other presidential commitments for Deva CC at the Riverside and behind the scenes representing the club at meetings and events.

Since qualifying as a canoe coach in 1976, (yes, that's 47 years ago!), Peter has encouraged and coached countless Deva members in making progress and laying the foundation for getting out onto rivers and the sea. He has also encouraged many casual pool kayakers to join Deva Canoe Club.

Pool kayaking provides a clean, comfortable environment for beginners to learn basic strokes and rescue techniques, and for experienced paddlers to revisit and refine their skills. These sessions will, of course, still be available on Mondays (and Tuesdays), but Peter's presence will be greatly missed and I am sure we all agree that he deserves to put his feet up on Monday nights.

Thank you, Peter!

18. Getting into Paddle Leadership

During the last year a group of paddlers from Deva Canoe Club took part in the Paddlesport Leader training and assessment award. Congratulations to David, Judith, Bill and Ray (me!) in passing the assessment. Many thanks to Jamie from Paddle 365 for supporting us and to British Canoeing for providing Deva CC with a much appreciated financial bursary.

The training was based at Winsford Marina where we had use of the training rooms and facilities on site. The training was informal, involved leading a multi craft trip on the lake and river aimed at developing leadership skills for mixed craft on wind affected and slow moving water and ultimately at running safe and enjoyable trips for all those taking part. The Assessment took place over two days on Bala Lake and the River Dee and many thanks to club members who gave up their time to become 'led students' over the two day assessments.

If any members wish to discuss training or coaching to assist the club then please contact me at devacanoecub@gmail.com

The more people we have involved in coaching and leading then the more trips we can put on for club members. If anyone has suggestions for club trips out then please contact me and we can discuss it.

Information about British canoeing qualifications can be found at <https://britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/>

A number of club members have also taken First Aid Training and passed the two day REC Outdoor Emergency First Aid Course and many thanks to Rob at the Inrad Group for offering a discount to club members on the course fee.

It is important that anyone involved in paddling or any outdoor activities keeps their first aid up to date for their own safety and also the safety of the group they are paddling with as it can literally save lives

Ray McCann
Coaching Development, Trips and Safety Officer



*Photos by Ian Moran
and Jamie (Paddle 365)*

19. 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, 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!

20. Tuesday morning groups

These are open to any member who has their own boat, time to spare on a Tuesday morning and are confident in paddling on up to grade 2-3 white water.

There are usually two paddling opportunities, one at MEM in Llangollen for those addicted to white water and another from Sandy Lane in Chester for a more leisurely flat water paddle.

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

The Sandy Lane paddles are not posted on Facebook, they 'just happen'. You could end up being be the only one there (not advised!) or amongst a number of fellow paddlers going upstream to Eccleston Ferry for a coffee and chat. Enquire about our Sandy Lane adventures next time you at the Riverside Centre.

21. Annual Lake District Weekend (17-19 November 2023)



Photo by John Lewis

Thanks to John Lewis for again organising the club's annual lakes trip and to the 29 Deva members who supported the event this year.

John took over the organisation of this event in 2016 and he's been running it at the Elterwater hostel every year since, except in Covid year 2020.

Thanks also to all who took up kitchen duties to keep everyone fed and watered and to all who helped to make this annual event a great success.

The following notes of appreciation were also received on our Facebook page:

Hope everyone has got home safely after another great weekend in the lakes.

A huge thank you to everyone for the company and bigger thanks to John Lewis for the organization and catering.

Massive thanks to John L and anyone else who helped behind the scenes for organising another really successful and great weekend in the Lakes. The food, as always was excellent as well as great company from all who were there. There were a number of really good sessions for various abilities and paddling types held each day. Thanks also to all who were there for their part in making the weekend so good.

Brilliant weekend thanks to all involved.

Awesome weekend, massive thanks to John Lewis - can't imagine how much work you put into making it such a great success!

Great company and very well organised. Thanks John.

