

100 mile Wye trip by Eddie

SATURDAY, early rise collect mini bus and trailer we drove to Glasbury. We had a very close encounter with a tractor in FITZ'S car. On the water by 11 am. A long paddle ahead, 22 miles we were very tired when we got to Monnington falls camp site. Just got tents up in time, and then down came the rain. We walked to pub for a nice drink and a warm .Did not sleep a lot during the night, due to the heavy down pour, 10 inches in all.

SUNDAY, felt a bit tired had gentle start to the morning, as we only had 11miles to paddle to Hereford. Monnington falls was in flood, the country side started to open up. The water level was moving quite fast, we reached Hereford rowing club late afternoon, why did Rita listen to Fitz? And try to stand on the gunnels of their boat, without success, falling in to river! The evening meal was a very tasty and filling Chinese take away for 3 off us, the rest of the group disappeared in to town for a sit down meal, slept better

MONDAY, early raise nice warm shower, on the river by 0900 way before the Hereford folk woke up. We had 23 miles to go, starting to think why am I doing this? my co pilot had to keep slowing me down as I was paddling too fast and not pacing myself .my poor side paddling was starting to work properly and we started to get a good rhythm . we stopped for a drink and a stretch of the legs when Lindon had a close encounter with the fish, as he was pulled over because he was holding on to the boat that Adam was trying to pull a shore. John decided not to paddle today so he would go ahead and meet us at next camp site; the day went well with abreak every hour. When we got to the hole in the wall site, we set up camp, had a look around site to find that no one was about, every thing was unlocked – the dormitories the offices boats etc... Had something happened to the rest of the world? Or had they been eaten by WEREWOLVES, nobody knew. Spent the evening in the staff room which was nice and warm, 5 members had to finish their journey here. Nick, Clive, Rita, Ben and Line. We were sorry to see them go.

TUESDAY, awoke to find that no one had been taken by the wolves!!De camped and on the water by 09.00, we were moving along quite fast, the scenery started to change as we got to Symonds yat. We stopped below the rock to watch the Peregrine falcons, we had a swan counting competition, we came across 100 on one part of the river .Alan and Adam decided it would be good to rig a sail; you should of seen Adams face when they tried to do a brake out, and almost go over. When the paddle he was using was tied in as a sail brace. WE stopped off at the Royal Hotel Symonds yat. For a refreshing drink .we paddled the last 6 miles to Monmouth camp site almost got run down by speeding Monmouth boaters .when we got to the camp site it was a struggle to get the boats up the bank .The camp site facilities needed some imagination as it was a portal and a tap!!. In the evening we went in to Monmouth for our last meal, Fitz and I missed out on the mixed grill.

WEDNESDAY, early rise and on the water by 0800 another long journey a head, 18 miles. On the way Caroline, Wendy, Graham and my boat were in front, when we were miss informed that we were stopping at Tinton abbey for drink's As we were ahead of schedule we had to paddle up stream to meet the others, when we got back to the boats the tide had come up a lot and the boats where floating around .We made good progress to Chepstow the castle was amazing from the water's edge, we got to the finish line which was the boat inn. We were off the water by 1330, all very happy to of finished but all very tired. When Tony arrived with the transport and trailer we soon loaded up and on our way back home.