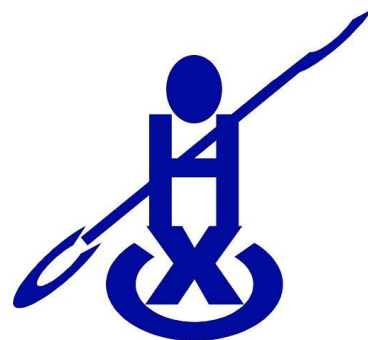


Halifax Canoe Club Newsletter

Winter 2023



Awards and Social Evening (& AGM)

Sat 4th Feb, 7:15pm, Copley Cricket Club

The majority of the evening is more social with a chance to catch up - we do have a quick AGM (see other details on this page).

The club's Annual Awards cover all levels of paddler and volunteers that have made a contribution to the club over the year, so come along to see who our winners are (it could be you), and vote for our volunteer of the year. Details of the awards given out are on the [website](#).

We also hand out the Rubber Duck Award for less than auspicious performance, ineptitude or silliness related to paddling and the club! (see elsewhere)

We encourage everyone to bring a contribution to a buffet - [see details](#).

Plus we'll be having a fun picture quiz to test your brains, a game of bingo to test your luck and possibly a few other games.

Annual General Meeting

This is one of those bits of club admin we have to do. As you know from emails etc it is on **Saturday 4th February at 7.15pm at Copley Cricket Club**.

We keep it short (20mins ish) but need to approve the club's annual accounts, and elect volunteers to committee roles.

So it is an important 20 minutes that all club members should try to attend to ensure your club is being well run. **So please do come along.**

Committee Vacancies

Each AGM we need to elect part of the committee who run our club for you. Usually committee posts are elected at each year's AGM – for a 2 year term with half the roles appointed each year. However where these are vacant from a previous year or someone steps down during the year they may be just one year posts.

Nominations are invited for members willing to stand for the following posts which are due for election this year:

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Welfare (1 year)
- Marketing (1 year)
- Volunteering (1 year)
- Coaching
- Health and safety (1 year)
- Access
- Buildings
- Equipment
- Warley Moor Coordinator (formerly Sea kayaking)

Some of the people in these roles are happy to continue in post, but we do have several vacancies that we **need** people to step forward and cover.

Please consider if you could help run your club by taking on one of these roles. For more details about each role see the [website committee page](#) or speak to one of the existing committee email secretary@halifaxcanoe.org.uk – or one of the other club emails).

River Clean Ups

For many years the club has done river clean up several times a year to get rid of rubbish dropped in, and washed down river the Sowerby Bridge. This is important to give back to the community and get rid of plastic and other rubbish that is in our environment and will ultimate pollute the sea.

Our first event of the year is Saturday 21 Jan,
9:30am - 1.00pm.

As there's a chance that river levels could be high at this time of year we're also going to look at lots of odd jobs that need doing around the club (a good tidy up, a bit of maintenance, some bush cutting back etc)

Tea/coffee & cakes will be available, plus there's usually the option of a paddle afterward.

You need old clothes and wellies for on the bank. Or you can get in a boat to reach other parts of the river, in which case you'll need your usual paddling kit. We supply gloves, bin bags and have a few litter pickers available too.

Please sign up on [webcollect](#) so we know you are coming along (and have enough cake/biccies!)

Dates of other clean ups later in the year are

- **1 April**
- **1 July**
- **21 Oct**

All these will be from 9:30am - 1.00pm.



HXCC is asking it members help to raise money for the Club when they shop online

We are signed up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) as a good cause which will pay the club a donation every time you shop online.

When you make a purchase with one of the 2,500+ participating retailers, as a thank you for shopping, the retailer provides a donation for you to give to your chosen good cause – Halifax Canoe Club. You pay the normal price – the retailer makes the donation.