22. Further afield (Waterways licence)

You need a licence to paddle on any Canal & River Trust and Environment Agency waterway, plus other actively maintained waterways including the Norfolk Broads.

As part of the club's responsibility towards promoting this requirement, it has purchased 10 licences from Paddle UK. These are available for use by any member participating in a club event, in a club boat, who are not a member of Paddle UK and paddling on a waterway where a licence is required.

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

Please be aware that parking on the MEM site is now controlled by an off-site parking company. Anyone driving a vehicle onto this site must ensure their vehicle details are registered, on arrival, in the TNR shop. Failure to do this, like a non-paddling club member had recently witnessed for just an 11 minute stay, could result in a £100 parking penalty fine. Thankfully, after a successful appeal, this fine was withdrawn.

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

Thank you to the individuals who organised the trips and to those who supported the events.

July 2023

John Lewis / Ray McCann Introduction to white water Mile End Mill, Llangollen

September 2023

John Lewis / Ray McCann Introduction to white water Mile End Mill, Llangollen

Colin Hayward / Bill Neary Sea kayaking Hilbre Island

February 2024

Bill Neary / Neil Thompson River Weaver Runcorn rowing club to
Dutton Locks

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

Thanks go to Colin Hayward for again running his sea kayak training sessions during July and August at Colwyn Bay on Tuesday evenings for those Deva salty types who wished to learn and practice their sea safety and rescue techniques.

Due to the growing popularity and undeniable enthusiasm for these sea kayak training sessions, Colin decided to put on one more session on Tuesday evening 8th August.

And finally, on 9th August Colin emailed all to say “I’m sorry to say that will be the last Tuesday evening session for this year as I have commitments going forward and the light is now fading. I hope everyone who attended has gained something from it.”

In true Deva style we see the ‘Boss’ demonstrating a deep water rescue to his ‘Salty students’



Photos by Ian Moran

26. Further afield (Peer Group Paddles)

Deva's Officers are aware that members organise 'Peer Group' paddling events through Facebook or WhatsApp 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 or WhatsApp 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).

Here's a selection of those that were organised throughout the year:



Around the St Tudwal's Islands and return

Up the Conwy Estuary and return

Meni Bridge to Puffin Island and return

Around Trawsfynydd Lake

Runcorn Rowing Club to Dutton Locks and return



Up the Mawddach Estuary and return

Waverton to the Shady Pub and return

Exploring the lower Weaver Navigation

Shropshire Union Canal from Barbridge



Photos by Bill Neary

27. Christmas Paddle

This year's Christmas paddle took place on Saturday 9 December when we paddled across the Pontcysyllte aqueduct towards Chirk, raised a lift bridge to allow us to continue and eventually passed through the Whitehouse tunnel where we paused for some seasonal sustenance (aka mince pies) and returned to the Trevor basin for lunch.



Photos by Peter Cook and Gary Smith

Lunch was held in the Pontcysyllte Chapel Tearoom where the 16 club members discussed their earlier paddling experience whilst returning back over the aqueduct in somewhat breezy conditions!



Photos by Keith Brocklehurst

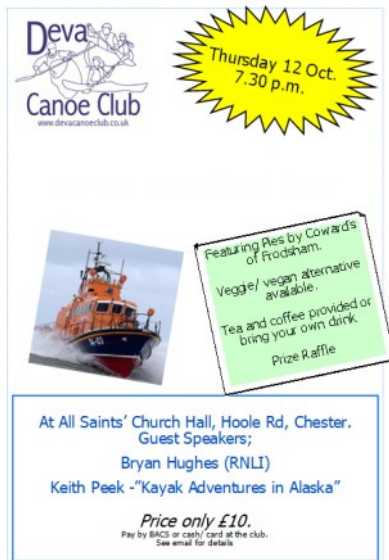


28. Club Newsletters

A number of newsletters have been issued throughout the year and we see these as an important part of our regular communication process keeping members up to date with club activities.

