

Peter Knowles good news

In November Peter Knowles was photographed in the national press, not as a canoeing star but skiing in the Peak District. With the first snowfall of the winter, media photographers were sent out to get some good news shots in the gloom before the Autumn Statement.

Foxy bad news

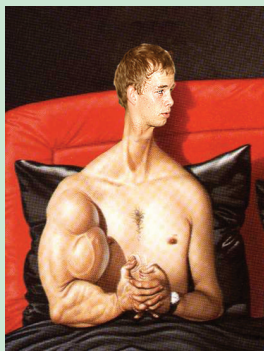
It is no joke for canoeing cartoonist Alan Fox, who is making a long recovery after being knocked off his bike and dragged 10m along the road under a car. His leg was broken in four places and he suffered burns from the exhaust pipe.

Another big statue planned

Andy Scott, designer of the Kelpies, has proposed a 30m high Bigman. For the Forth & Clyde Canal, the figure would support a three way bridge at Stockingfield Junction where the Glasgow Branch leaves to run down to the Pinkston site.

Calder & Hebble cleanup

Members of Pennine Canoe and Rowing Club have taken part in a cleanup on the Calder & Hebble Navigation. Much plastic waste had been left in the vegetation along the banks by the 2015 Boxing Day floods.



C1 and C2 paddlers need to take care that, by paddling only on one side, they do not develop body asymmetry.

between St Fillans and Callander on the east side of the park. There would now appear to be a snooper's charter for officials or those claiming to be officials to approach vehicles to see whether the occupants are asleep or what they are doing. However, park authorities cannot prevent drivers from stopping in public laybys but if you are tired you don't want to try to rest with traffic speeding past a couple of metres away and you don't want to be making decisions about whether a layby belongs to the highway authority or the park, which could make a huge difference in the way you might be treated.

At present there are some signs on entering restricted areas. There need to be signs on leaving as well on all roads (including side roads) where restricted areas are entered or left, like speed limits and derestriction signs. All places where it is possible to pull off the road should be clearly marked as being under highway authority or national park control.

There is an urgent need for the national park to consult stakeholders properly, listen to their concerns and announce that they will take no action against those not using motor transport, people who cannot just drive out of the affected areas.

Some irreversible damage has already been done. This drives a coach and horses through the Land Reform Act. If this body can find an excuse to override it, so can others. The Great Glen Way, reviewed in this issue, mentions an area beside Loch Lochy, outside this park, which has introduced a similar ban, using the same reason. This is the not very thin end of the wedge to shatter what was Scotland's landmark legislation.

Risk analysis, the responsibility of anyone likely to affect the safety of others, has not been done properly and the park authorities have not listened to advice. It is important that we record all serious incidents resulting from these measures and, if appropriate, local media and police should also be informed.

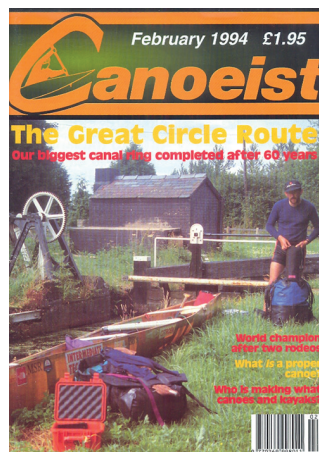
Trips

John Oakley and his Staffordshire terrier undertook a 160km trip home from Goole to Warrington using a kayak and tent to raise funds for an RSPCA shelter for unwanted pets in Warrington. Much equipment was lost in a capsiz on the second day but the pair persevered.

Gerald Burns raised £1,650 for waterway restoration by canoeing the River Blyth from Halesworth to Southwold.

In 1957 three paddlers hired two canoes from a boat hire centre at Lapworth and paddled the Stratford Canal. Their hire ticket proved that there had been commercial activity on the canal in the previous three years when Warwickshire County Council applied to abandon the canal, the ticket being central to the ensuing court case. The council had to back off and one of the first canal restoration projects went ahead, later opened by the Queen Mother. To celebrate the 60th anniversary 70 paddlers took part in a tour in March, accompanied by Geraldine Fox, one of the original three, and watched by John Pinder, another of them.

Andy Oughton, Mark Jan Dielmans and Noddy Crouch are undertaking what they are calling the inaugural run of the Bliss Canoe Trail, which seems to be what is normally known as the Great Circle Route, the largest circuit possible on the British canals although some portaging is needed. As such, it was undertaken by Dave



Hallsall and Steve Murgatroyd in a marathon racing C2 to support British Waterways' canal bicentenary celebrations in 1993. The 25 day journey that July began from Nottingham and coverage included BBC TV, the Nottingham press and the *Shropshire Star* and there were broadcasts on Radio Wiltshire and daily on Radio Leicester. BW raised a great deal of interest along the way with their advanced publicity. *Canoeist* ran it as the cover story in February 1994 with a seven page article. This was a trip with widespread publicity for a route suggested sixty years earlier by Bliss, a paddler who could put his name to many canals and rivers.

Traci Lynn Martin is attempting the world's longest nonstop solo trip in one year. She hopes to complete the 13,840km circuit of North America's Great Lakes in 265 days, planning to beat Freya Hoffmeister's 13,792km circuit of Australia in 322 days.

Having paddled solo round South America, not to mention Australia, Iceland and Ireland, Freya is now tackling North America, a 50,000km journey she expects will take her a decade to complete. Unusually, she will paddle from Seattle to New York twice, northwards in one half of the year and southwards in the other.

Australian Sandy Robson has completed a five year trip from Germany to Australia, following in the paddlestrokes of Oskar Speck, who completed his journey just after the start of the Second World War and was interned for his troubles. Sandy reckoned the most difficult part of her paddle was in the closing stages around the coast of Papua New Guinea, where she suffered from malaria and encountered pirates.

Tara Mulvany has paddled the Norwegian coast solo between the Russian and southern Swedish borders, a 3,600km trip. The start was not helped by the risk of being blown over the Russian border with its implications.

A 30 year old Iranian software engineer attempted a Channel crossing in an inflatable canoe at the beginning of November after the Calais Jungle camp was flatted. He claimed asylum after UK border forces picked him up 13km off the Kent coast. The *Times* suggested he might have been dropped off by a large boat rather than paddling over halfway across the Channel himself.

Lynn Paterson has completed her continuous circumnavigation of New Zealand. She used a short kayak that was so wide she had to use leg straps to roll. No less than 319 of the 432 day 5,800km trip were spent waiting for the weather in a fairly lousy year.

Following their circumnavigation of New Zealand's South Island, Fiona Weatherall and James Corfe have now rounded the North Island. Relentless winds set them back many days.

Novice paddlers Tylar Reid and Nic Lowe are to be joined by 56 year old Chris Porter for a 2,500km trip from Vancouver to Skagway. The three Australians will use the more difficult outside passage.

Former soldier Josh Collins has paddled 4,200km from Texas to New York by paddleboard, raising \$210,000 for Task Force Dagger Foundation for military rehabilitation. His Operation Phoenix was also to raise



Luke and Hazel Robertson.