

## WCHA- UK Chapter

### Chapter events 2015.

The UK Chapter of the WCHA has had a busy few months during 2015. So what has been happening on our side of the Pond?

In April we started our paddle days with a combined meeting of various groups on the Norfolk Broads. These includes the WCHA, OCA, OCASG, HBBR. We had a great weekend paddling on an area of Britain's waterways known affectionately as "Britain's Magical Waterland". We had 2 days of paddling on Barton Broad, The river Ant & The North Walsham & Dilham Canal. Follow our antics here:- <http://www.songofthepaddle.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?48617-Britain-s-quot-Magical-Waterland-quot-The-Norfolk-Broads>

At the end of April and over the May Day holiday weekend I packed my tent, loaded up my Peterborough cedar rib and headed over to Germany to represent the WCHA at the Kringelfieber Canoe meet. This was held at Edersee in northern Germany. Kringelfieber is a specialist canoe meet where canoeists practice the art of both Canadian & American paddling with a whole selection of both wooden canoes and more modern composite canoes on show. A very enjoyable event where the WCHA was warmly received. Follow us here:- <http://www.songofthepaddle.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?48727-Kringelfieber-2015>

On the 10<sup>th</sup> May I organised a WCHA on my home river the Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire. We had 8 wooden canoes out in the sunshine following a figure of eight paddle route on both the main river and the backwaters. Of course we had to stop for cream tea at Houghton Mill in the afternoon. A wide selection of canoes both new and old; factory and homebuilt demonstrating that the cottage industry of people building canoes in sheds in England is a growing trend. A great day out. Follow us here:- <http://www.songofthepaddle.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?48786-The-Sinking-of-The-Bismarck>

At the end of June the WCHA combined with the Thames Traditional Boat Society and we met at Dapdune Wharfe on the Wey Navigation and paddled to Godlaming and back on a very enjoyable section of the river/canal. We had a selection of old and new wooden canoes including Andy Gullands wood/canvas Huron, my 1909 Peterborough Cedar rib and David Millwards 1870's Stephenson rib canoe. A grand day out. Follow us here:- <http://www.songofthepaddle.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?49258-Wey-up-there>

July saw some stunning weather in the UK and mid month I packed up my camping gear, Peterborough cedar rib and Chestnut Play mate and headed off to Henley Upon Thames where I had a WCHA exhibition and display at the Thames Traditional Boat Festival which is held over 2 days. It was a fantastic event restricted to wooden craft. The Queens Royal Barge , “Gloriana” was on show and I had great interest in my canoes and the WCHA. I had a long and interesting conversation with the actor Jeremy Irons who was interested in my sailing canoe as he was there in his antique sailing punt. We will definitely go back next year. See us here:-  
<http://www.songofthepaddle.co.uk/forum/showthread.php?49470-and-Jeremy-Irons-said-to-me-at-the-Thames-Traditional-Boat-Festival>

At the start of September I was asked to represent the WCHA and to paddle with other wooden canoes in a celebration paddle to recognise the fact that it was 150 years since John Macgregor had paddled a 1000 miles in his Rob Roy canoe. On show and in the paddle we had an Ontario Cedar Rib, my Peterborough Cedar Rib and Graham Mackereths' 1880's Turks Rob Roy. They all looked a picture in the sunshine at the National Watersport's Centre. Following up on this I have agreed to lend my Peterborough and Chestnut canoes to be displayed as part of an exhibition at the Olympic white water centre in north London. They will form part of the John Macgregor exhibition. And will be on display throughout the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships.

To complete the paddling year we will be having an autumnal paddle along the River Cam through Cambridge along the College Backs.

All the best from the UK and keep paddling!

Nick Dennis  
WCHA UK Chapter Head