Our thanks go to our chair, John L, for all his efforts in compiling and circulating these.

29. Pie'n'Peas evening in support of the RNLI



Back in late 2019, the club made a financial donation to the RNLI.

In February 2020 we received an email from Bryan Hughes, a local RNLI fundraiser, thanking us for this money and offering to come and give a talk about his organisation.

Great we thought, let's have a Fish and Chip supper in aid of the RNLI, make it an evening event and we could also ask club member Keith Peek to come and present something about his recent Alaska adventure.

So we booked it for 19 March 2020.

Then COVID hit us and everything shut down!

Finally, it all happened on Thursday 12 October 2023.

Many thanks to John Lewis, for the Pie'n'Peas idea and organising everything, his wife Alex for helping in the kitchen, speakers Bryan Hughes and Keith Peek for presenting and to the 40 Deva members and friends who supported the event.

We also wish to acknowledge the support and generosity of Andy Lees from Go Kayaking (NW) in Runcorn for providing the raffle prizes of a £75 G-K shop voucher, Dry Robe and Sweatshirt.

We raised a fantastic total of £395 on the evening which with a donation from club funds we are increasing to £500 which will be donated, via Bryan, to the RNLI.

As for the MIND event too, the club's contribution has been funded solely from incoming financial donations received from organisers of the Dee Mile Swim event. This particular fund of money is ring-fenced and does not comprise of any other of the club's monies.

30. Tour of Hoylake RNLI station.

Following on from our Pie'n'Peas evening, and in recognition for our donation given to the RNLI, Bryan Hughes offered to put us in touch with one of his colleagues to give us a tour of the Hoylake lifeboat station.

This took place on Saturday 2 December 2023 and our thanks go Brian Jordan (RNLI tour guide) and his colleagues for a very interesting and informative morning.

10 Deva members participated and, although they all look fit and well, are a 'bit long in the tooth' for active service in the RNLI!



Photo by Keith Brocklehurst

The two RNLI gentlemen in the picture are Bryan Hughes (second left) and Brian Jordan (far right).

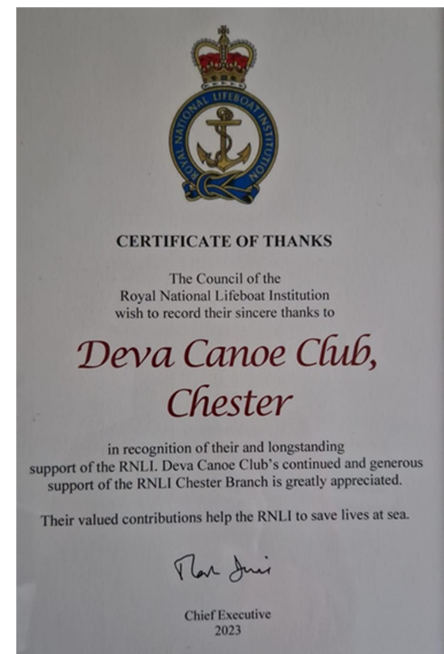
31. Thank you from the RNLI

At a meeting with representatives from the RNLI on 23 January 2024, Deva CC was presented with a 'Certificate of Thanks' in recognition of their long standing support to the organisation.

All credit is down to you, our members, who over the years have supported our various events and for the donations you've generously given.

The photo shows Sophie Wood (RNLI) presenting our President, Peter Cook, with the Certificate.

Others in the photo are, left to right, Dennis Davies (RNLI), Keith Brocklehurst (Deva Secretary) and John Lewis (Deva Chair).



32. Supporting British Canoeing's Floating Pennywort events

Floating Pennywort is an Invasive Non Native Species from North and South America which is now found in abundance in areas of London and the South East, as well as other rivers nationwide. British Canoeing is working in partnership with multiple organisations and clubs to tackle the spread of Floating Pennywort in the Thames and its tributaries.

There have been numerous local events throughout the year and we are grateful to our Chair, John Lewis, and everyone else from Deva for supporting these events.

