

Anne's pub paddle

Wolvercote circuit, Oxford Sunday 17th July

A Sunday morning start at the club, to pick up canoes, paddles. Etc and to load some onto Brian's trailer, including my kayak that Brian offered to take the night before. Once loaded off we went to meet the others at Wolvercote car park. A few people had backed out at the last minute so it was a little group of eight.

Once at the car park, we got ready then had a briefing from Anne on what to expect on our trip, which would be a mixture of canal, back waters and part of the River Thames.



The First section was on the Thames, where we had to watch out for the fisherman, canal boats and the odd rowing boat before moving onto the back waters, which was narrow in places due to trees and reeds, before getting to an area along the back waters, where we had to get out and climb up the bank and then got onto the Oxford Canal. This took us on a long stretch before arriving at our lunch stop, 'The Plough Inn' at Wolvercote where we all got out and hauled our canoes and kayaks up the bank before we had our sandwiches Etc, and a lovely drink.

Once refreshed we got back onto the water for our last section and the hardest, which would take us all the way round to our starting point.

This section of our route had several portages as we had to get round the locks, as with most of the trip, there were lots of canal boats at the sides and lots on the water. As we were getting slowly nearer the end, the wind got up which made it hard going, so we pulled into the bank for a short rest before heading on.

As we reached our last lock before the car park, we were waved into the lock itself as the gate at our end was open. We rafted up in the middle of the lock itself using one of the painters as a

safety line to keep us together, as the keeper opened the gate, out of the lock we came and round the corner. The car park was in sight. The lock had been a lovely treat as locks are normally a big no, no to us.

This section after lunch had been more interesting as it had the portages, winding sections and weather which apart from the wind, which made it hard going straight, had been on our side as it should have been wet. Not sure about the others but this section had made my shoulders (top of my arms) ache a little.

Many thanks to Anne for doing this trip for us and hopefully, do more in the future.

Ian

