

Lulworth Trip 14th May 2011.

As a new member to the club (and a newcomer to kayaking) I have been keen to undertake a trip for a little while now. So when I saw that Brian was running a trip down to Lulworth Cove suitable for beginners I put my name down. After receiving Brian's trip proforma and reading about channel swells and tail winds I wondered for a brief moment whether I should stick to the canal!?



I arrived at Brian's house at 8am and was met by the familiar face of Debbie who I had met once before at an Orienteering event in Alton last year (seems to be a small band of paddlers/orienteerers in the club). We loaded the last few bits of kit onto the trailer and headed off to collect Cynthia en route to the coast. The sun was shining and was forecast was to stay that way so I was looking forward to getting onto the water. After getting set up in the Carolina I found I was probably a little too far up the beech to actually launch myself, luckily Brian was able to give me a shove in the right direction. We headed west out of Lulworth Cove and then explored a little cave, at which point I managed to almost run aground on an unseen rock, thankfully Debbie was able to give me some advice, which was basically "paddle hard". We then went through Durdle Door for a quick bite to eat before heading onto Bat's Hole. Unfortunately the closest we came to seeing a bat as we paddled through the gap in the rock was a pigeon, we then stopped for lunch before heading back East to our start off point. Once in the cove Brian ran through some capsizing/rescue drills with me, I suppose I should have expected to get wet at some point!

Once all the kayaks were stowed and we had changed we had a brief look in the visitor centre, which was very interesting (and free) followed by cream teas overlooking the sea. All in all I had a fantastic day and am really looking forward to the next one. I would just like to say thanks to Brian for organising the trip and to Cynthia and Debbie for their great company.

Matt Grant.

