

No canoeing this Christmas

No trips up river
Or out to sea.
The cold in the winter
Is finally bringing out
The old man in me.

My canoe's in the lock up
And my lifejacket as well
While the rest of my gear
Is in the coat cupboard,
Nice and dry without that
Damp smell

Time will come again when
I go canoeing in the warm sun
But the fact is I'm a bit older
And my time for canoeing in
winter
Is over and done

Time was at Christmas
That you would find me
Cooking up breakfast
And sipping tea on the foreshore
But you have to know
When your time is up
And you can't do everything
Anymore

But I don't want to spoil
The lifeboat crew's
Christmas Day,
Of that I'm very sure,
So they can stay
Where they are.
It's time to take it easy.
What's more,

Some folks keep canoeing
When they're older than me
But I am in my mid 70s
And it's time to act responsibly.

Summer will soon be
Here and I'll be canoeing again
So a very Merry Christmas
If you're one for the water
Or perhaps a long lost
One time canoeing old friend...

Kevin Pyne



Publisher contact

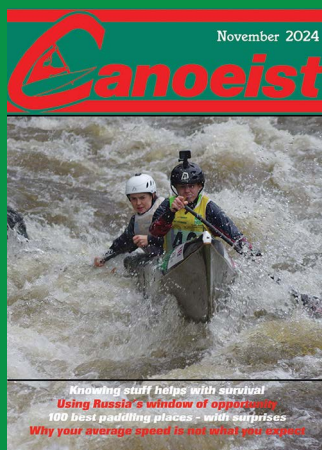
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Governing body enquiries

Canoeist is the not for profit magazine of Paddlers International. Enquiries to governing bodies and associations should be addressed as appropriate.



Emma and Kerry Christie on the Serpent's Tail during the European Canoe Association wild water sprint event, winning the women's C2 class in the event and the whole European ranking list.

Undercu



CRT have been promoting canoeing with a list of ten benefits of taking up the activity. Meanwhile, the EA spent £960,000 on 232 angling projects and held over 100 angling events. Since 2015 they have spent over £20,000,000 on angling with more than 1,300 projects. What are the corresponding figures for canoeing?

New approach for River Ant

Since our guide to the River Ant (Aug 95, p37), the EA have prevented restoration work on the North Walsham & Dilham Canal, which uses the river extensively, with the result that the river has become choked up with weeds. The stoppage has now been ended, allowing restoration to restart. Unusually, rather than tackling a section at a time, restorers are working to enable canoes and other small craft to use the route throughout, tackling the more expensive work such as lock restoration and dredging for powered craft as funds become available.

Thames records

In 2003 we helped Tim FitzHigham paddling a paper kayak from Cricklade to Tower Bridge to raise funds for Red Nose Day. Gordon Bullock and Chris Sze of Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club took a nonstop K2 run from Lechlade to Teddington in 24 hours 12 minutes in 2022. Brazilians Cuatrin/Szubski set a time of 21 hours 57 minutes for St John's Lock to Teddington. Steve Backshall and Tom McGibbon lowering the time for the 270km Lechlade to Teddington section of the non tidal Thames this year to 20 hours 29 minutes. This was lowered again by Billy Butler and Tom Dawson to 15 hours 16 minutes on the same section during the Thames 200 Ultra event this August.

The common factor was that they were all described as world records. Records they certainly were, all very memorable and creditable, but were they *world* records? If you look in the yearbooks you will find a history of records for particular courses, for Olympics, for particular levels of competition etc. A record needs to be challengeable anywhere within the constraints of the title, a Thames record related to the chosen section of river but only on that section of river whereas a world 200m sprint time can be set in Nottingham, China, Argentina or anywhere else in the world. If location is part of the title you could set a world record for running down your garden path or virtually any activity you choose. Tim's distance in a paper canoe had been far exceeded in America. If he had claimed a Thames, British or European record he would have been safe but not a world record. Likewise, all the other records could only be set on the nominated sections of the Thames, not anywhere else in the world.

Two new events were due to take place over most of the non tidal Thames this year, Thames 200 Ultra and Thames Challenge. Although they had different organizers, both were scheduled for the August bank holiday but publicity was limited, both before and afterwards.

Szubski holds a world record of 251.7km, the maximum distance paddled in a canoe or kayak in 24 hours, a record that can be challenged anywhere in the world, not just one nominated length of river.