Here what you need to do:

1. Go to our [fundraising page](#),
2. Sign up as a supporter – follow the simple instructions, it takes a couple of minutes
3. **Go shopping!** To shop and make sure you activate a donation simply: Search for a retailer through our [fundraising page](#), and click on the link.

easyfundraising
feel good shopping

Raise FREE funds
for us every time you
shop online

Find out more

Currys PCWorld ebay Booking.com JOHN LEWIS JUST EAT
switch sky M&S Groupon ASOS

Winter Paddling Opportunities

Summer is definitely over but that doesn't mean paddling is finished for the year, here is a run down of the opportunities to paddle over the coming months;

River Club Saturdays or Sundays

These are informal paddling sessions at the club for members that have completed our beginners course or more – a chance to maintain and further develop your skills. They are not formal coached sessions, but there will be a coach there to coordinate and provide support and tips for those that want it.



Club River Trips

These are full days heading off to paddle other rivers to develop and test your skills – where we go will depend on water levels each day.

Beginner/ Intermediate trips are for members that are happy on the club white water and want to move to the next level of paddling, generally grade 2 white water, but usually with more tricky rapids that can be portaged if needed. More experienced club paddlers are also welcome to come for a paddle or support the coach led groups.

Intermediate trips which are suitable for members who have done previous white water river trips. Generally we'll be paddling Grade 2/3 rapids but with more continuous sections. There may be one or two harder rapids but it will be possible to portage these or possibly grade 4 sections.

Club Wednesdays

These will continue through the winter under the floodlights at the club. They are open to all club members happy to paddle on the white water in winter conditions under lights. (note they may be cancelled at short notice due to river levels).

Please head to [WebCollect](#) for full details and to book on these sessions – and keep checking as other dates may be added.

Summer Session

After easter our regular evening sessions will return - details will follow, but if there's anything you like to see in the programmes please talk to one of our coaches.



Recent Paddling Trips



*River Lune -
part 1*



Recent Paddling Trips



River Lune - part 2



Safety Resources, Information and Courses

British Canoeing has produced a range of new Safety Resources to support paddlers, instructors, coaches and leaders.

There are over 80 sheltered water rescue videos, including mixed craft, SUPs and race craft, as well as a range of guidance articles for bank based coaching to support freestyle, wild water racing and pool sessions to name a few. There is also a new guidance document about using throwlines.

[Safety resources available.](#)

British Canoeing has also produced a useful document about weirs that has a lot of good information and sensible advice.

Everyone needs to treat weirs with caution and respect, and some weirs local to the club become dangerous (lethal) at certain levels!

If you are not 100% sure that a weir or natural drop is safe to run then nobody should have a problem with inspecting and portaging if you want to! Make sure are aware of the hazards and risk, please questions of coaches and experienced paddlers to help build your knowledge, and keep safe.

[Weir Safety Information](#)



Winter 2023

Paddle Safer Award

This is a new introductory level course from British Canoeing which aims to equip paddlers with the skills and knowledge to stay safe when paddling on sheltered water. You'll cover:

- Clothing and equipment
- The paddling environment and hazards
- Planning your journey, with top tips
- Practicing your rescues, you'll learn about how to stay safe and practical solutions if you get into difficulty

More details about the [Paddle Safer Award](#).

It is open to paddlers in any type of craft (kayak, canoe, SUP etc) as it is tailored to you and the craft you usually use.

Also it is FREE.

Paddlesport Safety & Rescue Course

This is a new course introduced by BC in January 2023 replacing the FSRT course that some members will have done previously and more in-depth than the *Paddle Safer Award*.

This award is all about keeping safe on your craft in sheltered water venues, this includes canoes, kayaks and stand up paddleboards. So, this practical course is packed with safe practical solutions. The course takes around 6 hours and will cover 6 modules:

- Clothing and Equipment
- Safety frameworks
- Contact and Towing rescues
- Self-rescues
- Deep water rescues
- Reflection and development

There will be opportunities to develop and progress your rescue skills and meet like-minded people during the course. Many of our course candidates develop long lasting friendships, connections and contacts.

We can run these for members if there are people interested. Register your interest by emailing Les (coaching@halifaxcanoe.org.uk).

