



Joint Ichthus Canoe Club and Pendle Paddlers River Trip on the River Calder.. January 16th 2011

It was another one of those early starts again, "be up the farm by 8:00 so we can load up and get off" said John. That's OK when it's a lovely spring morning and the sun is shining, it's a completely different matter when it's dark, cold and looking as if it could rain any moment.

I hope I'm painting the right picture.

And so the adventure begins.

We left the farm around 8:30 after meeting up with Phil, John, Chris, Damien, Simon, Andy, Nick and Joe. We wound our way towards Halifax and then off to Hebden Bridge and that rain that looked ominous earlier, yes it was pouring it down.

We met up with the guy's from Pendle Paddlers including our old friend Mark Gardner and made car shuttle arrangements.

By 10:45 we were starting out on our river trip down the Calder. We dropped in just before the road bridge to the station and our first obstacle was the Buttress Weir some 100 yards from the bridge.

A number of guy's gauged the best position to run the weir and some just took the gung ho approach and hoped...One by one we all made it down without too much incident...Damien did try running one of the buttress's sideward's but made it down in one piece. guy's had nicely, but clipped by an which sent fortunately of bodies him and his him back on



One of the Pendle made it down then had his edge upstream wave him over, there were plenty around to scoop boat up and get the river.

Brearily Weir target and out that

was our next after Phil found Damien was

taking his level 3 coaching assessment said he could have the honours of getting the paddlers down this next section.



So down went Big Chris, Simon and Damien to set up just in case we had any swimmers and one of the Pendle Lads to indicate when everyone could go down. By this time the rain

was coming down persistently and the level over the weir was very much like the picture with a great standing wave at the bottom. Unfortunately Gary coped it again as he hit the standing wave but again there were enough paddlers to pick him up and get him going again.

It was now down to the Mother and Foot weir which is a broken weir as you can see from the image below, but on Saturday the weir was completely washed out and could be run at several points.

After running this we got were after negotiating pipes we got to the weir knew from years gone by sticky one.

We couldn't miss the this weir because footballs trapped by the stopper would fly a short the air and then back into stopper.



to the point some sewer which we would be a

indicators for numerous re-circulating distance into the retentive

It is at this point that as a group we owe a debt of thanks to Mark Gardner who bravely shot this next short weir which also had a significant tow back on it and through both skill and dogged determination Mark made it through, but with a number of our group in play boats it was decided the rest would portage round, have a spot of lunch and then onward.

Back on the water we then ran the Tender Fields double weir and then Puzzle weir. It was after these that we got to the Sowerby Bridge Slalom course and after some discussion and reading up on Mear Clough weir it was decided to portage again and finish our trip paddling down the "Cut" to Copley.

Yes, it rained all day and yes the Calder was running high, but we did experience some great weirs and ran these successfully. It was good see the younger paddlers from both the Ichthus Club and the Pendle crew negotiating the weirs without any incident and for the bravery of dear ol' Gary who after taking a couple of swims was always ready to get back in and paddle to the end.

A good day and we look forward to our next outing.