If you wish to learn more or even volunteer to help for a future event then please follow this link: [Launch of a new national campaign to control the highly invasive Floating Pennywort \(britishcanoeing.org.uk\)](#)

33. Donations to the Club

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

We are also grateful to the Chester Triathlon club for both the £500 belated financial donation they made to the club in recognition for the support it gave in 2021 and 2022 plus, another £250 for helping with this year's Dee Mile swim.

34. Annual Kit Inspection

This year's annual kit inspection took place on Tuesday 21 March 2023 with 14 members kindly offering to help.

Peter Cook, Simon Carver, John Lewis, Keith Brocklehurst, Steve Cartney, Bob Bynoe, Clive Herbert, Neil Thompson, Brian Sanderson, Bill Neary, Peter Wingrove, Peter Walters, David Riley, Andy Walker.

35. New purchases

New Pyranha Ion touring kayak
Pre-owned Sea Kayak
Pre-owned Open boat
Trailer moving 'dolly'

36. Boat Inventory at year end

29 kayaks
4 Sit on Top
12 Sea kayaks
11 Open Canoes
1 Stand-up Paddle Board
A total of 57 craft

37. Loan of Club boats

We wish to remind members that we only loan-out club boats and kit for official Deva events and not for peer group paddles or one's personal use.

38. Helping Others – Dee Mile Swim

Since first being asked back in 2015, and this year being our 8th occasion, we see this annual event as an important part of our ‘paddling life’ and again we were delighted to have again been asked by the Chester Triathlon Club to provide full safety cover for the Dee Mile Swim which took place on 12 August 2023.

A big thank you to the 27 club members in 25 boats who kindly gave up a Saturday afternoon to assist us in ensuring the 300+ swimmers had a safe and enjoyable paddle.



Photos by Ian Moran



We received emails of thanks from both the Captain of the Chester triathlon club and the Race Director.

Leigh (Captain):

I just wanted to thank you and everyone that helped us on Saturday at the Dee Mile.

We're so grateful for the on-water support and we have had so much positive feedback from swimmers about the kayakers. Thanks again we are very grateful

Mark Taylor (Race Director):

Thank you so much for the on water support from your excellent team!

I have had great comments back regarding the support the team gave swimmers during the race.

I think your suggestions of herding the swimmers down at the 2km start worked really well this year and will continue with this method going forward.

I will make sure that the club's donation is processed for you.

The event wouldn't be possible without the amazing amount of support your team gives us every year and for that I am massively grateful.

I am just awaiting dates for 2024 from the council once I have this I will pass it over to see if the club can support again.

If you have any feedback good or bad I am open to hearing any as I believe it will allow us to constantly refine the event for the better.

39. Club Facebook Page

The club has a private Facebook page solely for access by DEVA KAYAKERS + friends of, administered by John Lewis and Keith Brocklehurst.



DEVA KAYAKERS + friends of.

Photo by David Riley

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.

40. Deva Photographs

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

Don't forget to look at our website <https://www.devacanoecub.co.uk/gallery/> for more recent additions and those to many to include in this report.

Photographs shown in this report are used with the kind permission of their copyright holder.

We are conscious that club members can be seen in some of these shots and, apart from those where a specific presentation is being made, 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.

41. Club Website



Photo by Terry Hudson

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

www.devacanoeclub.co.uk

42. 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.

my school style .com

Your basket is empty. To add items, please visit [our shop](#) or [get help with shopping](#).

Home **Shop** About us Benefits Shopping Guide News Contact us Sign in to my account

Find my school A to Z

- Boys School Uniform
- Girls School Uniform
- Bags and Name Labels
- Protective and Hi Viz
- Fancy Dress
- Clubs & Societies
 - Deva Canoe Club**
 - Shindo-Kai Karate Club

Clubs & Societies > Deva Canoe Club

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.