Anglesey Improvers Sea Kayak

weekend - 6 & 7 May



We are running a jam packed weekend of learning and development, sea kayak skills and fun with Eila Wilkinson (www.eilawilkinson.com). You'll also enjoy the best of the stunning Anglesey coast, based near Amlwch.

We have secured special rate for members for this weekend (not publishable outside HXCC) this includes:

- Coached/led paddling both days for the group
- Saturday night pub meal is included in the price - of a famous local pie (vegan, veggie and gluten free options available). *Drinks not included.*

The price of the weekend depends on the accommodation option you want, and whether you are using your own sea kayak and equipment or need to hire these.

Option 1: Full package paddling and 2 nights hostel accommodation *

- Including use of a sea kayak and equipment = £160
- Using own sea kayak and equipment = £135

Option 2: Van camping package ** with day use of hostel ***

- Including use of a sea kayak and equipment = £130
- Using own sea kayak and equipment = £105

Option 3: Van camping package ** with no use of hostel

- Including use of a sea kayak and equipment = £110
- Using own sea kayak and equipment = £85

Notes:

* Self catering hostel accommodation is based on a maximum of 6 sleeping in 2 rooms. 3 beds per room. Privacy screens and lockers available. Bedding is included, towels not included (but can be hired). Electricity is additional and purchased by cash only for pre-paid credit in £5/£10 units.

** Free Van Camping paddock is 'wild camping with no facilities and no waste disposal – all manner of waste must be taken away by participants.

*** Day use of hostel is excluding electricity, which is purchased by cash only for pre-paid credit in £5/£10 units.

Sea Kayaks - If participants are using their own sea kayak, it must have 3 watertight compartments with deck lines fore and aft and be a minimum of length of 480cm (15.5ft).

Questions: please contact [Liane Hickling](#)

Booking: Please reserve your place on [webcollect](#) and we'll be in touch to confirm your accommodation requirements, whether you need to hire a sea kayak or not, and then give you details for payment.



Could you be a new Club Coach or Helper

As a club we want to get more people paddling more often, and we need more volunteers to join our dedicated team of coaches, leaders and activity assistants to help us do that.

Please have a think about whether you could get involved and help us run activities for members.

Interested? Read on and get in touch.

What roles are we looking to recruit to:

Club Activity Assistants

This is a club sign off for competent paddlers to assist our coaches on coached sessions on the club's Home Waters, and run some sessions for competent paddlers. So this is an easy way to get involved and see coaching is something you want to do.

People taking on these roles will need some safety and group management skills, understand paddler's needs, and be able to organise simple sessions and activities. The training for these roles is quite flexible, and depends on your existing experience. All the training needed can be done through the club and you'll be supported through training and as you start to help on sessions working alongside experienced coaches and volunteers.

Coaches

As well as activity assistants, we are also looking for more people to come forward and become **Qualified Coaches**. This will increase our pool of coaches and ensure we can continue to introduce more people to canoeing and develop the skills of existing members.

We need these to be able to run club sessions (supported by assistants) as they take the lead in developing paddlers in our coached sessions

Becoming a coach is a more formal process and involved completing a couple of weekend's training and then gaining experience (alongside our existing coaches) before going on to complete a Coach Assessment. (see [Coach Award - more details](#)).

River / Trip Leader

These are people that can lead club trips in various different environments - such as white water rivers, sheltered or open water journeys, or sea trips. Again this requires you to complete an assessment, but the training required depends on your existing experience and where you want to be able to run trips.

The club will help fund the cost of these training courses for anyone willing to help with club sessions, and can provide support and mentoring as you start to get involved in delivering coaching sessions.

What's in it for you?

Coaching and leading activities allows you to develop your paddling skills in a new direction, giving you a better understanding of and improving your own skills. It is also very satisfying and rewarding to be able to help other people enjoy your sport. You'll also develop and improve communication skills, leadership and teamwork, and be an important part of the continuing success of our wonderful club. It can also be the route into working in the outdoors full-time or on a casual basis.

If you are interested in any of these roles and would like to develop your paddling in this direction, or just want to know more please speak to [Les Ford](#) or call him on 07786525912