



The year of 2011 has been very successful for Blyth Kayak Club. We have welcomed a new cohort of beginners, of all ages, with our long term members continuing to give us their support. Our pool sessions continue to be extremely well attended and it is pleasing to see that many of those who are introduced to kayaking in the pool, continue to enjoy the sport on open water.

The club has this year supported a wide range of sporting events across the region, including providing safety cover for triathlons at Newbiggin, Druridge Bay and The Queen Elizabeth II Park in Ashington, the scout raft races at Cullercoats and various junior kayaking events in the region. The weather continues to present plenty of surprises with the sea as ever providing additional challenges for members trying to man these events. During one of the Triathlon events at Newbiggin a marathon was paddled merely in an attempt to stay in one place!

We have once again held a successful family camp in the Lakes, based at Brotherswater and for the first time our members enjoyed some very pleasant weather. A seniors' camp also took place at North Berwick with weather of various seasons all rolled into one. The goal of rounding Bass Rock was achieved however and of course a good curry was enjoyed by all. For the first time we held a camp at Embleton with the object of kayaking around the Farnes. Once again, weather conditions defeated this plan but a very successful paddle was enjoyed on the Tweed instead.

Our family fun day at Druridge Bay was very well attended with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves and attracting some new members to our ranks. We also had a successful day on the Wansbeck playing host to some youngsters from Chernobyl who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our members have successfully competed in a range of local kayaking events over the past year. In the May Day race at Durham, we managed the almost impossible, being awarded five trophies to the four members who took part. We have enjoyed numerous club paddles within the county, of various lengths and levels of challenge, with the more youthful and young at heart also enjoying the new facilities now available at the upgraded Tees Barrage.

We have now been based in the Engine House for almost a year and it is proving to be a very useful building. Our new sea kayaks are stored securely where they can be easily accessed and our river boats can now be stored separately to our pool fleet. We have successfully sold two Canadian canoes which were surplus to requirements which has boosted our funds and we will continue to refine and develop our fleet of boats in 2012.

Every year I give many thanks to the friends and families of our members who have given their support in so many different ways. Without you we would not be able to participate in the sport of kayaking and canoeing to the extent that we do at present. Once again the club expresses its gratitude.

Pat Jones