Deva Canoe Club Hoody	Deva Canoe Club Polo	Deva Canoe Club T Shirt
From £18.75 Find out more	From £11.25 Find out more	From £7.50 Find out more

43. Next Year (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

The start of our 26th paddling year begins on 1 April 2024 with Thursday evening sessions commencing on 4 April 2024.

44. Membership Subscriptions for 2024-2025

If you joined Deva CC in late 2023 / early 2024 you will have been notified that your membership is valid until 31 March 2025, for everyone else membership subscriptions become due on 1 April 2024.

45. 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

46. 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 from the membership secretary.

- 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.

47. Treasurer's Report for 2023/2024

The financial position of the club continues to remain healthy thanks to the prudence of our Honorary Treasurer, Simon Carver.

Simon's year-end accounts for 2023-2024 are given below.

Deva Canoe Club

Financial Statement 31st March 2024

	Cr (income)	Db (expenditure)
brought forward from 2022/23		
bank balance	£12,646.62	
cash to hand	£79.28	
cheques not presented		£200.00
totals	£12,725.90	£200.00
Activity 2023/24	£10,935.57	£10,118.37
totals	£23,679.47	£10,318.37
balance carried forward	<u>£13,361.10</u>	
represented by		
bank balance	£13,169.80	
cash to hand	£273.80	
cheques not presented		£82.50

Simon Carver
Treasurer, Deva Canoe Club
31 March 2024

48. Deva Canoe Club AGM - 2023

Minutes of the DEVA Canoe Club AGM Held at the Riverside Centre at 18:00 on Thursday 11th May 2023

1. Welcome by Chairman.

Our Chair, John Lewis (JL), welcomed 23 club members to the AGM.

Those attending comprised 6 officers, 2 wider committee and 15 members.

2. Apologies for absence.

John Goggin, Linda and Stuart Shuttleworth, Angela and Warren Temple, Fred Farrow, Brian Sanderson, George Johnson.

3. Matters arising from the 2022/2023 Annual report, including Financial Report.

There were no matters arising from the annual report.

Andy Walker proposed acceptance and Colin Hayward seconded.

Secretary Keith Brocklehurst was thanked for compiling the report and for all his efforts throughout the year

4. Club Officers and Committee for 2023 – 2024.

Officers:

President:	Peter Cook
Chair:	John Lewis
Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	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)

JL read out all names and roles.

Richard Bingham proposed acceptance and David Draper seconded.

5. Proposed events for 2023/2024.

None were proposed and all present were asked to contact Ray McCann with any ideas for Sea, River, Lake or Canal trips

6. Any other business.

None received from the membership

Safety (Ray McCann):

No issues and nothing to report for last year.

Safeguarding (Judith Lathaen and David Riley):

No issues and nothing to report for last year.

Various club safeguarding policies are now available to read on the notice board within the Deva bay and on our website.

Judith and Mat Sefton have kindly offered to organise a 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' event on a date yet to be agreed in summer 2023.

There will be both paddling and, for those who prefer, a walk led by Julie Bingham and Ian McMullen.

There will be refreshments and homemade cakes available for those who attend with all voluntary donations from the event going to the 'MIND' charity.

Comments from the Chair (John Lewis):

Thanks were given to our Treasurer, Simon Carver, keeping the club's finances shipshape and buoyant.

Thanks were given to our President, Peter Cook, for the efforts he puts in to dealing with the local council and school to ensure the club remains afloat and secure.

Thanks also go to our IT guru (Mat Sefton) for the help, advice and time he gives in ensuring the club keeps up to date in this digital era.

Comments from the Secretary (Keith Brocklehurst):

On behalf of Deva's committee and all the membership, I send our grateful thanks to our Chair (John L) for all the time and effort he puts in to making sure that Deva remains well recognised and respected within the local community, CWaC management and British Canoeing for our stance on environmental pollution and all things green.

Written by: Keith Brocklehurst (Deva CC Secretary) on 23 May 2023

Authorised by: John Lewis (Deva CC Chair)