



### Rose's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Pub Paddle – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Rose very kindly volunteered to take far too many of us on a paddle from Shalford to Guildford weir the day after her birthday celebrations. For quite a few of us it was our first paddle so there was a lot of excitement in the air when we met at the club to load up the boats. After quite some time and having watched a display of Brian's mountaineering skills on his roof we were off with a fully loaded trailer.



Once on the water it wasn't long before we needed to do our first portage. I thought a portage meant getting out of your boat but Brian showed us if you've got someone like him on the bank they'll just pull you out if you pretend to tug on the rope and look as though you're trying. Please can I always have a Brian on all future trips. When we got in the other side it was by a small weir. Again action man Brian spent some time clearing what look like nearly a whole tree before we proceeded. Paul was given the job of paddling the canoe under the tree whilst Brian did the lumber jacking, this was against the current of the weir and not an easy task. Once the tree was cleared we got in and practiced 'ferrying' in the weir which wasn't as easy as it looks. Then we took the current and paddled downstream.



Having stopped for a quick snack break we continued on to join the Wey near Guildford. I'd like to mention at this point that I haven't done much canoeing yet but one thing I always enjoy is watching the many people who hire rowing boats and haven't got a clue what they're doing. Gives me a smile 😊 .

Once in Guildford we loaded the trailed back up and made sure we fulfilled the pub part of a pub trip – well it was Rose's birthday so it would be rude not to. One more quick photo for the album and then trundling back home.



Massive thank you to Rose and Brian. I think I speak for all of us when I say it was a great afternoon out and a lot of fun was had by all. It might have been our first trip but I hope it turns out to be the first of many!!

Dawn